

20
+

Tomlinson when he wrote his two letters to me was either the permanent head of the Colonial Office or else the head of the Pacific and Mediterranean Division.

He was a true friend and was presumably mainly responsible for my being sent back to the Pacific. My letter to him is already in your archives.

29

As per Colonial office.

TELEPHONE,
FLAXMAN 4929.

~~80, COURTFIELD GARDENS,~~

~~SAUS.~~

15. January 1939

Dear Maude

I was indeed delighted to get your letter of the 30th. November. I have often thought about you since it was decided that you should go back to the Pacific from Zanzibar. In spite of the doctors I was a bit anxious about your health. But now you say you have never been ~~fitter~~ fitter since you left Cambridge and you are the proud father of a son (many congratulations on that) & you & your wife are ideally happy & contented. Well - you could not have sent me better news than that, & it puts my mind at rest. All the same I think we were right (on the information

before us) to send you to Gungibon
just as I think we were right
in sending you back to the G. & L.
I hope you will think kindly of
your brief incursion into Africa &
not look on it as wasted time.

Your letter & your printed
report do give a splendid
picture of what you are doing in
the Colonisation of the Phoenix Islands.

I can't think of a more
fascinating^{job}. As you say, there is
nothing in the whole wide world
so satisfying as the chance of
doing constructive, responsible
work while you are still young
enough to make the most of it.
I remember ~~the~~ well the thrill that
I used to get in Northern Nigeria

TELEPHONE,
FLAXMAN 4829.

69, COURTFIELD GARDENS,

S.W.5.

more than 30 years ago when I found that I was in a village which no white man had ever seen before.

I know well how long you must have been when Sir Arthur Richards left. I can't imagine a more inspiring chief. But Sir Edward Denham's death just at a time when Jamaica was in a dreadful mess made it necessary to pick out the best man available. But I am sure you will like Sir Harry Luke & I hope it won't be long before ~~the~~ he pays you a visit.

Please forgive me if I don't write more. My Christmas letters are not all answered.

Only let me say again how
glad I am that things are
going so well with you. Please
also give my kind regards to
Mrs. Maude when, I think, I
met you half a second at the
Abercrombie Hotel. You don't
say what happens to her & the
baby when you are cruising.
I suppose there is not a nursery
on H.M.C.S. Niimanoa.

All good wishes to all
those of you. Yours sincerely
G. J. Jamieson

9

TELEPHONE,
FLAXMAN 4829.

Clinical Office
Dunlop St. S.W.
60, COURTFIELD GARDENS,
— OTHER

2nd January 1959

Dear Madam

Byron's most courteous letter
on your M.B.B. I hope it
will please you to think that
good work - even in the most
~~remote~~ remote corners of the
Empire - gets recognition.

I have often thought of you
since our last meeting (at
the Abou (and Hotel) - I
your expedition to Zanzibar &
your return to your own
hunting ground. I hope all
things go well with you &

that you are keeping it.

With every good wish

Yours sincerely

S. J. Faulkner

TO LADY MAUDIE
OF SPRINGFIELD
BELDEN
ENG AND W LYNBURY
HANTS

0715

WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE

SEND BY

Mrs. H. ...

10.10.19

Dear Madam,
I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am
glad to hear that you are well and that the weather is
now so bright and clear. I have been very busy lately
and have not had time to write you more fully.
I have just returned from a visit to my friends at
Belton and have had a very good time. I shall be
back at home again in a few days. I have just
received your letter of the 10th inst. and am glad to
hear that you are well and that the weather is now
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so bright and clear. I have been very busy lately
and have not had time to write you more fully.

The address should be written as large as possible in BLOCK letters wholly within this panel

The address must NOT be typewritten.

Read carefully instructions on back

To:

LADY MAUDE OOE.
AT 'SPRINGFIELD'
BOLDRE
NR. LYMINGTON
HANTS
ENGLAND



39565

WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE.

Sender's Address .17-7-43
M^{rs} H.E. Maude, % Western Pacific High Commission, Suva.
Dearest Mother Maude, Very many thanks for your Airgraphs. It is difficult to say how sad we are that Father has gone, especially after your trial I had so hoped he would see Alacie & we are sorry we are so far away that we cannot help you or have you with us. Harry has sent you a long letter by Air Mail. It is good to know that you are with Mary & that you had a comfortable journey. You will miss the farm in many ways no doubt but perhaps you will have a few comforts such as more warmth. We continue to be very busy & help is always failing, I have my 7th girl, & we are working hard in the garden. There is an epidemic of Dengue on, sounds a horrid thing. The weather is cool & I revel in the freshness but Harry is apt to shiver up. Alacie looks bonny & is full of energy, he is having diphtheria, anti toxin injections, & is rather proud of it. The 1st made his arm sore so I put it in a sling & he went to play with Peter. When I detached him at 5 he was boxing. Please say if this is clear or too small, yours are splendid. Very much love from us all, Honor.

AIR MAIL

SALVAGED MAIL
EX CENTURION

Lady Maude



"Petit Tor"

de Mont Juraud,

St Martin's

Guernsey

Channel Islands

England.

Bishop Museum
Honolulu, T. H.

Dear Lady Mande,

Several days ago
we had the pleasure of seeing
Mr. and Mrs. Mande and
their young son here in
Honolulu. The steamer
which took them on to

gave me your address and
it is a great pleasure to
send them.

It was also a great pleasure
to see the Maudes. They are
so delightful personally that
it is a deep regret that they
go so far, and every new
chapter in their lives is so
interesting that it captivates

New Zealand was here for a few hours, permitting a glimpse of them. Dr. and Mrs. Buck asked them to tra. I had my camera with me and had the happy inspiration of taking a picture or two. The results are enclosed. Mrs. Maude

my fancy. Besides which
they are doing such ex-
cellent work everywhere —
what a different place the
Pacific would be if such
contacts as there's had been
the rule for the last two
hundred years. In this poor
old world man always seems
to learn too late.

With cordial salutations, I am

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Stewart

May 20th. 1941

The address should be written as large as possible in BLOCK letters wholly within this panel

The address must NOT be typewritten.

Read carefully instructions on back.

To: LADY MAUDE. O.B.E.
"SPRINGFIELD"
BOLDRE.
NR. LYMINGTON.
HANTS.
ENGLAND.

54335



WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE.

Sender's Address:

M^{rs} H.F. Maude. c/o W.P.H.C. Suva. Fiji.

22843

Many thanks for airgraphs, we hope you are settling down & perhaps getting used to the noise. Wish you could send us a few of the strawberries! We have had an exceptionally dry spell & my poor new garden was dying but now it has rained & we have been working in it again. I got enough peas for Alice's lunch & also lettuce & young carrots for us all. Alice is delighted with the lovely book of counting, it is just right for him & so well got up, he says you are so kind to him & thinks himself very lucky. He has made a scrap book with the card you have sent him. His two bottom teeth are well up at last. I was laid up with asthma last week for 5 days, not terribly bad but very disappointing after being free so long. This week has been hectic & we shall be extra busy till October when we have a Patriotic Fest. Have lost another Sijian girl but not the nice one... yet! She learns to cook well. Much love from us all
Honor.

The address should be written as large as possible in BLOCK letters wholly within this panel

The address must NOT be typewritten.

Read carefully instructions on back.

To:-

LADY MAUDÉ c/o.
SPRINGFIELD
BOLORE
NR LYMINGTON
HANTS
ENGLAND.



86794

WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE.

Sender's Address:

% W.P.N.C. Suva, Fiji. 14-10-43.

Many thanks for your August Air Graphs. Harry was away for 4 weeks, back for two days & is away again for probably six weeks, travelling by air & sea! I have had dengue, did you have it in India? A foul disease, I have never felt so wretched both during & after the fever. Harry came back when I had been in bed a week & I hated him leaving again. Alacie went to friends for 10 days & I had an elderly half Gilbertese woman to look after me at night. Alacie has lost a top front tooth & looks very quaint, he is just over average weight & height for his age, 42 lbs - 44 inches. I have a nice snap taken just before the tooth came out which I will send. The patriotic title, for which we were working so hard is over & our Arts & Crafts & books made about £200! We had bad weather but people were marvellous & paddled about in mud & rain most cheerfully. I hope to write a few long overdue letters now & make clothes for Alacie but here we have 4,000 Christmas stockings to make for the soldiers! The hot weather is beginning I fear. I may get away to the hill station with Alacie for 3 weeks. Much lov: Honor Maude.

The address should be written as large as possible in BLOCK letters wholly within this part.

The address must NOT be typewritten.

Read carefully instructions on back.

To: LADY MAUDE O.B.E.
of SPRINGFIELD
BOLDRE
N^R LYMINGTON
ENGLAND HANTS



59495

WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE

Sender's Address

Mrs. H.E. Raude, c/o W.P.M.C., Suva, Fiji.

20.1.44

WILL YOU PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THIS PRINT IS BETTER? I SENT OFF A LONG LETTER LAST WEEK BUT NO DOUBT IT WILL ARRIVE SOME TIME AFTER THIS. I HAD A LONG LETTER FROM HARRY THIS WEEK, GIVING ALL DETAILS OF HIS EXPERIENCES IN A HURRICANE WITHOUT A PROPELLER, WHICH CAME OFF BEFORE THEY MET THE HURRICANE. HE SAYS HE GETS A TREMENDOUS KICK OUT OF THE FACT THAT HE IS STILL ALIVE AS NONE OF THEM THOUGHT THEY HAD A CHANCE OF SURVIVAL. HE HAD FIVE HOURS SLEEP IN THREE DAYS HE SAYS AND THE DIN WAS INCREDIBLE, WIND SHRIEKING AND EVERYTHING MOVABLE HURTLING AROUND WITH THE TREMENDOUS ROLLS, HE DOESN'T MENTION ANYONE BEING HURT WHICH IS AMAZING. I SHALL BE SO THANKFUL WHEN HE GETS SAFELY BACK HOME. ALANIC HAS HAD SOME NASTY SPOTS AND COLD SORES AND ENLARGED TONSILS AND ALMOST LOST HIS VOICE BUT HAD NO TEMPERATURE AND IS NOW BETTER AND I HOPE THE TONSILS WILL RETURN TO NORMAL. HE HAS SUDDENLY TAKEN A TREMENDOUS FANCY TO A "SCOTTY" DOG THAT HE HAS HAD SINCE HE WAS 6 MONTHS OLD AND IT GOES EVERYWHERE WITH HIM. HIS CHIEF AMBITION NOW IS TO POSSESS A REAL ONE AND HE TELLS ME THERE IS A SHOP IN LONDON WHERE THEY CAN BE BOUGHT. HE SAID THIS MORNING HE WAS GOING FISHING AND WHEN I SAID WHAT DID HE THINK HE WOULD CATCH HE SAID "I HOPE A WHALE"! HE LOVES THE COUNTING BOOK AND CAN READ MOST OF IT. I HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER BUT FIND CHILLY AIR NOT TOO GOOD. MUCH LOVE TO ALL
Honor Maude.

The address should be written as large as possible in BLOCK letters wholly within this panel →

The address must NOT be typewritten.

Read carefully instructions on back.

To:— LADY MAUDE O.B.E.
at SPRINGFIELD
BOLDRE
nr LYMINGTON
ENGLAND HANTS



77338

WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE.

Sender's Address:

Mrs H.E.Maude, c/o W.P.H.C. Suva, Fiji. 20.2.44.

Harry is at last on his way home, having reached his destination and left again, but I imagine it will be another 3 weeks or so before he gets here. Alaric's two parcels arrived safely and he is very delighted with them and loves to make the words, he can tell the time a little too and we use the clock you sent some time ago. We go to the swimming baths twice a week now when the water is fresh and Alaric thinks himself very grown-up; so far I have not been in but hope to soon and teach him to swim. Have started a little hay fever, the worst time of year is coming now, but hope it won't be as bad as last year.

I have had a large family since last wrote, three extra children for a week and their mother, before and after an op. for a few days, I enjoyed having them but feel a bit tired after it. We had a deluge one day when I was transferring the family so it was a bit of a job and then, just as I had got dry was told the water was up to the floor of the car and had to move to a safer place, now it is very dry again and I do want rain for my garden so that it looks nice when Harry comes. I have sinias flowering and dianthus, but the latter keep rotting so I keep a box of cuttings ready to replace them and the border looks very bright. It is awfully hot and I'm sure I could sleep all day but Alaric is full of energy. Much love from Honor. Honor.

The address should be written as large as possible in BLOCK letters wholly within this panel

The address must NOT be typewritten.

Read carefully instructions on back.

To:— LADY MAUDE ARE
at SPRINGFIELD,
BOLDRE.
HANTS NR LYMINGTON



86920

WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE.

Sender's Address:

Mrs H.E. Maude, C/O W.P.N.C., Suva, Fiji.

5/3/44

Dearest Lady Maude, I had a cable from Harry a few days ago, from the place where Miss Titcombe is, and he should be here very soon, it will be six months tomorrow since he went away. My poor garden is dwindling rapidly with this hot weather and it just won't rain. I have picked nearly all the flowers now so as to have some in the house when Harry returns but if he is much longer there will be nothing to pick. I picked my precious sinias to-night and hope they last a few days. I think I told you Alaric is having lessons with his friend Peter Workman; now Nanny has gone away, hoping to get a passage to England, so Mrs W. and I have taken over the teaching between us. We take two days each and on the other school day they go to the swimming baths as the water is fresh. I hope Alaric will learn to swim but he is a bit timid, he will let me hold his hands while he kicks his legs but isn't so keen on using his hands. He is an awful dreamer and takes far longer than Peter to do a piece of work, and is always last at meals, so I don't know what will happen when he goes to school. They are both sewing those very nice animal cards you sent me and love them. Alaric is indulging in spots and had a sty on one eye, I don't know what is the matter, he looks and behaves as if he was quite well. I have put on weight at last and weigh

Honor.

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Read carefully instructions on back.

To: LADY MAUDE ARE
of SPRINGFIELD
BOLDRE
NR LYMINGTON
ENGLAND HANTS



WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE.

Sender's Address:

M^{rs} H. E. Maude. % W. P. H. C. Suva, Fiji. 16-4-44

You say the typing was faint but I used a brand new ribbon so evidently it does not photograph so well. It was good of you to get the books for Alaic, he has the B. K. Malone books, & loves them, & has a number of B. Potter but not Jeremy Fisher, Tomina Ruddle-Duck, M^{rs} Tiggy-Winkle or M^{rs} Tittlemouse, or the Tale of Johnny Town-Mouse or M^{rs} Samuel Whiskers. Would you send him a couple, he would be delighted? I find it hard to believe he will be 6 in June & I don't suppose you will see him for another year. He is beginning to read the set of paper books you sent, "little things"; all the things you sent are most useful. Alaic says could you send him another cap-gun! Plus caps. The other was broken when other children dropped it on the cement. He has no tails at present & looks better, it rains & rains however which is trying. We did a lot of gardening before it got too muddy & things begin to grow again. Alaic will add his kisses. Much love from us all. Honor.

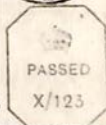
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Read carefully instructions on back.

To:— LADY MAUDE
SPRINGFIELD
BOLDRE
N^o LYMINGTON
HANTS
ENGLAND.



47747

WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE.

Sender's Address:

Mrs H.E. Maude, c/o W.F.H.C., Suva, Fiji.

15/6/44.

Many thanks for all the books & for Albie's hat & belt which are much appreciated & suit him well. He is having two week's holiday & enjoying himself hugely with Brian, aged 8, who is a boarder in term time. David has one of his dreadful colds & coughs too so that I wonder if it is whooping cough & try to keep them apart. The weather is cooler & dull & vegetables are coming on. Have had a couple of Gilbertese working in the garden & got a lot of work done. Now workmen are fitting hurricane shutters ready for next season, they have put the partition between our bedroom & the rest of the house & put in a new back door in the wash house tomorrow. It makes a tremendous difference & I am very pleased. I have a new wash-girl but Mahammed is away, I fear his diabetic wife must be ill, I seldom seem to have a complete staff! Harry is v. busy but we have had two lovely afternoon outings, a few miles by car & a long walk. Last time to a lovely stream in the bush & took three small boys who all walked well.

Very much love from us all to you all. Honor.

The address should be written as large as possible in BLOCK letters wholly within this panel.

The address must NOT be typewritten.

Read carefully instructions on back.

To:—

LADY MAUDE ABE.

at ~~SPRINGFIELD~~

~~BALDRE~~

ENGLAND.

~~N LYMINGTON~~

HANTS



PASSED
8156

WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE.

Sender's Address:

M^{rs} H.E. Maude, c/o W.P.N.C. Suva. 19-6-44.

Alaric's birthday & he has had a lovely day, Tomina Eddaleduck & the blackboard arrived beforehand & were produced to-day & he is delighted. He had a birthday call during the Children's Hour & was told to find a present in my desk. We are having a party on Saturday. I have a Gilbertese girl of 18 now, living in the house & so far it is working well & Alaric loves her. She helps me with Alaric, housework, sewing & gardening. We have opened our boxes from the Gilberts & find all were broken into, not an inch of sheeting or towels left! However some useful odds & ends such as enamel bowls & a large china mixing bowl which miraculously wasn't broken. The gun sounds grand but you should not have got it, A. has several small planes so please do not get him one. The blackboard is a beauty & all the educational toys you have sent have been, & are, a God-send to me. A. has sent you a letter, written by himself, but I wrote the words for him to copy. We all send lots of love. Yours Honor.

The address should be written as large as possible in BLOCK letters wholly within this panel

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Read carefully instructions on back.

To: LADY MAUDE O.B.F.
at SPRINGFIELD

~~BORDRE~~

ENGLAND

NE LYMINGTON

HANTS

FLW

9405
X123

WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE

Sender's Address:

M^{rs} N.E. Maude. C/O W.P.H.C. Suva. 16.7.44.

Two more of the books for Alaic have arrived & lots of magazines, thank you for them all. Harry set off in a rush one day for his next trip, but after 3 days was still on the other side of the island as the plane was held up & then he came home again as the ship he was to join was delayed. He expects to leave again in a fortnight. Alaic & I have postponed our visit to the Berringtons till about the same time. I have Alaic & Peter every day now for lessons but I have not been relieved of my Secretary job although we have had our Annual General meeting, they hope to find someone soon. Alaic is getting on well with reading & will soon write you a letter entirely by himself, he began one on the typewriter last week. He loves Handwerk so I hope he won't be as useless as Harry! He is very painstaking & tidy but oh! so slow! He went to a children's cinema show this week & was thrilled with London buses etc. Much love from us all Honor.

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Read carefully instructions on back.

To:- LADY MAUDE O.B.E.
at SPRINGFIELD
BOLDRE
NR LYMING TON
ENGLAND HANTS



PAID
X/123

23074

WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE.

Sender's Address:

Co W. P.M.C.

Suva. 28.7.18.

M^{rs} N.E. Maude.

Harry left us again this week & expects to return early in September. Alarie & I leave for our visit to the Bevingtons in a few days. I wish the horrid wind would drop or the sea will be rough! I kept Alarie in bed yesterday with a cold but it is better. He has just been given a tiny gramophone & he had some small records so he is thrilled & played it most of yesterday. We have got some English wool in, 3 ply & very soft so I am beginning socks & stockings for Harry & Alarie. I have finished my first pair of stockings, for the army, & I'm so pleased with myself I can't stop knitting! Am trying an air force Pullover now, rather a nice design ^{now} like that. I shall make Alarie's down to the toes & leave till we know when we can get away. We still have the dog which adopted us & he is really very nice. We hope you are away from the Flying Bombs, mother has moved to Clent.

Much love to you all from Honor. XXXXX

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Read carefully instructions on back.

To: LADY MAUDE
of SPRINGFIELD
BOLDRE
NR LYMINATON
ENGLAND. HANTS



51041

WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE.

Sender's Address:

Mrs. H.G.Maude, c/o W.P.H.C., Suva, Fiji.

24/8/44

I have just finished a long letter, telling you of our trip to one of the outer islands. we had a lovely time, though strenuous in parts. Harry left us on the 26th July expecting to be away for about six weeks but I am told now that he will not be back until October, so we shall miss another anniversary. I gather that, as usual, he has had to change his plans to fit in with shipping and is going much farther afield than he expected. The gun has arrived, also the paint box, both are very much appreciated and Alaric thanks you very much. The sewing cards are lovely, thank you, and the scrap book has been started at once, Alaric hopes to bring it back to you full of pictures. This is another experiment, typed through blue carbon paper, will you let me know if it is clearer? Alaric was reduced to one pair of sandals so we were thrilled to day when children's shoes were opened up in town and we got a very nice pair of white Australian shoes. The news is wonderful and we are all very excited but just longing to hear that the Germans are being pushed out of the Calais area. Erid Bevington and Jean are coming in for a fortnight very soon which will be nice, I can put them up as Harry is away. Any news of Jersey or Guernsey yet? They seem to have been by-passed.

Much love Honor

The address should be written as large as possible in BLOCK letters wholly within this panel

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Read carefully instructions on back.

To: LADY MAUDE
of SPRINGFIELD.
BOLDRE
NB LYMINGT
ENGLAND. HANTS



WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE.

Sender's Address:

Mrs H.E. Maude, c/o W.P.M.C., Suva, Fiji. 24.9.44

Dearest Lady Maude,

Once again I am waiting for Harry to come back, he has been away for two months now and I am told he will not get here until the middle of October at the earliest; each week I am disappointed so I am reckoning on November or December now! I am very tired of this uncertainty and also of being alone so much, I feel it would be easier to settle down to 6 months or a year, however I am luckier than a lot of people. Erid and Jean came down from Taveuni and spent a week with us but have now gone back. We are having a lot of rain and I have spent a good deal of time in the garden weeding and planting, I'm afraid I give too much time to it but it is an excellent recreation and I do so love it. Alaric helps sometimes and is starting a garden of his own. He is getting on well with reading now and is more anxious to read things himself. Harry was away for a lecture he was supposed to give on Pitcairn so I was persuaded to give a talk on the Gilberts, material culture and string figures, I was very nervous but everyone seemed to enjoy it. Many thanks for Junissa, I like it very much. Alaric loves his books though he shivers when Tom Kitten is made into the roly poly pudding! Sybil is in Devon with the children, hope you are all well and safe. Much love from Hazel.

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Read carefully instructions on back.

To:— LADY MAUDE O.B.E.
of SPRINGFIELD
BOLDRE
N^o LYMINGTON
ENGLAND. HANTS.



87270

X/123

WRITE THE MESSAGE VERY PLAINLY BELOW THIS DOUBLE LINE.

Sender's Address:

Mrs H.E. Maude, c/o W.P.M.C., Suva, Fiji. 9.10.44.

Dearest Lady Maude, Harry returned a few days ago after being away for over two months, he looks very well and certainly had a wonderful trip though it must have been pretty tough. He seems to have visited a great number of islands, including Tahiti, and has an even wider knowledge of the Pacific than he had before. For three days we were told he might arrive each day but on the fourth day they said he would not, I was getting rather tired of preparing each day for his reception so did nothing and at 11.30 was told he would be in at 1.15! A week ago Aleric and I had a lovely day on the lagoon visiting several little islets, I thought I had escaped sunburn but have now a horrible sore on my lip, Aleric got a bit burnt bathing but it did not worry him. He wants me to thank you for the favourite Book, we have tried all sorts of things out of it, including the shadow figures. We are having an awful lot of rain and we have had a small electric heater on all day to-day which keeps the room dry but not hot as the windows are open, it makes a lot of difference in this humidity. It was cheering to hear on the news this morning that plans are being made for the Channel Islands Air Service, I do hope the islands are freed soon, there cannot be much food there.

Much love from us all

Howard

To The Western Pacific High Commission,

Suva,

Fiji.

6.3.40.

Dearest Lady Maude,

We have had two letters from you since we arrived here on Feb. 8th, & it was lovely to get news of you all again. A lot of letters must be held up somewhere in the G. & E. as we had nothing for months & there is no mail here.

We stayed at Government House for 3 weeks & now have a very small furnished house. G.H. was lovely, especially for Alaic, but rather spoilt us for ordinary suburbia. Our house is very close to other bungalows, telephone conversations are easily overheard & one has perforce to endure other people's wireless. We are on a corner so the traffic is noisy, very near the road in front & very near some prize poultry at the back & the roosters begin at 2.30 a.m! We are hoping that Alaic will soon get used to the various noises, at present they wake him up, & as soon as his cot is fixed up with its own mosquito net we are going to put him into the sitting room at night where the roosters are less likely to worry him.

At Government House we had a wing to ourselves,

The bedroom mosquito proof, & there was a lovely little house with a thatched roof & a sand-pit which the Richards had built for their small boy. H.E. was very kind but I was always afraid Alaic would disturb him & it was rather a strain. The D.C. got a Fijian nurse for Alaic & she is still with me, she seems to be quite sensible & is very nice & Alaic likes her. I've also got an Indian cook-houseboy, a son-in-law of H.E.'s cook, & he seems to be a good worker.

It seems fairly certain at the moment that we shall be here until the end of June but I think it doubtful if we shall really go to Pitcairn. I'm sure Varkes, Sec. to High Commission, doesn't want us to go & Harry thinks the C.J.C., who has just returned from leave, wants a legal man to go. We don't mind either way, it would be quite nice to go straight back to the Gilberts.

Alaic is looking quite a sturdy child now & hasn't lost his nice colour yet. He talks a lot & has begun to put words together, & I think it gives him a great thrill. He now says "'ouse", "boats", with an s, "where's daddy gone", "there y'are" & "here it is" & a number of other short sentences such as "daddy's shoes" etc. He will tell you his name but it sounds more like "Harry" than Alaic. He is very funny when Harry comes back

he gives a screech of joy & tells everyone near by "theres a daddy"! He makes everyone laugh because he always starts off with "oh!", as if he was going to tell you something really exciting, & then probably points out something he has shown you every day for a week. Boats & cars he is mad on & we have just got a second-hand, but not used very much. Ford 8 & his one idea is to be in it all day, even if it is stationary. I wish you could all see him. I hope the photographs arrive safely & that they give you some idea of him, they are really very good except that they make his limbs look decidedly fatter than they are. I thought you would prefer the book to just one large photo & I hope you like it.

Do you remember me writing about Nan Masey when we were in Pemba? She was rather a friend of ours. She has married one of the legal men & just arrived here with her husband who is the new Registrar. It is awfully nice to see her again & she is very glad to find someone she knows here. I didn't know she was coming until she actually arrived, so you can imagine what a surprise I got.

At the moment there is a spate of morning tea parties, a vile institution but I think they

will slacken off once I have met everyone - if not I shall just refuse as it means leaving the girl to feed Alain & I do like to see that he eats his dinner properly. He now stays awake till mid-day when he has his meal & then sleeps till about 3 p.m. It is better for us all now that he isn't ready to sleep at 10 a.m.

Harry's back cleared up well & except for a couple of warning painful days has been very well. I don't know how he stood H.E.'s meals which were predominately fish & meat & very rich, I was getting spots & glad to get back to our simple diet. Harry is completely immersed in work of course, he hasn't started the special work he came here for but he has pushed through a number of things that had been buried here for ages. Vaskess is away so they are a very happy crowd at the H.C. office & things can be done, especially as H.E. is rather fond of the I.E. & will sign most things they put up. Garvey, who was Acting R.C. G.I.E. you may remember, is Act. Secretary, Macdonalds are here & also Armstrongs. I am quite enjoying seeing everyone but I think this social life would soon pall, the only useful thing I've done since I arrived here is to buy a lot of things for a Red Cross sale in Australia & the man gave me as much as I bought!

I've started squash & like it very much, H.E. has a court & there is one other in Suva. Harry played one day but had a bad back next day so is rather afraid to try again. It is very hot & muggy at present but the cool season begins now, I hope it will really cool down. Alaric gets a little wheeze in his throat when it is still & close at night but the doctor says there is nothing wrong & the lungs perfectly clear - it would be awful if he got bronchitis or asthma.

We cannot keep this house for the four months so we have taken it for one with the option of a second & hope we can find something soon. Houses are terribly scarce & mostly rather awful. This one at least is clean & has a bathroom. I feel as if I may be able to get up enough energy to write some letters, goodness knows I owe enough, but it is such an effort to unpack & arrange things, find paper, envelopes & unanswered letters that I keep putting it off. Harry thinks I'm dreadful now because I don't get enthusiastic about the next move but I really think the men get off jolly lightly, they stay in their office while the packing is done & I'm sure they don't realise what hours it takes or how tiring it is. We have

cut down our luggage & dumped stuff in N.Z. but there are still so many things one must have for isolated spots.

Here we get all fresh fruit & vegetables which is lovely, if only we had them in the Gilberts! Harry has now been given the title of Chief Lands Commissioner, the ~~other~~ A.O's are to do lands settlement too, & he proposes to make our headquarters at Beer which sounds rather nice. Then I can go trips or not as I like, Alairic's feeding will have to come first for another year or so I'm afraid.

With much love to you all from us both.

Your loving

Honor

P.S. The winter sounded awful, I'm rather glad we were not in it.

Suva,

Fiji.

24. 6. 10.

Dearest Lady Maude,

We wonder if this will ever reach you as it looks as though there will be some pretty fierce fighting across the channel in the near future, however I hope it will get through safely. Here we have just lost one of our mail boats, the "Niagara" which I expect you heard, hit a mine off N.Z. She was an old ship & we were all attached to her & are sad at her end.

I think I just scribbled to you that parcels & letters arrived from Beem & we had a most exciting time opening them. Thank you very much indeed for them all. Alaic received his blocks, the farm, a dog, a number of suits, coloured mug & cup & saucer but the plate was broken & I regret to say he has bitten a piece out a spoon! The odd bits & pieces of binding etc. I much appreciate & the scissors. The sleeveless jacket for Alaic has been most useful. The suits they make too square so that by the time Alaic has grown into the width they are too short. I put 3 inches on to the blouse of the blue & white suit & shortened

the legs, below the crotch, & he looks quite sweet in it, some suits are still too big. I made the set with applique' linen for his birthday & it looks awfully nice. My dresses are very nice thank you, I'm using the striped one a lot; Thank you too for the bibs which I keep on finding!

Did you ever send the Harris tweed +, or, pullover? It is the only parcel that I know of that hasn't arrived. There was also a sleigh with 2 dogs pulling it which arrived intact & is very popular.

We had a small party last week for Alaric's birthday, seven children & as it was wet had to have them indoors. I hired a see-saw & a sort of slide & fortunately managed to get them on to the verandah & the party was quite a success. We had a treasure hunt too & Alaric looked very sweet in a blue linen smocked knickerbocker suit we got in Auckland.

I'm doing the Home Nursing course, I did it last in 1923! Last night spent 2 hours with friends doing bandaging & to-day made my own bandages. I gave a talk & demonstration on String Figures last week, to the Women's Guild run by the Harris's - They were glad to hear of Miss Williams & had been wondering where ~~she~~ she was, I like them very much.

Alaric has been forging ahead here & is getting quite fat, at 2 years weighs 27 lbs & is 34 inches tall. He talks such a lot & sings too & is so very lovable.

We shall probably leave Fiji quite soon & I am busy making some warm clothes. You had better continue writing here & letters will be forwarded.

With very much love to you all from
us both

Your loving
Honor.



HOTEL AUCKLAND

UNDER THE SAME DIRECTION
 WAVERLEY HOTEL, QUEEN ST.
 HOTEL AUCKLAND, QUEEN ST.
 THE STATION HOTEL
 OPP NEW RAILWAY STATION.



WAVERLEY HOTEL

The Station Hotel

Auckland, N.Z. 25th July, 1940.
NEW ZEALAND



THE STATION HOTEL

Dearest Lady Maude,

We are hoping very much that as we have had no news of your whereabouts you are safely in England. Everything must have happened so quickly that your last letter even was written before the seriousness of the situation was realized. I just can't imagine Jersey & Guernsey in German hands - I'm wondering too where Ruby's children are.

We left Suva at the beginning of the month & had an awful rush to get away because H.K. had expressed great surprise when I happened to mention that I was packing, so I stopped & then he woke up to the fact that ships were somewhat scarce & gave us 4 days to pack up! Eventually we had just a week & came by a boat via Samoa & Tonga, a lovely trip & one we have wanted to do for years. I am very proud of myself as I never even felt sick the whole way & a number of others, both European & native were seasick most of the way. The ship was certainly bigger than our island boats but she isn't very big. We go on to Pitcairn on the ship we came out from England on last time. We are surprised that we are being sent but I think it will be quite a good spot to be in & Algie will get more fresh food than in the Gilberts. I'm told that all my precious

2

plants, ferns & paw paw trees which were dying in the drought have now been drowned in torrential rain!

Please thank Sir Walter very much for the miniature which has arrived safely.

Alaric is loving Auckland, our windows are high but look out on to the station & a main road so he spends hours watching trams, buses & cars. Going in trams too is a great thrill & the lift in the hotel. The evening we arrived he went with the lift man up & down while we fixed up our rooms etc & amused the man very much by saying "all finished" each time the lift stopped. He is eating enormously & sleeps all the afternoon after a strenuous morning. He has suddenly begun saying "No thank you M^r Maude, I'm going up hill"! Evidently he has heard someone refuse a lift in the car, & now if anyone says "M^r Maude" he says his piece. We have a half caste girl with us, she is really D^r Macpherson's housekeeper but he has lent her to me as she was keen to go with us & it was hard to find anyone. She is very timid & hates her warm, heavy clothes but I have to insist on her wearing them as I don't want her down with pneumonia, strangely enough she doesn't feel as cold as we do, her name is Kitty. She is a hopelessly bad sailor so it was just as well I turned over a new leaf & behaved myself. Samoa is very lovely, more beautiful I think than Fiji but we both liked Tonga best, it was so like the Gilberts but wonderfully fertile



HOTEL AUCKLAND

UNDER THE SAME DIRECTION
 WAVERLEY HOTEL, QUEEN ST.
 HOTEL AUCKLAND, QUEEN ST.
 THE STATION HOTEL
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WAVERLEY HOTEL



THE STATION HOTEL

The Station Hotel

Auckland, C1
NEW ZEALAND

19

The climate is perfect. The Consul's wife had a vegetable garden where she grows really good carrots, lettuce, tomatoes & even onions. We spent the day with the Consul whom we liked very much & we met Prince Tungi, the Queen's consort but were there too short a time to meet the Queen. We spent a night with my cousin Toan in Samoa, & hadn't seen her for 8 years, & were taken to see the sights, not unfortunately R.D.S.'s tomb, there wasn't time, but we went to the house at Vailima.

We hope you are all well, it is horrible not knowing from day to day whether you are in a zone visited by air raids.

With very much love to you all from us both.

Yours

Honor.

At Sea near Pitcairn.

8-40.

Dearest lady Maude,

We are hoping to find out where you are when we get to Pitcairn, in the meantime I'll send this to Mary.

We have had a rough trip for over a week but to-day is fairly calm & it looks more hopeful for landing at Pitcairn tomorrow. I have been quite all right again so I think I must really be improving & may be a good sailor yet! We had a week in Wellington, a horrible cold week too, there was a lot of 'flu about which we all caught but fortunately Kitty & I didn't develop it properly until we were on board, I can't get ^{rid} of my cold which is most tiresome. Alacie & I were inoculated for typhoid in Wellington, the first injection didn't worry us much but Alacie had a

very bad time after the second one. He
 shivered, went blue & moaned & wheezed
 & gave us an awful fright. I sent
 for a doctor who delayed our departure
 from Wellington & even suggested that
 Alois might not be well enough to
 travel on this ship but he made a
 quick recovery & we got to Lyttelton
 in good time to get on board as the
 ship was delayed a little. We had
 planned to have a day or two in
 Christchurch as we have not seen that
 city properly but we had to go straight
 from the small boat from Wellington on
 to this ship. We are told we mustn't
 mention names of boats so all I
 can tell you is that this is the
 ship we came out in in 1936. We
 have a deck cabin with a bathroom
 which is very nice. Very few
 passengers of course, only 4 ladies &

only one going to England.

Harry thinks it might be as well to address letters to Pitcairn Island. We shall probably be there until the beginning of December.

We met a Christian, a McCoy in Wellington, found out quite a lot about Pitcairn. Each of them offered us a house so we can take our choice. It is going to be rather a tricky business as there is some disension on the island owing to the presence of a European wireless man who seems to think himself somewhat more important than he is. He has said that he is going to have us to stay with him & we are determined to stay with none. McCoy's niece is married to this man & they have been living in his house & I rather think that if we go into the house we shall be more

or less under their wing. The magistrates will probably have a house for us too so I should think we will either go into his or Christian's.

Apparently most vegetables are grown on Pitcairna as well as lots of fruit so with fish, chicken, eggs & goat one wouldn't starve if stranded there, rather better than the Gilberts. Alarc should do well - I shall be glad to get him settled ashore in quiet surroundings & on proper routine. We found when we had him in our cabin at the beginning of the voyage that Kitey had spoilt him dreadfully & we had to resort to slapping him, however we understand one another again now & he only plays up with Kitey.

There should be another mail in about a month.

With much love from

Honor.

P.S. Alaric is talking very well now & says long sentences. He repeats parts of "The Three Bears" & "Little Black Sambo" & sings "Sleep, Baby, Sleep, Thy Father guards his sheep" if requested to sing one to sleep. He is using a knife & fork & managing very well. He has learnt to climb on this ship, in & out of the bunks & up any ladder he sees, & everyone marvels at his steadiness, even when it was rough he was running round without any difficulty.

R^d 9/11/40

Pitcairn Island,

8th September, 1940.

Dearest Lady Maude,

We have been here over two weeks & are just beginning to feel less strange, the island is a lovely spot though it is just like living on the side of a mountain, you cannot go anywhere without climbing, but the people are a race apart & difficult to understand. As you probably know they are Seventh Day Adventists & very religious but the spirit on the island is appalling, & yet they are most kind. There is too much jealousy for there to be any co-operation, gossip is the order of the day & always returns to the people concerned & morality hardly exists. Most people have illegitimate children & think nothing of it, there is any amount of stealing & general lawlessness. Harry says their language in court is dreadful & they have no strong leader now so I don't know what Harry will recommend, it isn't much use making laws if no one is going to enforce them! As individuals they are so nice to meet, especially some of the older ones, & have a fascinating way of talking though it is hard to understand at times. One thing that rather depressed us at first was the constant warnings most people are forever giving us about other people, the only thing to do is to take no notice & hope for the best, everyone

is so hopelessly jealous of everyone else.

We had a rough trip up & were beginning to think we would have a very nasty landing if we landed at all, & then the morning of the day we arrived broke mild & sunny with a southerly wind which was just what we needed. We arrived off the island about 4 p.m. & there were four boats out waiting for us but it was nearly 6 p.m. before the islanders had finished bartering & all our luggage was stowed away. Kitty, Alaric & I were let down in a marvellous contraption made for the occasion, a little wooden platform with high canvas sides, I think the rope ladder would have been more comfortable but it was certainly quite a long way down. Alaric & I went first & were nearly tipped into the sea between the boat & the ship which frightened Alaric, however we were soon righted & safe on board, then Kitty came down & Harry on the rope ladder. Then the islanders began to come down, I thought there would never be an end of them & I hate pitching up & down beside a ship. Eventually we pushed off, in a half hearted sort of way, everyone chattering & about two oars in use out of 12! Then, to my disgust, we had to go back for a man who got left behind & by this time the ship was going. We seemed to be horribly near the propeller but no one worried

the houses & it was difficult to know which to choose, the nicest from our point of view or that which would cause least dissension. In the end we pleased ourselves we got so fed up with local squabbles & have the house which was really prepared months ago for us by the late Magistrate, who unfortunately died in June, it was the only empty one, parts were newly painted & it was by far the cleanest, in a secluded spot with a gorgeous view of Christian's Cave which is high up on Adam's Peak. The village, or town, as it is called, is mostly built on the side of a very steep hill, you can't go anywhere without climbing, & when it rains, which is most of the time since we got here, you are in constant peril of sitting down with a nasty jar. The mud must be the stickiest on earth & the islanders seem to have given up the unequal struggle & the interior of the houses all look horribly dirty to our particular eyes, even when the floors have just been washed over. The houses are strongly built but very rough, with unpainted iron roofs, proper windows but only the lower halves open, & the plans are odd in the extreme, so unlike anything anywhere else that they are hard to describe, photos may convey more. The floors are hopelessly uneven, & not covered in any way, the dining rooms usually have a large

much so we shouted Good-bye & everyone on board was shouting & waving & ended up by cheering us, a marvellous send off & we began to feel we were real pioneers of the Empire!

The ship soon faded away in the gathering dusk & we transferred some of our surplus men & cargo to other boats & were soon pulling strongly for the shore. Unfortunately it was too dark to see the magnificent cliffs as we came in but at least we couldn't see the breakers on the rocks either nor the narrow entrance, but we had a perfect landing, no shells at all though we did wait on the edge of the breakers to let a few waves pass, & then we went in quickly before the next wave. The climb up was not as bad as I expected, it is certainly steep but there is a wide path & not as I expected, from reading various accounts, a narrow path cut out of a precipitous cliff. In places it is so steep that steps are provided but the islanders manage to wheel loaded wheelbarrows up & down.

It was of course too late to late to look at houses that night so we went to stay with the magistrate, David Young, & his wife, an American, until we could move into a house of our own. As we suspected there was tremendous rivalry about

table & benches, a large safe & probably a cupboard made of a packing case. Everything is very primitive & life is very hard, just living takes all ones time. Never have I seen harder beds but fortunately I brought my di- to sleep in comfort & Harry & Kitty seem to be quite comfortable on queer mattresses on board beds.

The main gardens are some distance out & up steep hills of course, & everything, except water, has to be carted up & down these hills.

When we first arrived we had 4 beautiful warm, sunny days though the nights were cold, then we had a whole week of rain, then a few fine days in which we managed to get our woolies washed & thick clothes aired & now it is raining again. We are chilly most of the time & are glad of 3 blankets at night & fairly warm clothes in the day.

I went to bed for 4 days as soon as we moved in here with flu which I not really got rid of. We have a big room upstairs with windows all round it where we three sleep & Kitty has a room downstairs, I'll make a plan in my next letter. Our room looks like a glorified box room with beds in it! Harry is going to post so I must stop. Much love from us both

Howard

P.S. I've had a wonderful
bit of luck. The first time
I went gardening I
found an old gold
wedding ring with
"pure 6 wt K"
engraved in it. I
wonder if it is
a "Bounty" relic or
somewhat later?
Edward Young was
the only one to have
a ring at first.

Pitcairn Island

Eastern Pacific.

12th October. 1940.

Dear Lady Maude,

Since I last wrote Mr. Fuller, the Post Office man from Fiji, has arrived; he has a couple of rooms in the house below us but has his meals with us. He is very nice and it was very funny to see his bewilderment when he first heard of the various odd things these people do. We none of us can understand their mentality at all they are outwardly very religious, always having prayer meetings etc. yet their morals, from a Christian or even the ordinary "man in the street's" outlook, are appalling. Half the island seem to be illegitimate or to have illegitimate children and I have heard of several women with three or four children and a different father for each one! They are revengeful, spiteful, jealous and scandalmongers yet to meet individually quite delightful and very kind. However I'm still getting shocks when I am disillusioned about someone that I thought above suspicion. One middle aged woman, a pillar of the church I have just been told cut off another woman's hair when she was asleep, just for spite.

The island is beautiful and a paradise for anyone fond of walking and climbing, we have had some hair-raising climbs and are now getting quite good heads for heights. We have been one very nasty climb which I wouldn't do again for anything, we had a couple of islanders with us and were roped over a few places for extra safety; we also had with us two island women, at least one is an American

married to the present Magistrate, and two dogs who gave us fits by getting round our legs. None of us have been down "Rope" yet, all the books say it is the most awful place but the islanders say that it is easier than the climb I have just mentioned. I don't know, the islanders have no fear of heights, all they worry about is the surface on which their feet must grip and I rather think that going down rope there is a tremendous drop and just a narrow but firm path cut out of the face of the cliff, however we shall go and have a look at it I expect. Harry of course is just loving it and has climbed over most of the island I think. To-day he and I went for a climb which was quite steep in parts but not really dangerous, we wouldn't have been seriously hurt if we had fallen anywhere but it was quite exciting. It is amusing to find that places that we thought awful when we first arrived seem quite ordinary now. Did I tell you that we went right round the island by boat? The day that Mr. Fuller arrived, when the boats were all in the water, the islanders suddenly decided that it was a good day to take us round. Mr. Fuller wasn't feeling at all well so we went without him and I wished I had stayed behind too when we had been out about 15 minutes. I've no nerve left where boats are concerned and there were three boats going round, two kept very close together and horribly close to the shore and the breakers dashing up on the rocks, then we rounded a point and got into rather rough sea, we put up the sail and wallowed along and a number of us were dreadfully sick, I don't believe I have ever felt worse! So I wasn't interested in the coast line for some time and missed about half the island I think, however they decided to land on the other side of the island and I was able to recover and enjoyed the rest of

the trip.

One day we climbed down to the shore to copy some rock carvings in a cave, it was quite a good climb but had only two nasty little bits but it was so cold down there that we had to light a fire and then we were smoked out of the cave. I got about half the figures and we hope to go again to get the rest, the trouble here is that whatever you do you have to have a whole tribe along with you and waste so much time.

A ship is due here on the 14th, the last day of the old issue of stamps so this envelope may be quite valuable and the next letters will have the new stamps on them and be first day covers.

Mr. Fuller's wireless set is working well and we get all the news but we can't help wondering how much we are not told and how you are all getting on. It seems dreadful to be sitting in this lovely, peaceful spot when so many people are suffering, however if the war spreads any further we shall probably get our share of frightfulness later on.

Alaric has had another bout of fever, 36 hours again with a high temperature and his little heart going like a sledge hammer and so dreadfully fast, this time he had no other symptoms and we think it was a touch of the sun again; he had been playing in the sun rather a lot the day, so now we are being very careful. He is very entertaining and the other day was watching his puppy having its bath when Kitty went to get him to have his bath so he came in saying "Alaric's going to have a bath, where's Alaric's fleas?" He gets into quite a lot of mischief and the other day first of all got hold of a large bottle of Prickly heat lotion and spilt about half of

it on the floor; later in the day I found him on a chair by the dining table with my bottle of mayonnaise which I had just been using. he was holding it upside down and the contents were all on the floor. Now I have told him that Alaric doesn't touch Mummy's bottles and it seems to have sunk in for this morning he saw a precious bottle of face oil by my bed and just looked at it longingly and repeated what I had told him.

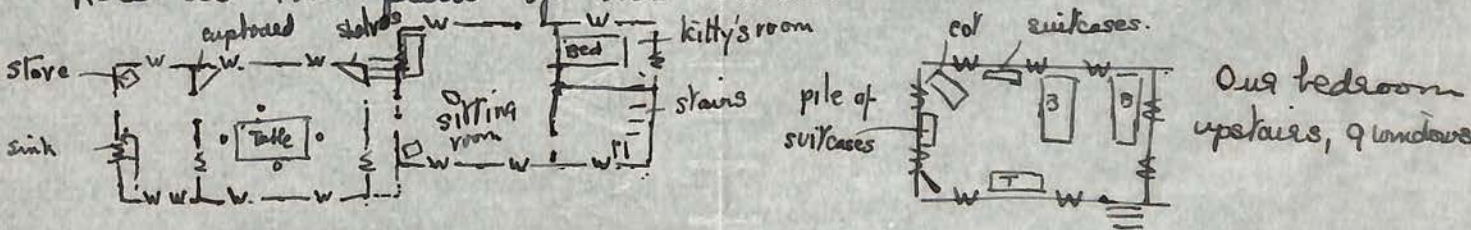
We were so glad to get all your letters from England - to hear that you had safely left Guernsey, I only hope that the Air Raids haven't harassed you too much. I remember Chudleigh quite well, I once spent 8 months at Exmouth & visited a number of places round including Exeter & the Cathedral. Ruby's children are all in S. Wales with M^{rs} Voisin, goodness knows what they are living on though! I had a very nice letter from Tim telling me about their journey & what he was able to bring away with him.

I meant to go on writing to you immediately the last mail had gone as I didn't finish your last letter properly but it is such an effort that I always leave it till the last minute. Kitty & I are always going from 6 a.m. until 7 or 8 p.m. & just when everything seems finished & we can have a day or two going easy Alaric gets ill or visitors turn up! The other day I put both hands into nearly

boiling water thinking it was cold but fortunately I only blistered slightly the two thumbs, it gave me a nasty shock though. I've been getting Christmas mail ready but will send it later so that people can have the new stamps.

I enclose a snap which got packed away & has just come to light again, I spent a lot of time waiting for the right moment & was rather pleased with the result. I do wish you could see Alaic, he is fast growing out of his babyhood & is so full of chatter, he rather fancies himself as a climber & if we take him anywhere on the rocks he refuses to be carried & gets along very well. He loves to feed the chickens & goes into fits of laughter when they feed from the bowl as he holds it.

Here is the plan of our house: -



There are no cupboards or drawers so we have to manage as best we can. We fixed up a hanging space which is a great help.

Harry sends his love, I suppose one day he will write you another screed but he always seems to be typing & writing.

With much love from

Honor.

R
21/1/40

Pitcairn Island.

Eastern Pacific.

Nov: 5th 1940.

Dearest lady Maude,

There is a ship going south in a few days so I will send this that way & one for Sir Walter I'll send via Panama, I don't know which is the safer route so send both ways. We are hoping to get letters from home soon.

We are all very well & the change to a cooler climate with fresh food is doing us a world of good. Alaric is really plump & almost fat & so full of energy. Harry & I are doing our Müller exercises again after a lapse, in my case, of 2 years, & feel very fit so we should return to the troubled world well fortified. Alaric causes much amusement with his sayings & has developed an extremely forced & rather loud & prolonged laugh which makes us all laugh. Yesterday he broke a wooden fish he had been given & I asked him if he ^{had} broken it by falling down so he replied, "I didn't fall down, the fish fell down"! He romances like anything & one day came & told me of a conversation he had had with Harry, he said this & Daddy said that, all most convincing & I discovered later that Harry was fast asleep & never

even knew Alaic had been near him. Alaic can take messages very well & pod peas, even opening the pods now. Feeding chickens is still one of his main pleasures but it has to be curtailed because he eats so much of the food himself, now feeding chickens comes immediately after meals. We have started bathing, in the pools on the rocks, & Alaic thoroughly enjoyed it, sits in a pool up to his neck & runs about splashing. He is just growing out of all his clothes & I am in the throes of making new ones; little boys pants are horrid to make as I haven't got a pattern I really like, Alaic is getting too big for the bloomer type & I badly need a good pattern for pants, could you ask Dolly if she has such a thing? The tailor in Fiji cut me a pattern but it is a complete failure, a horrid shape.

We are starting a bunch of girls on carols for Christmas & had our first practice this evening but the idea on this island seems to be to make as much noise as possible & the result is that the children just shout. However the lady in charge seems to like it so why worry.

Harry has been collecting stone implements & has a wonderful lot now, he is very thrilled as you can imagine. Everyone almost seems to have been digging & we go about with our eyes

on the ground, I found a beautiful little adze
one day.

M^r Fuller has a Ring Pong set & has had
a plank table fixed up & we have quite good
games. He is still busy with stamp orders but
hopes to finish soon & then we may go & camp
in a little house right up on the top of the
island, a lovely spot looking down so steeply
to the sea about 800 ft. below & far away from
the village. The weather is warmer but
still very chilly when the sun goes down.

With much love from us both to
you all.

Yours loving,
Honor.

R^d
7/11/41

Pitcairn Island,

17. 11. 40.

Dear Sir Walter,

I sent letters to Lady Maude & to Aunt Mabel a week ago, via New Zealand & hope they reach their destination safely. I haven't been numbering my letters which is rather a pity as you won't know if any get lost, anyhow we only get a ship about once a month. We got nothing from Home by the last Panama boat but hope for something by the N.Z. ship. We shall be here until January now, we received a radio a few days ago telling us to stay on & see the new Government elected & get them working properly, the present lot don't function at all & no one has any idea of law & order. Everything is reduced to personalities & if anyone does anything wrong their whole family gathers round & hushes it up! There are two policemen on the island &

one of them came to Harry a short time ago to ask him some questions about his duties & his powers. He asked whether a man could be arrested to hitting the Magistrate in Court! He said it seemed to him not quite right but no one knew the law so nothing was done to the offender.

Harry has collected nearly 400 stones here, adzes of various shapes & sizes & all good specimens, besides these there are about 100 fragments which are difficult to recognise or classify. He is very pleased of course & even to the untrained eye the collection looks pretty good.

