

9 December 1945

Dear Ones,

Well, this letter should be six or seven pages long - I haven't written to you since Wednesday or Thursday and here it is Sunday noon: this is the longest lapse I can recall. I have just been busy as all hell. We have finished loading our ship to the US and we did in less than three days - I was up and at work at 7 every morning and lucky to be in bed by midnight and on one of the nights I had guard. It was a rough spell - we worked as hard and as fast at loading as we have ever done. All sorts of things went wrong - the first night the light generator konked out and for a while we worked by jeep lights, then we got a portable light unit. The second day two of our three fork lifts went bad and we had to load three hatches with only one fork lifter. But the trucks kept rolling and we had swell cooperation from the dock officers and men. Our details were not afraid to work either - we got our checkers from the Navy to help Bob and me so that made it easier. Now all I hope is that our tallies check with what we had manifested. We are in good shape now - Spragye is going to come back and find us with everything shipped but the last odds and ends. Last night I had one of the dock officers/^{over for chow} a Chicagoan named Tom Warapius - and after seeing the entertaining "Anchors Aweigh" I hit the sack. It was the first movie I had seen in better than a week, I think. Anyway the grind is over - we are pretty well up to date as far as I can tell. I don't think that we will ever get our stock records to balance out but there is not much that we can do about that. And then tomorrow I leave for my trip to Guadalcanal - the orders and ticket are all ready and I will be at the airport at 10 to meet the northbound plane and the colonel. Jerry Caples has gone home on length of service so I am alone in the tent again. I still can't work that charm of getting home on myself. I have a huge stack of letters to answer - and I have a hunch that I will catch a few winks after I finish this letter to you. In some odd moments at noontime I managed to go through a group of clippings - and it dawned on me that while you were in NYC you secured the Boston Herald so that I would not lose the continuity of the various clippings - that was like the icing on a wonderful cake. Today is a rainy Sunday - fortunately it did not rain this morning as we cleared up our last boxes to go on this ship. It is wonderful to see our depot so empty - I left a note for Bob telling him to clean up and move out of our depot and I guess that by the time I get back from the Canal we will be consolidated in one building in the QM area. Most of the stuff we have left will be kept as a reserve and stock until the final roll-up. By the way I still have no idea how long I will be at the Canal or what my purpose in going is - I will write to you after I arrive and bring you up to date. I am looking forward to the plane trip if nothing else. This trip is going to put another dent in my letter writing prospects and I fear that my intentions to write New Years letters may turn into a plan to write St Patrick's day greetings! I should say a word about Trosper: Moore is in NZ and Trosper is doing the general supervision. He has been very cooperative, easy to get along with, and downright pleasant and helpful. The other night on the radio we heard that Congress was aroused about the dumping of supplies at South Pacific bases! Huh - my gripe is that both the Army and Navy should be allowed to destroy by dumping, not just the Navy. Congress cannot expect to bring men home and still have someone around to handle property economically.. but let me go into the discussion of the clippings and I will undoubtedly come back to that subject...

The French crisis did not seem to me to be especially indicative of any new situation in France - in fact it seemed rather typical. The Socialists would not join the communists in disavowing M. De Gualle's leadership, but that does not mean that on specific questions of legislation and governmental planning that the elements of the Left will not be united against any conservative tendencies which le grand Charlie may reveal. France seems to be functioning - but there is hardly any other conclusion which can be drawn at this time. One thing might be noted: France is a mature political state and she is hardly atable at this point - that fact should not be forgotten when criticism is made of the less mature and more war ravaged nations of Eastern Europe. The news of a big Three Foreign secretaries meeting in Moscow with atom power on the agenda is good; wonderful in fact. It may serve to counteract the coolness which Russia may have felt (justifiably) after the first Washington conferences on the bomb. The scheduled meeting is also a test of Jimmy Byrnes - he is under severe pressure now, I imagine. The Hurley charges may be wild but on top of the Palestine decision, our general swing behind the British arguments, there is indication all is not well in State Department organization and policy. This current situation is very healthy; the

