

[⚓] (ANCHOR LINE ...)
S.S. CALIFORNIA

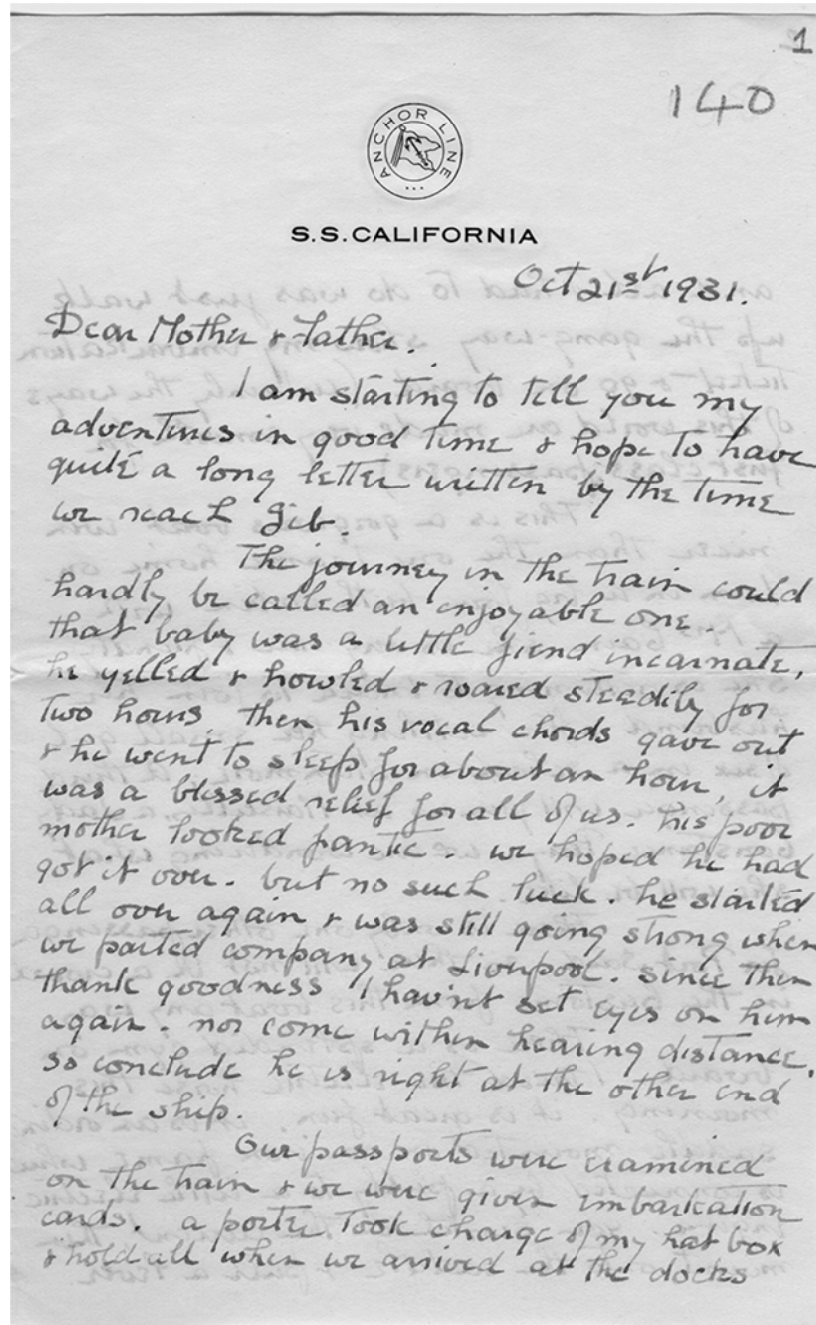
Oct 21st 1931.

