

Ocean Island.

Central Pacific.

10th Jan. 1938.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Your last letter came from Newcastle though most of it was written at Mary's. Thank you very much indeed for ordering Punch for us, we both enjoy it so much. Yes, it is utterly ridiculous that we do not get wireless news on Ocean. A few people have private sets but their news usually seems rather wild & unreliable. Our own man could easily get it for us if he was interested. There seem to be ghastly things going on all over the world & no sign of any improvement.

Here Harry carries on with his schemes for colonizing the Phoenix Islands & has just finished his 3rd Report, completing about 100 foolscap pages of typing. There is only a short one left to do & then about 6 weeks on land settlement here after which he proposes going to Aroae. There is a chance of my getting the "Triaster", the best ship on the run, to Auckland, as there is talk of sending her there for several trips. I have no idea beyond early March as

to the date at which I am likely to leave. We have been having very high winds from the east & quite a lot of rain but still the westerlies hang off. Harry, I am glad to say, seems to be quite looking forward to being on Aroae by himself & has great ideas on cooking & gardening.

We are having an awful time with Koura, he has suddenly started running away to one of the villages - a thing he has never done before & it is very distressing that he should do so in his old age! We have to shut all the doors, which fortunately are only lattice work, or he runs away. I let him out at intervals during the day & each time he thinks out a new way of gaining his object. He went a long detour the 3rd time yesterday, to get on to the railway line & got the shock of his life to find Harry calmly waiting for him! He cried all last night & gave me distressing dreams, he rushed away as soon as I let him out & Harry had to go to the railway line in his pyjamas to get him back, fortunately he listened when Harry called him though he ignored me - since then he has settled down quietly but no doubt will be

off as soon as he is let out. He gets a long walk with us each afternoon so he doesn't suffer from lack of exercise.

I have been trying to make bread for the last 3 weeks & at last have a good loaf. Ruka, my ~~st~~ excook, came & did my yeast bottle for me & evidently has got it right.

With much love from us both,

Your loving

Honor

Ocean Island,
Central Pacific.
9.2.38.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Your Air Mail letter has just arrived & I was so glad to hear from you after you had heard our news. It is difficult to know what to ask you to send for the babe but after thinking it over I have decided that what I would like best is some aerter sheeting - As you know we are both very keen on aerter & I thought sheets for the cot would be about the best covering for here & I may not be able to get it in New Zealand. I should think enough material for 6 small sheets would be ample. I mean to start off with a wicker ^{or cane} basket, the Plunkett people make them, as it can be easily carried round & will be safe on board ship & I suppose I shall have to bring back a cot as well as we shan't be going on leave till Feb. 1939. I'm afraid we shall not be able to get home our next leave so if all goes well couldn't you & Sir Walter possibly come out to N.Z.?

I am not going to make an awful lot

of baby clothes, just sufficient warm things for the month or so in Auckland + for up here acetex vests + napkins with a few muslin frocks is all that is necessary or desirable. If you see any pretty little pillow-slips I'd love one or two though only a very tiny pillow is going to be allowed. I'm determined to keep feathers miles away just in case there is any tendency to asthma, it would be too distressing.

You are quite right about Harry wanting a girl but fortunately he is not so desperately keen that a boy won't interest him. He is really awfully funny about the whole thing, ordering books on child psychology + baby exercises + Mrs Macdonald, who has become a firm friend, laughs every time she thinks of Harry with an infant. He is being most awfully good about being left alone for 5 months + as the time of my departure for Auckland draws nearer it helps tremendously. There is ship going direct to Auckland in just under 3 week's time so I shall have to go while the "going's good" though I'm hating parting so soon. As far as I can see Harry will have only a couple of weeks here after my departure then he is due for

a trip to all 16 Gilbert Islands with the new Island Regulations for the approval of the natives & Native Governments. Harry has been trying to get these Regulations revised for years & at last they are done. We had a terrific week last week as Mr. Bailey suddenly asked for a report to be ready within a few days so we were both going hard, Harry writing & me dictating to the boy as pages were ready. After the trip he may come back here for a month or so, I should say Mr. Bailey is sure to want him to, but he says he would like to go to Aorae & do some danda work. Later on there is the Phoenix scheme to be done which will mean more trips in "Tumanua" if the settlement of the islands is approved. Altogether I don't quite know where I come in, the first trip I shall have to stay behind but the second I should be able to go too as it will mean several months on each island. However all this is rather in the air as we don't know when it will happen. The N.C. seems to want things done in a hurry but I don't think he is either practical or far-seeing.

With much love from us both

Your loving,

Honor.

30 APR. 1938

..Olamati..

Te Kiri.

New Zealand.

1. 4. 38.

Dearest Lady Maude,

I'm afraid I have been rather a long time writing to you, there never seems to be enough time to fit things in. I arrived in N.Z. just on 3 weeks ago after a pretty good trip down. I nearly fell down a horrid companionway leading to the bathroom the first day which made me very careful, we had 3 rather uncomfortable days pitching into a swell & the last night, having just failed to get into port, we hove to & rolled atrociously for hours. The ship was diverted to New Plymouth, a town some way down on the west coast of the North Island, so I had to get up to Auckland by night train, but I was able to leave the heavy luggage on board as she went to Auckland afterwards.

It is just a month since I left Ocean Island, Harry was very fit, he weighed himself the day I left & was 10st. 6 lbs, more than he has ever been before. He & Teikera ran the house the last 2 weeks & were getting along famously. At first meals were rather uncertain but after a week were as good as ever. I think Harry was quite enjoying doing the ordering & felt that the experience would be very good for him.

