

18 June 1945

Dear Ones,

I got so much mail yesterday that I wallowing in envelopes - about a dozen from home and assorted notes from Willie, Judy Hatchfield, Ruthie, Abe Benioff, his niece, Neil, Dave Owen - very fine. When I will get around to answering them is another story. Last night we saw Song To Remember and it was excellent - Muni walked away with the picture for my money; it was good, solid entertainment. After the movie we started a poker game and all of us were in the same sort of mood and so we played right on through until one o'clock! The weather is extremely cool and comfortable - most of the men are wearing field jackets in the morning and evening; it certainly is refreshing and invigorating for this part of the world. I don't know whether I told you that my watch stem snapped and that I have no one here who can fix it; my plan is to mail it home to you for repair and to be kept for me. I have been able to get hold of a watch here for \$24 - there were a limited number and mine was one of the names pulled out of a hat to get one.

Things that might interest you: Dave Owen shares my belief that there is a place for the Guardian at Harvard and feels very strongly that it should and would be supported by both students and faculty were it properly revived. Abe Benioff is married and he did not have much to say as you might well expect - he does not know what is in store for him in the Army. Neil is still in Hawaii - if you have seen or talked to his folks you probably know that he spoke to them by radio-telephone. Lucky guy. Not much special in the other letters. I wonder how long this good mail service will last?

In one of your notes, you commented on Leah Sapiro Rubinoff and her tendency to write a thesis when she is called upon for a brief resume. Mother. I couldn't help but think of a major in the command here; his name is McGhee and you couldn't ask for a nicer chap - cheerful, intelligent, and friendly. He is a tall Southern gentleman, well liked by all. But he has the "thesis" complex too - he calls up and says he has a short question and it takes him an hour and a half to cover the background and the reason for his asking it. It is fortunate that he does have a sense of humor and he brightens up his conversation with some very picturesque figures of speech. To be frank with you I prefer his type to the old duffers around here who sit like mummies and give the entire island that atmosphere of stagnation.

One of the PM pages had the interchange of letters between Louis Fischer and the editors of the Nation in connection with the former's resignation. I think that the editors' answer was to the point and applicable to much more than the specific question of Mr. Fischer and that magazine. It revolves around the idea: "we are more concerned .. about the growing hatred and fear of Russia in the US." It is the same issue that we strike in reading White and Lauerbach; from what Joe Thompson has written and from what Herb Schreiber reported from his trip to the states, the anti-Russian impetus is stronger in the Press than it is in the people - I hope they are right; your letters, too, certainly reflect that impression. In this vein, I have not noticed as critical a treatment in the Press of the Levantine crisis - that is the British role in the problem - as a similar case concerning Russia would have aroused. In all cases the more complete the treatment and the more honest the appraisals by the reporters and the commentators the better for the peace of the world. We need never fear criticism, or even bias, if we have available all the facts and the necessary material to arrive at a proper evaluation. Specifically in the Levant, the error of reprisal which De Gaulle made in no way should blur the fact that this is a primarily British Empire problem with which we are dealing.

I see that PM is hot after Franco and the Spanish regime now - more power to them; Spain may very well be the first testing ground for international action as it works in problems of internal fascism. Argentina might be the second. In any case it is clear that not only does non-political fascism in its many manifestations remain to be combatted but also there are still governments in this world that are fascistic. Despite the difficulties that are manifest and the injustices that are current today, I see no reason to be discouraged or