

Apt 49  
382 Route Cohen  
Shanghai  
March 31, 1938

Dear Mary,

I was glad to get your letter of February 18th, for now I feel that connections have been reestablished, and we ought to be able to keep in touch from now on. I think that I have finally gotten most of the letters you have written, both the ones to me and the ones to Plumer which have been delivered to me here in Shanghai, since there has been no mail communication with Hanking for four months. I hope that since my first letter from Shanghai reached you, all the others have too, so now you know as much about us as it is possible to tell in letters. Just within the last two or three days mail connections with Hanking have been reopened, so now we can send letters to Plumer that way. I have had two from him that have come by ordinary post. Of course these letters will probably be even more strictly censored than the ones into Shanghai, and we have reason to know that the Shanghai censor is at work, so we will have to choose our words carefully. However it is some satisfaction to know that there is a mail service of sorts again. I am still sending anything of importance to Plumer through the gun boats, and I hope this service will continue.

Plumer says nothing at all about coming to Shanghai. I know that the men do not want to leave till they feel fairly sure that they will be able to get back, and so far they have not had that assurance, so they have just stayed where they were. Just today Plumer said (or rather he said in a letter that came today) that Earle Bates expects to come down April 2nd. I hope that means that they will all be able to get away at least for a little while some time in the near future.

Shanghai is quiet and peaceful, at least on the surface. I do not know what is going on underneath. There is very fierce fighting just now in Shantung and Shansi, and the Japanese are getting rather the worst of it according to the most reliable reports we can get. Of course they do not admit it, but even their own reports say that "they have not yet taken such and such a town", or that "they are consolidating their position in such a place", and that probably is as much as they will ever admit, while what it really means is that they are in retreat. I rely on Reuters reports, and this is what they say. However the end is not yet, and I do not allow myself to get too optimistic.

There is very little news from Angie and me. We go along in our regular way, spending a lot of time on school work, and filling in what is left with very simple sorts of things. I have been having a number of small teas to square my social obligations, and I go out to teas fairly frequently, but as I have no escort, and anyway as I do not like to leave Angie alone in the evenings, I am home mostly after six o'clock. We are having grand spring weather now, and that tempts both



of us to spend as much time outside as possible. Jessfield Park is very lovely now, and we had a nice afternoon out there on Sunday. This spring weather makes me long for my own garden. I wonder if I will ever get back to my home and garden again! This all seems like a very bad dream, but I am afraid the awakening is not going to be very pleasant either.

We have made no plans for the summer. Japan or some Japanese controlled territory seems the only possibility and I don't think that would be much of a vacation for me the way I am feeling now. So I think we will just stay here in Shanghai. Many people are planning to stay, so I will have plenty of company. If Angie has companionship I don't think she will mind the heat.

The last letters I had from Harriet were written after her semester grades had come out, and she did very well, and was feeling much better than she had just before examinations. I am anxious now to hear what plans she makes for her spring vacation. We will be having that vacation before long now - just one more week for us, and I suppose it will be about the same with you and with her.

I am enclosing the last that I have had from Plumer.

Please give my love to any members of the family that you may see.

With love from Angie and me,

Cruella.