Miss Thickett's heart I'm afraid is at home, I feel very sorry for her with her family-divided with much love from

Honor

At the moment I am at my cousin's farm, I have been here for nearly a week & expect to return to Auckland next week. Auntie & I really motored down for a weekend but it is so lovely down here that I was persuaded to stay on. Also there is a 6 weeks old baby here & another of 2 years & the nurse left a couple of days ago so Alice & I have our hands full & I am getting in a little practice! The weather is simply glorious, warm, almost hot, days & cool nights, marvellously warm for the time of year, I am still wearing thin clothes, except in the early morning, & feeling quite hot. I can have as much milk & cream, fresh vegetables & fruit straight from the trees, as I want & I am enjoying it. I only wish I could send some to Harry. I haven't done very much shopping yet but I'm beginning to have some idea of what I want. Auntie is wonderful & drives me everywhere & helps generally. I have booked a room in a nursing home quite near "Rannoch" & hope to stay there 3 weeks which should give me a good start. I was thinking of doing without a nurse but people seem to think I'd better have one for a couple more weeks. It is terribly hard to get nurses, they are booked up months ahead, so I shall have to make up my mind soon.

Uncle travelled with our new High Commissioner some months ago & apparently they still correspond. He tells me that the H.C. wrote to him a little while ago & said he had just received a report from Harry (on the

Phoenix) "the best of its kind I have seen", marvellous wasn't it? Uncle seems to think that the H.C. thinks a lot of Harry's work which is grand.

10.1.38. Just back from the farm & I must post this to catch the air mail in Australia. I have had two letters from Harry, he was very busy & is now going round the Gilberts. The High Commissioner had written him a personal letter about his report which was rather wonderful. The report has been printed & circulated to officers as a model for their future guidance! It is very flattering of course but we would much rather do the work & keep out of the limelight.

We are having wonderful weather, it is still hot which is most unusual & very sunny. I had a lovely fortnight at the farm & feel very fit. Now I am shopping again & seem to have got through a lot to-day. I am having any coloured things for the baby blue & to-day bought a lovely blue cretonne blanket for the cot. It is a large size, about the same as we use, & I can cut it if I want to, buying several small ones would have been much more expensive.

I have had tea with Mrs Thickett & Dorothy & am to go to the farm for a week-end. It seems a pity that Arthur should have chosen an army career after the family had been brought out here,

at... "Rannoch"

Almorah Rd.

Epsom. S.E. 3.

2nd May, 1938.

Dearest Lady Maud,

Your letter written at
Mary's on your way home has just
arrived. I am so glad you had a
good voyage & hope the good weather
continued. Ruby writes that it was
glorious in Jersey & the garden a
mass of flowers. Here we are
getting into woolies, the mornings

• evenings are decidedly chilly but the sun just lovely. We have had several wet days but I rather like them as one isn't tempted to leave work & go outside.

The baby's *Grossman* is almost ready & looks very exciting. Did I tell you that Dorothy Thickett, or rather Cox, is expecting a baby? It doesn't arrive until September so she is just beginning preparations & feeling a bit lost as I did. She came here to tea last week & I shall be going to her this week, she

really is an awfully nice girl. M^{rs}
 Thickett & haven't seen for some time
 & shall probably go to the farm
 this next week-end.

Yesterday afternoon Auntie &
 I walked to the top of Mount Eden,
 an extinct volcano just behind the
 house. It was a lovely day & the
 view glorious. Auckland is a most
 attractive place I think. I do hope
 you will think seriously of coming
 out here next year, Harry is
 due for leave & I hope we can
 come down here in February.

I haven't had any further news from Harry but there should be a mail in about a week's time. I do know that he is back on Ocean 38. I heard from the Macdonalds a few days ago & they said Harry was in the Gilberts & had been in great form when he left.

With much love to you all

from

Your loving,

Honor

14 JUNE 1938

"Rannoch",

Almora Rd.

Eprom. S.E. 3.

16. 5. 38.

Dearest Lady Maude,

I had a letter from Harry last week in which he said he was leaving for Beera about May 31st. He intended staying there until I return but I should think will probably make trips from there to other islands. "Pimauoa" was to drop him & then proceed to Fiji & the mission vessel will also be coming

down soon so I expect there will be a big gap in his letters. They were dreadfully short of water on Ocean Island. The Government had only two weeks supply left.

I was at Papakura with the Thicketts last week for 5 days. It is very nice down there & Joan seems to be doing well. It is very difficult to get domestic help & Mrs Thickett is doing everything which is really too much for

her but she seems to enjoy it.

My latest plans are to go to a Maternity Home for 2 weeks & then, all being well, to go to a Plunkett Hospital a little way out of town where I can learn how to deal with the infant & also get well started on a routine. It is just what I feel I need & will be much better than upsetting this household by bringing in a nurse & I should be tempted to pick up the baby if it cried

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in case it disturbed Uncle. I shall spend 2 weeks out there & then I hope we shall be all set.

Harry tells me that the Bean people have chosen a girl to be nurse to the baby & that she has gone to "Rongorongo", the mission school, to learn all she can about caring for babies! Rather touching I think.

We are having another spell of wonderful weather, fine & sunny but quite bracing. Auntie & I have

been for several drives & walks to enjoy the lovely views.

On Sunday night there was a terrific blaze in the town & a four storied building was completely gutted. I saw the glow & masses of smoke as I pulled my curtains before getting into bed so I called Auntie & Uncle & we watched for some time but it burned for hours.

A parcel for the babe arrived from Mary a short time ago

with the most delightful things in it. One of them a really lovely Baby Book which is much admired by everyone & I am quite impatient to record the arrival etc. in it.

The carrying-basket cot is a great success & I am busy trimming it a little & getting the bedding ready. The bath is also ~~as~~ satisfactory, a papier mache' one & I had a lid made

for it & am painting all the
outside blue. I've had an awful
job to get a folding cot & when
I did at last run one to earth
it had been sold the day before.
However another shipment is
expected by the end of July
which should be just in time.

With much love to you all
from

Your loving,

Honor.

P.S. Please thank Muriel very much
for her letter which has just
arrived, I will write to her
later.

12 JULY 1938

"Rannoch".

Almorah Rd.

Epsom.

Auckland. S.E. 3.

12. 6. 38.

