

Yong
Sunday, Oct 5th

My dear Pals,

Now what do you think has happened to me? - you'd never guess in a thousand years and I'm most afraid to tell you lest I wake up and find it is not so for it is well nigh unbelievable.

By the time you get this I shall probably be in Vienna. On the strength of Morris Rouette's report and the recommendation of another Englishman, London has authorized the recommendation of the French Mission that two or

three Americans about to go home
be sent to Austria first to see
conditions and beginning of work at
first hand and report home with
recommendations as to workers,
supplies, etc.

By a happy coincidence I am
about winding up work to go home
soon anyway and so here goes.

Cable just came yesterday and I
hardly dare think of what's ahead
or I'd be too excited to work at all
and I have a heap to do for a bit.

Vincent Nicholson and probably
Mr. Stephens are the other two and
while the responsibility is heavy and
staggering me a bit it will be so
intensely interesting as to quite

make up and I am well aware
of my own failings in not doing things
I think too big for me until I find
myself forced to, to make good
a bluff, so here goes. It will be
all the more interesting too because
I imagine we three will get an
entirely different slant on the
whole business and will get several
views of the business.

I went to Paris today to
begin the proceedings for papers and
I have to go down anyway Tuesday
on equipment business and if all
goes as we hope we may get off
very soon - a week or ten days.
What route, etc. I haven't an idea
any more about than just this
but yesterday was evidently my

last voyage on the shopping car
Quite a coincidence too that my old
Oregon pal should have taken that round
with me for the first time since he was
promoted - Jay went off for 2 days holiday
and Floyd is going as soon as the strike
lets him off to England for holiday so
took Jay's trip for him. Mary Alice
behaved just her sweetest as she
always did for him and so after
doubt for Jay until the last half
mile when a huge wave blew up and
by a series of ill luck he was two
hours getting in. They found the cable just
arrived so it is my last trip up.

Executive Thursday & Friday
was hugely interesting and everybody
is taking count of how long they will
stay and gathering forces to finish

with a snap instead of the drag we were rather falling into in spots.

Best of all too there is every reason to suppose this will speed up rather than retard my getting home as I must think we will probably be there a week or not over two weeks.

Reorganization of the department went on apace yesterday afternoon as Jim Norton is back and has another job he is much needed for because of his French so he will move headquarters to Varennes and remain only official head for consultation purposes to the Maintenance Dept.

It has been an exciting week throughout. For the first time in many weeks I got no home letter on Monday

never as any other day but quite
without warning in came a box of
choice candy with your writing on it
and it came ~~Thursday~~ ^{Friday} after morning
of executive & then a hard dirty half
day clearing up my big store house
that's been using a dump for all
the pots & pans, & bedding & furniture
& dishes and everything no one knew
what to do with as equipages have
closed down. all last month I've
had it on my mind to sort out
the stuff as it generally arrives
when I am away & is just dumped
but have been too busy to touch it.
Now it must be done and there are
orders in for lots of it so I'll fill
them all tomorrow and sort out

all stuff I'm sure will not be
wanted & send it over to the
liquidation dump at Aubreville.

Then the Paris trip will do up some
of womens equipment and trip to
London on my way home after Vienna
will do the rest of it with Edith Moon's aid.

The shopping car means a change
I was planning for the end of the
month anyway. One trip a week of
a heavy truck now that it is cool
enough to keep the meat and this
trip to be made from Darennes ware-
house and all stuff to be reboked
there & sent out next day on 3
runs.

Oh well these details occupy
my mind a lot but must mean
very little to you and as to Vienna

well please don't tell me I
haven't your full permission to
go with you? you see I'd be back
probably before you know I went.

My correspondence from now on
will probably be in spasms but I
am doing the last lap of the
journey you know and it will be
unpleasant spoken you know.

Wish you both could see it all
with me.

Heaps of love

Bendal