

Recd Nov, 24^{xx}

KUNMING ! Box 92-15
Yunnan Prov. China
October the 16th 1940

My dear Gladdys:

How happy you must be to be home and out of this perfectly terrible mess. It gets worse every day. You certainly did pick the right time to go home. Now, we are all wondering if we will get home- not when. We as you know are having raids. Had our 1st one on the 30th of Sept. which was on the town starting with the Du Commerce- gardens---- and ending way thru town. Hit the railroad yards-- several bombs in there--- and the French Bank finished-British Hospital and Nurses home hit----- and all thru that section-- The official report was 200 killed and 400 wounded--- but they dug for days for bodies. People didn't go out--- had been having false alarms. Then too, when the urgent goes off- the gates are shut and heaven help anyone that hasn't gotten out. They closed the East Gate--- and a bomb hit right there killing dozens and also getting a car that couldn't get out---- People that had come too late and were just hiding about --- The Industrial School was out that way and were terrified by bombs dropping 50 yards from them on both sides- They moved that night across the lake- takes 4 to 6 hours by boat.

Next raid- Oct. 7th- and they bombed the Cotton mill--- and killed a lot of people out in the fields--- also hit the circle road in many places and people hiding by the banks were killed. They fell only 1/2 mile from ~~edge~~ and I thought for a time I had my last day on earth.

Last Sunday was the worst-- Brot in dive bombers- and they dove over in the cotton mill area again- coming less than 1/2 mile from here. I have been sick about a week and we didn't go out only for about 1 1/2 hours---- I had to come home--- and then the fun started --- We had been out about 2 miles and they came in and machinegunned the field- then nothing happened and we returned.

Then 27 bombers came in and they really destroyed the Blind School- 3 direct hits and it is the worst possible mess I have ever looked at. Got the Colonel's house too- he is living with Carney but is in Chungking at present finding out something. They got a little of the University up there----- and dropped very near the Am. Consulate. They have holes in places and broke Kay's only nice big mirror she lugged up from Shanghai. She plans to leave if this keeps up- going to Burma.

They broadcast they would bomb the Da Kwan Loa yesterday and your factory-- but didn't come in. you can imagine the state of people's minds here----- no one knows what to do nor where to go. Mrs. White left about 3 weeks ago to the resort in Burma- she had malaria and more dysentery and now has had an ulcer in her rectum that broke thru into the vagina----- and that is one sweet mess which only an op can fix up--- I don't know their plans as I didn't see her before she left---

Kominatoes moved-- rather ~~is~~ moving lockstockand barrel to Rangoong and getting out of this firetrap. 1st raid didn't miss their stores very far. Also some dropped down by leather factory near Europe Hotel and also one fight across the canal onto the road. They had stayed in the hotel and were scared plenty. She is now in Hanoi getting radium treatment- which I have

we've even hurt the blind school
all girls moved to Kunming - 60 miles west.

diagnosed as Cancer -- as ^{are} her symptoms ~~as~~ perfect for it. She has been losing weight and looks like death itself- Has a discharge- and everything points to Cancer of the uterus--- I can't say I waste much time feeling sorry for her. She was so mean before she left she nearly drove everyone crazy.

Have to walk about 20 miles from town by Chinese

Mary Alice Brunke and baby left yesterday by last Special train for Hanoi---- also Mrs. Ludtz, Rathje, and all ~~the~~ German women and also all the Leidicks-(?) are going to Germany---- by way of Jap steamer to Shanghai and on----- Mary Alice plans to stay in Hanoi-- but I wonder about the safety of that later on.

Scotty is back--- had a baby girl less than 6 lbs. She is staying on in Manila- He and Adair both planned on bringing back wives and babies until the bombs started dropping. Adair had his back as far as H.K. already. Betty can't get visa to go to H.K. anymore. Mrs. Adair got hers the day before they stopped giving them. Adair's says one day he leaves tomorrow for home and the next day he is going to stay until Jan. Scotty is the same way and both will probably be here until the Japs take over. Adair saw his 1st raid last Sunday and he and Heston both were arrested for standing up----- so they are not anxious to see anymore of them. Peace and quiet in Yunnayi---- Pearl Heston is leaving soon for Rangoon- maybe also Mrs. Preston----- and on to Manila- to get out before the threat and bombing of the Burma road starts. We don't know what to do nor when- but we hope the Colonel knows more when he comes back than he did before going up. Kasy Sutter plans to go somewhere sometime---- but I wouldn't know until she got there-- but she says soon either to Chengtu or Shanghai---- and they are bombing Chengtu worse than here at present- so no point going there to escape.

both

Adairs also had baby girl--- over 7 lbs. named Barbara- Scotts got fancy and named it Moana--- Hawaiian name--

May is fine- also the baby is --- except has gotten violently ill on a few alarms taking it into the country- heat--- etc---

Roger Reynolds was married in Sept. to the Secretary of Pauley down in LoyWing---- they were married in Bombay-

Higgs is supposed to be enroute back out here-- but I haven't seen him. Saw an execution recently- and they let me take pictures Our garden is fine ----- still producing like mad-- but not quite so madly since the rains stopped. We sit and pray for rain these days so we can get something done. People have gone so crazy we run a lot of false alarms now because someone hears -- not sees a plane--- Lost 2 pilots- 2 ships when they tangled in dogfights and wounded 2 more pilots and cracked up their ships some--- -- Now have orders not to fight- lose too many ---

from us

Chengtu + Shanghai

you have

We lose our furniture next month the 10th-- May is lending us a few things. Going to sell the ice box very soon to get it off our hands. I don't want nothing around of any value the way the Japs bomb these days. Got to pack a trunk and get it sent out to Rangoon Want to go to H.K. and buy but afraid now they will send me to Manila- and I won't go- Bob carries cold lunches so he can eat anywhere-- Now goes at 6- rise at 5- what days--- and comes home at 1- Has had a lousy cold- but better now. Bill Law warmed his house recently- afraid if he waited much longer- no house- it w

a brawl. The reason we weren't bombed the double 10th- it rained that day- ^{to} write us - Our plans are still unknown -

The Peassons have been transferred back to Foochow- where they were 2 yrs. ago. Making trip by car and truck- 2,000 miles- Seems to be said it is a demotion for him. She takes it in stride- leaving in 3 days- or so-