Dearest Lady Maude,

It looks as though my original date, 19th is going to be nearer the mark than D^r Kenrick's 10th. I am still waiting patiently but the babe seems to be in no hurry to enter this chilly world. Winter has set in in real earnest at last & it is raw & cold. We have started the central heating to-day & find it very comforting. We had a heavy hail storm this morning but Auntie & I rigged ourselves up in mackintoshes, scarves & goggles & sallied forth & the sun shone all the time we were out & it rained again just as we entered the front door!

Whilst I remember, would you please send Harry $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. pairs of "Vijella" khaki stockings, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inch foot? I cannot get anything at all in that line here & I'm afraid he may be running short. Also could you send me a copy of the sketchcraft form which you chose the luncheon mate you sent me to work? I've looked here & can't find one, the transfer is no. 124. I'm hoping to start them in hospital but I'd do the edge & leave the working of the flowers until I get the book as I'd like to see details of how they should be done.

I seem to have reached the end of my sewing except for a few ^{thin} things which I can make afterwards. I heard the other day that the B.P.C.'s newest ship is scheduled to sail from here in the last week of July, it is not certain yet which island she will be going to but I'm sure Mr Ellis will try to make it Ocean Island for me. He, by the way, is now Sir Albert Ellis, he was knighted on the King's birthday. He actually discovered the phosphate on Ocean Island a Maori so I think it is very nice that he has been knighted. He is a charming man, a great friend of ours + thinks a great deal of Harry.

The cot-pram really looks quite sweet now that it is finished. I lined inside the head end with a piece of flannel covered with blue organdie + a wee fill round the top. It has a hood affair of blue organdie, quite plain with a little fill round it + there is a coverlet to match. The hood was a very tiresome thing to make but it looks awfully nice now. The cot itself is cream wickerwork. Dorothy Cox (nee Thickett) brought me a present to-day, a sweet little primrose yellow frock in linen lawn with brown embroidery on it.

The High Commissioner has told the newspapers that he hopes to begin the colonization of the Phoenix Islands shortly so I suppose we shall be going over there soon after I return. I think

I shall be allowed to go as Harry should be several weeks or months at each island. The idea was to get the cisterns made before the wet season which is due to begin in October so Harry might go ahead in which case I expect I could go via Fiji. If we go there I shall probably take a nurse, I have heard of one here who is very keen to go & says she doesn't mind roughing it but I haven't seen her yet.

I hope you are having a lovely summer & are enjoying Petit Toi. Has Roy Gates been sold yet?

Much love to you all from

Your loving,

Honor.

St. Ann's Maternity Hospital,
Khyber Pass.
Auckland.

26th June, 1938.

Dearest lady Maude,

Baby arrived quite safely last Sunday evening & is a week old to-day. He only weighed 6lbs at birth, so I needn't have worried about the amount of weight I was gaining, however, he is a nice wee thing & doing well. He is very like Harry with fair hair & blue eyes & a lovely fair skin, the nurses say he should have been a girl! He has a really good nose & a dear little mouth, I think it will be like Harry's, with a dent below the lower lip. We are going to have a little trouble with his right foot I'm afraid, there has been some pressure on it & it turns in too much. Uncle got going on it at once & it is better already but he says we must overcorrect it & then when he begins to walk it will become straight. It means strapping the foot into position all the time for some months. One good thing is that Baby doesn't seem to mind a bit, I was afraid the strapping would hurt him.

I got through very well; Baby was late arriving & both Uncle & Dr Kenrick advised me to come into hospital after a week & have him started on his way with castor oil, enema etc., which I did. Everything went very well & he had arrived by 9.30 p.m. I have been very well since,

I am to have my two sketches out tomorrow & get up two days later & when Baby is 2 weeks old we move to the Baby Hospital where I am to learn all I can about caring for him. The feeding is going fairly well & I hope to nurse him successfully but I may have to give him one bottle a day. He is always ready for his meals I'm glad to say & as far as I can gather from the nurses he doesn't cry much & sleeps nearly all night from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. which is pretty good for a small baby. I am awfully thrilled with him as you can imagine & I'm looking forward immensely to looking after him myself. Poor Harry is on an island by himself & out of touch by wireless, goodness knows when he will hear that he has a small son, probably not for a month or so.

The Phosphate Commissioners newest ship, the "Trienza" is due to leave here on July 25th & will drop me at Ocean Island before proceeding to Haere to load if I am allowed to go. I[?] Kenrick won't promise anything & Uncle quite definitely thinks it's a bit soon but as it is such a good ship & there will be another woman on board I hope I shall be able to go. Of course if they say it isn't a fair go for Baby I shall just have to risk the chance of another boat.

Thank you very much for the coverlet, it is very sweet & matches the other bed coverings

beautifully.

I had two letters from Harry a couple of days before I came in here. He said the drought was very bad & as it was quite impossible to do any work on Beeu he was going to Tamana. Beeu is somewhat over-populated & in times of drought would not have enough food to feed the delegates on the Lands Commission - in any case Harry wants to do Beeu after my return so that we shall be near Mr^s Eastman in case we need help with Aloaic. He seemed to be very well & happy & very glad to be doing lands work again so I hope all goes well with him. It will be wonderful to be together again as I hope we shall be before very long.

I shall get a snapshot of Baby as soon as possible to give you some idea of what he is like, I am longing to hear that you are thrilled about his arrival.

With much love to you all from
Honor.

5 SEP. 1938

"Rannoch"

Almorah Rd.

Auckland. S.E. 3.

8th August 1938.

Dearest lady Maude,

I enclose a few snapshots of Alair which will I hope give you some idea of what, or who, he is like; everyone here who knows Harry says the likeness is too ridiculous. He even has Harry's hands & whilst feeding yesterday he actually clasped his hands in an odd way that Harry does, the index finger of one hand holding the little finger of the other hand! He is growing well & at 6 weeks weighed 8 lbs & now, at 7 weeks is 8 lbs 8 oz.

