

28 May 1946

Dear Ones,

I felt a little down last night when after I talked to you I sensed that you hadn't spoken freely and that you weren't at ease. I was happy to get the call this morning with the word that someone had been at the house while you were talking to me. Needless to say I didn't feel very cheerful yesterday anyway and I was looking forward to the call more than ever.

Please understand this: as of now I have officially given up hope, I have exhausted the possibilities open to me.... and as for whatever steps you may take, I am not building up any great hopes. If something happens, OK - if not, that is OK too. As for the questions you raised this morning, Mother... we are agreed that whatever you and Daddy may decide to do requires careful handling. But since you will use care and common sense in your discussions, I can see no danger of any backfire. I am all for the idea of waiting for Sunday... if there is no letter or phone call, so much the better. I know that you have full information on my requirements and will argue my case well. You also know the angle of getting direct effective action.... There is one note in your letter which I didn't especially warm up to, Daddy, and that was the word "beg" - I'd rather you did nothing at all than approach the situation on that basis - I mean that. It is my conviction that my retention by this command for a mere ten days at most is unfair by any standard - your agreement with that conviction and the action which you will take are based on that.

If our batting average does not improve, I have an alternative idea - go to Harvard toward the end of June, Register, and then just cut all my classes until I finally show up. That is definitely the very last resort since it will confuse the GI Bill of Rights ~~allowances~~ allowances all to hell as you can readily see. My plan is to sign for only three courses - two in Government (American Constitutional Law and another course of a similar vein) and an English Lit course - I could catch up probably and in fact might be able to do some reading while I sweat it out..... the happier answer of course would be success for your venture. I will mail my various applications today.

I moved to Barracks "O" last night - BOQ (Bachelor Officers Quarters) "O" room 6 - the phone is Proving Ground 8270. I also got a haircut and took care of other odds and ends. I still have to get a box suitable for the mailing of my woollens to you - I had better get on that right away. I am still undecided about a trip to New York on Thursday - maybe I had better save the cash and apply it to the phone bill!!!! huh?? When my footlocker does arrive, please plan on sending not only the dress pants but any other cotton khaki shirts and pants that I may have packed... of course, if things work out the foot locker may not arrive before I am already on my way - I hope. It is still raining - third day in a row. Tomorrow I start my court martial duty.

I have just mailed my various applications to Alger. I hope my request for a room, etc., does not get too piled up. I am really asking them for a lot of favors while I send this thing out.

Regards to Paris

Tom. Sumner