

Riddy
4/15-43

March 10, 1943

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Dear Mr. and Mrs Krieg, Melody, et al.,

You can't imagine how anxious I was to get out to Ohio and down your way when I was in the United States, but it just never worked out! I had high hopes for a while after I stopped working for Pan American Airways in Miami, because some of my relatives in northern Ohio invited me to come out and visit them in Napoleon, and I thought it would be a most pleasant idea to stop off on the way there or back in Newark. As you perhaps know, some of my relatives also used to live in Newark, so I have been hearing about the glories of Bill's home town ever since I was a little girl! However, I had such a terribly hard time arranging to come out here, that even my mother said she hardly ever saw me, I was so busy.

But we finally made it, after about a year and a half of effort, and my impression now is that it was well worth all the struggling and all the danger. I got so tired of waiting around in the United States harrying officials and writing letters asking for air priority that I finally made the break and decided to go by sea, submarines or no submarines. That sort of thing is a lot easier to make up your mind to when you've never done it before, and only read about the danger. But after nearly two months of rather perilous sea voyaging, I finally arrived safe and very, very happy! You must be very nice people to have such a good, fine son! The first time I saw him I thought he was wonderful, and nothing that has happened since then has changed my mind at all.

West Africa, at least Lagos, is certainly not a bad place to live in at all if one doesn't have to stay too long. I was surprised to find what a pleasant, civilized life can be led- surprised, and perhaps just a trifle disappointed! I suppose nearly everyone imagines an Africa made up of wild game hunting, tom-toms, savage tribes and high adventure in general. Still, it's nice to be near a quiet library, to have nice homes to visit, and to be able to go to the club dance on Saturday evenings! There are always interesting little differences in any foreign place, and in West Africa there are quite enough of these to suit any one. William and I are certainly enjoying life to the full- but then I think we would anywhere, just because we aren't separated any more.

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I wish I could find the right words to tell you what a grand job I think you did on your son, and how grateful I am to you. But then, having known him longer than I, you probably knew all about it long ago.

you all in a year or so!

Hoping to see

Sincerely,

Philinda