

SOUTH PACIFIC DAILY NEWS

ALL-SERVICE NEWSPAPER

September 2, 1944

Dear Commander Stassen:

First off, congratulations on the promotion, Commander. We learned of it through the news dispatches.

Hope that you are fairly well settled in your new job by now, so am writing to find out if there's any room for me in the organization - either as editor or flunky of a 3rd Fleet newspaper, or some other capacity.

Am rather fed up with New Caledonia, especially since it lost a star. When a man leaves his family and civilian life for a principle, he usually expects to see a bit of action. Unfortunately, I have not yet had any, and I'll certainly consider it a waste of time -- these years away from home -- if all I've done is bask in the New Caledonia sun.

Shortly after you left Noumea, the letter on my recommended commission as a lt. (j.g.) was put through the mill. It received a cold endorsement from the senior member of the interviewing board, who was peeved because he wasn't invited to the Daily News party; an oversight, by the way. So the Bureau passed me by, ungently. That was enough to make me boil, of course, and for a time had wild thoughts of trying to resign (if they permit enlisted men to do that), and many other rash thoughts. Finally cooled off, however. There's some consolation in knowing that the war can't last forever.

Will be grateful for anything you can do in the way of getting me reassigned to the 3rd Fleet, with or without a furlough before reporting. I'm sincere about wanting to tag along to Tokyo....we Republicans have gotta stick together.

Am trying to think of some news from hereabouts to make this letter a little more interesting....perhaps the fact that there's a new 2-star general, Gilbreath, known as the South Pacific Base Commander, successor to USAFISPA, may fit in that category. General Gilbreath has the gold braid row gasping. First off, he ordered in all the jeeps and other vehicles. Got 400 the first day, ended up with several thousand. He set up working hours for his gang of officers, put a brake on the Pacific Hotel hours, ditto on all other Army officers' clubs.

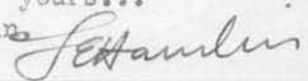
He also has plans for such things as covered movie theaters, fresh milk for all hospital patients, physical training programs for officers, etc. You can imagine how his personal stock is listed. Of course, the GIs love him. I met him -- beat him to the punch, in order to safeguard the News' vehicles, and liked him. He's got honest eyes (and, from a few things he said, a Republican frame of mind).

Some of the life went with Admiral Halsey and his outfit. This is just a vacation spot, to my way of thinking. Jack Benny, Carole Landis & Co. visited last week, but after Bob Hope, who was here a couple of weeks previously, it was hard to work up enthusiasm. Guess the war has moved too far away.

Well, sir, have about run out of words for now; hope to see you soon, and have the opportunity of working for ComThirdFt. Respy yours...

Fred E. Hamlin

CY, USNR



September 2, 1944

Dear Harold:

I am down here in Madison in the state campaign headquarters and will be here until after the Nov 7 election. I told you about the deal in the last letter. It seemed like one I should accept so I resigned at the tourist bureau. Ed and most of the local boys seem to think I made a mistake but be that as it may it is all over now and I parted with them under quite friendly circumstances. The last day I talked to Ed he was quite friendly although he still wanted me to change my mind. Frankly I believe one ~~thinks~~ that bothers him as much as anything else is to see the original# gang leaving one by one. He suffers somewhat from an inferiority complex and takes some of these things personal to himself. I had a little talk with him on this very subject just before I left. We were discussing a recent department head meeting which had a few sour notes to it, principally injected by our insurance commissioner who continues to believe that no one knows anything or does anything except himself and expresses his views in quite a nasty manner, he should have been cracked down hard and Ed was very tolerant with him, that may be alright. ~~#####~~ But Ed continues to talk about the greatness of his predecessor and how difficult it is to fill that man's shoes. This was the subject ~~is~~ discussed at some length with Ed. I told him ~~####~~ that he was Governor and was doing a swell job and there was no need of feeling inferior about it and that I was sure that his predecessor would be one of the first to insist that he change this line of talk especially when talking to the department heads who knew both men. This attitude no doubt will change when he gets elected on his own this Fall.

