

AMERICAN LEGATION
OFFICE OF MILITARY ATTACHÉ

~~HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES AUSTRALIA~~

~~SYDNEY ROAD~~
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

375 Collins St.,
April 23, 1943.

Mr. W. C. Simons,
Lawrence Daily Journal-World,
LAWRENCE, Kansas.

My dear W.C.,

That was surely a nice evening we spent together on March 11, the day of your last very delightful letter. The message was so full of friendly feeling and information that I hardly know where to begin in answering it. I hope on my part I can live up to the sentiments you expressed as to my work and character. Sometimes I feel that my friends think entirely too highly of me and that it is impossible to live up to their full expectations. However we will continue on as best we can. You know, of course, the mutual high esteem that Philena and I have of yourself and Gertrude. I hope we shall see much of you when this affair is all over. In fact it would be fine if we were both out here when you are on your trip to Australia, but I would not begin making plans just yet, the war is far from over.

It was fine of you to send a copy of your letter to Philena and she appreciated it very much indeed.

I arrived in Australia a year ago today. It has been a good year, all considered. We have submitted a great many valuable reports to the Government, about 200 of them to be exact. I have been away on travel one half of the time and covered about 38,000 miles. The second year will have further travels though I presume not quite so many and so long as the first year.

We have no food troubles and problems such as you are acquiring in the States. Hotels are restricted to three courses and a limitation on the price of meals, about 80 cents is about all they are allowed to charge for dinner. There is some rationing of sugar, tea and coffee but I have had ample food and very fine food at that. The fruits are very good and much like California in some respects.

This is Good Friday and I am afraid the only offices working are the American officers. The streets are dead, shops are closed for three days, and there was no news by radio or through the press this morning. When they rest in Australia they really stop work. For the most part Labor is very active doing 40 to 45 hours a week for women and 50 to 55 for men. A few silly managers are trying to run with 60 to 70 hours a week, and the Labor Governments control of affairs is far from perfect. They still have plenty of strikes, the wharf laborers and coal miners in particular