

August 11th 1941.

Dear William:

Your good letter of the 29th July, written from Lisbon arrived on Saturday Aug. 9th, making the best time of any for a long time.

We were all very much interested in your trip from Rome to Lisbon and your experiences on the way. It was fine that you had such a nice place to stay at San Remo. We were afraid that you might not have it so pleasant for it is hard to tell what the Italians might do. From your pouch letter it would seem that they are not too much opposed to the English and Americans.

As soon as we received your cable that you were being sent to Dakar, West Africa, I wrote you a letter telling you all of the news that I could think of, Sarah also wrote to you. I doubt if you will get to Dakar judging by the latest news. It looks as though Vichy is going to let Germany have bases there and if this happens I would imagine not U.S. will sever relations with France. In that case you still may have a chance to get home.

Well, I am rather puzzled to know where to start with this letter, as I do not remember all in the last one. We have been having very hot weather this summer and it has been hard on all of us. Our garden has suffered quite a bit and it has really been too hot to carry the needed water for it. We have been staying at the Hanover place at nights, but we can't get there until around six o'clock and it does not leave a lot of time. The yard is so large and it is quite a chore to mow it and the garden there is just a little too large to take care of properly. Then the place at Coshocton needs attention. I believe that told you that we have about 800 glads at Coshocton and we have cut around thirty dozen so far. They are not as nice as usual and that is partly due to the fact that we could or did not carry enough water for them. The grasshoppers are very bad this year and are eating the buds.

Several weeks ago we had the Martha Mitchell, the Doctor, Clarence and Mary Jones and Mr. Ned Wright for supper. Mrs. Wright is still in the hospital but they want to try to get her home soon. We also had the Wonders down for Sunday dinner before they went on their vacation.

Betty and Herman and family are on a trip through the Black Hills and expect to be gone about a month. They left last Monday.

Several weeks ago, after Melody finished her summer school, Matha Mitchell, with Mrs. Mitchell took Sarah and Betty to Washington and stopped to see John Mitchell and the Shinn boy at Chambersburg, Pa. The boys are working at a Girls Camp. They had a very delightful trip and came over the new Turnpike on the road back.

We are having the front room, upstairs papered and painted, it was last done in 1925 and was in very bad shape as you will remember, also having Janies room and the back hall done.

Sarah is going with me to the Grand American and we leave on this coming Friday and will come back on the 24th. We expect a large attendance this year. Bob Hughes will not be with me as he cannot get the time from the Army. He was home over the 4th

of July and loos very well and says that he likes his work very much. He does the food buying for the camp and his part of the purchases run over a half million a month.

Sarah was talking with John Farrar (Vera Jackson's husband) and he has been in Dakar and he liked it very much. He said it was a very nice city and the climate was not too bad. Aunt Bertha was in the store and told me that one of the Phillips' had been at Free Town, Africa and they liked it. I read a very interesting article in the National Geographic about Dakar and the country inland from there. Peanuts seem to be the main export crop and the article stated that over a billion pounds were exported every year. I would imagine it will not be half bad and that you will like it much better than Spain.

We had a letter from Janie and she, like ourselves were much disappointed that you did not get to come home. Janie likes her job better than she did. I wrote her the day your cable arrived and told her of your address in Dakar. Believe that you will have several letter when and if you get there.

Had a letter from Grandpa about a month ago and they are getting along very well. Believe I told you that Leonard was working as a die maker, his old trade.

The Kroger Grocery company bought the buildings on the east side of S. Second street from the Miller meat market to the alley and are erecting a new building which they expect to have completed by Sept. 15th. We will miss them on our side of the square for they brought in a lot of people. Hope that a good business will take the room they are leaving.

The boys are vacationing and it makes a little more for the rest of us. I have started and stopped on this quite a few times so if it does not make sense you will know why. Business has slowed down considerably and we were 14% short of last July, believe the hot weather has had something to do with it.

We are all as well as usual but I feel tired from the continual working in the garden in the evenings. While I think of it I must tell you that Sarah is going to teach school this next year. The Passman boy went to the army and they called her to take it this next year. They are putting in Spanish this year and she will have that along with the French and German. She is working on the Spanish now in order to be one jump ahead of the class.

Well, you are sure having a varied experience and I wish that I could travel along with you to see the sights it should be of great value to you later in life.

God bless you and keep you safe and bring you back home to us. Wire when you know when and where you are going, so that we will be posted. With all our love and very best wishes, I am,

Yours,

*Staddy.*

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