

18 May 1955

Rear Admiral Joseph N. Wenger  
Headquarters, U.S. European Command  
APO 128  
New York, New York

Dear Joe:

I can not tell you how pleased I was to receive your letter of 3 May and how much we appreciated your writing me at length, including your very kind remarks about the winning of the literary prize of the Folger Shakespeare Library and about the progress that has been made in connection with my private bill in Congress.

You will be interested to learn, I am sure, that I have been home now for a couple of weeks, after a four week's stay in the hospital. I have made good progress toward recovery and in a couple of days I hope to be able to go outdoors and spend a little time in our garden in the sunshine. Thus far I have been restricted to the second floor of our home until the elevator which we decided to install is completed and in operating order. This will facilitate my movements very considerably and also, more importantly, will make it much less of a burden for Elizabeth, who has had to carry trays and go up and down that long flight of stairs a good many times each day.

In connection with the winning manuscript, I can only say that it has been in the hands of a first-class publishing house for several weeks and we should hear very soon what the collective decision of the Board of Editors has been about publishing it. We have good hopes of its being found worthy, but, of course, there will have to be a certain amount of cutting and trimming because the work is too long as it stands.

The news about Jeff having been accepted by Dartmouth is very pleasing and I would like you to convey my congratulations to him and best wishes for much success at that very fine university. I wonder if you recall that Red Corderman's oldest boy graduated from Dartmouth about three years ago, then got his law degree at Harvard; he has recently accepted a very fine job in the legal department of some big corporation. I am sure that Jeff's several years in Europe will be a very great asset no matter what he does.

I was naturally much interested in what you have written about yourself and your decision to extend your tour in the European theatre. Not only do I think that the experience will be invaluable to you, but also the points you mention in connection with your possible return to the NSA are certainly cogent. I was particularly interested in what you have told me about the "rather careful maneuvering in certain quarters" which had an effect upon your activities so that you could exert no positive influence on matters of mutual interest. I want merely to say in connection there-

with that for some time now I have been apprehensive about a number of things connected with the theory of operations, and the behind-the-scenes bucking against the activities of a supposedly unified organization. I wish I could say more but I don't think I had better.

I am glad to learn about how much Mary is enjoying herself; and so long as she does not overtax the bank account, I am sure that she will never have as good an opportunity to purchase antiques at such a reasonable cost.

I hope that sometime soon you will be coming this way again for a visit, in which case, please be sure to leave a little time for me.

Elizabeth joins me in sending love to Mary and affectionate greetings to you.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN