

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO. 39



AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Lagos, Nigeria; October 22, 1942

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Dearest darling,

Your letter of October 6th arrived here on the 20th, thus proving that the PAA mail room remains faithful to Faithful Philinda. I hope they will keep up the good work. Incidentally, I, too, am still faithful to Faithful Philinda in thought as well as in deed. I claim no merit for this, since a person who couldn't be faithful to you would be a creature utterly without faith or honor; also, there has been no opportunity to do otherwise. I am still clinging to our dream, in spite of the fact that it looks as if it might come true reasonably soon.

I hope you have encountered no snags in making the arrangements. I think I answered all your questions in my last letter, covering such points as travel by PAA Clipper from Bolama to Fish Lake, and by PAA-Africa from Fish Lake to Lagos, unless there happens to be a Clipper coming this way. I was a little surprised that the Bolama-Lagos stretch apparently wasn't very clear to you, since I indicated that you would travel by PAA from Bolama in the first letter on this ~~subject~~ route (No. 34). I have not had any information to lead me to believe that you would have difficulty in getting Clipper accommodations on that stretch, although I suppose it might be wise to check up with the Atlantic Division headquarters at La Guardia Field. Also, since you will probably have to change boats in Lisbon, you will be able to inquire from the lads there whether there is any possibility of flying from Lisbon straight through to Fish Lake, although I rather doubt whether it would be possible without priority. Don't forget to keep me informed of your progress, even if cables do cost money. I hope we will be so close together all the rest of our lives that we will never have to send expensive cables again, so we will allow ourselves the luxury this time.

It should be fun for you to stop over in Lisbon for a short time and see some of our old friends again. I am sure Nell Russell will be glad to see you, and Mamie and the others too. I have just received a letter from Casey in reply to one I wrote him asking about shipping from Lisbon to the U.S. and Africa. He seemed to think it quite possible to get from Lisbon to Bolama by Portuguese vessel, although he said there was no fixed schedule. He added that everything was quiet and peaceful in Lisbon, and that he was leaving on the next Clipper for the U.S., so he will be gone before you arrive, unless something should happen to disrupt his plans. He also said that Sofia Keanney had been transferred to Tangier in December, and that he had seen her there once when on a courier trip. In spite of this encouraging information, it might

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A letter to Mr. Fyfe, the Despatch Agent, is going out in this mail. [See 1942-10-23 L-208 WLK to Howard Fyfe] He will arrange for the shipment of your baggage, which should all be in my name, as a government shipment, thus avoiding lots of trouble.

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not be a bad idea to have the agents of the Portuguese lines in New York check with Lisbon on this point. However, I have no doubt about it myself. I am just worried for fear Jessie might have given me too encouraging info about getting out of Bolama by air. I am looking for someone who has actually been there to enquire, and also to find out about the living quarters. However, as you are not afraid of a little hardship on the way, I think you will make out all right.

Our chief steward, Thompson, asked me last night to ask you if you could bring a little phonograph for him. If you can find an old, crank-up model for not over \$10 and can get it in with the rest of your baggage, it would be nice to give him as a present. However, I did not promise him anything, and I don't want you to go to any great amount of trouble about it. Some cheap neckties, as I mentioned before, will make him very happy indeed, and a \$1.00 fountain pen would also be a very nice present for him. He frequently asks me when you are coming.

I went to Mr. Shantz's for dinner last night. The principal other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Jones, late third secretary at Cairo. They are on their way home with their 3 month old baby, Virginia. They would have been one of the people you would probably have had to assist at Miami if you had stayed on in your old job. I saw your name listed in "New Horizons" in connection with that job the other day. We had a very good time indeed, with a lot of Service gossip. As far as I was concerned, the high-point of the dinner was the 1879 Cognac which the boss broke out for the occasion. It was simply marvelous. Mr. Shantz told a lot of his interesting experiences, and he has had a lot of them in the last 20 years all over the world. He is an excellent raconteur, though not of the professional variety. Although his manner of talking is very plain and homey, he gets the story off perfectly, neither too long or too short, and with the proper building up to the point. He has certainly had a very interesting career.

Well, darling, we have practically arrived at our anniversary. It is almost exactly a year since the fateful morning of October 25th when the lightning flashed and revealed to us both a new world, a kinder, better, cheerier world than we had previously known existed. Of course, we don't really know that it does exist, since it is still a dream world particular to us two. By this time next year, we should know whether we are going to be able to make it come true. I for one have no doubts. I suppose we will have our sorrows and our troubles and disappointments, even disagreements, but altogether it will be a better life for us both. Our love has passed through the purging fire of separations and of difficulties, and it is still as strong and robust as ever. Once we begin to create new memories for ourselves, we will be weaving the fabric of our new life, our life together, and it is going to be a wonderful life.

Goodbye for now, angel. Best wishes to all your four parents.

Yours William