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2/1/72- there have been expressions of concern over my thumb injury, and mystification about some of the typing, including reports that the terrible errors are fewer when i punch away with one hand. so, this will explain variations in the typing and limitations for the coming month. the thumb is bare again, no exernal supports, still swollen aside from the infection, which has cleared itself up. even as thumbs go it is not particularly pretty but it is healing well on the outside and i suppose now to the bone. discomfort is not great. the original diagnosis was changed today and lil's strictures were validated, officially, that is. there seems to be no concern about lingering nerve damage. there seems to be no tendon damage. i am not certain, but i think there is gristle that serves some kind of special purpose that can be felt doing something it is not supposed to be felt doing, whatever that is. nothing further can be done by way of diagnosis for a month. at that time i see an orthopaedic surgeon for two things: confirmation of whatever the damage is, if it continues without mending itself; and what to do is something is necessary. of the possibilities i know two: some kind of brace (who ever heard of a thumb brace!) to be work on occasions when i will be using the tumb for physical work that will result in certain kinds of pressures. until then i am to come as close as possible to not letting it touch anything. as best i could understand it, whatever the damaged structure is, it prevents other damage to the thumb in use, like letting part of it pop out or something. it short, if something has to be done it will be as a defemsive masure. and for the intèrim, i will be using the left hand intermittently in typing, both pacing it and controlled by any reaction to the vibrations and slight jars or shocks. I would imagine that in the event surgery is indicated, it is not in any way serious. and take comfort: the surgeon i am to see is a former army expert. could one be in better hands? joking aside, lil has been going to this one for years, and thinks he is great. i had several occasions to have such consultations in the past, twice was examined by heads of departments of local medical schools, and on both ~~xxx~~ occasions the diagnosis was wrong. so, i am content to entrust my thumb and my activity to a former army man, and so you will know i was only joking above, i made my own selections and preferred him. not massochism, lil's experience. so thanks for the concern, don't worry, and i may be typing less so you can enjoy more. HW

RAMPARTS { OCT 71
 FEB 72

HW:

I occurred to us that this pair of articles might be of some use to you, both from the standpoint of your work on TIGER and from your own background in OSS.

jdw 28jan72

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both, yes, thanks. began second while nibbling a bit of lunch. 2/3...I'm beginning to see an election-year angle to the JFK-Lattimer thing beyond what you have suggested, and it is even more frightening. It is not indicated in the enclosed. H