

Honor & Harry Maude's letters to Harry's parents between late 1929 & mid 1939. The Maudes left the Gilberts later in the year for Fiji & New Zealand for treatment of Harry's back at Rotorua. On returning to Fiji they were sent to Pitcairn Island where they were marooned for 8 months owing to German raiders, hence no letters.

In the meantime Sir Walter & Lady Maude had gone to England to avoid the German occupation of the Channel Islands. ~~Soon~~ Before they could return to Guernsey Sir Walter died.

From Marseilles

P. & O. S. N. COMPANY'S 1929/1.

S.S. ".....Maldera....."

September 26th. 1929.

Dearest Mother,

We've had marvellously
fine weather so far and the
sea is as smooth as one
can wish - In any case the
boat is as steady as a Rock.

Poor Honor has been down
with Asthma ever since we
left England but she's better
now and up - We had to
nurse her in the Cabin the

last four days so he had no opportunity to see what the boats' like. The Doctor and nurses etc. have been ever so nice and have been in and out of her Cabin all day - I shudder when I think of the fees due.

The Doctor had to inject her in the arm with "Adrenaline" the night before last and she slept off and on for 24 hours - consequently I had to stay up trying to get her to sleep last night - it was

P. & O. S. N. COMPANY'S

S.S. "....."

an awful job but she went
off about 1. She's got to
take iodide in decreasing
amounts till Sydney - 5 grains
waking down to 3 in a bottle.
and at Nouvelles Im' to
try and get her "E thol iodide
& Chloroform" in capsules, but Im'
afraid it will be a hopeless
search.

There are a few very
nice people on the boat but
they're nearly all getting off at

Marseilles. Mr & Mrs Henshaw
have been making a great
fuss over Homer. They come
from Yarmouth and are in the
Boat trade, with a broad
accent & no H - but they're
awfully nice - Also 2 young
men, one Australian & one English.

Most of the people on this
boat are Snobs of the worst
type - I must say as far
as my experience goes so far
the Australians are some of the
nicest & the Bombay crowd
impossible. all in cliques,

P. & O. S. N. COMPANY'S

S.S. "....."

Snobbish, scandal talkers and
above all so bored - the
stewards' say they hate them,
they're bored with the ship &
bored with the ports and bored
with everything - they make me
sick. They grumble with the
food which is excellent, and the
band which is good & very
overworked & underpaid, & the
service which is really marvellous.
There must be a different class
of people in the F.C.S. to the old

days - I should describe the
women as useless social
butterflies and one stewardess
is worth ten of them. However
he's no doubt they'll improve
on better acquaintance, people
nearly always do.

He's been managing to
do a lot of work while
Helen was bad & I think he's
really got a grip on the
"Law of Contract." I shall follow
it up with the Law on Torts
and then Evidence & Criminal
Procedure. D^r Macpherson;

P. & O. S. N. COMPANY'S

S.S. "....."

whose going to Tarawa & then
on to the Ellice group is on
board - Heo' awfully nice and
we get on very well together,
which is fortunate as well
probably have so much to
do with him in the future.
We see eye to eye on
nearly every subject & talk
for hours - heo' getting full
instruction from the ship's surgeon
on Honoro's particular brand of

asthma & is taking everything
necessary for it to the group.

By the Colonial Regulations he's
entitled to charge her fees but
not me, but he told me he
wouldn't dream of charging her
anything. He ~~is~~ spent some
time in London trying without
success to find information on
the Gilberts - Mr Boose' of
the Crown Agents told him to
get into touch with me as
"one who seemed to know more
about the Gilberts than anyone
else in England" - I must have
impressed him when I had an

P. & O. S. N. COMPANY'S

S.S. "....."

interview with him last week.

He came down to Felbury to see us off, got us a double allowance of free Baggage - 12 Cwt. & we have 24, still it helps, - and gave us an introduction to the Captain which we have not used. Altogether the Crown agents turned up trumps in the end - Mr Boose' is the Head of their Passage Dept.

We've got a lovely cabin - oceans of room for everything,

get as nice & cozy & comfort,

with a washbasin (Kangry) and

a chest of drawers & dressing

table, washstand with warming

water etc. These' plenty of

Room to rest my feeting

table and we can play cards

etc., as well' two chairs. Here

I expect the young set in the

that would gamble at it - they

gamble at everything & have to

get an attendant to do every

little job for them that they

could quite well do themselves.

Have had a temporary

necessity at Gibraltar and on the

P. & O. S. N. COMPANY'S

S.S. "....."

Doctor's orders I took her ashore in a Rowing Boat & then for a drive about the Island - She enjoyed it at the time but had a relapse afterwards. The Doctor says it's entirely due to her having a big, heavy and unaccustomed meal at night & she's to have nothing after tea for the rest of the voyage.

I must stop now as we're practically in Marseilles -

I think Horro's attack was probably due to the sudden relief of the tension of packing & settling things - However it might have been worse, and we're very far from feeling downhearted about things.

When one sees the mental calibre of the successful people on board it is hard to believe that it is difficult to make a success of one's life - especially when one sees the wives they've got to help them & contrast them with Horro.

Tons of love for you
devoted son Harry.





1929/2

P & O. S. N. Co.

S.S. Valdeira

Oct. 1st 1929

Dear Lady Maude,

We arrive in Port Said

about 6 o'clock tomorrow morning, it has been so chilly so far that I can hardly believe we are nearing Egypt.

Mrs Veasey spoke to us a few evenings ago & has invited us to dinner in Bombay but I have not seen either her or Mrs Hallett again.

I met Mrs Henderson to night, I only just spoke to her as the ship is rolling & she doesn't like it. I hardly notice it now although a number of people are feeling ill. We are having a lovely time & enjoying every minute, the time simply flies.