He has a simply tremendous voice & lets us know it rather more than we like. He is a lovely baby with a beautiful clear skin, lovely big blue eyes & all seems well with him so I can only think that the wretched splint irks him & makes him bad tempered. It isn't actually pulling the foot round now as it has come round so wonderfully & is almost normal now & he doesn't cry when I put it on, only when I put him down to sleep. He simply refuses to have it on at night now, I put it on at 10.30 p.m. after his feed & invariably have to remove it at 12 or 12.30 because neither of us would have any sleep, nor Auntie for that matter for he screams the

place down, & yet he doesn't seem to mind it during the day & sleeps well once he has settled down. Uncle left strict instructions that the splint should be worn all the time so I don't know what he will say. We had to leave it off for several days because he got a sore place on his heel & that is probably why he is objecting now. It is naturally rather upsetting & I long to be back with Harry.

Uncle, by the way, left here 5 weeks ago & flew to England from Sydney. He is to fly back too & we expect him on the 27th, it will be most interesting to hear all about it. His last letter was from Karachi & he seemed to be

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having a fairly tiring journey, up at 3 a.m. sometimes + flying till 6 or 7 p.m. He said the heat in Karachi was terrific, the steel furniture unpleasantly hot to touch!

I was not allowed to go on the ship I had intended sailing by because of Baby's foot & since deciding not to go I've had a radio from the Resident saying that owing to "Pimanoa's" delay in Suva Harry won't be back at Ocean till Sept. 7th. I don't believe he knows about Alaric yet, isn't it dreadful? I've had no word from him & only hope he isn't worrying his head off.

I find my time fully occupied just looking after Baby & doing his washing. Having to sterilise bottles & make a milk mixture every day does make a lot of extra work. I am still ^{per day} boys short of breast milk, in spite of treatment at the Plunket Hospital, most annoying but I'm glad I can nurse him partly.

I do wish you could see Alaric, he really is a lovely baby & so sweet when he smiles as he is just beginning to do. Mother, as you may have heard, has gone out to Zealand & they expect to leave there for N.Z. in January. That is much better for us than

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their original intention of leaving
there in October. I sincerely
hope Harry will get his leave
all right but don't know yet.

About your coming out, if Harry
gets leave next year, as he should
he won't get it again till '41.

Of course if he doesn't get away
next year he will get leave in
1940 but he really should come
away soon, I don't want a
repetition of last leave & I think
2 years at a stretch is quite
long enough. If you can't come
out next year why not take
a trip to Ocean Island? The
new ship, Teienya, that I am
hoping to return in, is a really

good ship with awfully nice
 passenger accomodation. Her
 displacement is 14,000, so she
 is a good size. Auntie & I
 went over her one day, had
 tea with the captain whom I
 knew & then were taken for a
 run in a new launch which
 was going to Haere & I was
 allowed to "drive" her, it was
 marvellous. I'm sure we could
 arrange to be at Ocean Island,
 especially if Mr Garvey is still
 acting, & you could have a few
 weeks with us & return to N.Z.
 or Australia.

Later The Plunket nurse came in
 yesterday & Alaric gave us one of

his screaming performances which even upset her! I have been trying to get a pair of ^{satisfactory} scales at a reasonable price but so far have been unsuccessful.

14th I really must finish this now, it seems difficult to get a long enough interval without interruptions of some kind. Baby has just had his 2 p.m. feed & is lying in his pram beside me, chewing his fists contentedly for a little while! He must soon go to sleep again. He has a cold, which is annoying, I have one too so he probably got it from me. The Plunket people have lent me a pair of scales until I can get my own & I find that Baby only has to have 3oz. of complementary

feeding, it hardly seems worth while making but as it is the 10 p.m. feed which is the smallest I expect I'd better give him the extra & keep up our good nights.

I've been trying to think about Christmas presents & I wondered if you would like to give Harry a piece of Harris tweed for a coat to wear with flannel tags & a pullover in the same shades, I think a nice deep brown. I thought perhaps Mary would choose something when she is in London or Bouenemouth. Harry will need a new coat when he comes on leave & you can get much nicer materials at home. I'm going to take some wool back

with me to make Baby some indoor garments for next March, would you give him an outdoor suit? Coat & long trousers in either wool or flannel, I suppose woolies would be more suitable for 10 months to 1 year? I'll send you a piece of the wool later in case you want to match it. If anyone else wants to send him anything, toys would be most welcome, they have a poor selection out here.

15-19 I should like "Punch" again please for my Christmas present.

Did I thank you for the blue coverlet? It matches everything beautifully & is very pretty. I'm glad I had blue as Baby looks

lovely being amongst his blue things with his blue eyes. Thank you ever so much for the dear little coat, did you make it? Also for the ball which he will love I'm sure. The aalter sheeting arrived some time ago & I am making sleeping bags, I think they are probably the safest things to prevent chills.

It sounds as though the servant problem must be pretty bad with you if you have to import foreigners. We need a few here, Auntie is without a cook again. The one we had was a bit mental, couldn't remember a single thing, that was forgivable but she became so abominably rude that she just

had to go. Then we had an awfully nice girl from Wellington for a couple of weeks but her mother got ill & she had to go home.

I was very glad to hear that Sir Walter's hand was better, a nasty thing to have & you must have been very worried.

Auntie asks me to thank you very much for your letter. She has been wonderfully good to us & I'm afraid Alaric disturbs her somewhat with his loud cry but she seems to like having him! Uncle Carrick flew to England when Baby was ~~two~~ weeks old, has had 2 or 3 weeks in London & is now flying back. I'm longing to hear about it but have no desire to try it.

Muriel's washerwoman sounds marvellously cheap - Here we have to pay 4/- an hour for ordinary sort of labour such as mending a window or putting up curtain rails. A gardener 16/- a day.

Didn't I give you the proposed names for Baby? I am so sorry. Yes, Alaric Mervyn it is to be. Alaric I like very much & that is what he is to be called; Mervyn I don't like so much but Harry does. I didn't know who Alaric was till I got here & my friends looked it up; I wonder if Harry knows because he never told me where.

he got the name from. Still
no word from him & Baby
will be 2 months old in a
few days. I hope to sail
in 3 weeks time.

