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AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
Lagos, Nigeria; April 28, 1943

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Dear Folks:

Recd 6/4-43

So little had happened here that I hardly know what to write to you about. Philinda has not been feeling very well, so we have cancelled all our social dates until she gets better. I do not think it is anything to worry about; many people have been having what appears to be the same thing, but it takes about ten days to get over.. Consequently, we have been staying home and reading in the evening, and I have caught up with most of the magazines I was behind with and have even managed to read a book, "Conditions of Peace" by E.H. Carr. It is an excellent book, outlining the author's ideas regarding the coming peace settlement. His views agree in general with mine, only he backs his up with better arguments. Right now I am reading "Reveille in Washington", a book of conditions in the capital during the Civil War. I am only at the beginning, but so far it has been very interesting indeed.

In the office things move slowly on. Mr. Shantz has not yet returned from his trip, although we expected him back last week. Now, it looks as if he wouldn't be back until the end of this week at the soonest. It will be very interesting to see him again and learn what he has picked up on his trip. By the time in gets to Washington, he will have covered a large part of the West African Coast line.

Today we have been working hard trying to get rid of an American seaman who deserted from his ship about a month ago and has been lodged in the local jail waiting for some way to get him out of town. He is a real bad character, and no body wants to have him. Unfortunately, there is little we can do about forcing him on an unwilling captain. Today, however, we finally persuaded a captain to sign him on at the conventional 1/2 a month, which means that the wages will be determined by the shipping commissioner at the first American port. Although I had carefully explained this to the seaman a few weeks ago, when we thought we were going to get him on another vessel, when he finally arrived at the Consulate he refused in an insolent manner to sign on on those terms. The captain, immediately sizing him up for the kind of guy he is, refused to have anything further to do with him, and now he is back in jail. Apparently it is going to be quite a job to get rid of him. Masters complain now that it is practically impossible to enforce any kind of discipline on board ship. Strange as it may seem, sailors themselves are often the worst offenders in matters of safety at sea. This captain, for instance, has a man who insists on having his port hole open when there is a light on, and lights cigarettes while on deck. The ensign of the naval gun crew has threatened to put him in irons several times, but so far nothing has been done. The captain hopes to turn him over to the military authorities at the first port they reach which is in a zone of operations. Most of the merchant seamen are good, but a small minority gives them a bad name.

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I have not had any letters from home since the ones you wrote in February, immediately after the receipt of the telegram announcing our wedding. Philinda also has not heard, and we think that, due to weight limitations or something, the Department is not forwarding our mail as it ought to. Last week, Major Deutsch, who is in charge of all the Army post offices in the area under the jurisdiction of the Accra headquarters, came through here and said that we could send and receive mail by Army Post Office if we wished. I have decided that it would be better for you to send mail this way in the future, although I will continue to send my mail through the pouch as a rule, since it is easier and since I note from the mail receipts we get back that our pouches move to Washington in ten days or less, usually. Mail should be addressed to me,

William L. Krieg
American Vice Consul
A.P.O. 606
care of the Postmaster, Miami, Fla.

6¢ postage only is required. ^{per source} No mention of Lagos should appear on the envelope; I do not know whether they would cut out references to it in your letters - I doubt it, but we can learn by experience. I will let you know how it works out.

After a very long and lovely letter which cost \$1.00 to send, I have heard nothing from Janie, and I would appreciate any news of her you can give me. I wrote and sent her copies of the letters I send to you as a rule, but when I started this one I forgot to put in the extra carbon, so she will not get this.

I have a favor to ask of Daddy. I want him to buy me a ready-tied black tie for wear with a tuxedo. I lost mine somewhere along the line, and after several attempts to tie my own, I have decided that it isn't worth the trouble. I think the best thing to do after you have it would be to send it to Perry N. Jester, Department of State, Washington, and ask him if he will forward it to me by the fastest pouch available. As for the style of the tie, I will leave it up to you; you know my tastes are conservative, and the taste of the local Britishers is even more so.

We have another Vice Consul, William Bruns, coming here. When he arrives, I am planning to take some leave up-country. What we will both find to do I don't know, as there really isn't enough work for both of us.

I forgot to say in my last letter how much I appreciate having Daddy's picture. I have put it on top of my dresser, and I find it gives me a nice, homey feeling to be able to look at his familiar features. Mr. White seems to have been able to catch that kind expression which is typical. I'm awfully glad to have it.

I fear this is all for now, as I want to go and see how Philinda is getting along. I am enclosing a copy of a genuine letter which was received by the representative of the local British steamship line. We all think it is the funniest thing we have seen for ages. Love and best wishes to all.

William L. Krieg