

May 5th

Dear Ones,

Mail did come yesterday afternoon - last night we went to services, and I read for a while before going to bed at 10. I was awake in time to turn on the radio and to hear the news of the Surrender of the German forces of the north - we are now waiting for some word on Norway and what decision the German command there will make. Any day may be the officially last day for Nazi Germany. Today in the New Hebrides has been normal - petty little things to keep me occupied; I enjoyed the few days without Thorpe over my shoulder.

I got four letters from home and notes from Willie, Judy, Howie Baumgarten, and Abe Benioff's neice who tells me that Abe is now home and at Fletcher General Hospital in Ohio. Art Lewis is still not back from New Zealand and chances are that he won't be for still another six or seven days. Good for Charlie Chason - how long has he been in Europe now? how do his parents take it? I am glad that you got the money order. What ever happened to Jerry Woodrow? He never seemed like a bad kid - my recollections of him are necessarily vague - I imagine that he is someplace in the service. (Apparently neither time nor tide will change his Mother.) I see that Bill Cunningham is at the San Francisco conference - I imagine that he will cover it like a Harvard Yale game and be very proud about it. Of all of Drew Pearson's comments on who will be affected by Roosevelt's death I think he came closest to being right about LaGuardia - the combination of the curfew misfire and the death of the Man who held New York's squabbling liberals together at election time is bound to mean the wilting of the Little Flower. There seems to be little doubt but that with a man like O'Dwyer the Democratic Party in NYC can come out of this current situation stronger than it has been for some ten years.

I wonder what the point of sending a "GI Consultant" to San Francisco is? Whether this chap Lilienthal is supposed to be representative of the average GI and his interests or not I do not know - in any event, I think that the GI representative should have come from the infantry rather than the I&E section of North African headquarters, if there had to be one. My point is that the average soldier identifies his interest with the best interests of the United States - no soldier regards himself as in anyway a member of a special group or division within our social system; our fondest hope is to lose all identification with the army! Whatever is to come our way as a result of our service - the GI Bill of Rights, for example - is an individual and not a group thing; the minute he starts to talk about home, about work, about his post-war plans, the soldier steps out of his uniform and becomes the individual civilian in the civilian community. Oh, well, I guess it is good publicity and psychology to have a soldier at San Francisco officially - and it is a good break for the fellow. If it were I, I would be all for the idea!

I wonder what the hell Peter Frank is doing in Greece? with his math training he may be doing technical work for the airforces. Did his Mother say what his plans are? - it seems to me that he was planning to teach and do research work. Sounds as though the Halperts had a real party - I am glad to know that Bud and Jimmy Ross are doing all right at New England Grain; does Bud's hay fever still bother him? I hope that you got in the mood to write to Irv Morris's fiancée because I doubt if I will. There is nothing special on the docket for tonight and I think I will catch up on the two or three letters I have to write. OK for now -

All my love,



Regards to Doris