

Mrs. "Empire Star"

7th July, 1947

Dear Mrs. Holland,

I really do owe ~~you~~ a most cordial
apology for not having written before to thank you for the
happy birthday I had on Bali; due ^{entirely} to your goodness and
hospitality, ^{except all that of your husband} I had naturally meant to write from Singapore
but, as you no doubt heard, I went to hospital ^{with flu} instead and
stayed there almost until the plane left.

Since then we have had an unfortunate run
of illnesses - first myself, then Alice and lastly Henry, who
is still in bed with a debilitating cough, cold, fever and
brucellosis though we are ^{now} well away from New Zealand and its
miserable cold. Wellington was beautiful; with a 97 m.p.h.
wind, hail and rain, so that the ship had to be held up
for three days before she could get to sea.

I often look back on my brief stay on Bali
with nostalgic feelings, wished though it was. No island the
place is fast acquiring a reputation, due in no small measure

to the work of your husband and yourself and that as a
consequence you will see no one else without your own assistance
in Albert hills and you will be flying up on a boat
next this month - plus a whole lot of business and
business. I hope you will get on with
Entertainment Allowance here deep - like the District Office
in the G. B. C.

I flew out to Australia daily after my
arrival in New Zealand, on negotiations connected with family
and Warkington and their possible purchase, and had lunch with
the wealthy Maja Swoboda and his wife and family; they do not
not look a year older than when I last saw them in the
islands and was full of bounce and energy. The Maja is
a terrific figure in Sydney life, President of half a dozen
societies and committees and making from function to function.

I wonder how the Bardsons have behaved since
their fateful decision was made and whether, having got to
Ocean Island on their boundary marking racket, they will want
to remain and not return to Pahi: presumably there is that

longer. In my report on the election I have made
it clear that I do not regard it as a
wonder how of patient explanation and tactful propaganda,
the result would have been very different. Actually,
the election themselves were tiresome fun, I thought, and
in some I'll never forget taken as long as I live.

We hope to start back from England early in
November, which should enable us to avoid the winter in
the northern hemisphere and get in three months of New
Zealand's summer. Personally, I have little desire to go to
England at all, as New Zealand is much more our home,
but I have ^{particularly} been to see the family once again.
I am hoping against hope that we shall be
able to pick up a second-hand ship for the colony
Government in England (one millionaires yacht, say he?) - it
would be perfect to come back in her instead of a
passage vessel, although I am ^{quite} don't think so. The "Sydney
Star" is, I'm bound to admit, pretty comfortable, and we have
a nice cabin to ourselves with our own private bathroom,

while always having the most nice with two boys not much
older than himself. The father has not had a sitting over
demons to ourselves as a course. He went to come out to
this part of the city, though there are three large houses
all told. What are their appointments most as the
electric fans in each room and I spent most of the day
sitting on the one in our bedroom.

Once again, thank you ever so much for
having me to stay at Rabi. There is no need for me
to tell you how much I enjoyed it, for you could see
that at the time. I doubt if I have ever had such a
happy few days.

Please give my respects to your husband and to
Barbara (I now know what the expression "taken for a ride"
means) and we hope that we shall see you all
before too long - perhaps in Fiji, perhaps in New Zealand.

Yours very sincerely,

~~W. H. R. H. H. H. H. H.~~
~~W. H. R. H. H. H. H. H.~~