

May 6th 1945

Dear Ones -

Today is my 365th day overseas. I came down to the office this morning and dropped a note to Howie Baumgarten - there is little work I can do since Thorpe is not in. Last night after I wrote to the 730th we played a little poker and I won a couple of bucks. Nothing definite is in view for today.

Daddy, your introduction to Joyce for Harold Halpert was very clever - I was glad that you did not indulge in that pun which probably would have made even Joyce himself wince that he (Joyce) was an inspiration to Finland in 1939 - after all, didn't he write "Finn Again Wakes?" I am glad that Uncle Louis got a chance to stop in Brooklyn on his trip to Long Island. As for the transcript of the Molotov interview, I must say that Vyaslav didn't give away any state secrets and I still don't know how the Russians pronounce Vodka. Did you write to the NY Times for the booklet described in the clipping I am sending to you? I am listening to the radio and I just had proof that the program of news is coming from the US - after twelve and a half minutes of news on San Francisco the newscast closed with a review of the baseball scores! It jibes pretty well with the fact that Chandler is resigning as a US Senator at this time to become baseball commissioner. Chandler apparently is a reaction to Landis - the smile for the scowl will be a welcome change to the baseball magnates. Chances are that Chandler will rival some of the players for the title of the most colorful figure in baseball. He does not have an easy job - baseball is a big business and the clashes within its ranks are often severe. For all his severness, Landis kept the level of the game at a peak which was an honor to American sports. It remains to be seen whether Chandler will dominate the game or be dominated by it. It will be a happy day for us all when baseball scores become the number one news item again.

The British internal political situation is certainly fascinating to the person who is used to the American scene - perhaps that makes it hard for American commentators to reach entirely valid conclusions. The phenomenon of British politics has always been the ability of the nominally conservative party to take the initiative of reform away from the opposition. Dorothy Thompson is right in showing that the British are conservatives in form and method; they are evolutionists and that this is a constant modifier of their progressive social spirit - with the result that they may be outwardly in support of a party which is not the most progressive. And the point is that British opinion can not be oversimplified in analysis - and I really don't know ~~about~~ enough about it.

I think that the Sulzberger article on Freedom of the Press was well taken - it is hard to define and it is harder to guarantee. But it seems to me that the freedom of the press ties in with every other type of social freedom (as distinct from individual freedom such as religion.) It is as strong as the people make it - a paper is only as influential as the group of readers which it influences and holds. America is beyond the one newspaper stage - any person in any spot can get news coverage of any type; in other words he can read what he wants to read.

I have two more Pearson articles on the subject of Germany rebuilt and the relation of American bankers to the Nazi Machine. It is not a new point but it is certainly something that does not get full press treatment - perhaps in In Fact and in IM the items would appear but not elsewhere. I hope that whatever revelations come from the located Nazi documents get full publicity and the role of the international cartel and production agreement as well as financial interrelationship is explained.

That sort of covers things for this morning - Thorpe is down now, so back to the salt mines.

All my love,

Regards to Doris.