

April 17, 1944

Dear Sumner:

Just before I left Friday morning for Boston Mother telephoned me that she had just received four letters from you and that was good news, for I had already resigned myself to the fact that you were on the high seas, inasmuch as we had not heard from you for four days. Mother's hunch that you were still in this country proved correct. My deduction was based on the fact that we had not heard from you for four days. Evidently what had happened was, while you had written every day, there had been storms along the way and the planes had been held up. It was not, however, until this morning that I read those letters and I was tremendously pleased with the way you had acclimated yourself to the new environment.

I left Friday for Boston to attend a business conference and stayed over Saturday to attend the Regional Executive Committee Meeting of the Boy Scouts, which was held at the Harvard Club from 11:00 in the morning until 4:00 in the afternoon. It always surprises me that so many business men, who are really high salaried executives, will take time out to give thought and attention to the work of the Scouts. Scouting obviously attracts the highest type of citizen and it is always a pleasure for me to attend these meetings.

I took the 5:05 train for New York and got in around ten o'clock in the evening, when I took the subway for Aunt Ida's. Both Sonny and Jugy were out for the evening and the morning. Jugy does not sleep at home so I do not know when he got in. He was out with Dady Sacknoff and I learned later had a swell time. Sonny got in at half past five in the morning and we talked for a few minutes and left our conversation until noontime. The entire morning I spent at the hospital with Grandpa who has been pretty sick but who is coming along nicely. Evidently Uncle Harris knows how to treat him. Considering Grandpa's age and condition, I think we are fortunate in having him around.

At noon I went back to Aunt Ida's and returned at three o'clock to spend another two hours with Grandpa who asked again and again to be warmly remembered to you. At the hospital in the afternoon I saw Uncle Heinie and Aunt Rose, Aunt Etta, Herbert and Bobbie. They all looked well and they all wanted to be fondly remembered to you.

The several hours at noon I spent with Sonny, Jugy, Uncle Harris and Aunt Ida, and Sonny told us of some of his experiences. He looks uncommonly well and his attitude has changed in many respects; for instance he wears his ribbons which are, of course, a mark of great distinction and show his participation in two major battles. In a discussion at the table he surprised me by saying that if Willkie ran he would vote for him in preference to Roosevelt. He is in doubt whether Roosevelt has a foreign policy and cannot forget that Roosevelt described the Munich Pact between Chamberlain and Hitler as a major accomplishment; nor can he forget that Ambassador Grew had warned the State Department of Japan's preparations. Of all the people in this country two men should have known what really was transpiring and should have taken the leadership in preparing this country for the inevitable. These two



men are and were Roosevelt and Hull.

Sonny's work was as a member of the Intelligence Reconnaissance Patrol, which really means that his job was to be in front of the front lines, observing enemy positions, talking to prisoners, etc. Sonny speaks, writes and reads French fluently, Spanish and Italian fairly well, Arabic passable, German moderately well. He really has a background of experience and training which should entitle him to work in more advanced fields of military operation. He has been assigned to Washington and just what that means we won't know until he gets there a week from today and has been given his specific job. I urged him to apply for O.C.S. and I think the boy knows his way around and knows how to present his case. He has been to see the Dean of the Law School and has made plans to go back at war's end. We did not discuss Russia and the communists but his father seems to feel that he is mellowing considerably and is pleased with his change in attitude.

I will write you more later but I want to get this off right away.

Affectionately,