

DORIS FLEESON

1937 - 1945

April 20, 1937

161

Dear Doris:

I have been meaning to write you ever since I heard of the generous recognition given you for the work which you did. I know it must have been a great satisfaction to you and I want to send this line of congratulation.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Doris Fleeson
National Press Building
Washington, D. C.

DD

100

May 19, 1939

Dear Doris:

Mrs. Roosevelt wants to get all the girls together before she leaves for the summer and suggested dinner in the garden here on June 7.

Will you reserve that night for a while? Something may turn up to change Mrs. Roosevelt's plans, but she hopes for no interference.

Sincerely yours,

Miss Doris Flesson
4400 Lowell Street
Washington, D.C.

THE NEWS

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

A

ful

May 24, 1939

Miss Malvina Thompson
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Tommy;

I shall certainly reserve
the night of June 7 for dinner in the garden with
Mrs. Roosevelt. It sounds like a grand party.

Sincerely,

Doris Fleeson

100

January 20, 1942.

Dear Doris:

Why couldn't Mr. Hall be invited to a Press Club luncheon and asked these questions?

Thank you for your letter. I do not feel I have been much help, but delighted that you feel I have been.

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Fleeson
14 Sutton Place South
New York, New York.

VDS

14 SUTTON PLACE SOUTH
NEW YORK

auth.
1/20/42

Jan. 14, 1942

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

It seems to me that Noel Hall's remarks illustrate perfectly why civilian defense should and must be civilian defense.

I wish there was some way his views could be used - effectively in the present discussions.

Isn't he head of the Ministry of Economic

warfare? Perhaps he could
hold a press conference in
Washington where he could be
asked to discuss this phase
- as "The Voice of Experience!"

Miss Craig McTeasby is his
assistant at the Embassy, if
my recollection is correct, and
of course would co-operate.

I enjoyed our evening
so much - you are a
mainstay to me.

Affectionately,
Doris Fleeson

100
February 20, 1942

Dear Doris:

I was so sorry that I could not be at the newspaper party, especially as I would have enjoyed participating in this recognition of your splendid work.

My congratulations.

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Fleeson
3016 Cortland Place
Washington, D.C.

THE NEWS

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 26, 1942

JL

H. H. H.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you very much for your kind note.
I am sorry too that you were not at the
newspaper party in New York because you would
certainly have been among friends.

Faithfully,

Deris Fleeson

100

April 7, 1942.

Dear Doris:

I am so glad to get your letter and delighted that you and Kay Hawkins are seeing each other. She is a grand person.

Do telephone when you get back as I want very much to see you.

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Fleeson
Apartment #6
429 South Virginia Street
Reno, Nevada.

VDS

Apt. 6, 429 South Virginia St.

Kenosha, Wisc.

April 1, 1942

ack
4/7/42

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am treasuring your letter. Of course I shall see you when I return which I expect will be the last week in April.

Please do not think I am too unhappy. It has been so long that all my tears of anger and resentment have been shed. Of course I don't like having to do this but I am sure I exhausted every possible compromise so I am at peace with myself.

I am so glad Anna is doing well. Please remember me to her and to John. I know well it is "always something" with a family - I was the last of six.

Doris got her bicycle and she is riding it to school. She was pleased to have a message from you.

We are being
be-friended here by Kay Hawkins -

AIR MAIL

ex - Mackay + O'Brien - and she tells
me Mrs. Dava sold her ranch here and
bought one at Elko, Nev.

Mrs. Hawkins seems very gay and
satisfied with life here. Her 13-year-
old son is a darling and to me
resembles Elin Berlin very closely. I
gather from Mrs. Hawkins' comments
that she is transferring all her money
and affairs to Reno. Her two O'Brien
daughters and her son are all in
boarding-school but coming here for
the Spring vacation.

You always inspire me with
confidence and courage and never
more so than now - perhaps I
never needed them so much! And I
am truly grateful.

