

STATION: LIPHOOK 2 MILES.
TELEGRAMS: PASSFIELD.
TELEPHONE No: PASSFIELD 6.

AL/3398

PASSFIELD CORNER,
LIPHOOK,
HANTS.

28th September 1939.

My dear Ruth,

I was very glad to get your letter, all the more so that I have a consciousness that I did not answer your last most entertaining letter. The simple truth is that I have been in rather a feeble condition, suffering like many other aged persons from bladder trouble, which cannot be cured. Also I have had a lot of foreign visitors of one sort or another, who come and ask me what I think about the present outlook.

Frankly, I do not know what to think. Foreign affairs and military tactics have never been our subject of study. We have concentrated entirely on the internal organisation of different countries, more especially of those Christian capitalist political democracies which we call western civilisation. I am sure that civilisation is on the down grade, and I think it will gradually, or violently, disappear in the course of the next fifty years. As for the aims of this war to destroy Hitlerism and reconstitute the old Poland of the Versailles Treaty, I am certain we shall not accomplish them. But we may create revolution in Germany and incidentally Hitler may be murdered, or thrown out. But marching through Germany in revolution, to reconstitute the old Poland, with half of it transformed under the direction of the USSR into a multiform democracy with a planned production for community consumption, I think will be impossible, and I doubt whether we shall attempt it. Sooner or later there will be a patched up peace, some sort of compromise between the old civilisation and the new. Which will get the best of the bargain remains to be seen. Certainly the USSR has got the best of the bargain with Germany.

Sidney, I am glad to say, is very happy, and considering his breakdown 18 months ago, very well. He reads incessantly. I struggle on, trying to write a book for publication sometime before I die, but I doubt whether I shall succeed in doing it. With my large family connection, and the stream of people who insist on coming to see us, I have not much strength left for really good work.

Always affectionately yours,

(Mrs. Sidney Webb)