



ON BOARD

[ ㊦ ]  
N.Y.K. LINES.S. Hakousaki MARU  
Thursday Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 1928.

Dear Mother &amp; Father

I am well on my homeward way. about a days<sup>sic</sup> sailing from Naples. so far we have kept good time. but the exact date of our arrival in London depends on how we get across the Bay. I hear it is possible that we may arrive Sunday evening. Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> & if the time is suitable shall come right up into the Victoria Docks. otherwise we shall put in at Tilbury. So I can not tell you more definitely when to expect me

It is rather fun being on a Jappy boat. I have a very nice cabin all to myself. everything very very clean all appointments very good. lavatory accomodation better than the French boat

but of course not nearly so posh  
or highly decorated. The only thing  
I do not like very much is the  
rather limited deck space.

The little Jap stewards are wonderful  
& I have a little slant eyed stewardess  
with a perpetual smile.

The people here are mostly English  
they seem chiefly of the merchant  
class. or connected with missions,  
there are very few women.

We have also some Japanese, they  
wear their native costume & all  
sit at a table together & eat with  
chop sticks. I have spoken to one, a  
very charming little lady with a  
complexion like sun ripened apricots  
I believe a great many people are  
getting off at Marseilles.

The food here is good in parts.  
The bread is the nicest I have ever  
tasted, their hot breakfast rolls are a  
dream. butter & milk also good.  
coffee very bitter. for breakfast

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I always have. fruit-<sup>13</sup> quakes or rolled <sup>3</sup>  
oats, eggs - rolls & marmalade.

Lunch & dinner menu vary every  
day. one can always be sure of  
a good serve of either beef or mutton  
lbt. & cold ham tongue etc.

I have sampled some of their made  
up dishes & found them distinctly  
"funny". The sweets are always  
good. ices every night. & lots of fruit  
so you see I am not doing badly.

Both The Imp & Mr Wainwright  
were very kind to me in Cairo, but  
I must say I found the time I spent  
there on my own distinctly dull  
after my exciting adventures out in  
the desert. El Gerzawy was unable  
to get leave to come to Cairo while I was  
there. he was so upset about it  
he wanted me to visit him again  
at Qau-el-Kebir before I came home  
Think of it, as far as from London to  
Londs<sup>sic</sup> end & back. in one day.

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He wrote me a most pathetic letter<sup>4</sup>  
 His quaint English is rather beautiful  
 This is what he says.

"It is absolutely impossible for me to  
 be able (even if I tried) to forget you, your  
 shadow is spread all over my place,  
 all over our villages & inhabitants; all  
 over our feelings.

I have had noticed that I should be forgiven  
 for my great love to you as you have wen  
 drawn towards you all natives you have  
 met. Either you may come for one day  
 or I will be more ill than now for your  
 absence."

He is perfectly genuine in all he says. but  
 of course one must make allowances for  
 the Eastern Temperment. He has specially  
 asked that I will tell you all about him,  
 the authority of parents over their children  
 is a great thing in Egypt even in the  
 matter of ordinary friendship.

Yesterday was the first day I have seen  
 any rain since I landed at Alexandria.  
 think of it 7 weeks sunshine - & such  
 sunshine - !

I do not know if my letters will get to you  
 before I do, but I think it likely.

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N.Y.K. LINE

S.S.

MARU  
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13 5

The sea does not look very rough but there is a steady swing on which makes it rather difficult to write. It is cold in the wind. but I expect I shall find it much colder before I get home it will be strange to be among people who all speak English again. I have got quite used to hearing strange tongues & seeing weird people. & I seem as if I have been away for ages. what a lot we shall have to talk about for a long time to come.

I do not suppose you will find this boat mentioned in the shipping news of the D.T. & I do not expect I shall be able to give you more definite news than that I expect to be home either later Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> or sometime Jan 23. you might be able to find out through

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13<sup>6</sup>  
Gooks or through the offices of  
the Nippon Yusen Kaisha Shipping  
company. (but the best thing is  
to expect me when you see me.)

Love to you both & all  
friends.

Your loving daughter  
- Myrtle -

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