

Dear Ones -

June 1

Today was rainy and squally. The beach was cold, and the water very uninviting. Tomorrow start the training program they have around here. Tonight Sam Baumgarten and I will go to the Movies. He + I are becoming very close - but he is QMC + we will in all likelihood be split up upon assignment. More about him later. So today passed with little activity. I answered almost all my mail. I got a letter from Stella Burman. I took Harold Lasker's "Reflections on the Revolution of our Time" out of the local Chaplain's library. I urge you to read it, Daddy. I will write a criticism of it when I am finished. Viking Press published it in 1943. Incidentally mail must come in bunches around here; that letter from Richmond is the first since that big bunch the day of our arrival, and it left Beale on May 11.

Sam Baumgarten is a boy from Nathan Midway and Northern Indiana - he grew up in small towns where his was the only Jewish family. He went to Michigan (class of 44) and his story reads like mine except that I got to OCS as fact. He is a clean cut fellow, a year older than I - born on March 11 (!) - very intelligent, good sense of humor.

and a good conversationalist. Unfortunately we do not live in the same tent. alphabetically my name usually follows his immediately - no reason for our friendship. He plays a good game of bridge and is very clever at a Pher talk. all in all, a likeable chap and a good contact.

The classification interview came off today. I made it quite clear - it went down on my card - what I can & cannot do. I am not unique. a lot of college men - predominantly ROTC - are officers without skill, or to speak. My card shows my college life, age, etc. You can rest assured that whatever assignment I get I will make the best of it and the most of it. It does not concern me in the least - I know I can acclimate myself to whatever conditions I enter. and you know that I will do my best always. So now I will be happy here as a replacement while I wait for orders of some sort. Wyming is an ill word with which I could have no touch.

If I remember I am going to enclose sections of the family letter book a good part of which are quoted from a Lt. Dodson's letters from Italy. where he is a special service officer. I am sure they will interest you all.

Now is as good a time as any to say a word
or two more about Zimmern. I have read the
Rosemwall, Heller, and Friedrich materials you
sent to me. I have studied under Carl Friedrich
and I know he is small, realistic. His article is
proof of that opinion. His proposed policy is more
acceptable to all Americans of all faiths because
it is humane & progressive in its opportunities
in Palestine offered to the Jews under persecution
and it is logical in the context of a consistent
American foreign policy which he and most of us
advocate. After reading him, to read the
opposing views of Heller & Rosemwall seems to
lack purpose. What are we arguing about?
Rosemwall would take the side of his back to the
persecuted but he does it as a secularist, not
a nationalist. As a result (here Heller is right)
he has too strongly opposed Palestinian growth
because it is linked to Nationalism; things
bring up divided loyalty, etc. ad infinitum and
ad nauseam. I have written of this time and
again. There is no reason why Palestine should
be a "National" homeland, there is no reason why
Jewishness should be the common bond of the
Palestine state. Palestine should be a shelter
for the homeless, a place for building and rebuilding.

It does not need the common bond of Judaism - it
needs only the common bond of Palestine itself.
There is no reason why Palestine cannot be
opened up for settlement, its boundaries set in a
post-war world, and a democratic Jewish and
state evolve with no reference to religion. It
will be a world responsibility to maintain the
balance (as the world should have done in
Ethiopia & China last time.) This does not
deny that Jews all the world will have
sympathy & will offer support to their brethren
in the Near East; but it does omit the
interreligious ties of any closer bond than
culture & spiritual agreement. I repeat - this
is not a Jewish problem - it is a world
problem. A man cannot have 2 national
homes. A Jew must not confuse his national
allegiance with his religion. I am an
American; I am a Jew. My home is not in
Palestine. I do not think that official
Zionists are any more in the right than Roosevelt.
Neither will admit the middle ground; there is
a lack of clear thought and analysis; a vague
use of terms. No one wants a homeland for
denationalized Jews more than I do. I think American
Jews have placed themselves on the horns of a

nonexistent dilemma.

well enough for now. I am
not thinking too clearly. Some of my
previous letters are better thought out.
But if we seek realism, if we are
honest, even the most emotional of us
would accept Freidrich's program,
unencumbered by mounds-jumbles of
terminology.

Don & Lucie.

Samuel