

Emanuel Ayala and Josh Kreeger (editors)

*“La guerre est finis”:
Sidney Goldman’s World War II Correspondence from Manila
(August 1945)*

Shelfmark

California State University, Fullerton (CSUF).
University Archives and Special Collections.
SC-2018-08.

Sidney Goldman War Letters.
Document box 2, folder 8
August 4, 1945, to August 31, 1945.
Twenty-three letters (numbered 1 to 23 below).

Introduction

The “Sidney Goldman War Letters” were presented to CSUF’s University Archives and Special Collections by the author’s daughter, Rhoda, in 2019. They are still easily readable and written in cursive, mostly in pencil, but sometimes in black or blue ink, on yellow stationery or military-issued paper. Twelve frail envelopes accompany the “August 1945” part of the collection that is edited here, and they still feature their stamps, postal marks, and army examiner’s clearance. The writing usually utilizes most of the space available on each page, occasionally with some final sentences squeezed in at the bottom. A linear fold in the middle of the letters only slightly inconveniences their readability.

Sidney “Sid” Goldman was a Jewish American born on April 12, 1912, in Chicago, Illinois, to Abraham Goldman and Rose Mesigal Goldman. He was the fourth of five children, and some of his siblings like Irving (Irv) and Shirley (Shir) are mentioned in his letters to his wife, Lillian. Besides his wife, his daughter Rhoda (Rho) was a recipient of his near-daily letters sent home to America. Sid had met his “dearest” – his usual address for Lillian – at a picnic after working at his father’s grocery store, but when her family decided to move back to Boston during the Great Depression, the two got married to prevent being separated. Their daughter Rhoda was born in 1939, with Sid joining the war effort in 1943, originally as a tire mechanic on the European front, before being sent to the Pacific theater after Nazi Germany’s (May 1945). In August 1945, Sid was stationed in Manila, Philippines, the location from which all letters edited here were written (except for letter 1, written en route). Sid passed away in 2008.

The twenty-three letters published below cover various topics involving the culmination of World War II from the angle of a tire mechanic in the United States Army. Reflecting a great sense of humor, most of Sid’s letters provide a balance of his personal experiences and inquiring about the troubles back home, with a recurring complaint that he suddenly receives stacks of mail from home

after days without receiving any correspondence. In describing the emotional climate at his base when they received the news of the war's end, he speaks of continued bitterness over unfinished work in the army and his post's conditions, contrasting the celebratory tone back home in America (letters 5, 7, 9, 18, and 19). His complaints with regard to Manila include being stuck in the Pacific theater of operations without a clear date for the soldiers' return home, the insufficient supply or quality of alcohol, an ankle accident, and mail censorship (letters 2, 4, 7, 14, 18, and 20). Mail censorship is visible on page 1 of letter 18, where about one fifth of the page is cut out. On a lighter note, Sid writes about how he entertained himself by watching local fights, viewing and critiquing the latest films starring the likes of Katherine Hepburn and Greta Garbo, and tasting Manila's cuisine (letters 4, 13, 14, and 17). In letters focused on his family, he asks about Lillian's and Rhoda's travels, writes about presents, and inquires about wedding plans in their social circle (letters 3, 4, 7, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 18).

Sid Goldman's letters are of interest to the public and to scholars of the Humanities alike, in that they show World War II from the perspective of a caring husband and father who also exhibits strong opinions about his military experience and life in the army. The documents published here provide a glimpse into the gradual transitioning from wartime to peace and allow insights into American domestic life in the mid-1940s.

The transcriptions below preserve the spelling and capitalization of the original correspondence. Any additions are enclosed by square brackets.

*Edition: Letter 1, Sid[ney Goldman] to [Lillian Goldman],
August 4, [1945], [no location given]*

Page 1 of 1:

Sat.

Aug. 4

Dearest,

Won't be too long now. Dry land soon & what follows no one knows. Your newspaper can probably tell you more than I can. If you don't hear from me for a bit you can understand why. Either we'll be moving to a permanent spot or if the B29's¹ keep it up sweating out an empty boat for the return ride.

The new point by will be out in a few days but I don't have to worry. I have it on good authority that I'll definitely be discharged as soon as I'm 38.

How was your trip? Did you get to your destination at last? Did Jule make it home & what's the story if any? Did I tell you I tried to locate Mandel but didn't have enough time? Heard bout Bernie's outfit but haven't found anyone who knows where they are. They've moved around considerably.

¹ Presumably a reference to the Boeing B-29 "Superfortress," an American heavy bomber first used in service by the U.S. military in 1942.

Nothing else of interest. Wrote Shir² a letter. Hope you sent her a card & Irv³ too. Hope to have beaucoup⁴ mail from you awaiting me.

Love,

Sid

P.S. Did you get a couple pkgs⁵. from me yet?

Edition: Letter 2, Sid[ney Goldman] to [Lillian Goldman], August 8, [1945], Manila (Philippines)

Page 1 of 2:

Wed.

Aug. 8

Dearest,

Here we are in Manila and we expect to stay here for awhile. We're sleeping in tents (not the pup variety) and are fast making our quarters livable. Its quite hot all day but it rains during the nite⁶ and every afternoon so that sleeping is fairly good. The whiskey is really lousy (please take cognizance) but the chow is good & plenty & lots of bananas, pineapple & fruit I never saw or heard of. Found a few guys I went to Aberdeen⁷ with & they don't like it too much. Personally from my first observations I prefer France. This place was beaten up much worse than Nancy.⁸

Found four letters from you dated 7/25-6-7-8 which leaves me just a month behind. You make no mention of packages or mail I sent from Panama. Please let me know if you haven't already. No mail here from anyone else. You mention Grace in the hosp[ital]. & parts of the reason. Whats wrong there? Is Ida gone yet & how'd you two get along or shouldn't I ask? What kind of cigars did you send Irv?

Incidentally (?) I'll send you ½ G⁹ soon as I get money orders & more when we get paid at the end of the month. How 'bout¹⁰

² Shirley, Sid Goldman's sister.

³ Irving, Sid Goldman's brother.

⁴ French for "a lot of."

⁵ Abbreviation for "packages."

⁶ Alternate spelling of "night."

⁷ A reference to Aberdeen Training Ground, Maryland.

⁸ Nancy, a city in eastern France.

⁹ G represents Grand or \$1,000, meaning he is sending \$500.

¹⁰ Alternate spelling of "about."

Page 2 of 2:

(2)¹¹

buying a new coat? Silver fox? In case you need explanation I wrote you 'bout two weeks before we landed here that I had gone completely broke which I had. Well—a guy put me in the game for 25⁰⁰ & before I stopped making numbers we had over a G which we split. I made 11 straight passes & we took all the odds we could get. Happier now?

Laundry service is good & fairly cheap & the people seem O.K.

Can't get all my thoughts together at the moment. Whats the dope on Jule & Bern & please send my address to *Newsweek*¹² & *Omnibook*.¹³

You neglected to say anything 'bout your trip to Philly. I'll probably hear about it when mail catches up. Also send the 620 film¹⁴ you have.

Love

Sid

*Edition: Letter 3, Sid[ney Goldman] to [Lillian Goldman],
August 9, [1945], Manila (Philippines)*

Page 1 of 1:

Thurs.

Aug. 9

Dearest

Was all agog¹⁵ 'bout Russia in the War & the new atomic bomb till I heard mail call. Got six from you and one nearly knocked me over when I read bout Fritzs baby. Had to stop & read one I got from Arnold which explained everything. Wish I had known before. I'd have gotten something for her in Panama. Tomorrow I'll see what Manila has to offer.

What I read of your trip sounded interesting. Whats this about yes Florida or no? Are you or aren't you? Do as you like but it'll be rough with just you & Rho¹⁶ won't it? Mayhap¹⁷ you'd be better off in Boston?

Our daughter sounds more & more interesting and I'd give a lung to see her. I'll write her tomorrow.

