

WAR DEPARTMENT
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE
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New York, New York

Dear Forest:

I am just a very bad letter writer, and you will have to excuse me for not answering your letter of 2 June earlier. The fact is that I have neglected most of my duties and correspondence outside of business demands since I got back here. I was in poor physical shape and had to plunge into an office which was very short handed and keep going more or less indefinitely. When Lamson got back, I was finally able to get a leave, my first in three years, and it did me a world of good. I went down for twelve days to the Shenandoah Mountains near Harrisburg, Virginia. You probably know the mountain country well enough to have an idea of the pleasures of that region. It was very quiet, with every opportunity to just loaf and enjoy the complete change. We walked a good deal in the mountains, and used the old swimming hole and had good farm food. It is mean of me to talk about these things to you, for I know how you must be feeling about getting home. The food in ETO, according to the people who have come back recently, has not improved. I do hope that you have maintained your French contacts and have been getting some French food!

I have been asking all the people who came back since February for news of you, and I am pretty well informed by their information and your letter. I must say that you have every reason to be proud of your record and service to this organization, and I hope that you may get recognition of it. I was hoping that your promotion would come through with the others, but Captain Healey tells me that it has not come through as yet. This is simply another matter that proves that there is no justice in this Army life. You should have been promoted along with Harrison and Garth. All of you have borne out every hope we had when we sent you over there, and I am particularly proud of having been partly responsible for your being there as a part of the historical service. I wish there were something I could do about the promotion. I talked with Colonel Marshall when he was here, but I gather that everything that could be done was or had been underway (except for possible mismanagement in the handling of the papers some time earlier?)

When I got back here I had to go into administrative work, and for three months never had a chance to look at Omaha. Finally in June, I resumed work on it, and it is now nearly ready for the press. The maps take a long time to prepare. We are having about twenty-five maps, sixteen of them in color. Every time I deal with the 29th Division, I have reason to be thankful to you for your careful and patient work on



those records. I wish you were here to talk over problems that still come up at every point. I have been able to correct and supplement a good deal of the D-day story by lucky interviews here with officers of several of the companies concerned. They have mainly been in hospitals here or in the vicinity. As a result, I have a completely different version of the 3d Battalionⁿ than you will find in the manuscript at your office, and there are some other changes as well. I have just received the copy of your interviews, which I was very anxious and glad to get, and I am using them now for final check. They yield information to me now which is very helpful in view of knowledge that has been coming in since we worked on that period.

You are probably pretty well informed of what we are doing here through Major Lamson. We have two jobs in press at the moment, and three others nearing completion with Omaha at the top. We are hoping very much to get Utah and St. Lo within a month or two, so that we can follow up on the European story. I am very glad that you are working with Harrison on the editorial side. Your operations are essential to our work here, and we have the most complete confidence in your ability to do it the right way. I gather that the dreaded move out of Paris has really come to pass, and hope that it won't take up too much time. I wish I had seen the Foch quarters of the Section. It apparently was a complete contrast to the old days at Beaujon or earlier. By the way, it was just about a year ago this week that you came to reinforce me and John Hall at Valognes. I remember my pleasure at your arrival. Those were the pioneering days in this work, and you and John and I will always have a special bond as a result. I mean this.

The French situation disturbs me very much. Everybody comes back and makes the same report. However, I think that a reaction of this sort was inevitable, and there is no reason to despair of the future. I am still betting on those people to find their balance, and I hope very much that our foreign policy will be more calculated to help them do it.

I must close this rather rambling letter. Please give my best to John Hall, Tarbetski, Bill, Garth, and any of the others around. Whatever happens to the rest in the disorder of moving to less pleasant quarters, I know that outfit will keep going.

Kent Greenfield always asks about you and sends his remembrances. I'll be glad to hear from you any time.

With best wishes,

Charles H. Taylor
CHARLES H. TAYLOR
Lt. Colonel, GSC

