February 24, 1945

D. Hawkins

R. H. Dunlap

Request for policy on SED time-off

This will confirm my conversation with you of this morning. Since a good many of the SEDs now have their wives in Albuquerque there is quite some confusion in my mind as to how much time-off we can afford to give them. It is recognized that they need considerable time, or the entire Albuquerque arrangement is a farce. However, considering their fifteen-day furlough plus three-day travel time, if we should allow them one three-day pass per month and one day off, or roughly a day a week, it will amount to a total of eleven weeks and four days off per year. This strikes me as being uncommonly high.

The main difficulty lies in the fact that there is apparently no policy in the Orderly Room proper. This latter fact has been verified to me by Captain Palmer. If in my own group I take an easy view toward time-off, other groups wherein this cannot be done will find it difficult to reconcile their SEDs, vice versa, should I clamp down I will receive nothing but complaints by comparison with groups that take the easy view.

A further difficulty lies in trying to establish a policy of fairness between the SEDs with their wives in Albuquerque, married SEDs who do not have their wives in Albuquerque, and single SEDs. Should we treat all of these men the same relative to time-off or upon what basis can we effect discrimination?

If your office would determine a project policy relative to this matter similar to the recent memorandum on general SED policy, I am sure that every group leader in the project would find it invaluable in dealing with this very difficult matter. I have discussed this matter with Mr. Kennedy and he feels that it is a matter to be resolved by the Personnel Department.

R. H. Dunlap

R. H. Dunlap

RHD:lb
cc: J. W. Kennedy

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Daniel J. Grant