¹¹ The number 2 is written and circled above the word "coat," indicating the beginning of the letter's second page of the letter. This occurs in every letter that exceeds one page.

¹² Presumably a reference to *Newsweek*, a magazine from New York, established in 1933.

¹³ Presumably a reference to *Omnibook Magazine*, published in New York between 1938 and 1957, containing shortened versions of popular fiction and non-fiction works.

¹⁴ 620 film was similar to a 120 camera film. It was introduced by *Kodak* in 1932 and discontinued in 1995.

¹⁵ Agog: very eager or curious to hear or see something.

¹⁶ Rhoda, Sid Goldman's daughter.

¹⁷ Mayhap: perhaps, possibly.

That picture in the "News" was not me as you knew. Would I be that far back in a line? We did go there much the same thing tho.¹⁸

That big bout Rho wanting a house, room a bath of her own a piano is all O.K. except the house. I'll tell her I'll look for a scroll or some pottery or jade but the Japs¹⁹ pretty well cleaned it all out I think. Dark as well & only 7 P.M. No lites²⁰ in the tents yet.

Love

Sid

*Edition: Letter 4, Sid[ney Goldman] to [Lillian Goldman],
August 10, [1945], [Manila (Philippines)]*

Page 1 of 2:

Friday

Aug. 10

Dearest,

Got another batch of mail this A.M. and as I write this I'm told there is yet some more which we'll probably get later.

We're setting up platforms so that our tents will be off the ground and I'll have before & after pictures to show the difference. I don't know yet how this camera takes 'em²¹ 'cause²² I haven't had any developed as yet.

I'm a carpenter now & have a fast blackening finger nail to prove it. Tomorrow I'll be sorting tires which needless to say I like much better

The balance of the story of your trip arrived and your descriptive powers are really something. I could easily map your itinerary. Geri's house sounds like something.

Couple long letters from Irv from Akron²³ and he sounds lonesome as hell. Had to close the joint for a week to go there & pick tires. Took the crew along. Wrote me all about Pa²⁴ & his condition & tho I'm not alarmed (or surprised) it does leave a rather uneasy feeling which you can readily understand. Got a picture of you & it looks like hell but

¹⁸ Alternate spelling of "though."

¹⁹ A reference to the Imperial Japanese Army, presumably during their occupation of the Philippines from 1942 to 1945.

²⁰ Alternate spelling of "lights."

²¹ Alternate spelling of "them."

²² Alternate spelling of "because."

²³ A city in Ohio, south of Cleveland.

²⁴ Presumably a reference to Sidney's father, Abraham Goldman.

Page 2 of 2:

(2)

was quite welcome. Mail from Bernie who sounds like somewhere in the Ryukus²⁵ Mandel is definitely on Okinawa as I found out last nite. Incidentally we went to town last nite (what there is left of it) and drank some of the lousiest rotgut whisky²⁶ (and expensive too, 7⁰⁰ a pint) that I ever tasted. Vito's corn was like nectar by comparison. (Had to pause here for mail call and drew 24 more monthly from you & Irv.) Don't know when I'll ever catch up but I love it. Two of the boys wives just had boys. Some excitement!!

Sorry 'bout that Saen Fratcaff²⁷ business but not at all surprised. Could be part of why Uncle Joe is in the hospital?

Could go on writing but I want to read the fresh ones & go to chow so forgive & Love

Sid

*Edition: Letter 5, Sid[ney Goldman] to [Lillian Goldman],
August 11, [1945], [Manila (Philippines)]*

Page 1 of 2:

Sat.

Aug. 11

Dearest,

The war is over or it isn't. There are a million contradictory rumors and no one knows the straight of it. The excitement was tempered for me with a letter from Irv telling me of Art's death on Okinawa. And at the end of the war too. Guess its more or less like Irv said. You can only duck for so long but why in hell does it have to happen to a guy like that? I'm going to town soon as my restriction is up & see what I can find out. Seems like five of us were too truthful t'other nite & came in 20 min. late. So we're restricted. Another guy Awol²⁸ for two days will probably draw a pat on the wrist C'est la guerre²⁹ I guess.

Been sorting tires in preparation for the shop opening & its rather rough. Work a few minutes at 1/2 the usual speed and you have to stop & rest. I've been taking salt pills in double doses but I'll probably get used to it.

Newest rumor is that we'll know definitely 'bout midnite tonite.³⁰ Naturally the topic of discussion is when will we go home? Best hope most of us have are that we'll be home early next summer tho there's really no basis to figure on. Next topic is when will they stop censorship. We seem more inter-

²⁵ The Ryukyu Islands, a chain of Japanese islands between Kyushu and Taiwan.

²⁶ A colloquial term for hard alcohol, indicating very poor quality.

²⁷ Presumably a name.

²⁸ AWOL: "absent without official leave" (but also without intention to desert).

²⁹ French for "That's the war."

³⁰ Alternate spelling of "tonight."

Page 2 of 2:

(2)

ested in that than most other outfits around here. Wonder why?
Did I tell you I got your snap? What a dilly³¹ that was! Whoever took it should take a camera & find a nice cool jail where he can practice.

Your accounts of Suffolk³² sound interesting too but how can anyone have four winners & go home with a saw? From your a/c³³ of having an 8-1 shot in the three hole, even tho he figured the best, you lead me to believe that the price scared you. How many times have I told you? Guess I'll have to come home & teach you all over again. Couldn't fool Irv could you?

Sorry to hear 'bout Uncle Joe. How is he? Seems like every letter has some sad news in it. Irv keeps me up on Dads condition & I imagine that if he takes it easy he'll be O.K. If not his ticker will act up. I'm a bit worried 'bout how he'll make it thru the dog days.³⁴

Got a hunch you'll go Chi[cago] ward before the summer ends. Take Rene along or am I surmising³⁵ your thoughts? Irv & Hen will fight for you.

Could write on for another hour but I've a stack of mail to dig into. More tomorrow.

Love,

Sid

*Edition: Letter 6, Sid[ney] Goldman] to Rhoda Goldman,
August 12, 1945, Manila (Philippines)*

Envelope: [sender] T/5 SID GOLDMAN 36783791, 232ND ORD. TIRE REPAIR CO, APO 75, c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO [post mark] U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE, 1945, AUG 13, 7-BPO [stamp field] AIR MAIL, 6 CENTS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA [recipient] Mrs. S. Goldman, 1636 No. Shore Rd., Revere,³⁶ 51, Mass³⁷ [additional stamp] VIA US AIR MAIL [additional stamp] PASSED BY US ARMY EXAMINER 48887 [signed, handwritten] RM [illegible] 1st Lt.

³¹ Dilly: an excellent example of a particular type of person or thing.

³² City in Virginia.

³³ Abbreviation of "account."

³⁴ "Dog days," a period of stagnation or hot summer weather.

³⁵ Surmise: to assume something is true (without evidence to confirm it).

³⁶ City in Massachusetts.

³⁷ Abbreviation for Massachusetts.



Figure 1: Letter 6, envelope.

Page 1 of 1:

Sun.

Aug. 12

Dear Rhoda,

Its Sunday A.M. & the war is over & I'll bet you've got the funnies³⁸ spread all over the floor & the radio on full blast. Next year this time we'll be fighting over who goes after the paper.

Got some good news bout your newest cousin and I imagine you're anxious to see her. Don't say anything but I've a hunch your Mom may take you to Chicago before the summer ends & school starts.

You probably heard about your cousin Art & I know you feel as badly 'bout it as we all do. He was kind of a favorite of yours those things just have to happen. Just remember that when you grow up make sure there are no more wars.

You haven't written as to whether you got the perfume & castanets³⁹ I sent you. Hope you did & enjoyed it as much as I enjoyed sending it.

It's very hot here and I sure wish I were on the beach with you.

Love

Daddy

³⁸ Cartoons in the newspaper.

³⁹ Castanets: a percussion instrument.

