

Sunday, June 18

Dear ones -

A second bunch of four letters has reached me. The news of Uncle Lou and his being in NY is swell. I take it that he is now stationed with colonel Liggett at Mitchell Field. Like having him home again; I can understand that it is a marvalous tonic for Grandpa. Sonny's being in DC is also very handy. Your comment about the major and the pfc is certainly apt and you are right: I have certainly been smiled upon by Dame Fortune.

Thanks for sending along Mary Stein's letter. She is a very sweet person - she reminds of Aunt Hattie in her warmth and friendship. You can see the kind of enthusiast she is from her love of the west. And I can tell you - if you hadn't already gathered the impression! - that I was as favorably impressed with the Steins and with California as was possible in just two weeks association. War time necessity has speeded up my 'friend-making' faculties and attitudes.

Every one of your letters mentions someone taking a trip to Boston - I guess I'm not the only member of the family who is moving around - granted on a slightly different scale. And I was happy to hear that you are going to have automobile trouble at the Foreside this year; that reassures me that things are relatively normal at home: wouldn't be Menikoe without transportation difficulties and cautiously sounding out the car situation. The plumbing problem also is a sign of normalcy.

Apparently, on this island they will not cash either home checks or travellers checks. Fortunately, I have no expenses to speak of, aside from odds and ends purchases; and I do not need any money now. So perhaps it would be a good idea to shift that \$203.48 into a savings account. Do whatever you think best.

I take it tomorrow is the big day - for H. Hildreth and the cause; so by the time you get this the issue will have been decided. I certainly hope the people came through, that you had good weather, and that Horace won. Despite the fact that there was no mudslinging, you really are getting your first taste of participation in wartime politics. I am glad to see that Fernald did get solid financial support - you can then judge the political thinking capacities of the average citizen of our fair state. That is the kind of opposition which progressive government is going to face throughout the country.

I saw a Doctor Gillespie picture last night "Dr G's New Assistant" - pretty sad, except for Susan Peters, a very nice dish. Tonight it is some Donald O'Connor epic. Aside from that there is little news - I am afraid my laundry is going to catch up with me today and I will be out there scrubbing underwear. Sunday is like any other day around here for Officers, although officially I need not be down here. Yesterday was pretty dull and I consumed

'The Citadel' by A J Cronin. Pleasant reading. My next venture is George Meredith's 'Ordeal of Richard Feverel', a book I should ~~be~~ have read a long time ago but never did (in English 1). *I got an A without reading it.*

Aunt Anne wrote me a very interesting letter about her dental convention; I really like to hear from her. She told me how one Dr. Grady said he could understand ~~the~~ Mrs. Leland Stowe's - a member of Aunt Anne's Class at Dental school - friendship to Russia since she had married a Jew, Leland Stowe. Mrs. Stowe explained that her husband is not a Jew, but a sincere friend of Russia. Apparently the estimable Dr. Grady could not conceive of such an outspoken friend of Russia as Leland Stowe not being Jewish. Adding this to the report I read in PM of the recent recurrence of trouble in Worcester High School, I gather that the Boston scene has not changed very much - as Aunt Anne says, the Christian Front must still be strong there. To my mind this reveals some very strong under currents and dangerous signs. We can not expect a more intelligent second and third generation, one free from the narrowness and bigotry that has characterized the past, if they are already acting this way.

The war news is good - first one theatre and then the other crowds into the headlines. We have just begun the long uphill swing to final victory. We are all encouraged, no one is ^{overly} optimistic. What encouraged me just as much was FDR announcement of definite plans for world organization for justice and control; it was a promise that we are working not to lose the peace. I want to see what the comment will be from national figures. FDR's statement to my mind calls for the commitment - which we would not make last time, that Lippmann calls for this time - that we will have the power ready and that we will use it to enforce the principles of peace which a council of free men decides upon. What we must avoid is seeking a panacea. We can not hope to cope with all situations in advance - all we can hope to establish are the broadest principles of international conduct, but with an effective organism of policy and power to enforce and evolve the necessary ramifications. We must not hang up our participation in p-w organization for fear of an undefined commitment - that is the whole point, the necessity ~~is~~ that the commitment will be indefinite. We must have the basis of understanding, the trust in the international sovereignty in which we shall share. National sovereignty is not enough - we learned that in the past quarter century; in no sense of the word are we self sufficient or self contained. We must give up certain elements (of national scope previously) for international security. Congress must see that we must allow the international body to dictate the disposition of the international troops and police forces even though a part of those forces will be American.

Well, I guess that is it for today. Glad to know you got the cable; am looking for acknowledgement of my first letters, now.

Love,

Sumner