

July 24

Bear Ones,

Inclement weather continues to delay airmail; it probably will bunch up coming to you too. It is now noontime; tonight I hope to get down here to the office and make up for that sad letter I mailed this morning. Tomorrow night we have a USO show and "Lady in The Dark."

You remember my writing you my first impressions about Herb and his outspoken admission that he is asocial. Because of his predominating seriousness which pervades his attitudes, he has built up this self-sufficiency in his thinking and it has lapped over into all his social contact. His resulting lack of social sensitiveness annoys me since he has nothing to offer in just those little things that are the fillers in the routine. An example: we have been considering the advisability of getting an orderly. This morning he informed me that he was going to get an orderly. Now, obviously, an orderly would be for both of us, he can't clean half a tent. Herb could just have easily said that he thought we ought to start having an orderly, was that OK with me, and when I agreed, that would be that. It is sort of difficult to define exactly this spirit and feeling - he's friendly but he isn't warm; he's got an excellent sense of humor but he doesn't give it full play. He is responsive without being basically sympathetic. Mike Freedman was selfish but we got along fine because 99% of the time we clicked on both the big and the little things. Herb doesn't give the opening and the opportunity for a warm friendship; friendship with him is based ^{SOLELY} on a serious appreciation. I hope I am getting across my impressions to you. Fortunately there is a group of officers here with a better balance than Herb. Captain Charlie Lesh here in the office and ^Capt Thompson are two in particular; also Lt Bauer down at the company and Capt Bolitho. With them I can indulge in more exuberant good-fellowship. On the whole, I think the group of officers I have chimed in with are a swell bunch.

Mail just came in; I am really up to date on Terry & Pirates. Thanks also for the Times with the Republican speeches. Still looking for the first copies of TIME and/RD to arrive. Thanks for the complete picture of the child care problem in Portland. Pearson didn't even mention Truman in his list of possible running-mates for FDR. David Lawrence is very right in damning any idea of spheres of influence as the basic medium for world peace. The basic medium must be cooperation and working together instead of trying to seek the impossible balance of power. I will await your letter, Daddy, but I can't even see spheres of control within the structure of a permanent world peace. It may be used for the occupation. Did you see that Gwen Cushing made PM's column on queer doings in the US?!!

I have just read Mrs. Luce's speech and if it were not so tragic it would be funny. To absolve the Republicans of blame for the war and to put it on Roosevelt is absolutely idiotic: if any one group of men is to blame for this war from the American point

of view, it is Lodge, Harding, Borah, Nye, Vandenberg, Taft, the men who blocked the fortification of Guam, the men who cried "Merchants of Death", the men who opposed the reciprocal trade agreements, the men who opposed lease lend, who constantly made neutrality an escape from world responsibility, the men who still today speak only in half truths and half statements and half promises about the post-war world. What is the Republican record - idly standing by and watching the depression come? Her warped picture is a travesty on good judgment, it is vitriol for its own sake, it is vicious, low, and untrue. It is the epitome of the whole negativistic republican approach, sound and fury, which offers nothing to America. And I can tell you that GI Joe is not impressed; he knows the truth. And he is not fighting for merely a free America, he is fighting for a free world. That is how I feel and I say this honestly - unless Dewey comes out with full repudiation in no uncertain terms of Republicanism as represented by the Convention, I would be afraid to vote for him. As for Hoover, he is still talking about a chicken in every pot and his analysis of the new deal is pitiful. The saintliness, the purity of the Republicans amazes me; what claim have these reactionaries of the Hoover school to such righteousness? They have been wrong at every turn. They cry return to the good old days. Sound familiar - remember Normalcy? He says "Lead our nation back" - he is going in the wrong direction. I await your comment.

I got your letter of the 11th, Helen Babsy. Your schedule seems to get busier and busier with each report. I take it the Dorseys are spending a very normal summer at the cottage; give them my best. I'll try to help you out in your collection of music - just let me know if you get short on folding stuff; no sense waiting for another birthday to roll around. Don't worry about finding a perfect counterpart as a friend. I have never found a perfect friend: the secret of friendship lies in having a large circle of friends, each of whom has something, can offer some of the things you seek. Never limit yourself, your perfect friend should be ~~the~~ composite of all your friends,

This letter is a good example of what I mean when I say that I need stimulation to write; I guess I really have quite a bit to say, once I get rolling. Not much special, once I get rolling on my survey, I will be busy for the first time really since I've been here. Nothing special - loads of love,

Sumner

Regards to Doris.