

23 May 1946

Dear Ones -

I did not write yesterday because all is pandemonium around this place - as you can well imagine, when the government is involved in taking over mines and railroads and they say that the Army will be involved everybody in the Army (apparently that goes for everyone from the top down to the last basic training private) starts conjecturing and those with enough rank start to take action. There must be a plan, needless to say we don't know what it is - if it involves sending these veterans of 7 weeks army service out for guard and patrol duties, armed, I sort of wonder. I can assure the strikers that these basics constitute a greater threat to them than any single other force!! But seriously, for a moment, things are up in the air - everyone is more or less restricted and although training as usual is going on, there is an atmosphere of confusion that surrounds every Army venture of such a nature. Since I know absolutely nothing about what is going on, I am as much in the dark as everyone else - I haven't seen the evening papers but I can only assume that neither the coal miners nor the railroad men came to terms...

My personal problems without a doubt my weekend is all fouled up - passes are limited to overnight but I won't know until the last minute - anyway, if the railroads are tied up, or even partially tied up, it is a lead pipe cinch that I will be stuck here over the weekend. Unless the picture clears, I'll just send Abe Benioff a telegram, he will certainly understand and the reason will be obvious..... But I have even a bigger personal angle: currently all leave requests are considered cancelled - and of course that is what my bid for mid-June is. I have to be careful as hell - this will undoubtedly be considered a national emergency in every sense of the word - all the brass will jump with glee - a chance to move troops around, just like war, you know what I mean - command and power... I run the risk of being called a slacker and heaven knows what else if I try to push this discharge-leave angle while everyone else is up to their necks on this deal. Here is the way I see it: I will check tomorrow and see what the score is --- we will see if the weekend clears things up - when I call you on Sunday I will give you the latest - and then by next Tuesday I should get a definitive answer from this command. (If the strikes are still on, however, there is no saying what the situation will be.) What I am getting to is the angle of writing to any Congressmen - let's discuss it over the phone Sunday: I am very wary of using that angle unless it is a must... however, it is almost a lead pipe cinch that by mid-June this thing will either be settled or so far gone that my being in or out won't make a bit of difference anyway... I'm going to have to get a New York Times tomorrow and get oriented. I do want to keep you fully informed - you call me if you feel it advisable - and I want to get your full discussion..... my phone in the Barracks is ~~8266~~ (barracks L, room 39) at work it is 8266 - call person to person if you do call, of course. You can always count on my calling you over the weekend, naturally.... See note below -

I got the check from the Boston and Maine and I'll take care of the Readers' Digest bill - put it on your file now that we have two years of the Readers' Digest coming to us. I discussed the other matter you mention in the Sunday letter in my letter to you - this strike business is throwing the hooks into New York anyway. I just heard the radio giving instructions to servicemen stranded in Washington - sooo I guess that this time, this is it.....

I'll get around to your other letter tomorrow - I'm using airmail now for the obvious reason that the chances are that regular mail just will not be running. I have been playing softball tonight and now I have to run to services....

All my love,

Sammy

Regards to Doris.

AT WORK

P.S. DO NOT CALL ME, TO DISCUSS WRITING TO D.C. -
SINCE CALLS ON ARMY PHONES MAY BE CHECKED.

THAT'S ABERDEEN 574-M