Alaic is simply shooting ahead & I do wish you could see him, he is really most amusing & so very grown up, using quite good grammar & any phrases he hears us use. He is always saying he "expects he had better" do so & so or "please shut the door, will you, so that Tiggy can't come in", he loves saying "will you"? His laugh is very forced but

rather infectious & he spins wonderful yarns with appropriate actions. He is very independent at times & will take messages to houses quite a distance away & hates to be helped when climbing up hills, he is a good little climber. His best friend is a little girl called Vanda who is 3 & they talk away together & have lovely games as long as they are left alone. He is a tremendous singer & is getting quite a good idea of time, he has a good memory too & sings or recites any number of things & can count to ten without a mistake when he wants to, which isn't often!

Phyllis, the girl who was helping us, has gone to New Zealand so we are looking for someone just to come & do the washing & ironing. I went out to the last ship that came & enjoyed myself thoroughly. The ship was rather empty & I'm sure the rope ladder was quite 40 feet high & I was quite glad when I reached the top safely.

We bought a few oddments we wanted at the Barber's shop. got cheese etc. from the chief steward. then had tea with the Captain, an extremely nice person. He introduced us to a naval man & his wife who were going to Australia & we had a lovely long talk which did us good after 5 months of island gossip. When we came away the good lady kept telling me to be careful going down the rope ladder & ended, so Harry tells me, by rushing away from the side saying "I can't bear it, I can't bear it"! I wasn't worrying at all, it was easy compared with going up & heights don't bother us at all now. It took us over an hour to return to the shore we had drifted so far out but it was a lovely evening & I wasn't ill though Edna Young was.

With much love to you all from us both.

Yours affectionately,

Honor.

15/5/41

Pitcairn Island,
Eastern Pacific.

22nd March. 1941.

Dearest Lady Maude,

It is such a long time since I have attempted to write a letter that I do not know where to begin. We have had no mail for at least four months, I can't remember when the last lot arrived, and have had no opportunity of sending any except last month when we were supposed to be going ourselves so had not written any letters. When we all got to the ship we found that they would not take us, although we had been told to go by her, and in the end Fuller managed to get a passage but nobody else. I asked him to get in touch with Auntie Connie so I hope you got news of us through her. We haven't the least idea when we shall get away and all our boxes are waiting, as they have been for the past two months, down in the boats, as you have to be able to get away from here in half an hour after the ship is sighted! We did it beautifully last time and it's amazing how few things one can get along with but you can imagine how flat we felt when we came back. However, not as flat as the poor people whose houses are demolished and everything ruined *by bombs*.

Before Fuller went we were getting short of stores, no tea, no sauces, no sugar, no meat and not much flour and when we heard that we were to leave we finished up a number of things. Fuller was always going round saying things were "tough" so I don't know what he would say now! He was too fond of his tummy and I am very thankful

he got away. We were given flour, sugar, butter, rice and tea by the ship but we have had to eke it out and have had no butter for some time and no other fat of course and as there is no way of making it on the island. In fact we are practically living on the produce of the island and not doing too badly though Kitty has let things get her down and won't eat enough, pines for bacon and eggs which I told her she would be jolly lucky to get anywhere now. Eggs we do miss very much but I think the hens will soon be laying again and there will be enough for Alaric at least. The islanders are very generous and we have as much corn, sweet potatoes, lima beans, bananas, mangoes at present, water melons and rock melons, arrowroot, pawpaws green beans, lettuce and tomatoes as we can eat and the oranges will be ripe soon. I use corn-meal in bread, to eke out the flour, and it makes the bread delicious, we have also learnt to make various biscuits and crisp rolls with arrowroot, maniocca, coconut and flour and they are all very good. We get fish once or twice a week unless the weather is bad, and we have chicken about once a week so we really haven't anything to grumble about these terrible times if we do miss our butter, or margarine, cheese and other things we are used to. I made some tomato chutney after we returned from our attempt at leaving as there were heaps of small tomatoes, it was my first effort and was very successful and has certainly added a little interest to our vegetable cutries. I also made some melon jam which was very good. I put in some pineapple too but couldn't make much because of the shortage of sugar. The only objections to our present diet seem to be that a number of things are indigestible and we suffer a good deal

from uncomfortable tummies and it takes much more to make one feel satisfied, we seem to eat enormously now though our appetites are still small compared with the islanders.

The day we went out to the ship was a red letter day for Alaric and every day I have to tell him the whole proceeding at least once and sometimes three or four times! We were expecting the ship that day so were up early, Alaric had had his breakfast and ^{had} gone to the village with Hilda but we were just finishing getting things ready and had had nothing to eat when the cry of "Sail-oh" went up and we had to fly. It was rather rough and the passage wasn't very nice though it wasn't too frightening. Four boats went out and we went in the last one, Alaric was very thrilled until we got near the breakers and then he was a bit frightened and wanted to go home, however once we got outside Harry took him as I was dreadfully seasick and he enjoyed his trip. The ship seemed to be a long way out and it must have taken us nearly an hour to row out to her, my legs were so weak when we did get there that I could hardly get up the rope ladder, luckily it was a short one! We got the shock of our lives when we were told we could not go on her and the thought of that horrible trip back again wasn't nice. However we stayed on the ship long enough for me to have some biscuits and a sip of brandy and I felt very much better. Kitty however was sick on the ship too and a few other women were feeling bad. Returning home was quite good, we sailed back, and I at any rate wasn't sick, but the passage was a good deal worse than when we went out as the tide had turned. Alaric was in another boat with Robert and they got in first, they

waited on the edge of the breakers for ages and I was watching them with my heart in my mouth, however they went in beautifully and we dashed in after them, got caught a bit by a wave and went in ~~in~~ ^{rather} too fast and hit the othe boat at the landing but didn't do much damage. Alaric was looking a bit scared but soon recovered and, as I said before, can talk of nothing else but going out in the boats. The next boat was caught by a huge breaker and the steersman was washed into the boat but got back to the tiller and came in well and the last boat made a perfect passage. The swamped boat fortunately didn't have many things in it that mattered, mostly Harry's stones I think and our old picnic basket was there with all our bandages, lint etc in it and I had to wash the whole lot.

Alaric is very well, he has recently discovered a very nice little girl who lives near by and he spends most of his time up at her house or bringing her and her little brother here. When I was packing he found some small bricks I was keeping for him with all the letters of the alphabet on them and persuaded me to let him play with them and now he can pick out any letter as long as you give the name of the person attached to it, A for Alaric, K for Kitty etc. he picks us all out and puts us in his boat and is very funny with his chatter about where each is to sit. I was rather horrified when I found how many letters he was learning but he did it all in play so I suppose it is all right. I am always afraid that Harry will try to push him ahead before he is ready but I don't think I need be, the child picks things up so quickly and remembers them too. So far he doesn't seem to have picked up much bad talk, though he talks

a good deal of Pitcairn, but the other day I heard him call Robert and when he answered said "you're filthy". I gave him a good talking to and told him I would smack him if he said it again but I rather thought I hadn't made much impression, however, a few days later Harry, finding him in a muddy condition said, "you are a filthy little boy, aren't you?" and was told off by Master Alaric, quoting me as the authority.

17.4.41

Here we are on our way to Panama on an American ship, then we have to find our way back to New Zealand where I really think Alaric, and possibly I should stay, this is no time for touring the Pacific. There is so much I should like to tell you but I am afraid of having it all censored so I expect the less I say the better. We hope to get mail when we get back to N.Z., we have asked them to hold it there, and in the meantime will try to get in touch with you by radio from Balboa but we have very little money and wonder if we can get any dollars! We have had a wonderful trip but Kitty has been terribly seasick, I think it must just have been the last straw, as she wasn't well at Pitcairn, because nobody could have been so sick for ten days with practically no sea at all. We had very bad luck getting away from Pitcairn, we left the shore at 4 a.m. and the silly asses put practically everything valuable into the boat with the inexperienced man who got swamped when we went out before and of course he made a hash again and then evidently the people in that boat didn't bother to bail or to move any of our boxes and there they lay in salt water for at least two hours while we waited for the ship to come up can you

imagine such wanton carelessness? My sewing machine, which I have taken all over the world, was wet but mostly at the bottom and I think I have cleaned and oiled it sufficiently to save it from ruin but it will have to be overhauled. The typewriter, which I am using, was badly wet but may be all right with a few new parts, it is sticking rather badly. Our beautiful little camera looks more or less ruined. Harry's beautiful leather suitcase, that we bought for a fabulous sum in Guernsey, is ruined, the whole thing was just soaked, and everything in it of course. All his dress collars are a beautiful red from the lining of the collar-box, otherwise I think the clothes are all right. The cabin trunk of linen was soaked to half-way up, fortunately I had put sheets etc at the bottom and blankets at the top. My wardrobe suitcase was drenched and all my best clothes which I had had packed for two months. My dear old workbox, the cretonne covered one Lady Maude gave me, had just come to pieces, an almost new and very nice white dress is all stained and another good dress is spoilt. I'm pretty certain that the box with the Primus and my kerosene iron in it got wet, for the second time, so they'll be ruined. Kitty was more fortunate, one small suitcase of curios, which also got wet the first time, was wet and I think her box of linen got a bit wet but nothing else. You can imagine what a time I had the first week washing and ironing, linen, all my clothes, all Harry's linen suits etc. and packing

and unpacking, cleaning and oiling and Kitty completely prostrate. Harry kept Alaric most of the time and the Captain and Chief Steward were very helpful putting up lines for me and producing pegs and oil and tools generally. I always knew the Pitcairn Islanders were very careless with their things but I really didn't think anyone on this earth would solemnly sit in a boat, not even rowing, with the luggage awash at their feet, it was lucky for them we didn't know about it till they had gone. It was a pity too because we had got quite fond of them and for many reasons regretted leaving Pitcairn and it made us feel that they had treated us rather shabbily, first to put all the valuable things into Warren's boat and secondly to just leave them lying in a foot or so of water for hours.

We had a lovely day to leave, fairly calm but evidently the tide was coming in as the breakers were big, but only Warren's boat got swamped, we got out well although it was almost dark but the boats rocked a good deal and we had to wait so long that Kitty was very sick, I only a little and poor Alaric was sick once, he didn't even cry, he really is good, and after eating a biscuit was quite all right.

One man was very ill while we were at Pitcairn, one of a family who looked after us very well, always sending us vegetables and fruit. When he had been ill a week they asked us to help and we had an awful time with him, every day the symptoms changed and we didn't know what was the matter and the poor man was in dreadful pain. We think he really had a partial stoppage of the bowels as a mass of stuff eventually came away and he had no more pain but then his pulse and temper-

ature were so low for days that we were afraid he was just slipping away. However by feeding him with nourishing liquids very frequently he eventually recovered, to his own and most other people's surprise I think! When we had been treating him for a few days he seemed to be improving and then one night was terribly bad, we suspected he had eaten something forbidden by us but didn't get them to admit it for some days, and he had of course, and also walked about the house so everyone said it was his own fault, which wasn't very comforting for him, but at least made us feel we wouldn't be blamed if he died.

I hope you haven't been worrying about us, you probably guessed we were stranded as you would get more news than we did. I have a letter which I began on Dec: 20th but there isn't much in it so I'll destroy it. Will you send letters to Lady Robertson please, until we know where we shall be. The address is, Rannoch, Almorah Road, Epsom, Auckland, S.E.I.

We suppose we are still booked for Tonga as we have been told to go first to N.Z., not Fiji, & we said some time ago we would need clothes before going to Tonga. Harry arranged for a schooner to take us from Pitcairn to Tahiti, which would have taken us half way to Tonga, but H.K. for some reason didn't close the deal. I'm not sure that I shall go to Tonga, unless we leave Alarie in N.Z., it is only for a short time & then more travelling & I don't think we should trail him round the oceans in war time. Alarie seemed to do very well on Pitcairn, we

managed to keep enough butter, marmite etc. for him & even eggs. He had one bad week during which I thought he would soon come to a sudden end, nothing but accidents, but after that he got along famously. He fell down two steps on to his chin & split it open, it should have been stitched I think but it healed beautifully with strapping to keep it together, he had a hoerid red scar for months but it is fading now. Then he fell down the very steep stairs in our house & bruised his cheek badly, then fell backwards off a platform, then half tore off one of his toe nails, got a 1/2 inch scratch on one leg, both knees were permanently grazed, then he developed a patch of "itch" which he had for months till I almost despaired of curing it, even now it is apt to come back just a tiny bit, & then he developed two little boils on his ribs. He fell down stairs again after that, as the result of arguing with me - I didn't push him, it was just that he chose the top stair to argue from & the next thing I knew was that he had disappeared from view! When he wants to say "I'm not going to", when told to do something, he says "I no given", which is Pitcairn, with the no broad & long, it makes it hard not to laugh! He calls bananas "plums", bathing is "mahwi" & anything beginning with "v" such as valley is "wallej". Mine is "my-an" & yours, youan, I don't know, I kawa. He knows the story

of the Panda from cover to cover & you can often hear him reciting it to himself, he loves the part where the Panda gets all black & the Picanonny says "never mind, it may wash off". But it didn't... etc. & they scrubbed & scrubbed & soaped & rinsed - I know the whole thing by heart too! Mr^{rs} David Young, the American, gave Alarie some little records, Songs of Raggedy Ann, & some A. A. Milne songs, all delightful & Alarie loves them, he had reached the stage where he could put them on the gramophone himself, & the first time we were in another room & got an awful shock.

He held the crayon while we wrote the enclosed letter & he says you can get into the boat & go to the big ship & go up the ladder because you would like to be on the ship too. He still uses his name when speaking of himself though he often uses "I" & "me" too. I hope to send this, or a shorter letter, Air mail, we haven't much American money however & don't know whether we can get any.

With much love to all the family from us both.

Your loving
Honor.

DEAR GRANNY

ALARIC IS ON

A BIG SHIP. I

LIKE IT.

A BIG HUG FROM

ALARIC



MATSON LINE

"Monterey",

3rd May, 1941.

Dearest Mady Maude,

You never know where we are going to turn up next do you? We are due in Honolulu tomorrow, en route for New Zealand. We had 5 hectic days in Balboa, the heat was awful & the noise terrible, the noisiest place in the world I should think, all day & night, & the shipping hopeless, we seemed to have just missed all the suitable ships. In the end we cabled Suva for permission to fly to Los Angeles to get this boat, American of course, which gets us back so

quickly. Staying in Balboa was very expensive & shipping quite uncertain; I didn't like the idea of flying at first, & leaving all our luggage but Panama was horrible & waiting from day to day most wearing. As it was we seemed to change our plans about 3 times a day. It was rather a job booking through by plane at such short notice & at one time we seemed to be stuck at Mexico city, however someone had a bright idea & we went round by Brownsville. Then we had to get photos taken & visas for Mexico & U.S.A., all in 2 days! I had to go to the docks & dig out some warm clothes & decide how much we could take, I had to make 2 trips as I didn't get enough at first

• Harry weighed everything on the weighing machine in the hotel. We had a wardrobe suitcase each - a small overnight case so we haven't got much! We have never travelled with so little luggage & it certainly is nice.

The flying was a wonderful trip & I enjoyed it really though I am not keen on flying. We were above the clouds quite a bit, especially the first day but we also had some wonderful views of the ground. The first day we left Balboa at 9.50 a.m. & went to Guatemala where we arr. at 4.30 & slept the night. We came down at David, San Jose (Costa Rica), Managua (Nicaragua) Tegucigalpa (Honduras) & San Salvador between Balboa &

Guatemala & had about an hour to $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs in the air between each place.

Alarie was sick once, it was rather bumpy that day, & Kitty was hopelessly sick the whole way, I'm afraid she just lies down & gives in, worse than me!

Harry & I were quite O.K. Guatemala is a large town & looked a lovely place with a good climate. The Indian weaving is gorgeous & I got a short coat which is lovely.

We left Guatemala at 8:30 a.m. The next day & were flying all that day & all night, except for a 4 hr. break at Dallas, & got to Los Angeles at 8 a.m. ^{even}) but as the clocks went back 2 hrs that

MATSON LINE

meant 10 a.m. to us. We had longer trips, 3 hrs. + more in the air from Guatemala to Tapachula to Mexico City, an hours rest at Mexico & then to Tampico & Brownsville where we arrived at 4.50. There we changed planes as ours ran from Brownsville to Trinidad. This second plane only took us to Dallas where we arr. at 10.50 & waited till 1.30 when we got into a sleeper - lovely bunks but a bit cramped in, however. Alarie & I shared a bunk so we didn't have to have the upper bunk put down & it was very smooth travelling. We

b.

came down twice before Los Angeles, at El Paso & Phoenix - We were all awake very early & it was a beautiful morning as we flew over a great plain & then across the Colorado river. Near Los Angeles we ran into fog & had to land at Long Beach, a very disappointing place, all oil derricks & no film stars! We were extremely weary & dishevelled & then had to do some shopping & had only that day & the next before sailing. However it was great fun, 8 months shopping crammed into 1 day. Kitty was a

week & I had to have Alaic most of the time so I went to a big store & asked for a girl to go round with me - we just sauced through. I got Alaic a lovely pair of long overall trousers & a striped jersey & he looks such a pet & is awfully proud, unfortunately we haven't got a camera now so I must try & get someone to snap him.

We hope for mail soon, it should be waiting in N.Z. Harry is indulging in 'flu & Kitty is

in the 2nd class + just beginning
to recover so I've had to scribble
this. Will write again from
Pago Pago.

With much love to you
all from us both

Honor.

Rd
22/7/41



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
FIJI.

1st June, 1941.

Dearest Lady Maude,

There were 16 letters from you + Sir Walter waiting here for us & it was marvellous to get all the news. We had, of course, no idea that Joan was having a baby & your last letter must have been written shortly before the event, I hope all went well.

I posted cards in Pago Pago & hope you got them safely. When we arrived in Suva we found that the next ship had changed her route & we can pick her up here, we were quite glad not to go into the cold though it is more difficult to collect our luggage. It is great fun seeing all our friends again - We dumped Alacic with Delia while

we dashed back to the ship to pack, then all had lunch together at the Hotel. H.K. was away but returned 2 days later & we moved up here which was marvellous. The weather is wonderful, quite cool with a stiff breeze most days. We have had a 4 day trip to the Lepes settlement, Mokoqai, & also to Levuka, the old capital. Mokoqai is a lovely island with a better climate than Suva. The patients can live a fairly normal life, the men in villages & the women at the central station. I will write more fully next mail, I have been busy shopping, keeping Marie quiet when the girl is away & being here means no evenings for writing. Today we have some French officials coming through & I may have the lady in the party to entertain, I hope to goodness she speaks a little English at least! I shall be sending photographs next mail too.

Much love from us both.

Honor.

"Matua"

UNION STEAM SHIP
COMPANY OF N.Z. LTD.

RA
6/8/41

Posted at Apia

Samoa.

14. 6. 41.

Dearest Lady Maude,

As usual I am in
a frantic hurry, I must leave
this to go to Pago Pago. We have
just had two nights with
my cousin Joan on our way
to Tonga. We climbed up to
R.L.S.'s tomb before breakfast
yesterday, we were disappointed
that we didn't have time on our
last visit. It is well preserved

* there is a good path up.

We shall be glad to get to
Pukealofa & settle into our
own house for a bit. Alarie
has got a bit out of hand &
spoiled by his Tujian nurse.

I enclose photo of Alarie &
myself, it should have been
larger & softer lines but the
wretched man did it wrong.

Much love from us both

Yours

Honor.

RA-11/9/41

The British Residency,
Nukualofa,
Tonga.

3-7-41.

Dearest lady Maude,

We had just a month in Suva waiting for the ship which was to take us to Tonga. There we were able to buy most of the things we were lacking owing to leaving all our luggage at Panama. We had two days in Apia with my cousin Joan and we climbed up to Robert Louis Stevenson's grave before breakfast one morning; it is quite a stiff climb, it took us an hour to go up, but it is a lovely spot. We did a little driving which I found rather hairraising as the Samoans are all over the road and won't move; our driver told us that a boy of twelve had been killed that morning when another boy deliberately pushed him into a car. We visited Vavau, another of the Tongan group, which has a beautiful harbour winding in and out of lovely islands.

We arrived in Nukualofa on a very wet day and found the people we are relieving suffering from 'flu, Mrs Armstrong should obviously have been in bed but she had to tell me about everything and the poor thing had no voice at all by the end of the day. The Armstrongs have left everything for us so we just had to walk into the house and unpack our clothes, I have never had such a marvellous time. The house is large and nicely furnished and had a lovely garden, there is a wireless set, refrigerator, motor car and well trained servants and I rather feel that I shall wake up one morning and find it is all a dream. Mrs Armstrong even left her own linen and silver for us as we were not sure whether our own would be sent from Auckland where we stored it when we went to Pitcairn. Actually Auntie had it sent up on the ship we travelled on but they appear to have carried it back

to New Zealand as it cannot be found anywhere here.

Harry had to pay an official call on the Queen, all dressed up in his uniform and looking very grand, he was very nervous but found Her Majesty quite easy to talk to. I also had to call and went to the palace with the senior lady in the Tongan Government service who introduced me; we had tea and talked to the Queen for about half an hour. She is a very tall woman, 6ft 7 in I believe but she looks most regal, especially when dressed in her robes as she was the other day for the opening of Parliament. We had to go and await her arrival in the Council Chamber and it was all most impressive. Wherever Harry goes they play God Save the King and as there are shows nearly every night, for the War Fund, we have had it a good many times already I spent one evening sitting beside the Queen at a Fancy Dress dance for the children, I think Her Majesty got the thing up, anyhow she asked me to give away the prizes, which I did, wondering all the time if I was turning my back to her which you are not allowed to do.

The dresses were simply marvellous, very original idead and all carried out so well with local materials such as tapa, coir, leaves, shells, seeds and hibiscus bark. There have been several concerts which are great fun and the Tongan dancing is about the best I have seen anywhere in the islands. There have also been dances to which everyone goes, Harry doesn't dance of course but we go for a little while and I dance a few times and we come home. The first time we went they insisted on us opening the dance with a grand march which petrified poor Harry, however it was quite easy and the or ganiser went ahead telling us what to do next. They love barn dances, polkas, old fashioned waltzes the Palais glide and put any amount of vim into every dance but they

dance very well. You would have laughed to see me dancing with the Queen's A.D.C., her step-brother, and also with the second in command of the Tongan Defence Force, the latter a very good dancer.

Yest~~e~~rday we were suddenly hauled off to the celebrations at the Mission School, it was their 75th anniversary and we went to a feast and then watched some dancing. We all sat on mats and eat with our fingers, we had an excellent tur~~ky~~ which I think our hostess had cooked herself, but there was also whole roast pig, I hate to see the poor little things cooked whole! I never saw so much food in my life, the Tongans pile it all up on coconut leaf mats and and then eat in relays.

The Tongans seem to be a very superior race, they are very good looking, fair skinned, compared with other polynesians, very proud and very loyal. Their War Effort beats any one else's into a cocked hat, I'm sure they can't have any money left for themselves.

We have always liked our Gilbertese better than any other natives we have seen but we do like the Tongans.

I meant to finish this on the typewriter but Harry wanted it. We love being here & wish the Armstrongs would ask for longer leave but they are probably so frozen in New Zealand that they will come tearing back as soon as they can. Harry found the work rather terrifying at first but he seems to be finding his feet & likes being here as much as I do. Most people call him "Cousul" & I have to keep prodding

him as he hasn't got used to the title. He has some difficulty too overcoming his shyness & is always trying to sneak in sideways, especially in the car; also having to go in or out of places first rather defeats him but he has to because they delight in playing God Save the King whenever we appear anywhere.

With much love from us both,

Your loving,

Honor.

R⁴ 11/9/41

BRITISH RESIDENCY,
TONGA.

15th July, 1941.

Dearest lady Maude,

At last I have a desk of my own, a quiet room & some leisure for writing! I have sorted out all Sir Walter's & your letters for Dec. January, & February, March & up to the 20th April & find that there are only 3 missing, (that is if you never missed a week), one in December, one in January & one at the beginning of April. I am wondering if Joan's baby had arrived & that April letter would have given us news of it, as we have heard nothing.

I must do something about Eryl's confirmation, too bad that we knew

nothing about it until it was all over.

The patterns & the material for a suit for Alaic arrived safely & the suit is finished except for buttons & buttonholes. The pattern is excellent, thank you very much for sending it, it is a bit big so will last some time as I have to pleat it at present. Alaic is very proud of the suit & strutted round showing everyone when I fitted him, he seems to realise it is rather more "grown up" than any he has had before. The other parcel you mention, our Christmas one, I fear may be lost, it has not turned up yet.

Alaic has been lent an old out-rigger canoe, he is very thrilled with it & when the tide is out & he can't have it on the water sits in it on dry land. We are looking after the Armstrong's fox terrier, Gyp,

& he is very good with Alairis, lets him
 tease him & never even grows so the two
 have great games. Then the office
 caretaker & general factotum, a half-caste boy,
 is very fond of children & takes Alairis on his
 bicycle when he goes messages so the
 young man is having a very good time.
 I mustn't forget Capt. Norris, who picks
 him up in his car & lets him "drive" &
 Col. Bagnall who takes him sometimes on
 inspections! To my horror Alairis
 developed "worms" last week, I gather
 that it is very common here amongst the
 European children. However I took drastic
 measures at once & believe he is clear
 of them again.

There has been a lot of 'flu & colds
 about, Harry keeps on getting something
 & on Saturday, after a Tongan feast we
 had attended, went to bed feeling very ill
 & got so bad I had to call the doctor.

He was better on Sunday but lumbago had then set in & he still has it a bit. I either got a touch of 'flu myself or else an attack of nerves, Harry certainly gave me a fright, as I was sore all over, especially across my shoulders & my arms, I could hardly bear my clothes on, so we had a cheerful week-end! It is still rather chilly, except in the sun, & we have had more rain, if we could shut the house up or have a small fire we wouldn't notice it but this large place is so draughty. We wear our woollen winter vests, light suit, or frock & pullovers mostly, amazing isn't it on a South Sea Island?

Saturday's feast was the second we have been to, you sit on the floor & eat with your fingers. There were piles of food of course, whole roast sucking pig, chickens, yam & bananas.

I noticed that the pigs are hardly touched everyone eating chicken & spam
 & a little crackling only - I
 BRITISH RESIDENCY,
 TONGA.

was told that the men who cook the feast probably get the pigs as their share.

You ask Alaic's age, he is just 3 years, he was born in June 1938. He is always calling girls, boys, or "naughty boy" so the other day I said 'No Alaic, girls are girls & boys are boys', he looked at me for a moment then said, "And pigs are pigs"! How I wish you could see him before he loses all his baby sweetness. I am regretting very much that I ordered the last photographs in a hurry. I had time after all to see the prints & suddenly thought I would have Alaic's head taken out of the photo of us together, the one I sent you, enlarged & framed for myself & it is a great success,

much nicer, I think, than the standing one. Photographers are so aggravating, the photo I sent you should have been much larger & therefore softer but the man did them all wrong. I must write & get a head done for you I think.

16th

We have just come back from a lovely picnic with the Wesleyan mission people, an unexpected treat & we had a beautifully sunny day. We left here about 11 a.m. & drove across the island to the reef side, the reef here is amazing, it stands up high & is riddled with blowholes which are fascinating. We found a small sandy beach where Alaic & another small boy, Geoffrey, made castles & bathed. Harry came home after an early lunch as he had appointments but Alaic & I stayed until 4 o'clock when it was beginning to

get cheery. Last night we saw a series of short films, ship-building in Britain & various news films, all very good indeed but too terrible

I will let you know as soon as possible what we are doing, whether Harry returns to the G. & E. alone, or we may get short leave, but as you know we never know ourselves when or where we shall be in the next few months.

With much love from us both
 Yours loving
 Honor.

23rd

A dreadful thing has happened, Prince Tungi, the Queen's Consort & Prime Minister died very suddenly on the 20th. Tonga will be quite lost without him, he was the hub round which the Government

revolved, he was only 53. He had dinner
 with us on the 19th & was very cheerful
 & well, he left us about 10pm. went home
 & then decided to go & visit an old noble
 who was ill & then stay at his country
 house for the night. Next morning he
 told his boys that as it was a wet day
 he would stay in bed & rest & would
 like an orange. A little later they
 heard him snoring, went in to see him
 & after about 3 deep snores he just
 didn't breathe any more. We are all very
 upset as he was loved by everyone. Yesterday
 we went to the funeral.

I meant to write to Sir Walter this
 mail but won't have time now. We
 had a visit by two big wigs during the
 week-end too, they flew from Fiji on Sat. &
 left Sunday morning, it was some rush &
 we were just relaxing when news of Tungji's
 death reached us.

Honor.

BRITISH RESIDENCY,
TONGA.

29.8.41.

Dearest Lady Maude.

We heard a few days ago that the Armstrongs had been given an extra month in N.Z. so we are to stay here until the beginning of October, which is lovely for us.

We have the Governor staying with us at present & also a Naval man, they are here for just four days. We have had 2 sherry parties with about 30 people at each, the residents apparently love to meet H.K. but as we are all in mourning for Tunji we can't have dinner parties. However it was decided that even the Tongan nobles could come if we had drinks & not a meal. H.K. says Harry

& I look very much better & also
 Alair & is really pleased that we
 are enjoying our brief stay so much.
 As a matter of fact he told us that
 he gave the Armstrongs the extra month
 as much for our sakes as theirs which
 was very good of him.

Later This morning I went flying &
 really enjoyed it though I was
 nervous about it beforehand. I am
 not "air-minded" & I am afraid I
 shall never fly for pleasure but every
 time I do it I expect will make it
 easier for me.

The mail has come in with a
 sheaf of letters from you both, I
 really will write to Sir Walter
 when this present rush is over. I
 was very glad to hear that
 Colin had arrived & all was well.

I have also to write to aunt Edie, Mary & Muriel & will soon do
 BRITISH RESIDENCY,
 so, this last 2 weeks I have TONGA.

been at work & got off 6 long delayed letters so I have made a beginning. I am so glad we have another month here, it just makes all the difference.

We had 2 airmen with us for two weeks which was rather fun, they were both nice & thoroughly enjoyed being in a home again.

Alaie has gained $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs since we left Panama & now weighs $32\frac{1}{2}$ lbs & is 3ft. 2 inches tall.

Our luggage was forgotten & was still in Panama when we made inquiries this month. We shudder to think of its condition, soaked in sea water at Pitcairn & 4 months in the customs shed in Panama in the

sans!

I am sorry this must be so short but it is better than nothing. H.E.'s unexpected visit just at mail time rather hashed things up.

Very much love to you all
from

Honor.

RA
11/11/41

British Residency,
Nukualofa.

Tonga.

3rd September, 1941.

Dearest Sir Walter,

I have no less than 9 letters from you before me, written between Sept. 1940 & May, 1941, I have not answered any of them I know, though I have written to you once or twice, as they have been chasing me round the Pacific & have not been in my possession very long. I have been re-reading both your & Lady Maude's letters of last year & had better begin by answering questions in those letters.

It seems to me that at least one letter from Suva ~~from~~ must have gone astray as you seemed surprised at our sudden departure for Pitcairn. Apparently I never made clear to you, or to Mother, what we went to Pitcairn for. Harry went as a special Government representative to see how the Pitcairn people were running their own show, to help them to make a new code of laws & to report on conditions & make recommendations. The report isn't finished yet as we left all the papers at Panama! I do wish Harry would write to you, when he does I should think it will be a complete book there is so much for him to write about. However I must admit that I don't see

much chance of his having time to write until we leave Tonga, he works every night even with me helping with the cypher telegrams.

I'm afraid two parcels have been lost. I haven't had my overall frocks nor Harry his pull-over & the cow-boy suit is also missing. Alaic would have been very thrilled with the suit, he loves to dress up, or go about nude, & is playing a lot of "pretence" games. I made him a stiff cap, a bright blue with white band, which only leaves his head when he is asleep so you can imagine what he would have thought of a cow-boy outfit. Just at the moment he is very much a nudist, even goes to bed with no clothes & wakes up protesting if I try to put his pyjamas on later! He seemed to be a chilly little ~~man~~ so I'm glad he likes to run round unclothed & doesn't get cold. He calls it "going with my tum tum".

You mention in one letter communications with Pitcairn Is. Before the war they had about 56 ships a year, or at least one every week, but at the outbreak of war ships stopped calling altogether for about 3 months & then they used to get a ship a month for a time but now shipping is uncertain again. It was anything but isolated before the war as you can see & the people made a living selling home-made curios. Now they have had to do more cultivating which is, we think, a very good thing. You also mention the possibility of getting more fresh vegetables & meat than we

usually do; we certainly had a good supply of vegetables but seldom saw fish or chicken & didn't like goat.

I hope I gave you a good description of the island, I only remember that I found letter writing on Pitcairn very hard as there was no comfortable place to write, & I was so weary when the work was done. I will give some of the details you ask in case I slipped up on them, or a letter got lost.

Pitcairn is roughly 2 miles by $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles & rises to 1,000 ft, very steeply on the south, in fact almost a sheer drop from the highest point to the sea. To the north, standing on the highest point again, it falls less steeply to a sort of ^{half} saucer-like depression, cut up with hills & valleys & then a sheer drop to the sea of about 200 ft I think. The whole place is very, very steep, rather like the hill to Almorah Crescent, but steeper I think, some of the hills are too steep for cars though motor-cycle trials might take place on them! It used to be thickly wooded but the islanders have cut down 75% of the trees I should think & there are several very bad landslides. The scenery however is very lovely with grand rocky peaks. I will make you a book of snapshots when I can gather all our negatives together & can get some printed. There is one fairly level road through Adam's town with houses above & below it on the steep hillside. When it rains walking is extremely hazardous & going

up hill a somewhat laborious proceeding because of the mud. Nowadays the water supply is entirely rain-water; the houses have all been given iron roofs & somewhat primitive guttering. There is a spring some distance up one of the hills where there used to be a well, it was called Brown's well, & at one time they had fixed up an open wooden trough from it to the village. It must have been an awful job when all water had to be carried. Except where the land is cleared the island is covered with guava bushes & taintana, the latter was introduced some 40 years ago I think & spread like wildfire from one little cutting but the islanders say it improves the soil. There are just under 200 people living on the island & there are more males than females.

6th

I set to & have now just completed a book of snapshots for you. It contains 60 snaps with explanations of each one & I hope it will give you some idea of the island & the people. I have had to check 200 snaps with their negatives & choose this selection & it has taken every spare minute for 3 days so I am sending it by Air Mail! I do hope it arrives safely as I'm sure I shall never have the time or energy to do it again. Harry says please let Alan see it as he is interested in Pitcairn & please would you let Mother see it too. I think you know her address but here it is in case you don't - Mrs E.M. King, 15b, Broom Road, Teddington, Middlesex. I'm sorry some of the snaps are a bit discoloured but they are some that I had in Pitcairn, the negatives are in N.Z. & I thought

it was better not to wait until I get them.

The girl with the "striking profile" in Shapiro's book is Helda, whose house we had. Burley Warren is David's son-in-law, he is certainly "burly" & seemed a pleasant person.

The perspective isn't awfully good in our small snaps but a magnifying glass will probably help, some of the heights, though striking enough, are somewhat exaggerated. We both feel we want to go back when we look at our snaps, in spite of all the drawbacks! I really don't know where I want to go, I seem to have "short roots" in so many places - here in Hukualofa it has been so good for Alarc that I think I would really like to be here. I believe, if all goes well, we have a chance of this job when Armstrong retires in about 2 years. Alarc is looking so well, & even his legs are quite chubby, that it seems a pity to take him back to the Gilberts where fresh food is unobtainable.

I am hoping to get some photographs of Tonga and some of us with the queen - I have now a letter from the queen, written in her own hand & I'm very thrilled - it will be quite a curio later on.

We had the Governor staying with us last week, for four days. He flew over from Fiji & one day took me up for about 3 hours & we went to the Hapai Group & then over Falcon Island - the latter is the island that is always going up & down. At present it is about 35 ft above sea level, is only black scoria I think & has one poor little coconut

tree growing on it that was planted by Tugi some years ago. H.F. says I must be the only woman who has ever seen Falcon & I'm certainly the only woman to fly over it. I quite enjoyed the flight, though I never feel absolutely safe, & I sat in the second pilot's seat nearly all the time.

You ask about the settlers in the Phoenix Islands. They are going strong, Gallagher was there until a few months ago when he came down to Fiji, unfortunately we just missed him, & he is now in the Gilberts.

The season for whales seems to have begun & to day the third whale was brought in - it looked quite a large one from here. The first one was only 1 month old, baby snatching I call it, & H.F. bought some of it to have at a dinner party he was having on his return. We put it in on ice & then packed it in ice for the 6 hour journey, I saw it put in the tray with the luggage so we were very surprised when a telegram came from H.F. saying how sadly the whale would be missed. We made inquiries & found that the tray driver, either genuinely forgot to put it on the plane or else stole it deliberately, I'm afraid the Tongans, like all polynesian, are thieves, anyhow he rushed away from the aerodrome without saying a word & gave it away, he says, to a friend. He little knew what a hue & cry there would be over a piece of whale!

On Saturday the Tennis Club here put on a show for the Red Cross. There was tennis, a sort of bagatelle, roulette, darts & several raffles & of course tea & they

made \$22, awfully good for a small community like this. I had to name an iced cake done like a lady in a crinoline so I called her Charlotte - I also had to pick the lucky numbers for the other raffles, but didn't manage to pick my own.

I am trying to collect the Tongan string figures, so far I have only got 12, they have either forgotten them or else never had very many. Harry is going to one of the outlying islands ~~to~~ tomorrow & will see if it is more hopeful there.

The caterpillars here are driving me frantic, I'm so afraid the little brutes will ruin everything before the Armstrongs get back. My precious & very healthy kohlrabi they are now attacking, they eat the heart & the thing is finished, they are also eating the tomatoes as they ripen & make the Silver Beet look like ragged lace. Charlie & I both wage war on them but I fear it will be an unequal struggle.

Harry's title here is Agent & Consul, Tonga, I see you ask in your May letter - The general impression here seems to be that this is a Protectorate & the Consul a sort of Poo Bah whose word is law, but it is not so, the Consul should only advise the Queen & interfere as little as possible. It is a fascinating job in peace time, not very arduous & very nice people to deal with. This morning I had the Queen's head lady-in-waiting & two of

lier girls showing me string figures - they had several new ones for me + we showed them some of ours + they were pathetically eager to learn our patterns.

Page 4 of this letter is rather amusing, do you see where I broke off + then began again after writing under the snapshots + I have gone on in time writing?

Did I tell you that I was in Ecmouth for 6 months when I was 16? I went to Chudleigh + Dawlish + other places round where you are. Didn't you find the Devonshire accent rather hard to understand at first? I remember I thought it impossible.

The weather at last is living up to its reputation, the last two days have been absolutely perfect, clear sunny days, warm but not too hot, + cool, crisp nights, a gorgeous full moon + a heavy dew - we are lucky to be able to still say the full moon is lovely! The sea is absolutely calm + a deep + lovely blue and the horizon dotted with little islands covered with coconut palms.

I think Punch gives us as good an idea as anything of conditions in England, some of the jokes puzzle us for quite a time in fact. This is an extra + unexpected outward mail, we ourselves leave by the next regular mail steamer.

With much love from us both

Your loving
Honor.

R⁴
A/11/41

BRITISH RESIDENCY,
TONGA.

18.9.41.

Dearest lady Maude,

I posted to Sir Walter about a week ago, via Sydney, so I think ^{this} will reach you first. I am also posting the album of snapshots of Pitcairn, not by air mail as it costs too much.

I received two letters, one from you & a pencilled one from Sir Walter, a week ago, an unexpected mail & very nice. This too is quite unexpected & will connect with the American ships in Suva, a very good opportunity. I should be in N.Z. when this reaches you & Harry is to have a month there too, we reckon it will take some time to clean up our luggage & replace

or repair all that is damaged. I'm afraid my sheets & towels are certain to be mildewed & they will be hard to replace these days.

I am having a "Housey" (lotto) evening to-night, the proceeds to go to the Red Cross, except for small prizes, (which we will replace). The doctor is feeling ill & can't come but has sent 10/-, a good beginning!

I enclose a couple of snapshots taken here, doesn't Alarie look fit?

With much love from us all

Your loving

Honor.

Rd.
4/12/41

BRITISH RESIDENCY,
TONGA.

28.9.41.

Dearest Lady Maude.

This will be just a note to let you know that we are staying here for yet another month, which is lovely. The Armstrongs are due at daylight tomorrow but Harry is to make a Report on some Tongan affairs as soon as he has handed over. We have arranged to move into an empty house as soon

as we have managed to collect a few pieces of furniture & crockery. I have quite a good assortment of snags of Tonga now so I will make another album for Sir Walter.

Our ups & downs are rather amusing, we go from Pitcairn^{up} to this Residence & then down again with a bang to an empty house!

With much love from us both to both of you

Your loving

Honor.

P.S. Alairic has decided that he is going to be a Captain & has to be addressed as Capt. Maude already. He did his first real bit of construction the other day, all on his own, a boat & made of sugar cane & hair pins.

R = about
12.11.41

15 Blenheim Spa,

Takapuna

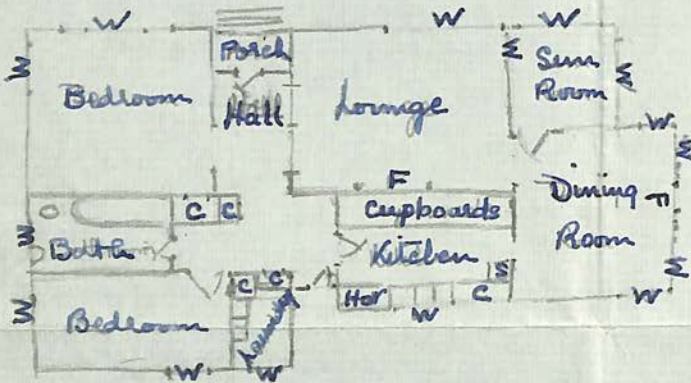
Auckland. N.Z.

12.11.41.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Here we are in a brand new, furnished bungalow, by the sea, half an hour by bus & ferry from the city. We have taken it for one year but may sub-let, with the owner's approval, if I can rejoin Harry before that time. We are very lucky to get this place as houses & flats are snapped up in no time, especially those near the sea. Auntie's bungalow is quite near & the family will be there for a month or so in January. We really wanted a flat as I don't much like the idea of being quite alone but we found that they are hard to get & this is rather like a flat standing in its own grounds & the bungalows round about are nice. It is a warm, sunny corner & shouldn't be too cold in winter. There is one house between us & the beach which will shelter us from storms. There is no

garden at present but there will be lawn in front + a vegetable garden at the back. I am very keen on the latter as you know - especially so here as vegetables are an awful price. Here is a plan of the house:-



lots of windows + cupboards + 2 fireplaces. lighting + stove + hot water system all electric. We are off the main road but shops + buses are just at the top of the road less

than 5 minutes walk. We arrived in Auckland on a Friday at mid-day + had found this by Sunday, not had going? We have seen nothing suitable advertised + we simply had to get something quickly so as to get our Pitcairn luggage sorted out. Things aren't as bad as we expected, the linen isn't mildewed at all, just a bit stained, the sewing machine was only a little rusty, £2.10.0 well put it right, the typewriter was bad but can be repaired for £5 + the camera, though very bad they think can be fixed up. Alagic's motor car + push chair were

too rusty to bother about; we threw out 3 suitcases + a hat box but they were not up to much before. Other luggage is rusty but we hope to have it repaired. So although things are bad we feel it might have been worse. The house is strewn with clothes, suitcases, Pitcairn curios + books but I suppose we'll get things sorted out in time. Harry doesn't seem to have been given any time limit for his leave, he has work to do while getting things repaired + will be here at least a month.

When the Armstrongs returned to Tonga we moved into another house which various people furnished for us. Then the Queen sent up one of her ladies to see what was lacking + sent us masses of stuff - mats, leather chairs, a huge bed for Alairic, china, glass, pictures + quite transformed the place. The house had a verandah all round it + Alairic had a grand time on his tricycle. He was invited to visit the Queen + spent several mornings with Her Majesty + appears to have inspected

every nook & cranny of the Palace. Altogether I was sorry to leave Tonga & I know I shall miss the islands & the natives very much.

We had a wretched trip down, only 4 days but they were very uncomfortable. I wasn't sick but lay down a good deal, Alaric was a bit white & quiet the first morning but was all right. His piercing little voice asks questions wherever we go here & causes much amusement. I parked him out for a week while we ~~to~~ went house hunting, luggage sorting & shopping but I got him back after 5 days when we moved in here. The nurse said he was very good, the best child she had ever had & so quaint but I don't think the poor lamb was very happy. We told him he must stay at the place while we found a house for him & he quite understood but was obviously very home sick. He was so excited when we gave him his suitcase of toys, some things he remembered but others he had quite forgotten & there were little squeals of delight every few

minutes as he desired. There seem to be quite a lot of children round here so I hope we shall find some nice ones for him to play with.

I enclose a Christmas card made of "tapa," the bark of the paper mulberry, which a girl made for me. The tie is hibiscus bark. I have sorted out photos of Tonga for Sir Walter but still have not put them in a book. I hoped to do a lot on the ship but it was too rough for me even to read. When we have got things straight & I have time to collect my scattered wits I will send you a parcel. I wish you could come & join me in this lovely spot, please keep the idea in your mind in case it should become possible.

With much love to you both from we
three

Yours

Honoré.

R¹
25/12/42

15 Blomfield Spa.

Takapuna.

Auckland. N.Z.

20-12-41.

Dearest Mother & Father,

I think this had better be a joint letter as I have a heap of letters from you both & also because I am afraid I have missed one or two mails. Harry has returned to Suva & will I hope be kept there. The last week of his stay was most trying, we didn't know from day to day when or how he would go, it was a big strain for us both & though we hated parting it was quite a relief when he eventually went on board. We couldn't go on to the wharf of course so Harry left Alarie & me in town & we had Alarie's hair cut & then shopped. We returned home about 4.30 p.m. & then my next door neighbours invited me to spend the evening with them & their elderly companion sat here with Alarie.

4-1-42. At this juncture a telegram arrived from Delia Macdonald, (whose husband you may remember works in the High Commission Office & both are friends of ours) whom I was expecting in a day or two from Suva to share this house with me. She had arrived by an earlier

ship & was in a hotel in town so Alaic & I went in to get her & 1yr old Neil. Since then we have been inundated with visitors as all our women & children from the Gilberts arrived by the same ship & then the Tongan crowd arrived. It has been most exciting & I was so relieved that they got away.

Delia & I spent Christmas day with my Aunt, they had meant to go to my cousin's farm for Christmas but the petrol restrictions stopped that, so we had a very nice day. It took us nearly 2 hrs each way to get there & back, by bus, ferry & tram & we had a lot of fun with Neil's folding pram which wouldn't fold at the crucial moment & then wouldn't unfold again at the other end. The next day we had ^{Mrs} ~~Miss~~ English, an American woman married to one of our Treasury officials, for the day. Her husband is at Tarawa, or I suppose a prisoner by now, it is very hard for her as she knows noone here but at present she is working at the Y.W.C.A. helping with evacuees. Then we had Mrs Ambler, June aged 15 & Brian, 12, for the day & June stayed with us for nearly a week, sleeping on a hi-lo on the sofa. She is a very nice girl & helped a lot but it made a good deal of extra cooking etc. for me, unfortunately we have had wretched

weather, rain - a strong cold wind so June only bathed once & we couldn't go on to the beach. It was marvellous to have a fine sunny day to-day though the wind is still cold.

Another day we had Enid Berrington & two babies, Jean 2 yrs & David 3 months, & her husband who is the only Administrative officer to get away from the Gilberts. He had gone to Beem to see his wife off & after she had left he got word to proceed to Liji & got there the same day! Enid you may remember hearing about, I used to be so worried about her at Beem. She stayed at Tarawa for baby David & we were all so afraid the Japs would strike before the event, however, all's well that ends well. We three, Delia, Enid & I are now trying to get a house for us all, we want to stick together, I'm the only one with any relations or friends here & I don't think the other two would get along very well alone with their small children. Harry said before he went that I had better move from here & go into the country so I am going househunting now that the holidays are over. It has been an awful time for all these new people arriving ~~with~~ very few of

any warm clothes & for two weeks shops have closed for 4 days, Thursday to Monday; it has been awful catering for visitors with no refrigerator & no butcher or fish shop opening.

A few days ago I looked up from writing & saw a familiar looking young man walking down the road & looking in & suddenly realised that it was Wernham who was left in the Ellice & we were afraid there was no hope of getting him out. He had just arrived from Suva & had letters from our husbands, it was marvellous.

M^{rs} Armstrong has come from Tonga & has gone to Wellington, I went across to town last Sunday to see her. Then I went in twice to the Y.W.C.A. to see other Tongan friends who are mostly trying to get to Australia. Altogether I seem to have been rushing round all the time, I had just one week of quiet after Harry left & then I was clearing up after him & packing things he left here. Neil seems to have a little eczema or something & is also very spoilt & cries & cries. He is better to-day & we are beginning an intensive training, poor Neil, like Alice he misses his native nurse attending to his every whim, but we must have

a little time for work. I have changed Alaic's programme to fit in better with Neil's, both sleep in the morning & I was very pleased to-day that Alaic actually did sleep this morning, so often he only lies down & won't sleep.

8.1.42. This has been left again, the days are so full & we are usually pretty tired by the evening. Neil is so strong willed that he cries every second he is left alone, we start off in the morning with $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. in the play pen, howling all the time & we are going to a job working & to-day cried right through rest time & didn't sleep at all! His spots were a germ picked up in Fiji but they are nearly well now which is a relief, they obviously worried him quite a lot. Little villain, he howled for ages this morning & then I went in & made him lie down, made his bed comfortable etc. & he actually laughed at me so I left hastily & the howling commenced again.

The farm-yard has arrived safely & Alaic is very pleased with it & thanks you very much. It goes to bed with him in the morning & at night. He loves his little bit of my letters & talks a lot about Granny, he would be awfully excited if you sent him a letter

for himself. I enclose a rather sweet snap taken in Queen St. before Harry left, he looks such a big boy but was barely $3\frac{1}{2}$ yrs. He is very expert on his tricycle & getting along with the scooter which Harry insisted upon giving him, but he almost lives on the tricycle & you always know whether he is visiting or on the beach by where the tricycle is parked. I do hope Harry won't have to be away from us too long, Alacie talks about him every day & is sure he will soon come back.

I am now going through your letters & answering questions in case I haven't done so before. Harry's title in Tonga was Agent & Consul, it is a kingdom you see & the Consul is supposed to advise the Queen only. You seem to have marvellous walks & terrifically long ones - Harry would love them & so would I. He spent Christmas at Nandawatu, the hill station in Fiji, with H.T.'s party; he got some climbing & then bathed in a cold stream & caught a slight chill. He said it was hot during the day but they were glad of a roaring log fire in the evening. I wonder if Cecel Mammell was in Hong Kong.

I'm also wondering where Betty nee Caldwell is, you remember we met her here before we went to Pitcairn.

I have here Father's letter written in June, on a day of "light clouds interspersed with really hot sunshine". Here we should be having hot, dry weather & the cold wind will never let up for more than a day & when it rains it feels like sleet, we fear we shall have no summer & Delia & I have been getting warm clothes we are so cold. Prices are awful & stocks short so our clothes, for both reasons, will have to last us for a long time. Delia had no warm clothes & I only one frock & coat. We have each got a pair of flannel slacks for winter wear to keep our legs warm.

M^{rs} Thickett has had a good letter from Arthur since he visited you, she seems so glad because he was distressing her rather by writing infrequently & not in his usual cheery way, he used to write her long letters. She has had a nasty experience with a burglar who knocked out her front teeth & gave her a black eye; he was caught & got 2 years. It has shaken her badly however & she

cannot get any help in the house & it is really too much for her now.

Kitty had to go back to our friend D^r Macpherson (whom we first met on the Haldia in 1929) so we left her in Fiji & she has quite recovered.