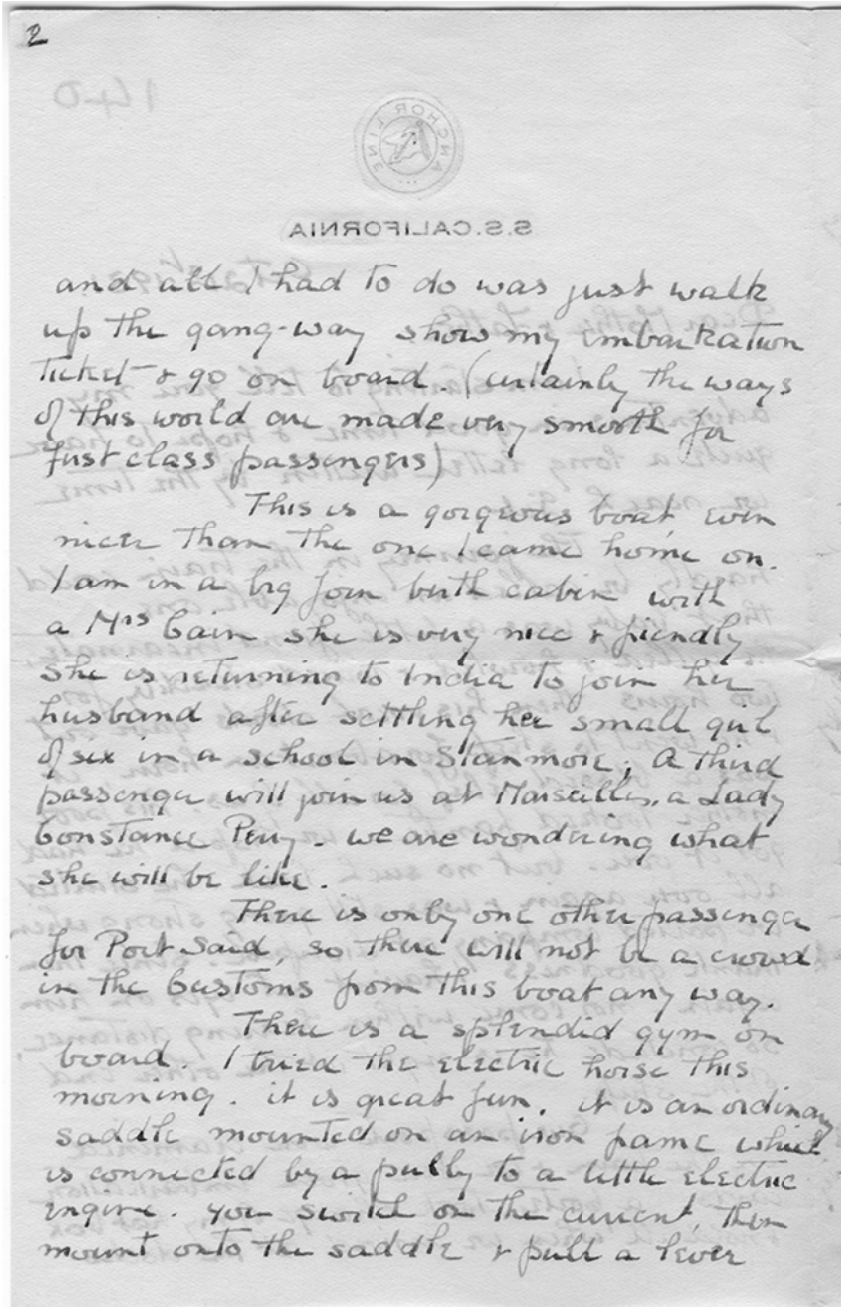
Dear Mother & Father.

I am starting to tell you my adventures in good time & hope to have quite a long letter written by the time we reach Gib.

The journey in the train could hardly be called an enjoyable one. that baby was a little fiend incarnate, he yelled & howled & roared steadily for two hours, then his vocal chords^{sic} gave out & he went to sleep for about an hour, it was a blessed relief for all of us. his poor mother looked frantic. we hoped he had got it over. but no such luck. he started all over again & was still going strong when we parted company at Liverpool. since then thank goodness I hav'nt^{sic} set eyes on him again. nor come within hearing distance, so conclude he is right at the other end of the ship.

