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Tuesday, October 19. [1943]

Dear Lee:-

Your letter to daddy, written Wednesday, did not arrive until this morning, although sent air-mail. Of course there are days when you are down in the "dumps",- that happens to almost anyone. There are days when things are so hectic around here and so little good seems to come out of my effort to help that I am ready to give up and quit. Life is like that. We just have to keep going. The fact that you boys are not allowed home must make it much worse for you and I imagine your spells of being sick of it all come more often as a result. Does the rule still hold that you won't get home until your year is up?

Daddy had a nice letter from Ben Johns this morning. He likes Andover a lot and I guess is getting along O.K. Former Ambassador Grew spoke to them last week and Ben said he was the best speaker he has ever heard,- that although he spoke for an hour it seemed but a few minutes.

Walter seems to be getting along alright at A.I. and I guess is proving a pretty good football man. Last week he made two touchdowns against Sanford Prep.

Gordon and May came down to the house for a while last night. Gordon goes into the service the first week in November. May played some on the piano while Gordon and Bernice sang. They are going to put on "Patience" at A.I. sometime in the spring, and Bernice and Charlotte Dunlap are going to try for the leads. I guess Charlotte is going to have just as good a voice as Jane. She has begun to study with Mr. Wyatt who thinks she has great possibilities.

There will be no school on Thursday and Friday, because of State Teachers' meeting, and next week there will be only half day because in the afternoons the schools will be used to distribute the next rationing books.

I am going to try to locate one of those glass shelves [sic] to windows to hold the pots of cactus which you sent. I have them all planted and am keeping them in the garage until the painter gets thru inside and I am straightened up. I guess I'll give grandmother Minker one because I think it would please her to have it from you.

Love from all of us, and lots of it.

Mother