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Converse, Charles Albert.
Letter to "Dottie and Little
Tiddlers"

London, England

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Saturday, Oct 28th

Dearest Dottie and Little Tiddlers,

You are now well out into the old Atlantic well on your way home and I must admit that it is not without relief to me. The constant fear that something might break was with me continuously while you were still here. Funnily enough, just after your departure things did start to look blacker and I wouldn't be surprised to see things start in a big way at anytime now. So that thought has been a small crumb of comfort to my thoughts. I will relax completely when I know that you have arrived safely in New York. Unfortunately, I can't write this letter to you in Jersey for I promptly lost the card you gave me out of my pocket. It was probably found on the ship or even in the cabin. I hope that not hearing from me in N.Y. didn't cause any worry. It might not have been time anyway. You left me with no idea as to how long you plan to stay with Aunt Emma (couldn't cable her either for the same reason).

I was so pleased with your setup on the Washington and Know that you were most comfortable and enjoyed the crowd. It looked as though there were some rather interesting people aboard. I hope that the voyage thoroughly rested you and that you will be prepared to thoroughly enjoy your reunion with Cile and all of your old friends. Then too the children should be as happy as bedbugs in all of that lovely sunshine and fruit. Our winter has really set in now and it has been as cold as the devil for the past three days. I am damned pleased that the four of you are going to get a really good dose of sunshine. You really need it.

After we left the boat we went up to Nick's flat and talked and talked. Willard's flat is just across the hall. We fixed a scrambled egg supper and then Ed suggested that we stay the night as it was such a poor prospect sitting in the train in the dark all the way to London feeling low. We got to bed at a seasonable hour and got up at six to catch the six-forty-seven train arriving at Waterloo at 9 o'clock. It was a good break for Ed to talk over old times and Nick and I had plenty to talk about. It was much better than dragging up here.

This week has been comparatively quiet at the office although everyone is extremely busy. The flat goes on as usual. I am afraid that there is no news from that front. Mrs Foster-Brown telephoned me for lunch tomorrow but I hedged. I don't know whether I will go or not. I had an idea that I would like to take a bus into the country and take along walk weather permitting. We went out for a short walk last night. It was lovely. The moon shining and the air very crisp and very cold. We had something on Thursday that I have never seen in England before, a thunderstorm in October and it was cold as the devil at the time too.

We all feel that some changes might come about here at any time now but no one seems to know anything definite. There seems to be sort of a feeling of unrest caused by the uncertain war condition and also the lack of information as to what the Department plans for us. We all agree however that we can only sit tight and wait. It would be a very bad move to try and hurry them in any way. There are so many posts and officers to consider. They will have their hands more than full without any of us making it harder.

Ed and I have been accused of having inside dope. The Department cabled the day you left to the effect that per diem would be limited to a maximum of \$150 per month per family as from November 1st. I was confident that something like that would come through ~~and~~ and I wouldn't be at all surprised to have it eliminated all together soon. That is after they give everyone one last chance to get their families out, I was speaking to Mr Erhardt this morning about the possibility of our getting some sort of an allowance for our families at home. He agreed with me that it would be the thing to do and said that something like that might come through before too long. I certainly hope so for it is going to be very hard sledding for those of us who have sent our families home. Our case is the toughest of the lot so we will have to wish the hardest that something will come through. I will mention it from time to time to Mr Erhardt.

Please don't forget to send \$10 to The American Foreign Service Association, State Department for my 1938/39 and 1939/40 dues. They are \$5 per annum. I will try to add the \$10 to my next check to you so that you will not be penalized. Write a short sweet letter to Col. Simpson advising him of your address and mention the fact that I had written to him, and that I had requested that you advise him of your whereabouts. I am anxious to know how much he puts himself out to remit a fair amount to you each month. I have a real fear for the next three months with those notes coming at the bank but when those are finished and all of the outstanding bills are paid, I will breathe once again even if be for only one breath.

I went by the flat the other day and it was a pretty grim experience. I don't think that I will go there anymore than I absolutely have to. I went by then to get my heavy grey coat. I will leave everything status quo until I get some word or until my lease is out. I don't think that ~~wait~~ will have too long to wait before the Department lets us know how the land lies.

Kiddies I want you to absorb all of the American culture that you can and remember you are your Daddy's little ladies and gentleman. Must work hard at school and stand high in your classes. It will prepare you in the best manner possible for whatever line of endeavor you decide upon in the future. Be neat and tidy and at all times try to save Mother as much worry and effort as you possibly can and WRITE OFTEN TO DADDY AND TELL HIM ALL YOUR PROBLEMS. You have a wonderful opportunity now to further advance so take full advantage of it and fill every waking minute with something worth while and make every little job a success. Spare no effort, anything worth doing at all, is worth doing well.

I am trying to get more sleep and am breaking away from the twelve o'clock news. Take good care of yourself and keep your chin up and have a really good time. I am counting on you to do that. Give Cile and the boys my love. All my love to my precious little family and God Bless you,

Charlie
Hundreds of people, who have heard
now that you have sailed, send their
love to you. Cynthia is doing nicely.