Mr Justice Boys who sits next to me
at table has quite taken us under his
wing & is ever so nice. Mr Parsons,
my other gentleman friend leaves the ship
tomorrow & presented me to-day with
a pile of chocolates! We are starting
tournaments soon, we have both entered
for everything except bridge. Last night
we had a "Mediterranean race meeting"
the horses being cardboard frogs on a string.
I entered in one ~~the~~ race & won, Harry
made about 10/ on me & the other men
also backed me & won & were very bucked,
it was great fun. We promised Geoff
that if he paid the expenses of sending the
motor bike to England he could have it,
so will you find out how much it would
cost & let him know please? He is awfully
keen on having it. His address is Lieut. G. Marnham



P & O. S. N. Co.
S.S.

"A" mess. School of Artillery, Larkhill. Salisbury Plain.
We stayed in Marselles until early on
Sat: morning as the mails did not arrive.
On Friday we went for a long drive to
Bardol, right up into the hills & down
again, the most fascinating country with
fields & fields & vines, they look just like
bushes & are only about 3½ ft high but
laden with fruit. We got some country
boys to pick some for us, they were lovely.
We went into the town on Thursday after-
noon, a horrible place, so over crowded,
with people & traffic, the latter being
positively dangerous, the taxis hoot all
the time & never slacken speed. The

Captain has honoured us by having us
up in his cabin for a long talk, he is
very nice & wanted to know all about
where we were going. I think most
people know all about us now, every fresh
person we meet always says "oh! Yes, of course,
you are going somewhere in the Pacific aren't
you?" Most of them are quite thrilled &
want to know all about it. I did quite
a lot of embroidery before ~~we~~ the games were
in full swing but I'm afraid I have
done very little lately. I have finished
two small mats & have started the centre
of the applique set.

Much love from us both

Yours affectionate

Hono.

1929/3.



P & O. S. N. Co.

S.S. "Galdera"

Oct. 20th 1929

Dear Lady Maude,

We have been rolling & pitching for about four days & it is now getting horribly cold, however we have both been all right so far. We elected a new Sports Committee after we left Colombo, & have had another tournament, a Gymkhana & a Treasure Hunt. I was on the committee this time & had charge of the Deck quarts. Harry & I are both in the finals of Deck Tennis, he in the men's & the mixed doubles & I in the ladies doubles, we play off the finals tomorrow. The Gymkhana was the greatest fun, especially a thing called "Are you there Moriasly"? I expect you know it. I won the Sack Race & the three-legged, a man called Ross Smith being my partner in the latter. We have had the swimming bath until two days ago, which was rather fun, there were only six of us who used it so it wasn't too crowded. Harry has become quite sociable & I think has really enjoyed himself as well as having done a lot of work. He got into the semi-finals of Bull-Board & was quite annoyed when knocked out! I'm quite hopeless in a tournament, but when practising can

get the first six straight away! We had a Gala
Dinner last night, the Saloon was decorated with flags &
the tables with coloured paper & crackers. We all had our
Menus signed, so we have one signed by the Captain, Lady
Birdwood, Capt. Birdwood, Lord & Lady Somers & a K.C. & Lord
Somers A.D.C.'s. We shall be in Sydney in 10 days time, it
seems unbelievable, it is five weeks since we left Jersey &
although we have been travelling so long, I don't feel a
long way away. I think this should reach you somewhere
about Mona's birthday, you will remember to give her the
Camera won't you? I'll try & write to her too.
I believe we have just missed a mail, we passed it in the
night so we'll post again in Adelaide or Melbourne.

Much love from us both

Your affectionate

Honor.



1929/4. from Colombo.

P & O. S. N. Co.

S.S. "Naldera"

Oct 1929

Dearest Mother,

We arrived in Colombo this afternoon - at 3 o'clock and have only just got back to the boat. Ceylon seems a marvellous place - I must have been an ass not to have chosen it as the climate is marvellous, a perpetual health resort with no need to take leave, everything cheap, & the pay much higher. I'd no idea it was such a good climate or I'd have jumped at it.

We've been having coffee with the Captain on the Budge so it's getting late. -

The Captain fell for Horner very early in
voyage and has been very decent to us -
He has us up to give us advice and talks
in his cabin & we've the run of the Bridge -
no other passengers are thus favored! He
insisted on our changing to his table for
meals and so we had no option but
to go, though we were rather frightened at
first - however we like it now. Horner sits
next to Lord Somers the Governor of
Victoria ~~and the Captain~~ and I sit between Lady Somers and
Lady Bredwood the wife of the Commander in
Chief for India so we mix in High ~~Society~~
Society. The Captain talks to Horner about
the ship & exploring & Lord Somers about the
House of Lords - its killing, but I'm really



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S.S.

becoming a marvellous conversationalist, as long as the people are oldish, as they all are at our table - in fact he's not the tongue-tied person I expected to be.

There is a Mr Pitt on board who knows most of the officials in the Gilberts - they are just about the lowest of the low from all accounts, people who've found other places too hot for them; one is an Eurasian from India, one a half-caste from Leyton & one was expelled from Fiji for interfering with women - the sooner they chuck the lot & send out from home instead of appointing locally the better. He's been warned already against 3 out

of our staff of 6! However it should make
it all the easier to use over their heads,
for even though favoritism is like the Home
appointments often get preference. If they're
as bad as they're painted we shall just have
to keep to ourselves.

Things are much freer now the
Indian crowd are off and one hears very
little grumbling. Our stewardess had to fetch
26 breakfasts for the I.C.S. wives - it wasn't
that they were ill, just too lazy & bored
to get up for breakfast - now she has 1
breakfast to get.

We made great
friends with a Mr Justice Boys from
Allahabad - He was awfully nice and took
a great fancy to Heron. In fact we've



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S.S.

got dozens of fast friends by now. Much to my surprise Hera was generally voted in the Smoking Room the prettiest girl on board—most of the others make up so and the men don't like it.

