

Transcribed by Kara Kralik 05/31/2020

12 March 1946

Dear Mother,

I didn't have to read Daddy's letter of the 11th to know what it said. The terms of our phone call on Sunday told me -

I don't know what to say - I feel as I did when I got Daddy's telegram on Santo: I have so much confidence in you that I share Daddy's emotional reaction - even at this time it is you who gives strength to us.

Daddy's report was complete - my sureness of you is supported by the medical analysis and the agreement on the second operation. I feel a little shaken, to be sure, but there is no element of doubt in my mind but that all will be well for you and because of you.

I want nothing more than to be with you - were I at Aberdeen I would not hesitate to request leave just so that I could be available to help if I could. But now that I am at school - and since Daddy gave his concurrence to this idea in advance - I think that my *[illegible]* policy would be to plan to fly up to see you the first

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possible weekend and to take a leave so that I can spend the weekend of your birthday with you, when I have completed this course. But course or no course, if you say the word, just whistle to the Red Cross and I will be home by return of mail.

I know that I can write honestly to you, Mother, and I feel that you will agree with me - this is quite different from my being 9000 miles away where mail had a 2 week delay. Although I am in Virginia, I am still close to you and the mental uneasiness of my being overseas is no longer a factor. There is this other aspect: I have used up almost all my accrued leave and any visit I could have with

you would be necessarily short. I want to do the thing that is best for you and I am really not sure what it is. I have one long-range suggestion: if you feel it justified, see if the Red Cross can get me assigned to the New England area - but I will be honest with you, Mother; I don't think that there is much chance there and it might upset the old applecart.
Well, I have been thinking out loud - but I have

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come to no conclusions. I know that Daddy will keep me up to date. I know that the letters from Boston will reflect your strength, your recovery, and your cheerfulness. I know that you deserve every blessing of God tenfold and that they will be yours.

I don't feel as helpless this time as I did in January - I had hoped that one such ordeal would have been enough, but since we do have the second experience, there is at least the strength of knowing with what conditions we are dealing. So please let me know (through Daddy or the Bostonians) how you feel on this score, Mother. I will abide by what you say - I will try to make the flying visit one of these weekends - but I leave the second decision as it affects my course here entirely up to you. (I think I know what you will say.)

My best to all in Boston -
I love you,
Sumner