My dear Mr. Nabrit:

I believe in my last letter I described Paris after liberation, as of September 1944, as being the nervous triumphant paradise city when the allies moved in. From all reports of the papers now that have died down. When you enter today whether on foot or car the Parisians are no doubt glad to see you. But there are no more mob scenes of riotous greeting exploding around about. The people are permitted to breathe pure fresh air again. They are free from the Germans as well as their collaborationists for they are being well rounded also. I’m sure this was a sure sign of the real days when Paris was full of life.

Your very lovely Christmas greeting reached me only yesterday which was indeed a deep and warm expression of the season from you as well the university community. At this time I sincerely thank you both. I do not count the distance that separate us for, I am ever reminded of that good old genuine “Howard Spirit,” deep down in my heart a flame was a glow on the recession just as the electric ones (candles) burned in your window. Of course I had much for which to be thankful in spite of the nervousness created abroad by the German mad counter offensive and dash back into Belgium. Naturally with all of us, the holiday was spent in great solemnity, no doubt because of the tactical situation. It is quite true that being in the midst of want, suffering, and ruin, people become more penitent; that most of us were. I shall note discuss the more gloomy side of my experience further.

I have been more or less trying to visualize the average “GI” his reactions after the war; what he will be thinking, how he will utilize his discovered abilities and experiences. No doubt the civilian population back in America can best judge that now and make a pretty accurate account. It has been pointed out very clearly that the record of education in America is far below for being that only 23.3% of troops in the armed forces finished four years of high school, another 3.6% had four years or more of college, totaling 70% of the American men if fighting age have had less than a high school education. There will be a great influx to the many colleges and universities. In time of peace there was but very little money appropriated for education in comparison to war time conversions, yet in less than three years we can throw, equip, handle and feed 10,000,000 men to master the weapons of war to kill with no cry of “too much money.” Billions of dollars poured in and many more needed before the final victory. While a few thousand a year formally spent for teaching peace to avoid war.

Suppose the educators of tomorrow will inherit the world’s biggest job. Converting GI back into peaceful citizen after having been taught to kill. This fabulous war is certainly a big classroom. Many of the teachings are a little rough. The yesterday’s tune will not do. New times will automatically demand new techniques, with more real life – the practical things taught. Of course this will lessen the syntax and we will demand more citizenship with the infusion of more humanity.

I believe it depends largely upon the teaching possibilities of an equal education, which will decide whether we will have another war. Education with the full backing power of all the people behind it will shape our sons and daughters in the type of citizens who will not want war. We should like to have the nation mobilized to build essential necessities for comfortable living, to pattern things in order that everyone might be permitted to have wholesome living regardless. Since war and conscription has no discrimination the right to work and live as a citizen should be le mime.
During the past year I have managed to keep in contact with many of my former classmates and other Howardites through our Negro papers. From all reports the men and women of Howard are well represented in the present struggle doing every that is required to promote a speedy victory for a permanent peace. I hope it will be possible for Howard to inaugurate some sort of program after the war which will enable all Howard men and women to meet once a year for one week out of the year just for a good old homecoming. Something similar to our classic.

Since I began this letter there have been any number of interruptions, consequently I must bid you good luck and prosperity through the present year.

Sincerely,

Frederic F. Clanagan