

January 4, 1946

Dear Summer:

The last letter I wrote you was on December 24th and at that time I told you of Mother's condition and the impending eye operation. Prior to that date I had had the Red Cross obtain approval of a leave for you so that you could come home and see Mother and buoy up her spirits. Uncle Archie and the operating surgeon both had said that your presence would definitely have therapeutic value as a morale builder. That was the reason not only for my soliciting the Red Cross but for my cabling you directly to ask that you obtain leave from your commander. I did it both ways in the hope that one or the other would bring you home. But we have not heard a word from you with regard to these cables. I have been expecting momentarily a cable from you. It may be that because of the Christmas rush the lapse of time has been considerable and that some time next week I will receive a cable from you. Be that as it may for the moment, I am writing you again, because now I realize that you may still be at Espiritu Santo. I want you to know that Mother was operated on for a detached retina of her left eye Thursday, December 27th, and that Dr. Sacks is very encouraging and hopeful that Mother's sight in that eye will not be lost. The other day Dr. Sacks removed the bandage of the left eye and passed a red carnation across it and Mother not only saw the carnation but the color. That certainly is most encouraging. Her mental attitude has been marvelous and she is a wonderful sport; but she does, in her present condition, worry about you and unquestionably your return will just hasten her recovery.

I know from the letter you wrote on December 25th how you feel about this method of obtaining a leave, for you describe Leo Siedel's emergency furlough because of the illness of his Father as a "hell of a way to get home". That may be all well and good from the angle of the boy far away from home but from the angle of the parent who really has undergone a delicate operation, the leave or furlough of his son is a most important element in his life. So don't think for a moment that we are looking for an excuse to get you home. Our request to the Red Cross was conscientious and therapeutically sound.

If you do receive this letter in very short order and have not yet cabled us, please do so at once.

In every other way things at home are in fine shape. Helen is getting along very nicely in her work at school and her own spirits are high. The Christmas vacation she spent in Boston and she saw Mother every day. I, too, was in Boston every day and in Portland the same day. Here is the way that works out. I take the 5:15 P. M. train which gets me into Boston at 7:20 and by 7:45 I am at the hospital. I stay there until about 9:15 and return the next morning at 9:30 to stay until 3:45, then I leave to catch the 4:50 train from Portland and arrive at 7:10. I have dinner at home, go to the office the next morning and attend to business until 4:30 when I leave to get the 5:15 for Boston. Needless to tell you the presence of Aunts Ann and Sarah and Uncles Archie and Harold had much to keep Mother in high spirits. But the best cure of all will be your return.

So please don't worry on your way back and be of good cheer.

With all my love.

Affectionately,

From a selfish angle I would love to add your presence to the big event to take place on January 27th on which day you gain an aunt.

Love

Uncle Louie