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2 Gen Hospital APO 513
2 P.M. N.Y. - N.Y.



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A.P.O. 513 P.M.
New York, N.Y.
6 June 45

My dear Family:

A year ago today - and the real business was just getting under way over here. I, myself, heard the news about 6 or 7 A.M. on one of the wards of a General Hospital in Salisbury, England, where I was a patient. For a long time I'd been troubled somewhat by two large warts - one on my big toe and one on my thumb. Both had grown well up under the nails & were nuisances. While we were living in tents, waiting to be sent to France, I thought I'd get rid of the warts, & so got myself sent to a hospital. They took about 10 times as long to heal as I'd anticipated, & so D-Day caught me laid up nursing a very tender thumb & a foot which hurt when I walked. I was worried sick for fear I'd be left behind in England when the unit sailed for France. Actually I limped

around on that sore toe for weeks
after we got to France, & did
dressings on it in more cow pastures
& apple orchards than I can count!
But they both healed eventually. As
we used to say - "I got by!"

It has been a momentous year.
I can still remember the uneasy
feeling I had those hours of D-Day.
Aside from the eerie feeling that
hundreds of good, strong, healthy
young bodies were being destroyed in
those very hours, one knew that
at least certain aspects of our lives
were being forecast in those few
hours, and that much of the
character of the future world was
being shaped. For if we were
thrown back (+ one still wondered
if the Germans would pull an
effective "secret weapon" out) I
felt all of us - this time - would
have to go through what only the
South suffered before, & possibly
even worse. It has been a year
to witness, & I'm glad we were all
able to experience it, & I pity those
who must come after us & learn
about it by reading books!

All this activity in the field of (3)
statesmanship, international planning,
etc. certainly fires your blood
doesn't it! I have recently finished
a magnificent book. "Woodrow
Wilson & the Lost Peace" it's called,
written by Thomas A. Bailey. It's
an absolute must. Bailey is a
History Professor out in California.
He has written a very careful, detailed
study of Wilson's part in the World
War I & the making of the peace.
It is one of the most illuminating
works I've ever read. It is
absolutely fascinating! Please get it
& read it - You'll love it, I'm sure.
About the same time I saw the
movie "Wilson" which is also
excellent, & I'm now reading a
thing called "The Time for Decision",
by former Under-Secretary of State
Sumner Welles. It, too, promises
to be very instructive; apparently
a study of what was done after the
last war to establish a peaceful
world, & why it didn't work.
You'll enjoy it too, I'm certain.

As I become a little more informed, I wonder not so much why we are now having a World War II, but rather how it was postponed thus long. Read these things & I would like to hear your reactions to 'em.

The process of deployment, as they call it, or re-deployment, I think it is, is getting under way. You have probably read published accounts of the plan. As I understand it men & women of the Army & associated organizations are to be deployed in three main zones: ① Army of Occupation, ② C.B.I. (China - Burma - India Theatre, ③ Z of I (Zone of the Interior, U.S.A.) Return to Z of I ~~is~~ or rather eligibility for return to Z of I is to be based on several factors. Length of service, Length of ~~term~~ service overseas, combat service, dependents, decorations. These are evaluated in terms of points. For example each month service contributes one point & each month overseas also a point (counted up to May 1945). So for my 36 months service I have 36 points, & for

my 34 months overseas another 15
34 points. I was in units which
were declared to have participated
in three campaigns - Battle of
Normandy, Battle of Northern France,
& Battle of Germany - so I have
3 Bronze Stars - at 5 points each.
This brings me to $36 + 34 + 15 = 85$
points. After working out all that
one's fate is still dependent on the
primary consideration of military
necessity; in other words if they
say they need a man or a unit, the
points are so much ink on so much
paper. Nevertheless, military necessity
aside, the number of points is a
factor. At one time 85 points was
minimum for returning to Z or J,
at another time all those with over
115 or 120 points will go home &
be discharged from Army, etc. It
varies from time to time, & the
reports vary even more. But the
important thing, it seems to me, is
to remember that we are part of
an Army which is in the middle
of a War which has been tragically
costly both of men & materiel,

I expect I'll spend the rest of (7)
the war in 29 S. where I can
keep in touch with you, MM &
this cheers me more than I can
tell you. I become increasingly
certain all the time that I want to
quit Anesthesia & do Surgery, and
I intend to make a really strong
bid for it before we set up again.
If ~~it~~ it is impossible to make the
change, I propose to go after a
majority. I carry more work and
responsibility than a good many
Majors, & if I am to continue, I
propose to have the rank. It's a
good deal more money, which I'm
gonna need, post-war. On the
other hand, I think that once I
accept a majority I'm labelled
as Anesthetist for the duration,
for my surgical experience &
ability would hardly justify a
majority on a surgical service.
But I'd prefer doing surgery as a
captain than Anesthesia as a Major.
But I certainly don't think it wise

to do Anesthesia indefinitely as a
Capt. - Not without a fight, anyhow.
So you see things are complicated.
One of the boys - a recovered prisoner -
is en route to N. Y. C now where
he's gonna see Whipple & write me
what Whipple has to say about
Surgery, & Whipple, & Presbyterian, &
us — all relating to after the war,
Whipple probably will retire soon
after war - I understand the strain
is telling on him. I've always
wanted to work with the Boston
group - Harvard - but ~~Rev~~ Presby-
terian is doing a lot of expansion
right after war - And as you can
see I just don't know yet - It's
hard to know how to jump.

