

17 May 1946
D Day minus 47

Dear Ones,

Nothing sensational happened on guard - just a dysentery attack and a couple of beered up GI's who stopped a car which happened to be the vehicle of the ASFTC officer of the day. Yesterday was a normal Aberdeen day - a little rain and a little sunshine.

Last night I held the services at the chapel - there were about 40 there. I enjoyed it but there were rough spots. For one thing (do I have to tell you this??) I cannot sing and I also had trouble gaging my speed; I also gave them a short sermon - my usual line, this time tying it in with the specific problems of attitudes for the American Jew. We have an excellent spread of refreshments after the services, furnished by the sisterhood of one of the wealthier Baltimore congregations. We ate well and we had a good discussion in criticism of the Army orientation program. This Thursday we had two other officers present and at 9:30 we went up to the club - one of them, a dentist, comes from Dorchester, just off Sever Street. The other is from New Haven. I stayed around the club, drinking my fill of 7 Up and kibitzing the better bridge sessions. Back at the barracks I fell asleep reading some of Arthur Train's Tutt stories.

When the Bulletin came out yesterday announcing that I would conduct the services, the officers at chow referred to me as the only Battalion Exec Officer who had an additional duty as Chaplain! Here again I find that I have gained more respect for my active identification with Jewish activity.

In thinking it over, I have decided to go to Allentown next weekend - I am clear on the duty roster as nearly as I can tell now. Three weekends in NY would be too much one right after the other - and for the present I am not planning on a return trip to Richmond (although I do have that warm invitation and with 7 weekends between me and Portland, I may get down there again - because only duty assignment will keep me on the post over a weekend.) (And again, right now, I can imagine what your reaction might be to a Sunday morning call from Virginia's capital - or do I do you an injustice???) If I had a close friend with whom I could double and in general look over the picture I would risk a blind weekend in Washington - but I just don't feel like going down cold; I am sure that you appreciate how I feel on that score. I may write to the YMHA in Baltimore asking for a schedule of their events - see if anything looks good there, because I can get there on a weekday night. In the meantime, my plans for this weekend have not jelled or been confirmed yet - maybe something will come in the Afternoon mail. We have been given off tomorrow, so I may head for NY tonight.

The blouse came yesterday - good shape - fine. The rub is that the main PX has no pants at all. I'll just have to wear woollens and wait either for the PX or for the foot locker.

OK for now - today is strictly a lazy day. I heard from Jerry Rosenblom; he's in the middle of exams and then he's heading for home so our plans will wait until his return and mine discharge. You may enjoy this - Truman wrote one of his letters of recommendation and lo and behold! Jerry has been admitted to the business school for the fall term!

All my love,

Regards to Doris

Samuel