We've both been revelling in the Heat—directly we reached Port said things brightened up. It was beautifully warm in the Red Sea and Aden was delightful. I can't imagine what objection anyone could have to Aden. Everybody we met who lived there were full of its' praises, & it certainly seemed a delightful spot. People were threatening to die

with the temperature at 94 & humidity 85 to
90° in the Red Sea but we loved it &
I feel sure we're well adapted to the
Tropics. I never felt better in my life
and we've never used the fans in our
Cabin except for drying clothes - most people
seen to use them all day & night.

Honor's Asthma deserted her at
Marseilles and now it's warm she's as fit &
strong as can be except for her feet which
often trouble her. We got your
letter at Bombay all right. We hear from
Mrs Hallet that Barbara's engagement is off -
I wonder if it's true.

We met a woman on board who



P & O. S. N. Co.
S.S.

has Walter to stay with her near Dayeeling
for weekends & a Mr & Mrs Houlding who
know him also. They seem to think that
there's a great future for him if he stays.

The Indian crowd nearly succeeded in
depressing us. All they'd say about our job
was "How awful" & "poor things" and
"Surely you could have done better than that,"
but Hera is really wonderful and never
loses her optimism for a minute in spite of
it all. We've not met a man except the
Captain who really thinks we'll be able to
stick it out for 6 years.

Mr Pitt, whose in South Sea Island Shipping,
says there's a very real difficulty in getting
up our way at present and thinks we
may have to go up to the Fiji Islands
& find a boat there, but we'll have to
see in Sydney.

I must stop now ~~am~~ or he'll never
get to bed. I trust everything is all
right at home. We were told some ballads
about life on Board Ship. You remember what
Mureel told us - well, he never danced a
single night, he never stood or ~~been~~ stood anything
stronger than a Lemon Squash, and he worked at
my Law nearly every day & sometimes all day and
finished Contract, Torts & most of Criminal Law, & yet I
get on well with everybody, & yet I was told I'd have
to dance & stand the men drunk & that it would



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S.S.

be impossible to concentrate on any work!
Over half the boat didn't wear Fancy
dress so I was glad I didn't bother about one.
Here was one - a Japanese girl - & it
was very effective indeed. I really believe
she'd have won a prize only we arrived
too late for judging since we were
invited to a Dinner Party first.

We both play games very strenuously
and usually spend our time in the afternoon
endeavouring to wake people up to play
with us. As a combination we not been
beaten during the whole voyage at Deck

Tennis though were not so good at the
others'. I was proposed for the Sports
Committee but refused as I thought I might
be considered too young. They were most
of them older men.

Yours of love from you
devoted son
Harry.



P & O. S. N. Co.
S.S. "Haldera".

October 29th. 1929.

Melbourne Harbour.

Dearest Mother,

We've had no letters from you since Bombay but hardly expected any as only one mail steamer passed us while we went in to Bombay.

Australia seems a very uninteresting country - just like England & usually bitterly cold but the Australians are very nice indeed and we get on well with them - we've hardly met one we don't like so far.

We've transhipped all our heavy luggage on to the "Naamu Chief" on which we're going to Ocean Island. She leaves

Melbourne on Friday & Sydney on Tuesday,
November 5th - we shall join her at Sydney
where we arrive on Thursday. Her

is sharing a Cabin with Mrs Moore, another
Civil Servants wife, her husband being the
wireless operator of the Ocean Island Radio;
while I shall share with Dr Macpherson whose
weld at having to go to O.I. since
no boat leaves there for the Gilberts
till January; however it's the only way
of getting there at all as no boats leave
Sydney for the Gilberts for months.

I had lunch with the Officers of
the "Hauru Chief" yesterday - a very nice &
cheery crowd, all English or Scotch. She's a
Phosphate Cargo Boat of about 3,000 tons with



P & O. S. N. Co.
S.S.

a few cabins for Passengers. all the crew
are Gilbertese and a very nice-looking lot.

Perth wasn't up to much, Adelaide was
quite nice & Melbourne unbearable. Everything
out here is terribly depressed, far worse
than England. Prices are far higher & one
meets the unemployed everywhere. Everybody
seems poverty stricken & badly dressed and
the slums are almost as bad as London's.

Salaries are higher than in England - when one
can get employment - but they're more than
eaten up by the cost of living.

Honor says I must stop now as we
won't be able to post, so we leave at 3 and

it's now 2.45. Hara has written to her mother.

Lord Somers is sending us out magazines etc. as also some other people, and about 20 people, including the Captain are coming to see us off on Tuesday. we went into

"Woolworths" & the first price I saw was 2/6 & the second 10/6 - there's practically nothing as cheap as 6d. in the shop, most things were about double the English price.

Hara was elected on the Sports Committee & performed very well. She proposed & carried that there should be no Fancy Dress Ball, for which I blessed her. Between us we swept the field at Deck Tennis - with various partners she won the Ladies' doubles & I won the mens doubles & the mixed doubles. We've never ~~won~~ lost a game the whole voyage.



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S.S.

when playing together which must be quite a record. Hera did very well at the Gymkhana & won the Three-legged Race & the Sock Race. Some woman in

Melbourne has just sent Hera a bouquet of very, very small Roses which smell enormously.

We've been talking to a girl at the Phosphate Commission here who's just come back from Ocean Island. She says everyone calls on one & then sends an invitation to Denner after which we have to return the call within a week & then return the invitation to Denner - calls should last not less than 10 minutes nor more than 20. She

says we'll be expected to play Bridge nearly
all our spare time & Dance. If we don't
she says we'll be considered bad-mannered,
gouche, & uneducated! Won't we just hate it.

However there's a chance we may get out
to the group almost at once ~~where~~ everything
is the complete opposite of Ocean Island, &
~~the~~ one does just what one wants.

Everybody has been wearing overcoats
lately and shivering - though it's warmer
today. It would be hard to imagine anything
more dirty than the "Hounu Chib" - covered in
red rust & black with dirt, but I believe
it's a very good boat. We call at Hounu
first. The only other way of getting to the
Gilberts is to go to Tulagi in the Solomon Islands,
& wait till an inter-island schooner comes that
way.

