

May 21st 1945

Dear Ones,

It is raining so hard that I can't hear the keys as they pound against the typewriter - needless to say there will be no volleyball tonight. I am going to have to work the better part of the evening on the reports. No mail today except the V-E TIME magazine. Fine, fine - Monday, it is raining, no letters to answer: some combination.

Hal Stein just came in for a social call - although he is only an ensign he is now the officer in charge of his outfit since the lieutenant was sent home for discharge; he figures that they will send somebody in to take over one of these days. We played poker last night and I came out even - we have a custom that whoever is ahead at about the half-way point of the game goes over to the club and buys drinks for the rest; it is a good idea but it works a real jinx on me - last night I was between ten and fifteen bucks ahead but I won only one pot after buying the beers for the boys. The real point of our game is to kill time socially and not to lose too much - if you win that is OK, but no one is in the game for his livelihood. Some of the fellows are pretty sad gamblers, but you quickly spot styles of play after a couple of sessions. Some fellows always bet quickly when their hands are poor and try to cover a good hand by hesitating and frowning; with others it is just the reverse. The only thing that annoys me - for everyone is entitled to his own style of play - is when people can't call their cards and as a result hold up the game, not as part of their technique but simply because they don't know what they have. And I don't have to tell you the feeling when the hands are called and put down and somebody is just about to rake in the pot when some one else cries out, "No, by golly, I've got a flush here which I didn't see!" and reaches for the chips. We have the continual discussion as to whether the cards or the word of the player should talk - in other words, if a fellow calls his hand as three of a kind when he has a straight too, should he win over a fellow who calls his hand correctly?

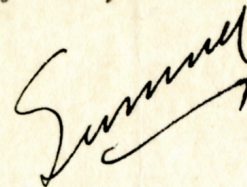
The news is coming through about the point system and how it will work - the Army is not losing any time in getting orders out on the boys with high point tallies. As you know, 85 points as of VE day was set as the current minimum level for eligibility for discharge - that means that a fellow in the army for the 55 months since September 1940, and overseas for two years would not be eligible (assuming he did not have any combat or children.) The rub is the idea of "first in, first out" is somewhat side-tracked by the high parenthood point allotment - no one I have spoken to has argued with the idea of 5 points for combat awards. If the Army could get its leave and rotation policies in functioning order, the emphasis could be taken off discharges as long as the war against Japan lasts.

The war news seems a little quiet with no fighting reports of fast action in Europe; we really have been going along on a diet of exciting news and we will have to get used to reports that are less thrilling but by no means less important. It will undoubtedly be some time before real strength can be mounted for the attack on the Japanese inner circle; in the lull, it would be well to take stock of the progress and problems of peace. The paper this morning told of the arrival in Hawaii of the first in tact unit from the ETO - the more and the quicker, the better,

That sort of clears ye olde deck for this morning (afternoon) I am waiting for your comment on the Wallace article in the recent Readers' Digest. .

All my love,

Regards to Doris,





detriment of the mass of individuals within the society. You assign a wholly negative roll to the function of society as a whole ( government;) with that fearful attitude of inaction, I can never agree. With the conclusions which its approach leads you to accept, I can never agree.

That is about it for now - apparently no more mail is going to be forthcoming this afternoon -

My love to all -

Regards to Doris.

Gummy