

HEADQUARTERS HARBOR DEFENSES OF SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF THE HARBOR DEFENSE COMMANDER
FORT WINFIELD SCOTT, CALIFORNIA

October 29, 1941.

Mr. W. C. Simons
Lawrence Daily Journal World
Lawrence, Kansas.

My dear Simons:

I was very much pleased to receive your good letter of September 15th, though I was very much distressed to hear of the necessity of taking Gertrude to Rochester for X-ray and treatments. Philena has appreciated the messages from Gertrude very much, and we hope that her reduction will continue without any discomfort. We speak of you very often and wish that we could see you.

Glad to know that Dolph was able to end up the fishing in a blaze of glory, and I know that you would like to have been present yourself. Some of the best part of our recent stay in the Middle West was our few weeks in Minnesota on two different Summers. Perhaps we will get back there again some day.

John seems to be pretty well placed over in the Richmond Shipbuilding Company. His salary is about \$200.00 a month, which is low for their employees. He is an office checker, though does some check work in the Yards, and might get a raise in time. We are very happy that my son in the Philippines has been ordered here, and I hope he is on a transport leaving Manilla today or tomorrow. We will probably not know exactly for a week or two. Whether he will go to Vermont for his wife, or have Kay and the baby come here direct, we cannot say as yet.

I am glad to see by your paper that Colonel Dusenbury is carrying on the good work at the University, and I know that Sergeant Kollender keeps the publicity end well up. We had a week of "war" here, which ended last Friday. It was very strenuous, with the cooperation of the Navy and the employment of infantry and all kinds of troops. I stood the strain remarkably well, but was ready for plenty of sleep when it was all over. I was in command of the Harbor Defenses for eight weeks during August and September, and I am again Commander now for two or three weeks, as General Stockton has gone to Philadelphia because of the expected death of his mother. We have about 5600 officers and men, so that it is a man-sized job. I am not so sure how long I can continue on duty with troops. I am afraid I left K.U. too late, because they issued their famous over-age order just two months later, and since I am 56 years of age, I am "too old" to be a Colonel of troops, and probably too old to expect any consideration for promotion. I am of the opinion that I will be here maybe