Yours of love from
your devoted son Harry.

1929/5.

PETTY'S HOTEL
SYDNEY.Nov: 6th1929

Dear Lady Maude,

We are leaving here again to-morrow & I don't know when you will get the next mail as the service seems somewhat irregular. The mail service to the Gilberts seems to be very bad at the moment, sometimes there isn't a boat for months, but we hope it will be better when the Government launch arrives, she is well past Panama now. There is an absolute gale blowing inside the harbour to-day, I shudder to think what it is like outside. We went to the Zoological Gardens to-day, they are beautifully laid out, all the animals & birds have the most natural surroundings, & it is a huge place. We have been on the river steamers both up & down the

river, it is very pretty but very much built over, bungalows for miles but all have lovely gardens. We went to one of the surfing ^{Bays} ~~gardens~~ but were very disappointed as there was no surf & the bay was about a quarter the size of St. Lucia. It is very cold for the time of year everyone says so there is very little bathing.

We spent the first few days at a dentist. Harry had had tooth-ache for about a week, I think it was pretty bad as he seemed to spend most of the nights walking about. He had one tooth out & one nerve out & two or three fillings. I think Mrs Palett was the limit he should never have left the bad tooth in. I was unfortunate too & had to have 5 fillings, all teeth which I had complained about at home & was told they were all right.

We have been out with the Captain of the Valdeira to-night, he came here to dinner & then we went to the state theatre, it is called the largest theatre in the British Empire but I don't think

PETTY'S HOTEL
SYDNEY.

it is although it certainly is a beautiful building. The shops here are very good, things are more expensive, especially English goods but most things look very nice. We went to a film the other day called "In New Guinea Wilds", the man who made it gave a lecture at the same time & it was most interesting.

We go to Dauru on our way to Ocean Island & stay there a couple of days. D?

Macpherson comes with us & goes on to the Gilberts before Christmas I think.

He & Harry have been rushing round to various offices & book shops & have met a number of people from Ocean Island, everyone seems to think it is a very nice place, it certainly looks well populated in the pictures we have sent you.

We haven't had any letters since Bombay, I hope some will arrive on Ocean Island at the same time as we do, as there has been

an English mail since we have been
here. I'm very anxious to know how
Granny is & also Uncle Herbert as we were
told that he was pretty bad.

We didn't have time to visit the people
Uncle Arthur knows, perhaps when we
are here again we shall be able to.

I suppose you will have Mona &
Joan with you for Christmas, I
hope you all have a good time.

Much love to all the family from
us both,

Yours affectionately

Hono^r

I have written to
Mrs Todd, whose I got
my embroidery in
Cambridge, for mats
for a lady in 17 avenue +
have enclosed to it
told her to write
to you if it doesn't
cover postage, I think
it will, but if it
doesn't would you
mind forwarding
any extra to her
please & letting me
know? Honor.

1929/6

Ocean Island.

Central Pacific
November 19th. 1929.

Dearest Mother,

We arrived here safe & sound on Saturday,
after a glorious crossing on the "Nauru Chief". She
an excellent tramp & the crew are especially nice,
the weather was excellent, and, except just leaving
Sydney, we had scarcely a ripple all the way.

By now we are really getting quite
settled into our new home - I think Honor is
really delighted with it as it certainly is a
delightful bungalow, light and airy and
beautifully white and clean and situated on the
hill-side facing the South sea, about as high
above sea-level as Almorah Crescent. Our

bungalow is quite by itself, the nearest house -
the Residency - being some distance away and well
out of sight; we're lined in a mass of
tropical trees, shrubs and flowers except just in
front where we've a Flag-staff in the middle
of a banked up level place covered in flowers and
wild.

The whole effect of the bungalow
and ~~surroundings~~ surroundings is really amazingly pretty -
the white bungalow raised on piles with its
enormous verandas and red roof surrounded with
trees of all kinds and flowers and bushes, all
extraordinarily green and vivid.

This is truly a case of "where only has it

vile" - the set here are all that, particularly the Civil Service, who when they're all here, which they're not at present thank goodness, can only be described as the scum of the earth. The Bentley's are about the worst, and they've now gone on leave, both husband and wife having had D.T.² badly through over drinking - I believe the wife is going to a home so may not be coming back which would be a mercy.

Drink is the curse of the place - Clarke, the Treasurer, who is really quite a nice man, and only 35, drinks incessantly morning, noon, and night. Swinbourne, the Acting R.C., seems well-meaning but so far has done nothing but blackguard the character of everyone in the service, including Grumble, in every case accurately, but still it's hardly the thing to tell a Junior about - he's intensely disliked. Armstrong is really very nice so far as I can see, but hates Swinbourne. The state of affairs out here is almost unbelievable - one can, of course, discount all rumours and gossip, yet the verifiable facts left almost make one's hair stand on end.

Out of our tiny staff of 4 District Officers, 2 of them shot themselves comparatively recently, luckily for them and us.

Things, however, are undoubtedly on the mend, and another 10 years will see ~~most~~ all of the bad hats out of it. Meanwhile the only policy for us is to keep right out of everything and endeavour to hang on. One we've sent out into the group things will ~~not~~ be ~~the~~ ~~same~~ a less all right as well

be isolated and ~~away~~ away from that hot-bed of
intrigue and bad-living.

Our ideas of a Baner island was all wrong -
all round here by the Government station is
beautiful and a mass of tropical vegetation, with
neat coral paths winding amongst the greenery.
Of course there is neat to no grass anywhere, but
the green undergrowth and beautiful flowers are really
far nicer. We've got the finest Lime tree on the
island by our house - I believe it has five limes
but they're not ripe at present.

The best surprise of all here has proved
to be the climate. From what we've seen of it
it's really ridiculous to call it a tropical climate
at all. It's true that it's never ~~very~~ too cold
but it's also never ~~too~~ hot and it's not sticky or
humid either. If the days we've had are a
fair sample, and I'm told it never changes much, then
I should describe it as the perfect climate. There's
always a delightful cool breeze blowing and we've had
to use a B blanket every night so far and been jolly
glad of it.

