

April 9th

Dear Ones -

Nothing special since last night. I am enclosing a clipping from the TIMES dealing with the fighting of Chinese troops because I thought you might be interested in comparing it with what Muelchi wrote to me of his experiences with the front line Chinese troops in North Burma: "Chinese aren't afraid of anything when there is someone behind them with a whip or a club. I've seen times where one automatic weapon would hold up an entire regiment... I wouldn't want them on my flank if I were in an American outfit. Their best artillery ^{men} doesn't have the knowledge of a PFC in our outfits. Fire power is all they understand. It's not 'What did you destroy' but 'How many rounds did you put out there?' They haven't won a decisive battle over here yet. The Japs have always pulled out when they got ready." (The letter was dated the 3 of March, after the completion of the occupation of Northern Burma.) Mulch explains that the Chinese have basically different "tactics, styles, and intelligence," from us and that logistics are also a serious problem. Well, you can take it for what it is worth.

The picture is the only one that came out of the Sunday bunch - they were all under-exposed; it is a pretty sad shot, but proof enough that I am a big boy now! Last night's news brought word that John Foster Dulles was going to San Francisco and that requests had been made to allow representatives of other faiths to attend in official capacity - I understand that Dulles is going as a representative of the Church Council. It would certainly be encouraging if Weizman were to attend as a representative - it is obvious that the Arabs are set on blocking political Zionism in Palestine. We are going to need every ounce of support and strength we can muster.

Mrs McCormick had a very salient fact in one of her columns which spoke of the monuments of destruction which mark every populated place in Europe. She points out that in the arguments over power politics, some pessimists tend to forget that there are nearly 300 million liberated Europeans full of vitality to rebuild and that they are "the largest group of politically self-conscious people on the earth" destined to be a "powerful factor in the world of tomorrow." The people of Europe, just like the people of New Hampshire who voted overwhelmingly for international commitments and who effected a visible change in the program of Senator Tobey by their self-expression, stand ready to offer a capable world leadership the stuff with which to build our brave new world - the catastrophe of failure this time is almost too great to comprehend, we cannot fail.

The Lerner series on the future of Germany seems to coincide with the general post-war German picture - we have a major job to do: first of punishment and defeat and control and only after the lessons are firmly taught can we start on the second phase of the task, that of sponsoring the peacefully and democratically constructive elements that may turn up in Germany. The German is guilty until proven innocent. We are not using Nazi methods ^{when} we insist on a hard, uncompromising punishment for the German nation - anymore that the executioner is guilty of murder when he fulfils the punishment decreed by society. We are living in the tormenting proof of German guilt - it is the basis of our war - there is no extenuating circumstance in deliberate, sadistic, cold-blooded murder and lust for power.

That sort of cleans up the gigantic stack of clippings - now I am ready for another batch of airmail to come in. I do have a couple of letters here to answer. I am glad that Miss Deborah is a healthy child and that Aunt Mel is doing well. I hope the servicemen were able to make it for Pesach. It looks like Bobby Jacobs may strike some snags but he'll probably get into Annapolis OK if he has the stuff. Juj's last letter went into some length on the current family relations - it all got started when we recalled the summer Bobby Morris spent in Menikoe. OK for now - all my love,

Regards to Doris.

Sammy

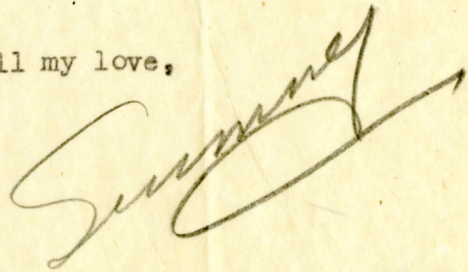
I am glad that the package of stuff I got from the natives arrived OK. It looks as though you are in the middle between Margaret Payson and the rest of the community again, Mother - and I am glad that you realize that as much as you feel you must emphasize her community contribution she does need correction in her relationship with the people she must work with. I am gradually going through the accumulation of your letters I have here and I have a mountain-high stack of clippings piling up in the drawer. I do enjoy Uncle Lou's letters - the one on leadership in Portland hit a familiar note, of course. (His comparison of the type of leaders we have now to "war workers" was not too bad!) Uncle Lou is certainly clear in his opinions of certain esteemed townsmen of ours.

I was interested in what happened in Portland when the holidays were given publicity and as a result any Jewish child who went to school was in a bad light. That is sort of a reverse way of encouraging observance but the net result may be the same! I'll never forget the first time I went to school on a holiday - I think it was Succos - and I felt like a hunted criminal all day long!

Well, that is it for today -

All my love,

Regards to Doris.

A large, stylized handwritten signature, likely 'Sumner', written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.