

For Bill

761 Scotland Road  
Orange, New Jersey  
October 3, 1942

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Dear Mr. Jester,

When some one sends me an air-mail special delivery letter I am always sure something cataclysmic and horrible has happened. In case you have the same pessimistic reactions, I hasten to assure you that everything is perfectly fine with the exception of the world situation, of course! But there are, as usual with me, some questions that I should very much like to have answered and unfortunately for your peace and rest you are the only person capable and kind enough to be able to answer them.

Here's the story: I came up here after I came to the sad conclusion that nothing more could be done with P.A.A., the ingrates. I wrote and told William that I was going to see what could be done with the Barber Line. As soon as he got that letter he sent a cable saying please for heavens sake don't take the Barber Line, but instead see about a "Portuguese vessel" which he tells about in a certain letter. The tragic note enters here, for that particular letter was lost before it got to me, so I knew nothing about the mysterious "Portuguese vessel". However I enquired in New York, and found that there are Portuguese boats that go to Lisbon and then down to Portuguese West African ports. All very fine, especially considering that it is easy as anything to get reservations on these boats. But the nearest they come to Lagos is the island of Sao Thome and on the mainland, some obscure place in Angola. No one around here has any idea if it is possible to get from those places to Nigeria, so that's why I am disturbing the last few days of your holiday with questions. Believe me, I really don't mean to be so annoyingly persistent, but my one-track mind is so determined to get itself over to Nigeria that its enthusiasm knows no bounds when it sees an opportunity. Apparently there is some way to get from where the Portuguese boats take you, to Lagos, or Bill wouldn't have mentioned them.

Can you please help me? If not, I shall have to take a chance that Bill can get the information through to me. In the mean time, I shall continue to chew on my finger-nails with anxiety, stopping only long enough to look fondly in the passport with its bright new British visa.

Here's hoping you enjoy the last days of your vacation to the fullest!

Sincerely,

Philinda Jones


Transcription page 3

Dear Bill: I think he could go from Sao Thome to Angola - and thence to Belgian Congo - from which somehow I felt he could make her way to Nigeria. But better - I presumed that she

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AIR MAIL

make her way to Natal - and once there  
 I felt she could get into a vacancy in the  
 Trans-Atlantic Corp. Harold Sims was  
 in here this week - and he confers this  
 Bell - who handles priorities says there  
 is hope in getting a priority to leave the States  
 by air unless she was going out to take  
 a job in connection with war effort. Am  
 working on possibility of getting F.P. to send her to  
 Lays as a clerk. As an additional item in the file  
 couldn't you get O.S.S. or O.W.I. of Naval or Army  
 Officers or War Shipping Administration to  
 act for her employment. Once she has a job  
 - we could hope to get her on plane soon  
 even if she had to go her own way.

Kindest regards - Susan & 



Transcription of hand written note

Dear Bill:

I told her she could go from Sao Thome [island in the Gulf of Guinea 480 miles south of Lagos] to Angola [southwest Africa] – and thence to Belgian Congo [western central Africa]– from which somehow I felt she could make her way to Nigeria. But better – I recommended that she make her way to Natal [east coast of Brazil] – and over there felt she could get into a vacancy on the trans-Atlantic hop. Harold Sims was in here this week – and he confirms this.

Bell – who handles priorities says there [is] no hope in getting a priority to leave the States by air unless she was going out to take a job in connection with war effort. Am working on possibility of getting F.P.[Office of Foreign Personnel?] to send her to Lagos as a Clerk. As an additional iron in the fire couldn't forget O.S.S. [Office of Strategic Services, later C.I.A.] or O.W.I. [Office of War Information] of Naval or Army alternatives or War Shipping Administration to ask for her employment. Once she has a job – one could hope to get her some place soon even if she had to pay her own way.

Kindest regards – P Jester – Pax

On reverse

**For Bill**