Affectionately,
Doris Fleeson

AIR MAIL

P E N D I N G

100

June 8, 1942.

Dear Doris:

I was so glad to hear from you and I love the card.

I am so anxious to see you, and as I am to be in New York City on June 15, could you and Doris, or you alone, lunch with me at 29 Washington Square West, Apartment 15-A, at one o'clock?

I will have Diana Hopkins and a friend of hers, so Doris would have young company.

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Fleeson
c/o The News
220 East 42nd Street
New York, New York.

VDS

THE NEWS
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
220 EAST FORTY SECOND STREET
NEW YORK
TEL. MURRAY HILL 2-1234

June 2, 1942

*I have the record
of 29 hours in 11 days
at 29 hours 11 days
15-60 -*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I only wish I might have seen you the many times I have thought of you. I was sorry not to be in Washington for luncheon a week ago Saturday but I am working Saturdays now and have my Sundays and Mondays free.

When I returned from Reno, I found that John had reorganized the bureau with me out of it and I was ordered to report here to the broadcasting desk. We have recently made a tie-up with Station WNEW and write news-scripts which are broadcast every hour on the half-hour. It is a new enterprise which may get bigger or may not -- anyway, I am learning the routine. I understand that shortly I am to be transferred to something else.

I hated leaving Washington but it seemed best to fall in with whatever plans were made for me for the present. Dorothy Backer dickered with me to take her Washington bureau but for various reasons I should like to talk over with you sometime it did not seem desirable at the moment.

Doris and I are living at 180 East End Avenue at the corner of 88th street, Manhattan. Our telephone is Regent 7-3292. She is making her adjustments very well and I am not having any problem there.

I should like very much to see you sometime when you are in New York. I am free every evening and all day Sunday and Monday. Also I can arrange to get extra time off any time that I want it. The truth is that I am working less hard than at any time in the past ten years and I am finding it difficult to slow down. Naturally I don't intend to slow down permanently!

I should like to feel that I am more useful in the war than I am doing this work. But I did not see any place to offer my services. I have told Elmer Davis that if they give him any kind of war job and he thinks I could be useful to him I would do it. It was a great comfort to me to re-read Sir William Osler's famous lecture at Yale in which he advises one to live from day to day, doing each day's task well because that is the best insurance for the future. Have you ever read it? If not, may I send it to you? I believe it coincides with views I have heard you express.

THE NEWS

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
220 EAST FORTY SECOND STREET
NEW YORK
TEL. MURRAY HILL 2-1234

2...

I have been too busy getting settled and arranging for Doris' time to get lonesome. But of course I miss many things in Washington. There is virtually no news worth writing except the news from there -- certainly little else gets in the paper.

Please remember me to Tommy and Mrs. Helm. I do hope I can see you before too long.

Always affectionately,

Doris Fleeson

THE NEWS
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
220 EAST FORTY SECOND STREET
NEW YORK

June 20, 1942

He

100

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Of course we were sorry to miss lunch with you Monday and hope that we can see you sometime soon. I would like to have gone to your meeting that night but Monday is my day to take over Doris so I could not.

I offered my services again to Elmer Davis and he said he would keep me in mind. I would like to do war work but I have always to bear in mind that Doris is only ten needs a good deal of guidance. Fortunately I have a large and loyal family to help me with her.

I hope you are having as pleasant a summer as is possible these trying times. My best to Tommy and Mrs. Helm,

Affectionately,

Doris Fleeson

FROM

The White House
Washington

TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

MISS DORIS FLEESON
180 EAST END AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

I AM SO SORRY MY PLANS HAVE BEEN CHANGED AND I CAN NOT
GET TO NEW YORK IN TIME FOR LUNCH WILL SET ANOTHER DATE
AND HOPE SURELY TO SEE YOU BEFORE LONG

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

June 22, 1942

June 29 -
100

Dear Doris:

Would you and Doris like to
come up to Hyde Park with me on Monday,
the 29, on the 5:23 train and stay until
Wednesday morning?