I came down here about a week ago and have a very pleasant set up. Tom Coleman# is one of the best fellows in the world and he and I get along swell. He wanted to announce me as campaign manager and in fact discussed the matter with his executive committee and they agreed. I insisted however that I have some lesser title. I don't want to start off with some of the local boys shooting at me and the opposition calling attention to the "foreigner" in the state. To all intents and purposes however I have been given the direction of the campaign. I went to Chicago last week to a meeting called by Brownell and his radio directors to discuss plans. Brownell was very friendly to me and said he would like to see me after the meeting. I drove over to his Hotel with him and we had a good opportunity to talk alone. The first thing I told him was that on your recent trip home you had specifically ordered that all of those who supported you in the past should get behind his man to the fullest extent possible and that our efforts should be wholly sincere and whole hearted. I told him that so far as I was concerned in Wisconsin I was going to do every thing possible to carry this state for his man and so were the rest of the HES people. He was very appreciative of these ~~####~~ remarks and praised you very highly. He asked me about Minn. and I told him to stay close to Ed and listen to his advice ~~####~~ there. ~~####~~ In parting he urged me to keep in close touch with him by letter and telephone and I am sure we have friendly relations there.

You may be interested to know something about the campaign as it is progressing.

The meeting at Chicago last week was for the discussion of radio programs. These have already been laid out so it was just a matter of telling us about them. There were about 20 states represented and Geo. Jones nearly fell off his chair when they introduced Mr. Johnston of Wisconsin. ##### They are going to put on the most extensive radio program ever used by their committee. They have engaged ## radio men and ad agency men to draw up strictly professional program. They have secured the best of talent in this respect although I am still crossing my fingers just a little on where some of their political advice came from. I always distrust these glib agency men just a little in politics they try to sell candidates like they sell soap and wheaties. However here is the dope. They have secured a great deal of time coast to coast on four networks for the leading candidates. These spots #### are half hour ##### in length with the speech running about 18 minutes. This leaves lots of free time so the speaker will not have to be hurried or slow about his delivery, preceding the speech a commentator will describe the crowd and build up for the appearance of the candidate who will come on a few minutes after the program opens, following the speech the program will switch to N.Y. where leading commentators will give their reactions and well as report on the rosy aspects of the campaign in other sections. There are going to be two campaign issues 1. Sidney Hillman (but no ##### offending remarks to CIO) and the Communists. 2. The fourth term. The N.Y. Times once reported that FDR said to Hannegan before Chicago "Clear everything with Sidney" and they are going to capitalize on that ##### phrase and give the commies hell. My personal reactions to this are a little mixed at present. It seems to be that the red issue is outmoded and somewhat dangerous to use. First many supporters of the New Deal believe themselves to be and are good Americans and will bitterly resent the implications that they are communistic. Further the sacrifices of Russia in this war have somewhat allayed the red scare. In other words I believe that there are much better issues that can be used. Further in the minds of the people Hillman took a licking at Chicago. However the boys are committed to their program and discussed it with such a light in their eyes that I did not wish to tell them I thought it was lousy and make myself unpopular right from the start. I did however suggest that I thought an attack on the big city bosses was something that should be stressed and that more people ## knew Kelly Hague and Pendergast and were hotter at them than at Hillman. As I said however I may be wrong in this for they are going to feature the thing in the campaign and for the present plan to use it as a major issue. There have been a couple bad snafus however this week. Warren spoke from Cal. on a national hookup and the speech was mailed him from N.Y. with the Hillman stuff in - he took it out and changed it materially, N.Y. in the meantime had released their copy to all the newspapers and much comment was caused by the change. ### A few days later the same thing happened in a speech given by Dirksen. Yesterday however the committee met in Chicago and reaffirmed their faith in this attack and the sentiment ##### was emphatic to make it even stronger against the reds. Maybe I am wrong but it seems there are better issues and these hate issues are sometimes hard to handle especially when carried on by the official committee.

