

L-14

Lagos, Nigeria; October 23, 1942

Dear Folks:

Just a note to let you know that I am out of the hospital and perfectly all right again. The doctor never did find out what the trouble was, but as the fever died away and the headaches stopped, there was no longer any reason for me to remain under treatment. I am still inclined to think that it was just a rather bad case of flu. Colds and such things take a different form here in the Tropics than they do at home. You have them, but they are less likely to be marked by running noses and coughs than by aches and pains in various parts of the body. I feel fine now - better than I had for some time before going to the hospital, and I trust there will be no more trouble until I get the inevitable dose of malaria.

There have been no other new developments during the last week. I have had another letter from Philinda, but the information in it was of course older than that in the cable which I mentioned in my previous letter. I still hope that she will be able to get away near the end of November, and I am making arrangements with the appropriate people to have her baggage forwarded by ship, for since she will come part of the way by air, she cannot take much with her.

I am enclosing a negative of a photograph of me standing on the steps in front of the Consulate taken by one of the fellows in the office. As the prints made here are usually pretty bad, I thought it would be better to send you the negative, and you can have as many prints made as you wish. I thought perhaps some of our relatives would like to have a recent snap. I am also enclosing the Boy Scout photographs for Herman which were given me way last Spring by the Deputy Scout Commissioner of Nigeria. I thought he might find them interesting and perhaps be able to use them in his work. The Scouts here, as in the U.S., have been collecting scrap rubber for the war effort. Scrap rubber is about the only kind of scrap which can be collected here profitably. They are thinking of constructing a retreading plant here, principally for Army use. As you may know, there is a fair amount of rubber grown in this country - enough to do a considerable amount of retreading if the machinery were available. They have had a representative in Washington for some months trying to arrange for the purchase and shipment of this equipment, but I have not heard exactly how he came out. Othertypes of scrap are too heavy to be worth while transporting to the U.S. or Great Britain, so they do not bother much with them.

No more time now. Much love to you all.