

IN REPLY REFER TO

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AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULATE
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Dearest love:

I can't begin to tell you how happy it made me when your letter arrived - the one of July 11-18. It came on July 31st, which isn't bad when you consider that it probably wasted a couple of extra days going down to Lagos and back. The good old company mail works out very well, and has the additional advantage of being less expensive, too. Will you still be able to use it when PAA-Africa is taken over by the Army?

I guess I had been feeling a little worse than usual just before the letter came. I don't like being away from "home", as I smilingly call Lagos. I miss my things, the radio, and most of all the opportunity to lead my own life, within the framework of official duties. Here, as a sort of guest in Andy's house, I can do absolutely nothing for myself. I have no transportation. I can't invite friends in for drinks or dinner. I eat when he wants to, and, in general, fit my life to his routine. Your letter made me feel that there was one thing I had which he didn't and couldn't share - your love. I felt it resting upon me, like the shadow of a great mountain, as you described it, only this time it was a very welcome shadow - a bit of rest and peace from the heat of the day. I do love you so very, very much, my dearest. I do so hope that it will be possible for us to join soon. You said in this letter, "Remember that you are not alone, but surrounded by my love, and that that love will always be there when and if you want it". That is wonderful, darling. That is just the way I feel, and the assurance that your love is with and around me makes me feel more at home in a strange place. Of course, darling, it isn't a question of "when or if". I do want your love right now, and there aren't and never will be any ifs. My love for you is unconditional and unvarying, unless perhaps it might grow deeper and more intense as time passes by. I live in awe and wonder at the quality of your faithfulness, and I feel very humble that I should have evoked such sacrifice and such nobility of character. For the hundredth time, dearest, I hope that you will never have cause to regret what you have done for me. I am wholly yours, for life and after. May this lovely vision of ours never fade!

I have just given a note to you to a good friend of mine, Dana Fisher. As he is leaving tonight by Stratoliner, he will either have presented it by this time, or else he will not have been able to. Dana is a grand person. I first met him in Lagos

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in January or February, when he first came over for TWA. After unloading equipment there, he came to Accra, where I saw him briefly last May and again the other night. I think he is a little more vocal than Capt. Bledsoe, and I hope that he will be able to tell you about life in Accra. I asked to him testify that I have been terribly busy. He speaks from first hand knowledge, since he had to wait for almost half an hour after 6:30 the other evening for me to finish up at the office so we could have dinner together at the camp. After dinner, we went to the camp movies and saw, "Ahaunting We Will Go" with Laurel and Hardy. It was terrible; miss it at all costs.

There has been quite a lot doing during the last week. Last Monday Andy and I were invited for lunch with the Resident Minister, Lord Swinton, whom I mentioned in a previous letter as being in Accra. His headquarters are about seven miles from town in a very pretty suburb, Achimota, which houses the most pretentious African school and university in Africa. It was the brain child of one of the former governors, and I must say that it is a very creditable monument to his memory. The Minister has taken over one of the college building for his office, and I believe he lives in another one. He takes his meals in a mess with the members of his staff - like the pappa of a good sized family of grown-up children. He was very pleasant, and the talk was confined almost exclusively to trivia.

On the fifth Mr. Shantz came up from Lagos for a short stay. He talked over the situation with Lord Swinton, who had him out for dinner, and General Fitzgerald. He didn't say much about what they told him, except that Lord Swinton is most anxious to cooperate in every way and want to coordinate our join war effort in this part of the world. At the same time, Pat Mallon, the Consul from Leopoldville, arrived, and the following day, while Shantz was still here, Mr. Loy Henderson, a Foreign Service Inspector en route to Moscow, arrived. This enabled Andy to have quite an impressive dinner party: Gen. Fitzgerald, Col Hyde, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Shantz, Mallon, and, of course, yours truly. We were rather abashed by the battery of talent present at one time. The following day, Andy spent the morning with Henderson and explained to him the volume and importance of the work which is being done here. According to Andy, Henderson was greatly impressed and said that he would send off a wire from Cairo asking for AAA priority for additional help for this Consulate. He also said, still according to Andy, that he will recommend moving the Consulate General from Lagos to Accra at the end of this year, at which time Andy will also be called home on leave. Mr. Shantz, on the other hand, does not seem very fond of the idea of moving to Accra. Someone asked him bald outright if, in view of the fact that all the principal offices are now located here, he wasn't considering moving up. He smiled and said, "I think I'll be an exception". Under different circumstances, I think I would like Accra all right, but as long as Andy is here, I'm anxious to return to Lagos.