If you are interested I will keep you informed of how I am getting along down here and such news as you might care to hear about. I will be going to Chicago at least once each week and will be going to the N.Y. headquarters within the next month. With kindest regards, I remain

Vic
Lorraine Hotel, Madison

DISABLED



VETERANS

JAMES L. MONNAHAN
NATIONAL COMMANDER

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
MCMILLAN AND GRANDVIEW
CINCINNATI, OHIO

September 6, 1944

Commander Harold E. Stassen, USNR
c/o Staff Service
Third Fleet
c/o Fleet P. O.
San Francisco, California

My dear Comrade Commander Stassen:

This is to extend to you an invitation to attend the 24th Annual Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, to be held in Denver, Colorado, on the 12th to 15th of September, 1944.

I know that your many friends in convention assembled would consider it a high honor if you could attend our Convention and take part in the deliberations.

Although we all hope and pray that you will not become disabled and therefore ineligible for our organization, if you should be so unfortunate, we trust you will realize the advisability of dealing with an old, reliable firm and come to us for any assistance that you may be entitled to because of the splendid service you have rendered in World War II.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

J. L. Monnahan
J. L. MONNAHAN

National Commander

JLM:MS

Com Third Fleet

Calot

23-Oct -

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In my faxed x
you 030845x

251722

A ~~Boston~~ Calot
should not flash

over the Ocean the
sad story of what
Hollywood did to a
great football player
Jack now a many player x

~~Legend Starline~~ ~~Minimot~~

Those flicker babies
might get hold of you
someday x Starline
of Minnesota.

Robert H. Koch
Lawyer
Marshall Building
Northfield, Minnesota

September 15, 1944

Dear Harold:

It has been several weeks now since you have been home, and I presume that you are back with the fleet again. I envy you. I would have liked very much to have seen you when you were home but there were so many people that had to see you and you had so little time with your family that I did not feel that I should show up. I knew only too well how it feels to come home, having just done so a matter of months before.

You will no doubt be interested in knowing some of the local political picture here. First of all let me say that some of the people that were with us in the beginning are coming back in the fold, and it is like old home week. Ole Mahacheck has taken over the matter of raising the money for this commissioner district and it is not just a little fun to see this fellow who has been out of the picture for several years start all over again, with the same old drive, and the same old spirit that he showed in the early days of the league. We are to raise \$ 800 for campaign expense here in Northfield, and he has already figured out where he is going to get the money. Many of your old friends that dropped out of the picture when there was not too much for them to do have, told me that they would come back. We have enough promises to have a league here as large as it was in 1936. It is just a matter of getting it going.

People here seem to be taking to this man Dewey, and they feel that he has something to him, Even some Democrats are coming into the picture.

I suppose that Ed has told you that Bill Revier is getting along with a program to rehabilitate the vets that are coming home, and it is the hope that every man will either have a job or have something to do that will fit him for civilian life when he gets back. This is a big job, and Ed and Bill are getting along with it in great shape. I heard Ed give a talk at the Legion Post the other nite and I could hardly believe my ears, that man is becoming a finished product, his speech was great. Believe it or not, when he got through, even though the fellows have known him for over 25 years, and had seen him all along, they just whooped and applauded for all they were worth, it was like nothing that I have seen for a long time, that was surely a wise choice that you made there; but the thing that I would like to know, is, how did you know that he had it in him? If Earl had written the speech, I would not have thought so much of it, but this was extempore, and without even notes.

I do not want to give the impression by what I have said here that the pot is boiling politically, because it does not seem to be, but there is a rather strained sort of political atmosphere, as if everyone was waiting for something to happen. I will not give Dewey much chance now, but somehow I feel that he is picking up speed as he goes along and that he has a chance to win,

I went to the Legion convention and found that noone there seems to have forgotten you, and there were many that I heard say that they felt that you could have won this election, and were disasaapointed in the fact that you were not nominated. That was from many people who have not to my knowledge been actively in your picture, and I pass it along to you for what satisfaction that you may get from it.

Joe Finley is now working on some proposals for veterans of W.W.II that I wish you could express an opinion on, I think that they are very good, and I think that you would too.

Si is now up at Herman and has opened up his office there and seems to be getting along fine. He had a pretty rough seige of it for a while, but he has come to the realization that much of his trouble was of his own making and realizes that he cannot escape from his own shortcomings no matter how far he goes or how much he drinks and that has helped immeasurably. He has some timbre in his voice now, and I think that he is well along the road to recovery. It is a shame when a fellow with all the stuff that he has, lets it go to waste.

