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Newark, Ohio.
February 6th 1942.

My dear William:

Your letter of January 20th (#2) arrived on February 4th. It was mailed in New York on the 3rd and evidently someone carried it over on the plane for you so it made fair time considering. The Post Office here does not have information as to when the Clippers leave this country so I am still at a loss to know when to mail letters to you in order to make the best time. Your letter of the 20th December arrived on January 12th and we had been expecting another one for the past week or more.

I shall now turn to the last of your letter and get that off first. It has taken the wind all out of my sails and I do not know just where to start. As you have said, it does seem strange that you should have fallen in love and gone down with such a quick "thud". I do hope that you have given plenty of thought to the subject and have not acted hastily. Of course you can learn quite a lot in a few months but you should be quite sure that you and Philinda are quite suited to one another and that your ways of thinking and doing run along the same channels. Of course not having met her I have no way to judge and even if I did or had met her my judgement might not amount to much. After all it is for you to decide what is for the best for the both of you. Just so you are both happy and congenial with one another is all that I would ask for. I have not had a chance to write to Janie about it but will try to get a letter to her the next day or so and tell her of receiving your letter and then she can write to me about it. As Janie has probably written to you that she is talking of getting married next June. To me this all seems to be working rather fast and I do hope and pray that she as well as yourself has chosen wisely. My blessings and best wishes go to all of you for your future happiness and well being. I can't say much more now, as I am rather frustrated. Sarah and I shall make no mention of it to anyone at this time.

Now as to your list of things you want sent over. First I am wondering if you got the box we sent to you before Christmas, it had six pair of shorts in it with the other things of which I told you in the letter. Sarah went out yesterday after school and bought six pair of shorts. I must first tell you that it is not possible to get everything as you want it in this country now and it is a case of get what you can. We or she also got the pajamas, suspenders, garters. We have not found your old white shoes or your white suit, think the suit went to a K.K.G. rummage sale. I have ordered two pair of white shoes from Abbott's, they had your size. The white shoes are of the type being used by the army and navy in the tropics and Fred was sure that he could get them in good time. I am getting the toilet articles from the drug store and I had to go to two places to get a dozen pair of white cotton socks, even they seem to be scarce, we also have purchased the ties for you and I will get the stamps. We will ship these things all at one shipment provided the shoes are not too long on the way.

We are rather sorry that you did not tell us anything about the town of Lagos, we are anxious to know what it is like, what the people are and what the country produces ect. would like to know more about your trip and also what you saw in London, so tell us about all of this when you have a chance.

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It seems too bad that it is necessary to purchase a machine at this time. What do the balance of the consulate do for machines, do they all have one. From the looks of the rationing of machines and tires in this country I believe that you may have a hard time to get one. At present they have stopped the recapping and retreading of tires over here. They say it is much tougher here than in Canada where you can still buy American tires. It looks as though we were going to have to furnish the whole of everything to prosecute this war and many people do not like it. We are going on 12 oz. of sugar per week per person and I hear over the radio that we have sent thirty five Million pounds of sugar to England and Russia. Well that is the way it is going. Hope it is all for the best and that we shall win in the long run.

I am so glad that you got to see Bud Francis, I will call his grandmother and tell her for I know that she will be delighted as she worries so much about him. Many of the young fellows have either enlisted or have been called by the draft. I believe that I told you that Bill Gulick is in the air service and Bob Gulick changed over to the Naval air service. Bob Hughes was home over the week end, on his way back from Washington to Chicago and he expects to see foreign service. He is to get his promotion to the rank of Major.

We are still figuring our invoice and it will take a week or more to get it done. The invoicing has kept us busy for the past month and I will be able to tell you in a few weeks how we finished the year. The bus business has been very good and with the tire shortage should be or hold up for sometime.

I have had a cold for a couple of weeks but it is better at this writing, Sarah has had Sciatica but she is better at this time, the school work keeps her busy. She had a letter from Washington and both the children have the measles, otherwise they are fine and Mel likes her school work very much.

All of the folks are about the same and I have not had a letter from Lillian since I wrote to you last. You must write to them when you have a chance. I think your insurance policy must be coming due again and I wonder if you have remembered it, if not I will have the bank pay it for you.

We have had a fairly open winter but still have a chance for some good cold days this month. We usually get some about the time of the Hardware Convention, which is in Columbus week after next.

The store has opened now and I shall have to bring this to a close as it is too hard to write and have so many around talking.

Again I wish you all of the best that there is in the world and I trust that everything will work out as you would have it.

Do not look for the box for sometime yet. I do not know how long it takes to make the crossing and I have not been able to find out when the boats leave this country.

Love and best wishes,

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Steady