

Kunming, Box 92-15
Oct. 25th. 1940

My dear Gladys:

I havewritten you 2 other letters telling you the most important events of Kunming and its inhabitants. I hope by now you have them-- you certainly knew the time to get out of here. The route to Indochina now-- 10 days ago--- had 52 kilometers of rails torn up. Mary Alife Brunke took her baby girl and went to Hanoi to escape the raids here. She wrote back and said they had to walk 2 days--- cost \$75. Piastres (I mean) to have coolies carry a smaller steamer trunk. Mrs. Rathje--also went to Hanoi. Mrs. Ludtz and Mrs. Leidick to Shanghai. Every day they remove 1 kilo. more of rails. It is now almost impossible to even consider taking the train.

The Burma road as you know is being bombed. We don't know what damage yet has been done but they managed almost daily to attempt to hit the bridge over the Mekong river. The drivers tell us if they do hit it-- transportation is finished-- as the river has so many rapids they can't sampan it across.

The saddest news I have to tell you is that Polly Ercot (I know the spelling is wrong) is dead. He was knocked down by a truck 2 weeks ago today. It was during an alarm and his leg was hurt. That same night we were at the Am. Consulate and he was telling me about it. Said he missed you and Charles so much O--- and he didn't even like to take his walks out that way anymore since you left. The following day on Sunday we had another alarm and he had to walk out into the country. On Monday he couldn't walk. Was taken to a small hospital about 20 miles out from town and in 2 days was dead--- Wed. the 16th-- It was supposedly from gangrene---but from my little bit of knowledge of gangrene-- it must have been gas gangrene to kill so quickly.

I have told you about Mrs. White-- She is in the health resort in Burma--- and has written Kay. Intends to get a house later-- is at present in the hospital.-- and stay there. Kay is still here-- Troy manages to get almost everyone out but Kay-- she won't go. I am glad she won't. I would miss her terribly. The baby is growing like a weed. Her only complaint is his ears stick out--- gets it from Troy--- I told her to put a hood on him at night. Kasy Sutter finally took off for Chengtu---- we didn't think she would ever get to it. The Col. has gone to the U.S.A. and you probably will see him before I get this to you. He was called back-- he says-- Carney is temporarily in charge. Col. doesn't know if returning or not. Scott is back and homesick for Manila etc--- has the "Kunming blues" Told you already I think the Col's house was hit--- also the Blind School is finished. 3 direct hits-- got some dandy pictures of it. Rotary club here is giving stat \$2,000. mex-- to them. Bob is trying to get the Americans to chip in here---- They haven't a cent. Lost everything. Sister Maria hasn't forgotten your kindness sending the thread. Neither have I.

I am sitting in the sun. Weather has the past 3 days taken a very sudden change for cold weather. We nearly freeze around here. Bob has donned heavies. We have an alarm on. Came on at 7:40 a.m. and before I could turn around a dive bomber was in bombing the town. Don't know his target nor what he really hit--- Alarm still on and now 12:30 p.m. Hope the boys come home soon.

We get up at 5 -- boys to field at 6-- makes long days. Yesterday under alarm from 10 to 4---- they are bombing the tin mines and also Mengtsze--- Also Poashan- and along the Burma road. Last raid here was again dropped on the British Hospital and center of town--- across from French bank and east--- down near the 2 Pagodas. Always someone killed of course, they will never learn. Every raid I have stayed at home they come in. If I sit in the country they don't come in. What to do! The police have gone crazy. I can't carry my red shan bag-- I have to wear dark clothes- I can't talk above a whisper. I have to sit all alone- I have to remove my coolie hat----- I think I go mad. Was stopped yesterday with the point of a rifle----- I am tired of it all.

The Basic school is moving to Chaotung--- 150 miles by air north and east of here. Right on the corner of Kweichow and Szechwan--- Bob and I are the only ones to go. Bob is first going up and see the set up before we decide to return to U.S.A. or to stay on. Right now it doesn't make much difference--- we are both tired of raids and alarms and such foolishness around here.

One of my fingers suffered a severe cut this a.m. -- and I can hardly type---as you have already noticed. McGehees - missionaries that came last April---- left for U.S.A. Most of them are clearing out. Troy has them scared. I can think of no one but Kay right now that I know at all. Most of the other women are living out in the country at various places.

Hope you saw the Angles. In case you didn't and lose track of us write to Mother Angle at 1214 16th St. Santa Monica---- Mrs. H.H. or to my Mother --- Mrs. L.M.Schultz- Reasnor, Iowa--- and they will know as I write them every 4 or 5 days. Am sure you know by now Harold Mull died out of Manila 2 days enroute to U.S.A. on a freighter- I don't know Lois whereabouts- We don't correspond. But if you want to know-- Babe Johnson's will know- she is in N.Y. -- I am sure I gave you her address.

Bob and I are both fine. We are selling the icebox to CarneyO McGeary has backed down. He got to close to a bomb--- and Bill Law had his house wrecked--- so he doesn't feel he can afford it- unless the company will buy it. We got kerosene from Rangoon---- had run out. Maybe sell the car too--- we don't quite know yet. I am still knitting -- in my spare time. Went to Perkins last night for dinner. She was telling us how they used coffee---- and we found out one of their boys has 20 tins for sale-- and didn't waste any time letting them in on it. They take the car out every alarm- with baby and Amah--- chow- and clothes- everyone does but me-- I am more afraid of the truck drivers than the bombs. Told you Roger Reynolds got married last month--- We got our supplies from Rangoon---- ordered June 10th-- not bad service- what? Pearl Weston is leaving very soon for Manila-- scared out too. Besides she can only stand the wilds for so long and then has to get out.

Other than that I don't think of any more news-- I think I snatch a snooze-- I get so whipped these days ~~at~~ with alarms going on- people going mad with fear- etc. Let us hear from you at this address. When I find out our plans will let you know. I am not going to get my Hanoi leather chairs--- I could weep. Our best to Charles--

Love,
Chris and Bob.

I plan to write in plain paper & send it to Bangkok -
 I was extremely worried -
 I am tired of it all.

Lutz was shot down by Pursuit - this a.m. -
 being away a plane out near Cape Tempel