You might be interested to know what I am doing, so here goes. I have been here now for about 5 months and I have far more business than I ever hoped for, and it has been good clean business. The Lyndale Highway is going through Scott County, and Harold Levander and I together have 12 of the twenty pieces, and all of the good big ones. Its fun to work with him, he certainly can talk to the scandies. With this along with the other stuff, I have been kept very busy, not much money but more than I ever hoped for. I have kept the Barber Board and in an effort to really earn my money for a change, I have commenced and have proceeded along some distance toward the end of indexing and annotating their law, so that when I get through everyone will know what its all about. I have not been able to find a suitable house yet so Edith and the kids are still up in St. Paul, and I am rooming out. This I am getting tired of because I have been living out of a Barracks bag, foot locker and a suitcase now for 11 months, but it will have to continue until the deal is taken care of the way it should be. I have fine offices though, and the people are just wonderful. There is very little sin in the town, but I can't complain on that score, that kind of living is refreshing after seeing what booze and women can do to a darn good friend.

Politically I have started at the bottem again, and Red, I like it. It is just like starting all over, I will have the chance this time to avoid the foolish mistakes that I made last time, and have the benefit of what I learned then. These people want people who are willing to do what there is to do, and I have made the rule that I will do what I am capable of doing, and when I feel that the job is one that some otherperson can do better than I can, I say so, in short I am a little frog in a little pond, and if I ever outgrow that it will be because I have earned it, not sold someone a book. I wish that you would give me some kind of a rule or something that you worked out for understatement and reserve, that is the toughest fight I have, more than once I have caught myself sounding off like I used to, and I had a hell of a time pulling in my horns. Your "Met's watch this thing and see what develops" has served me more than once, and well. Now if I could only get the other I guess I would be satisfied.

I am the service officer of the Post and it is a great satisfaction to be helping the fellows in this position, you'd be surprised.

Well I have taken up some of your time, so I'll close, and hope that you can come home soon.

Your friend


Wednesday, Sept. 15th.

Dear Harold:

I've been wanting to sit down and do this every since you left, especially so since I wasn't able to get out to the airport to say "goodbye". It was so wonderful to see you, and you looked so perfectly grand - if only you could have remained here. But it does look good now, and with the European war coming to a close, I don't imagine it will be so terribly long before we can consider it a thing of the past

I've been just terribly busy on my work for the game and fish committee, taking care of the kids, washing diapers, and trying to get a little social life occasionally, that sometime I wonder if it wouldn't be better to quit my job. It really is getting to be a little bit too much to keep up the house and try to get canning done. I just got back from the committee meeting in Duluth last night. We left Sunday and had a full day's meeting on Monday with the sportsmen's groups and commercial fishermen around Duluth. Then on Tuesday we went up 65 miles north of Duluth to Beaver Bay and had a meeting with the commercial fishermen there. That one only lasted until about one o'clock. Then Representative Omtvedt put on a nice lake trout dinner for us, and we came back to Duluth and left on the 4:30 train for home. It was very interesting and a lot of fun - I enjoyed it a lot - but somehow or other it seemed wonderful to get home just after those two days. I guess I always will be quite the home body. Now, I've got the transcript to type up - which I have been doing all evening, and in addition, I have the transcript from a full day's meeting in St. Paul last week. Of course, this probably seems like small stuff to you, as I imagine a day's work for you involves things that are a little bit more exertion - but I guess I'm not as young as I used to be.

Senator Weber was at the meeting in Duluth and is very much wrapped up in the national campaign. He asked me every day whether I wouldn't please come down and work for him. He said He'd pay me whatever I want, if I'd only come down there. He claims it would be the most wonderful thing if they could say that Harold's sister was working for the campaign. I called Mr. Badger and asked him about it and he thought it would be O. K. if I wanted to, but, after thinking it over, I doubt whether I could take it. I, of course, would still keep my committee job, but when I think of someone else taking care of Rowene, I sort of wonder whether it's worth it.

Rowene is getting so cute. She's five months old today, and I just worship her. I just have a funny hunch that she'll never get a spanking when she's naughty. Her hair is quite dark, almost black, and she has great big brown eyes, and two little dimples in her cheeks - they're not noticeable until she smiles - but she really has got them.

