

April 7, 1943

Dear Sumner:

Good afternoon!

All your letters have been duly received and the last one, written Sunday, Mother brought in to the office.

As to the Passover, you do what you think is best for you. Any suggestion that Mother or I make was merely that and nothing else. After all you are the best judge of time, place and type of Seder. Always bear in mind we are thinking in terms of your convenience, physical and mental; so we can offer only ideas.

It is quite evident that in the Army you take things as they come along and let each day take care of itself. Certainly it would be foolish to fret about the future, for after all Army life is not your career. To me it makes no difference whether you get into O.C.S. or not. If you want to make it, I hope you do and moreover I believe you will; but don't worry about it in the meantime. Look what has happened to Uncle Louie. He is still a First Lieutenant and obviously getting nowhere and fretting about it which, in my humble opinion, is no way to respond mentally, since after all what difference does it make whether he comes out a Captain, a Major or a Lieutenant. His career is law and to that mistress he will return. The important thing is to get the most out of each day's training and obviously you are doing just that. More can be asked of no one.

All your observations strike me as being well analyzed and sound, and again I want to express to you my Harvardian appreciation of your power of expression. You write well and with keen perception.

Being tired after a day's Army routine is what everybody complains of during the early basic period of training. Jack Agger, a lawyer here in Portland, who went into Volunteer Officers' Corps about a year ago and has now come out a Second Lieutenant, told me the other day when he was here that the first month was "wicked" and he thought he would never make the grade. Today he is fit as a fiddle. That is what they all report and that is the way it will be with you. The stiff exercise will stand you well.

There really is no special news that Mother does not write to you, so

Affectionately,