No, we didn't have a hot water system in Tonga, cold water taps, & a chip heater which we thought the height of luxury. It hurts me to think of our lovely new w.c. & septic tank at Beem which we have never even seen!! It was put in ready for our return. We had our own electric light plant in Tonga, at the Residency & lamps at the other house. Today we had M^r Cookson to lunch, meat course by Maude & pudding by Macdonald & pronounced exceedingly good. Delia & I don't do much cooking but live on salads & fruit & a cooked meal is a treat. Cookson is one of our wireless men & has just returned from the Phoenix Islands & he was telling Alaic all about the village which has been called 'Araiki', after him. Alaic was very thrilled & was very anxious to go home with M^r Cookson & see this place. He tells me that the people are very happy there & the worst threat to make to those who misbehave is to say they will have to leave the Phoenix. Tomorrow Alaic & I go to Dorothy Cook (Shickett

for the day. We shall have to leave here about 9 a.m. town at 10 a.m. & should reach her before 11 a.m. Alaic will love the journey - It is now 10.30 p.m. & I have had a long day so I had better go to bed. I will post this & begin another. We were so sorry to hear of Aunt Mabel's death but, as you say, it was a merciful end as she had cancer.

Alaic joins in love to you both & he sends kisses to Granny. He is such a good boy most of the time & so full of chatter I wish you could see him. A boy of about 8 has come next door for the holidays, he has a simply frightful accent & evidently orders Alaic about as he is now trying it out on me! Yesterday I kept on making him say "Please will you" & he said, "I don't say please to Auntie Delia" & she does it"! I asked Delia & she said she must have slipped up on it once as she had been most firm about the "please" - little monkey. He sometimes says thoughtfully about 10.30 a.m. "I think I'll have my dinner now", because he is allowed a chocolate afterwards! He usually calls all meals ~~breakfasts~~ "breakfux" & muddles his friends when telling them stories of his doings.

Honor.

R² 14/5/42

74 Pictoria st. West,
Rotorua.

N.Z.

15.3.42.

Dearest Lady Maude,

I fear I have sadly neglected you again but at last we are settled again & gradually getting into a routine. Unfortunately I can't remember whether I wrote to you after all the excitement with various island people arriving or not, I think I must have told you about them. Although Della Macdonald arrived first to share my nice little bungalow & on the same ship came Erid Bevington, with two babies, & other Gilbert & Ellice evacuees. Erid's husband had escaped by the sheerest luck, arrived in Fiji almost as soon as Erid & is here on leave, poor man lost all his personal possessions but Erid had brought away linen, crockery & three wedding presents. We decided, as Erid also wanted to be with me, knowing no one in NZ, that we would try to get a house large enough for us all & preferably in the country. We felt we needed at least 4 bedrooms for 3 mothers & 4 children, & there are few houses with more than two. We advertised & got one reply, a fishing lodge near Rotorua so Bevington & I, with Alaic, journeyed down to see it & found it extremely grim, large but dilapidated, weeds 3ft high

everywhere & no inside sanitation. We went on to Rotorua for the night & next day looked at several small houses but were not thrilled with any of them, one of them however we decided would have to do. Bevington returned to Auckland that afternoon but as I didn't want to arrive there at midnight I decided to wait for the morning train & that evening another agent came with a double flat which seemed ideal. I saw it in the dusk, the rooms were small & the whole place very cut up with masses of doors, but it had some lawn outside & a good vegetable garden & was a mile out of the town, such as it is. I reported to the rest of the family & all voted for the flats. Bevington's came in on February 5th; Delia & I waited, hoping to get rid of the Takapuna house & also the weather was lovely & we were all enjoying a bit of summer by the sea-side. Eventually, when we had given up hope of letting the house a naval wife arrived from England & has taken it off my hands for 6 months, I had a year's lease and lived there 3 months so there will only be another 3 months & she may stay in it. I had to take a lower seat however. Delia & I came down on the 17th February, it is a terribly slow train journey, though they call it an express, takes 6 hours to do about 160 miles.

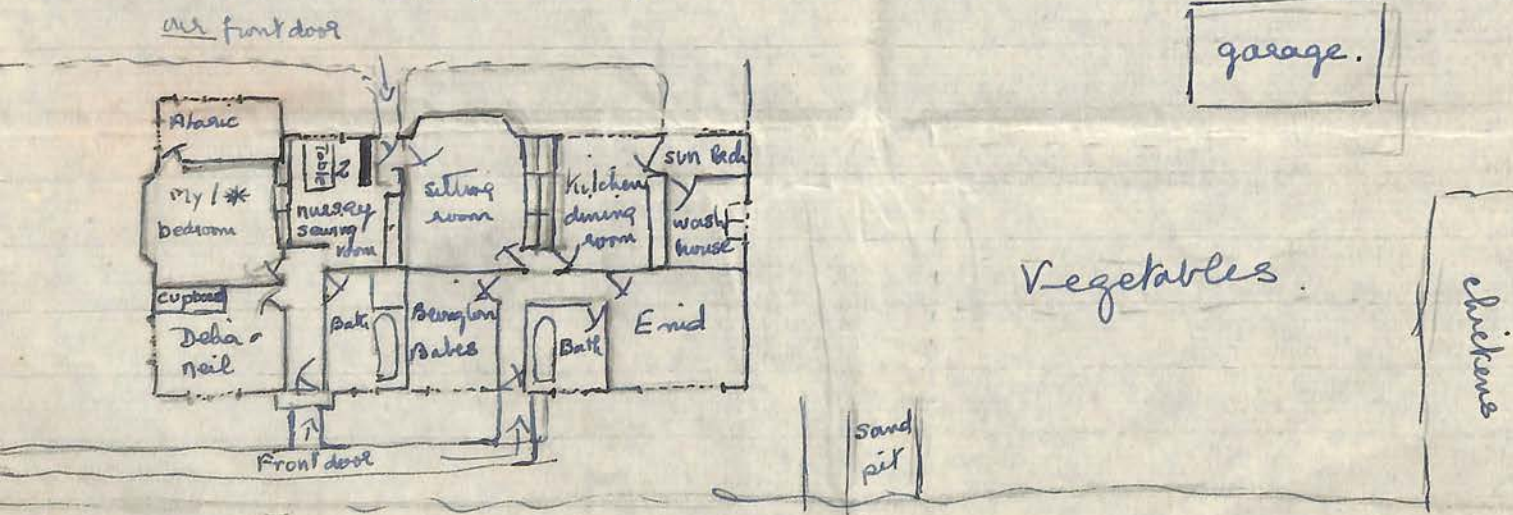
I had unpacked so much at Takapuna, partly because

I had to look at the Pikaia stuff + partly because I had the place for a year + meant to settle down for a change!

Here it took some time to unpack, clean the house which was very messy + sort ourselves out + get the place as we wanted it. Our landlord had started off with new beds, dining table + chairs + two dressing tables + a chest of drawers + then apparently lost heart + put a ghastly 2nd or 3rd^{hand} settee + chairs in the sitting room which looked as if they came out of a pub. He also gave us a super refrigerator which doesn't thrill us at all + we have to fight for an electric fire, garden tools + other minor but very necessary articles. The house when I saw it had just been sold to this man + I was told that it would be refurnished with new furniture + I was somewhat annoyed when I found the skeleton lot he'd put in + no crockery, kitchen utensils or blankets + linen provided, I'd agreed to that. All the curtains provided are short net ones, nothing else. Well one day our landlady arrived, husband having gone to Australia after being rude to me on the phone when I wanted to know how much more of the promised furniture was coming. She began by refusing this + that + kept on saying couldn't we manage with makeshifts till I lost my temper +

told her just what I thought about the whole thing & what she was giving us for 6 mos a wk. The result was a new & very nice green suite for the sitting room & some moth eaten curtains, which we put in the bedroom, & got green curtains ourselves for the sitting room. Beverington has been marvellous & fixed up lights in the right places for us & a corner shelf for wireless & books & a heap of other things to make us comfortable in the winter. We have some chickens & all gradually get the garden ship shape, it was a mass of weeds & the soil looks poor & neglected but we shall get it going no doubt. Next time the landlady came we delighted in showing her all the things which were ours, she was making an inventory, & were not at all affable, little wretch.

Here is a plan of the house:—



* Sitting room of second flat so I have a fireplace & some small built in cupboards. 2. second kitchen, no stove, general work room, built in table. front doors not used by us

As you can see we have 5 bedrooms & two bathrooms, one is supplied with hot water from the stove & the other, one, is electric. The sitting room is too small to have the dining table so we eat in the kitchen which will be nice & warm in the winter. We have already had our first frost & to-day is quite chilly. We have all got flannel trousers & jumpers & cardigans & I'm afraid I have snagged the lovely stockings you made for Harry. I felt my need was greater than his & I am sure I shall live in them in the winter, they cover my knees & are gorgeously warm - I do hope you won't mind. We can't get much in the way of wool for knitting & I am glad I have enough for Alaric left over from the lot I got in Fiji for Pitcairn.

We are extremely fortunate in having two bicycles one a man's sports with no fice wheel which I can't manage with any feeling of security, & a lady's bike on which I have a seat for Alaric. We have to fetch & carry so much that they are a great blessing.

My cousin's wife, Alice, has come up for the same treatment Harry had & now has a flat & Alaric & I hope to return to the farm for a short visit when she returns. My cousin Joan has arrived safely from Samoa much to our relief.

The first number of Destiny has arrived & I am looking forward to getting them regularly.

I must stop & write to Harry as a mail goes soon. We have been very lucky & have had letters quite often from Fiji. Harry was still at Government House but hoping to move to a hotel soon. He is most distressed because he is losing his hair.

Alain loves his bit of your letters, I will ask him what to tell you next time I write, he is asleep now. He loves his companions, especially Jean who is just 2 years, then there is Neil, 17 months & David 5 months.

With much love to you all from

Honor.

Rd. about middle
of August 1942

74 Pectora St. West,
Rotorua.

1st May, 1942.

Dearest Sir Walter,

Your letter of February 15th & Lady Maude's of the 9th arrived to-day, & I am horrified at the lapse of time between my letters, there always seems to be so much to do in the house & garden, sewing & children but I have actually kept up with local current correspondence & of course Harry. Since I last wrote your letters have been coming regularly & also the magazines, Alois is very thrilled when there is something for him & loved his post-card. He has begun to colour pictures now so we should soon have something to send you. He & I have been playing tourist from our rather tiring family here, we had 3 weeks at my cousin's farm & then a week in Auckland with my Aunt, all most enjoyable & I returned much refreshed. My cousin's wife, Alice came to Rotorua for some treatment for sciatica & we motored back with her, it was only a 3 hour run across country by car but would have taken all day by train. The children at the farm are Ann, Barbara & David, aged 6 yrs, 4 yrs & 18 months. It was very good for Alois to have older children to play with & he learnt to stand up for himself & also to "take turns",

with the various boys. Unfortunately he discovered that the only way he could really defeat Ann & Barbara was by scratching their faces, which I couldn't allow! I was sorry because at times I felt they deserved it for teasing him. However he thoroughly enjoyed the farm life, rode the pony, swept up grass & helped to feed chickens & ducks & make butter. It rained a lot which was rather tiring but I was able to get through a lot of sewing & made Alaic winter pyjamas, dressing gown, warm trousers, short coat to match & a flannel shirt. I will take snaps of him in his winter rig out later on. Children's clothes are a terrible price, pyjamas for Alaic 17/6 & not even wool. I made them for 6/- in ~~wor~~ winceyette but have since managed to get some flannel, 80% wool, & that will cost about 12/- each pair.

From the farm we went to see a Fiji friend, Mr²³ Ambler, who has settled at a place called Taumaranui; it is 37 miles by road from the farm but we had to go into our nearest town which is 15 miles away in the opposite direction & go 52 miles by rail in an incredibly slow train which took nearly 3½ hours! We left the farm at 8.30 a.m. & reached Taumaranui at 1.15 p.m. Alaic is perfectly good fortunately & likes travelling. We meant to leave for Auckland the following morning at 7 a.m.

but were persuaded to stay until that night at 2 a.m. when the Wellington Express went through. It was beastly cold but Alacie was quite cheerful when hauled out of bed & soon settled down in the train curled up in a seat & slept till 7 a.m. when we were nearly in Auckland. I went up to have my teeth X-rayed as I wasn't happy about them but they are all healthy & I only had 2 fillings. You will be interested to hear that I still have a few relics from that lot I had out in Jersey. One stump at the top & a splinter in the lower jaw! They appear to be all right so will stay until I have to have teeth out.

In Auckland I had a quite exciting week, first a Mr Coode, a cadet from the Gilberts who has just escaped from Bera, rang me up & then came to tea. From him I heard that Mrs Eastman, my missionary friend, was also in Auckland so she came one afternoon & we had a long talk. Then Dan Salmond, one of the airmen who stayed with us in Tonga, rang up to say he was getting married next day & would I go to the wedding, which I did. I had met his fiancée & liked her very much. The poor girl had expected to be married last November & had had four marriage licenses since then at different times when Dan had almost got away from Fiji on leave.

Delia Macdonald's husband, Paddy, has come down on 2 months sick leave, he arrived a few days after I left for the farm. He has had gleetitis (?) for years & is now having baths & massage in Rotoreua so it was most fortunate we settled here. They expect to go to Trinidad for 2 years in a few week's time so Erid & I have to find some-one else to take Delia's share of the house. Bevington returned to Fiji some weeks ago & has been transferred to that colony. Harry managed to get away from Government House & is staying at one of the hotels but Paddy says he heard that Harry got 'flu or something & H.F. hauled him back to convalesce! He always has lunch with H.F. as the office is in Government House grounds. Now he is doing Paddy's work as Ass Secretary to the High Commission but he is very reckless & hates not being able to join up in something.

Our people in the Gilberts have all escaped & most are here for a month or two. It must have been a most exciting time & I will try & give you some idea of what happened from the various disjointed stories I have heard. I hope you have a map to show you how the islands lie but just in case you haven't I will enumerate them from North to South.

Morakei

Makin, Butaritari, Abaiang, Tarawa, Maiana; Kuria & Aranuka, Ahehama, Nonouti, Tabiteuea, Beu, Nukunau, Onotoa, Tamana, Arorae, these are all Gilbert Is, the Ellice lie further south.

The Japanese, as you may have read, very soon landed at Makin, Butaritari & Tarawa, the District Officer at Butaritari is now in Tokio. At Tarawa of course they found no Bevington, ^(D.O. Tarawa) & although they questioned the other Europeans did not bother to remove any of them. They smashed all launches & boats & anything else likely to help them escape but left stores etc. intact, in fact they seem to have treated them very well. Mr. English tells me they stole his drill suits & all the shirts they could find. The first lot seem to have been a nasty lot, they were mummies, & after that they behaved better. They apparently stole English's keys & then another lot tried to force the safe & when they hauled in English & it had been pointed out to them that one of their own men had the key, it was too late as they had broken off the door handle.

Eventually the Tarawa party set off in a ^{launch} boat they had mended & with a new engine which the Japs had missed as it was in a case. They towed two boats & had with them some survivors from an American ship which was torpedoed off Hawaii & who many weeks later reached the Gilberts.

One boat had to be discarded owing I think to bad weather. I think the boats called in at Ahemama or Kueia because of bad weather but eventually reached Nonouti where they had a rendezvous with a ship, more I had better not tell. The Bees people were also picked up & they had survivors from another American ~~boat~~ ship who had landed at Nukunau. Coode made two double journeys in our long boat between Nukunau & Bees, a thing Harry has always wanted to do.

17th This has been left again, it is hopeless. The Macdonalds have gone away for a week leaving Neil, ages 17 months, with me & I am so tired at the end of a day I have been going to bed at 8 p.m., I am usually up at 6 a.m. I shall have to try to write regularly the current news & let all the rest go. I have so many letters to answer too & questions from Lady Maude. I am hoping to have a Tujian girl soon, Pat Garvey, who brought one with her, is off to Nezaraland with her husband so Anna will come here when they go, it will be wonderful.

I must post this & will endeavour to write again soon. Much love to you both & lots of kisses from Marie. Honor.

P.S. Read this straight through
on the top of each page & then
back again, I decided I ought to
use both sides.

24
5/9/42

74 Praterua St. West,
Rotorua.

3rd June, 1942.

Dearest Daddy Maude, & Sir Walter,

I keep on promising myself a field day
answering all your letters & as there never seems to be
enough time to settle down to it I put off writing so I
had better just write of things of the moment. The
days are so full & in the evenings I am usually too
tired to make the effort, you may remember I never
was much use in the evenings, rather inclined to
snooze! Now I have Alaic & Jean at my end of
the house & they wake up any time after 5.30, usually
about 6 a.m. & it doesn't seem to be worth while doing
again after that especially as an early start helps
all day.

This morning a packet of papers arrived from
you, Alaic got it from the Postman & got very
excited about it & I was so afraid there might not
be a little book in it for him. However all was
well, a little boy playing at being a bus conductor
was on the cover & as Alaic at the moment spends
some of his time making & dispensing tickets he was
overjoyed with the book. He seems to understand at
last who "Granny" is & he is very anxious to see you.

It is horrible waiting to see if the Japanese are going to attack Fiji. Harry is in Suva, of course, he works near Government House & has lunch with H.F. but has a room at an hotel.

It is 11.20 p.m., I seem to be rather like a clock, when I do get wound up I can't stop! I had better go to bed, there is a howling gale outside so bed will be cosy.

With much love from Alaic &

Your loving
House.

He has grown a lot I think in the last few months, he looks quite sturdy with rosy cheeks & not at all a tropical child. When I weighed him a few days ago he was 2st. 8lbs. Yesterday we were taken for a drive round Lake Rotenua, it was a great treat as you can imagine & the first drive I have had since we came here. Alain sat in front with three men, Sir Albert Ellis & two others, & was very talkative. Sir Albert remarked that he didn't take after his father in that respect anyway but couldn't be persuaded to say he got it from me! We had tea at a place where there were lots of very tame wild ducks which came all round us for food, the children were thrilled & not as scared as we expected. Alain has coloured two pictures for you which I enclose, the colour scheme is his, he evidently has Harry's passion for bright tues. The horses he did mostly by himself, you can probably detect where he got tired & I helped, this is his first effort at colouring, the yellow patches on the cow he did, except some of the large patch, & kept very well inside the lines. He is wearing long overall trousers & jerseys now & looks such a darling, he is admired wherever we go & everyone says how intelligent he is. I took some snaps recently but my roll has 16 exposures on it & I can't bear to use them up too quickly so the film isn't finished yet. He loves the postcards you send him, another came to-day in a

Mrs Thickett has at last got a woman to help her so she can leave when she feels too wretched.

We have had no news of friends in Honolulu & some of our Service people, from Fanning Island all still stranded in Hawaii.

We have a very go-ahead Archdeacon in charge of the church here whom we like very much. Alaric goes to Sunday school & loves it though he can't join in the singing yet. He helps to put away their small chairs, puts them together in pairs, what he calls "one an another" & insists on doing the same at home with his own & team's chairs. There is to be a "Campaign for Christian Order" in the Spring & we have meetings every Sunday evening after church to prepare for it. At present Euid & I go together but fear we may not be able to when Delia leaves, unless we get someone who will stay in with the children.

I hope you are having some warm weather & keeping well. I rather dread the cold here but I think of the poor people in colder places without a roof or sufficient clothes.

Harry is working very hard again, from 8.30 a.m. till 10.30 p.m. most days. He writes quite cheerfully & is glad he hasn't time to brood. He says his front hair has gone finally, he has been struggling for some time to keep it! It will match my white hairs.

letter from Sir Walter. Alaric went round telling everyone that he was making a picture for you because you sent him one so he must send you one etc. etc., he was feeling very important.

Although I have been such a bad correspondent lately I have enjoyed immensely hearing all about the Sayer family & the family at Lyall's. I owe all Harry's sisters a letter I fear, there is usually some upheaval just when I think I am going to get all arrears up to date. I do hope Mary is better & that Joan soon recovered from flu, I can't imagine Eycl as a girl of 17 - Timothy, who is the same age, has grown into an awfully nice boy Mother says, from a snip he sent me I should say he is very like Gerald. Old M^{rs} Voisin is having a hard time I fear trying to educate the three children on very little, however I'm sure she wouldn't part with any of them.

Thank you for the cutting about our visit to Pitcairn, who wrote it? We certainly didn't. H.E. very kindly sent me an extract from his despatch to the Sec. of State in which he mentioned me after saying how well Harry had done. Here is the extract: -

.... "I am confident that Your Lordship will share my appreciation of the capable manner in which M^{rs} Maude has conducted a difficult mission & of the highly satisfactory & successful outcome of his visit achieved

are dear & very scarce just now.

You sent me a Recipe Book, which is grand & is in use, it was just what I needed. You also sent a book with letters all through, by mistake I fear. I think you meant it for Mabel, shall I send it on to her?

So far none of your letters to me have been opened. Nor mine to Harry but my cousin Tom says all here to her husband in Samoa are censored.

I'm having quite a few chuckles reading back letters! Sir Walter is quite right, Alaric's head does seem to grow faster than his body & he definitely dwindles at the legs, perhaps that is why I like him in long trousers. I believe his legs are a bit fatter at last.

M^{rs} Thickett & I correspond fairly regularly, I am fond of her & I do not think she is at all happy. She hopes to come to Rotorua for a rest & change soon. She has not recovered from being knocked down by that awful man & now has fallen down when fixing up black-out curtains. Dorothy has 3 babies, a new one, one of 14 months & Susan 3½ yrs, all girls. She lives miles out of town with only help once a week & she & her husband have both been down with 'flu! Tom has no help again on the dairy farm so life is a bit hard.

as a result of able & tactful handling of the people. No small share of the credit for securing the confidence of the islanders, without which the mission must have largely failed, is due to Mrs Maude for her success in winning the respect & liking of the women of the island, as she also has of the Gilbertese among whom she has been stationed."

One is often told that officially wives don't count at all so it is very encouraging to be mentioned in official correspondence!

I haven't had letters from Pitcairn for a long time & wonder if they are very cut off now. They could be almost self supporting for a long time as they have good stocks of clothing & there are many items they get from ships which are not necessities. They don't eat butter or milk or tea but would miss fat of some kind, flour & sugar.

We are now rationed for sugar, tea & clothing. We have ample sugar as all our babies get a full ration! I used my first clothing coupon to get shoes for Alaic, a pair of red sandals for playing round the garden. Having just bought winter clothes I shall almost wonder how to use my coupons! Which reminds me, I hope Sir Walter is using that piece of Harris tweed, I can't bear to think of your precious coupons being used for that, goodness knows when Harry will get away again & need something warm & I'm sure

like sent out; I don't think there is thank you. We love getting Punch & I enjoy Good Housekeeping very much. I have had two copies of "Besting" & like them.

I would love to send you things from here, I'm sure you must be horribly short of clothes after your flight from Guernsey, but I heard you would have to give up coupons & I'd probably send something you didn't need.

Did I thank you for the farmyard? It arrived safely though slightly battered. I have to keep it for special occasions as Tom & Neil throw everything about so. The blocks you sent long ago are a constant source of joy, I think there were 52 of them originally & we still have 18. Not bad I think after all our travels & vicissitudes.

I wish I had someone like Eileen here, our garden gets no attention practically & I know so little about gardening. Neither Edid or Delia have the slightest interest in cooking, housework or gardening which depresses me at times, we could do so much here if they would pull their weight. Delia does feed the chickens now but I'm sure neither house nor pen have been cleaned for weeks. We get two eggs most days from our pullets & hope for more soon, eggs

Sir Walter must need all he can get.

I wonder if Harry managed to send you a copy of the Pitcairn Report, I'm afraid there was some difficulty about it as it wasn't printed or something.

I have now got all your letters sorted out & will answer questions I may have missed before. All your letters seem to have arrived safely, except Nos. 12 & 14 but they may turn up, they don't arrive in order, I got 16 to-day & 17 some days ago, also I forgot to make a note of the first lot I sent on to Harry, they may be with him.

The Queen of Tonga speaks perfect English, she was educated in Auckland.

How you must hate a weekly tub, I am revelling in a hot bath every night, it is years since I had only to turn on a tap to get hot water! It is lovely too to get into bed as warm as toast, the nights are pretty chilly now - We have had some rather cold weather but we get a good deal of warm sunshine which makes the middle of the day lovely. I haven't worn the spiral stockings yet, winter has only just begun & I feel I must keep something for the really cold weather. This house is terribly draughty & we shall have to make some elongated sandbags to put against the bottom of the doors which have quite a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch gap, & we have no less than 16 doors in

this small house.

The Macdonalds are still waiting for marching orders & we have not tried to get anyone for the spare room. I suggest giving up the large bedroom & the large kitchen if we can get a married couple, it would be much less work for me & we would still have the sunny end of the house. Last week we had Pat & Ronald Galvey here for a few days. You may remember that Ronald was in charge of Ocean Island, Mr Barley having retired just before the Japs came in. He got away some time ago & was most interesting on the bombing of Ocean; he was the only one hurt at all & the Residence, our beautiful £17,000 Residence looks an almost total ruin, he had some snapshots. The Galveys have been transferred to Nyasaland & while here were called for on the radio & had to leave next day they couldn't even go home to pack but met their two children & a Tjiman nurse en route. We haven't heard from them since we bade them farewell so presume they are on the Ocean. The Tjiman might come to us, I hope we shall hear from her soon.

You ask if there is any paper we would

No. 2.

74 Pectora St. West,

Rotorua.

17-6-42.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Your letter No. 12 turned up this week, having been over four months on the journey! The week before I got No. 17 which was only 2 months coming. I don't know whether I numbered my last one, dated 3-6-42, but I am calling this No. 2. I forgot to say many Happy Returns to Sir Walter, I wrote on his birthday didn't I? We celebrated Alaric's 4th Birthday yesterday in case Delia & Paddy are called away before Friday. He got so excited that the day ended in screams as I was afraid it would, normally he is so good I gave him a tip-up toy which he was always asking for & Delia gave a small black-board on which he immediately drew two quite recognisable A's, & I didn't know he could do it! End produced cricket bat & stumps so Alaric was very excited & pleased. I made a cake for him, plain sultan with chocolate butter icing & white lettering & a white aeroplane (not made by me) & 4 green candles. I took a snap, which I hope will be good, of Alaric with toys & cake. We only had one visitor for tea, our next door neighbour, M^{rs} King, who is very kind to the children & takes them out in her car most Sunday afternoons. She arrived with a simply enormous black-board,

about 4 times the size of Delia's, a goodness knows how I shall ever pack it! However Alarie loves it & will probably learn to write now & Team is glad to have the little one lent to her, unfortunately she is a terror about writing on walls so has to be watched. Delia found some old balloons & we strung them over the table & looked most festive.

