

May 28th 1945

Dear Ones,

Yesterday afternoon's mail brought letters from Aunt Ida, Jerry Rosenbloom, Dot, and four from home. The movie last night was "Murder, My Sweet" - a good story and a fair movie, not done as well or as smoothly as it might have been. A couple of hours of poker and then I hit the sack. Today has been quiet - I wrote to Aunt Ida and to Jerry; Jerry enclosed in his letter a Nazi armband - souvenirs like that must be swamping the mails going out of Europe. No mail this morning except for a letter from Willie - I don't know the reason for her sudden urge to correspond.

Let's see, yesterday we were talking about McKellar, and the reappointment of Lilienthal. The wedge that has resulted in the attitude of the Crump machine may be enough to defeat McKellar. I remember talking with Dot Mintz and also with the boys in the 730th and certainly there is a strong anti-Memphis and anti-Crump sentiment throughout the rest of the State; in fact the Knoxville district is Republican. It remains to be seen whether or not progressive Tennessee politicians will be able to work together effectively enough to defeat McKellar and his Crump support; a large returned service vote might be the margin of victory or defeat. The defeat of McKellar would certainly help point the way to an era of political enlightenment in the South, similar to the election of Arnall in Georgia - assuming of course that he were replaced by a man of higher caliber and different political principles.

I received the Hopkins letter on Universal service only after I had read and commented on a letter in criticism of it. The letter is certainly strong and impressive in the case for military preparedness; what is the feeling at home now? How would a vote go if the decision were to be made tomorrow? Thank you for taking care of the Harvard Fund for me, Daddy - I certainly will continue it when I return. I almost fell over when I read your comment about Thorpe's recognizing effort, etc. - you just don't know the Army, Mother, and you certainly don't know Thorpe. I was interested in Morrill's comment that it was poor politics that messed up the passage of the Port Bill; it sounds like the old story of lack of leadership. I'll be looking for Daddy's letter giving me the full story. I had hoped that the Port Bill would be one issue in which Hildreth could show a few signs of life. Good for Don Herman - chances are that they will get him on a boat one of these days - so far the breaks have certainly all come his way. I have just the faintest recollection of Lenore Rubin - I get a kick out of your comment on marriages that are revealed a few months after the wedding date!

I think that the Hope column is pretty sad - his writers are certainly down to their last resorts when they turn out his current line of chatter; he is still funny but his lines and routines are losing their spark and originality. You know what is coming - and that spoils it. The report by Dorothy Thompson on the reactions in the Jerusalem hall to the announcement of the cessation of hostilities was well done - to the peace which the Jews of Europe now have and to the hope which is theirs we must add the necessary element of work to achieve our common goals for world unity. It is interesting to see Lippmann put the emphasis on world solidarity over hemisphere solidarity in his support of the measure to include the latter within the effective framework of the former; I recall that his emphasis was almost the reverse in the spirit of his most recent book. I am not fully acquainted with the Bowker Bill - is that the legislation which would redistrict the cities and allow for greater and more accurate representation on city governments?

That sort of covers things for today; the weather is in its third day of sunshine and cooling breezes - very much like the way it was a year ago when I first arrived here. OK for now -

All my love,

*Samuel*

Regards to Doris.