

15 May 1946
D Day minus 49

Dear Ones,

I am on Regimental Officer of the Day and I have been on the go since six in the evening and it is now 11. I am just too conscientious or something. Believe it or not I actually enjoy the idea of having something to do. The rub is that I haven't had the chance to write any letters or to read any psychology.

I don't have your letter with me and I will check it before I mail this in the morning - but here is as complete a story as I can give you on this leave-GI Bill-discharge picture. When I am discharged, I will be in the grade of Captain, no matter whether I have terminal leave coming or not; there are no issues of prestige or anything of the sort involved. My captaincy is dependent on my record while on active service and nothing more. As for pay: if I have 20 days terminal leave, my taking leave before discharge would cost me about \$100.00. (I'll explain how I figure that later.) My idea was simply this - if life here got unbearable and if being on terminal leave would deny me the GI Bill of Rights during the first month of my return to college, I would do well to use up my accumulated leave prior to July for two reasons: escape from here and because 20 days in college would just about cost me \$100 dollars in tuition, board, and room, and books. (I arrived at the \$100 figure this way - Captain's pay and allowance for 20 days is about \$150, minus GI Bill maintenance allowance for 20 days, some \$50 which I would receive.) I had no special plans as to how to use the 20 days were I to take them right now - I guess I would have gone to college and straightened things out during that period. However - here is the new and critical angle: under current regulations, while on terminal leave an officer can take advantage of the GI bill tuition benefits, but not the maintenance benefits. That changes the picture entirely - for it means that even though I am on terminal leave for the first 20 odd days or so, the GI Bill will cover my entire first semester tuition. At the end of my leave, I would start drawing maintenance on the \$65 per week standard. Now, I have written to Harvard's Counsellor for Veterans for confirmation of this policy - if they do confirm as I expect they will, then of course I will sweat it out and take terminal leave as a Captain - we always assume that my efficiency ratings will be high enough to get me those double tracks upon release. While writing to them, I also requested full dope on available summer sessions - by the middle of next week, I should be able to give you a totally clarified picture.. I hope. I also still must keep the old fingers crossed that nothing fouls up my 3 July date.

While on this topic: as nearly as I can tell, I lose absolutely nothing by joining the reserve (as a Captain) upon discharge. I keep my rank and I agree only to two weeks active service within a five year period, and I always retain the alternative of resigning. If these are the conditions, I certainly will join the inactive reserve - there is nothing to lose on those terms: agreed?? Secondly, would you do me a favor and have someone send me a brochure - the insurance companies must be turning them out by the thousands - which explains completely but simply the alternatives in converting GI insurance and in general explains the nature of available insurance types of policies. I keep forgetting to stop when I am in town during the day, and I would like to be briefed on this material before I rush through the demobilization wheels.

Not much special; heard from Richmond today and I wrote to Mike Freedman - I am a little concerned over not hearing from him.

all my love, Sumner

Regards to Dad.

P.S. The summer course would save \$100 as a reference and on my degree. I would have to take the 20 days now - I called but haven't until late June.