Rollin is going to Chicago for the company next week. He'll be gone about four days, I believe. He's quite thrilled about it, because it will be the first time, and he really feels quite important about it. I get such a kick out of him. Last Sunday their company had a picnic at Lake Minnetonka and we went for an hour's ride in the company's Cris Craft Launch. It was a lot of fun. I only stayed for a short time as I had to leave for Duluth at 6:00 o'clock. It was nice, though, to meet all the people that Rollin talks about.

The folks have been finishing up their work. They still have quite a bit to pick. They've had a wonderful summer and I really am proud at the way they carry on. I just can't see how they can work so hard, but they both seem so very, very healthy and just love it. When they would get the load all made at night, they both would look so pleased. It's too bad that Rollin hasn't been able to give them more help evenings, but he works so late at work and by the time we have dinner, they are almost through. Dad's picture was in the paper this morning as a judge for the Victory Garden Contest.

Ruth Franz works for Mr. Torrison in the Conservation Department now. ~~WREXX~~ Earl, her husband, is stationed at Fort Leonard, Wood, and is

to be sent out the first part of November. He thinks it is with the Army of Occupation. It's pretty hard on Ruth, with her two little boys, and she just has to work.

I happened to meet Fred Hughes at the Capitol one day a couple of weeks ago, and if he ever got a thrill in all his life it was when you called him on the phone while you ~~were~~ were here. He just couldn't get over it, and he said if ever there was a time when he was at a loss for words, it was then. He said the fact that you called him so overcame him that he couldn't even talk. He's a great fellow, and he certainly worships the ground you walk on. Don't we all.

Florence Crawford is here from California on her vacation and spent the day and night with me last Friday. She says that she has talked to so many people in the plant down there that are so very interested in you, and she tells me that when the baby was born, the picture of Rowene and the nurse was in the Los Angeles paper.

Pete is working tonight and won't be home until about 11:00. It seems so quiet when the kids are sleeping and only a dripping faucet it almost makes me scared. I'm such a fraidy cat anyhow when it comes to staying alone. I don't know what I'll do when he goes to Chicago - probably stay awake all night listening to see if anybody is around.

I met Senator Dahle and Senator Rogers and John Jensvold while in Duluth and they all asked about you. Senator Rogers gave us a ride back from Beaver Bay and stopped on the way to show us Gooseberry Falls and some of the other points of interest. He certainly was just grand to us. It's a funny thing, of all the years I was up at the Capitol, and the two or three sessions that they had, I had never met nor even remembering seeing either of those two Senators. In fact, all the Senators, ie those two, and Senator Ledin and Weber were kidding me about working there and walking down the hall with my nose up in the air so that they didn't know whether they dared to say "hello". I assured them that it wasn't because I was "stuck up", it was because I was so terribly bashful and wouldn't know what to say if they did talk to me. They got quite a kick out of that, and said that from what they heard me say the last few days, I seemed to choose my words pretty carefully and usually had the right remark at the right time - of course, that's all talk, but it amuses me to hear some of the reactions of when I did work there.

Mr. Robinson, who sells rough fish for the Conservation Department, tells me that he was one of the individuals who went on the Lake of the Woods trip with you. I was quite surprised, because I hadn't heard of him before. He is taking the committee on that same trip now. I guess they plan on being back next Monday.

Bob is planning on going to night school this year, in addition to his day school so that he can join the navy on his 18th birthday, and have his high schools credits completed. Martha and Bill don't think he should attempt to do that because it will be quite hard for him and he probably won't pass all his subjects anyhow, but he is so insistent that I guess that is just what he is going to do. He worked all summer at Swifts and went to summer school besides. I really am quite surprised at his ambition and give him credit for trying so hard. Billy worked at Elmer's store all summer and about three or four weeks ago had some money saved and went down, all by himself, to the Horse Auction at South St. Paul and bought himself a horse. It was so cute - he rode his horse up here to the house and of course we went out and I told him it was a pretty horse and everything. He leaned down and patted the horse's neck, and said, "All my life I looked forward to this day". and I guess he really did, too. Every morning he comes out to the folks and goes for a ride, cleans out the barn and takes care of it. It just doesn't seem possible that those kids are so grown up. Bob has a girl friend at Hutchinson who he met at one of the Baptist Assemblies, and he goes out to Hutchinson about every third weekend with some of the other kids from church, to see her and visit. This last weekend he left on

Saturday and were expected back Sunday night. He didn't get back until Tuesday night.