It seldom rains, but when it does it's in
buckets and usually at night. From about 11 to 2
it heats up but it's never really hot like India or
elsewhere in the tropics, you couldn't compare it, for
example, with the hot days we had in Jersey this
last summer. People compare it with the South
of France at its best.

Swainbourne and some others here are old Pacific men

and have been everywhere in the Islands, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Tahiti etc. and they all say that the Gilberts and Ocean Island have easily the healthiest & most pleasant climate in the Pacific. Excuse this eulogy of the climate, but we'll probably grow tired of its extraordinary lack of variation, so you might as well have good of it while you can.

He never worn a hat yet or felt the slightest need for one. You may not believe me, since you're not here, but there's not the slightest risk of sunstroke - there's never been a case yet and quite half the people ~~wear~~ ^{wear} no hats at all and the rest just soft felt Homburgs, chiefly for form sake. There's a scientific reason why one needn't fear sunstroke here on the Equator line but I will recount it some other time.

I must stop now and go to bed as it's after 10. We've an excellent boy named "Pākka" - or Bākka as the Gilbertese do not distinguish P^e from B^e. He always laughing and gets on well with Hong and is beautifully clean & smart in person & habits with a great pride in his work. As present wages go here we're lucky to get him for £3.10 a month, which seems a terrible amount for a native.

I must stop now but will send on a letter by the next boat. We found everything from you here on arrival - it must have come with us, 2 magazines - "Moran & Home" - a book from Aunt Nora - and 4 letters.

Tons of love from your
devoted son

Harry.

1929/7

Ocean Island.

Central Pacific.

December 9th. 1929.

Dearest Mother,

Please always put "Central Pacific" and not Western Pacific on your letters as otherwise they run the serious risk of being sorted into the wrong corner at Sydney, and being sorted with the real Western Pacific letters. The W. Pacific end at Naure, and geographically, ethnologically, and postally we are in the exact centre of the Pacific Islands.

We have been here 3 1/2 weeks but so far no boat has left owing to the westerly wind, which makes loading impossible. However morning star expects a boat to leave in a day or two now. We've had 2 more letters from you since we arrived which is rather spoiling us for the Group, where lately there have been deliveries on an average once in 6 months. Swinbourne's last delivery in the group was 1 year and 6 months out of date. The price of Copra does not warrant any boats sailing. However we are hoping that the arrival of the Colony vessel will enable me to get into touch with the outside world about once in two months instead of twice a year.

We've stained the floors of our Bungalow dark oak and things are beginning to look quite nice. Honor

has got the house looking most homely and the whole place is beautifully clean and tidy. We've a lot of beautifully made Wicker chairs and the floors are pretty well covered with large Gilbertese mats; he turned the window ledges into Book-cases. The whole house was varnished white before we came, and the roof painted red.

We've 10 Pineapple plants in the garden and one has actually got a Pineapple on it.

The Bungalow is really one enormous verandah in which one lives and works, with two very open and airy rooms enclosed off it. It's made entirely of wood except the roof.

Hona has, I think very wisely, taken on the job of "Private Secretary to His Honour the Resident Commissioner". She's been at it nearly two weeks now and seems to love the work, which is not very arduous. I don't know what we'd do without the little added amount she brings in, as however plainly one lives it's all very expensive out here. The cost of living is very high in Australia and we have to add to that a long freightage and Import duties on everything except Musical Instruments - a 12½% duty on everything we eat, for example, which is a shame as nothing is produced on the Island.

The iniquity of it is that the Colony has no debts, and a surplus amounting to more than three years expenditure,

revenue is always miles ahead of expenditure and much better salaries could be paid if only we were not dependent on a High Commissioner at Fiji who cares nothing about the Islands and vetoes all suggestions of better salaries. As it is many of the officials, from Gumble downwards, are having to borrow well into their next year's salaries. The government has to allow them to do this from them, but it is an iniquitous system and I want to avoid doing it if I can.

The climate continues to be delightful and we could not wish for anything better. We are in the thick of the Rainy season so clothes and things are damp and inclined to mould but with a little care they should be all right.

My Gilbertese is getting well ahead now. It's a very easy language as far as I can see and pronunciation is the main difficulty. Gumble is reported to be in Auckland, having come out on a tramp, and he should be here by Christmas. The "Humarua" the new colony yacht, is in Suva and should be up fairly soon. It's got to go to Funafuti to pick up an Ellice Islands crew.

Our hours of work are, as you know, 9-12 and 2-4, not very strenuous. Hera and I work more or less together as I draft out letters, being the acting

secretary to H.H. and she types them, being the Private Secretary to H.H. We don't keep strictly to hours, sometimes arriving late and often staying on unless we've something special to do at home since the work is interesting and I find the hours are so short that nothing ever gets done.

Our House-boy, Baka, is a perfect model of efficiency and keeps the house like a new-pin. He works much better with Honor away as the boys here don't like people fussing around after them. We're training another boy, Detima, as Baka has to go back to Mrs Leembruggen when she comes back from Ceylon. Honor is on a temporary basis, terminable on a week's notice from either party; I'm afraid she may have to leave when Baka goes as I doubt if Detima can run a house without supervision. Boys are terribly hard to get and many women have to do their own house-work simply because they can't obtain a boy. Baka gets £4 a month from Mrs Leembruggen but we're only going to give him £3.10. Some people give more than £4 which I think is ~~too~~ too high for a native who has next to no expenses, one wouldn't give it in India, would one?

Baka is a better cook than any we've seen in England and beats Mrs Callaghan or Mrs Deller hollow, and in nearly a month we've not had to speak to him about a

single fault.

