

July 22

Dear Ones,

Nothing special. Orientation last night went off OK, yesterday morning too. This is report time and I am a little busier than usual. This morning ~~ix~~ I had a good example of how a rumor spreads: Capt Thompson told me that he had heard the news that Guam was invaded, I told Herb, Herb told one of the other medics, and no more than a minute later I heard one of the Colonels telling another the story. It so happens that this item is true; but a false rumor could have spread the same way. I am now reading Thomas Wolfe's "You Can't Go Home Again" - it is a superbly searching story that is in fact a panoramic impression of American life and an appreciation of it.

Yesterday I had a real blue spell - one of those down in the mouth days - when my inactivity hung heavy on my hands. On the whole, however, I am attuning myself to the life here. The important thing is that I keep occupied - it is similar to the problems of self analysis I used to face at OCS. My reactions out here are by no means unique, I think every conscientious person has gone through the adjustment. I am fortunate that I do have my outside interest, my reading as compensating factors.

One of the boys had received a copy of the GI bill of rights. I am going to study it and outline a precis of it one of these days; at first glance there is a lot in the bill that is bad, especially the anti-labor stuff. The news this morning is FDR's renomination - I wonder who the VP will be. The Russians are certainly rolling - every day we hear of a new offensive. The internal French situation - that is, our relationship with De Gualle - is loaded with dynamite; after the mishandling of North Africa and Italy, this one should be smoother but the present signs point to trouble. Our officers' discussion group is going to tear off onto this topic, starting from the general basis of what "safe for democracy" means this time in practical application.

I got a note from Ruthie yesterday, also Lois. I have almost got to the point where there is so little news that my letters are reduced to being book reviews. Such problems! I finally have got around to putting all my woollens in a box; one of these days I will send them home to you, wrapped in old PM's. Incidentally, the Press Herald had started coming with some regularity; that is, the most recent one I received was invasion day!!

Not much new; this has missed the morning delivery so I will add a line before it goes out this apres-midi. The news has just come reporting Hitler's deposition as German Leader - the coming weeks will reveal the significance of this move by the German military, the new position of the Nazi party. The three symbols - Musso, Tojo, and now Hitler - are now out if the report is true. It is a good sign. I also heard that Harry Truman got the Vp nomination. A very good choice - from the middle west, a symbol of efficiency in government, free of the old taint of Pendergast. Well, all this will be the topic for much discussion later on. For now -

Love and kisses,

*Sumner*