

12 March 1946

Dear Mother,

I didn't have to read Daddy's letter of the 11th to know what it said. The tone of our phone call on Sunday told me -

I don't know what to say - I feel as I did when I got Daddy's telegram in Paris. I have so much confidence in you that I share Daddy's emotional reaction - even at this time it is you who gives strength to us.

Daddy's report was complete - my recovery of you is supported by the medical analysis and the agreement on the second operation. I feel a little shaken, to be sure, but there is no element of doubt in my mind but that all will be well for you and because of you.

I want nothing more than to be with you - were I at Aberdeen I would not hesitate to request leave just so that I could be available to help if I could. But now that I am at school - and since Daddy gave his concurrence to this idea in advance - I think that my wisest policy would be to plan to fly up to see you the first

possible weekend and to take a leave so that I
can spend the weekend of your birthday with you,
when I have completed this course. But course or
no course, if you say the word, just whistle to
the Red Cross and I will be home by return of
mail.

I know that I can write honestly to you, Mother,
and I feel that you will agree with me - this is
quite different from my being 9000 miles away
where mail had a 2 week delay. Although I am in
Virginia, I am still close to you and the mental
uneasiness of my being overseas is no longer a factor.
There is this other aspect: I have used up almost all
my accrued leave and any visit I could have with
you would be necessarily short. I want to do the
thing that is best for you and I am really not
sure what it is. I have no long-range suggestion:
if you feel it justified, see if the Red Cross can
get me assigned to the New England area - but I
will be honest with you, Mother; I don't think that
there is much chance there and it might upset the
old applecart.

Well, I have been thinking out loud - but I have

come to no conclusion. I know that Daddy
will keep me up to date. I know that the letters
from Boston will reflect your strength, your
recovery, and your cheerfulness. I know that you
deserve every blessing of God tenfold and that
they will be yours.

I don't feel as helpless this time as I did
in January - I had hoped that one such ordeal
would have been enough, but since we do have the
second experience, there is at least the strength
of knowing with what conditions we are dealing.

So please let me know (through Daddy or
the Bortmans) how you feel on this score. Better.
I will abide by what you say - I will try to
make the flying visit one of these weekends - but
leave the second decision as it affects my course
here entirely up to you. (I think I know what
you will say.)

My best to all in Boston -

I love you,

Samuel