

June 29th 1945

Dear Ones,

As usual it is noontime and I am at the depot - skipping the noon meal; it's Friday and fish anyway. Last night I skipped the movie and caught up on the odds and ends of my letter writing; I also started "The Razor's Edge" - so far it is very good. We played a little poker and I got to bed fairly early. I guess that Hal will be down tonight; I will have to check with him. The mail yesterday brought a couple of pamphlets and the Jewish War Veterans Bulletin but nothing more. For change we had an excellent volley ball game yesterday afternoon.

Sorry that Louis Lane was killed - I recall his writing to the Bulletin and when I saw his address as the 6th Marine Division I knew pretty well that he was headed for the next operation; wasn't he a twin? I see that Jules Greenstein is still in the States - it sounds as though he has mighty rough duty at Camp Devens. I'll bet he can get home only every other weekend! One of the things in the mail was the AJ Committee Reporter; on the whole I think that the general situation of Jewish causes in the world is on the upgrade, but there still seem to be the black spots of anti-Semitism which crop up at the slightest provocation or with no provocation at all. One of the items mentioned a Veterans' Group organized by one of GLK Smith's rabid supporters - we must always be alert for the various guises that this virulence assumes.

With the resignation of Stettinius and his assumption of a position as our representative in the World Conference, the way is open for the appointment of Byrnes and perhaps for an overhaul of the State Department by Truman. I am not up on the inside dope well enough to know whether Truman will cling to Roosevelt's attitude toward Hull and Welles or whether he will take the opportunity for a clean sweep in accordance with his own ideas. I am hopeful for the latter - not using Welles is an unwise and unnecessary waste of talent. It might be well to bring Winant back as an under Secretary or assistant - he is recognized an experienced and important liberal for his work in the ILO and at the Court of St James. What I hope Truman does is to get a balance between down-to-earth, hard-bargaining diplomats and liberal policy makers; we certainly need that balance. I do not feel that Stettinius did a bad job - primarily he is a casualty of a change in administrations; I imagine that you will have something to say on that score, Daddy.

Eisenhower certainly received a hero's welcome at home; the job that he did in the field and in the councils of war cannot be underestimated. Yet for all the excitement that surrounds him now - he lacks the flamboyant touch of the spectacular; he is no man on horseback, he seems to have no flair for exuberant showmanship. Instead we think of him as a family man, as man with the same standards and principles as the rest of us, as just the best of a group of citizen-soldiers. I think that the conclusion from these facts is a good answer to those who see the seeds of fascism in conscription - they don't understand the American spirit; the environment of the American home, the American community, and - strange as it may seem - the American army is entirely unmilitary. The results of a year in the army would emphasize more than ever to the young citizen the importance of his individuality and freedom of action and decision!

Last night at supper, I sat with Chaplain Morrissey - he is the Catholic Chaplain and the only Army chaplain left at the command. We discussed conscription first - I don't have to tell you the gist of the discussion or who took what side - and then we got onto the discussion of Germans and whether or not Hitler was a good German. Again we were in disagreement since I maintained that a man's individual criterion was not the standard to be used; it is the judgment of the nation and of the world that must be applied. Al Capone might think himself a good American - so what? Whenever I sit with the Chaplain we always get into some such discussion, but we never arrive at any conclusions. I make it a point to steer clear of getting the argument into a serious phase - I think that it is the best bet all things considered.

OK for now - I am clipping one section from Trends because I think that it hits on a key problem; the unexplainable tendency to pessimism in the Press. Love *Sumner*