

June 25, 1944

Dear Ones,

Today is your anniversary; I am with you in thought - and I wish I were with you in toto.

Yesterday I went out with the Captain to one of the Airfields on the island. It still gives old earth-bound me a thrill to look at the planes, to watch them roaring to a take off, or soaring in to a landing. And American aircraft are certainly beautiful fighting ships. We rode all around the installations - and then came back to the office.

I read for a while last night and hit the hay early. I am not losing sleep by any means. Theoretically Sunday is the same as any other day here, so I am down here in the office now. This afternoon, if it doesn't rain, I will probably go out to the ball field and then swimming.

I am glad you are receiving my letters. But, Daddy, I was rather shocked that in your commentary on my crossing the equator and entering the realm of King Neptune you said that you were sorry that I was not tossed over board. I hasten to inform you that on transports going into theatres of operations if a man falls overboard, that is just too bad - the ship does not stop to pick him up and run the risk of being duck soup for a sub. So any body who is overboard is shanked up to profit and loss, mostly loss. So I am just as happy that I remained on deck.

The Perlman case is certainly interesting; I am glad you sent me the brief, Daddy. And I trust that you won your plea for a new trial. Let me know the final outcome of the affair.

That really covers the news from here. The war news from all fronts is certainly looking up - the Russians on the move, Cherbourg with its key port facilities about to fall, the continuing air war, the advance up the Italian peninsula; the many advances on land and at sea in the Pacific. All these signify the beginning of the end, but I will not predict when that end will come; I'd rather be pleasantly surprised.

My reading in Mann's "Joseph and his Brothers" is ~~now~~ coming along well but slowly; it is superbly written, in a good translation. The criticism of the background and origin of the Eastern religions, specifically Hebrew, is sympathetic. I remember back at college reading his book "That Man Moses"; that was my first contact with a carefully considered and accurate disproof of the Bible story as history. But you can't 'debunk' the Bible for me; for the hold of the Bible on my mind is not as true history, as a subject for rationalization. It is a story of faith and belief



and its validity depends upon the faith of the individual, not on the proof of the accuracy of its details. Mann's approach very obviously recognizes this human fact.

The more I get to know Herb the more I like him; in personality he reminds me more and more of Juj - incidentally, Herb is also a graduate of Long Island Med, a couple of years ahead of Juj. Apparently Herb went through the same stages as Lou Raybin, only he came out of it with a sense of balance.

The mail just came in: 7 letters: home, HB, Al Lane, home, Willée, Aunt Etta, Bob Stuart!!!!

First your letter of the 8th. Glad my mail is coming through. I try to write at least once a day - it usually turns out to be six times a week. As you can see from above - I am doing my utmost to maintain my contacts by mail. I am not in favor of sending Helen Barbara to Dana Hall - let her have a normal high school life, don't deprive her of her senior year. She will be eighteen after four years of highschool, and her social maturity will be far above mine when I entered college at 16. As a matter of fact, the adjustment will be easier to a ~~school~~ <sup>college</sup> at 18 than to a "prep" school at 17. Sending her to a really good summer camp might be a good idea. (I am very partial to Smith for some reason - there she will have a broad choice of friends. I know from experience\* that the social atmosphere of Wellesley, Dana Hall, etc, in the Boston area, ~~can be~~ <sup>can be</sup> unhealthy for a sensitive girl.) But there is a lot of time to decide - 2 years anyway - it is something to keep in mind but not decide upon.

It looks as though your campaign program has only started to present difficulties even though the campaign is over. I know you will straighten out the difficulties; I am sorry that the Zionists are causing such a pain in the neck. How Portland needs intelligent leadership! Glad the Hildreth affair is rolling smoothly; I've got my fingers crossed waiting for the news and all the election clippings. That's tough about Aunt Esther's nephew-to-be at "berdeen; but suddenly I feel sorry for no one, no matter how hard the breaks are, who is lucky enough to be in the good ole USA. No matter how fortunate I am, they are even more so. But I don't begrudge them a thing - I would have hated to have fought the war in the States. So either way has its advantages; I have no complaints.

I also got your letter of June 16. Thanks for Paul M's address - I got it from Bob Stuart also. Your mail is coming in well considering that it has to go through the directory service before coming to my 708APO. Uncle Lou certainly is travelling around.

Well, I'm off for chow now. I will answer your letter, HB, as soon as I can. Love and kisses

Sumner

\* Mann Systems cousin had a miserable time at Wellesley - she had been to prep school - trying to keep up in a social whirl; eventually the adjustment was made.