*Edition: Letter 7, Sid[ney] Goldman to [Lillian] Goldman,
August 12, 1945, Manila (Philippines)*

Envelope: [sender] T/5 SID GOLDMAN 36783791, 232ND ORD. TIRE REPAIR CO, APO 75 c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO [post mark] U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE, 1945, AUG 13, 7-BPO [stamp field] AIR MAIL, 6 CENTS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA [recipient] Mrs. S. Goldman, 1636 No. Shore Rd., Revere, 51, Mass⁴⁰ [additional stamp] PASSED BY US ARMY EXAMINER 48887 [signed, handwritten] Lt. [illegible]

Page 1 of 2:

Sun. Aug 12

Dearest,

Still waiting to find out the score on the War and it won't be long now. You complain that I don't comment on your letters. Seems to me that I do tho I never refer to 'em by date. You wouldn't remember that far back any way. Big noise just went up! Red Cross Truck pulled up with cold drink. Good too!

Lest I forget - I have some wants. Soap, (palmolive⁴¹ preferred) 'bout 1/2 doz. watch bands, (cloth type only!! 1/2" lug⁴² width) and a couple sun tan caps size 7 1/8 or if none available 7 1/4 will do. Thanx.⁴³ We get bout enuf⁴⁴ of everything else xcept⁴⁵ beer & liquor.

Rene sounds matured & beautiful. Did you do any good at the ball game or is there no action in that blue nose town? As to Rhoda she's really getting big isn't she? She'll be a beautiful young lady when I get there according to your description.

Haven't heard of Lou's boat but they all hit here at one time as another. When you write tell him I'm in Manila & he can look me up. Best info I can get 'bout Bernie is that he's up north of here somewhere.

Those jokes were rather stinko. Ill have to smarten you up a bit next summer. Speaking of jokes (or jokesters) did you hear

Page 2 of 2:

(2)

bout Danny Thomas?⁴⁶ He was taking the play away from Fanny Brice⁴⁷ so she "schmeissed"⁴⁸ him. Newsweek calls him the #1 coming comedian & predicts a

⁴⁰ Abbreviation for Massachusetts.

⁴¹ A type of soap developed in 1898.

⁴² Presumably a reference to the size of a lug nut, used to fasten car wheels.

⁴³ Alternate spelling of "thanks."

⁴⁴ Alternate spelling of "enough."

⁴⁵ Alternate spelling of "except."

⁴⁶ Presumably Danny Thomas (1912-1991), American producer, singer, and actor.

⁴⁷ Fania Borach, also known as Fanny Brice (1891-1951), American singer and actress.

⁴⁸ Yiddish verb, meaning "to toss" or "abandon."

national sponsor for him “tout suite.”⁴⁹ Also a piece on “Baby” Kore Marie⁵⁰ & her suggestive? “C’e na luna mezzo mare.”⁵¹ Remember she did it at the Chez⁵² in Italian & Yiddish?

Sorry bout Grace but I won’t write about it as per request. Whats wrong with the guy? Sounds like a psycho case to me. Why should he blow his top?

So you got a letter from Pollack. Nice guy. Think I wrote ‘bout him before He also wrote to Irv. I’ll write & thank him if I ever catch up with the next of my mail. I’m most caught up with you & at the moment have only three more to spread. Service is good I got your Aug. 3rd yesterday.

Doing much the same & its hot as well. Got a good tan tho its a bit yellow tinged from atabrine.⁵³

Hope you’re the same.

Love

Sid

*Edition: Letter 8, Sid[ney] Goldman to [Lillian] Goldman,
August 13, 1945, Manila (Philippines)*

Envelope: [sender] T/5 SID GOLDMAN 36783791, 232ND ORD. TIRE REPAIR CO, APO 75 c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO [post mark] U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE, 1945, AUG 13, 7-BPO [stamp field cut] [hand-written] Air Mail [recipient] Mrs. S. Goldman, 1636 No. Shore Rd., Revere, 51, Mass [additional stamp] PASSED BY US ARMY EXAMINER 48887 [signed, handwritten] RM [illegible] 1st Lt.

Page 1 of 2:

Manila

Monday

Aug. 13

Dearest

Believe it or not this catches me up with all your letters and maybe now I can write to someone else for a change. You certainly keep me busy.

Only news here is that Smokey went to the hospital. He’s had a bad cold since we got off the boat and its murder to have your nose (especially his) stopped up in this weather.

Rather surprised you didn’t take up Irv’s offer of a Chicago visit. Maybe you’ll change your mind yet.

Burned up plenty bout the Kraft business but what can we done ‘bout it. Wish I were home but maybe Jule can knock some sense into his head.

⁴⁹ French for “right away” or “without haste.”

⁵⁰ Likely an entertainer.

⁵¹ Italian for “That’s the moon amid the sea,” 1927 Neapolitan song.

⁵² Presumably a club.

⁵³ Atabrine: a medication related to chloroquine and mefloquine.

Following baseball avidly. Looks like the Cubs are in but the A.L.⁵⁴ is going to be a foto⁵⁵ finish. Personally I think Washington will nose out Detroit and I make the Cubs 8/5 over Washington. I'd give a lung to see the series in Chicago. Maybe next year.

So you got the perfume & the bag. I'm glad you liked 'em. Seems like I remember your desire for an alligator bag from way ~~bag~~ back. Couldn't find any McCoy Nylons. They had some Brazilians silk but they looked a bit coarse & rather cheaply made to me so I

Page 2 of 2:

(2)

left 'em for the mooches⁵⁶ which were plentiful.

Not surprised at Grace's choice. I'd have been surprised if she did otherwise. Put yourself in her spot & you'd have done the same.

Cant understand "telling Rhoda if anything came for her." The castanets & the Tabu Cologne⁵⁷ also. I wrote her but you probably haven't heard as yet or rather up to the time you had written.

Is Suffolk⁵⁸ still open & how're you doing? Follow form & you'll do O.K. Are the dogs still running also?

Kind of hoped you would go to Chi[cago]. It might cheer Pop⁵⁹ up & you could write me the low down tho Irv keeps me pretty well informed. He sounds busier than the proverbial one legged cat.

Wish I were the same.

& You too,

Love

Sid

*Edition: Letter 9, Sid[ney Goldman] to [Lillian Goldman],
August 14, [1945], Manila (Philippines)*

Page 1 of 1:

Tues.

Aug. 14

Manila

Dearest,

⁵⁴ American League of Professional Baseball Clubs, founded in 1901. One of two leagues that make up Major League Baseball in the United States and Canada.

⁵⁵ Alternate spelling of "photo."

⁵⁶ Slang term for beggar or scrounger.

⁵⁷ A fragrance/perfume, developed in Barcelona in 1932.

⁵⁸ A reference to the racetrack in Suffolk, Virginia.

⁵⁹ Slang term for "father."

Guess its really official now. Sirens & whistles are blowing and everybody yelling & a big smile on every face. Hope its not another false alarm. They say the other day they celebrated prematurely in the States.

Saw a few pictures. "Affairs of Susan"⁶⁰ which was quite good & last nite saw "Salome-Where She Danced."⁶¹ The last stinko I saw that was that bad was Garbo⁶² in Queen Christina⁶³ only this one was in Technicolor. Only salami I like is 'tween⁶⁴ two slices of bread with beer.

No mail today consequently I won't have much to write about which is just as well 'cause I'll have a chance to write some of my other correspondents.

Guy just came in who swears he heard it with his own ears. Its all over. Been a long time since that Sunday afternoon that Munk⁶⁵ called hasn't it? See you soon.

Love,

Sid

*Edition: Letter 10, Sid[ney Goldman] to [Lillian Goldman],
August 16, [1945], Manila (Philippines)*

Page 1 of 1:

Manila

Thurs.