The mosquitoes have been treating Hona rather badly, in fact very badly - over 70 bites on each leg and her arms and hands covered, but she's getting acclimated and I guess she'll be all right soon. I was rather worried at one time as some of the bites swelled up like golf balls and exuded water and it was all very painful and trouble. They haven't worried me much and I must see to the gutters etc. as we shouldn't have many by night - some people don't even use mosquito nets and our house is exceptionally bad. They're "Culex" and carry no infection - on the group they're "Stegomyia" and carry filariasis but not yellow fever, thank heavens.

We heard this morning that there is no chance of a boat till the middle or end of January, except for the one Gumble is on from New Zealand, which will carry no mails, so we ought to be due for several letters by then. One is leaving for Sydney tomorrow morning so I must get this finished in time.

I'm going to take a census of the indigenous (Baraban) population of this island, as one has never been taken and it's the sort of work I like. I haven't quite thought out the details yet but I think I shall introduce some head and facial measurements into the business for record. They're a peculiar race,

and I have discovered traces of Matriliny in the descent of their "Bongobongas" or underground water caverns. They are normally, of course, Patrilineal, as are all true Polynesians.

Armstrong, whose rule is enough in his way, (he's the other cadet) cares only for the social life and amusements of the place - he's got a fairly large private income and he splashes round, he's always out or else he's a crowd in. I don't know what he'll do on the group especially with Miss Walthman, who is of the same persuasion. It's very disconcerting, in a way, to think that that loafer must always be ahead of me for a District Officership. He failed all his exams at Cambridge till his third year and then scraped through with 3 thirds in an ordinary degree. But, poor man, he's got a proper wind up now that I might pass my exams before he does and he is, I must admit, working hard.

Armstrong & Dr. Macpherson have just been in & the Doctor has been cutting my hair - not too successfully, he's afraid - I only hope it grows again soon.

He's sending you, under separate cover, copies of the Annual Colonial Reports for 1924-6 and 1926-7. The 1924-6 one is by far the best and most accurate one published and as things are exactly the

same now as then it's really a very valuable account of life and affairs out here. He's also got a very good map of Tarawa Island which gives an idea of what every other island in the group looks like. All future Annual Colonial Reports will contain a beautiful map of the entire colony, made out to scale by Hona, and with her name at the bottom - the Colonial Office are to make a die of her map. She's really done it extraordinarily well as each island's shape is shown although the scale has to be fairly small. The 1926-7 report is the last published - I'm sure you'd like to read them and they're not obtainable in England, being out of print.

Mind you keep the stamps on our letters - even used they're worth 4d. each and they're well worth collecting and keeping. A few years after this issue is exhausted they will be worth several shillings as fewer letters are sent out from this colony than any other, I believe, in the British Empire - unused they're only worth 3d. in England. The 1911 issue $\frac{1}{2}$ d & 1d. are already selling at 20/- and over used.

There will be several boats leaving here in the course of the next week or two so we'll write again soon.

Tons of love from
your devoted son
Harry.

1929/8

Tabian

Ocean Island

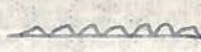


Dec: 11th 1929.

Dear Lady Maude.


I must first of all answer your letters & tell you what has arrived in the way of books & parcels. We had three mails in the first two weeks after our arrival but we are afraid we shall not get another until the end of January so we shall have no Christmas mail. We have had two lots of magazines, Woman & Home & "Thou Fool"; Harry's collar-box & also his ties have arrived, we were wondering what had happened to the latter, we had forgotten that they were being cleaned. The book from Mr^{rs} William Maude arrived too thank you, also Wynne's letter. That reminds, Mr^{rs} Hallet, on the "Wabera", said she had heard that Barbara's engagement was broken off, but as you have not mentioned it I suppose it isn't true. We can't think what we left in Le Poidevin's.

I think he must have made a mistake. You have been having a rotten time with your foot but I hope it will be all right again by the time you get this. Many thanks for Muriel's address, I am wondering if the baby has arrived yet, I don't know when it was expected, I wish I could see it. I don't often feel homesick except when I think of all the children, I hope they won't forget us. Christmas will be very quiet, I feel like cutting it altogether, it used to be such fun with all of you, but I expect we shall join with Dr Macpherson & Mrs Armstrong. I think the drawing-room must look rather nice, though it is rather difficult to picture it. I wondered where I had left my plate glass, I'm glad it is useful, if you take up embossing you will have to retire to the bathroom to do your tracing! We should like to have the "Weekly Post". There is usually quite a lot of news in it & it will keep us in

touch with Jersey. I was very glad to get the recipes but so far have been unable to get the wholemeal flour. Harry says he answered M^r Abbott's letter before he left. D^r Macpherson has to go to Tarawa as he must have 6 months in the big hospital there. I don't know when he will get away, ships go there so seldom.

I hope you will like the plan of the bungalow, the lines marked thus  mean trellis work for 3ft + then shutters which open inwards so  + lines thus 

mean lattice work up to the roof. The dining-room + bed-room doors facing one another are merely venetian shutters which are always open, the former has "gold" coloured net curtains + the latter blue curtains with a gold coloured border. All the ~~sh~~ windows ~~all~~ have venetian shutters too. The whole bungalow is raised on concrete piles about 5ft from the ground. The house

faces the sea. The telescope is on a table in
 the extension in front, I have marked it so ,
 + we use the square portion on the left. As
 you may imagine there isn't very much privacy.
 We have a shower over the bath which we
 always use, & never use the bath as a bath.
 The bungalow really does look awfully nice &
 we are very glad of all our things but I don't
 know whether we shall be able to take
 everything into the group, I'm afraid not.
 The sewing machine is working well & I
 am ever so pleased with it. The gramophone
 is a great joy too. I have found several
 things you put in that I did not know
 of, linen pillow cases, + a breakfast cloth &
 napkins are among them, thank you very much.
 Unfortunately the silver tea-pot which was
 packed in the canteen, has got a slit in the
 spout + I can't use it, otherwise everything
 is all right. I like Ocean Island
 very much, the climate too is pleasant though

a bit sticky at times, in the heat of the day, but usually it is like a summer's day at home & the evenings are lovely.