If you are writing to
Mary please tell her I'll write
soon, also Muriel, but I doubt
if I'll catch this mail.

I like the photos very much
+ it is awfully nice to
have photos of you both.
leather frames for them
would be an awfully nice
Christmas present if anyone
asks you what we want.

Baby decided to have a bad afternoon yesterday, he does occasionally so he didn't get far with this. I'm finishing it at 5.30 a.m. having fed him & put him back to bed where he is quiet except for a hoarse little cough but his cold seems better.

With much love from

Honor.

7 OCT. 1938

m.v. "Tasadić"

Melbourne.

23.9.38.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Baby & I have been doing a grand tour on our own in an endeavour to get back to Ocean Island! The good ship that was to have returned to Auckland in 6 weeks was sent elsewhere as Auckland couldn't take the phosphate. It was an awful blow for me as I had been waiting so patiently. At that time they said I could either go down to Dunedin, (an awful journey for a small baby, night journey by train, day in Wellington, night journey by boat to Lyttelton & day in the train to Dunedin) or else go to Haereu & stay there 2 weeks before getting a ship to Ocean. I said I'd do the latter & then they suddenly banned all passengers from N.Z. owing to measles which are bad there & the only thing for me to do was to leave on the American ship two days later & come to Melbourne, via Sydney but no change of ship. I had an awful rush as I expected to have several days longer but got away all right & had a good trip with only one seasick day. It took a week to get here & we had to wait here 2 weeks but Mr & Mrs Maynard who used to be on Ocean Island invited us to stay with them so I was spared going to an hotel.

I had to take Baby to a doctor here about his foot & as the Maynards live 20 minutes out of town

M^{rs} Maynard drove me in each time & on one occasion had to wait 2½ hours! She was most awfully kind & didn't seem to mind at all. I feel much happier about the foot now as it is quite straight & merely has to be kept there. He had it in two lots of plaster which I hated as it made his leg dreadfully sore & then of course he cried a lot. Then he began bringing up his food very badly & the doctor frightened me by suggesting he might have a stoppage, however his tests found everything all right. Altogether I feel distinctly worn & will be very glad to get back to Harry & not have all the worry alone. Baby does seem to be going ahead at last, he weighs 10lbs 3oz. & is putting on 7 or 8 oz a week as he should. He has improved tremendously since we left Auckland & smiles such a lot & makes talking noises. He really is most awfully sweet & is settling down into a routine, if he hadn't had the foot worrying him I think he would have been a very good baby as he is very good when he is comfortable. He loves to look at himself in the mirror & smirks at himself & talks away. He has a very forced cough too which he likes to show off. His hair is quite thick now & a very pretty deep gold colour so I expect he will be brown eventually. I've had a very nice woman coming in from 2 to 6 every afternoon while I have been here which gave

me a little free time to see something of Melbourne.

Coming over from Auckland to Sydney I had one of the Kaikane nurses, one I knew well & like very much & she helped me a lot except the first day when we were both very sorry for ourselves!

I've written this in an awful hurry & must now stop as we are about to leave, there never seems to be much time for letters.

Harry got back to Ocean on the 7th & I don't know what his plans are.

With much love from

Honor.

Ocean Island,

9.10.38.

Dearest Lady Maude,

Here we are at last after many trials & tribulations & I want to get this off on the ship we came up by which doesn't give me much time as she is only unloading some cargo here & loading phosphate at Nauen.

We had a very good trip up, it wasn't really rough at all though we rolled a lot for about a week, I was perfectly fit & baby was very good indeed - the other passengers were most kind & looked after him a lot for me. The trouble about being on board, especially a cargo boat, is the constant disturbances for baby - hammering, boat drill, an awful dinner gong & other unavoidable noises. We had some nasty days when Europe seemed to be about to have another war & we wondered whether we or the Taps would reach Ocean first. Then we were informed that we were to go to Nauen first after all & would miss the ship going to the Gilberts, we were all wild & I was very worried too because I was booked to go to the Gilberts. However I heard from Harry eventually that we were to remain on Ocean. I went ashore at Nauen as we were to be there 3 days & stayed at the Residency. There were 23 more marvellous string figures & I had to try to

get details of them in between dealing with baby who was rather fractious & upset. I got 13.

Harry is very fit beyond having a rather bad toothache but I think we can get that fixed up or taken out. He seems to have had a most wonderful time at Tamana & he & the boys are very disgusted at being kept here - so am I for that matter. The acting Resident & Macdonald have gone to the Gilberts, the A.R. for a trip & Mac as Recruiting Officer. Harry is left here with four jobs & I see very little of him & when he does come home he is dead tired. He is Officer in Charge of the colony, A.O. Ocean, Secretary to Govt. & Lands Commr! He hasn't had time to get used to Baby yet but I gather he quite approves of him, both of his looks & behaviour. He has been such a darling & contrary to my expectations has gone into his cot & goes to sleep without any of the rocking & attention he has been used to whilst travelling. The nurse Harry brought over is such a nice girl, I knew her at Beer, & she handles baby as if she knew something about the job. I feel quite happy about leaving baby with her whilst we have our evening walk. We have the Residency car while the R.C. is away which is rather fun. They have left their small son behind so we go & have a look at him each day & see he is all right.

Harry is very amusing about the way the boys have treated him whilst I've been away. To listen to him you would think he was horribly bullied. They wouldn't let him go bathing alone so one day he put his suit on under his clothes & put a towel inside his mac & strolled out for a walk. Teikarawa & another boy followed him. Harry told them he didn't want them, however they said if he was going walking they would like to go too. Harry assured them he wasn't going to bathe but they insisted on accompanying him. Eventually Teikarawa offered to carry the mac, Harry very crossly said no, he could carry it himself so Teikarawa said that if it was because he had a towel in it he might as well give it up because he knew it was there all the time! Another day he was being very lavish with a tin of sweets, giving handfuls to the children. This distressed the boys who expostulated, Harry merely threw out more. Then he went for a walk & when he returned found a small tin of sweets on the table & no sign of the large one! At first he couldn't make any headway with the people of Tamana & then he found that he didn't get fish because he wanted to pay for it & they were ashamed, & after having a good talk with them found out just what their customs were & they had a marvellous time together. Harry started Temicort & all the young people flocked to the

house every evening; they built 5 courts & had a most hilarious time. Harry now composes Gilbertese songs & the boys say they are better than the Gilbertese can make.