Our passports were examined on the train & we were given embarkation cards. a porter took charge of my hat box & hold all when we arrived at the docks





and all I had to do was just walk up the gang-way show my embarkation ticket & go on board. (certainly the ways of this world are made very smooth for first class passengers)

This is a gorgeous boat even nicer than the one I came home on. I am in a big four berth cabin with a Mrs Cain she is very nice & friendly she is returning to India to join her husband after settling her small girl of six in a school in Stanmore; A third passenger will join us at Marseilles, a Lady Constance Perry. We are wondering what she will be like.

There is only one other passenger for Port Said, so there will not be a crowd in the Customs from this boat any way.

There is a splendid gym on board. I tried the electric horse this morning. it is great fun. it is an ordinary saddle mounted on an iron frame which is connected by a pulley to a little electric engine. you switch on the current then mount onto the saddle & pull a lever

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 & the saddle bounces up & down like
 a fast trotting horse. but of course it
 doesn't get any where. it is very good
 exercise, I got quite hot after a few
 minutes.

There are two bicycles that you
 can peddle madly on, while an indicator
 shows the distance you would have covered
 if the bike hadnt been anchored. there
 is also a running board that you can
 run on as fast as you can. & stay in
 the same place all the time. also a boat
 that you can row. & a punch ball &
 various pullys etc. I shall amuse
 myself in there quite a lot. I find it
 much more fun than deck sports.

There is a very good selection of
 books that one can change twice a day.
 Meals are first rate. & an orchestra
 plays during lunch & dinner & in the
 lounge in the evening.

I cant say I saw very much of
 Liverpool, we started about 6 o'clock
 it was getting dark & I watched the
 shore lights as we came out of the Mersey.
 This morning there hasnt been anything
 to see - except sea. there was glorious
 sunshine up to lunch time, since then

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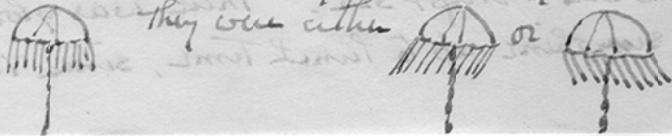
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4 the sky has been overcast, & now we are feeling a slight swell. quite a number of people have retired. my cabin mate is not feeling too happy she says she doesn't suffer from sea sickness, but gets a bad headache unless she lies down until she has got her sea legs.




