

some other duty. I hope this will not be the case.

I wonder if you have heard about Colonel Carroll Riggs, who was my assistant at the University for two years. His wife has been notified <sup>officially</sup> that he is missing in action, and ~~his~~ plane lost. I received a cable from Mrs. Riggs (Chichi) and investigated it thoroughly although the place of his loss was nearly 2,000 miles away. I am quite convinced that the plane and all on board were lost in the sea, though nothing whatever has been found. This occurred on the morning of December 18th. I saw Carroll's many friends, visited his room where his Christmas parcels lay unopened and where there were pictures of his wife and children and many other home things. He had done excellent work here and commanded a very fine regiment. On four different occasions we had met and had very pleasant visits, the last being only a short time before he was reported missing. His "missing" is a very great shock to me. So far as I know, he is still carried as "missing" and for that reason I hesitate to say anything <sup>publicly</sup> about my having investigated the case until the War Department announces his definite loss, which should be soon. The loss of Carroll Riggs is just another incident of war, which takes place everywhere where men are training to defeat the wily enemy.

We seem to be doing quite well on all fronts, but the enemy has advanced so far that I do not expect a final victory for some time. I think we have to beat him down and that applies to Nazis as well as Japs. If we do not do that, we will be in a terrible fix in less than 20 years.

I am glad to hear the good things about America's doing her part in the war. Each self-sacrifice tends to strengthen the character of our people.

We entertained six convalescent officers of our forces last night with a dinner and show. They were mighty fine men all having given distinguished service on fronts in this quarter of the world. A fine group of Australian girls helped us make the evening successful. After dinner we saw the movie starring Claudette Colbert, "Remember the Day."

I still continue to streak about Australia, and have covered nearly 34,000 miles so far, and, in fact, I have been away two thirds of the time since the first of August. I am of course learning a great deal about Australia and her people.

You spoke of Gertrude's good health for which I am