Aug. 16

Dearest

This is the third day we haven't gotten any mail but we still hope. At least the war is now officially over we heard Pres. Truman⁶⁶ say last nite that 5½ million men will be released in the next 12-18 mo's.⁶⁷ & that no more men over 26 will be drafted. Wonder what they'll do with us forgotten old men? Also heard that since July 7th-all troops redeployed from E.T.O.⁶⁸ are being put there the States. Everything happens to us! Also heard that the celebration back home was unequalled in history. I miss out on everything. Then too he said that troops in Manila were wild with joy. That announcer was nuts. There was no joy here. Only bitterness especially since the rumor is that we're to start having basic, reveille,⁶⁹ & retreat & all the rest of the chicken. Damned brass⁷⁰ has nothing else

⁶⁰ *The Affairs of Susan*, 1945 American movie, directed by William A. Seiter.

⁶¹ *Salome, Where She Danced*, 1945 American movie, directed by Charles Lamont.

⁶² Greta Gustafsson, also known as Greta Garbo (1905-1990), Swedish American actress.

⁶³ *Queen Christina*, 1933 American movie, directed by Rouben Mamoulian.

⁶⁴ Alternate spelling of "between."

⁶⁵ Presumably a person's name.

⁶⁶ Harry S. Truman (1884-1972), 33rd U.S. President (1945-1953).

⁶⁷ Short for "months."

⁶⁸ Acronym for "European Theater of Operations."

⁶⁹ French for "to wake up."

⁷⁰ Term used to describe high-ranking officers

to do but sit on their big asses & think up more ways to make a guy mad at the world. If I sound mean & dejected think nothing of it. I am.

Hope you're not the same

Love

Sid

P.S. Let me know when you got the enclosed 5C. I'll send more after payday if I collect what I've got coming.

Love

*Edition: Letter 11, Sid[ney Goldman] to [Lillian Goldman],
August 17, [1945], Manila (Philippines)*

Page 1 of 2:

Manila

Black Friday

Aug. 17

Dearest,

Now that "la guerre est finis"⁷¹ the chicken has arrived but good!! Latest notice is that we will have reveille and retreat every day; until further notice (at least for three weeks) we will work 8 hours a day, seven days a week and all the rest of the Aberdeen chicken they can think up.

Now comes the payoff—For an undisclosed reason there will be no incoming mail until further notice. I imagine that is so that we won't have to waste any time answering our correspondents. Then too it may help morale 'cause we'll be in a state of suspense hoping there will be mail tomorrow. Don't be at all surprised if they give the Old Lady on Bedloe's Island⁷² a coat of black paint in honor of the liberty we once had. Maybe I sound a bit insane but its things like that that drive people nuts. Its my guess that they'll also hold up outgoing mail so that folks at have won't know how we feel about all this crap. I understand that "you all" think the war is

Page 2 of 2:

(2)

over & that we won it. Don't you believe it. Its probably enemy propaganda. As I said before all this way sound silly or even insane but I was never more sincere. Aside from that I hope that everything is OK on the home front tho I'm concerned about Pops ticker during the hot weather. Irv generally keeps me informed but this is the fourth mail less day with God only knows how many more to come.

⁷¹ French for "The war is over." The correct spelling would be "la guerre est finie."

⁷² Bedloe's Island, now "Liberty Island," New York, where the Statue of Liberty stands.

While I think of it—we don't have a cable address but I understand that a telegram to the APO⁷³ will get thru in case of emergency.

Nothing else of interest. If I had something with which to drown my sorrows

I would,—but good.

Hope you're the same.

Love

Sid

Edition: Letter 12, Sid[ney] Goldman to Rhoda Goldman, August 18, 1945, Manila (Philippines)

Envelope: [sender] T/5 SID GOLDMAN 36783791, 232ND ORD. TIRE REPAIR CO, APO 75 c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO [post mark] U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE, 1945, AUG 18, 7-BPO [stamp field] AIR MAIL, 6 CENTS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA [recipient] Mrs. S. Goldman, 1636 No. Shore Rd., Revere, 51, Mass [additional stamp] VIA US AIR MAIL [additional stamp] PASSED BY US ARMY EXAMINER 48887 [signed, handwritten] Lt. A.M [illegible]

Page 1 of 1:

Sat.

Aug. 18

Dear Rhoda,

Thanx very much for the pictures. I liked the colored one mostly especially cause you remembered to wear a red dress for me. I showed the pictures around to all the men & we all agree that you're quite a beautiful young lady only don't let it go to your head. Next time you have your picture taken try not to screw up you face so much tho.

I've also taken quite a few snaps and will send 'em as soon and I can get 'em developed. They should be quite interesting.

By the time you get this you should be about ready to go back to school. Do you still like it as well as you did? If so you must be anxiously waiting. Hope I get back before next summers vacation & we'll really have a good time.

Love & kisses

Daddy

Edition: Letter 13, Sid[ney] Goldman to [Lillian] Goldman, August 18, 1945, Manila (Philippines)

Envelope: [sender] T/5 SID GOLDMAN 36783791, 232ND ORD. TIRE REPAIR CO, APO 75 c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO [post mark] U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE, 1945, AUG 20, 7-BPO [stamp field] AIR MAIL, 6 CENTS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA [recipient] Mrs. S. Goldman, 1636 No. Shore Rd., Revere, 51, Mass [additional stamp] VIA US AIR MAIL [additional stamp] PASSED BY US ARMY EXAMINER 48887 [signed, handwritten] Lt. M [illegible]

⁷³ Acronym for "Army Post Office," used as an address if the recipient is on a military base.

Page 1 of 2:

Manila

Sat.

Aug. 18

Dearest,

Went to town yesterday afternoon and it strikes me more & more as a Revere Beach⁷⁴ only on a grand scale. Both of the main drags are full of open front clip joints they have plenty of merchandise. Prices are terrific and Buick convertibles are all tangled up with horse drawn carts. I got some good snaps if they come out decently. Only costs \$1⁷⁰ a roll for developing & printing. Tried to buy something but couldn't pay those fancy prices unless I was drunk & I can't possibly get drunk on those prices either. They had some coarse woven Chinese linen handkerchiefs, nicely made, hand rolled edges but cheap linen for only a deuce⁷⁵ apiece. Wound up in a theatre, oh yes, got a shoe shine for a peso⁷⁶ (50¢) saw Jack Oakie,⁷⁷ Linda Darnell⁷⁸ & Dick Powell⁷⁹ in "It Happened Tomorrow"⁸⁰ Quite different, good, funny & no war. Bell for Adano⁸¹ is coming in a few days. Came back to find a letter from you. Don[t] know how it got here—It was the one with the pictures in the red dress. The smile is forced as usual but the one in profile was really somethin'. What an

Page 2 of 2:

actress! She's really growing up! Looks like she's getting tall & slim. Some punk! Still sorting tires tho God only knows why. Latest news is that we'll all have left these parts in 10² mos. Won't be too soon for me. Some of the boys are working on a barge in the bay. As usual the guys that were sent out on D.S.⁸² wound up with the best deal. They've been around here all afternoon ribbing us & comparing the deal they have with the crap we get.

In line with that—I had to stop writing just now 'cause some brass hat wants us to be parade soldiers. Had to listen to a bugle & stand retreat. Just the end of this "phoney war" I guess.

One of our boys if is fighting tonite. Theres a good card at the Stadium in town & maybe a guy can pick up an honest dollar.

Hope you're the same.

⁷⁴ Beach in Massachusetts, north of Boston.

⁷⁵ Slang term for a \$2 bill.

⁷⁶ Spanish form of currency, used in the Philippines.

⁷⁷ Lewis Delaney Offield, also known as Jack Oakie (1903-1978), American actor.

⁷⁸ Monetta Eloyse Darnell, also known as Linda Darnell (1923-1965), American actress.

⁷⁹ Richard Ewing Powell, also known as Dick Darnell (1904-1963), American actor.

⁸⁰ *It Happened Tomorrow*, 1944 American movie, directed by René Clair.

