

May 12th 1945

Dear Ones,

Nothing special today - services last night were as usual; we did have a Protestant Chaplain from the hospital address us, but he didn't say anything different or unexpected. Tomorrow of course is Mothers' Day and I certainly wish I could look forward to being with you; instead we are having some sort of a parade and review, which I imagine is in line with the V-E day idea. You know me, parades may be nice to watch and all that, but I guess I am not soldier enough ^{to appreciate} the significance or importance of them - especially on Sundays. Funny, just last night I read Kipling's short story "The Three Musketeers" which tells how three limeys cause the cancellation of a regimental review. No such luck, here, I am afraid. The general reaction to the announcement could not exactly be called enthusiastic. Tonight if I can dig up transportation I will go down and see Hal Stein - his show has the movie "Ministry of Fear" which I want to see. Off hand, as you can see, Sunday looks pretty well shot.

I got a couple of Press Heralds and a Zionist blurb yesterday with a letter from Johnny Muelchi - one of the Reynolds Rangers who is now in China after ten months or so in Burma. I usually send his letters along to Al Laue because they are well written and tell a story always - Mulch is a real screwball personality and a great guy. It seems just right for him to be in CBI - I expect to see him any day in Terry and the Pirates! Most of the talk around here concerns rotation as you might expect; the announcing of the point system for discharge is causing a flurry too - you can see the affect on morale and willingness to work that every change in policy or new announcement makes; every bulletin is read thoroughly and then the fellows sit back and see how they fit into the general picture. It is still academic for me, naturally, but since rotation, discharge, and furlough are the number one topics of conversation everyone gets involved. By the time I get two years under my belt, it is a pretty safe bet that the policy will have changed at least a dozen times. The policy on officers is still pretty hazy anyway.

The Cantril article on the realness of America's "internationalism" was very good - his point is that the real base of the current feeling is self interest in the short run and his message is that we must recognize self-interest in the long run: namely the creation of the conditions of lasting peace. And his answer is education - people must learn the real significance of world trade, of Dumbarton Oaks and Bretton Woods, the interrelationship of our home economy with the economy of the rest of the world and therefor of its affect on world peace. The American people must have the solid foundations of thought and ideas to correctly judge the necessities of peace as it will affect us and must be ready to realize that at first glance there will be requirements which appear to run contrary to our immediate and short-run interest. I think that his article goes to the core of the problem.

I hope that the Currie article on the German financial structure is indication that the Government and specifically the State and Treasury departments are fully aware of the elements of German financial control in the various industries, cartels, and banking concerns which still exist as economic structures in the neutral and even the belligerent nations. It would be very gratifying to see in the social and economic schedule that will be prepared in San Francisco a wholesale indictment of everything with the Nazi economic stamp and a definite plan for the control of German financial and economic structures - control that will seek out the use of dummy holding companies and facade corporations. Unless something is done in this line the danger always exists - this is one thing that is in the Russian mind, yet it is a step which should most logically be taken by the United States and Great Britain.

There was not mail today; from all the literature I have seen it appears clear that the current Zionist split is no mere discussion within the organization - the danger of the ZOA's being formally rent in two seems to be very real. Did I tell you that Judy Lewsen made Major? OK for now - All my love -

Zimmer

Regards to Doris