

December 12 1945

Dear Ones,

No thunderstorms last night - I went to sleep early and I feel fine this morning. I wrote out a report for Apalding - it runs for two pages and it sounds as though every minute of the trip were officially justified - it reads pretty well for its purpose if I say so myself. I have just checked with the Quartermaster and there is no record of Luther Tibbetts' grave - I checked every angle which I could think off. My plans are all set for the return trip tomorrow: I hope that the good weather holds out and that it is an easy trip. Today I will just lazy around - visit with the Chaplain and what have you. I have a hunch that I am going to have a full docket when I return to the unsceptered isle of Santo. Kravetz has only a small community here - he surprised me by saying that he has signed up to stay in; his guess is that he will be sent to Hawaii. He has not changed very much - he still is surrounded by his library, his intellectual projects (the translation of Proust) and his kitchen. And he still is not a social lion - well, "be and I never did think that he would change his ways despite our little lecture.

I am still missing a batch of mail following your return from NY - it may be waiting for me upon my return. Good for Gracie Herman - she waited but apparently not in vain as is so often the case; I'll bet that it pleases Alfred and Florence. Don married too, didn't he? Good for Dave Sacknoff and his majority. he'll probably be turning up married one of these days - I am surprised that the Bernstein social service agency with its branch in St Louis has not started to work on that project! I would say that the Bernstein clan is showing excellent judgment in this Bernstein-Seligman affair - you are entirely right in agreeing that Uncle Lou knows where and how he stands. You are wise in playing down the openings for disagreement. On the topic of getting home - there are some ten ordnance officers of company grade here and all but one (an MIT boy from Brockton named Banford) have more points than I. Until this command is cleaned up and the deadline now in July (ouch!) my chances seem pretty slim. Which brings me to the Hale matter and my little essay. I still wish that you had sent it to him (or that Daddy will show it to him when he comes to Portland) -- I am really getting a little down and I may not be able to hold out on my wailings until March and April: I want a glimmer of hope, some positive chance or promise for getting home... I can appreciate the wisdom of making any discussions with Bob strictly informal and non-committing and that is the best thing. I am counting on your sending me the full report of the conversations. It is touchy and nobody really knows the answer, but each day goes by and still no action is taken. Congress still hasn't done any thing one way or the other.. we are no nearer a solution and every Congressman deserves a good swift reminder in the form of a kick on the pants. That was a good picture of Uncle Don which you sent along. I am glad that Selma got my note and that she enjoyed it - did Uncle Lou get my note and cable??

I can well imagine that HB more than held her own in her Thanksgiving day, conversations at the Willis's. In my yesterday letter which probably won't be mailed until I return to Santo, I noted that on the plane with me were a couple of ensigns - both about 20, one from Michigan State and the other from Nebraska. They were nice kids - but no more than that - please understand that I don't mean to sound like old foxy grandpaw or like the original Hahvahd sophisticate - but college, the navy, and overseas had made no more of dent on them than Deering High school had on me. I don't know how to describe what they lacked - call it savoir faire, sophistication, ease, what you will..

You still haven't answered my questions concerning voting - how can I register while overseas on the assumption that I will not be home to register at the designated time? as for my taxes, I am ready and willing to let that problem

ride until I return. As for the school committee, Mother - I feel that you should definitely plan on the next election and that you should let people like Miss Pitt know that you intend to in good time. I think you would enjoy a touch and dash of politics in your routine - it would be fun. I hope that the current civic interest campaign pays off in the election of the best persons to the city council. The flurry of interest in Portland is a good sign. I hadn't even known that Uncle Heine had given up the Lynbrook store and gone into jobbing - more power to him in his NJ venture and I hope that everything turns out well for him and Aunt Rose. I cannot quite imagine how his store can be even smaller than the Lynbrook one.

Yes, I must be missing mail - for here I read that Bill Needleman left two sisters and brothers - I can only assume that Bill has died. It will hardly seem like home not to have Bill around for all the little emergencies. Who will we go to now - I imagine that that poses quite a problem! Bill was a swell friend, easy to talk to, and certainly much more than the family doctor - I'll bet that I can't even count the number of times he and Uncle Lou took me to Brunswick for the Bowdoin games. Bill certainly carried a heavy load - it seems as though he is the one strong element in the family - the white sheep among the gray and the black. Has Monica any plans now? Dave must really feel out on a limb. As for Hattie and her stories of Great Neck - I trust that you take them with a grain of salt. GN is quite a town, strictly North Shore and in my short visits I saw enough of the homes and met enough of the parents to know that when they talk about the wealth of the city they are not joking. However, "fineness" is another story - and it is more a characteristic of the second generation than the first. In fact I would say that the Freedman's were the finest, most well-mannered, family whom I met my impression of a large segment of the Jewish section of Great Neck was that it was rather surface and rough in a nouveau riche sense. As I say, the kids, like JK and Judy and their counterparts are getting best educational opportunity and are growing up in a wonderful community with very high standards and with excellent educational and social opportunities.

OK for this morning - this is probably the last note I will write from Guadalcanal..

Regards to Doris

All my love,

Samuel