⁸¹ *A Bell for Adano*, 1945 American movie, directed by Henry King.

⁸² Acronym, most likely meaning "defense suppression," or "direct support" in this case.

Love
Sid

*Edition: Letter 14, Sid[ney] Goldman to [Lillian] Goldman,
August 19, 1945, Manila (Philippines)*

Envelope: [sender] T/5 SID GOLDMAN 36783791, 232ND ORD. TIRE REPAIR CO, APO 75 c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO [post mark] U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE, 1945, AUG 19, 7-BPO [stamp field] AIR MAIL, 6 CENTS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA [recipient] Mrs. S. Goldman, 1636 No. Shore Rd., Revere, 51, Mass [additional stamp] VIA US AIR MAIL [additional stamp] PASSED BY US ARMY EXAMINER 48887 [signed, handwritten] Lt. M [illegible]

Page 1 of 2:

Manila
Sunday
Aug. 19
Dearest,

Went to the fites⁸³ last nite & while there was no action such as I'm accustomed to we saw eight pretty good bouts.⁸⁴ All amateur 3 rounders but we saw two colored boys who could really go. One was tall & slim & a fancy don something on the style of Nate Bolden⁸⁵ & the other was a little guy on the Armstrong⁸⁶ type. They were damned good. One boy got beat by a better infighter but we've got a light heavy in the battalion to which we're attached who is pretty good. There was only one K.O. & one casualty namely yours truly & heres how it happened:

We rode in a duck⁸⁷ both ways & when we got back I jumped off, hit a stone & turned my right ankle. I don't think theres anything broken but it swelled up like a balloon and is quite painful. I'm waiting now for a truck to take me to the infirmary. Maybe I'll get a discharge. Fat chance.

This Rizal Memorial Stadium⁸⁸ built in 1934 is really something. Its a complete outdoor sports arena. There's a large

Page 2 of 2:

(2)

baseball field & stands, a football field & yea man!! A race track! The place we watched the fights is kind of like the Chicago Stadium only smaller. Looks like it seats about 10-12,000. The whole place was pretty well shot up both with artillery & small arms but must have really been something before the war.

⁸³ Alternate spelling of "fights."

⁸⁴ Bout: short period of intense activity, encounter.

⁸⁵ Nate Bolden (1917-1991), American boxer.

⁸⁶ Likely Henry Jackson Jr., also known as Henry Armstrong (1912-1988), American boxer.

⁸⁷ DUKW (colloquially known as "duck"), a type of truck used by the U.S. military.

⁸⁸ Rizal Memorial Stadium, national stadium of the Philippines, built in Manila in 1934.

Otherwise theres no news that you don't already know. The Chinese delegation arrived here yesterday & it won't be long now. Latest news is that 1½ million will leave here in 10½ mo's which gives us some idea. I'm sweating out details from Irv about Art 'cause I've found out I can get transportation to Okinawa.

Other than that we've all been thinking more & more of home & as one Texan puts it "the chillun's⁸⁹ momma."

Wish I had you here to bathe my foot

X⁹⁰ Love

Sid

*Edition: Letter 15, Sid[ney Goldman] to [Lillian Goldman],
August 20, [1945], Manila (Philippines)*

Page 1 of 2:

Mon.

Aug. 20

Manila

Dearest

Caught a break & got 2 letters from you & one from Fritz all about the new baby. She also mentions that Joe is home for 34 days & looks swell. That, & your awaiting Jule & possibly Bernie makes me feel almost as good as I were home myself. I said almost!

The Doc glanced at my ankle & prescribed hot water & epsom salts & some stinky liniment.⁹¹ Its (the swelling) going down steadily. Kinda nice being an invalid. They drive me to & from chow & the theatre & the infirmary. Smokey got out of the hospital yesterday & sends regards. From his description I'm happy that I didn't have to go. Conditions were deplorable. No change of linen or pajamas for six days & in this heat. Seems to be the general condition over here. Everything is af.u.-ed⁹² & the red tape is miserable. If censors allow my personal opinion I'd say they need an Eisenhower⁹³, Patton⁹⁴ & Allen⁹⁵ over here. How's Rho's new tooth? I'll write & congratulate her soon as we get some stamps and/or Vmail.⁹⁶ Postal supplies

⁸⁹ Southern U.S. dialect and African American vernacular for "children."

⁹⁰ X, symbol for a hug.

⁹¹ Liniment: a lotion, especially one made with oil, intended as pain relief.

⁹² Probably "afucked."

⁹³ A reference to Dwight David Eisenhower (1890-1969), 34th U.S. President (1953-1961) and five-star general for the U.S. Army in World War II.

⁹⁴ Likely a reference to George Smith Patton Jr. (1885-1945), a high-ranking World War II General for the U.S. Army, involved in both the Mediterranean and European theaters of war.

⁹⁵ Either a reference to Terry de la Mesa Allen Sr. (1888-1969), a World War II Major General for the U.S. Army, or to Roderick Random Allen (1894-1970), another Major General for the American forces who served in the same war.

⁹⁶ Vmail: Victory mail. Letters were filmed, sent, then printed; used during World War II.

Page 2 of 2:

(2)

seem to be tied in red tape also. Maybe the brass has a priority on that too. We're supposed to get a case of beer per man per month also. I spoke to some boys in another outfit that was on the boat with us and so far they've had two cases. One for July & one for August. Wouldn't be right to say that their outfit is on the ball & ours isn't. From the sounds of the revelry every nite from the officers quarters across the road it seems as tho the beer was only misdirected. Sound like too much bitching?—Its how we all feel. Only bright spot is the infrequent mail & the chow, showers & the movies. Saw "God is My Co-Pilot"⁹⁷ last nite & tho corny, melodramatic & full of war it wasn't too bad. Tonite we have "A Bell for Adano" & if it lives up to advance notices it should be good.

Rice just came in. Says Hello. He too is working on the barge & happy. Says the reason incoming mail is slow is that they're holding planes to fly doctors & nurses to the Allied prisoners in Japan. If thats it I don't mind & I know you feel the same.

Glad you like the bag & perfume. With that & your new fur coat (for which I'll send more, lines after the first) I'll bet you really "look sharp."

Love

Sid

*Edition: Letter 16, Sid[ney] Goldman to [Lillian] Goldmann,
August 21, 1945, Manila (Philippines)*

Envelope: [sender] T/5 SID GOLDMAN 36783791, 232ND ORD. TIRE REPAIR CO, APO 75 c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO [post mark] U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE, 1945, AUG 20, 7-BPO [stamp field] AIR MAIL, 6 CENTS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA [recipient] Mrs. S. Goldman, 1636 No. Shore Rd., Revere, 51, Mass [additional stamp] VIA US AIR MAIL [additional stamp] PASSED BY US ARMY EXAMINER 48887 [signed, handwritten] Lt. A.M. [illegible]

Page 1 of 1:

Wed.

Aug 21

Manila

Dearest,

Got your letter of Aug 7th which isn't too bad & see that Irv informed you of Arts death I'm sweating out more info from Dad and will see what I can find out if as & when.

We start work in the shop this afternoon and I'll be working in the tire yard sorting. That is, as soon as my ankle gets better. Next to being home I'd rather be there.

⁹⁷ *God is My Co-Pilot*, 1945 American movie, directed by Robert Florey.

Been taking things easy catching up on my readin' & writin'. Can't put much weight on my ankle yet. The doctor says it should go down in 2-3 days & then he'll tape it up so that I can move around.

Had a good K ration⁹⁸ lunch today. I asked a few guys to let me know when a truck could take me to chow. A few minutes later a truck went by with a few "big wheels" on it. Then the jeep with the officers (poor dears⁹⁹ can't get their feet wet.") I ate K ration thats a sample of the cooperation you've no doubt read about in the newspapers.

Good to head that Jule is on the first lap of his trip home. He's probably home by now & was at Le Havre¹⁰⁰ when he wrote you. Hope he stays home when he gets there. When's the wedding?

