

August 20th 1945

Dear Ones,

The sun managed to come out today so it was not as dreary a Monday as I feared it might be; things went relatively smoothly and the prospects are for a busy week. Last night after sighing over Lana Turner in Keep Your Powder Dry I managed to get a little more solvent by way of the colored pasteboards - all improvements in the turn of the cards were duly appreciated. We will manage to fritter away tonight somehow - I am almost through with Look To The Mountain; it is almost a New Hampshire version of Growth of the Soil and I enjoy it more than I did the latter. Next I shall delve into Conrad's Victory - I have never read any of his work. Tomorrow night - guard again. No mail today as far as I know; I just dalled the office ( I am at the depot) and a TIME and a letter from Paul Marble(!) came. (Heaven only knows what I am going to say in this letter - I have none of yours to answer after my letter-writing stint of yesterday afternoon.)

Without knowing the merits of the case one way or the other, I was very glad to hear that Byrnes has announced our refusal to recognize the present government of Bulgaria. The news reports quoted the Secretary as saying that we do not feel that the current government is a valid democratic representation of the people of Bulgaria. This is important for a number of reasons: first of all, it should help to shut up those who scream that we are allowing the Red menace to sweep unchecked over Europe. Secondly, it is indicative of our determination to keep our interests in democratic processes per se alive in relation to the European problem. Thirdly, it puts the Balkan question on a firmer basis since we know where we stand.

(I'll finish this up at the command - I have been meaning to comment on the Alumni Bulletin and this is my chance.) I am now in the office - we just saw Danny Kaye in Wonder Boy. He is so good and they still but him in spotty pictures; his routines are hilarious - the picture is slow until the last scene, but that is worth waiting for. Paul didn't say much in his letter - the lucky stiff is on his way back to the States. Oh, the Navy!! Where was I - the Alumni Bulletin (I'll go into the red, it can't be less legible than the black. Sort of a Stendahl touch.) The new policy of the Bulletin of publishing articles by the faculty on current events is excellent; it gives the magazine an informative and constructive aspect. Specifically, I wanted to comment on the Fay article about Germany; when I read of his article on the Zionist question, I recalled his article for the Bulletin and read it carefully. It does not take long to grasp the trend of Fay's thought: "Present cooperation between Bolshevist Russia and the western capitalist powers may become tenuous or cease altogether." Then Fay goes on to argue that the German people were in the dark about the Nazi-perpetrated atrocities; he asks for military control "but would not interfere with the economic recovery of Germany." He suggests that the Germans replace the machinery and equipment they have destroyed with stuff of their own production after their manufacture is reestablished! He opposes uprooting of troublesome German minorities and the fragmentation of the German state. If that is peace based on reason, I question Professor Fay's rationalism. The Seavey analysis which preceded the Fay article is the best answer to it. Professor Fay has fallen into every snare - the split with Russia theme, the "unenforceable peace terms because of lack of cooperation, the "good but ignorant" German school of thought, the idea that German industry and industrialists are not as guilty as any other factor of the German society and equally dangerous to future peace, the notion that Germans moved back to Germany from countries where they pose insoluble political difficulties because of their continuing affiliation to the German political state would suffer hardships in the reshuffle. We cannot allow any one of these wedges to be driven into the firm basis of peace, enforcement of victory and control of the vanquished, and the reconstruction we will eventually effect. My second comment concerns the same subject - a member of the class of '40 wrote to his parents after seeing the atrocities first hand and the letter was published by the Bulletin; it is a ringing condemnation of all the German people and closes with "the German nation has forfeited all rights to our consideration." A couple of issues later this letter was answered by a member of the class of '96 in the following vein: there are some good Germans and for that reason you cannot condemn them all. And then, it is argued that we are as guilty as were the passive Germans since we allow the prejudice of the South, because almost every nation