



AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Dear Mrs. Middleton,

I know you must be terribly, terribly relieved to know that Philinda has arrived safely and that we are happily married. I was worried, too, and it was a big day in my life when news came that her ship was outside the harbor and that it would be coming in immediately. Perhaps she has told you how I came steaming down the harbor on the Barber Line tug, standing up on the bow to catch the first glimpse of my beloved, and how she came on deck, took one look at me and fled to her cabin. She was sufficiently recovered from the shock by the time I came on board to give me a very warm welcome, which was heartily reciprocated, I can assure you.

I think it is grand of you to have put your farm in Philinda's name. You are quite right in thinking that land is the most stable thing in the world. It will doubtless be the last thing to go when everything else has crashed, and it is a comforting thought to know that, in such a catastrophe, we have some place to go. As a matter of fact, my father owns a piece of land in Coshocton County, Ohio, where some of my happiest childhood days were spent. Unfortunately, the ground is rather barren, and is good only for grazing and fruit trees. We have several acres of apples and a small number of grapevines; the gasoline rationing has made it rather difficult for Dad to take any care of it, however, as it is located about 24 miles from Newark, thus entailing a round trip of 48 miles each time. I am very fond of the place; it has a real old-fashioned farm house on it which was originally a log cabin. The logs are still inside the now-plastered walls of the present structure. The scenery is picturesque - probably much more so than anything you would have been used to in Northern Ohio: it is quite hilly. I hope I won't have to try to make a living from farming, though; I don't think I would be very good at it.

I am looking forward very much indeed to meeting you in person when we come home. I will be due for a transfer and home leave in December, but knowing the way things go, I doubt very much whether we make it before Spring. It takes a very long time for replacements to arrive, and besides, I do not think Philinda wants to come home in the winter, which she hates so much. I think it would be much nicer if we could travel around in better weather to visit all our newly-acquired relatives. That will be a grand time for me, for I haven't been home since February, 1940. In the meantime, I am expecting to keep in touch with you by mail, either directly or through Philinda. Please give my very warmest good wishes to Mr. Middleton.

With love,
Bill