By now you've probably heard from me from here. Looks like will stay here awhile. How long? I'll ask him when he comes in.

Love

Sid

*Edition: Letter 17, Sid[ney] Goldman to [Lillian] Goldman,
August 22, 1945, Manila (Philippines)*

Envelope: [sender] T/5 SID GOLDMAN 36783791, 232ND ORD. TIRE REPAIR CO, APO 75 c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO [post mark] U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE, 1945, AUG 22, 7-BPO [stamp field] U.S. POSTAGE VIA AIR MAIL, 6 CENTS [recipient] Mrs. S. Goldman, 1636 No. Shore Rd., Revere, 51, Mass [additional stamp] PASSED BY US ARMY EXAMINER 48887 [signed, handwritten] Lt. RM [illegible]

Page 1 of 2:

Wed.

Aug. 22

Manila

Dearest,

No mail from you yesterday but a long one from Irv about things in general. Particularly that Minnie¹⁰¹ got a letter of explanation from Arts C.O. that he was shot by a sniper and died instantly. So our hope that he was wounded or perhaps missing is gone. Its very hard to accept and I seem to remember him best those nites we spent together when he was home on furlough. Remember the chorus girl writing notes to him at the 5100 & the De Lisa¹⁰² later? Brings the war awfully close and especially when his death & that of a lot of other guys would be unnecessary if it weren't for a lot of blundering ineficiency I've seen so much

⁹⁸ K ration: World War II combat food.

⁹⁹ "Poor Dear," common expression of sympathy and affection, used sarcastically here.

¹⁰⁰ Le Havre, port city in Normandy, France.

¹⁰¹ Minnie, Sid Goldman's sister.

¹⁰² Nightclub and music venue in Chicago, Illinois.

of it here lately that I've been wondering (& I've lots of company) how we won the war or did we?

Didn't see Bell for Adano Mon. nite. Its tonite instead. Saw Tracy¹⁰³, Hepburn¹⁰⁴ & Ball¹⁰⁵ in Without Love¹⁰⁶. Tracey & Ball were very good but the sound track was afu'ed¹⁰⁷ and maybe it was for the best 'cause we couldn't understand Hepburn. Remember "Morning Glory¹⁰⁸~~?~~¹⁰⁹?" She has a scene in this one also where she babbles threw 1/2 reel about love.

Irv also wrote that if the mountain wouldn't

Page 2 of 2:

(2)

came to Mohammed he'd wait 'till Jule came home and fly East for the wedding. Seemed rather angry that you & Rho wouldn't come to Chi[cago] for a while. "Bout the wedding— Ask Jule if he can hold off a while till I find out what the score is. There's a rumor that men over 32 will be discharged soon and if that's so I'd kind of like to be there. See how he feels 'bout it Geri wrote & she can't hold still but expressed a desire for my presence. She thinks I'm "sompin."¹¹⁰

Also news of Bill Prank which isn't good. Everyone else is in good shape seemingly and I got a letter by proxy from my new niece. I beat 'em tho. I wrote her one over a week ago. Pa's health sounds much better & he's going down to the joint 3-4 hours a day.

Is Suffolk still open & how are you doing or did you bury that few days winnings & pack in? If you have any left parlay it on the Cubs to win the series. They should be a slight favorite & win in a walk. Did you get the 5C's & was it enuf? I'll send a couple more payday if nothing happens.

Love

Sid

*Edition: Letter 18, Sid[ney] Goldman to [Lillian] Goldman,
August 23, 1945, Manila (Philippines)*

Envelope: [sender] T/5 SID GOLDMAN 36783791, 232ND ORD. TIRE REPAIR CO, APO 75 c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO [post mark] U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE, 1945, AUG 23, 7-BPO [stamp field] U.S. POSTAGE, 6 CENTS, VIA AIR MAIL [recipient] Mrs. S. Goldman, 1636 No. Shore Rd., Revere, 51, Mass [additional stamp] PASSED BY US ARMY EXAMINER 48887 [signed, handwritten] Lt. RM L. [illegible]

¹⁰³ Spencer Bonaventure Tracy (1900-1967), American actor.

¹⁰⁴ Katharine Houghton Hepburn (1907-2003), American actress.

¹⁰⁵ Lucille Désirée Ball (1911-1989), American actress.

¹⁰⁶ *Without Love*, 1945 American movie, directed by Harold S. Bucquet.

¹⁰⁷ Probably "afucked."

¹⁰⁸ *Morning Glory*, 1933 American movie, directed by Lowell Sherman.

¹⁰⁹ Sidney crossed out the quotation marks to move them to the right of the question mark.

¹¹⁰ Slang for "something."

Thurs.
Aug. 23
Manila

Dearest
Looks like the mail situation is getting
a bit better. Scored three from you today & one
from my next best correspondent – Irv.
Where in hell did you get the idea that I had
been in Cuba? Probably cause I mentioned
Myers Rum. As you can plainly see I'm still in
Manila.
Saw Bell for Adano last nite and it was
quite good but I don't think I liked it as well
as I did the book. Missed a bit of the sound
'cause the rain was so loud on the tin roof, just
a little propaganda in it as usual in waspic-
tines. Funny thing happened when they showed me
newsreels in which a certain

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t
k

I'm happy that you liked my "sentimentality"
but I didn't exactly mean to compare you with
food, cards, comfort etc. Just seems that next
to you & Rh's there's about the most important
things. Come to think of it these aren't a hell of
a lot more things anyone needs.
You seem to think well behave by, at the latest
showgiving. Stop dreaming. If I can make it

Figure 2: Letter 18, page 1.

Page 1 of 3:

Thurs.

Aug. 23

Manila

Dearest

Looks like the mail situation is getting a bit better. Scored three from you today & one from my next best correspondent – Irv.

Where in hell did you get the idea that I had been in Cuba? Probably cause I mentioned Myers Rum.¹¹¹ As you can plainly see I'm still in Manila.

Saw Bell for Adano last nite and it was quite good but I don't think I liked it as well as I did the book. Missed a bit of the sound 'cause the rain was so loud on

¹¹¹ A brand of Caribbean rum, produced by American beverage company Sazerac

the tin roof. Just a little propaganda in it as usual in war pictures. Funny thing happened when they showed us newsreels in which a certain [censored]¹¹²

I'm happy that you liked my "sentimentality." but I didn't exactly mean to compare you with food, cards, comfort etc. Just seems that next to you & Rho they're about the most important things. Come to think of it there aren't a hell of a lot more things anyone needs.

You seem to think we'll be home by, at the latest, Thanxgiving. Stop dreaming. If I can make it

Page 2 of 3:

(2)

by Rho's birthday I'll be very, very happy. Only thing is that if we stay here very long some guys will blow their tops. Personally I don't mind it too much but its no good.

Whats all this planning business? I haven't given a thought as to where, what, & how & when. You must have been reading books on this Veteran Readjustment crap written by a lot of old bitches that would be better off minding their kids. We don't need any "adjustments." Maybe some of the combat guys do because they've had it rougher than books, pictures and old ladies can depict. Only the late Ernie Pyle¹¹³ could put it in words & he didn't write it all. As to me personally – Here's my post war plans – be nice quiet welcome from you Rho & Ma – Jule & Gerri if they're around – A couple shots of good bourbon filet mignon or porterhouse if no filet is available, cold crisp lettuce, baked potatoes, plenty of ice cold beer, your devils food cake & ice cold milk. If you can handle that you'll have fulfilled my post war plans. Thats as "post" as they go. The rest will take care of itself. Lets wait & see.

Whats all this about Labor Day wedding. Geri wrote that she'd wait till I got there to be the best man. See – even she knows that brother of mine sure looks for excuses to make trips. He'll feel hurt if he isn't invited. Can't you stretch "immediate family" a bit. On the other hand he might not wait for an invite.