I think Harry has told you everything else, even of my new job which I like very much, it is quite interesting & keeps me away from the dreadful "scandal mongers", it sounds horrid but you would never believe what a terrible place this is.

Will you tell Mona that these stamps are worth 1/2 each used, I'll send her some unused too sometime, they are only worth 3d. We should be able to send another mail quite soon & I'll say & write to both Mona & Tom. I hope Sammy is still progressing, please give her our love.

I love your long letters & look forward to them very much.

Heaps of love from
Honor.

P.S. We hope to have photos to send you soon.

1929/9

Ocean Island.

Central Pacific

22.12.29.

Dearest Mother,

We've just got back from the store to hear that the "Tou Head" is leaving today so I must make an effort to get this on her. Nothing ever happens here, which is nice as I like the placid contentment of the place, but it means that there's nothing to write about. We're getting more into the swing of native life - I'm in the process of drinking a Drinking nut & we had an eating coconut each for pudding at lunch. I like the drinking nuts but I can't say I care for the fresh Toddy yet, however I shall acquire a liking for it soon as I endeavour to drink half a pint to a pint of Toddy a day - it's very good for one.

He's just bought the most gorgeous Lavalava imaginable - It's bright crimson and red with yellow and blue cubistic patterns. I shall wear it about the house and garden while on this ridiculously conventional island and I'm glad to see one at any rate of the District officers on the group wears one - I'm any case an anthropologist should be privileged to wear the native dress.

My Gilbertese is getting along fine and I'm

writing short sentences - I even wrote a letter yesterday. I intend to read a chapter of the Bible every day.

So far we have successfully kept out of the formal social life, bar calls of course. We've given out that my chief interest in life is to pass my exams quickly and we've have very little time tell them. People on the whole are quite a decent lot - the men are very nice and the women awful. Mona has proved a great success with the men and is, I believe, very much liked by nearly every man. I don't know what the women think of her - not too much, I guess.

I hear the wretched boat is leaving earlier than expected so I must close. Gumble is expected on the "Gretston" from Westport, New Zealand, but I hear it's still held up off Nath Island by storms. In any case it's barely more than a rumour that he's on board as he's never let any one know that he's even left England. The High Commissioner sent a telegram asking for his whereabouts yesterday but we could tell him nothing. He's overstayed his leave a month without any permission.

Our washerwoman has come today and, as usual, has brought all her relations. Herself, a daughter, another woman and two men - they all make a day of it and thourly enjoy themselves. As one only pays

the one woman it makes no difference how many
others she burgo. It makes no difference how much
washing there is - one pays just the same, 30/- a
month and they come every Monday and stay till
it's done - it may be finished that day or they
may still be there on Wednesday.

We go to Censor the film tonight. The films
are shown every Saturday and are censored the Monday
before - Hara and I go the Monday before as it's
empty then and a great rag.

Thursday morning Star comes every Tuesday and
to give me lessons in Gilbertese - it
was his father that was Bingham's help in
compiling the Dictionary I had in England.

I must stop now and rush this down to
the post.

Tons of love

from your devoted son

Harry.

1929/10

Ocean Island.

December 27th 1929

Dearest Lady Maude,

We started another westerly gale last night & very nearly had another wreck. Harry & I went to bed about 10 o'clock & were wakened just after twelve by the noise of chairs, mats & shutters being banged & blown about by a terrific wind & the rain pelting down. We got up & shut all we could, piled the furniture in one corner, rolled up the mats & returned to bed & were soon asleep again. We were told this morning that at half past twelve one of the two ships which were anchored to the buoys decided that she had better go to sea, they unshackled her & she was caught immediately by the wind & current & swept on to the reef beside an old wreck, fortunately they managed to keep her propellers free & her engines going & after 6 hours they got her off. It is almost

unheard of for a ship to get off the reef once she is caught. We are very disgusted at missing the excitement, a number of people went down & watched. They say she used her siren but we never heard a sound.

Jan: 13th We have had such a lot of excitement since I started this letter that I don't know where to begin, so I shall start with Christmas. We had quite a jolly time & I didn't feel nearly as homesick as I thought I should. We stayed at home on Christmas eve but on Christmas day we first of all payed a duty call at the Residency & signed the book, then we went to Mr^s Clarke's house & drank toddy (unfermented) which is very nice with soda water & very sweet without it. We asked Dr^s Macpherson, Mr^s Clarke & Mr^s Armstrong to have tea with us, & much to our disgust Major & Mr^s Swinbourne turned up, & rather damped our spirits but they did not stay long. I bought a tinned fruit cake, made almond icing by using nuts ^{which I had to} out of shells & pounding ~~them~~ as I

couldn't get ground almonds, then I made a fairly thick coat of white icing, it never hardened properly & I am told it never does out here. I also made mince pies & everyone said they were jolly good. The five of us then went to Mr Armstrong's for dinner & had quite a jolly evening. I may as well tell you now that Major Burnhame, who was Acting Resident Commissioner, is very much disliked by everyone, he always imagines everyone is conspiring against him, you never can believe a word he says about other people & he says a lot & all of it bad & altogether is most difficult to work with. On New Years Eve we all dined with Mr Clarke, we had great fun & at 12 midnight did all the usual toasting & singing & they made Harry & me go outside & then Harry had to carry me ^m_n & kiss me, I said I was sure it should have been done in our own house but they insisted on its being done there & then. On New Year's day another visit had to be made to the Residence & more signing done,

