Dear Ones,

We played bridge last night and I really had some beautiful cards; I won a couple of bucks at a twentieth. I finished keys to the Kingdom and went to sleep. Today for the first time in a couple of weeks I am in the office cleaning up a few odds and ends. Yesterday’s mail brought noted from Ruthie and Willie and another batch from home, as well as that newsletter put out by the JNV. Glad to see that Dave Astor made Captain. Whenever I read a community bulletin it strikes me that most of the names are strange to me. What has happened to Richard Carvel?

The New York TIMES certainly got a lot of pats on the back for its San Francisco edition; someone showed a lot of imagination in that new idea of newspaper service. It is proof that the TIMES is really a national, if not an international, daily paper. I have not received your comment on the shift in the State Department, Daddy; I know that you did not give Stettinius the credit and the praise which has been accorded him for his work at San Francisco. However I think that the Krock comment on his role at the conference and his position in the Truman cabinet was very fair and was proof that his removal to a new position in no way reflects any national dissatisfaction with his work. Even David Lawrence was warm in praise of Stettinius and his caliber as a statesman. Connally’s speech to the Senate was a good job - I think of him as a political war horse and that he may come in handy in whipping the Senate into line. Support for the Charter has been arrayed from so many sides and factions and viewpoints that it seems unlikely that the Senate will be able to do anything but swing powerfully behind it. The antics of Bilbo in action on the FEPC are disgraceful; at least the OPA was extended finally and that is something. What puzzles and bothers me is the inconsistency of the Senatorial decisions - the queer mixture of government, politics, indifference, and carelessness.

In the list of men receiving degrees at school this fall, I noted a couple of familiar names but it is hard to tell whether the men were still at school or received them on credits achieved while in the Army. Everybody from Admiral King at Commencement to all the Marine Generals say that we can invade Japan at any time we desire - if they say it a few more times I will believe it! Nimitz certainly has adopted a flaunting policy in telling the Japs what ships are lying off the Japanese islands during the raids. We may be able to establish a beachhead at will - but no one at this stage of the war can belittle the expenditure of men and equipment that will be necessary for a total invasion and victory in the home islands. I am glad that Pearson keeps plugging away at the industrialist who would restore German industrial power; I hope that he is right in saying that the State and Treasury departments are fully aware of the nature of certain transactions currently going on - chances are if he is that they are.

The Goldberg girls certainly seem to be in marital trouble on all sides - both girls seem to be having their difficulties. Is Irvin with his wife now? I think that Lippmann is right in forecasting a “Polish” solution for China - that is, world insistence that China reorganize her government on a broad democratic base and include the Yenan faction. Success in Asia cannot allow the continuation of the current situation and Koumantong attitude within China. I see that the Massachusetts Senate finally put the lid on the anti-bias legislation in a somewhat disgusting session; of course the Bay State has an admirable model for their conduct of the National Senators from the South on the FEPC question. These two instances are in disappointing contrast to the announcement that the NY commission is to start functioning and of the high hopes that are held out for its accomplishments. Cortesi’s reports from Argentina hold out hope that the democratic spirit is there to be allowed to mature but not that the current government is going to allow it to. The effectiveness of the current movements there remains to be seen.

Thanks for the word on Paul Marble; I assume that his address is still the Bozeman - he
hasn't answered my last note, so I thought that he might have changed ships or been transferred to a different service or something of that sort. I got a kick out of Paul's description of the girl he met "intelligent, but not too attractive" and out of the fact that both you and Mrs. Marble thought of me at once --"intelligent but not too attractive girls" are a dime a dozen and I am still counting on finding both intelligence and pleasing appearance. And I do think that you went a little too far in presuming to start a "pen pal" correspondence with this not-too-ravishing creature! I rather like to take the initiative in that sort of thing myself. (I must say that "attractiveness" is a poor descriptive word, since many factors other than physical attraction are involved in it. I am assuming that Paul was speaking in terms of beauty.)

The bulletin from the War Department which was released on demobilization was pretty much the same as the orientation and information program that the Army gave to every soldier. Of course most of us are in for the duration plus without any question. However, we are waiting to see full scale demobilization (up to the one million figure which is currently being discussed) because there are many with the critical score or near to the critical score who have had no indication or promise of their getting out of the service. It is one of the unfair quirks that the men who have done a good job and have become more or less essential in their jobs stand less of a chance of getting out than those who have continually fooled up and as a result are deemed by their superiors to be non-essentials. I am going to save that McGraw Hill page on our relations with Russia and her economic market for ready reference. The points which it covers are always in dispute.

OK for now - today I start my 29th on active service.

All my love,

[Signature]

[Handwritten note]

Regardz, Diver