I talked to Andy a few days ago. He seems very much pleased with his job, and I guess during the last couple of weeks he had a few "scoops". They have let him go out on some of the better runs occasionally, instead of just the ordinary stuff, and they have let him write a few politicals. He happened to bump into Staff King just the day Staff walked into the Capitol and had an interview with him that was exclusive. He was quite proud of that.

W/ Rollin just got home from work - he's hungry, and I guess I'll have to make something to eat - and besides I really don't know much else. This letter is getting too long, and possible uninteresting anyhow. I never do know just what to write to you. So, with all the good wishes in the world -

Love

Violet.

Sept 16-1944

AIR MAIL

Dear Commander Stassen.

Dear boy

William Gardner White. Lieut (J.S.) has been reported missing in action. He has been on the same Carrier that Forrest Daniels is on. He was, of course, flying but he is not a pilot so was not alone in the plane. He must of gone down between August 29th and September 11th as we received the message on September 12th. If you can give us any information about him at any time - or if you can tell us where his ship was at that time we would appreciate a letter from you. It would be a comfort to know that much. The Pacific seems very big when you try to place one boy in it. Very sincerely - Anne White

Mrs. Edwin Lutz
R. 10. Lutz Bear Lake
Idaho



VIA AIR MAIL

Harold E. Stassee - Commander U.S.N.R.
Staff Commander Third Fleet
Fleet Post Office
San Francisco - California

Sept. 18, 1944.

H. E. Stassen, Cmdr., USNR.,
Staff - Commander Third Fleet,
Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Harold,

I saw Esther the other day, and she looked just as sweet as ever, a little uncomfortable perhaps from a little hay fever, but other than that, she looked fine. We see the children too, now that we get over to our Victory garden. Kathleen, is darling, and Glen with his usual line of questions, and suggestions, as to "why don't you do it this way, or that way?" Clete gets quite a bang out of Glen. I told him, maybe we could learn a lot doing it Glen's way, after all, he should know something about it, and it is our first experience with a garden.

The day Esther gave me your address, I told her I was asked to do something I simply dreaded doing, and here it is: Clete's sister, who is a widow and has raised a family of all boys, now has four boys in the Service. Two in the Pacific area, one in France, and one, we don't know where. I am enclosing a copy of a letter from one in the Pacific area, which I hope is self-explanatory. She has gone to the Red Cross on numerous dates, and also to the VFW, but was told it would have to be handled from that area. But the boy tells us he was informed it would have to be handled thru this area.

As I told you, I simply dreaded bothering you with anything like this, but this boy's mother is the dearest and kindest person herself, and is worrying herself sick over this boy. She has a feeling, that you, and only you can help, and not having a husband or son in the service myself, I just couldn't turn her down, when she asked if I would at least write.

Anything you can do to help give this woman peace of mind, we will certainly appreciate.

Clete and I hope that you aren't working too hard, and want to wish you the best of luck, and everything that goes with it.

Very sincerely,

Louise Litzmann

219 Fifth Ave. N.,
South St. Paul, Minn,

Veterans of Foreign Wars
151st Field Artillery Post 874 Organized January, 1921
National Guard Armory
Minneapolis, Minn.

Sept. 21st 1944,

Com. Harold E. Stassen:
Asst Chief of Staff - 3rd Fleet
Pacific Southwest Area:

Dear Sir:

As a veteran of World War I and
collector of Philatelics, I would be pleased to receive
your Autograph and rank on the enclosed covers.
Also that of Admiral Halsey to add to my military
and Naval collection of World War II. I am an
employee of the State Game Inspection Dept since 1919
and naturally am interested in the Minnesota men
in service.

Respectfully Yours

Ray S. Cottermann
V. F. W. 874-151st FA.
Minneapolis Armory,
Adj and Quartermaster

Lat. int
Sept 23

Capt. E. J. Ryan 1944
19th Officers' class
J. A. S. School
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Dear H.E.S.,

When you get time write me a letter. You know we service men like to get mail.

