

26 May 1946
D Day minus 38

Dear Ones,

First of all - tomorrow I will get to work on getting an appointment with the Colonel (Colonel Lawes, the Commanding Officer of the ASFTC) and as soon as I know the score one way or the other you will hear from. And if I get the old run around you will also hear from me. I imagine that tomorrow will bring in your letters of comment on my letters so when I call next we will fully know how we all think on this matter. I take it from the phone call, Daddy, that you agree with my idea, and that if necessary you will take the action. The word of caution of course is that the actual initiation of such action will come from you and you alone - you appreciate what I ~~MEAN~~ MEAN - I AM STILL SUBJECT TO MILITARY LAW.

Secondly the weekends: Friday night I sent a telegram to Allentown saying that with no trains I could not get in. Then I went into Aberdeen and spent a pleasant evening with the Avrechs - a chicken liver and roast chicken Friday evening supper and a couple of hours of good company. Avrech is no ball of fire, but in contrast to the Army associations available around here he is an interesting person. Both he and his wife are plump - to put it mildly. ~~They~~ They are young so the rabbinical attitudes are somewhat flexible still.

At 7 in the morning I was awakened by a phone call - I had visions of everything from a call from you occasioned by my letters to a word on being alerted for the strike situation. But instead it was Peeps Rickel (Abe's niece) calling to tell me that someone would be down to pick me up that morning. I was pleased by the idea but I argued quite strongly that such a trip was unnecessary, that I would have a chance to get there again, everything I could think of, but apparently Abe was determined. So at just about noon, a brand new Dodge heaves into sight in the Battalion area and off I whisked to Allentown. (When I say new Dodge I mean it - 400 miles on it, fluid drive, etc. it made driving a pleasure.) Peeps is pleasant enough but hardly pretty by even a generous standard; her younger sister was along with her for the ride. We stopped to eat and about three hours later we had completed the 113 mile trip. (I don't have to tell you the excitement the car and the femmes caused both in the Bn area and at the barracks when I went up to get my suitcase...)

Abe and Lee Benioff were my hosts. Abe has gained a little ~~weight~~ ^{weight} but he needed it - he looks fit as a fiddle for 44. Lee must be someplace past 30 - she is petite and pert, very cute. In fact I didn't recognize her because she is prettier than her pictures. Abe is another person who is friendship and hospitality personified - they have a small apartment pending the building of their home. I felt like their oldest and best friend. I met all the family - the Benioff's are furriers - other brothers are in San Francisco, and they apparently have all done well enough to be comfortable plus. I got a good look at Allentown - it is in the midst of the rich rolling farm country of Pennsylvania. It is Spring and from each hill there is a wonderful panorama of green; Allentown is clean and neat, a lot of parks, a good road net. There is a Jewish community of some 700 families (just raised \$300,000.) with a model Center and a Country Club which is shared with the Reading Pa. community. We went to a dance at that club last night. I slept on the day bed in Abe's living room and got up to call you this morning. We spent the morning just riding around - I was with Abe more than with Peeps - the day there was one of constant reminiscing over Santo and the people we knew. Of course Abe knew everyone and was liked by everyone and he has seen or written to a great many Santonians - he was on the forsaken rock for 30 months. We left about 1 for the return trip, ate on the road, and I was here just on time to be duty officer in the Battalion tonight. It worked out perfectly. I had a full and enjoyable twenty eight hours away from Aberdeen. (Side note: Abe and Lee are very anxious to have a family - a couple of months ago Lee had a miscarriage while in her fourth month.) I just hope that someday I am able to return the hospitality which has been showed to me since I've been in the Army.

I told Abe and Lee and Peeps that in all probability I would not be able to get to Allentown again - the trip by train is rough and if I went again, it would be to see Peeps rather than Abe - right now, I am not too keen on that... I will see how my various deals pan out... which brings me to the next logical subject of apologies and associated subjects

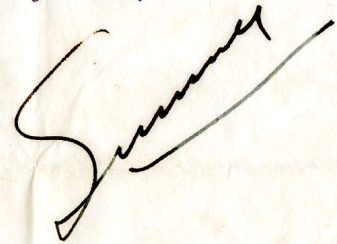
I am sorry that my letter of a week ago was in the wrong tone - you know that I did not mean to be disrespectful - although I did wish to make my attitude clear... as for Ruthie no one could have urged her more than I did to come along - even when she didn't have a date and it meant her being an odd person. Mickey also talked to her both weekends when Ruthie balked at coming along and Aunt Ida urged her to go along too -- perhaps too many of us pushed her, I don't know..... my plans right now are that I will go to NYC at the next opportunity - Memorial Day or the weekend - it may depend somewhat on how talk with the Colonel pans out too.. (I am now listening to Jack Benny - how he holds on year after year near the top with his routines is beyond me.) Thanks for your OK on my social views.....

The strike situation seems to be close to clarification - our companies still are ready to go so I imagine that negotiations with John L Lewis still have not been completed - in any event, Truman got us over the hump this time.

OK for now - I am planning to move into another barracks - will have to do it tomorrow when I get off duty - it is raining tonight anyway -

All my love,

Regards to Doris

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'S. S. S.', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.