In your treasurey letter your lack of the extreme cold, you must feel it dreadfully. We are having very heavy frosts now but the sun comes up & we have glorious days, so far. I am sitting in the sun now, in our old & original Rookie(?) chair with the baize board you gave Harry to write on & I am positively hot. However about 3.30 the sun loses its warmth & we hurry inside. Team & Alarie are out from 9.30 a.m. till 3.30 or after & look very bonny. Alarie's trousers & a skirt I made only 2 months ago I have had to lengthen already in the arms & legs, I think he is tall for his age. I had chilblains last week when we had the beginning of the very cold weather but they have gone away thank goodness, I've only had them once before & that was at Wadhurst.

Alarie now goes to Sunday School in a car with some little boys who live near by, he feels very grown up & seems to enjoy it very

much.

We have just heard that our Governor, Sir Harry Luke, has resigned & Sir ? Mitchell is to replace him. They must think Fiji very important to send us such a good man. We wonder of course what changes he will make, Harry might even be allowed to join up. I hear that others are almost making plans to return to Fiji, Harry has said nothing yet except that things should be clearer in 3 months so Enid & I are sitting tight for the present. We are missing the cool weather there & I don't like Fiji heat in January but I expect I won't hesitate to go if we are told we may! We are thrilled at the Americans successes but we have lost so much I can't believe we are out of the wood yet.

I enclose a snap Enid took on an old film I found, we expected blanks but this is quite good. The wood cupboard is a favourite playing place.

Enid is off to town so I will stop & get her to post this.

Much love from us both

Your loving
Honor.

Two A's & kisses from

Alain with no help from me.

No. 3.

Recd
29/9/42

74, Rectoria St. West,

Rotorua.

30th June, 1942.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Three letters came to-day,
Nos. 14, 18, & 19. + three exciting cards
& the lovely golden envelope ^{for Alaric}, which I
am putting away in his Baby book.
You do not mention your golden
wedding & we were wondering what
month it was. I've never seen golden
envelopes before, a lovely idea.

I enclose a snap of Alaric
with his birthday cake & presents,
unfortunately I took it badly & you
can't see all the toys. The snap
of him by himself I took early one
morning before the frost thawed, he
is wearing Harry's old flannels cut
down! I managed to ice his
cake by swapping 1lb of brown sugar
for 1lb. icing sugar as we had used
all our coupons. I also enclose

a couple of envelopes.

We had about a week without frosts & then several days with harder frosts than ever & now at last it is raining & is warmer.

During the frosts, & the warmer week, we have had such lovely sunshine & had tea on the lawn. M^{rs}

Thickett is staying with us for a few weeks & was surprised to see the frost when she woke up the first morning, they never get them like this in Auckland. We are 1,000 ft up of course. It is nice having her here & talking about old times & she is enjoying the rest & change.

Our lease expires on Dec: 5th & Enid & I have decided to move into the larger flat & let the other go, if the landlord agrees. It is too expensive for just 2 of us but I hate the thought of moving out of my lovely

sunny rooms, I get sun all day, into a back room. The house is built all wrong, one end gets the sun all day & the other end none but we would get it in the sitting-room & kitchen in the morning & bedrooms in the afternoon. I shall have Alice in my room as there are only two bedrooms.

We are now rationed for tea, sugar & clothes (which includes linen). Having several children we get plenty of sugar & tea, we don't use all our tea coupons.

I had a letter from Harry a few days ago, the first for a month, he said he had a touch of 'flu & was writing in bed but it was a mad letter! He had been in hospital having a number of moles removed. Apparently our old friend Dr. Macpherson got a fee in his bonnet about Harry's moles & after arguing for a week Harry gave in. They gave him

Eripan which seems to have made him extremely garrulous & difficult & he must have had the hospital in an uproar for some hours.

They won't tell him what he said except that at one stage he announced that he could sing 217 songs & he wished Kitty to be sent for so that he could sing them to her. Harry didn't mention H.K.'s resignation, I wonder when the new Governor will arrive. Beumington has been talking of Emd returning to Fiji in August but I can't see them lifting the ban yet & it seems silly to go too soon, Harry says no anyhow for Alaic & me.

The news is terribly sad from Ditya, one can't help wondering when we are going to stop the Germans. All those poor men who held Tobruk for so long, it is tragic.

You ask if I use Quink, we have the same sort of thing called Skip. I had been wondering if you had had the bombing near enough to disturb you, it sounds horrible. I owe Maudie for about 3 letters, as I do my other sisters-in-law I'm afraid, but having got back into fairly regular writing habits I hope to write to them all. In the meantime please give Maudie my love, I hope she & Charles are better, what a relief it must be to get into the country.

M^{rs} Thickett, Alacie & I went out for the day last Friday to a place by the lake about 5 miles out of Rotorua. Some people I knew in Tonga have cottages out there, almost on the lake shore. I'd love to move out there but I'm not sure it wouldn't be rather unpleasant in the cold wet months. Also it is such

a bag packing up. The view of course was gorgeous & it is right in the country.

Another day we went to a Bing & Reef afternoon at the Vicarage which was rather nice, we so seldom see anyone we know.

Alaic says he would like a horse like those in the picture too & he has long rubber boots for when it rains. He is learning to count now & can recognise 4 & 7, he knows you send him 6 kisses. He can draw them himself now, also A & D. Unfortunately Jean has taught him to write on the walls, & found them having a gorgeous time yesterday with chalk that they were supposed to be using on the blackboard. This morning, being wet, I gave Alaic a pricked card to sew &

he got on quite well - the picture was a rabbit & he says he will take it to bed with him when it is finished. He thinks that if he grins at me, his Chesire cat grin, I can't be angry with him; little monkey isn't far wrong either, it is such an awful grin one can't help laughing. The big children at Sunday School have a coloured disc in which they mark the names of the Sundays. These days Alaic tells me are "after Trinity" & adds, "Trinity is like Trinidad isn't it?"

Delia & Paddy are well on their way now, I hope they have an uneventful voyage to Panama.

With much love & hugs
& kisses from Alaic.

P.S. It is too wet to
go for the other snapshot
so I'll send it next time.

Your loving
Honour.

70. 4.

Rk.
14/10/42

74 Pictoria St. West,
Rotorua.

30. 7. 42.

Dearest Sir Walter,

The time has flown again & I am horrified to find that a month has gone since I last wrote. Just when I should have written we had another visitor & then I went down with simply beastly 'flu which kept me in bed for a week & then I felt dreadful for days; I am now feeling very fit again but I felt at one time as if I'd never feel well again! Of course I got asthma a bit so the doctor came & gave me an injection of adrenalin, not that I was terribly bad but he was so busy I think he wanted to make sure of stopping it quickly. After that I got an exhausting cough & then Marie joined me in bed for a couple of days which didn't help matters, fortunately he soon recovered. We had Mr^s Shuckett here - a Fiji friend, Mr^s Ambler, the latter had only been with us a day,

& they both turned to & cooked & mused, & I don't know what would have happened if Eind & I had been alone. M^{rs} Ambler went home after a few days & M^{rs} Shickett went after a week, she had to get home before the travel ban was in force. We can't go more than 100 miles on the railway now without a permit. M^{rs} Shickett was with us for just a month & had some Radium baths for a sore shoulder & I think she should have stayed longer. However she seemed to enjoy her stay & had a bit of a holiday until I got ill. She is not nearly strong enough to run that farm house for Joan, & Joan is a callous little wretch. M^{rs} T. is terribly hunched & since that brute of a man knocked her down, giving her a black eye & knocking out her front teeth, has been very shaky.

Our latest excitement here is the arrival of H.F., Sir Harry Luke, who suddenly appeared in the garden on Sunday about mid-day. Eind & I were not looking our best but were

Thankful we were moderately presentable. H.K. wanted us to dine with him so Erid rushed into town next morning & made appointments for us both to have our hair done, mine was awful after 'flu, we got our next door neighbour M^{rs} King, to sit with the children & went out to dine on Monday evening, it did us good too. This afternoon we have been for a lovely drive & came back here to tea & he & his A.D.C., a very nice lad called "Mungo" Thomson, are coming to tea on Sunday & to dinner on Tuesday when we are going to see some of Bevington's films which H.K. is taking home. We didn't intend having him to dinner but he more or less invited himself & insists on having it in the kitchen as we do, we have no dining-room.

I got very interested in the local War Effort & went to a couple of meetings, one by the Patriotic Lunch Committee & one the Awake New Zealand Campaign. I didn't learn much but I did get 'flu so my ardour has cooled, one can but give donations I suppose. I am to

help in the canteen one afternoon a fortnight, apparently that is all they need. One seems to have to give all ones time to helping or none at all & I can't give much naturally.

We have had a lot of wet weather & not so many frosts but it has felt raw & beastly. Today was lovely again, gorgeous sunshine but we are getting cold winds now. I took Alaic in to town to have his hair cut, left him while I shopped & then picked him up again & dumped him in an ice cream shop to demolish a 1d. ice cream while I did more errands & then we came home. He feels very groun up on these occasions.

Sir Harry tells me that Harry is better than he has been for some time & the holes where the moles were removed are healing at last. Harry wrote very cheerfully, he spent some days at G.H. before H.K. left & now has had to move from his old hotel to a boarding house as the hotel has been commandeered. The new place is much nearer the office

a less likely to be bombed in the event of an attack I should think. We heard last week that the Macdonalds had arrived safe & well in Trinidad, we now wait for letters from them.

I wish the Russians could stop the Germans, there seems to be no stopping them anywhere. Here we have, I think, an uneasy quiet & one wonders when the taps will strike again & where - I only hope we do the striking next time.

Alaie has received "The Baby Bear" & the "Green Elephant" & loves them both.

With much love to you all & kisses from Alaie.

Yours affectionately,
Honor.

74 Pictoria St. West,

Rotorua.

No. 5.

16. 8. 42.

(9. 11. 42)

Dearest Lady Maude,

I have had two letters recently, a second No. 20 & No. 21, the later one was sent from "Springfield". I was so glad to hear you had received a letter from me, it seemed such a long time before you got the new address. I do hope Muriel went on improving & that you have had some nice weather to help her convalescence. We are having a spell of wet weather, which was only to be expected after so much sunshine, but I have decided I prefer the cold, crisp weather. I am struggling with another attack of 'flu & have managed to keep it under control for a week! I was so fit for a couple of weeks after the bad bout that it is aggravating: getting sore throat etc. nagging all the time. The children seem to be bursting with energy & H.K., as I may have mentioned before, commented several times on Aleric's lovely colouring. His clothes are all blue, in different shades, & with his blue eyes,

fair hair & rosy cheeks he does look rather a darling. I was very amused at N.E. noticing his clothes, long overall trousers, short coat & helmet, which he seemed to think were very nice; as I had made the outfit myself I was naturally pleased.

I got a bottle of Rotoleine for myself after 'flu but Alaic took a fancy to it & had it instead! I tried him with one of those things some time ago & couldn't persuade him to take it, he will take pure cold liver oil though. Rotoleine is unprocureable now I understand so I'm getting a local product, as long as they have the necessary ingredients.

It would be so lovely if you could see Alaic, he is tearing up & down the dune on his bicycle, having a marvellous time between showers. He does love your postcards & is always talking about "my Granny & Grandpa" & what he is going to do & say when he sees you. Actually he will probably be thoroughly unpleasant at first, you know how awful small boys are when you particularly want them to be nice! I hope you

will be able to read this all right, I noticed Enid was writing on both sides & we must save paper, as ~~you~~ people know, here the paper shortage is only just being felt.

I haven't heard from Harry since I last wrote, Enid had letters yesterday, Saturday, so I may get something tomorrow. Mine seem to get into another mail bag & arrive later which is most irritating. We are very glad we are fighting in the Solomons, I thought we were never going to start. I cross my fingers & say a little prayer every time they say we are doing well there, I'm so afraid the Japs will somehow manage to beat us! If things go well there we may be allowed back in Fiji. The new Governor seems to have made a good impression, I enclose a cutting from our local paper. Harry I hope will tell me something about him. Harry, Enid heard, had read out H.F.'s appointment as High Commissioner in the Legislative Council, she also heard that he was lengthening office hours & putting more of our men into uniform, both measures will please the staff I

am sure, Harry said they all felt they weren't doing their bit.

The bombing of Exeter sounds awful, one just can't imagine it, & I sincerely hope we don't have to experience it, I should hate to have to deal with Alaric in an air raid.

You say you remember our being in Rotorua before. Yes, when Harry had treatment for limps in November 1939, we were here for nearly two months. We have quite a large garden, lawn in front, a wide drive & a square of gravel, a sand-pit & vegetable garden so there is lots of room for the children to play.

Here, too, it is difficult to get honey, I fortunately got a large tin when I was at the farm but we get through a lot with three children. Our sugar ration is ample, especially as none of us eat much & even baby David gets a full ration. I would like to try your National Bread, Enid & I never have white bread as we think it tasteless. Brown toast is a bit hard but I prefer it now, no doubt my

my dentist will wail when he sees the result of my hard biting!

Sir Harry Luke, who was here for several weeks has gone again, en route for England. We very bravely had him, & Thomson (M.D.C) to dinner, & as we have no dining room had the meal in the alcove in the second kitchen. We have a new char lady, a young woman & an improvement on the last one, & she came & brought in the dinner & washed up. The meal was quite a success so we had Sir Harry again the next week!

We also had him to tea several times & he saw all our Pitcairn snaps. One afternoon we all went to the lake side house of friends of his, it was lovely. Altogether we had quite a gay time!

I have done a little gardening & have a man coming tomorrow to dig & plant. Spring seems to be on the way, our bulbs all flowering & all a joy, Japonica & Azaleas are flowering & fat buds are appearing on other plants.

I pruned gooseberry bushes, much later than they should have been done I fear but I hope it won't hurt them.

Our 6:10 news is just beginning so I must listen - Russia getting worse blows every day; it is dreadful.

Very much love to you all

From

Honor

No. 6.

74 Petoria St. West,
Rotorua.

30. 8. 42.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Harry has been in hospital again, this time with 'flu, but he seemed to be more or less fit again when he wrote. He has managed to get a house with is great luck & is obviously anxious for me to go back. I can't take Alaic until the ban is lifted & I really couldn't bear to leave him alone in these uncertain days so will hang on for a few more months & see how we get on in the Solomons & New Guinea. It seems as though we might get back before Christmas, especially as there are lots of women & children there who have never been evacuated. I am beginning to realize how much I have lost in the Gilberts now that Harry needs things for his house. All my kitchen things except 6 saucepans which I am using & my scales (the original A.O.N.) are at Beer & are so hard to replace. Also most of our dinner service & half my beautiful tea service. I have no bowls, basins, pie dishes or ordinary kitchen cups & plates. However we might have lost a lot more.

Alaic has been having ear-ache, cried for two two hours one night & fidgeted for another

two so I got no sleep till 2 a.m. The doctor says his adenoids are the trouble + I am praying he won't have to have them removed, apparently you can't treat them? Otherwise he is extremely rambunctious + full of vim, especially after nearly a week of wet cold weather + being cooped in doors.

The azaleas are blooming now & look lovely, they line all one side of the main road leading to our road from town. Apple & peach are coming out so we feel spring is here. Deer bulbs make quite a good show. We have another gardener now, a European, who has dug up half the vegetable garden & planted onions, carrots, broad beans & peas & silver beet. Potatoes we plant soon, there is a potato famine but we had fortunately bought a sack when we first came & there are plenty for seed. Whenever I start a vegetable garden we move so perhaps I shall get to Fiji soon!

We had a couple in to dinner this week which we enjoyed but can have no more dinner parties in the other flat as the house is at last sold & the front flat let from the 1st. I moved into Emd's flat last week, Alarie & I share a room + I can't spread myself around but have to keep everything very tidy. However

we are very comfortable & there is far less work for me to do. The only jar is that Erid's two wake at 5.30 a.m. & invariably wake me & usually Alairic too, they seem to me to cry an awful lot, Alairic was such a happy baby, & Team at 2½ giggles & whines & is so disobedient, it is awfully bad for Alairic who is apt to copy & get spanked poor darling, when Team should be really spanked hard, she doesn't in the least mind her mother's half hearted smacks. I'm afraid the poor child will get some discipline when she returns to her father as he manages her much better.

Your description of Mrs Boyl's feeding, or not feeding, her child, makes me shudder, what a shame. Team & Alairic should be well, they have their mixed vegetables every day & fish or egg or grated cheese every other day & fruit breakfasts sometimes or porridge if it is too cold. I am sad there is no more Bemax & Marmite is almost finished. Our hens maximum output has been 6 eggs a day (from 8 hens) & we usually get at least 3. ~~The~~ ^{had} adenoids due to wrong breathing, wrong feeding or hereditary?

I seem to be short of one number of Destiny but it may turn up. I like it very much, the articles are good. Alairic's little

Sunday school friends are going to Wellington to live so I shall have to take him in on my bicycle again.

I am so glad Mary was successful with her bees, it will be a great help to have honey. We get through an awful lot & it is hard to get. I have had an envelope addressed to Mary for ages but I always seem to be in arrears with letter writing. Actually I don't have much time as Emd does no housework, cooking, gardening or odd jobs such as cleaning chicken house or run or oiling & cleaning bike etc. She is a nice person & easy to live with but quite untrained & useless. She has no method & it takes her all her time to cope with Jean & the baby & I bath Jean at night! I try not to be too efficient but I hate living in a mess, actually I'm not nearly as fussy as I used to be.

We are looking forward to warmer weather & you must be preparing for more cold, I am sure you must be short of warm clothes, do you have to use coupons if I send you any? Some say yes & some say no. Mrs Dickett says her sister didn't give any coupons for a cardigan she sent. With much love to you all & kisses

From Alaic.

Your loving
Honour.

Rd 9/12/42

74, Rectoria St. West,
Rotorua.

13-9-42.

Dearest lady Maude,

My latest news of Harry was almost a week ago when I received a cable from him from Honolulu! I couldn't think what he was doing there but a letter arrived the same day, from Fiji, in which he said he had been asked to go to Fanning Island to clear things up & install a cadet there. He must have gone by sea very soon after he wrote, or else flew. I am not hopeful about getting a letter for a long ~~long~~ time as I imagine communications are not good. He says it is to be as quick a trip as possible as they want him back in Suva but I should think it will take him at least 3 months. I hate him being so far away but the change, especially the stay in Honolulu, lucky man, is what he needs. He had been in hospital with a second dose of flu & people were telling him that either I would have to go back, without Alarie, or he would have to come here for a short holiday - I rather wish it could have been the latter!

I hope by the time he returns we shall be allowed to go back to Fiji. At present ^{only} women without children may go although there are lots of children there already who were never evacuated.

Did I tell you Harry had managed to get a house for us? I know it slightly, it is just like a box but quite nice & we are very lucky to get it. I had started collecting crockery, cushions etc. to send up but will wait now till Harry gets back.

We are having beastly cold wet weather with occasional sunny days but horrid cold winds. I have managed to do a bit of gardening, which always does me a world of good, mentally & physically, & have tackled a border which I thought beyond me. It is a mass of weeds & moss but has good hydrangeas, chrysanthemums & lots of bulbs in it. My hands which were pretty bad from ordinary chores are now just awful, & I wear rubber gloves for almost everything I do. I have also got down to sewing this last week & Alice's summer wardrobe is

well started, also wineyette shirts for spring wear. Having only one flat makes a big difference, if I get up in good time I can get all the housework done before breakfast & the girl who comes twice a week does the extras.

I wrote the first page of this while waiting for Alarie at Sunday school, I was trying to get warm during a short spell of sunshine & got caught in a shower. We had to wait some time before venturing forth it was raining so hard but coming home it was sunny but there is a horrid wind. Alarie rather likes going on the bicycle but his ambition is to go in on his tricycle. Last Sunday the boy next door, Terry Bryant, aged about 15 brought over his Hornby train for Alarie to play with, wasn't it nice of him? A. was thrilled as he has been asking me to get him a train with sails. The next day Terry took him on his bicycle to the Government Grounds where there is a pond, to sail his motor boat. I thought it was awfully good of Terry to bother with such a small boy. We have a

wooden fence between our house & the Bregante, on which Alaric climbs a lot & I saw him having a very confidential talk with Terry after lunch to-day. At the moment he is having a long sleep, a thing he only indulges in occasionally though he rests for an hour every day. That pattern you sent me for Alaric's suits is invaluable. It is still slightly large for him so will do another year at least. This year I am making some suits with fine blue aertex shirts & Lyskar shorts. The aertex I have been keeping for him since 1936, I hope it doesn't rot! The new materials I see in the shops seem to be a terrible price, fortunately I don't need much - Having bought new winter clothes when I arrived I haven't used many of my coupons, a pity I can't send you some!

14th Another cable from Harry, he has arrived in Fanning Island so he didn't wait long in Honolulu, I do wonder if he went by air.

I'm just going in to town to see

what foodstuffs I am allowed to send you - I believe butter in this is unprocureable & though I do not use my tea ration I may not send it out of the country - However I expect I can send sugar & honey for a Christmas parcel.

We had a heavy frost this morning & I am told there was a heavy fall of snow on the hills round us & we thought we had finished with cold weather! I have my second batch of chilblains after several months free of them. Our wretched miners were on strike last week, butes; it was hard enough to get coal before that, now I expect we shall have none for some time & our range supplies our hot water. Imagine strikes with the Japanese almost on our door-step, how the Axis powers must laugh at us.

Would you please tell me what you believe happens after death? Do we sleep till the resurrection or do we continue in some other sphere? I am inclined to the first theory but it doesn't conform with the C. & E. belief. It is

referred to so often in the new
testament. Or is it that unbelievers sleep
but true christians go on?

With much love to you all & kisses
from Alarie

Your loving,

Honor.

at

34 Almorah Road,

Epsom

Auckland.

28-9-42.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Alaie & I are in Auckland for about a week & then go on to Papakura to stay with Mr^s Thickett for a week. I was longing to get up here to see about the Takapuna house as my tenant goes out next week & I'm hoping to get rid of the last month of the lease - I was having trouble with my throat too in Rotorua which the doctor said was probably climatic but as we had a coal strike on I couldn't get a permit to come by train - I didn't try as a matter of fact as I was sure my business wasn't urgent enough. However my land lady, when I wrote & said she would have to deal with the inventory etc replied that she had made enquiries in Auckland & I should be allowed a permit & it was most important I should check up etc. I was very angry, she is so hopelessly self centred, so to prove

her wrong went to the station for a permit & was refused. However I happened to meet an acquaintance in the Grand Hotel & they were driving back to Auckland & offered to take us. As the strike is over I hope to get a permit to go home, otherwise I shall be hitch hiking!

Uncle had a good look at my throat & says there is nothing radically wrong so I hope the soreness will clear up. We had a perfect day for the drive up & the countryside is looking lovely in its spring coat. We took 4 hours & Alarie was very good, slept for half an hour & sang a good deal!

I am now struggling to replace breakages in the Takapuna house, an awful job.

We had three letters & 2 lots of papers last week, for which very many thanks. Alarie loves "Patch" & was very pleased to get another of the series of paper covered books. Your latest letter was August 9th so it came very quickly. It seems no time since we sent you the picture & we hear

you have received it. I am writing in bed & Alacie is wriggling round, hence the peculiar scrawl.

Thank you for the cutting, I wonder where they suddenly got all that information. I had a letter from Pitcairn last week, from Fred Christian, the very tall man who is Pastor & Magistrate. There have been two deaths on the island, one an accident & one a woman who I know had a very bad consumptive throat though she looked very hale & hearty. Fred said they were a happier community than they had been for some time, they had had a revival & confessions but I fear the community is too small & inter-married for them to become really normal.

No more news of Harry since he cabled he was at Fanning Island, just a week after the first cable. I gather from a letter Bevington wrote Eric that Harry flew to Honolulu & I think he must have flown on to Fanning. I rather think he called in at the place he settled with our natives which will have pleased him very much.

We wait anxiously each day for news from the Solomons & New Guinea & almost wish something big would happen soon! If we get bombed here I shall probably get to the farm, it would be the best place for Alaic. The earthquake shocks were not near us & though they seem to have been quite severe no one I believe was killed, amazing.

I have left Emd & her two babies to fend for themselves, the children's crying & grizzling was getting on my nerves very badly, I think Jean very naughty & should be spanked & David, at 11 months is fast becoming as bad, screams all through meals & a good deal of the day! Emd seems to think it normal behaviour.

Alaic is very thrilled at coming here & yesterday I found him half way up the stairs saying that rhyme from "When we were very young", "Half-way up the stairs is a stair where I sit" etc.

With much love & all good wishes for Christmas & the New Year from
 Honor.

X X X

at

22 No. 9. Karaka, 18.10.42

Papakura, Auckland.

18.10.42

Dearest lady Maude,

After 10 days in Auckland Alarie & I met Mrs Thickett at the station & came to the farm with her. The house is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Papakura but Mrs T. had brought her car to the station & gone on by train so we had the car to come home in. I picked up a simply beastly cold in Auckland which made me rather asthmatic & I arrived here wheezing like a grampus but I didn't have to retire to bed & soon got rid of it. Then Alarie developed the cold & behaved like a little fiend for some days! I'm glad to say he has returned to normal & has been singing most of the day. However poor Joan has now a cold, I only hope she didn't get it from us, it seems to be pretty general, Eini wrote that her two, in Rotorua, had had colds, I've come to the conclusion that the Spring is not a healthy time. Joan has no help at present & milks over 30 cows night & morning. She has a milking machine but even so it takes

her about 3 hours. I went down this morning & helped by scrubbing out the cow shed, a laborious job I thought as there isn't enough pressure to have a hose. How any girl could choose the life Joan has beats me. Alarie enjoys going about the farm with her though he is a bit scared of the animals. She fixed up a little sledge for him one day when she was harrowing with 3 horses & he sat on this & went bumping round & round for ages. I have taken some snaps which I hope will be successful. This morning we went with Joan to fetch wood she cut yesterday we took the sledge & one horse & had to go first through the bull's paddock which I must admit I did not like! We got across O.K., the old man was lying down, & I tried not to be scared as I have an idea animals can "smell" fear? We then proceeded through a paddock of placid cows & then mingled with some very skittish heifers who went quite silly & bounded all round us & Joan said were quite capable of

giving us a playful push. We eventually collected the wood & were returning home when Alaire started Punch (the horse) through a gateway too soon, the sledge caught on the post & upset & Punch nearly bolted! We had to collect the wood again, it hadn't split very badly, & were on the last lap. I couldn't face the bull again, he was standing almost between the two gates, so Alaire & I walked round!

We have had gorgeous weather until yesterday & I cycled into Papakura one morning, it was years since I had smelt the Spring country smells, & I thoroughly enjoyed the ride.

