

Washington, D.C.  
March 27, 1944

4-38  
P173

Dear Folks,

I am taking the rare opportunity of using a typewriter to let you know, as well as I can, what is going on. In the first place, Philinda has had a definite relapse, and this morning I put her on the train to send her back to New York. I do not know whether it is a result of having broken off the treatments too soon, or whether it means that they haven't gotten to the bottom of her trouble. It is very distressing indeed to have this happen just when we had everything timed out to the day, almost, and I am afraid it will prevent her being much help to me in preparing for our new post. However, if she is fully recovered and able to go at all I will be very grateful. I cannot take the risk of taking her there and then having her have another break down. I don't know how easy transportation is to get, but I know it would be hard on the pocketbook.


When I see from the post report all the things I am supposed to take with me, I begin to think there won't be much left in the old pocketbook by the time we arrive. Among the things listed as essentials are cars, refrigerators, stoves, and a complete set of furniture. I hope to get off a letter to the Consul today or tomorrow, asking whether the man I am to replace is living in a furnished apartment. If he is, that would be a big help, as we could move in when he moves out. The refrigerators are no expense, since I can't get one. I will have to buy a car, though, and the Department will only help me buy a new one if I am unable to get a second-hand one for a reasonable price. This is a penalty for having sold my car in Lagos. However, even if I pay \$1500 I will still be ahead on the deal.. I wish you would look around in Newark and see if there are any half-way decent cars offering at a half decent price.

I really am at a loss to know what to do. I want to be with Philinda, and there are a lot of things I need to do in New York, but 18 days of my 30 are over, and I can't waste any of them. As long as I am here, it doesn't count against my leave. I will stay at least until Friday, then go to New York. There I will find out whether Philinda can come with me to Ohio; if she can, fine; if not, I'll have to come alone, much to my regret.


I am only moderately pleased with Caracas. I am going to be in the Consulate, not the Embassy, and that will mean mostly routine work. I wish I could go somewhere where I could use my past experience better, and somewhere nearer the war. If it should happen that Philinda is unable to accompany me, I will suggest a reassignment, but ~~which~~ if she can go, I will be happy to take whatever offers.



[Transcription next page]



GENERAL MANAGER  
C.C. SCHIFFELER



The  
**HOTEL RALEIGH**  
ON FAMOUS PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AT 12<sup>TH</sup> ST.  
Washington, D.C.

PL-38  
P213  
March 25 - AM.

Just a brief continuation before I go to the Department.

Rubida arrived safely in New York and I talked to her on the plane last night. I think she fears she will not be able to go abroad although she didn't say so in so many words. She just said, "I want to be with you as much as possible" with a trembling voice. I know she greatly fears a renewed attack, and since her trouble is mostly nervous rather than physical, I will be hard to know what is best to do. You can guess that I am in a dither myself. I wrote a long letter to her doctor yesterday urging him to try again to get to the bottom of the matter. These things are so intangible you never know for sure if you are on the right track.

I will try to write you notes from time to time, and I will of course let you know when I am coming home. The selective service people confirmed yesterday that it will take several weeks to get permission for me to leave the country, so after my leave is over I will presumably have to stay some time in Washington. If Rubida can't come to Ohio, perhaps <sup>you</sup> we can come here, so we first

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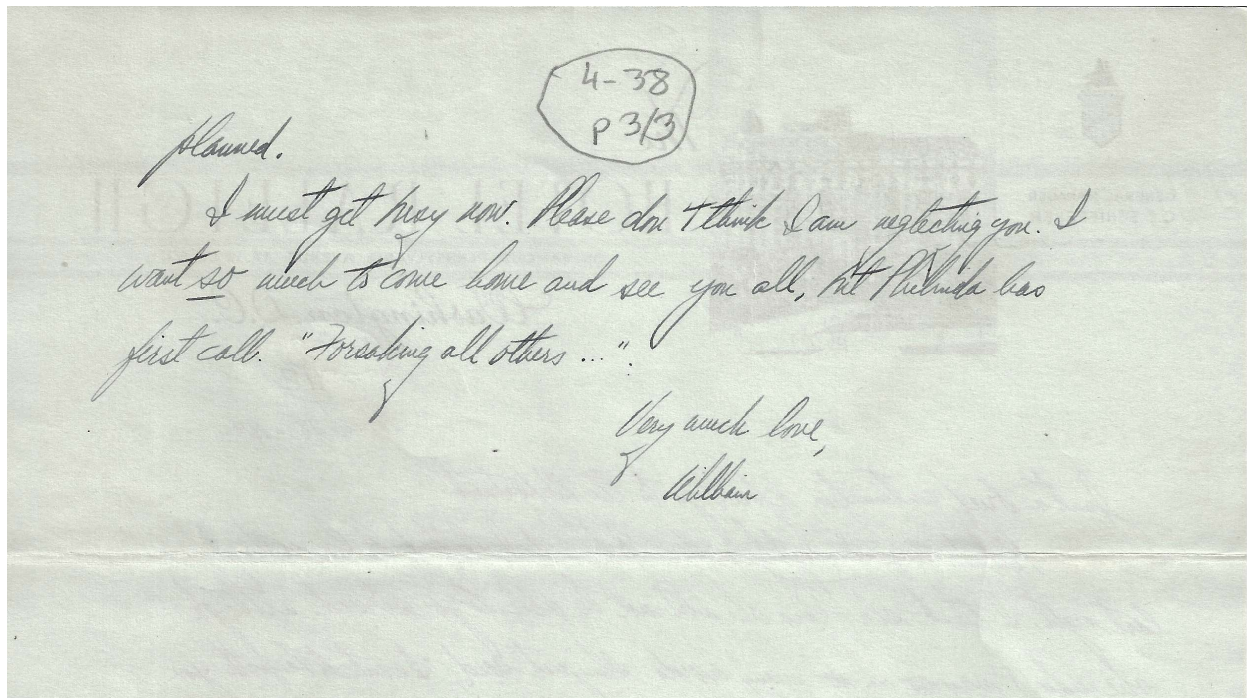


March 28 – AM

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planned.

I must get busy now. Please don't think I am neglecting you. I want so much to come home and see you all, but Philinda has first call. "Forsaking all others..."

Very much love,

William

