

IN REPLY REFER TO
FILE NO. 10



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

Lagos, Nigeria; July 31, 1943

Dear Folks,

Just a short note hastily written as the pouch is closing to let you know that we are back from our vacation in Jos and once more have our noses to the grindstone. Philinda has written a grand description of our trip, and I am enclosing it for your interest. She writes so much better than I do that it is a great temptation to let her do the heavy work.

Our trip was a great success, marred only by the cold, damp weather they are having up-country and the fact that Philinda caught cold. The monopoly game which she mentions is one which I took from home in 1940, and it was certainly worth twice whatever you paid for it. I don't know what we would have done without it. Those of our fellow passengers who were invited to ~~play~~ with us seemed to enjoy it very much, and it saved us all from a slow death by boredom, especially on the trip up, which, as Philinda tells, took the better part of four days. Specifically, we left here at noon on Monday and arrived at Bukuru, near Jos, at 3:30 Thursday afternoon. We were about 30 hours late. The trip back was made on schedule, and took only two days. The old Nigerian railway isn't very fast, but people who know tell me they are doing a splendid job moving war materials.

We find a fair amount of work waiting for us in the office. Anita Price, who has been working with us since 1941, is leaving us to accept a job as the Governor's private secretary. She says the main reason is to help her husband, who is in the Nigerian police and also because we really don't have enough work to keep her busy all the time. I think she will be very busy indeed at Government House, and it will release a man for work in the bush. We hate terribly to see her go, and we will miss her, as she knows everybody in town, and you only have to ask her who to get in touch with about a certain problem and she usually knows just who to call. Besides that, she is a gay, attractive person who brings light and pleasantness to the office. We will not try to replace her, but I think Andy Lynch will try again to get his wife out for that purpose. He says he doesn't want his wife to work in this office, but if he could get her out I have no doubt he would overlook that point.

We haven't had any letters from you-all since the one written in the middle of May. I hope they have not been held up by the censor or something. Don't forget to send them to A.P.O. 606-A; that is definitely faster. Meantime, we will assume that letters are on the way and will arrive at any minute. I hope very much that you haven't been sick. With love to all,

William