Later

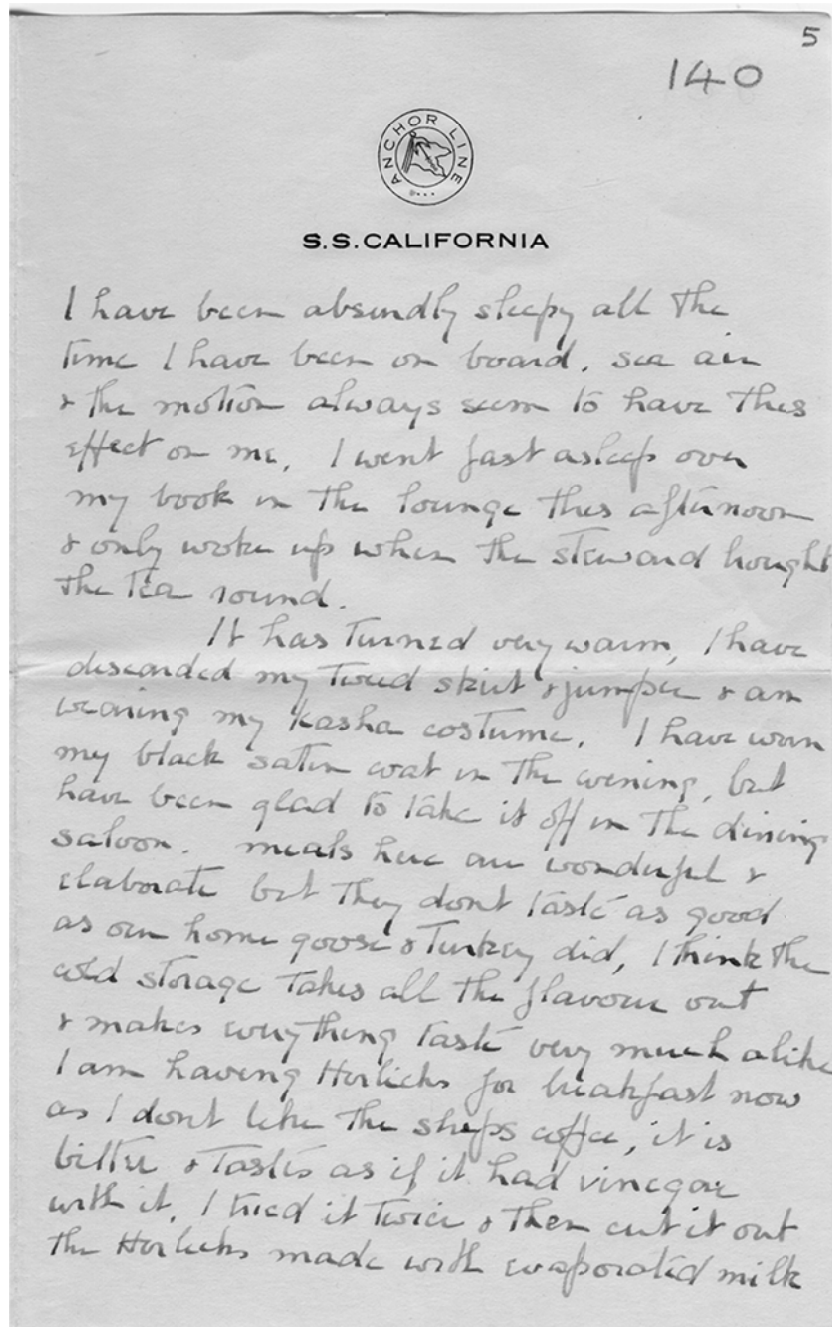
Life on board ship is very uneventful once one has settled down to the routine. There is a very nice lounge here, great deep sofas & chairs & an enormous fire place with what looks like a glowing coal fire burning, but which is really only an electric light, since the ship is steam heated all through. still it's much more cosy to sit round what looks like a fire. I was sitting there last night after dinner & it was difficult to realize one was at sea. there was no perceptible motion until I noticed the fringes of the two standard lamps on either side of the fire place behaving in a ridiculous way. instead of remaining thus



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S.S. CALIFORNIA

140 5

I have been absurdly sleepy all the time I have been on board, sea air & the motion always seem to have this effect on me, I went fast asleep over my book in the lounge this afternoon & only woke up when the steward brought the tea round.

It has turned very warm, I have discarded my tweed skirt & jumper & am wearing my kasha costume, I have worn my black satin coat in the evening, but have been glad to take it off in the dining saloon. meals here are wonderful & elaborate but they don't taste as good as our home goose & turkey did, I think the cold storage takes all the flavour out & makes everything taste very much alike I am having Horlicks for breakfast now as I don't like the ships coffee, it is bitter & tastes as if it had vinegar with it, I tried it twice & then cut it out the Horlicks made with evaporated milk

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We are due at Gibraltar 7 A.M
 To-morrow, I hear we stay only a short
 time so don't suppose I shall be
 able to go ashore. I am sorry as I did
 so enjoy my walk there last time (on
 P&O)

This seems to have exhausted
 all I have got to say at present.

Give my love to Pat when
 you see her please. also Mrs Childs.

All my love to you both
 Your affectionate daughter
 Myrtle.

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