It really is too bad the way Harry is always being taken away from his work but I'm afraid it is inevitable as he is the only man with real knowledge of the natives. Also we are terribly short staffed again, as soon as we get a decent crowd they are sent elsewhere it seems. At present Armstrong is seconded to Fiji & probably won't return, now Cartwright has gone to Seychelles, also seconded, Macdonald has to go to Fanning as the present man has made such a hash of things, the old Major goes on leave & that leaves us with 3 young cadets & Harry for 4 districts & Sec. to Govt. so what hope ^{have} we of getting away? The Phoenix scheme may be put into operation any day but I think Harry will advise postponing things till after the rainy season as we have had such a long drought & the chances are we shall get good westees. If we don't things will be pretty bad. Nauen looked simply dreadful, even the palms with yellow leaves & not a blade of grass or a green bush. Ocean has fared better but looks pretty bare & brown & dusty. I don't quite know what will happen to me & Alarie, I don't think we can go with the first trip to the Phoenix & may go to Bevu where we shall be

handy to fetch. Whether Harry gets leave or not in February remains to be seen, we are just living from day to day but I expect I'll have to take baby down anyhow to see if his foot is going on all right, it is looking pretty good, just the front joint is inclined to bulge & turn in, rather as though he had a bunion.

He really is a darling thing, plays & talks by himself & has hardly cried at all since we got here. It seems as though he knows he has come home! He loves the little rattles you sent him, the one he had was rather large. He is chewing everything he gets his hands on & looks as though he may teethe early. He is well ahead in everything but weight but I think he is just a small baby because he looks lovely. His head is very strong now & he is doing things which the books say a 4 months baby does. I haven't persuaded Harry to hold him yet though he has had him on his lap, looking agonised till I removed him! Thank you very much for the parcels, baby will love that suit with pockets! I haven't had time to digest your letters & I'm afraid this is just scribbled but I wanted you to have news as soon as possible as I gather that Harry hasn't exactly inundated you with letters. He certainly has his hands full for the next few weeks. The new

Residency is rather palatial but extremely nice - much better than any of us expected. Harry stayed there for 2 weeks & says it is quite cold & he had blankets every night.

It is gorgeous to be back again at last & Baby appears to revel in the climate. It is quite chilly at nights owing to the drought & suppose a very pleasant.

With much love from us all

Your loving

Honor.

Ocean Island,
Central Pacific.

19. 10. 38.

Dearest Sir Walter & Lady Maude,

I have just been browsing through an accumulation of letters from you - as I know ~~Harry~~ won't have a minute for letter writing for some time I must answer his letters as well as my own. He is having a terribly strenuous time whilst the Recruit is on, being the only one left in the Secretariat & that includes court work about twice a week.

I am feeling fairly settled now though I haven't even finished unpacking my cabin trunk or packed away thick clothes. I am doing things very slowly this time & not worrying about things being just so. Everything, of course, revolves round Baby & by the time he is bathed & fed I'm just about ready for a nap myself. Harry leaves us at 8 a.m. & doesn't return till 5.30 or 6 p.m., I send his lunch up to him & unless caught by callers I go to the office & walk home with him. We dine at 6.30 p.m. then do one or two Hawaiian string figures from my recent rough notes & retire between 8.30 & 9 p.m. I, of course, have to get up again at 10 p.m. & 6 a.m. but Harry gets from 9 till 7 which he needs.

Baby has been such a good little soul that Harry hardly knows there is a baby in the house, except when he goes to see him. At present he sleeps from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. with just one break at 10 p.m. for feeding, he doesn't show the least signs yet of going without the 10 p.m. feed, I wish he would! He won't sleep much during the day although left alone in his cot, he just plays away quite happily

• I am told other babies are the same. We have changed his complement from Ideal milk to Vi-lactogen on the advice of the new doctor here. I wasn't satisfied with the ideal & he thought it quite unsuitable & is supplying me with Vi-lactogen so we changed at once & Baby loves it.

24.10.38.

The result of one week on Vi-lactogen is a gain of 14oz! I admit I wasn't pleased before but I don't want as much as that put on. I don't expect it will happen again but I've cut out one small bottle in the morning & will see what happens.

We do not know yet when we can go on leave but Harry now talks of applying for January as we would then be ready to go to the Phoenix as soon as the rainy, & stormy, season is over - if we get one. If we are to get rain it should come in another month & I sincerely hope we do get it. Some of the Gilbert islands are in a bad way & are having to be given coconuts from the Ellice islands. The R.C. wanted to give rations of rice but Harry protested as he knew that the Gilbertese would (a) apply for it when it wasn't necessary as it is a luxury for them & (b) Have a feast & gorge the lot. Mr^s Garvey (Acting R.C.) wouldn't believe him but we see that since visiting the islands has agreed to the coconut scheme! I trust the High Commissioner will see the sense of giving Harry a holiday before starting the strenuous job in the Phoenix but you never know. Everyone tells me that the Autumn is the best time to be in N.Z. from Feb or March

to May, then it begins to get cold. I've been in Auckland twice at that time & it was really lovely, Feb: might be a bit hot but Dec: & Jan. are the worst months & after June till Sept. is very cold & stormy. I would love you to see Baby while he is small but it seems as though it may be difficult unless we wait a year for leave or you come up here. Baby loves the rattles you sent him, he took the ring with the three balls in it almost immediately but he loves the empty ring!

