

3

L-36

P1

Lagos, Nigeria
February 3, 1942

Dear Folks:

I certainly have a lot to thank you for right now. Your fine Christmas package arrived yesterday in absolutely first-class condition, and I want to thank you both very much indeed for all the nice things you put in it and the attractive way in which they were wrapped. It seemed very funny, though, last night, standing in my bed room with my steward boy peering over my shoulder, opening Christmas presents while drenched with perspiration. The fruit cake is delicious, and was welcomed not only by me, but also by the other European members of the staff. We have orange juice every morning at 10:30, and I decided to have slices of the cake served at the same time. Everybody agreed with me that it was excellent, and Mrs. Price asked to be allowed to put a postscript in the next letter to thank you personally. Of course, I didn't take the offer seriously, but it was a nice gesture.

The other articles, and especially the shorts, were most welcome. You may remember that before I left the last time, I wanted to buy some shorts from the Gluett, Peabody Co. in New York, but for some reason which I forget now, I didn't do so and went abroad with a totally inadequate supply. Before yours arrived, I was down to two pairs, and both of them were getting decidedly holey. That is especially bad in this climate, where it is advisable to change clothes completely at least once a day. My washing is done twice a week, and while that makes my present small supply stretch out enough, it also means that they will soon be worn out. I am ordering some more shirts from Gluett, Peabody, but I don't know whether they will chose to fill it. They have not always been very accommodating in the past. The arrival of this shipment will enable you to cut down on the things I asked you for in the last letter. The underwear is set, and the talcum powder and shaving cream can be cut down by the amount you sent. Incidentally, the belt is beautiful and is just the type usually worn here. I will find it very useful. I think the Post Office was unduly cautious in accepting the parcel. Everybody here receives parcels from the U.S., although I would have had to pay duty if it had arrived after I had been here six months. It is also permitted to send things from here to the U.S., although an export license has to be obtained first. This offers no great difficulty. Probably the reason is that there is little to be shipped which amounts to anything.

L-36
P2

Daddy's letters of December 18th and January 15th both arrived here January 26th - one of those vagaries of mail service which one has to expect in these times. Certainly, when the war is over and our attention is once more directed to useful pursuits, all the world will be closely linked by air mail services which will make regular correspondence a pleasure. Now, whenever we can get letters through, we do. I prefer to have the letters carried over personally because one can never be sure which planes are going to carry mail. Many of them do not. Besides, think of the postage I save! Every letter from here costs 70¢, and is likely to be delayed considerably by the censors. By the way, I wish you would send the stamps I mentioned in my last letter by air mail instead of with the regular package, as I have only four left at the present time. Speaking of censorship, I am very annoyed about the cable I sent you when I first arrived. ^{read,} "Arrived safely Merry Christmas Love to all". Apparently, they cut out the first two words. I wish you would send me the exact wording of the telegram you actually received, as I may protest to the censor for not informing me of the deletion. Then too, there is the question of payment. If I paid for those words, I expect them either to go or to be reimbursed.

I am very glad to hear that Janie has got a job in Vermont, and I only hope those hard-fisted Yankees will pay her enough to live on. I had not heard about the job from Janie, as her last letter to me was written November 21st and was sent by ordinary mail. Consequently it didn't arrive until January 10th. By this time, she should have the answer I wrote, and I suppose another letter will soon be on the way if she is not too busy getting started. Philinda also wrote something about the job and mentioned Norman Drake. It seems strange that Janie and I should both be having heart troubles at the same time after such a long record of immunity. I certainly hope that she won't get married until she is absolutely certain that she has found the right man; Philinda did, and look at all the trouble that has caused. As for me, I'm sure, and am not worrying about having to make up my mind. Philinda is crazy about Janie, and every letter has something good to say about her - and I don't think its just for effect, because one of Philinda's principal characteristics is her sincerity. She also met Norman, but didn't say much about him.

I am enclosing some stamps for Ray Loring, and I hope he will find some here he hasn't got. I got the Kenya-Tanganyika-Uganda stamps from a chap at the British Airways Mess, where I eat, by trading some American stamps. I think them very attractive. The one with the orange tree is especially interesting. It is really a South Africa stamp, and was sold to the Government of Kenya when a ship carrying new stamps from England was lost at sea, thus leaving British East Africa without postage. You will note the "Tanganyika-Kenya-Uganda" on this one is an overstamp. Tomorrow our office boy is going to give me a selection of West African stamps. It is getting dark now, so I will stop for the present. Much love to you all,