

21 May 1946
D Day minus 43

Dear Ones,

A slightly overcast Tuesday - yesterday was a funny day, reminded me a little of Santo because I managed to write some 6 letters. When I went back to barracks I started to read but soon fell asleep and at 3 in the morning I awoke, turned of the light and went back to sleep. I got a note from Juj, nothing special. I am pretty well caught up on my mail... I still have to get around to picking up some boxes to send some of my woolems home.

Thanks for your long letter of the 16th, Daddy..I think your letter to Wise and Silver was very well written and I agree with the notions which you express. It remains to be seen whether or not the current leadership of American Jewry will rise to the need of our day.

There really is not much to write about.. things are fairly quiet. Sweeney has only two more weeks to go; and in general this place is beginning to die. The men apparently are not available to be trained and the companies are not refilling as they used to. As of June 11th we go back into the old peacetime set-up under Second Army which means that the Army Service Forces exist no more - whether the ASFTC will have to change its official title I do not know. Raaka and I seem to pass the day easily enough, if a little slowly - Sweeney spends most of his time in the area with the troops; he has been variously labelled Whirlaway and the Wheel by the companies whom he stays with. It is basically a damned easy set-up - but that is not to say that it is pleasant or at all satisfying. It is a funny thing - my busy weekends have meant that I have a lot of odds and ends to care for in the evenings and that I have little time to settle down to my psychology courses; I should add that it takes me through Wednesday of each week usually to catch up on my sleep.

For all of the friends whom I have made here, the friendships have definite limitations - there is no one whom I would think of asking to NY with me for the weekend; most of the fellows here are married, the rest are older - in any event no Jay Kays or Mikes have shown up in the bunch..... Any word on my foot locker yet? I am thinking of requesting a pass so that I can make a long weekend out of the Thursday we get off for Memorial Day. I want to see what works out at Allentown... and a lot depends on whether I can get some tropical worsted pants, too!

OK for right now - can't think of anything else to write about - I may add a word or two in ink before I mail this..

Heard from Harvard today - there is only ONE (1) summer school and the deadline date on that is 24 June. So I have been at work - I have the wheels in motion in several directions and I may hear before I seal this up tonight. I can assure you of one thing, it is a matter of just two weeks and I'll leave no stone unturned to get out in time. Query - if I get stymied here, what do you say to writing to Brewster and/or Hale? I think it is that important that I be on my way to Cambridge - that is, able to register and start by Friday, 21 June; let me know what you say. I won't think of using such effort though until I have a written rejection (or complete lack of action) by this Headquarters, so that I have some good arguing points. Secondly - please send me two pictures - the ones I had taken for Law School will do the trick - if we need more prints, can you get Le Bovidge to whip them up and send them to me, so that I can have all the paperwork completed?

While I am waiting for Captain Smith to call me - here is the picture as I see it. I want to apply now on the basis that I will be there in time; therefor I need the pictures as soon as possible. I called the Education office and they have the Harvard Catalogue so I can start thinking of the courses I want to take. My bond is still on file, and as nearly as I can tell all I can do once I get in the current

applications is to wait. I have asked for a room in Leverett House in the \$150-175 range, expressed my desire for a single room but my willingness to take anything they've got. If I know Hoadley, I think he will take care of me in the House - if not I'll get settled someway such details don't bother me. At most the details of registration and getting the GI Bill set should not take more than one day; my hope is that that one day will be Friday 21 June or earlier.....

OK - here are my alternatives: I am working on getting approval of a leave from June 13 or 14th with orders to report to Devens for Separation upon completion of that leave. That would be the happiest answer, with the least difficulties. It would mean giving up about \$100 (the difference between 20 days terminal leave as a Captain and my maintenance allowance under the GI Bill for those 20 days) but there is no question in my mind but that that is a small sacrifice compared to giving up the opportunity to get to summer school; note - I will still be a Captain upon discharge if I meet all the conditions, the fact that I have no accrued terminal leave would not affect that. Captain Smith was going to check this for me but he hasn't called back; I'll take a reading on it in the morning.

The other alternative is to discharge me about the middle of June - but there seems little likelihood of that. If things get fouled up along the line, I will ask to see the Regimental Commander; I think he will see my point. If I feel it advisable I will ask to see Colonel Lawes - my agents tell me that he is not unsympathetic to problems such as mine - and my leave alternative is completely legal and above board. Today is Tuesday and I have about three weeks before I am too far gone - so I hope that a week from today I will have done everything possible here and I hope that the decision is favorable to my getting to Cambridge by mid-June. Otherwise - and this is where I want your advice especially - I think it wise to drop a note to Brewster or Hale or both and explain the situation - that I am being held for 14 days in a dying organization when that 14 days makes all the difference in the world to me - and see if just a little pressure from that direction might not turn the trick. I have no qualms about this - on June 11th I will have completed 39 months service with 20 of them overseas. If you concur, please give it some thought in terms of whether I should write to Washington or you should. I don't have to add that such a move as writing to a Senator or Representative has its touchy aspects....

That is it for tonight - I would appreciate a response just as soon as possible, with any and all suggestions you may have. I hope that I have outlined the possibilities completely in this and other letters. I will keep you informed and I will ~~write to you~~ call you if I feel that it is necessary.... and keep me informed, of course, with duplicates if possible, of anything you do in the direction of Washington; care is definitely necessary...

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

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Baracks L
Room 39