damage of the London failure may be rectified, the ground will be cleared on the atom discussions, and our general world attitudes on world responsibility (Iran, China, Palestine) may get a firmer interpretation. It may be that we will bull our way through to a consistent and logical foreign policy - but I still wish that we would arrive at one through the more sensible way of a clearcut and specific definition of our interests and the preparation of diplomatic forces and armed power to properly work toward them. I must say in mitigation of Truman and Byrnes and the State Department that Congress shares the current responsibilities. Whether it is foreign policy or home front planning, the executive branch makes a statement and it never survives through Congress - so far in a majority of cases Congress has been playing a negative role; some Congressmen seem to have the idea that the American system of checks and balances denies cooperation and coordination.

That brings me to the GOP and the Pearl Harbor queries: I am in full agreement with the TIMES and PM that the current attitudes of men like Gearhart and Brewster is an attempt to justify the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor!! In their vicious and stupid partisanship they lose all sight of Manchuria, of the China incident, of the Axis as they attempt to make the entire war the responsibility of FDR and the Democratic administration. Make no mistake - the Republican tactic has done but one thing: it has put the entire question of internationalism right back on the doorstep of the GOP and it has marked the GOP as the party of isolation. That Brewster allowed himself to get in so deep amazes me. The GOP has taken the Pearl Harbor examination out of its proper context and for my money proved that it is still not to be trusted as the majority party. The question of Pearl Harbor is responsibility for the specific failure to be ready for attack; and if I know the Army and Navy command systems at all, definitive guilt will never be irreputably placed at any level....

The last Lyon's column I received carried a notice that Jack Goodman of Simon and Schuster is editing a book called "While you were gone" which will be a collection of articles on topics like Labor, Legislation, Music - general summaries covering the fields of American life during the war years. The reason why I note this is because the idea is Joe Thompson's. I can't recall whether I wrote to you about it at that time, because Joe wanted to be sure that it did not get stolen. He wrote to his uncle and eventually was put in touch with Simon and Schuster who liked the idea. Joe's original idea was to let somebody else ~~write the book~~ edit it and just get a credit line for himself or else write a foreword as a returned soldier. He has not answered my queries as to the status of his idea - he had gone to NY to see S&S - but I guess that all is well. I will have to quiz him at length about it.

I have a hunch that we are going to miss Ike in Germany; McNarney is of the Old school and he has an awfully big pair of shoes to fill. What puzzles me is what Marshall is so highly rated. He is given credit for our mobilization and for our tremendous training-tactical program. I would be the last to deny that Marshall is a superior civilian soldier, that he had a grasp of our military needs back in '39 and '40 far ahead of that of Congress. But that is not alone what a chief of staff is judged by - and since it is my conviction that we won the war on the intrinsic wealth of our nation and ability of our nation to swing into line to fight for the right, I feel that Marshall bears a part of the responsibility for the ineffective planning specifically in question of supply and personnel. Of course I am in no position to make a final statement, and perhaps our achievement with our armed forces does far outweigh our failures ... that is just the way it looks from this vantage point and at this time.

I cannot imagine where the new undergraduate library will go - will Boylston Hall will be torn down and another building similar to Houghton be built?? Lamont certainly is generous and I can agree that Harvard needs an undergraduate library - I used to fall asleep in old Boylston all the time; and the atmosphere of Widener is not suitable for the type of study which requires going through short sections of required texts every week. The move of the Ivy League libraries was a logical one. I think that the emphasis they put on football is the proper one. The argument that athletic scholarships give good students a chance for education which they would not otherwise receive is nonsense to a large degree. Many men work their way through school and play football too and I think that off the 8 Ivy League schools you will find that the higher the cost of attendance the greater the opportunities for scholastic scholarships and part timework. True enough, the football scholarship might afford an education to boys who might not otherwise receive it - but the fact remains that the criterion for admission to a college to be fair must be academic and scholastic. And the danger of over-

emphasis is not to be ignored. On the back of the editorial page discussing the Ivy League move was the Daley column and he quoted the Duguesne coach as ordering his undergraduate players to go to the pro games on Sunday with the words, "How do you expect to become good players if you don't go to pro games" inferring that the football laurel was the goal of college in itself - the Ivy league has done well to disallow that notion.