I have done quite a lot of gardening, including struggling with a motor-mower. The grass was too long but I've got most of it done. The original owners were evidently very ambitious gardeners & laid out a large area with grass & bushes, pergolas & borders, much too big for a farm. It is sadly neglected & I can never resist clearing a little. The owner went bankrupt, as Joan says from doing the garden & not the farm.

Uncle has twice examined my throat & says he can find nothing wrong & I hoped being here might improve it. It was better for a few days but now feels dreadful again so I am to go to someone else.

I have had another cable from Harry & think he may be returning soon. Beverington has written to Emd that he has heard that Harry is to come on leave, I think he is mistaken but hope he isn't.

The Takapuna house has been re-let & I am free of it. My landlady seemed to expect no wear & tear & expected us to do all sorts of repairs.

"Patch", the book you sent Alarie arrived safely & is much enjoyed.

M^{rs} Thickett says she feels very guilty for not having written to you, she sends Christmas greetings. This farm life is too much for her I think but at present she has help again, a nice English woman.

With much love to you all
Honor.

No. 910.

74 Pactoria St. West,
Rotorua.

26-10-42.

Dearest Sir Walter,

Alaie & I have just returned from a visit to Auckland & to the Thickett farm at Papakura, about 25 miles from Auckland. We also spent one night with Dorothy & her family who live some miles out of Auckland too but in a different direction. She has 3 lovely daughters aged 8 months, 21 months & 4 years & she & the children are all so bonny. I enclose a snap of Dorothy & Duncan with their two elder children & Alaie. There is 3 months between Alaie & Susan. I also enclose a snap of Alaie on a gate at the farm & another of him sitting on a sledge going round with Joan who is harrowing. Dorothy lives up in the hills & the house seems to be on the top of a ridge & is rather reminiscent of Pitcairn! They have lovely views & a nice house & the garden will be lovely when cleaned up, it had been allowed to go to rack & ruin.

As my throat was still worrying me I went to a throat specialist before coming back, he says I have septie tonsils & must have them out. I rather think that is his pet subject, he certainly didn't bother to examine my feet or to ask me many questions about symptoms.

Uncle was a bit sceptical as he had reckoned my tonsils were o.k. so I am now waiting to hear the result of a test he made. In the meantime my throat is still feeling uncomfortable.

I came back to find my garden flourishing & everything, including weeds, had shot ahead in my $3\frac{1}{2}$ weeks absence. I have hoed up potatoes & staked peas & beans since I returned, planted more peas & beans & hoed my other crops. The flower borders are very pretty, mostly plants put in by the original owners. Alaric was thrilled to get home & find all his toys but nearly makes me frantic when I'm gardening, he will dog my footsteps!

Thank you for your letter of Aug. 30th. Alaric, as you will see is returning to shorts & sun suits but the weather is so treacherous trousers are appreciated now & then. I bought him some sun helmets today so summer is coming.

Ocean Island, last time I heard any news, had not been taken by the Japanese. Macdonald was in the High Commission as Asst. Secretary, Macpherson is the doctor you are thinking of, he is still in Suva. I had a long, & amusing, letter from Delia Macdonald from Trinidad. They have settled

down in a house of their own but Delia doesn't describe the town at all. They flew from Panama, a 12 hour flight which began at 4.30 a.m.! Delia said she was worn out as young Neil, now 22 months, slept for only $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour the whole trip.

I don't know when Harry is returning but as he cabled to know what size stockings I take I think he must be coming soon! Rumour from Fiji, via Bevington, says he is to come on leave so I wish he would hurry up & get to Fiji so I can find out if it's true. Our front flat neighbours go next week so we could get the flat again if Harry is coming. I haven't had any letters from Lanning, that is for nearly 2 months, but I didn't expect any, I don't suppose they have a mail very often.

We are breathlessly watching the Solomons battle, it would be too dreadful if the Americans were pushed out. We fear the Japanese have visited our old home B. as one man there has been reported a prisoner of war but we haven't heard anything of Sadd. I wonder if they burnt down my house!

Alaic has amused me to-day by saying he "preps" something several times, I wonder who he heard using the word. He still says "bery" for "very" & also

"Jink" but he loves new words. He is very naughty about going to sleep during the day & to-day we had a meringue cake & ice cream for dinner (home-made - a special treat!) & I threatened not to give him any if he didn't sleep - it had the desired effect but I wonder how I can work it tomorrow. He squees at times till I soothe with rage, usually when I'm in a hurry too. I wish you could see him before he loses all his baby ways. He likes the dog on the post-card very much & is always very pleased when his letter comes.

With love to you all from
Honor.

P.S. 27th I thought I had posted this this morning so I must have sent the snapshots & spare envelope only!

74 Pectoria st. West,
Rotorua.

No. 11.

14-11-42.

Dearest Lady Maude,

No more news of Harry but I called to Fiji asking if there was any truth in the rumour that he was to come on leave & the reply was "rumour unfounded". Then I had a letter from Mr. Ambler in which he said the latest news they had had was that Harry would not be returning for a few weeks more & that he was very fit & getting plenty of fresh fruit & vegetables. I am glad I didn't believe the rumour! Evid. I have decided to keep the two flats & I have returned to my end where I am quite cut off from the cries of her two - it makes all the difference as I can now sleep in, if Alasia does, till seven or after & don't

leave my end till 8 a.m. instead of being disturbed about 5 a.m. & starting the day with decidedly frayed nerves. We can get away from one another too during the day.

As usual I have spent every spare minute in the garden & sometimes think there is a possibility of getting the whole place cleaned up. The vegetable garden is grand & we are now using our own lettuce & silver beet & green peas are in pod. We had a slight frost last week which damaged my tomatoes a bit & a few of the potatoes but nothing more. I have optimistically planted cauliflowers, I am told they are hard to grow. My Iceland poppies are lovely, they took so long to grow I am thrilled to have some really good blooms. I'm struggling with compost heaps & liquid manure, hedge clipping & weeding & really

need occasional help but our old man said he was going to Wellington.

We got our next door neighbour to sit here one evening while we went to see "Pimpernel Smith", my second time of seeing it & I loved it just as much. Last Sunday we had David Chesterton & then went to the vicarage to tea which was very enjoyable & the children had a grand time in the garden there. Our vicar & his wife are very nice.

Alaric is looking very well & is usually very busy! He has a garden of his own now which sports 1 tomato plant, 1 cauliflower plant, 1 bean, not up yet, & some lettuce & phlox seeds just put in. I have a suspicion that the beans gets dug up quite frequently to see how it is getting on. I hired a bicycle for him for a week, he had met a little boy from Malay who was staying

at the Grand Hotel, on it & was awfully keen to have it. It was a little bit big but once on it he could ride by himself. You can imagine how I spent that week, tearing round the countryside after Alaic as he couldn't get off by himself!

Emid & Jean go to Papakura in a few days to stay with M^{rs} Thickett so that Emid can visit the dentist. We have only one here who is booked up months ahead. My dentist in Auckland managed to give me two appointments when I was there, he was booked up for weeks too so I was lucky. Uncle says he doesn't think my tonsils are bad enough to warrant removing them but I am miserably uncomfortable so something will have to be done.

Alaic sends kisses to you both.

With much love from
Honor.

No. 12.

74 Pictoria St. West,
Rotorua.

6-12-42

Dearest Lady Maude.

I am afraid I have let three weeks slip by, partly because Euid was away for a fortnight & I had David to look after, he is 13 months old & takes a good deal of ones time. Now there is terrific excitement, Euid had a cable yesterday telling her to return to Fiji & we are packing frantically. Harry is still at Fanning so I have called him, asking if I shall get a passage at once or wait till he gets back. I have been expecting a cable to say he had returned to Suva for some time as his last message said he had finished the work there. I expect he will want me to go back at once if he is there, I only hope they haven't lifted the ban prematurely, the Japanese haven't finished with the Solomons yet. It seems that I am fated never to eat the fruits of my labour, the vegetable garden is now bearing well! However we have had a lot of cabbages & silver beet, will finish one crop of peas & the young carrots & will begin to dig

The potatoes now, they are flowering so are nearly mature. I get such a thrill out of picking my own produce.

Enid stayed with Mrs Thickett for two weeks & had her teeth seen to in Papakura, just in time as it happens. As soon as she departed with Tean & I had control of David I felt a new woman, my throat stopped weeping & I had no indigestion! so it must be pure nerves. It is a bit bad now with the excitement of her return & then the cable from Fiji. Alaic & I now have our meals alone at our end of the house, I couldn't face the noise & crying again. It seems to be better for us all as I don't hear so much crying from Enid's end & Alaic & I have very peaceful meals.

I have had our old Maori gardener in for two days & he did a tremendous lot of weeding & we look fairly tidy once more. It is a big plot for me to keep & I had concentrated on the vegetable garden. I had one

very hectic day, I had the Mami & was working in the garden with him. I also had a new cheer woman who was cleaning inside. Then a telegram arrived from Nan Bennett (whom we knew in Z'bar & then she married & came to Suva) saying she & her husband would be in Rotouva that day. They arrived about 10 mins later! I hadn't a thing in the house but we collected lettuce, carrots, eggs & tomatoes & had a good lunch. I had to go out to tea, a thing I seldom do. & then Nan & John came back after seeing some of the Thermal Wonders, & got themselves some dinner. I was busy with David & Alacie. Altogether it was the most hectic day I ever remember having.

Alacie was very pleased when David was left with us, said he was our baby now & played with him & looked after him & helped me & was very sweet. David was as good as gold & such a pet, I loved having him & was quite sorry to hand him back, especially as I think I look after him better!

All the news is terribly thrilling, it is so marvellous that Hitler has at last had to move troops to defend instead of attack. It does seem as if we have turned the corner though there is no doubt, as we are constantly being told, that we have a lot of hard fighting to do yet. We heard the bells from the British Isles, they came over very clearly, I think the Coventry ones thrilled me most.

I enclose some snaps that will interest you, taken when we visited Dorothy Thickett, Susan is 3 months younger than Algie.

My next letter may be from Fiji but I rather think it may be some time before we can get passages.

Much love from

Honor.

No. 13.

74 Pretoria st. West,
Rotorua,

13.12.42.

Dearest Sir Walter,

After what seemed a long time we have had English mail again & I was very glad to get two letters with all the news, you seem to have seen quite a lot of various members of the family. I hope Eryl did not have any more appendix trouble.

I cabled Harry over a week ago when Erid heard that we could return to Fiji but have had no reply yet. He may be trying to get information before deciding whether I am to hurry back or he may be trying to get back to Fiji before deciding anything, or he may not have received my cable. I wish to goodness he would make some sort of reply instead of keeping me in suspense! Actually I can't return until the beginning of February at the earliest as the ships are full up & I may wait till March as it would

be cooler than, the hot weather is just beginning. I gather that a lot of people are rushing back but others are waiting till about March. I only hope the Army hasn't punched our house during Harry's long sojourn on Fanning Island. I have not had a letter for over three months & wish he would come back.

I enclose a letter from Alaic, he did the writing without help. The first c he did the wrong way round, he decided to make the 'o' in 'to' into 'p' & then thought it would be a good idea to put D for Daddy in the middle of Grandpa! It is a pouring wet afternoon, hence the industry. He is a good little soul by himself, I shut the doors between the flats after lunch so as to have peace & quiet & I slept, on & off, for an hour while Alaic amused himself with Tamie & bricks. This morning, before the sun set in Alaic & I cycled to Whaka, the thermal area, & just called in to see M^{rs} Jeank, we got home only a short time

before the rain started & thunder rumbled all round us. Yesterday Nan & John came in again for lunch & tea, the rain has spoilt the fishing but John brought us a lovely trout caught a day or so before. He returns to Suva shortly but Nan has to stay.

Mother has heard that our dear old friend at Bel Royal, Miss de la Perelle, died last June & M^{rs} Bree, who was Miss Good, headmistress of the Girl's College, is also dead, she had been crippled for years, so it is quite a relief to know they are not suffering. Do you ever get news of Wynne or Aunt Minnie?

I shall have to put on mackintosh & boots & feed the poor chickens, it is still pouring steadily & looks as though it won't stop. We are not getting so many eggs now but enough to supply our needs which is a blessing as eggs are short. We have bought practically no vegetables this past two weeks & our own taste so good. We often have what I call a Summer Stew, carroté, white turnips,

green peas, new potatoes, sultanas, onion
+ mint, all from the garden.

With much love to you all from
Honor.

170.14.

74 Pictoria St. West.

Rotorua.

27-12-42.

Dearest Lady Maude,

We are having extraordinary weather, a heat wave for a few days, then a chilly spell & to-day is very hot again & there is a thunderstorm rumbling round us which I fear will soon be here & Alaic gets frightened & I want to go to church.....

I had to stop as the children came back from a drive with Mrs Bryant. The storm passed us by but we had some rain & then it was beautifully fine & cool. To-day we had English mail, two letters from you, 37 & 38, with Alaic's cards which always cause excitement. He is sending you samples of his first efforts at painting. I'm afraid I cut them out as he wanted me to, if I had had more time I would have tried to make him do it himself. He manages quite well with the paints. To-day he has been shooting with a bow & arrow I made

for him, I realised afterwards that he could shoot hard enough to hurt anyone but the day passed without any accidents.

I had a cable from Harry soon after I last wrote, from Honolulu, just saying "wait". Then on Christmas day I had one from Fiji saying he had arrived safely & to-day another to say permission had been granted for me to return to Suva & I am to see about passages so he evidently wants me to return at once. My present plan is to go to Auckland about the 7th & stay there till I sail. I do hope your dream that Harry wrote to you came true because he cabled for your address! I gave it to him before but I expect ^{he} left it in Suva. I haven't had a letter for four months but that was no fault of his I believe. We had a man from Suva in here a week ago & he said Harry was marooned on Lanning & should have been back long ago.

We have packed all the china & silver & all down to enamel plates

& bare necessities in other things. However we managed to have some Christmas fare, chicken & stuffing with Russian Salad & I iced the very good Christmas cake Mrs Thickett gave us. Alarie was very excited about Father Christmas this year & was very anxious to have a fire-engine, we had seen one in a shop window. So I got it & put it unwrapped by his stocking & he called me in a tense voice as soon as he woke to tell me. He & Jean had, of course, identical stockings, a tin spade, a few chocolates, home-made biscuits cut in animal shapes, a handkerchief, a soldier & an airman & several books. Alarie also had a sailing boat & a small wooden train & another smaller fire-engine!

I have made a house for them on the lawn, the play-pen with poles to hold up a mat roof, they simply live in it, especially Alarie who has his nest & his meals there.

Alarie & I had arranged to visit a friend at one of the lakes last Monday & stay the night. Then we heard that his

Sunday School were having their Christ-
 mas party & tree that day - I couldn't
 get in touch with the people we were
 going to so we made up our minds
 he would have to miss the party. However
 half-way through Monday morning a
 telegram came saying the husband had
 unexpected leave & would we postpone
 our visit! So we are going tomorrow.
 I left Alaic at the party & was very
 much afraid he would over-eat, but
 I think he was probably rather shy
 as Mr^{rs} Hodgson said he didn't eat much.
 Parents were invited to attend at 7 p.m.
 for the tree & a play & I duly turned
 up, late though as there was an
 air-raid alarm, practice, & I had to
 stay at home till it was over. Alaic
 is usually asleep by 7 or soon after
 & the poor lamb was yawning his
 head off & stretching, right in the
 front row on the platform. I was
 told that during "oranges & lemons" he
 was given the choice of a golden car
 or a silver boat & he replied, "oh! a
 car or a boat, I've got both" & staked
 off! He has a white sick shirt with

blue smocking on it, a relic of his baby days, which steel felt & is hardly worn so I lengthened it & made blue shorts & he simply loves it & is always wanting to wear it! It does look rather nice. He is wearing the last of the suits you sent him, a shirt with frogs & green shorts. That too I had to lengthen, they make them so extraordinarily square, wide & short. I'm in the throes of making him more clothes, some white drill shorts from old trousers of Harry's with blue crested shirt. My own old dresses are being smartened up & Lind & I seem to be always measuring hems for one another!

With much love to you all

Your loving

Honor.

70.1.

at 57 Huestree Rd.
Takapuna.

20-1-43.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Just after I last wrote to you I had another cable from Halsey saying that my permit to return was granted & asking me to see about passages. Since then things have been hectic. We gave our two week's notice on the house & then began packing in real earnest. We decided that Erid had better go first so that I could pack my kitchen things so we got her away on the 7th. Alacic & I had our typhoid inoculations & he was all right this time, much to my relief. No sooner had Erid departed than telegrams began to arrive asking for her presence in Auckland so I thought I had better get a move on in case I could get on the same ship. There was a frightful lot of clearing up to do but, M^{rs} King, who had just returned from her holiday, came over & helped tremendously & her husband spent a whole afternoon packing folding tables etc.

So I got away five days after Enid but found there was no hope of passages. Enid, who had put her name down before the ban was lifted, didn't know till the last minute whether she was on or off the ship but eventually got away. I may have to wait some time but I am doing my best to get on the next trip. I am afraid our house might be taken away if I don't go soon.

I have at last had letters from Harry, after $4\frac{1}{2}$ months silence, one was written at Fanning but as there was no means of sending it to me it came with others from Suva. I hope you have had first hand news from him, he seemed to enjoy his stay at Fanning, I can imagine he would, I dislike the Suva life as much as he does.

Alaric, at the tender age of $4\frac{1}{2}$ has lost his first baby tooth, it seems awfully young & he looks so quaint. He has lovely strong teeth so I hope changing them so soon won't matter. He pulled it out himself & was rather pleased with his effort, he assured me it didn't hurt!

We went to the Grand Hotel for our last night at Rotorua so as to be ready to leave by the 10 a.m. Train. We paid last minute bills before going to the station & I must say I felt quite sad at leaving our home of nearly a year though I don't like Rotorua. It was sad to leave my large vegetable garden. Here we are staying at present with the Griffiths who lived next door to me at Takapuna. Rose Marie is English & has two children, Roland aged two. The baby is $3\frac{1}{2}$ months. Alaine & Roland have great ^{times} games, Roland is so game & very good & one hardly ever hears the baby. There is a long garden with the house across the middle & it slopes down to the sea. The front, leading to the road, has lawns, fruit trees & flowers but the back is wild with a lovely steep bank for sliding; not so good ~~on~~ on the pants! I've kept Alaine in old clothes & have had to patch the seats already, I shall have to look for some khaki shorts for him. He

own furniture, the first time in 14 years! Much love to you all. Howard

wasn't very keen on the sea when we first came, about 10 days ago, but talked all day about what he was going to do & then hadn't the nerve. Roland just walks right in up to his neck & now Alacie gets wet all over & is so thrilled. He really is having the time of his life in the garden & on the sands especially as M^r Griffiths is on leave & the two little boys are with him a lot; he flies the tasan.

I took Alacie to church this ^{morning} time, the first time since Tonga as he went to Sunday school in Rotorua. He was as good as gold, I suggested coming out before the sermon but he wanted to stay to the end & fortunately the sermon was short & I'm sure he will want to go again.

I'm finding it hard to settle down to anything while on tenterhooks about sailing, it is so unsettling & I find staying with people very wearing, I do like my own home. It will be just marvellous to be in a house with our

57 Hurstmere Road.

Takapuna.

8-2-43.

Dearest Lady Maude,

There were two letters from you this week, for which many thanks. Alaic & I leave here tomorrow & expect to go to Harry tomorrow or the next day, we may spend a night with Auntie. I have been very worried about the whole thing & I'm glad ~~just~~ everything is settled at last & only hope I am doing the right thing. Harry said Enid had arrived but he did not see her as she went on to her husband, about 100 miles away.

We have had a lovely month here by the sea & Alaic has enjoyed it so much. He is quite good about the water now & goes out up to his waist when alone. I have actually bathed twice we are having such hot weather. We often have picnic lunches at the bottom of the garden & the children just live in the garden & on the beach. I'm scribbling

this out on the lawn but the children & the
mosquitoes are somewhat disturbing! I can't
remember whether I told you that Alaric had
lost his first tooth? There is no sign of a new
one & $4\frac{1}{2}$ seems very young to start second teeth.
The baby here has just cut his first tooth at
a bare 4 months!

I shall have more to tell you next time
so I won't try to write more now.

With much love from

Honor.

Ch W. P. H. C.

No. 4.

Suva.

Fiji.

5.3.43.

Dearest Lady Maude,

I cannot tell you nearly as much as I would like to of our journey here, we had no alarms though I admit I felt rather uneasy one day when saw a ship in the distance! Alarie was very good but I had to keep an eye on him all the time. We started off in very cramped quarters but later had a good place. We spent two days at the place we loved so much & our faithful Mela looked after Alarie. We were both very well.

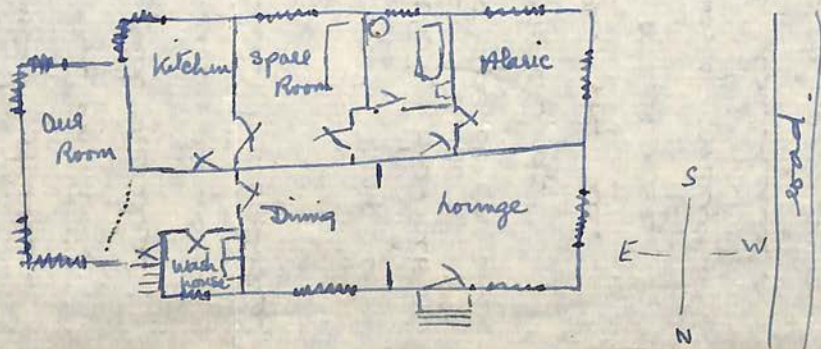
Harry is positively fat, I must get him to weigh himself, & has never looked better but is working as hard as ever. He seems to spend most of the day seeing people, either in his office or elsewhere & then works in the evening. He has suddenly taken to mowing the grass & otherwise showing an interest in the garden, long may it last! It is just as good exercise as walking & is such a help. We have an Indian clearing & preparing a piece of ground for vegetables which begins to look quite promising.

The house is very small & has no cupboards or

2.

drawers, nor anywhere to store boxes or suitcases. However Mr. Ambler has lent me a dressing table & Harry was able to buy one wardrobe, shelves on one side & on the other I just pile linen etc. I brought back our Army & Navy travelling wardrobe which is very roomy & takes hats, shoes & dresses, so far I haven't made a curtain for it but it is just as well to have clothes in an airy place I think. Harry had a bright idea, to make a wide shelf in the wash house for luggage, he had an awful job getting 3 pieces of 2' x 4' but succeeded in the end & it is simply marvellous. We have made our bedroom at the back, a room built on which is very airy & cool but is also the back entrance! The sitting room is impossibly hot from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. We have a very nice bathroom with a chip heater which is a blessing, so many houses here have such primitive washing arrangements. Here is a diagram of the house. No built in cupboards anywhere & all rooms small. No outside door to wash house!

However it is a house & a very nice one.



Alacic has been having awful tantrums since we came back, probably due to the heat which is certainly rather trying. The last two days ^{he} ~~has~~ been much better so I hope he is settling down.


He goes to Kindergarten from 9 a.m. to 12, I either take him in the car or on the bicycle, I find getting him at noon on the bike rather awful but it will soon be cooler, it isn't very far but we have a bit of a hill to come up.

We can get plenty of fruit & vegetables & enough meat for us but groceries are short & many things unprocureable - materials etc. are all gone.

I felt very much at sea at first but I'm getting the hang of things now. My throat has been just dreadful again but I hope it will improve as I settle down, it appears to be a purely nervous condition.

Our girl, Angela, is very nice but quite untrained & has no idea of using elbow grease or having things polished, however she is a help & is a nice girl. My old Indian is getting \$9 a month working for with our Allies! I haven't really room for him anyway.

I have had two mails from you since I arrived, letters & books for which many thanks. As materials are so short I have used some of my Tongan "tapa" for curtains in the arch between

lounge & dining room & it looks most effective, I
 enclose a sample to show you the colouring. Our
 camp beds & folding tables are most useful - I still
 have the precious little refrigerator we brought back
 in 1936. We are on a horrid corner where four
 roads meet, but not a cross roads: -  and
 the traffic at times is awful but we don't hear it so
 badly at the back & it doesn't worry Alairic.

14th Harry received your cable some days ago & we are
 anxiously waiting for further news, we are hoping the
 delay means that Father is at least no worse & perhaps
 better. Harry sent you a cable immediately & we hope it
 got through quickly. It will be a long time before we
 hear any details.

With much love from us all,

Your loving
 Honor.

No. 5.

To W.P.N.C.

Suva.

Tiji.

10.4.43.

Dearest lady Maude,

I have just been having a lovely time opening up the house & putting things in the sunshine after several days of pouring rain. We get fed up when it rains too much but at least it gives us a cool spell, I'm very hot & sticky now!

Many thanks for your letters & books, Nos. 40 to 46 have all arrived & Alaic has three more of the little books, The Three ^{miss} Cats, The Toy Monkey & The Little Donkey & a picture book, he loves them all. In the "Little Things" Series he has 1 to 6 & No. 8, I wonder if 7 is lost? We were lent Tales of Pook the other day, Alaic enjoys them but they are really too advanced for him & he misses most of the jokes but Harry I found simply chuckling over it! I really think Alaic's favourite book is Punch, he pores over them by the hour. He missed a week at Kindergarten, first because he had a cold & then I heard that the mistress had a bad cold & sore throat so I kept him at home. Now he goes again without any fuss, in fact I said I wouldn't bother to take him in the pouring rain

but he demanded to go! However if asked if he likes going to school he assures everyone that he doesn't like it.

I don't know from one day to the next what my staff will be doing. I got a Fijian girl who was coming at 10 a.m. staying till Alacic was in bed & she was very nice, however she seems to be absent more times than she is present. Angela, our half-caste, then said she wanted to leave but a few days later said her sister, who is with the Beveringtons & gives notice periodically because she is lonely away in the country, was really coming to Suva & she would stay with me till the sister arrived. We can't get the sister to say whether she really is coming or not & now Angela's brother is on leave & she wants to be away all this week! I only hope the wretched Fijian, Sulu, turns up tomorrow. My silly old throat got better for nearly a week but is now bad again, resting seems to be the only cure & I can only do that when both my girls turn up.

