



Stateside Visit Leaves Distaste

Kay Resents Slander Aimed At Girls Overseas

INSTALLMENT 28

By Kay Summersby

MONDAY, JUNE 12, was a big day for Gen. Eisenhower. Leaving our CP before 6 o'clock in the morning, he took the V-I-P party to Normandy.

Gen. Ike came back about 8:30 p.m., feeling chipper that he had got ashore at long last, invigorated by actually visiting the troops, and happy that everyone's spirits seemed so high.

In addition, there was another unofficial reason for his happiness: a reunion with his son, Grady, from West Point on D-Day. 2d Lt. John S. D. Eisenhower was en route to England to spend leave with his famous father.

Gen. Ike had dispatched Tex Lee to Prewick to meet John. On June 29, I lost all interest in war.

Gen. Ike had several of us out to Telegraph Cottage for dinner. John, he said, was fretting because the West Point graduation leave was almost over; he was due back to Ft. Benning.

"I'm sending John home in my B-17," the General explained. "Tex is going along. So are Mattie Pinette and Sergeant Farr." He looked at me. "There's a spare place and I know you're anxious to meet Dick's mother. How would you like to go along?"

OUR SEND-OFF from the Germans was a buzz-bomb. It landed several hundred yards away and rattled the car windows as we drove out to the airport.

All of us breathed a sigh of relief when London and the airport were far behind.

Two women rushed up to welcome us to Washington. One was Mrs. George Allen; the other, Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower. I found the General's wife an attractive, petite woman, her bangs the hit to a vivacious, friendly personality. We all chattered excitedly. Then Mrs. Eisenhower and Mrs. Allen went off to town, with John in tow, promising to call.

NEXT AFTERNOON, I went up to the fashionable Wardman Park to visit Mrs. Eisenhower, who greeted me at the door with a welcome, tinkling, orange-filled Old Fashioned. Her cordiality helped me to meet the wives of various friends around headquarters, men I had known in North Africa and in England.

In the beginning, I felt strange and foreign, much too British and much too militarized for this forgotten social side of femininity. But their natural friendliness soon thawed my embarrassment. Moreover, we had mutual interests, mutual friends; their husbands.

I enjoyed meeting the wives of overseas friends, putting flesh on the name-skeletons rattled so continuously by lonely husbands abroad; they enjoyed meeting someone who knew their husbands, who could tell them how their husbands looked, how they felt, what they ate where they lived, et cetera. It was a lovely afternoon, and I enjoyed it thoroughly.

AMIDST ALL THIS excitement I tried to get in touch with Dick's mother at her home in New York State. Innumerable telephone calls (which impressed me with the speed and courtesy of long distance operators in America) disclosed Mrs. Arnold to be en route to Florida. No one knew exactly how she was going, where she would stay down there.

Two days before our party was due to head back to London, she called from Florida, distraught at driving right through Washington, unaware I was there on a visit.

I had a wonderful day and a night with Mrs. Arnold, collecting a bad case of sunburn in Miami . . . and, more important, a new, close friend.

And I didn't have to ride back in that bucket-seat C-47. Our old B-17 showed up in Miami. Capt. Larry Hansen, Gen. Eisenhower's pilot, had a double reason for coming down: Firstly, we were due to leave for England the very next day; secondly, his wife lived in nearby Coral Gables. We took off for Washington that afternoon.

SOME OF THE Army wives I met this time left a bad taste in my memory. A few seemed so calculating, so cold. They gauged each other purely by rank, more so than the most rank-conscious West Pointer, all social and per-

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Howe High's String Quartet



A string quartet of Howe High School students who may be among entrants in next year's projected chamber music festival are (seated) Judy Wear and (standing, left to right) Marian Crabb, Jane Reed and Ed Hasse.

Plan Spring Music Festival, Contest for Local Pupils

Indianapolis grade-school and high school pupils who can play instruments will have a chance to compete in a chamber-music festival to be held next May.

Announcement of the projected festival was made today by Leonard A. Strauss, program chairman of the Ensemble Music Society of Indianapolis, sponsor of the forthcoming musical event.

The festival, to be held in Music Week next year, the first full week in May, will provide opportunity for instrumental combinations from duets up to octets.

Mr. Strauss said: Competition will be by groups, not by schools.

"The fact that small ensembles already are practicing in public, parochial, and private schools has indicated increasing interest in chamber music," Mr. Strauss said.

"The Ensemble Music Society wishes to encourage that interest as much as possible."

Besides Mr. Strauss, representatives at a preliminary planning meeting included: Miss Roberta

Trent, Manual High School; Walter Whitworth, Indianapolis News; Mrs. George H. Batt, PTA president; Mrs. S. S. 84; David E. Hughes, Jordan Conservatory; Edward B. Taggart, president of the Ensemble Music Society; Ralph W. Wright, director of music, Indianapolis public schools; Miss Alberta Denk, Washington High School; Mrs. John Shepard, Howe High School; Beldon Leonard, Jordan Conservatory, and Mrs. Robert W. Clark and Miss Helen Hollingsworth, both representing the Ensemble Music Society.

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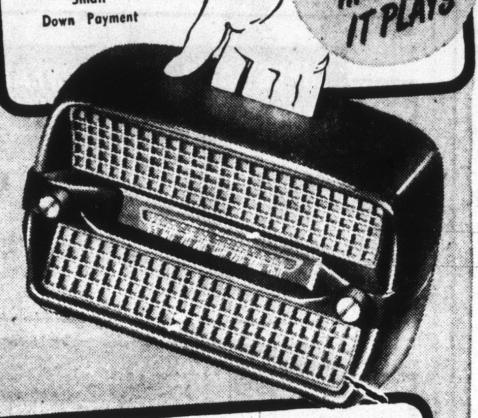
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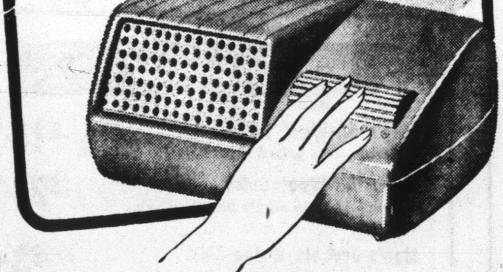
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