

August 13th 1945

Dear Ones,

I haven't taken time out to write today and I have a few seconds now before the movie. Art got the word that he is going home on leave (Temporary Duty for Rest and Recuperation) after 30 months over here; we are all pretty happy for him. He is dragging Don and me off to the show tonight - he wont tell us what theatre we are going to or what picture we are going to see - fine. I guess that Milt Fishman will move in with me after Art leaves; I have no desire to live alone. This morning I went to the dentist; he took care of the wisdom tooth in nothing flat and I was out of his office by 8:30. Today has been one of those days in which I fight off depression - maybe the movie will cheer me up. We are still sweating out the Japanese reply - it seems like ages since Friday night when we first started work on the surrender; all indications are from the broadcasts which summarize opinion at home that our answer was the right response and that although we keep the emperor - a condition which we never denied - we have not compromised the thoroughness or effectiveness of the peace. The mail was good - a big batch from home mailed on the 6th, excellent service, and a letter from Neil Clark who can say that he is on Iwo Jima. I also received assorted magazines. The bad part of the mail was a letter which I sent to Fred League a couple of months ago and which came back marked "Missing" - I hope that Fred turns up; he is a swell fellow and a good friend. One of these days I will comment on the Alumni Bulletin which it seems to me is really doing a bang up job in putting out a good magazine. (Last night I had a wonderful night at the poker table - I broke even!)

I am glad that you enjoyed yourselves in the relaxation of the cottage; I hope that you will go out there often. I wonder who will be selected to replace Hiram Johnson; the odds of course are on a Republican and the choice will be indicative of the stature and position of Earl Warren. Pearson notes that Churchill is mourned by Farley; the latter's article in the Readers Digest would indicate that; Trends, too, seemed a little lost at the prospect of America alone in the leftist world. As for TIME magazine's attitude, I will comment on the August 6th issue in my next letter if I remember to bring the magazine down to the office with me. The Margaret Chase Smith column was not at all bad; is she syndicated or was she just doing a guest column for somebody? There can be no doubt but that an effective totalitarian system gives the impression of efficiency at the price of maximum freedom of expression and activity, but granting that Russia is what she is I don't see why Mrs Smith raises the point of criticism of our methods in relation to Russian methods. Of course my reading is limited, but I have read neither Russian nor American criticism of a serious nature of our gradual evolution of a logical control system for our parts of Germany - in fact all the criticism I have read has urged not an emulation of the Russian method but the quicker evolution of an effective American way. If the Russians have used the propaganda line " that America is a chaotic and helpless state which does not know how to use its power" I have not heard of it. Certainly I agree that there must be a basis of understanding in criticism between Russia and the US - in fact it is one of the points I urge most strongly, though I usually put the emphasis, since I am an American, on our criticism of Russia.

It is now the 14th and I am at the depot; the picture turned out not to be "The Big Sleep" as Art had thought it was - instead a western, "The Kansan" and it was a stinker. We really laid into Art for leading us off on a bad tangent and it ended up with our getting rather silly and acting as hammy as the picture - you know, laughing at the serious moments and the like. Afterward, two-gun Bernie proceeded to recoup a little - I won nine dollars at the poker table. Today is another of those annoying days; I'm disgusted.

I think that the development of the war will lead Congress to be reconvened early and to take action on the critical reconversion-readjustment matters. I certainly hope that post war conscription policy is on the list of must legislation. I don't relish sweating out a long spell in the peacetime Army. Socialism is certainly getting its full share of attention in the columns of the public press; certainly all will agree that the success or failure of the current Labor government will be one of the most critical tests in the history of the governments of men. OK for now All my love, *Sumner*