I am sending you a copy of Harry's report on the Phoenix, I wish I'd sent it before but I understood that Harry had sent you one. Now he says he wants to write to you about it but that may mean waiting weeks so I think you had better have it. He has a wonderful collection of photos, taken with my little camera (which I'm never allowed to have!) & enlarged. I've only been through them very quickly but I'll try to get Harry one day & we'll sort them out & label them & send you some. M^r Jones, whom Harry may have mentioned, who was in charge of Hell & Sydney, wrote a long letter the other day saying Harry had saved his life & that he now weighs, goodness knows how many stone instead of being as thin as a rake. Harry apparently said to him one day when they were discussing M^r Jones' bad health, "why don't you eat this weed, (*Sesuvium portulacastrum* I think) the fathers tell me it is very good." M^r Jones proceeded to eat this daily & is a new man, isn't it grand?

I'm sorry I was so discreet about the object of the Phoenix trip, it was very secret at the time. I don't see how we can colonise them till this long drought breaks, it is a nuisance. Mr Garvey was telling me that it is the longest, though not the most severe, since 1901. Delia Macdonald says they had rain one night, or only one heavy shower then, whilst I was away & that is all in the 7 months. There has been no westerly since 30/31 except for one slight one in the 35/36 season.

About those travellers cheques for £15. I've been begging Harry for about 2 years to write about them. They were left in his trousers pocket when sent to be cleaned, we blame each other for not turning out the pockets but I expect I should have been more careful, & when we went to enquire the cleaners said that anything found was always destroyed. Seems a bad policy in a way but evidently that's what happened. Any chance of getting the money? It ^{is} Jersey, so please leave it in the Midland Bank, ^{we} like to have a little money at home.

Do you dislike the name Floric or ^{is it that} do you think it too long? We like it more & more & everyone here uses it & says they like it. It really does grow on one & as long as he remains fair & blue eyed it suits him well.

I am so sorry poor Beamish had to go.

my old Kouea will have to be put to sleep when we go on leave I'm afraid. He is getting very lame - has decided to live with the boys but I shall hate it. Harry wanted to do it before I returned + I wish he had, but the boys begged him to let them keep him.

We have had no more news since Mabel was so ill + I wonder very much how she is progressing.

You say you will soon be sending books for Alaic, I believe they begin to turn pages over at about 8 months so it will be nice to have books ready. We have several very nice books about children + it is so exciting watching the progress month by month. As far as we can see baby is well ahead - He hasn't found his toes yet but his wee thumb gets chewed quite a lot. He hasn't learnt to close the rest of his hand whilst thumb sucking + looks so funny with his fingers ^{spread} over his face. He can bang a rattle quite well + will hold on to it for half an hour without losing it. His voice is a source of great amusement, he loves to try new noises but coughing is still very popular. His foot is looking wonderful, it has improved in the last 2 weeks + no one would know it had been turned in so I hope it will be no more trouble to us or him.

The new salary scheme has not gone through. The C.O. cried off at the last moment owing to what they describe as the dubious financial state of this colony. Rather amusing as they insisted on it in the first place. I'm afraid it is due to

some extent to Sir Arthur Richard's rather big ideas for the colony. £48,000 for a hospital at Tarawa for instance! The new Residency of course cost £15,000 or more, a lovely building but perfectly ridiculous when Ocean won't be used for more than 20 to 30 years more.

Harry was "Officer in Charge" whilst the Acting R.C. was in the Group. In a couple of weeks they all go over to Tarawa for a 3 weeks conference, Baby & I can't go of course, it wouldn't be fair on Baby, then Macdonalds go to Fanning Island & the R.C. goes too for the trip & back leaving Harry in charge again & we hope to go on leave in Feb. so it looks as though we shan't see the Gilberts for some time which makes me rather sad, I haven't been over for 3½ years.

Harry is so very anxious to write with the Report that I'm keeping it back one mail, if he can't write by then I'll send it.

With much love from us both,

Your loving,

Honor.

Ocean Island.

18th November, 1938.

Dearest Lady Maude,

We have had a most exciting week in more ways than one & the outcome of it all is that Harry is to proceed to the Phoenix almost immediately & goodness knows how long he will be away. Although we knew that the Phoenix scheme might be put into operation at any time we didn't think it would happen until March as our bad season is upon us & it would be quite impossible, if westerly weather materialises, to land cement & possibly people, for weeks at a time. When the first radio arrived this was pointed out to the H.C. but they say that "for political reasons" Harry must take advance parties at once. Of course it is very sad for baby & me but I'm glad Harry has had us for some weeks, it is quite out of the question for us to accompany Harry, in fact I couldn't have gone even if I had not had Alasia but we can go the second trip, some time next year. Our plans at present are that I shall stay here where I can get news of the expedition, as Harry has a good portable wireless & a boy who knows the set from A. to Z., at any rate till January or February - then, if Mother can't come up here I shall go to her & have a flat in Auckland. I hope Harry can get leave as soon as the first expedition have really got things going, then he can join me & we can return together. It was all arranged that we should go on leave in January but Suva won't hear of it. Harry is minus his bottom denture as he had to have a tooth out on which the thing

depended so he should get away to have it fixed up. The first trip should take about 3 months with good weather. Suva is being most trying, they seem to think we are all half-wits. When Harry pointed out that going immediately would probably entail terrific costs if the ship was hanging off islands for weeks at a time because the parties couldn't land they replied that they had been in touch with Canton who reported that there had been no westerly there last season. We could have told them that & also that there has been no real westerly here for about 6 years but it shows every sign of breaking now! We had terrific excitement here a few days ago as we had westerly winds, cloudy skies & awful humidity for several days & then the whole of the western horizon at mid-day one day was as black as it could be & a gale of wind came up. You wouldn't have thought it possible that it could have passed over but it did, we had a few spots of rain & the wind simply blew everything away. However at Nauen they got 2 inches & Tarawa have also had rain so we live in hopes.

