

April 4th 1945

Dear Ones,

for

If it were not/the fact that my griping to you tends to fall upon your ears a little emptily in view of your approval of my being stationed here, I would be unloading my woes upon you now. It is the old story of things piling up - inactivity, basic dis-interest in what is involved in the work that I am doing, lack of technical curiosity, and an indefinite status of exactly what my job is - and the result is not especially satisfying. What it amounts to is that I am sort of a glorified office boy. Thorpe is OK - it is the basic condition of being on a very-much-to-the-rear base that hangs heavy, and influences all the activity here.

Your letter and poetry were very fine, HB. (I would not let your impressions of Lila and Aunt Pearl bother you - don't let the sugar and spice of outward appearances and surface enthusiasms deter your very true evaluation of Lila - they are full of love and kindness for you, and you are fully capable of appreciating that, while not overlooking the other factors.) Your verse is very good, Toots - I hope you have shown it to Miss Pease, and that you are getting encouragement and instruction in the development of your lyric urge. You certainly are able to capture your sense of humor!! I only regret that I can answer your poetic passages in kind - but I fear that prose must be my medium.

"A Song to Remember" has not come here yet, but when it does I will certainly see it; last night I was dragged off to "The Thin Man Comes Home" and it was a very sad story. The Thin Man should have stayed where he was. (Teel is a Red Cross man and one of the men whipped up the birthday cake for him as a favor. Mail just came in - up to March 26 and 27th which is definitely OK.) I can sense that Wellesley is growing stronger and stronger in your mind as the primary choice for HB, and I can certainly understand why - the social atmosphere of its location, the nearness to Boston, the proximity to many boys schools with a wide range of social groups, the necessary emphasis on social activity - certainly Wellesley would avoid a danger of continued provincialism in atmosphere which might exist at Northampton or South Hadley. All I ask is that it is wiser policy to keep several schools in mind, consider their advantages, and not put all your eggs in the Wellesley basket. I am collecting all the material I have on the current UPA\*JDC dispute and the Palestine questions for a later letter; the mail this morning brought the statements on the dispute as well as an Alumni Bulletin and some Press Herald's. I guess La Guardia was under severe pressure to deny the curfew - and of course I do not think it wise from a national point of view - the reluctance of the American public, or perhaps just NYC, to realize the self-discipline element of the wartime measure is a sad reflection on the nature of home front attitudes. Krock pointed out well in his column that a voluntary measure was the most logical government course of action, at the present time.

You bring up the question of the right of the world as a whole to interfere with the internal governments of a specific nations when their violations of basic human rights are flagrantly violated - and again I answer, Mother, that the fundamental answer is yes - though certainly each case is one for separate consideration and evaluation and the drawing of a line between justifiable and non-justifiable local political, economic, and social measures for general application is impossible. And I do feel that the recognition of some such policy in principle is a basic part of a post-war settlement, for it is involved in our relations with, say, Argentina, Spain, and China. I am not advocating an unrealistic dream policy, but rather the fundamental recognition of the world nations that injustice within a nation's borders will affect the lives of all.

OK for now - I'll try to catch up on some of my letters tonight -

All my love,

*Sumner*

Regards to Doris