Page 3 of 3:

(3)

Im anxiously waiting to find out what kind of a coat you bought. Don't put it away like the other thing I've sent you. At least you can send me a picture of you in it.

Everything else is more on less status quo. The swelling is most gone from my ankle and I've been restored to "light duty." As if I ever had any other kind. Irv's letter contained the good news that Pa has been coming down to the joint ½ days

¹¹² Approximately one fifth of the first page of this letter (about five or six lines) was presumably cut out by the U.S. army examiner/censor.

¹¹³ Ernest Taylor Pyle (1900-1945), Pulitzer-Prize-winning American journalist and war correspondent, wrote about ordinary American soldiers during World War II.

& is in good shape. If he can get by the couple of hot weeks remaining he'll have it made.

Hope you're the same

Love

Sid

*Edition: Letter 19, Sid[ney] Goldman to [Lillian] Goldman,
August 26, 1945, Manila (Philippines)*

Envelope: [sender] T/5 SID GOLDMAN 36783791, 232ND ORD. TIRE REPAIR CO, APO 75 c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO [post mark] U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE, 1945, AUG 23, 7-BPO [stamp field] AIR MAIL, 6 CENTS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA [recipient] Mrs. S. Goldman, 1636 No. Shore Rd., Revere, 51, Mass [additional stamp] VIA US AIR MAIL [additional stamp] PASSED BY US ARMY EXAMINER 48887 [signed, handwritten] Lt. RM L. [illegible]

Page 1 of 2:

Sunday

Aug. 26

Manila

Dearest,

This is the 3rd day without mail and it makes it rather miserable. That's about the only thing that can make things almost livable around here. If it weren't for learning new things every day we'd blow our tops. Today at reveille (yes on Sunday) we had a ten minute lecture on the proper wearing of and respect for, the uniform. As I get it we must wear a shirt at all times tucked in too and either have our pants legs tailored (at our expense) or have 'em nicely & neatly tucked in our boots. That is for G.I.'s¹¹⁴ only. Officers, gooks,¹¹⁵ & P.W.'s¹¹⁶ who all wear the same uniform may go around comfortably dressed or undressed in any manner that they see fit. Someone loused¹¹⁷ up & we didn't get any lectures before. Guess its all part of the readjustment program so that we will be prepared for civil life. They want to make sure that we know how to salute Western Union messengers & theatre ushers when we get back.

Still ~~working~~ putting in my time in the tire sorting yard. I go on swing shift tomorrow (2:30 P.M. to 10:30 P.M.) for probably

¹¹⁴ Acronym to describe soldiers of the U.S. military ("Government Issue," "General Issue," or "Ground Infantry;" originally "galvanized iron").

¹¹⁵ Derogatory term for people of East and Southeast Asian descent.

¹¹⁶ Shortened acronym of "P.O.W.," meaning "Prisoner of War."

¹¹⁷ Colloquial term for "to make a mess."

Page 2 of 2:

(2)

a week or so which means that the little pleasure we're allowed (movies) will be unavailable for us. Missed "The Corn is Green"¹¹⁸ last nite with Bette Davis¹¹⁹ & can't say I'm sorry. Never cared too much for her & it was probably a "drahma" anyway.

Nothing else of interest or impart.¹²⁰ We're wondering whether we'll sweat it out here or go to Japan. The consensus wants Japan maybe because it's the lesser of two evils. Personally I'd just as soon or rather be there.

Next mail should be addressed to this APO (thats if we ever get a next mail) & we'll know that you'll know how & where we are.

Love

Sid

*Edition: Letter 20, Sid[ney] Goldman to [Lillian] Goldman,
August 28, 1945, Manila (Philippines)*

Envelope: [sender] T/5 SID GOLDMAN 36783791, 232ND ORD. TIRE REPAIR CO, APO 75 SAN FRANCISCO [post mark] U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE 1945, AUG 26, 7-BPO [stamp field] U.S. POSTAGE, 6 CENTS, VIA AIR MAIL [recipient] Mrs. S. Goldman, 1636 No. Shore Rd., Revere, 51, Mass [additional stamp] PASSED BY US ARMY EXAMINER 48887 [signed, handwritten] Lt. RM L. [illegible]

Page 1 of 2:

Tuesday

August 28

Manila

Dearest

This mail situation is getting very unfunny. No mail since last Thursday and thats about all we need to break whats left of our morale.

Speaking of breaks—the Old Man finally found a spot & broke Smokey. He is now Pat Rieders as of yesterday. Guess they'll give his rating to someone whose more is more tanned (couldn't be longer) than Smokey's. Seems like he wrote a letter while in the hospital concerning the apparent lack of sanitation etc. and dared the hospital censor to send it there. The letter came back to the Co. then channels and Smokey was "busted," his pass revoked until further notice & to top things off he has to write from #1 thru #25 of the postal regulations 25 times. Small price to pay for "Freedom of Speech." They killed people because of it just a few years ago. I see by the papers that some Senate Investigating Committees have been appointed to find out just how democratic our Army really is. They'll

¹¹⁸ *The Corn Is Green*, 1945 American movie, directed by Irving Rapper.

¹¹⁹ Bette Davis (1908-1989), American actress.

¹²⁰ Formal term for "to say" or "to share."

eventually find out that in some outfits the work you do toward helping the war effort is

Page 2 of 2:

(2)

secondary to the way you wear your necktie. Remember way back when I told you I thought that a man who knew his business or trade could help bring the war to a quick victorious ending? Guess I was wrong as usual or else its just that we've outlived our usefulness as soldiers.

I've become bitter as hell but I'm determined that I wont come home a whipped pup with my tail between my legs!! I still have confidence that some day in the not too distant future I'll be back to where I was in civil life with my family, home & business & still able to carry my head high & how to no one except God & maybe the head waiter at the Chey.¹²¹

Getting down to more basic fundamentals—I see the Cubs blew & out of 5 to the Cards and it looks bad right now. Hope they swap out of it and start winning again. Also see that DePaul¹²² & N.W.¹²³ will again play home games at the Stadium. How 'bout a date the first Sat. nite? I'll even sit with you at least thru the first game.

Love

Sid

*Edition: Letter 21, Sid[ney Goldman] to [Lillian Goldman],
August 29, 1945, Manila (Philippines)*

Page 1 of 2:

Wed.

Aug. 29

Manila

Dearest

Got a letter from you to their APO but its dated Aug. 18 & the last one I had was dated Aug. 11 which leaves me a week behind. Now that the occupation guys are Tokyobound maybe the mail will pick up. Also got a letter from Meyer in which he says absolutely nothing unless I want to put together what you've told me. As per instructions I won't answer it.

I knew you'd find some reason for not buying a coat. Its your dough and do with it as you see fit. I just thought it was a good idea. I see you've got the Florida bug again. I doubt like hell whether you'll go. You probably know that Joe is in Tampa. He had 34 days in Chi[cago] which must have been heaven.

¹²¹ Most likely a restaurant in Chicago.

¹²² DePaul University, founded 1898 in Chicago, Illinois.

¹²³ Presumably Northwestern University, founded 1851 in Evanston, Illinois.

The “busting” rampage is still on. Newest addition to the rank is Danonity our ex co. clerk about whom I think I wrote before in connection with pinochle¹²⁴ & klabbiash.¹²⁵ Wonder what they’re saving me for? The guillotine perhaps? You seem to think I’ll be home quite soon. Rumors are thick & fast around here but mostly we believe what parts of ‘em we want to believe. Sort of wishful

Page 2 of 2:

thinking. Biggest problem is transportation but we couldn’t care if they stacked us three high in LST’s¹²⁶ just so we got home.

I’m still sorting tires out in the yard as per enclosed picture. The developing and the paper is lousy but one of the boys has sent home for his developing outfit so perhaps the next ones will be better. The weather is hot & I’ve got a good sun tan. It seems to rain just enuf to cool it off when it gets really unbearable. Spoke to a guy this A.M. who was in New Guinea for 15 mo’s & looks none the worse for it. How in hell they stood it is more than I can see. They think this place is Heaven.

