

IN REPLY REFER TO

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

AMERICAN CONSULATE  
Accra, Gold Coast  
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My darling,

I feel very guilty about having missed my regular Sunday letter this week, especially after having received three gorgeous letters from you, dated July 23, 28, and 31. Last Sunday I answered a letter from Janie in the morning but reserved the entire afternoon for you. However, we were late having lunch, and then along came a telegram, and all in all, I didn't get it finished until about 6:30 in the evening. By that time it was getting dark and my eyes were so tired from the cipher work that I was unable to start anything, especially since the lights here are virtually impossible to work by after dark. Every day I expect to have time around 5:30. and practically every day I am disappointed. It is now nearly six, but I hope to get a fair amount done by dark.

I have just been looking, or rather gazing, again at those lovely photos you sent over with Bud Francis. (His name is Everett; at home we called him "Bud", and here they call him "Cap") I hope no one will ever say that I love you only for your looks, because that isn't true. But I must say in all fairness that you are certainly one of the most beautiful creatures I have ever seen. There isn't a bad line in your whole body - not one unsightly bulge or anything. In other words, you bulge only in the right places. It is mighty hard to sit and look at your pictures and know that you could be mine if only it weren't for the Atlantic Ocean, the State Department and Pan American Airways (or anyway, the Army's priority system.) But what I really miss most is your companionship. I don't know how many times a day I wish that you were here so that I could discuss things with you. Some men and some women are doubtless sufficient unto themselves, and feel no need for the comfort that sharing problems with another person brings, but I am certainly not one of them. To be frank, I am terribly lonely without you, and will keep on being that way. As you have often pointed out, one can be alone in the midst of a crowd of friends: I always have people to talk to - sometimes I wish I didn't; but since they're not, you, it makes no difference. In other words, I love you most extremely, and I won't be happy until we are united at last.

*These send some more stamps.*

August 20th.

Well, you see how far I got last night. Andy and I had to

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go out to the airport to meet a visiting fireman, and to make matters worse, he didn't show up, apparently having been off-loaded at Fish Lake.\* He will therefore probably arrive today, and that will shoot tonight as a chance to be alline with you for a short time. This is being written on office time, and probably won't go on for very long.

*\*I have now learned that he did come in last night altho PAA Traffic checked not once but many times. Such efficiency!*

I was glad to hear that the Passport Agent was friendly and helpful.. Of course you realize that the Department of State always picks very superior types as its representatives! Perhaps by the time you receive this you will have had a reply from Ma Shipley. I hardly know what to advise about how you should travel if Ma comes through. The missionary ladies all came by ship, but I do not want you to try that even though space would probably be available. You are much too valuable to me to take any chances with the submarine menace what it is now. I would never forgive myself if I let you come by sea and something happened. So, at least for the present, we had better concentrate on air transport.

\* I have now learned that he did come in last night altho PAA Traffic checked not once but many times. Such efficiency!

There, the outlook isn't very encouraging at the moment. Last night I was talking with an Army Colonel who mentioned incidentally that he had had to wait for several weeks at Natal for space on the Clipper. I think a smart move would be for you to talk to incoming passengers and find out what the situation at Natal is - assuming that you could get that far. That is the last barrier to surmount, because once on this side, you would be able to get down to Accra or Lagos ~~xxx~~ without great delay. I will also talk to people who have just come over and see what they say. One Army officer told me he had been in Natal about August 1st and that there weren't many people being held up there as far as he knew. Maybe Capt. Bledsoe would smuggle you on board a bomber if you could get to Brazil. If you think the chances are good enough to be worth trying, let me know and I will have the bank send you \$1000 or so. How much do you think you will need? I want to warn you that according to all reports, Natal is an awful hole, and it would probably be very tough to be stuck there for any length of time. Anyway, we will consider the situation when Ma Shipley has given us the green light, because there isn't much use making any plans in advance of that.

Darling, I'm terribly in love with you. You are a completely new experience to me. I can truthfully say that, ever since we first discovered our love in Lisbon, I have never had a single moment's doubt. I know that I love you and that you are my ideal woman and that we should be married just as soon as humanly possible. My life from that moment on has been lived wholly in the shadow of you, only in the thought of our reunion. In other words, I'm all yours, and you can do what you want with me so long as you don't abandon me.

I'm very glad to hear that your Mamma was able to come

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down to visit you. I love her first because she is your Mamma but secondly also because she is such a good sport. Imagine her taking up bicycle riding again after not having ~~ridden~~ ridden for so many years. I would almost be afraid to try it myself, more from the fear of looking ridiculous than anything else. I hope she will stay with you a long time and not try to urge you to fall in love with some one else. It ~~does~~ make me happy to know you are free. Somehow it seems to remove one obstacle, or rather, one psychological restraint to our love. It never did seem quite right for me to love you while you ~~were~~ married, although of course I soon got used to the idea. Anyway, for some strange reason, I feel better about it now.

As I mentioned before, I got a letter from Janie the other day - the first one written since February. She told me a lot about her activities that I had never heard before, such as her working for the Sperry Gyroscope Co. for a while in New York. She has received the \$50 I sent her for a wedding present. I think it is lovely of you to want to send her a present, but please don't spend very much money on it, ~~as~~ for two reasons: first, your pocketbook; and second, so they won't feel obligated to spend much on us when we get married. Janie has said that she would use all or part of the fifty dollars to buy records with. It seems Norman is very fond of good recorded music - a trait which I approve of and share. I hope it will be possible for us to collect some good records, although it's a pretty risky thing to do during the war. I have no phonograph or record player right now, but it will be something for us to look forward to. I think it would be a perfect way to spend an evening: at home, with some good music and a good record changer, and just you and me. Darling, we will have a very good life when we are together, I am so sure of it that I would like to start today. Getting back to Janie, I have some more West African bowls and cigarette boxes which I will send you at the first opportunity and ask you to send them on to Janie and Norman. Her address is: Mrs. Norman Drake, 621 N. Dinwiddie Road, Arlington, Va. At the time she wrote (July 9) she was looking for another place to live as they couldn't cook there, so she may very probably have moved. However, I am sure the mail will be forwarded, if you want to write to her. I guess she has forgotten about getting a ring fixed up for you. I will remind her in my next letter.

I was just looking over your letter of July 28th. You mention something about going by ship ~~to~~ from Brazil and from there by ship to Africa. Ships don't run from Brazil to Africa, <sup>as a rule</sup> so don't try that. There are plenty of ships leaving New York direct for Freetown, Marshall, (Liberia), Takoradi or Lagos - from two to six a month at least, so don't worry about that. But, as I said before, I don't think you had better come by ship until the sub menace is lessened..... I hope you will be philosophical often, especially about our future life. It somehow made me feel very close to you, as if our life together were really about to begin. Patience comes very hard these days, when I love you and want you so terribly much. Come soon, dearest love.

