

1 December 1945

Dear Ones,

It is ten o'clock on Saturday night - I went into the tent after supper, read over some of the old clippings and then proceeded to fall asleep for some two hours. I will check the details now and see how we line up for tomorrow. I hope to get a chance to write at length to you tomorrow in answer to the letters I got yesterday. I also should write to Aunt Anne, Johnny Muelchi who is now a full fledged civilain and to Youngstown. Tomorrow we will have to polish up the court martial deal and I also have the old reports to get out. Did I tell you that we had to figure out the money value of the property on this island?? boy, what a job that was - I hope the resultant figure does somebody in Washington a lot of good. Of all the clippings I went through tonight - they were all general discussions - I want to note only one comment which the NY TIMES makes on the question of surplus property - it is something which sounds wonderful but which simply scares me: it editorializes that all surplus property should be inventoried immediately. Yikes .. what an impossible job that would be...

It is now noon of the 2nd and I have some three quarters of an hour of rest before I head out on the details again. What a way to spend Sunday - it is terribly hot on top of everything else. There is just more to do that there are hours in the day.. I hope to be able to knock for a few hours to listen to the Army Navy game this afternoon. I'll never catch up on my sleep..but just between you and me I enjoy being busy- it is a good feeling to see all the cargo getting out.... now to get to some of your letters.

The American Jewish Committee sent me a reprint of the TIMES clipping of Proskauer's visit to Washington which you had previously forwarded - they are certainly quick to pat themselves in the back: I would rather get a definitive policy statement on Palestine and political Zionism from that group. I also received a number of Bulletins from the Center. It seems as though everybody and his brother Mike is getting home. With all due respect, I think that Barney Shur and Sidney Wernick are right in arguing that no campaign should be conducted in Portland for the MJC Camp without its getting full Federation approval and cooperation. The same arguments apply here as applied in the case of the Children to Palestine effort - in fact they are rather similar. No cause can argue that sollicitation for it is important enough to jeopardize an entire and planned and coordinated civic program. The mechanics of raising money must be standard and the merits of an individual cause are not the concern. I may be all wrong, but on the specific question of the strength of the Jewish home I have some very definite ideas: the fact that Orthodox Judaism is losing its hold does not mean that the idea of being Jewish is dying out in young people; secondly, an attempt to revert to strict Orthodoxy in the context of modern American life will not have a constructive affect in the ordinary young American of Jewish faith. (Just heard that Army won 32-13 - a smaller score than I expected.) As in almost everything else, what Jewish life needs is a greater degree of organization, leadership, coordination, and agreement - our troubles are seen in the Zionist split, in the fact that we have three Churches, in our lack of an identification of common interests as members of a minority social group.

It looks as though Portland will have a rip roaring civic campaign - it is a good sign to see lively civic interest; I hope that Eddie Colley wins. When the results come in I know you will send me the new council and your analysis of what sort of changesm if any, Portland can look forward to. I can imagine that Uncle Lou is happily hectic these days. I am sure that he and Selma will get off on the right foot. Is Teddy Perry planning to make Florida a permanent proposition now?? I take it from what you say, that Norma is the driving force in that household.

I am counting on you to keep my name in all the family greetings - I will need a full time social secretary when I get home - I don't know whether I should go out looking for a clerk-typist or a wife..... Thanks for Mrs Allens greetings; I guess that Frankie may be sent home from Panama - though he can't have many points. By this time you have my reaction to Uncle Lou's suggestions for getting out - the way things are now, you have to buy your way home by signing up and that I am not desperate enough to do yet. And it has come to the point where overseas time is of no value - now you can get out on 70 points (5 years 10 months service or equivalent under the point system) or with four years service (48 points!!!) Your little boy, one STB, is just out of luck - I might just as well not have spent 19 months overseas ... by the way here is how my 46 (forty-six) points are counted. From March 11 43 through May 12 45 is 26 points; overseas from May 7 44 through May 12 45 gives me 12 more points for 38 as of V-E day. Then on V-J day some four months later, 8 points were automatically added to the scores of all men overseas, making my total 46. There has been NO recomputation and the points are not cumulative (which is obviously unfair at the rate of one point a month to men overseas) and inactive service does not count - therefor I get no 6 points (and rightly not) for the period from September 16 42 to March 10 43. (Need I add that I have no children and no battle stars??!!) Your comment in quoting Anne McCormick on my comment about Bob Howes amounted to exactly what the Buck report on General Education at the secondary level tried to point out. As for my own self sufficiency I sometimes wonder about it - I have come to the point now that I simply cannot write letters to anyone but home: I have just exhausted my supply of small talk. And I am rather glad that people have stopped writing to me with too great regularity - I never have anything to write in return and too many letters are simply a struggle. My work will keep me busy for a good three weeks to come I think and by that time I hope that that Psych course may have arrived.

OK for now - back to the salt mines -

Regards to Doris

All my love,

Sumner