

Taken From: *I'll Be Back: World War II Letters to The Home Front* by Harold Freedlander  
pages 51-53

Mobile, Alabama  
November 12, 1944

Darling,

After talking to you yesterday, we came here. The boys had a wonderful time and so did I. They used the Coast Guard orchestra which is pretty good, and dancing continued until 1 A.M. An old man like me can hardly take it any more. They put the boys up at the USO but we first got here, I went out and got a room at a small hotel so I had private quarters. This morning I had breakfast at the Admiral Semmes, and then came back to the USO to write and wait for the boys to get dressed and eat—we'll leave for camp about 12:30.

This was the day I promised you a complete news-letter. First, the re-election of the President has been a terrific boost to allied morale outside the U.S. Regardless of how sincere Governor Dewey may have been, his election and the defeat of the President would certainly have been regarded as repudiation by the people of our war effort. Similarly the Axis powers, now desperate, would have taken some comfort from the defeat of their mortal enemy F.D.R. so the results have been a great help to our friends and a hard blow to our enemies.

Second, it now seems clear that immediately following the war, there will be only two great powers left in the world—Russia and the U.S. The British Empire will be divided internally to such a large extent (Ex. India) that it will be impossible for her to show a firm voice at the peace table or afterward. France is a small nation—she will be loved and protected by her allies of 150 years, but not feared. China, torn by a war more destructive than any nation has ever had to endure, and split between Chiang and the Communists, will be slow to recover. I believe that eventually she will take her place beside us and the U.S.S.R. Until the wounds of war and civil strife heal and her industrialization is completed, she will be the sleeping giant. So we will see the phenomenon of a world whose power will be largely concentrated in two capitals—Washington and Moscow. London will be very important but she will never again rate with the giants and her greatness will depend on the cooperation she received from us and the Bolsheviks. Take the conference about air regulations; Washington and Moscow want freedom of the air—London originally proposed national air “highways” after the war.

The next two powers in line, China and France, waited until they saw which way the wind blew—then came to our point of view. This will mark out entry into world politics as the greatest power on earth along with the Soviets. Isolation is no only dead—its buried and un-honored under our emergence on the stage in a position held in the past by Greece, Rome, Spain, and the British Empire. May we be wise enough to merit the position for many generations.

Take good care of yourself and write often. I live for your letters. I also am living for the day when I can change clothes and come home.

All my love to the folks—and even more to you, my dearest.

Ever yours, Harold

P.S. As I finish this, a little sailor sitting opposite me here in the writing room asked me how to spell “jealous.” I'm glad I don't have to use that word.