One Sunday afternoon we picked up Miss Pateman, of the Bevu Mission School, to go for a picnic. We drove a little way out & then had a good walk & climb up to a Beacon. It was a lovely day but we found when we reached the top that a thunderstorm was brewing & in no time was over us. We sheltered with the Indian keeper of the light & had our tea but it continued to rain more or less so we

had to leave eventually. We had half an hour's walk to the car, it wasn't raining much at first but about half way poured again & we were, of course, drenched. It was very slippery & Miss Pateman fell down twice & I nearly went when holding her hand to help her & she saved me. Then there were several rickety narrow bridges to cross. However everyone laughed & we came home to hot baths; Alain says he won't go there again, the poor lamb was a bit chilly. We were sorry to let Miss Pateman in for such a trip but she was awfully good about it. The Lighthouse Keeper said he knew it was going to rain as it was new moon & high tide & why did we wait till afternoon!

Later. Well, Angela has been away four days & Sulu has decided that she is having an infant so I have had no one. Now my garden boy, temporary, has produced a Tifian girl, very young & raw but at least she can sweep & wash up! I'm wondering if Angela means to come back or not. The garden is really progressing & at present the boy is making some sort of cage for my handful of chickens with what scraps of wire netting & wood we could collect. Eggs we never see now & we

To W. P. H. C.

Suva,

Tiji.

5.9.43.

Dearest Lady Maude,

It is such a long time since I wrote you a proper letter that I keep on putting it off, I do wish I didn't keep getting these spasms of not writing. Actually I have had one domestic upset after another & now, in desperation have an Indian. He is first & foremost a cook, & a good one, but is not so hot on housework & I don't feel I can chivy him as one can a Tjijian girl. However I think he keeps the house as well as the girls did & I leave him to it. I do miss the girls for washing & ironing but Mahommed makes up for it in other ways, especially in being dependable. I have had seven girls in six months! Angela, the half-caste, lasted 7 weeks & then left, as I thought for a few days holiday so I didn't try to get anyone else. After 5 days my cousin Joan arrived for a few days stay, with her 6 months old infant. I rushed off to find Angela & she informed me she wasn't coming back, & wouldn't even help me out over the week-end! Since then I have had a succession of indifferent Tjijians who were always staying away for half a day or a day, or two days, & after each one left some

4.

haven't the substitutes. I have found a number of recipes however without eggs.

With very much love to you all from
we three.

Honor.

of my things were missing. I had one very nice girl, soft spoken, good manners & nice bearing, she was married & her husband beat her up several times, that was why she came to me. There was always friction between them & she left twice & then came back but the last time I got her husband to agree to her working for me. She was learning to cook well & I had a second girl who was a bad lass but a good worker & we felt we were all set so I got hauled into various activities. No sooner was I up to my eyes in work than Mary played up & then left, however I still had Fanny, the good one. Then her husband came one day & said they must return to their village, for various reasons but he also told me that my nice Fanny was being very foolish, getting into bad company etc. A few days later a friend told me that she had heard that Fanny was behaving badly & that evening she didn't return to work. Next morning she came & I scolded her but she said she had been with a sick sister, a nurse in training so I took the sister's name, to find out how ill she was. I then went to market & when I returned there was no Fanny! I phoned the matron of the hospital & found out that although the sister was ill Fanny had not been near her! So I am rather disillusioned. Harry was in bed at the time & somewhat helpless as he had developed a

"burstis" (?) on his left elbow & as it had suddenly swelled up the doctors decided to remove it & it was a painful job. It has healed up nicely now. He leaves us tomorrow for an unknown destination & I don't know how long he will be away but I gather it may be only a short time, however you ~~to~~ never know with him!

12th Harry departed by plane a week ago & I have had no news of him, I asked him to try to send a message somehow; I rather think you may get another letter from Miss Titcombe! Alaic came home from school on Friday feeling cold & looking wretched so I put him to bed & found he had a temperature of 100°. He just slept & had no other symptoms & was all right again yesterday. He is so thrilled with all the things you sent, he wore the pistol & holster, day & night for about 5 days & the rest of the outfit during the day. The lovely building bricks we are keeping for Christmas. He loves the blacksmith & other figures you sent, & the garden seat, the little box was a bit broken but the hen house was intact. Many thanks for the clothes, they will all be most useful, I am tempted to cut the check shirt into two for Alaic as he has nothing in that line. Harry has several white Kyella skil. I am glad to have Victorov's diving &

read some each day. Thank you very much for all the magazines & pamphlets, your parcels are always greeted by the whole family with applause & Alarie goes round saying "aren't I lucky? What a kind Grammy I've got." We got him a simply delightful puppy for his birthday, I enclose a snap of him with Alarie, sad to relate we only had him 3 months & he was run over, it was most upsetting as he was a particularly fascinating little creature. Alarie didn't mind nearly as much as I did but the kitten I'm sure Skell wants him, they had such marvellous games together, & he goes round the house miowing & quite unnerves me.

I have just heard from a friend that her Sijian girl, who had been with her $3\frac{1}{2}$ years & went to N.Z. with her, has just been married & my friend, missing a towel went to look in the girl's room & found a hoard of linen, crystal & silver in her box, things she ^{must} have collected over a long period & even things belonging to my friend's sister in N.Z.!

We are having a Patriotic Fête here in October & I am doing an "Arts & Crafts" stall with Vi Roth. Vi is a real artist & very clever all round & I have managed to produce a few ideas but we have to work very hard to get the quantity of things required. Fortunately Vi has two wood cuts & has made another which can

be printed off quickly so we are having a lot of Christmas cards - calendars - shell necklaces too with shells from the Phoenix & lots of things made with white & coloured "Tapa" (bark cloth) I will send a few later as we have used it rather as we used to use leather. Yesterday I made a waste paper basket which is a great success. It is cloth with cardboard stiffening & I have made it so that the boards can be removed & the cloth washed, we had grand thick cardboard from Kiwi advertisements & I didn't have to cut them.

We had a bad drought, almost unheard of in Suva, & a severe water shortage. However we have rain at last & I can once again take a little interest in my garden. It was pathetic before because one couldn't water anything & my tomatoes went bad before they ripened & lettuces just shrankled up. Today is dull, windy & decidedly chilly & I'm sneezing my head off, I am seldom free from catarrh or asthma though the latter worries me mostly at night, very disappointing after years of freedom but this climate is notoriously bad for it.

We hope to come home as soon as the war is over or we can get long enough leave &

we should surely be amongst the first to get leave, we have had two months sick leave since 1930 & that is all!

20.9.43. Another week gone by & I haven't posted this & I have heard nothing from Harry though I have heard indirectly that he is all right & will probably be away another week. Your Aegraph of 8.8.43 has just arrived. Only three more weeks to our fête so we are going all out, I shall be glad when it is over though the work is fascinating we can't get enough helpers. I go to an asthma expert tomorrow to see if he can discover what affects me, I have been better the last few days which have been hotter. Mohammed has made Alaic a kite to-day so I have wasted quite a lot of time untying string etc! Not really wasted as Alaic was thrilled to bits & can really manage it quite well now.

With much love to you all from
Your loving
Honor.

90.7.

% W. P. H. C.

Suva.

Fiji.

26-11-43.

Dearest Lady Maude,

First of all I must answer questions in the number of letters I have unanswered & also thank you for all the books which have arrived for all of us. The weather is pretty hot so I'm sitting under the mango tree, where there is a lovely breeze, & Alasia is making harbours etc. on a mat beside me with the blocks you sent him a long time ago; we are rather proud that only 3 have been lost in over 3 years, so still have four dozen!

Harry has been away nearly 3 months with the exception of two days here on his way south nearly 2 months ago. I can't very well send on to him as he should be at sea. I'm sure however that he will take on the Insurance Policy that his father had for him, it would be a shame to let it lapse & will probably be most useful to help with Alasia. I have posted a letter from him but he had not, of course, seen your letters. I will get him to write you as soon as possible. The patterns you mention have not come yet but I'm looking forward to getting them. The suit pattern I am still using but it will soon be

too small, it has been invaluable & much admired as it is well cut. I'm now making sun suits with the pants pattern plus a bib & shoulder straps. I enclose 3 snaps, the last before Alaric's top teeth came out, he looks awful at present.

About the clothes, Harry has been wearing some tropical trousers of his father's which were only a bit large round the top. He says that he got coupons without difficulty in N.Z. but that materials are very thin & poor. He takes an 8½ shoe so I think the shoes would be too small. I will let you know as soon as I can.

I am sending you two snaps of Harry taken by a friend, one is enlarged & the light is unkind but the small one is more cheerful, you can tear it up if you don't like it. It is nice in that it is taken in his office.

Now for some news, I have neglected you sadly but I really have written no letters, I get worse & worse.

Harry I think had just left when I last wrote, not air graph, & he was away for a month, then he returned for 2 days & rushed off by air to N.Z. to join an expedition in a terrific hurry & apparently plans went wrong & he has been sitting in Wellington for 7 weeks! It would happen when I'm here.

much is ready so must go. Alaric has decided he has urgent business in the distance somewhere, how long the mounds? He is entirely like Harry as far as I can see.

He is supposed to be going to the place where I found the ring & he got so many stones & we didn't have enough to eat! I sent a cable this last week but so far have had no reply so he may have gone. I'm wondering if he will be back for Christmas. News from the Gilberts is very thrilling these days, I wish we could get Ocean Island & Nauenu, I fear the natives there will have had a very bad time.

I went & got dengue fever which was extremely unpleasant & was feeling awful when Harry had his two days here, however I recovered in time for the Patriotic Fête & in spite of a wet day did ^{we} very well. We had Arts & Crafts & old books & made \$272, we never expected more than \$100 in our wildest dreams. The Roths then got 3 weeks local leave & decided to go to the hill station, Mandarivatu, & very kindly offered to take Alaric & me with them. So we started off one morning & got 55 miles out when we were stopped by a broken bridge, there was nothing for it but to return to Suva & go round the island the other way, which was much further on a dreadful road. The bridge was to take 5 weeks to mend. We started

again next morning & motored from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. when we were within 15 miles of our objective & had reached an excellent hotel, ^{190 miles from Suva} so we slept there & went up the mountain road next morning. We had 2 1/2 delightful weeks there, I took work & letters to do but did nothing. We walked & climbed, played Table Tennis, eat & slept & came back much refreshed. Alaic proved himself a very good walker & climber & loved it. I had asthma at night for the first week, then was clear but got it again the night before we left & had it all the way home which was miserable as it was a hot day & we had a number of stops & had to change cars at the broken bridge. I have now begun a course of injections to de-sensitise me to dust, feathers, bees & a group of trees. Sybil has apparently been having awful attacks & she never had it as a child.

The Bevingtons have been transferred to another district, a lovely island, & were in our house while I was away & a few days after my return, pretty hectic, I've never seen such destructive children & Jean cries as much as ever!

I am now teaching Alaic for about an hour each morning before he goes to school, where he only plays, & he can pick out some words

already. He can colour pictures quite well now but has decided to draw & colour a page for you, it is weird & wonderful. He is sewing the animal cards you sent & has a good idea of where to sew next & loves doing it. He can say "The House that Jack Built" & is very pleased with the wee book you sent in the golden envelope. He simply loves the Christopher Robin books & is always quoting from them. He has the first three & we have the fourth for Christmas. I've also got "Little Pig Robinson" Beatrix Potter, & a book called "The cat's Grandmother" which looks rather amusing. I got them all before I came back to Fiji. He likes parts of Alice in Wonderland though he is really too young & I wish I had Rudyard Kipling. He has learned to whistle, which Harry can't do even now, & is awfully proud. I have managed to get him a football for Christmas, part at one shop & the other part elsewhere, which rather pleased me; and I've kept the box of building blocks you sent but can think of nothing for the stocking. We began paper chains at Nandawatu but we need some wet days to finish them.

A Cambridge friend of

Harry's, a New Zealander, is now here & has been in to dinner several times. I have had an Indian cook since the beginning of September which certainly makes life somewhat easier. He is very faithful, though getting on in years & living a long way out. However I got badly caught the other day, his brother died suddenly at 12.30 p.m. & I was left to cook dinner for 6!

I enclose one of mylāpa" (native bark cloth) canoes, I was sick of the sight of them by the time the fête was over but have recovered now.

I am so glad to hear of the arrival of Colin's brother, I would love to see them & all of you again, 8 years is a dreadfully long time, it surely won't be very much longer now?

With lots of love from
Honor

No. 1

c/o W.P.H.C.

Suva,

Fiji Is.,

16.1.44

Dearest Lady Maude,

I am going to start partly typewritten letters again and perhaps I shall be able to write more regularly! Here I am on Sunday evening, it is 8.15p.m. and I have only just finished putting Alaric to bed and clearing away the supper things and somehow I am nearly always so tired by 8 p.m. that letter writing is an awful effort. At the moment Alaric is indulging in his first crop of sores, horrid little pimples that become quite large and full of pus when I put on hot boracic pads and dealing with them takes quite a lot of time. He has also a crop of cold sores, in his nose on on his upper lip but they are nearly dried up. I don't know whether any of them are due to the fact that the two top teeth are very nearly through, I do wish they would buck up and break through, Alaric is usually so free of blemishes. We are having some wet weather which I at any rate am enjoying, the poor garden needed it so badly and I was really tired of the blazing sunshine. In the Gilberts, where actually it is much drier usually, the glare wasn't nearly so noticeable because one always walked about under coconut trees whereas here it is like any town, very little shade. Alaric

has played very happily all day with various Christmas toys and has developed a sudden passion for all his soft toys which he has had for years and played with very little. Building bricks and blocks, with the addition of plastecine and a few odd pieces of meccano, are made into roads and bridges until one can hardly walk through the house without falling over something. Granny King's book about a little dog called Ginger is very popular, in fact I am sick of reading it, and The House at Pooh Corner is much in use. Alaric is usually dressed in a belt with shoulder strap, a pistol in the holster, a sword and several whistles draped round him and very often a pop gun and an ack ack gun as well. He caused much amusement at the hospital last time we visited there the men wanted to know if I had brought an armed guard with me and proceeded to give him yet more whistles. He has a football, which I was lucky enough to get here and a fire engine and an ambulance which Harry and Auntie Connie sent, so he did pretty well. David, of whom you have heard before, tried to persuade Alaric that there was really no Father Christmas and told him that he never hung up a stocking, however Alaric merely came in and told me how very silly David was and I heartily agreed! We went to the Workmans for their Christmas tree which was a huge affair which reached the ceiling and Alaric was very thrilled and it really did make it seem like Christmas. I put him to bed there and stayed for dinner which was lovely and then I took him home

with me.

We had another hurricane warning and were even given the final warning which means the hurricane is almost on one but we escaped it once again, thank goodness, it must have been fairly near though and we did a bit of battening down, I think the suspense of waiting for the thing to hit you is horrible though I have ~~no~~ no doubt the real thing is a good deal worse!

The news of Harry is very disappointing again, naturally I cannot give you any details at present but he is delayed again and I do not expect him before March now, that will make an absence of 6 months. Did I mention before that we have been together for only two out of the last six Christmasses?

I have Mrs English staying with me at present, her husband has gone back and she went down with dengue and had to have teeth out and lost her job, all happening more or less at the same time! It is company for me and better for her than moping in her horrid dark little flat. Vi had dengue very badly, was awfully sick and lost seven pounds but is more or less all right again and at the same time two other friends had it and I seemed to spend my time visiting the sick.

I had a great find in town the other day in a little Chinese shop. I was badly in need of bedspreads and wanted green ones and I happened to see something in the window that might have been a table cloth or bedspread and found to my delight that it

was a bedspread, though small, and I found two that matched at 16/- each and they look awfully nice. Harry looked in N.Z. for me and reported that there were only 5 guinea ones to be had, I was so thankful he had the sense not to get them as his ideas of prices are usually not mine!

My old cook has had bad neuritis and I was afraid I was going to lose him, I gave him four and a half days holiday to give him a chance to rest his leg and arm and on the fifth day it poured so I did not expect him and Mrs English and I had done most of the work and just finished breakfast when in he walked, soaked of course after a $3\frac{1}{2}$ mile walk and no dry clothes to change into so I went through Harrys shirts and found one that had seen better days but I expect Harry will miss it! Mahommed seems much better and was very pleased to hear from Agnes(a Fijian girl who comes to wash) that I had had so much to do when he was away that I didn't have time for meals and had them on the trolley. Actually I rather enjoyed having the kitchen to myself and I got the safe clean and the saucepans and got rid of any number of cockroach eggs in odd corners. To-day I gave him my recipe for a cheese soufflé and made it with him, he more or less skeptical, he always thinks he can do everything better than I can, and I was thrilled when it turned out to be a superb one. He is a funny old thing but I should miss him if he had to leave though he is very heavy handed with the crockery.

The parcel with the farm & the wooden letters & numbers arrived a few days ago & Alarie loves them. He went down to the parcels office with me & was so thrilled, told everyone he was going for a parcel for a spoilt boy as I had said he had so many parcels for Christmas I thought he was spoilt! He retired to the car with his parcel while I shopped & had it all over the car when I returned. The counting book you sent is lovely, I was surprised to find he can read, or guess, most of it & just loves it. He is very pleased with his special air graph too. He says that as soon as the war is over he is going to England to see you, & then coming back to the Gilberts. He wants to see Windsor Castle & Buckingham Palace, & London buses!

Many thanks for all the magazines & Punch & Alarie's little books. Are there any nice editions of Rudyard Kipling these days? If you should see any, new or second hand please get, for me, just so stories & Luck of Pook's hill. The A.P. Melne stories are delightful & Alarie seems to understand quite a lot of the jokes & sarcasm & chuckles like anything, he also goes around quoting Pook. I'm told he smiles like me but I'm sure he has Harry's chuckle. Harry reading Winnie the Pook or Punch, to himself, chuckles so much you can't

help laughing too. I shall be glad when he gets back.

With lots of love from Honour.

ALARIC XXXX

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A large rectangular area at the bottom of the page containing faint, illegible handwriting.

c/o W.P.H.C.,

Suva,

Fiji

22nd August, 1944

Dearest Lady Maude,

It is some time since I wrote as Alaric and I have been away for three weeks. Harry left us, on another of his trips, on the 26th July and expected to be away six weeks; now I am told he will not be back until October, I only hope it won't spin out like last time to six months. I had a cable from him a week ago, from Aitutaki, so I presume he has finished flying and is now at sea. No doubt I shall be able to tell you where he has been when he has returned.

Alaric and I left here on the 31st in a tiny steamer and had a rather tedious journey to the island where the Bevingtons are stationed. We were two and a half days on the ship but called at several other places en route, we did not have nice weather and Alaric was sick once because he would persist in getting up although he was obviously feeling ill! The island of Taveuni is lovely, mountainous and fertile with coconut plantations all round the shore and some way up the hills. The first week we spent on the beach and seeing a little of the island and also did a few lessons. Then we decided to sail over to a nearby island where the people of

Ocean Island are supposed to be going to live. I forgot to mention that Teaira, our Gilbertese girl, went with us to Taveuni and also accompanied us on our sailing trip. We were in a boat with an engine as well as a good sail and there was a nice little cabin, with windows in front and along about 2 feet at the sides and the rest could be shut in with a canvas blind. We sailed along happily for an hour and then we got away from the shelter of the island and found that it was not such a nice day as we had imagined! It was in fact horribly choppy and we succumbed to sea sickness one after another. There were the two Bevingtons with the two small children, Jean and David, Alaric and myself and Teaira and a crew of three. Bevington and the crew were, of course, all right but the rest of us, with the exception of David, were somewhat sorry for ourselves when we reached our destination after 3 hours. The manager of the island suggested that we should stay with him for two nights, instead of returning home the following day as we had intended, and that we should go riding the next day so that I could see something of the island. I explained that I had been on a horse before but made no pretence of being able to ride but they said they would give me a quiet, sure footed beast so I agreed to go, not having the least idea what the country was like or how far we were going.

We set off, two Bevingtons, myself and the manager, about 9a.m. and rode for about 2½ hours, mostly walking the horses but occasionally going faster and I found we were climbing up to 900 feet on a tiny track, sometimes dry and sometimes very muddy, and with tree trunks and roots to get over and great steps to go up and down. I would never have attempted it if I had known what the track was like, however I had no difficulty in staying on and more or less managing my mount, though my nerve nearly failed me several times! The ride was lovely and we certainly got a very good idea of where settlements could be made. We had some morning tea at the end of the ride over and then, after about an hour's rest, started back home and arrived at 3p.m.; they told me I had ridden about 22 miles. I was, of course, very tired and rather sore but not as stiff as I expected. That night the wind blew with considerable force, making all the blinds on the verandah rattle and mosquitoes got into our room and I hardly slept a wink, there were two striking clocks in the house, one through the wall at my head and the other somewhere beyond my feet, they struck about 10 minutes apart and I heard every hour of the night twice over. We were to sail home early in the morning and I was petrified, the sea looked awful, and at 6a.m they said it was too bad but at 9a.m. decided to make a try. We went on board in fear and trepidation and pre-

pared for the worst. To our surprise the motion was not as unpleasant as when we went over, though it was rougher; the children all went to sleep, Jean woke up and was sick, which finished her mother, but the rest of us didn't even feel ill! It was such a relief to get home, we were all thrilled. I soaked in a hot bath which seemed to relieve the stiffness and slept like a log. We had caught two large fish going over but none returning, which was a pity. Both were caught on Alaric's line, poor lamb, ^{he} started the trip holding on to his own line but he was not interested when the fish bit. _(to return to Suva) Two days before we left Taveuni, when we were out at lunch, we discovered that Alaric had a temperature, we took him home and put him to bed and the next day he still had a temperature. That afternoon it went up to 102° so I asked the doctor to have a look at him as I was afraid to take him on the ship. He had a boil on his leg and that, apparently, was the cause of the fever. Fortunately he was normal next morning so we went on board but there was a tearing wind and we had rather nasty passage. I was relieved that Dr and Mrs Snodgrass, friends of ours, were travelling with us, he was most kind and kept an eye on Alaric who, naturally, was not at all well. We arrived in Suva at mid-day and were very glad to get home to a nice lunch and a hot bath. Alaric heard that the Workmans had a children's party that afternoon,

it was in aid of the Flying Bomb Fund, and of course he wanted to go. I had hoped to keep him quietly at home but the other boys having given the show away there was nothing for it but to go for a short time anyhow. He had rides in an aeoplane which ran on a steel wire, rides on a pony and various other things and then I took him away, in a tantrum, which I fear he has inherited from his mother! He is usually good tempered but suddenly gets into a paddy if things go wrong.

I am on the next Red Cross shop, in about 10 days time, so I shall be busy sewing etc., Teaira is a great help as she is good at needlework and likes to do things. She has made quite a number of embroidered bibs, I get them ready and she does the work.

We are having a very dry spell, it seems to rain interminably or shine interminably it seems to me so that gardening is not as easy as it might be. Especially as we have a water shortage and may not use a hose. However I have a nice crop of carrots, which we are eating raw, some peas and kohlrabi and lots of parsley and mint and a funny kind of spinach which grows well.

I was glad to hear you had not been unduly troubled with Flying Bombs;

Mother has moved up to a place near Kidderminster & had the two babies with her when I last heard but Sybil had had to return home because of lack of accomodation.

Alaie was very excited when your parcel came, we got the paper notifying us that it was at the Post Office, so we made a special journey to get it only to find that the Parcels Office was closed - they had changed the time! We had to wait until next morning when I got it & took it to Alaie who was at Peter's & the two got together with squeals of joy & got it open. The gun is a beauty & very popular & the paint-box is an awfully nice one. Alaie painted a picture straight away, he is very neat in his work & did it well. Our lessons are very interesting, some fascinating writing exercises which they both love & lovely stories & drawing. They have ^{each} made a little Peke, the picture pasted on to cardboard, coloured & cut out & a piece put on the back to make it stand. They love making pictures by cutting out the various parts in coloured paper & sticking it on, I will ask Alaie to do one for you; he did two but insisted that Harry should take them with him! Alaie is showing a

7.

little more interest in learning to read & picks out sentences in any book. He is most insistent that he is not English, he is a New Zealander! He went to bed rather late tonight because he thought he should listen to the N.Z. hour on the radio.

I have celebrated my return to Suva by having a bad go of hay-fever, it is very dry & dusty at present, & slight asthma but it seems to be better to-day.

I hope you are all fit & safe.

With much love from
Honor.

Tarawa. 17. 2. 46.

Such a lovely mail this last week, 6 letters from you + A's letter, + two packets of books, thank you very much for them all. Another ship was expected tomorrow, Monday, but I now hear won't arrive till Wednesday, & she should bring more mail. Also a number of passengers & I spent Saturday morning cooking, fortunately most of it will keep. I hope to have M^{rs} Buchanan staying with me for a few days & M^r & M^{rs} Hard in the Guest House & having meals here. D^r Buchanan is fairly new & is Director of Medical Services for Fiji & Western Pacific & is going to a number of the Gilberts with our own doctor, D^r Rose. At present I have Capt. Webster in the Guest House, he was in the service before the war & it was he that brought up a ship & picked up our men from Tarawa & been under the noses of the Japs.

I had a cable from Harry in London a few days ago & wonder if he will be able to see anyone; I also wonder how long he will be away, I simply hate having him so terribly far away.

Alain celebrated last week-end by having the worst boil of all & of course, a temperature, & very swollen glands. I got the native medical Practitioner to lance it & it soon cleared up but every scratch & bite goes septic here & is a constant worry.

I think we are probably better off for materials in the colonies than you are at home, in the last two years we have had plenty of cottons.

through it will simply pour in half an hour
or so & then it all blows away, infuriating
as I long for rain for my plants. Alice
& I visited the catholic sisters last week, went
up the island by launch, & I was greeted in the
same place, by the same sister after about 10 years!
They were turned out by the Japs but are now
cleaning up & rebuilding. Lots of love from us both
Honor

BY AIR MAIL

FIJI AIR MAIL
LETTER CARD

If anything is enclosed this card will be sent
by ordinary mail.

Lady Maude D.S.E.
"doretto"

Candie

St Peter Port,
Guernsey.

Channel Islands,
England.

Card must conform in size and shape with the blue border
which the address only may be written.

AFIX
STAMP
HERE



88 N E Maude
Tasmania
C. E. S. C.
SENDER'S NAME
AND ADDRESS

I have been most fortunate here as I was able
to get 30yds of print at 2/3 yd. for windows in
the new house & for my travelling wardrobe
which takes 15yds. We are still waiting for floor
mats. We have a bath but no plug & the shower
either drips all the water away or won't run!
For a week or more the rain clouds have
been gathering round, sometimes it looks as