

Milton Lodge
Harpenden

Sept 26 '39.

Dear Darwin

Thanks for your note. I wish I could get the fundamental good sense of your remark, that it is impossible to plan a three years war during the first three weeks, into the heads of my Provost and College Committee. They are trying to disperse my staff at once, even threatening that attendance at the Lab. will be regarded as a breach of college regulations. I should be 'permitted' to salve my machines if I locked them up in a cellar.

Now soldiers and sailors spend a lot of time waiting about in readiness for the next thing they are told to do and my unit could fulfil this condition usefully enough calculating fundamental tables of a 'pure' kind. What we need is only, as it were, the permission of some Government Dept. to continue to exist. Salaries, at least for a time, are guaranteed by the College, which will not, however, go to the small expense of fitting my

Turn us onto any sort of mathematical job in which 2.
the answer is a number

building to meet black-out requirements.

Owing to the precipitate idiocy of the decisions I have been mentioning I cannot be sure that we shall not be forcibly dispersed even next week, though I shall do all I can to maintain the Lab. in being and its animals alive.

In case you think I am as mad as I must sound I enclose my latest communication from the Provost.