Anent my return to Lagos, my month will be up one week from today. A non-career Vice Consul, Leland Altaffer, has been assigned

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here. He is at Lourenço Marques, having arrived with all the exchange people from the Far East. We have had a cable saying that he is endeavoring to arrange air transportation. We have wired to the Control Officer at Leopoldville, whom we know well, and asked him to help, so it is possible that Altaffer will get here within a couple of weeks. Unless there is a long delay, I will probably go back to Lagos as soon as he arrives. He is not a young man. He has been in the Service for a number of years and gets \$3000 a year, which is pretty good for a non-career man. I wonder how he will get along with Andy. Andy is not exactly an easy person to work with. In fact, he can't work with

anybody. Either they work for him, ~~for~~ there is an explosion. I have had to make a real effort many times to keep myself under control. However, I guess Altaffer will just have to bear it. The discipline of the Foreign Service, though less obvious than that of the Army, is actually just as strict if it comes to that point. Anyway, the sooner he arrives and the sooner I leave, the happier I will be.

I was interested to hear that Dorothy has written you from Lisbon. I think I told you that I wrote to Mr. Parry some time back. We have since received a receipt from the Legation, but so far no answer has come in. I was also interested to hear that Jones had been through on his way to London. I imagine he was glad to get that assignment, although he certainly wasn't any too friendly to the British when we were having our bull sessions last summer. What did he think about the war after it started? I am not surprised about his July 5th cable. The poor guy is just in love with you, that's all. And being in love with you myself, I have some idea how he must feel, even though I have never lived with you and consequently don't have the stock of memories which must haunt him in his quiet moments. Although it sounds presumptuous to say so, I sometimes think I realized how much he loved you better than you did, and that is what made me feel so terrible at the time of the break-up. Regardless of how mad he was when he failed to win you back, that wouldn't be likely to change his feeling fundamentally. I imagine you will receive many more evidences of that before it is over. That is why I feel so keenly the responsibility of making you happy for the rest of your life - to prove to myself as well as to you that we were justified in causing him so much pain. And that, too, is the reason you can always be sure of me. If I work at it all my life, and I hope I will, I can never repay what I owe you. You have saved me from a life so hopeless and purposeless that the mere thought of it now makes me shudder. You are my whole life, my whole future. I couldn't face again the old prospects, having had this dream of ours burst upon me. Having known the hope of a better life with you, I can't go back to the thought of living alone again. I can wait any amount of time as long as there is a chance; but without the hope, there is nothing.

I received an envelope, obviously from Bud Francis, with two gorgeous pictures of you and also of the family. I suppose he showed you the clipping about Janie's wedding, with the picture of her in her bridal gown. She looked lovely, didn't she? I still haven't

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heard a word from her. If by any chance you didn't see the clipping, please let me know and I will send it to you to keep for me. Daddy says that Janie and Norman are now established in Washington. It seems very funny to think of my baby sister being married. I hope she won't beat me too far. A few days before this envelop arrived, I wrote a note for Bud to tell him that I was here and sent ~~me~~ it to the PAA personnel manager, who kindly offered to give it to Bud when he comes in next. If he had time to call the Consulate in Lagos, he would have found out where I was anyway, and I hope he will call me the next time he is in Accra. Also in the envelop were two tooth brushes and a nice pencil with three colors of lead. Am I to thank you or someone else for this remembrance? If you was you, many thanks. I have found the pencil very useful indeed, especially since we are short on pencils with erasers here. Although the need for tooth brushes was less acute since you sent over two, they are always good to have, especially since no never knows what is going to be rationed next. But Oh, those lovely pictures of you! It just breaks my heart to think that Mr. Bishop can lie out on the beach with you while I have to be miles and so many miles away. In fact, I'm green with envy of all the lucky people who can be near you and hear the sound of your voice and see your lovely brown eyes. Often and often I think back to the day when we were having lunch at the Casa de Santo Antonio and I said I would soon be going away. And then you looked at me with such a look in your eyes. It was sad, and almost panic stricken. I couldn't understand it at the time, although I felt happy to think that you would be sorry to see me go. And how bitterly I thought, "O yes, it's Uncle Bill, the old friend of the family. Why must it always be that I come too late and the best girls are already married?" Now I know better. I am waiting to see the expression in your eyes when you see me again for the first time. I hope that it will be as glad as it was sad then.

Have you heard anything from Hervé L'Heureux? As you know, I wanted to write him to ask his support with your passport application, but to date there has been no time. I think his influence with the Personnel Division might be most helpful, as he knows Ehrhardt fairly well. I'm sorry Mr. Jester didn't come your way. When he left Lagos on June 27th, he didn't know how he would go, and I gave him a letter for you and everything. I have learned since that he arrived in Accra about noon and found there was a Stratoliner leaving that afternoon. He took it and was in Washington on Tuesday, thus making excellent time but missing Miami. You may be sure, dear, that when I come I will take no plane that doesn't come to Miami.

You say in this letter that you are worried about my seeming unsure about when I will get leave. I will be entitled to leave next February, at which time it will have been three years since I left the U.S. It would be misleading to say that I am sure to get leave at that time. It depends entirely on the personnel situation at that time, and also the state of the budget. That is why it is better for you to come out here if it is possible. I know the air situation is hopeless at the moment. They have all sorts of passengers and freight tied up along the line. Just keep on loving me, and we will hope together.

the own personal property, William