Just listened to the Pres. address and believe he kicked the opposition all over the lot. Perhaps you now have some facilities for getting this stuff now. I will mail it you anyhow. The delivery was excellent and humorous and hit awfully hard I think.

Have been here at J. A. S. school for a week now and they are throwing a lot of stuff at us. Pretty good well run well disciplined school I would say and plenty of studying. Have been out of the habit so long it is a little tough and doubt that I will do so good. That remains to be seen of course. Anyhow I am working like hell and it is kind of fun.

Col. Nelson and the boys had a little dinner when I left and Ed was there. Very pleasant.

Do not know where I will go from here. I asked for overseas and maybe they will send me altho after being here I think maybe I need a little more seasoning than this 8 weeks course. Having been only in selective service I don't know much about ~~service~~ matters and am at a little disadvantage with these boys who have been conducting court martials etc for some time.

Prof. Pollock here in a lecture this morning gave a quite favorable picture of Europe and rather dark one of China. Suppose you get a lot of that kind of dope. Well tomorrow is Sunday and will write a little more and mail this then. This is a beautiful spot for a school like this. Dan Rogers and John Mac Kasy also Henry Jansson went thru here as officer candidates (OCS) school.

Radio comment this a.m. would indicate that the tired old man really scored last night.

Regards

John

IT HAPPENED AT THE CAPITOL -- ### Sept. 26

Observers watching the westward tour of Candidate Dewey were impressed with the mechanical perfection of his speeches. His sentences were crisp, his words were homely and short and his well modulated voice displayed fine training. Some observers remarked that the speech was too mechanical and failed to carry conviction but generally speaking all agreed that a creditable job was being done although none were particularly excited about it.

The radio handlers had bought all half hour spots giving ample time for the twenty to twentyfive minute speech and giving time to give crowd "atmosphere before and after the speech. The introduction was generally given by the Republican governor and was limited to the bare essentials. Broadcasts were coast to coast on two or more networks.

The special train was run with meticulous routine. Each stop was almost exactly an exact pattern of the previous one. Efficiency was the watchword.

On reaching the coast the speeches became progressively more liberal and reached their climax at Los Angeles where newsmen reported that the New Deal was being taken over and that this candidate was outpromising the 1940 candidate. Stalwart Gop began to mutter and sulk.

Reports from unimpeachable sources revealed that the original budget set for 3 million and been revised to 2 million but that cash on hand totaled only 700 thousands.

Everywhere the electorate seemed apathetic with no interest in the coming election.

Then on a Saturday nite, Sept. 23, the dem candidate delivered his first "campaign" speech. Speaking to the A.F. of L. teamsters and seated between Bill Green and Dan Tobin the "champ" delivered 30 minutes of ridicule and wisecracks heaped on his opponents. His followers roared with glee and the gop got mad - candidate Dewey announced he would rewrite his speech and "take of the gloves" to answer the attack. These two speeches have put fire into the campaign although some observers bemoan the conduct of the campaign. Dewey repeated his charges and put in the new fact that dems were to blame for unpreparedness before Pearl Harbor. Some observers questioned wisdom of this as gop record on this score is not too good. Now it is the "Champ's" time to answer and we will see what he does.

At Madison, the executive assistant to the gop state chairman was enjoying his work. Meetings have been held in all the districts and at these the ex. ass't outlined plans for the campaign, these meetings were attended by county officers of the party and in almost every case there was 100% attendance. The ex. ass't was well received and to date no one has raised the cry against "the outsider coming into bur state. Working with the gop state chairman is of course and experience because he is very exceptional.

All money is raised and in the bank and there is ample for all needs. The ex. ass't and the state chairman have purchased an extensive radio schedule for Oct. - contracts are signed and money paid. speakers are selected and dates assigned. -All literature is printed - bill boards are up - special letters are addressed and ready to be mailed at right time - tabloid being prepared and will be issued 10 days before election.