The squabble among the Baptists over Truman's liking for poker and bourbon gave me a chuckle; it also reveals the weakness of the organized Churches in America today - religious quibbling is the most disillusioning thing in the world to the average person of faith. There seems to be a growing support in the states for the American Veterans Committee and other such sincere World War II veteran groups as against the Legion and the VFW. However I still feel that the current veteran is missing the boat if he tries to start a new organization for every angle he can think of - the fewer the organizations the stronger the voice of the veteran, the more effective he becomes. The trick would be to gain control of the current groups, not to start rival ones.

The reports on the Nuremberg trials are encouraging - the cooperation is effective. Jackson's opening statement was to the point. It was also interesting to note that the US has announced a policy of stripping and selling to US producers machinery taken from German plants. I think that the coming Moscow talks may pave the way for the second phase of German control wherein the control council will assume a greater role in coordinating the occupation policies of the various nations to the point where the administration of Germany approaches a point of greater uniformity. There may also be something concerning a control Council for Japan - but as I said before I think it hinges on our success to achieve trust and cooperation on the critical question of the bomb. Without that, it is hard to advance on a realistic basis of agreement.

The last item on my sheet of notes was suggested by a book review of a book written by a British agent in the Near East which defends the British policy and opposes Zionism as "immigration by force." It seems to me that one facet of Zionist publicity must be establishing the proper viewpoint of looking at the problem. Do we judge justice to the Germans by the German standard or we judge it by ours, the worlds. But take a better case - do we judge Spain by her standards? What claim in the light of the war which we have just fought do we find in the Arab case? Did any Arab nation - those nations which are so well organized and so vocal now that "Zionism is a question, mind you - ever arise and defy the axis? Did any Arab nation as much as raise a finger when Rommel was in sight of Alexandria? Did not the Grand Mufti find refuge - not in Lisbon, not in London - but in Berlin? Was there not a justifiable fear of German infiltration into Syria and Lebanon? Was there not an actual outbreak of pro-German elements in Iraq?? Van Paassee and his arguments ring true time and time again and they are part of Zionism's strongest case.

I still have a bunch of letters which came yesterday to read, digest, and comment upon. This note is only about a third as long as I guessed that it might be. I hope that I haven't rambled around too much. I still have the statement of the Council for Judaism to talk about - it will of course be a rehash of many of the old arguments. One of the letters which arrived late had your picture HB - it was a good one, Toots. I wish that I could take a good picture - but no luck so far, the camera hasn't been built yet that will do it!! I still am hopeful that Henry Martin will send me the enlargements of the picture he took - right now I think that he has forgotten. The same letter brought your long note of the 18th Daddy - most of the topics are ones which I have covered previously. I will say that I note that whereas I feel that it is US policy which must be enunciated, clarified, and made consistent, you place the onus for the functioning of world order on Russia; you call for an end to her secrecy, press limitations, and what have you. For all the criticism which is justifiable heaped on Russia, I do not feel that the basic responsibility of the US is altered - we are in the position of world leadership. Until we give Russia something to respond to we are in the key position. Thanks for the full story on the Forbes case (as usual Mother was right, you had not written to me of it before, Daddy.) I think that the proposals that you outline under the Maine plans for veterans are excellent Daddy; I too see no constructive purpose in a token bonus - the idea of supplementing the various parts of the GI Bill of Rights seems to be a sensible and administratively feasible system.

OK for now - I am off for a good long and restful nap -
Regards to Doris

All my love,

Sumner