Paper says that 90% of troops in ETO with the exception of occupation forces will be home by Xmas. Lest you forget – We’re not in ETO anymore but how I wish I was.

Love

Sid

Edition: Letter 22, Sid[ney] Goldman to Lillian Goldman, August 30, 1945, [Manila (Philippines)]

Envelope: [sender] T/5 SID GOLDMAN 36783791, 232ND ORD. TIRE REPAIR CO, APO 75 SAN FRANCISCO [post mark] U.S. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE, 1945, SEP 2, 7-BPO [stamp field] U.S. POSTAGE, 6 CENTS, VIA AIR MAIL [recipient] Mrs. S. Goldman, 1636 No. Shore Rd., Revere, 51, Mass PASSED BY US ARMY EXAMINER 48887 [signed, handwritten] Lt. RM L. [illegible]

Page 1 of 1 [Letter ends abruptly, suggesting that the archival record is incomplete.]

Thurs.

Aug. 30

Manila

Dearest,

Got another letter from you in the afternoon mail & things are getting better all the time. The new stationery is nice but by the way you figure we’ll be home so soon aren’t you a bit afraid you won’t use it up? Reminds me of Joe Lewis¹²⁷ story bout the 50 G. Remember he saved 5G a yr. against a depression & at the

¹²⁴ Card game.

¹²⁵ Card game.

¹²⁶ Acronym for “Landing Ship, Tank” (to carry troops and vehicles for amphibious assaults).

¹²⁷ Presumably Joseph Klewan, also known as Joe Lewis (1902-1971), American comedian.

end of 10 yrs. had 50G & there was no depression & there he was stuck with 50G?

You must have enjoyed that visit to Woburn¹²⁸ but didn't it make you feel kind of old? You also mention seeing Geat Talman who I presume is Roy' mother. Is Doc Talman home from the wars yet? Seems like I remember him being sent over here a couple years ago.

That pkg. sounds very good & I'll be licking my lips while waiting for it. They say it takes pkg's from 6 wk's. to 2 mo's. to get here & may be longer now but its worth while waiting for.

You seem to be expecting Jule momentarily & that should be some homecoming. Wonder if he'll be discharged & what his [...]

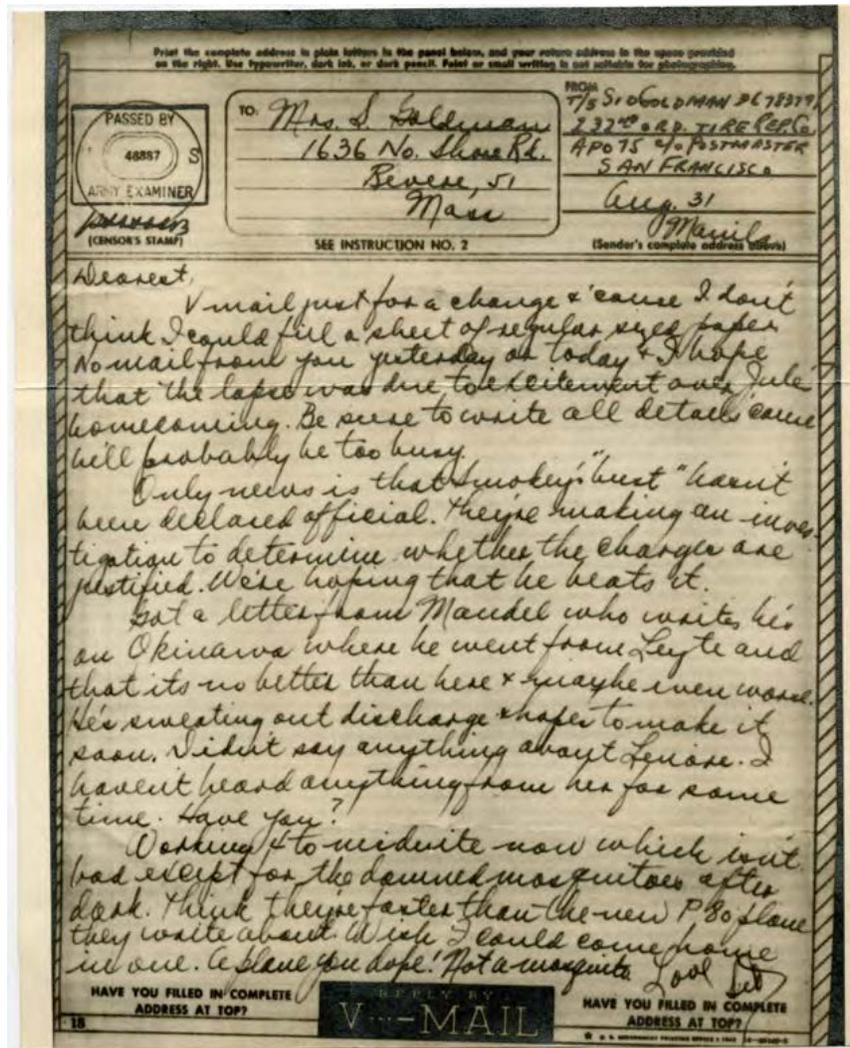


Figure 3: Letter 23, V-Mail.

¹²⁸ Name of cities located in both Illinois and Massachusetts, here presumably the latter.

*Edition: Letter 23, Sid[ney] Goldman to [Lillian] Goldman,
August 31, 1945, Manila (Philippines)*

V-Mail form: [Print the complete address in plain letters to the panel below, and your address in the square provided to the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. [illegible] or small writing is not suitable for photographing.] [CENSOR'S STAMP] PASSED BY ARMY EXAMINER 48887 [handwritten signature, illegible] [TO:] Mrs. S Goldman, 1636 No. Shore Rd., Revere, 51, Mass [SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2] [FROM:] T/5 Sid Goldman DC 78379, 232nd O.R.D. TIRE REP. Co., APO 75 c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 31, Manila [Sender's complete address above] [bottom of form (twice): HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP? REPLY BY V-MAIL] [illegible V-Mail form information in bottom right corner]

Page 1 of 1:

Dearest,

V mail just for a change & 'cause I don't think I could fill a sheet of regular sized paper. No mail from you yesterday or today & I hope that the lapse was due to excitement over Jule's homecoming. Be sure to write all details 'cause he'll probably be too busy.

Only news is that Smokey's "bust" hasn't been declared official. They're making an investigation to determine whether the charges are justified. We're hoping that he beats it.

Got a letter from Mandel who writes he's on Okinawa where he went from Leyte¹²⁹ and that its no better than here & maybe even worse. He's sweating out discharge & hopes to make it soon. Didn't say anything about Lenore. I haven't heard anything from her for some time. Have you?

Working 4 to midnite now which isn't bad except for the damned mosquitoes after dark. Think they're faster than the new P 80 plane¹³⁰ they write about. Wish I could come home in one. A plane you dope! Not a mosquito.

Love

Sid

ABOUT THE EDITOR: *Emanuel Ayala of Anaheim, California, earned his A.A. in History at Fullerton College (2018) and his B.A. in History "magna cum laude" at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) (2020). He is currently pursuing an M.A. in History at CSUF, where he is a member and the 2020/2021 president of the Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society). He also served as an editor for this volume of "The Welebaethan: A Journal of History."*

ABOUT THE EDITOR: *Josh Kreeger of Corona, California, earned his B.A. in History at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) (2016). He is currently pursuing an M.A. in History at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), where he is a member of the Theta-Pi Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society). He also served as an editor for volume 47 of "The Welebaethan: A Journal of History" (2020). He is working in the Corona-Norco Unified School District. The primary-source edition published above originated in the "History and Editing" course offered by CSUF's History Department.*

¹²⁹ Philippine island.

¹³⁰ A reference to the Lockheed T-33 "Shooting Star," an American fighter jet first used 1944.