Ex ass't makes trip each week to Chicago - observers at that headquarters report considerable disorganization - apparent desire to center everything in N.Y. makes Chicago little more than reception room - good people there but don't know what to do - get campaign plans from newspapers - N.Y. dominates. this leads to internal dissatisfaction - super-efficiency sometimes defeats itself

Observers continue to remark that gop candidate has no appeal to younger voter - despite his years classed as old guard - No effort being made to change this or go after independent voter

HEADQUARTERS SOUTH PACIFIC BASE COMMAND
Office of the Surgeon
A.P.O.#502

HAS/jcg

27 September 1944.

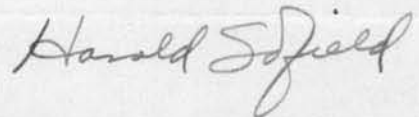
Commander Harold Stassen,
Headquarters 3rd Fleet,
c/- Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Commander Stassen:

Just as a sequel to our short conversation on the clipper plane I am sending an article from the J.A.M.A. You probably have seen the article but, if not in total, here it is. I think that paragraph 10 on page 469 is probably a very fair estimate. Certainly she has stimulated a very close survey of physical methods of treating infantile paralysis and in that sense she has accomplished a great deal, even though some of her technique may well be open to criticism.

We have been following the successes of your Third Fleet with great enthusiasm out here. Keep it up and you will get us all home before too long.

Sincerely yours,



HAROLD A. SOFIELD,
Lt.Colonel, M.C.,
Consultant in Orthopaedic Surgery.

Incl.

Com. Harold C. Starnes 9/29/44
70 Maff Command So Bar
Fleet P.O.
San Francisco. Cal.

Dear Harold. —

The attached is too
self explanatory to need comment
I am a sad-sad-man today
God help the Widows and
Orphans and the Poor
Working girls

The above is the last address
I have.

We will write you all the
news soon. Dearth of
stamps today.

Sydney

En Route

Dear Commander Stassen:

I wish now I had stayed with you and with my other friends on the good ship BLANK. My experiences and contacts in my jaunt across the country have been nothing if not bitterly disillusioning. You must have had much the same experience in your somewhat recent trip to the States. As a matter of fact I seem to remember your telling me something of that impression; but you knew, every fool must learn for himself.

So many people...how many I don't know...are blind, selfish and stupid still, after three years of what should have been painful education. They are still thinking in terms of the old cliches..."let's look after the Americans first, and let the Chinese and all these other foreigners help themselves. They're nothing but a lot of ignorant coolies, who live like animals because they prefer it that way....Britain is fighting the war for the British Empire...the Australians are a bunch of profiteers...all these foreigners are ungrateful despite the fact that we've won the war for them...let's get back to normalcy..etc.

It turned my stomach to hear people talk. Is this what we are fighting for? Is this why I spent two years of my life? And you? I don't think, I can't think, this represents what the majority of the people are thinking. This is just what a relatively few people are still saying...we're going to have another war, so let's be realistic about it. Let's build the biggest navy and army in the world, and look after our

own interests and let them look out for theirs.

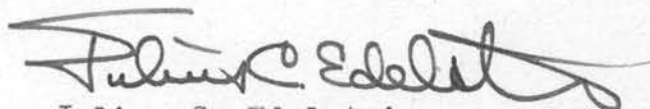
That's what some people are thinking. Gosh damn, it makes me furious, and although this started as a polite "Thank-you" letter, look what it has turned into. Pardon me for the outburst.

Anyway, I wanted to thank you for the help I got in flying out this way. It was a beautiful trip in the PBM as far as Honolulu, and I caught a ride in a cruiser the rest of the way in. I'm on my way to Washington now.

I have terrible, if occasional, twinges of conscience at reading of your activities. Sincerely I would like to be back there and go through them with you and all my shipmates.

At any rate, I will be back in Washington in a few days and will see how the land lies, and if there is nothing terribly significant going on, I will be sending you that letter I mentioned. The Philippines is one of my old stamping grounds; I know the politicians and the people. I would certainly like to be back there helping as best I know how. I think I might be useful in a liason capacity, as well as in my usual line of morale-lifting. However, that is in the lap of the you-know.

Meanwhile, thank you again, and it was awfully nice knowing you,



Julius C. Edelstein
National Press club
Washington, D.C.



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