

June 9, 1944

Dear Sumner:

Those two letters of yours, written ashore, I read last night avidly. Everything that Mother had stated to me about the spirit and attitude in which they were written was borne out by what my eyes relaid to me. Your comment on the conquest of the female was, I take it, a bit blase. N'est ce pas? You can take 'em or leave 'em. In that regard the army has done much more for you than college ever did and once in stride it did not take you long to pick up seven league boots to carry you from Indiana to Ohio, to California and way stations. Whether your stay in the Pacific will dull or whet your sense and appreciation of pulchritude is for the time being a moot question. On that score, however, I have no worry.

By this time you ought to be one of the leading knights of the Round Table. Fervently do I hope that you have mastered the art of playing poker because, son, the situation with me is too terrible to relate. I am under the spell of a jinx. For seven consecutive sessions I have lost. The feel is gone and I am beginning to worry.. If I do not stage a come-back pretty soon, you will have to fill out dependency allotment papers for your poor Pappy. Believe it or not, on three separate occasions in just two sittings, I held a pat hand and the same person who beat me on each of these occasions drew three cards and filled to give me an awful shellacking. So, my son, if you have a little time, write the old man a letter on how to disport himself at the gaming table. I need lessons badly. Your dissertation will be most welcome.

Just received a cheerful letter from Uncle Louie. Nothing phases him. He is the big shot and it would not surprise me if he soon replaced the Major General commanding his air field. This will interest you:

"The Col. asked me how I like it here. I replied that compared to work on a Base this is analagous to living with in-laws - no privacy - no freedom- no relaxation. I thought he would die at my analogy. He roared but agreed with me. He too wants work on a Base. After he organizes this section, which should be accomplished in three to four months, I feel he will tackle a base and I shall try to tag along. Everytime you turn around rank is staring you in the face and the work accomplished resembles the output of a large corporation - all paper work."

Good afternoon for the day.

Affectionately,