

July 30 1945

Dear Ones,

I am typing this from the Judge Advocate's Office, hence the legal size paper. As you can see the typewriter ribbon situation on Santo is getting serious - I hope that this is not too tough to read. The mail today brought a letter from Judy with 3 pictures of the wedding - all of them candid and none very complimentary, just between you and me. I also heard from Miss Pease - she writes well; it is too bad that she has not been able to achieve a more tangible happiness than her love of literature and learning and the aesthetic tastes which are here. She writes with a pleasant style, it is almost too rich in its descriptiveness and its minute portrayal of what she is writing about. Her letters are saturated with adjectives of color.

I did not write this noon because I came back to the office to straighten out some reports and to try to get back some of laundry; I was fairly successful in both projects. If it were not for the fact that there is a lot of work and aggravation involved in the deal, the number of reports we make out and the frequency of changes of form in them would be funny. Every time we turn around there is a new directive on this or that report which means more paper work on items in which we have no transactions whatsoever - where the logic is, I do not know. But that is what keeps the Army Paper work systems alive and keeps the rear echelons humming with activity after the actual work is done. It is impossible to measure the loss in dollars or even in hours that comes about through poor original planning and coordination. I am gradually coming to the conclusion that we whipped the war of supply and its problems as much despite as because of the Army supply system.

Perhaps I am a little bitter today because of what happened to Art; Art is the responsible officer for certain property in the Headquarters company and some time ago there was a robbery. Apparently there has been no success in tracing the missing items - I think the whole matter comes to something less than \$100. There was an investigation and the ~~like~~, and Art was cleared of pecuniary responsibility only to have the Colonel reverse the decision and say that Art would make good the loss. I am not in complete possession of the facts and I am hardly in a position to say whether or not Art was negligent or if he could have taken steps to prevent the mishap. The fact that the investigators placed no blame is some indication that at least there is reasonable doubt as to whether Art is at fault or not. The facts of the case may well be that the Colonel is right in his decision. My feeling in the matter comes from the fact that were Art a high ranking officer responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of equipment that went bad and was lost just as much as if it had been stolen the Army would find a way out and in all probability it would be written off with no accountability. My friendship for Art crystallizes this feeling - actually it has nothing to do with the specific issues involved in his case. But there is a lack of consistency that hurts when it comes close, and it always seems to be the little guy who gets hurt. Just the other day one of the men working in a casual detail in the depot sighed as we loaded stuff for the salvage yard - we were scrapping stuff for which he had once paid on a statement of charges when he lost the item on a night march. Oh, hell - maybe someday I will be able to put my reforming zeal to some use. As strong as I am for compulsory military training, I think that I too would add the "if" of Army reform and close civilian surveillance in my support of the measure.

I had better get onto safer grounds! I heard in the morning newscast that Langer was one of the two who did not support the Charter - I did not catch the name of the second Senator. The Brewster-Celler letter to the President on Palestine was well done and well planned; I must admit that ROB's persistency and sincerity in pressing the Zionist case has raised his stature in my eyes. It may well be that he has outgrown to some extent the opportunism which so long characterized his political life and is settling down to a more sound political creed. I can't help but feel that a Big Three decision on the Levant is in the offing; certainly the New British government will make some statement about the MacDonald White Paper. The TIMES report on the progress being made by the Polish government is extremely encouraging. It gives the lie to the Eastmans and Lyonses. Fact apparently is the only weapon that can forever kill the anti-Russian virus and the first reports of Polish progress are indications that we are going to be well armed. There is little argument against proven good faith. It is almost pitiful to read the articles of Gamelin in explanation of the French military position prior to 1939. Like the Ciano documents, they are important only as reflections of the errors and pitfalls into which men are led. As explanations and justifications, they can be judged only in the light of history and human morality. Somewhere I read the report which noted an answer to the German plea that they had no choice but to be passive Nazis - the Yugoslavs, the French, the guerrillas of Europe fled to the hills of their invaded homelands; were there no hills in Germany?

