

Uncle Lou - thanks for your note *df* Sunday 23 December 1945

Dear Ones,

Today is a work day but - believe it or not, we are getting a day and a half off for both Xmas and New Years (Monday noon through Tuesday.) Yesterday a good deal of mail came in from home - predominantly clippings - and I got a couple of letters from Aunt Anne and one from Uncle Lou. Then yesterday afternoon we had the Court Martial - we were able to show that the man was neglectful of his guard duties and he got two months confinement and a fine of \$30 for two months. Now all the fellows are going around calling me Tom Dewey - a couple of weeks ago after the General Court Martial I was Clarence Darrow - what a silly bunch we are. Anyway, there are no more cases on the docket for the present, which is something. Now I have to write up the record of trial - the TJA really had a job under the Army system. Last night we had a reprint of Viva Villa - those pictures of the mid-thirties are still good and are usually superior to all but the best of the current crop - just call me Pancho! Every day it becomes more and more obvious that we will never make our deadline date of 15 January - but the Colonel and Major Trosper do not seem willing to admit it... I wish the entertainment schedule for this holiday weekend were a little livelier...

I got a kick out of the Dahl cartoon showing a naval officer without an overcoat shivering in the midst of a New England snowstorm and saying "It certainly feels g-g-good to be c-cold again." - do you still have snow back home? what does it look like?? Glad to hear that Dave Brownstone got home - will he be opening up his office soon again? Aunt Ida's letters certainly are cheerful - you can tell how happy she is to share the joys that have come to Uncle Lou and to Sonny. Mother, I have more than enough nasher~~et~~ and I am very glad that I received only a limited number of packages this year; as it is my tent is pretty well cluttered - although I can't blame that all on the packages, my old aversion to sweeping, dusting, cleaning, and bed-making seems to have returned to me and the result is very noticeable - maybe the coming day off and the holiday spirit will inspire me to clean the place up - or at least make my bed. I should check over all my stuff and send what I want to home while the post office is still functioning here. I still have those native model boats and the box I had built for them... You mention a lady on St George St with a son who went to Harvard - I remember Harvard, but I can't place St George St to save my neck - I'll have to be reoriented in Portland, that seems certain. You know, I was sixteen when I left for college in 1940 and since then I have never spent more than two weeks or a month at a time in Portland - so it is really better than 5 years since I actually "lived" there. I think the Center Bulletin made a mistake in printing Anna Sacknoff's picture in connection with the Council's anniversary - of course, it may be that I am slightly prejudiced, Mother! Then again, I suppose that will HB's picture on the back page and yours on the front, it might have looked like an all Bernstein issue. I will say that this year's Bulletin is attractive and well done. Who is Harry Van Dernoot?? I am glad that all is well with Dr and Mrs Caplan - your mentioning their unique position with Grandma Bernstein made me think of the day when I just about blew my ear off with a fire cracker up on the Cole's front lawn - as I recall Elias was playing sixty-six on the porch of #1 but Daddy insisted that I be taken into town for treatment. It is good to see that those slight elements of conflicting notions are secondary within the family relationship.

From your reaction to my letters of late November, I take it that my disgust and restlessness with this life are pretty obvious to you - my letters of the past few days will simply be further evidence in that direction. But just wait until March!! I have just come back from the Ammo dump - we are constantly hitting snags in the dumping of the stuff - as heavy as it is a lot of the wooden crates will not sink and their tops have to be opened before they are tossed into the drink - it means a little more work and a little more time before this base will be closed, that's all... Thanks for the review of my financial status - I am still hoping that you will have the opportunity to look into my tax position and let me know what it is. I got a card from the USAFI people telling me that my course in psychology should be on the way.

OK for this morning -

All my love, *Summer*

Regards To Doris