& while there we heard that Mr^s Gimble's ship
 was expected between 1 and 2 o'clock. It was
 a beastly day & the sea was really very
 rough indeed & Major Swinbourne said at once
 that it would be quite impossible to launch
 a small boat to go out & fetch Mr^s Gimble.
 However he was overruled & soon after 10 o'clock
 we all went down to the jetty to see the fun.
 I have never seen anything so wonderful as the
 way the Ellice Islanders (of whom the crew
^{cons}~~consisted~~) got that small boat through the reef,
 the breakers were enormous, the passage in the
 reef only about 50ft wide, there is a wreck on
 one side of it too making matters worse, & a
 terrific back-wash. They got outside fairly dry
 & made for the ship, we couldn't see them
 half the time except from the hill ~~but~~ every now
 & then they were lifted right out of the
 water & one could imagine the "smack" as
 they came down again. Eventually they got to
 the ship & went aboard leaving the police boys

in the boat which was being towed, the ship had to keep moving as it was too rough to moor her. Major Swinburne, Mr Clarke & Dr Luck went on board where they got hold of Mr Simble & the mail & returned to the boat. The ship by this time was heading out to sea & had to make a complete circle to get the small boat fairly near the shore, they were all in the boat for at least 20 minutes as they were towed round & about 1/2 o'clock we saw them let go. The sea by this time was worse & the small boat had a terrible tossing, as for the breakers they looked absolutely impossible, we quite expected to see the boat capsize & our mail go to the bottom, however the boys lived up to their reputation & got through with only a wetting. You can imagine everyone's joy at having Mr Simble back, he is so popular here ^{and} but he does deserve it. We had the Police lined up to for his inspection & the native school & all

the hillside was dotted with ~~the~~ natives, both male + female + the latter's dresses making bright patches of colour. We have taken photos of the whole proceeding + hope to get some good results. Well that all happened on Jan. 1st, on Jan. 4th we heard that Miss Waithman's boat was due on the 7th or 8th + the next day Sunday, we were told the ship would be in the next day at 6:30 a.m.! There was wild rushing round on everyone's part, I was having her to stay with me for a night or two, there was the wedding to fix up + a hundred + one things to arrange. The wedding was fixed for the 8th which meant that ~~she~~ Miss Waithman would stay with me for two nights. M^r Grumble at once said I wasn't to go to the Office so we set to + arranged a small reception, sent out invitations to all the Government Officials + one or two Phosphate people, making 30 in all, asked various people to lend champagne glasses, make sandwiches + cake + ordered ice etc. We had a hectic two days as M^r Armstrong

had left everything till the last minute, I even had to see that the house was cleaned! The day of the wedding it simply pelted, as it has done ever since, so we went to the R.P. Priest's house & then changed. Miss Walthman had a beautiful frock & yards of veil & looked very nice indeed, I dressed her etc. & took her flowers from her in church. Mr Grumble gave her away - Mr Clarke was best man. I expect they will have 3 weeks or so here before going into the Group. (I wore my flowered muslin & the white)

I forgot to tell you we had a dinner up at the Residency on the 4th for Mr Grumble, to welcome him back & also because we had just heard that he had been given a C.M.B. I helped Mrs Swinburne to prepare various things & lent china etc.

We have had two tremendous mails since the New Year after having waited for weeks. I have had a Woman & Home, the Nov: number, it didn't have the Arts & Crafts in it, did you take it

or have they stopped having it? We have had 4 weekly news + love them, Harry's box + my embroidery have arrived too, thank you very much. I have also had 3 novels, I am saving them for the group! Aunt Edie's calendar + sketch we have had, did you see the ~~at~~ latter, I think it is perfectly lovely. Mary's parcel that I should have received at Bombay, came by the last mail, various tea cloths + mats for the table + she has promised me two bed-spreads. We have to pay duty on every single parcel but I always argue with Mr² Clarke + usually he lets me off lightly + calls me a Jewess. The duty is 12%. I only paid 1/6 on the lot you sent us. I was very glad to get the Boy Scout Calendar, thank you ever so much. I should very much like one of those book calendars for my bag.

We were ever so glad to hear that you had a new car, and a saloon, you must be pleased. I will now proceed to answer your

letters. I was very glad to hear from you that Mother was looking well, I suppose Grandpa is back by now & Betty gone.

If the moccasin stuff you mention is the natural sheep it was 10/-. I was glad to hear too that Mabel had joined from Muriel, I heard from the latter last mail but it was not decided then. I hope too that Maudie will get away & keep free from Viva.

I should love to have "Mabs" or some fashion paper, I think Mabs is very good, I really think it would be a good idea if you would get me any suitable remnants for frocks or undies at the sales, I can get to be a lot here but that is all. I shall also want some white cash's ribbon for shoulder straps if you would get it for me. The Benns Books all came & the Anglo Norman Review, I see they have begun the latter again in a different style. Our large Glass Jug has been smashed already but the large tumblers are very

popular. Did I tell you that M^r Le Poidevin did not put the asthma pills in the medicine chest, I have hunted everywhere for them, so please ask him to send me 100, I don't think I shall need them but will feel more comfortable if I have them. We don't expect to go to the Group until June unless we are sent to Tarawa for about a month in 3 weeks time, which is a possibility. I have got the most adorable kitten, it is five weeks old & getting so playful. The mother is a Persian (but the kitten Tabby) & she adopted me soon after I arrived & then had three kittens, one was very weakly & died after two days, the second was stolen in the night about a week ago, I am afraid by a wild cat as there were two awful fights during the night & the third I am guarding most carefully, it even sleeps in our bed-room. It was quite chilly & I wear a woolley coat nearly every evening & hardly ever sleep without a blanket.

I missed the children very much at Christmas; Bobbiat wrote at the end of her Mother's letter all by herself, I thought it was very well done.

I am sending you a couple of Chinese tray clothe for your birthday, I'm afraid they will be very late but all the same we both wish you "many happy returns of the day."

With heaps of love from

Your loving

Honor.

He (Mr Grimble) wanted Walter to come as the new Superintendent of Public Works at a salary of £500 & a furnished house & allowances which should bring it up to £600. I know it sounds tiny besides Indian salaries but his expenses would be small and he would have no establishment to keep up. His job would be to go round planning, designing, and supervising the construction of the various public works in the Colony - a very easy job, which has been successfully performed up to now by the various District Officers who have no mechanical knowledge. Most of the construction is of native materials.