

May 26th 1945

Dear Ones,

At last - about 16 letters from home (about half of them clippings mailed from the office) and notes from Joe Thompson, Willie, Aunt Anne, Aunt Mel and Uncle Harold, and an invitation to Miss Judith Epstein's wedding and reception. Maybe I am just getting overly sensitive - for after all it is no more than standard procedure - but what kind of taste is it, what kind of judgment is it to send an invitation to a serviceman overseas? Why wasn't the invitation just included in one of Judy's letters - it is not as though I were a jilted boy friend being subtly informed that I am out of the running. I had the urge to pen a note in answer to the "Please Reply" card expressing my regret that I wasn't able to attend. But as I say - I am making a mountain out of a molehill; I just opened it at the wrong time. Willie mentioned the fact that Aunt Hattie is not feeling well; I hope that by the time this reaches you she will be up and around again. I wrote a V-mail to Aunt Anne and a quick note to Joe - I have a hunch that he is on his way out of the Army; as you can imagine there is a story behind his leaving here, and his getting a discharge would not be illogical. Tonight we have a poker game on the docket for about 9 o'clock and tomorrow morning I will hold down the office and I will start digging into my stack of the long-awaited letters. I think that most of the blank spaces were filled in - I got the whole story on the snowstorm, etc.

May 27th 1945

I have just written V-mails to Judy and to Uncle Harold; now to your letters. Of course, I am up to date on Terry and the Pirates again. That snowstorm must have quite the thing - five inches in May! That is one thing about coming to the New Hebrides from New England - I had to get used to a different variety of weather, but not to irregularity! Pearson had a good point in stressing that the center of the new world organization should be someplace in the United States, away from Europe and Asia and the more probably places where disputes of world shaking importance could arise. I am also glad to read Pearson's continued sniping at those who want to keep Russia out of the Asiatic war and those who would build up Germany against Russia. There is a Conant article in a copy of life we have up in our tent on the topic of control of Germany which I plan to read one of these days.

I am glad that my Mothers' Day message arrived on time. Thanks for the news on Jerry Morrow and the others; it is too bad that Buddy Brenner is in a none-too-sharp outfit - however being able to spell is no criterion of a man in the Army; anti-Semitism is of course a different story. I have been very fortunate; I have not run into any active cases of anti-Semitism thus far. I will be looking for the books which you say Evelyn sent for me; if you will include her address I will certainly write to her and thank her for them. I enjoyed the various reactions to the Kennedy beat on the end of the war - the basic consideration, it seems to me, is the idea that the Staff of General Eisenhower said "no" - we are at war, military consideration on that matter comes first, and that should be the end of it. How the red-herring argument of freedom of the press ever was dragged into the case, I do not know. Surely it was a good scoop, but even to the AP that should be secondary to clearly enunciated military policy. The TIMES editorial pretty well covered it - especially from the point of view of the American press.

I see that the Herald thinks that Niles may leave his Washington post; for some reason or other I always think of that day at the Back Bay station when we passed him and I was the only one who recognized him. The ways of politics and positions of power are certainly many and devious; I imagine that Niles' job was primarily personal rather than executive ^{support} to FDR and as such he now feels free to step out. I guess he was a good man to know. I wonder if the Lilienthal reappointment will in any way affect the political picture in Tennessee - it is clear that Crump played his cards well in not supporting the old master of patronage McKellar in his losing fight against the reappointment.

Just got a call - Thorpe is back - too soon. Love to you all -

Regards to Doris

Sammy