All the Administrative people are to meet at Tarawa next week for a conference but Harry has had to forego that pleasure, he goes to Tarawa on the 21st with the others but only to confer with Ruene Philip's manager & will be back in a week. The

Expedition is supposed to leave here on Dec: 8th but it may be a bit later. Macdonalds leave for Fanning Island in January so I'm going to feel a bit left!

Harry is taking a half-caste with him who knows the Phoenix well having lived there for some years. He knows all about the landings & which fish are poisonous & besides that is an expert at cement cisterns & carpentry & is a very pleasant person, his name is Jack Pedro but is usually called by ^{his} native name "Kima" (Keema). Teikagawa of course is going & the new cook so their wives have to go to their homes at Tarawa & Tabiteuea. That leaves me & Teira, the nurse, & I'm trying to find a nice married couple to be with us. What I shall do with her if I go to N.Z. I don't quite know. Teikagawa & his wife going away make things difficult as she has no other relations here so I shall talk it over with Mrs Faskman when she comes here in a couple of weeks & I may take Teira with me, I don't want to lose her as it would be impossible to get another so well trained.

Later: "Himanoa" has just come in & brought some letters from Beem, one of them written by Miss Bateman on May 1st, really I don't know what they do with them over at Tarawa! My letters to Harry too, written after baby had arrived have turned up with a note on the corners saying "You left this on board", as if he'd ever seen them. I don't know who was sitting on them but poor Harry got no news until he got to Ocean, & now all the snags arrive. It is most annoying when I think how Auntie went dashing round

to get them off in time. Golly, it's hot! It must rain soon, I'm just boiled sitting quite still, we might be back in Pemba! The wind is back in the east but there are rain clouds all round. Baby doesn't seem to mind at all, just goes on smiling & being contented. Everyone says what a wonderfully good baby he is & we swell with pride. Harry is very thrilled about the Phoenix of course but he does hate having to leave us again, especially as baby alters so quickly & nearly every day shows some new sign of intelligence. He has had his toes in his mouth now, plays very successfully with a large celluloid doll with a bell inside it, pulls himself to a sitting posture if you give him your fingers, rolls from side to side exploring with his hands & he loves to get hold of his mosquito net, pull it all out! Harry thinks he is very sensitive to music because he keeps perfectly still when he plays the gramophone & when he puts on a soulful Maori song baby nearly cries & has to be removed!

Teira has had an awful cold, like the rest of them, for about 2 weeks & I have not dared to let her touch Alacie so I've been very tied. On top of that there seem to be masses of dinner parties & calls, all due to Harry's social success as a grass widower I'm sure, he can't blame me this time. That left me with a short time in

The mornings for letter writing & each morning something or someone has prevented me from getting on with it. Delia Macdonald comes down to see Alarie bathed as they will be leaving soon & although I love having her it means a whole morning gone. Yesterday I had M^{rs} English here in tears & I must say I sympathise with her. A senior, but single officer pinched her house whilst they were on leave & they were given the transit quarters we were in last time. She was awfully good about it, which was more than anyone expected as she is American. Also likes everything just so & had worked hard in the garden of her own house. Everything was all right till the westerly gale blew up & then the house nearly fell on top of them, as everyone suspected it would & she of course, was petrified, hardly sleeps at night & unfortunately, being Treasury & not Administrative & very junior, she felt that the R.C. had no idea what was happening. Harry is going to see if he can do anything tactfully because the poor thing has had a bad spin & the other women would be kicking up a frightful row if it had happened to them.

19th

Alarie is 5 months old to-day, did I ever give you the date? 19th June, a Sunday, & at 9.30 p.m. He was 10g. under 13 lbs last week & to-day I can see he is going to be well

over, I weigh him before his 10a.m. feed - this must be posted before then.

You can imagine the preparations that are going on for this expedition to the Phoenix, we are all up to the eyes in lists + packing. I'm sending the Report this mail but the scheme is not being carried out quite the same owing to the sudden hurry + the fact that it is being started at the wrong time of year. There will be 30 ^{natives} ~~parties~~, they will go to 3 islands, Hull, Sydney + Gardner + leave 8 natives at each, the remaining six are Harry's + will go with him all the time. Canton + Enderbury are the only ones we are to share with the U.S.A. + neither, as you will read, are suitable for colonization at any rate for some years as they are not planked at all. These parties will have to build themselves a house + then get to work clearing + planting. They are taking rations for 4 months + after that it is hoped that they will be settled down + able to live on the land at Hull + Sydney, ^{but not Gardner.} Harry will be dividing the islands into suitable blocks of land for families. They have to take everything with them of course, from rations to tools + fish hooks + clothing. I think we have ordered everything now for the natives + I shall get Harry's stores ready whilst he is at Tarawa this time. I suggested that

They should take some fishing line that I have had for ages for a net & they could make it up if they have had weather & have to drift off the islands waiting for a calm day to land. However Teikarawa assures me that no one would dare to use it as the sharks are so bad! I gather that one hops ashore quick & lively; what happens if a canoe overturns is a scramble for the keel.

I went to a big Mah Tong party & competition yesterday afternoon, it was most exciting but very exhausting as we were there from 3 to 6. This is the only letter I have managed to get written so all my Christmas mail will be very late I am afraid, no doubt people are used to that anyway!

By the way Dorothy Thickett has a daughter, Susan Elizabeth, born soon after I left Australia. We would very much like some books for Alarie, Beatrix Potter's, Mother Goose, the edition with illustrations by Roger Duvoisin if possible & written by William Rose Benet. How Percival caught the Python, Little Black Sambo & a Rag Book for use very soon. There are also number of books issued by the Oxford University Press in inexpensive paper covered miniature books, 32mo. I'm trying to hurry a as usual

it is a case of more haste less speed.

I was furious last mail when I found that the air mail rate here was still 1/6, the slackness or lack of forethought in the Treasury is deplorable. I'm sending this to Mary Collier, in Sydney, & asking her to post it on, it's only 5¹/₂d. from there & I want you to get the news quickly.

With very much love from us both from

Your loving,

Honor.