

AMERICAN LEGATION
OFFICE OF MILITARY ATTACHÉ
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

375 Collins Street
17 February 1944

Mr. W. C. Simons
The Lawrence Daily Journal World
Lawrence, Kansas

My dear W.C.:

Your last letter which I have is dated 4 October last year. I think that another one is on the way, judging from what Philena has said, but it has already been six or eight months since I wrote you, so I would like to do so again.

The winter is going, and there will be some nice sunshine and probably some of those spring flowers will be peaking through by the time this reaches you. I always look forward to seeing the early snowdrop and crocus blossoms.

Of course, I have had a good report on Lawrence from my dear wife. She especially enjoyed her visit with you and Gertrude, and your hospitality and kindness was a thing for which I too am deeply grateful. The Chancellor gave her very good honor in the dedication of the Military Science Building, and, of course, Ted and Jean were extremely nice to her as was everyone in Lawrence. I had a nice note from Ted just a day or two ago. I am glad they have that building. I really put out a lot to get that for K.U., and in a way I sacrificed the chance I could have had that year of working into a Brigadier General had I gone to troops. However, I am much more happy here than I would be commanding some coast defenses in the States. I really have the best position in Australia, I think, with its independence of action and movement and the opportunity to meet everybody, to hear so much, learn so much, and travel. My tours over here now total about 76,000 miles. The most recent extended trip was a visit to New Zealand. I thoroughly enjoyed those beautiful islands with their glaciers and mountains, beautiful fields and fertile soil, and fine, hospitable people. Incidentally, I got as far south as 47°30'. By peering through the clouds carefully, I was able to distinguish the South Pole (?) with its stripes sticking out, and that is getting pretty far south. Also, I had one day's fishing in Zane Grey's old boat in the Bay of Isles and caught one small striped Marlin, weighing 207 lbs. It took me 35 minutes to land him, but I fortunately did the job well and was extremely glad to have had that experience. I only could spare one day for that sort of recreation.

In New Zealand, as here in Australia, I met many of the Rotarians, and they are a grand lot wherever I go.