

12 March 1946

Dear Ones -

This probably should be a Purim letter - I have undoubtedly let the actual date of the holiday slip by unmarked. I am afraid that we still must pass the holidays without enjoying the full customs which we lost - each holiday spent thus can renew for us the happy promise that within the near future you will be fully recovered, Mother; you will be able to relax and rest more from your office and community schedules, Daddy; you will be taking school and college and all your activities in even greater and more fruitful study, Helen Baby; and I will be back to the difficult but happy days of Harvard Law school and of making knots in bar ties. We should enjoy this happy anticipation.

I am getting into the preliminary entering here; it is a wonderfully run organization: all the details are finely handled and it is unlike the Army - we are officers - students being treated as officers, not as just students. We are getting oriented and taking care of odds and ends. I wrote a batch of letters last night; today I sent Bob Koves a \$100 money order by registered mail and I cashed another check for \$35 to sustain my own finances. We live in good barracks with orderly service; laundry and other services are available and convenient. The Club is swell and as you know

I have already met a segment of the group here - the  
bridge playing segment. I played for a couple of hours  
last night - the stakes were proposed at a  $\frac{1}{4}$  but I  
shaved them to a  $\frac{1}{10}$  until I learned the players  
and their game. I was not out of my class and  
even without my share of cards I came out a dime (?)  
to the good. We shall see - with the stress mathematics  
rather than class work my evening will be  
comparatively free. The club has a library and I have a  
good supply of paper and ink. The meals are  
good and reasonable. All in all, so far, it seems  
like a pleasant set-up. Tomorrow is the first taste  
of the actual program - I may have a few stiff  
limbs and different impressions! Now I am hoping  
to hear in answer to my Richmond query as to what  
the weekends will shape up. I am in the lookout for  
someone with a car.

Before I forget - please  
mail me that typed list of addresses which I left  
in the Harvard album. I might just as well keep  
it with me. I am still looking for the field jackets.  
I will let you know when they arrive. My address  
again: Officers PT & AD course, Co. B, School Battalion,  
I M School, Camp Lee, Virginia. But any of  
the other mes like it will do the trick. My scheduled  
date of departure is 10 April 1946. But I am not  
thinking in terms of my return to Aberdeen!

That sort of cover what little news there is. It is now  
H:45 and there is nothing special on the docket. I'll  
write a few post cards to Lung Pan Fenn and some of the  
others up to date. My reading is going to suffer  
since as nearly as I can tell, unless there are papers in  
the club during the crossing, we will not have much  
time to catch the daily news. Nor to chat a while.

I cannot get over the prevalence of "Rite fight Russia  
now" talk that I heard at Aberdeen. It seems to me  
that slowly but surely we are working our way into a  
definite position - but that position is immediately  
endangered if it is <sup>pie</sup> based on ignorant belligerence rather  
than <sup>don</sup> intelligent and constructive firmness. The  
Vanlenberg and Byrnes speeches are good countermeasures.  
But I cannot sense in my reading or my conversations  
that the American public has grasped the connotations,  
implications, and significance of progressive foreign  
policy which is not anti-Britain, anti-Russian or  
pro-Britain, pro-Russian but rather is oriented to  
an international standard of justice. To be strong  
does not mean to be ever threatening; to build construc-  
tively is not to depend on how beating. I thought that  
the Churchill speeches were completely destructive and  
contrary to best interests of the U.N.O. No approach which  
is based on mistrust can possibly succeed. The logic  
which says that to avoid war we must blockade

and balance Russia is quite beyond me and I cannot understand how apparently thoughtful people accept it as their basis of criticism. The minute you label a difference "immediate" you declare war - I can see no such thing today. The point is that we are not dealing with isolated cases - Szechuan, Manchuria, Greece, Bulgaria, the British East, Java, Franco, Spain, American public attitudes are irrevocably linked together - until we gain the basic requirements of willingness to understand and to cooperate, to criticizing constructively and to work together constructively, to settle differences by fundamental agreement, we leave ourselves in a whirlpool of suspicion, of vicious circles of hate and mistrust, measures and counter measures. Honesty is the first requirement and we fail in America by indulging in superficial, unexamined, unmotivated attitudes which do everything but encourage what we want to see in others. Our claim to democracy makes the burden ours.

You may be interested to know that because of my impressions in 2 months in the states and my contact with Army personnel, I have changed my stand on compulsory military training. We are not ready for it as a people and the Army is not in a position to do the job. I have come to the conclusion that we must continue the draft to meet occupation and maintenance

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needs but that a permanent peacetime program must come in a fresh start after army reform. Army reform has been uttered by many - from generals down to privates. I have agreed with the majority of the analyses I have read: the Inspector General's department must be wholly united and separated from normal channels of command and responsibility. There must be direct civilian supervision through War Department channels to avoid the dangers of military stagnation and side-tracking. There must be a sharp break in the question of the officer system and the general security system for all personnel. There is a tremendous job to be done before we can embark on a planned peace-time military program. I would call such a necessary endeavor secondary to the attempt to "streamline" our Congressional system.

Well, it is just about time for dawn. I'll wash and take off for the mess hall. I hope that you are back in Pittsburg when this arrives, Mother.

all my love,  
Sammy

Regards to Dad.