The news from the Balkans is not too good. The Greek problem seems to be as severe as



#### LEFTIST GROUPS

ever with the ~~the~~ once again underground and feeling running strong against the British maintained government of Voulgaris. It is obvious that hunger is the strongest weapon of the government now in power since the control of relief supplies seems to be directly linked to the political situation. Once again it is a case where the Labor Party victory in England can have repercussions. Certainly a policy similar to that used in Poland must be followed; were world attention centered on Athens we might see a broader government and an ousting of the strong rightist groups now in power. In Greece we have a key to the Balkans - were Greece a functioning and independent democratic state, Russian pressure through Bulgaria and Yugoslavia would undoubtedly be withdrawn. Basically there is no reason for the Balkans' remaining a tinderbox. As for Russia, it does not seem unfair to say that what applied in her policy toward Poland applies in her attitude toward the tempestuous Southern Slavs; she has the minimum demand of maintaining governments which are friendly to her. Why there is any reason to hope to keep the Left from sweeping war-ravaged Greece is not clear to me. In any event, unnatural British pressure to maintain the right must be removed. The internal situation in Germany does not have as many factors with which we can work: the old dangers are there - the good German, the passive Nazi, the industrialist, the scientist, the little people, the eager followers of a destroyer and the sullen, inscrutable sufferers of defeat. The order of the day is still defeat and control - there can be no question of reconstruction and planned reeducation for a long time to come. There can be no trusting of fledgling Germans eager to don the democratic garb for what it has to offer in politics, in administration, in production, in trade. There can be no equivocation - we are not out to make Germany run again, we are out to root out the evils springs that kept her machine going. If we lose sight of that, we may lose more than we bargained for. There can be no relaxation and no compromise. We are conquerors not liberators, we come to uproot, not to rebuild.

It was interesting to note the tone of approval in Drucker's article for the Post about Russian wage policy; slowly but surely some of the mist surrounding what Russian communism actually means to the Russians will be cleared away, even by such unexpected sources as the ~~at Eve~~ Post. I wish I had more of a liking for the mechanics of economics but I must that they do not interest me at all; I do recall that most of the previous Drucker articles which I have read have not appealed to me either in their tone or in the thinking behind them.

I am glad that the NY strike was finally settled; it is clear that no one could win any clear cut decision from the tangled mess and that compromise was the only answer. I am inclined to agree with Lerner that while the three parties involved all bungled to a terrible degree, at least the Union and the Publishers gained from the fracas while the WLB ended up looking pretty sad. It would seem that when the WLB threatened the Union it threw the last straw on the camel's back, since it took sides without the due process of arbitration. Granted the Union forced the WLB move to some extent and the Publishers in turn forced the Union, the fact remains that it is the WLB's job to have an answer for such difficulties. It is something for the country, specifically Judge Schwollenbach, to think about. The New York Mayoralty election seems to be off to a flying start; as always it is linked to the State and National political pictures with more aspects than a three ring circus - Tammany, Dewey, LaGuardia, the fact that Goldstein is a Democrat. If O'Dwyer and the PAC can win decisively it will be very indicative of NY's attitude in the elections of 1946; if it is close, the relation to the State and National pictures will be as confused as ever. Frankly I wouldn't want to be Mayor of NYC - it must be a fantastically difficult political maneuver.

That sort of covers what there is to cover for today. This has turned out to be a longer letter than I thought I could write! As for the discussion about the gal in San Francisco, Paul Marble, etc - I know that you did not mean to "annoy" me. You don't have to be concerned over my developping a complex of disliking a girl just because you suggest her to me or make the arrangements for our meeting. I am in fact counting on you to keep the Portland and even Boston scenes under consideration and to keep tabs on any young hopefuls who come into your ken. But the San Francisco affair was just a little far-fetched, I thought.

OK for tonight -

All my love

Regards to Daris.

PS I finished the Trollope volume - good Victorian stuff. I am now reading Joyce's "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" - first for the story and ~~second~~ <sup>time</sup> more carefully to study his style.