Well, if you've managed to
get this far, write me & talk to
me - I wish I could see my way
a little clearer, but I'm strain-
ing my eyes to see what I can
see - I'm fine & healthy - & I
know one thing for sure - I
have a wonderful family & I
love you dearly -

Yours
Elmer Key

XFO
6 - PM
5 OCT
1945
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
OCT 20
PM
1945
INSLEY STA.



Capt. Elmer K. Sanders,
~~2745 Pike Avenue,~~

~~Birmingham,~~

~~Mount Vernon,~~
~~Ala.~~

Olin

Box 66

From: Miss V. M. Rouse,
Boaris Hill
Oxford, ENGLAND.

Boars Hill, Oxford

Tel.: Oxford 85362

1st October, 1945.

My dear Sandy,

I just can't tell you how terribly disappointed we all were to hear that you had been sent straight back to the States without your long-awaited farewell visit to Boars Hill. Although I am awfully glad for your sake that you have at last been sent home, it is so sad that we had no opportunity to say goodbye and to thank you for all your kindnesses to us.

Please don't thank us — we were only too glad to be able to share Boars Hill with you, and if we managed in a small way to make your enforced stay in England a little happier than it might otherwise have been — then that is thanks enough in itself. I hope that one day we may be able to show you our peacetime world and extend to you a hospitality that our war conditions did not allow. Until

That time comes, or until we are able to visit you in the States, I quite agree that it would be a great pity not to keep in touch by mail. The one good thing that the war has done, is to show that it is possible to make really worthwhile friendships amongst people from every part of the world, and if we are going to lose these friends that it has taken a war to gain, then we are losing the only valuable part of six hard years.

I have looked through, and sorted out all the stuff that was left in our care. Your drinks have been under Daddy's watchful eye, and none have been touched. If you will let us know when you would like them sent (we don't want to send them until we know you are back in the States) we will pack them as carefully as possible + send them over. It is sweet of you to suggest our keeping the bombon, but I really feel that you should have it yourself, you know.

We had, thank you, disposed of all edibles! and are still using the soap.

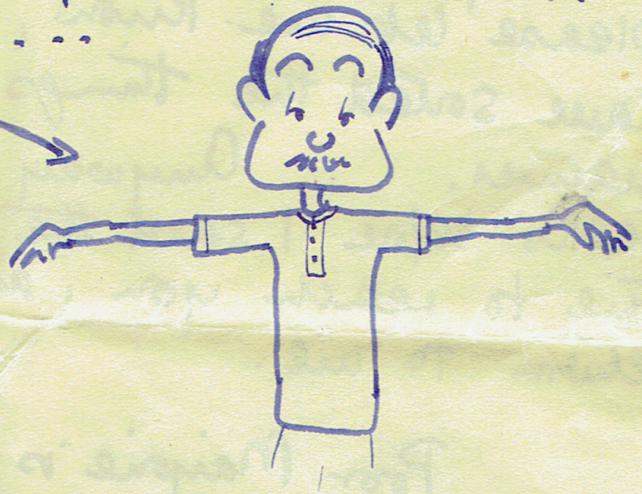
Now we come to the various articles

Boars Hill, Oxford

Tel.: Oxford 85362

of clothing etc. There were a vast number of socks that you left with Marjorie to be darned and these (I hope you approve) we distributed among our more barefooted friends + relatives (including Daddy!!) together with two cotton vests, singlets or whatever you would call them

(like these)



The leather shoes, you may remember, I sent to you in France, and Audrey has liberated a large blue bag which she intends to use for a linen bag. This distribution leaves, one Khaki shirt, two Khaki hats (like this) and another (like this)



--- Some shoe brushes

a linen sheet, and a brown leather writing case,
— all of which I will send off to you sometime,
unless I hear from you to the contrary.

To the best of my knowledge this is everything
that we have of yours, but if I find anything
else I will let you have it back as soon as
possible. If we have kept anything that you
are in particular need of (such as the bag)
please let me know, but I believe we
have sorted the things out in a fairly sensible
manner. Anyway, I will wait about eight
weeks before I send the stuff to give this letter
time to reach you, and a reply (if any!) to
return to me.

Poor Mayorie is at present in hospital
having had a severe attack of pyelitis, from
which, thanks to M+B, she has now recovered
and will be returning home shortly. She was
taken ill in London and instead of catching
the Oxford train, caught the nonstop train
to Cardiff. Fortunately, the signals went
against them outside Didcot and Mayorie
jumped out on the lines, had her luggage
thrown after her, and walked two miles
back to Didcot along the railway lines.

Boars Hill, Oxford

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The officials tried to arrest her, but felt so sorry for her that they ended by carrying her luggage for her. By ~~that~~ time she did arrive home her temperature was 104° & she was in a pretty miserable state. She was suspected of appendicitis, but they eventually found the source of the trouble, and she is now O.K., but much thinner.

Audrey is still playing her favourite game of Keeping Dick on a string. She broke off her engagement the night of my 21st Birthday party, but is now engaged again. — I wish he would beat the life out of her!

As for me :- I am proposing to give up my job in the near future, to take a course in Commercial Art, with a view to doing advertising and/or book illustrating. I have always wanted to do

drawing more than anything else, but time alone will show whether or not I have sufficient ability. Anyway, I'm making plans to start soon and am trying to pluck up courage to tell my boss I'm leaving. — What do you think of the idea?

Oh, by the way, I've just thought that we have quantities of tennis balls of yours, and guessing that they're about as undrainable in the States as here I'll be sending them as well as the other stuff.

Write & give me all your news soon.

Yours,

Valene.
