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FILE NO. 13- I think



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Lagos, Nigeria

August 2, 1943

Dear Family,

What a day! Anita left,
and now here am I doing both of our jobs. She is now Private Secretary to the Governor, and right up there on top. Of course, everything had to happen the first day I was doing things alone. Twelve pouches, innumerable problems, all the usual daily work. My goodness. ...

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Saturday lunch we had Mr. Bremmer the Barber Line Chief now that Cappy Roberts is away. His house guests came along- three of the most incredible British Army Majors you can ever hope to imagine: they are ENSA people (the British USO) and talk about my dear we are running out of lipstick, can you fancy that and last night I had to go up on the stage and do the Bumba daisy so today I'm really all black and blue it's terrible my dear. One of the majors is Betty Nuthal's brother (Tennis). Major Nuthal is a charming boy with lovely pink cheeks, slightly plump, who is willing to admit he's not at all fond of women- they're such foolish creatures, aren't they? Also a houseguest is a Gorgeous Blonde (hydrogen peroxide) who wears high heeled gold shoes for luncheon engagements. There were also two other Americans- a man we met on the train, and Lt. Howard. Thank goodness they were there to keep the whole party from just taking wings and floating away.

For dinner we had a very sober and upright group with enough brains to keep them from flying away. Two merchant marine officers that make you realize that after all this time we are at last getting bright and intelligent young men to run our ships. The Captain is just my age, and got that way because the former Captain of the ship had to be fired up the line. A nice boy from Westfield, New Jersey. His mate was a good young man also. John Houser the BEW man came along, and so did Major Heller.

It was good to get back to the beach again after such a long time. The surf was good, and if you overlooked the cold curry and the long delay, everything was hunky dory. We sailed over in the Navy's launch, which ran, for a change. In the evening we went to a lightweight movie, which we of course enjoyed thoroughly, not being at all proud.

August 3- At last some of the things you have sent have arrived. A nice bottle of bitters- just after we had used the last of our last bottle! Also some fine Grip-Tuth combs and the amateur permanent waving outfit. So now we know they do come in the end. I imagine it will be quite some time before the other things arrive, sad to say. I'm anxious to get those black skirts and the perfume. Wrap them up well, because the mail sacks are just dumped over the sides of the ships and if there is anything breakable it's just too bad. If there are any good sales of summer dresses for the office and evenings, why don't you look into them. I'm still size twelve, and I still don't like sweet simple and girlish ruffly jobs, in any form. Neither does William. If you still feel in the sending mood, why not two bottles of Arrid, of which I don't think I brought along enough.

I'm working hard and enjoying it these days. Mr. Lynch now hopes to be able to get his wife out to work here, since Anita has gone. We hope he makes it, but it would be a good six months in the best of circumstances.

August 5

... We went to the Discussion group on Tuesday night, and talked about Education in the New World. As usual, we couldn't keep away from the subject of Nigeria. It's like King Charles' head with us- no matter how hard we try, we always seem to get back to Nigerian problems. They are a genial bunch of intellectual screwballs.

Last night we went on board the ship whose Captain and mate went to the club with us on Saturday night. A good time was had by all, except that we had to start eating at six thirty, instead of our usual nine. And then when we did start, what do you think we had! Canned tomato soup, a great big, thick, tender and juicy steak with MUSHROOMS, aparagus, ice cream, cake, cucumber and onion salad! The horrid part was that I couldn't finish my steak. We gave it to Minnie the cat instead, but I put the cakes into a bag and we finished them off for lunch to-day. After that we took a look around the ship, very nice, and then went to a movie in town.

Our ~~six~~th monthly wedding anniversary was celebrated yesterday by a party and a trip to the club, with the Rasmussens, Messers Lynch, Bruns, Lt. Howard, Jerry Wormal the British Labor Office man. A good time was had by all. Just imagine, six months already!

I am to make a speech in front of the Discussion group on Sept. 28. I don't know what I shall talk about, but it might be rather fun.

To-day a letter came from Pop, dated March 22! Just in time.
Love,