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Newark, Ohio.
January 15th, 1942.

*Rec'd
Jan. 26 '42*

Dear William:

We feel much relieved at this writing for your letter of Dec. 22nd arrived on the 13th. Your Christmas cable came on the 26th, Sansorigine and of course we thought you were still on the water as it made no mention of safe arrival and we had expected a cable upon your arrival. The cable which you sent from Gibraltar was also sansorigine and we presumed it had been sent from the boat. I doubt however, under existing conditions, if you could have sent a wire from the boat. They also charge a stiff rate on cable messages as the one I sent to you for Christmas cost \$8.62 including the tax, so we can't send many cables at that rate.

We have written to you, directed to Lagos, three letters and you should have them by this time. We also sent a Parcel Post package to you around the middle of December. As I stated before the Post Office would not have accepted it if you had not of been in government service and they knew nothing as to how it might get to you. I hope that it will come through soon as you probably need the shorts. Since your letter came I have called the P.O. and they as yet have no information as to the air mail service to West Africa. In one of my other letters I told you of the service between Miami and Africa, this is probably the same service that you mention. It does seem strange that the Post Office would not yet have any information on this, as this service started on December 6th.

Our Christmas was very nice. Janie arrived home on the eve of December 23rd and returned to New York, via Washington on the 29th. I think that I told you that she had accepted a position with a store in Rutland, Vermont, this store is going to have an interior decorating department. I also believe that I told you that Janie had met a young man with whom she seems to be very much in love. He was coming here to spend Christmas but was transferred to Washington the day he was to leave so it was impossible for him to come. Hence Janie went back and stopped at Washington to see him. She told me in her last letter, a few days ago, that if Norman stayed in Washington permanently she thought they would get married in June. I have tried to tell her not to be in any rush about such a matter as it is quite hard to tell what future events will bring forth. The boy's name is Norman Drake and his home is in Texas. He is a private but is in the intelligence service in Washington and draws pay of a second lieutenant. She has probably written to you by this time and told you all about it. I just hope and pray that everything will turn out alright for her and that she will be most happy. I hope that her affair with this boy is just not the result of her break last summer with Dick.

We had Herman and Betty and Aunt Bertha and Esther and had asked Harold and Lottie and Uncle Cary for Christmas dinner and had a very nice time. You have a present from Mary and Leonard, a very nice book for pictures and you may be able to use it some day. We all had a very nice time and we all missed you very much and wondered where you might be.

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Your letter was mailed from Washington and was not censored. Some one must have carried it through. If you have a chance send me some of the stamps of Nigeria and I will give them to Ray Loring. Mr. Jester was certainly nice to you to have you invited to all of the parties. It must have been a fine chance to get acquainted.

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We hope that you will be able to write and tell us all about London and your trip to Africa and then all about Lagos, what type of people you have and what the country produces and what your duties are and all about the office and your living quarters for we are all so anxious to know all of the news and about your experiences.

I just talked with Mrs. Francis and asked about Evertt (Bud), they had a cable from him on Christmas dated at Cairo, Egypt. He has been working between Accra and Khartoum, Egypt and it takes them five days to make a round trip. She has had only two letters from him, the last in November and she is anxious that if you have a chance to see him or hear from him to have him try to write oftener. The Pam American Air ways sent her word about the Clipper service and told her to address letters to him via clipper to Lagos and other mail and P.P. to Accra.

The war situation still looks very serious and there is much to be done before we gain a victory. The draft is taking many of the boys and more are being called all of the time.

We are having a hard time getting material and I do not know what we are going to do if it continues. We have a ban on tires and also automobiles and we will be up against serious difficulties to run our trucks for delivery. I believe this will all change when they know just where we are going and how much material we really have in the country. It would seem that you would have no chance to purchase a machine at this time, although it might be worked through the government. You will have to work fast if you get it.

Business is just fair in Newark, the Pharis company do not have any defense work at present and have laid off five hundred and the Newark Stove is trying to get started on defense work, when this comes about it will take up some of the slack. Owens Corning are going along in good shape and have around two thousand working.

Sarah is having quite a time with the three languages and it looks as though she might have to teach next year if the war is still in progress and which it looks as though it would be. We have been having some very cold winter weather, last week we had it down to ten below zero but it is not so bad this week.

We are in the midst of the annual invoice and have our hands full, especially of dirt. I had a letter from Grandpa since Christmas and he wanted to know how you were ect. He is very well considering his age, and writes a good letter.

The boys at the store all wish to be remembered to you and are always glad to know how you are getting along and to have any news. I have that you have lost your cold and that you will not be bothered in the warm climate. I have been very good so far this winter but there is still plenty of time left for my usual cold.

We shall try to write to you every two weeks if only a few lines to let you know that we are still here. Ninnie is getting along very well, write to them when you can.

Love and best wishes from all of us, *Daddy*