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Fleeson
c/o The News
220 East 42nd Street
New York, New York

THE NEWS
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
220 EAST FORTY SECOND STREET
NEW YORK
June 10, 1942

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Doris and I will be happy to come
to lunch on June 15. We shall be there at 1 o'clock.
We are looking forward to seeing you and Diana too.

Affectionately,

Doris Fleeson

*ack
6/27/42*

*let Doris know when
to H.P. with. re. Sunday aft.
I stay over Sat. & S.*

Ms 5-23-42

100

July 13, 1942

Dear Doris:

Thank you for your letter and your suggestions of Miss Green and Miss Robinson. The I.S.S. has decided to take Robert Spivak, who has come down a little in his price.

I am so glad you and Doris enjoyed Hyde Park and hope to see you again before too long.

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Fleeson
The News
220 E 42, NYC

0

P.S. Thanks for Candles

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-1-1-42

THE NEWS
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
220 EAST FORTY SECOND STREET
NEW YORK
TEL. MURRAY HILL 2-1234

July 7, 1942

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Both Doris and I enjoyed our visits so very much and are deeply grateful to you for your kindness. Doris had a dentist appointment yesterday morning so I asked her to return in time for it. Her train trip was beautifully arranged and she arrived, very brown and in good order. And now she has braces on both upper and lower teeth. It's really never-a-dull-moment at that growing stage, isn't it?

You spoke to me about an experienced newspaper and publicity woman who might do a job at the International Student Service. My research has yielded one who is really promising. Her name is Eleanor Green and she has done both newspaper and publicity work for years, her most recent job being publicity for the New York at War parade. Eleanor is a middle westerner, a quiet, easy person who works hard and I believe has real ability. I wouldn't say that she was aggressive but I believe she could do a job in her field. She worked for Elizabeth Arden for several years and Miss Arden has a reputation for being hard to please. I know you would like Eleanor --she has taste and she is pretty and pleasant. I have known her for many years and have confidence in her. Eleanor Lambert, who is a publicity expert here and a topnotcher, told me she thought ~~in~~ Eleanor Green an excellent publicity woman.

There is another possibility --Selma Robinson who is now a reporter on PM. & I have known her off and on for years too but not nearly so well. She is able, I am sure, and I believe more aggressive and full of ~~ideas~~ ideas, than Green. If you want someone to take over, perhaps Selma would be best. But if you want someone with tact to work into a picture with other people, I suggest Eleanor Green. Selma, by the way, wants a permanent job, but will take an opening that will give her a chance to develop it.

I hope this is helpful to you. If there is anything I can do further, please tell me. It would be my pleasure :

Again thank you for a happy interlude in this rather confused summer --

Affectionately
Doris Fleeson

100
July 18, 1942

Dear Doris:

We haven't used the candles yet. We haven't sat still long enough for the mosquitoes to catch up with us! I'll let you know how effective they are as soon as we use them.

The name is Mrs. Zena Raset and she will be here all summer, care of Mrs. Roosevelt.

I should think Colliers would snap you up pronto. They have sent Martha Gellhorn to Spain, Finland, China, etc., so they must have some respect for a woman's ability, and they won't need any convincing as to yours.

"Evalyn's" doesn't sound relaxing to me, but perhaps I know only of the "cozy" parties she gives. Our summer isn't exactly restful - too much moving back and forth.

We will be delighted to have you back in Washington - so will be rooting for the Collier job.

Much love,

Miss Doris Fleeson
The News
220 East 42d Street
New York, New York

THE NEWS

NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER
220 EAST FORTY SECOND STREET
NEW YORK
TEL. MURRAY HILL 2-1234

July 15, 1942

Dear Tommy:

It was nice to hear from Mrs. Roosevelt this morning. I'm going to ask you sometime for the truth and nothing but the truth about those candles. If they are any good I can use ^{some} ~~them~~ myself in my villa on ~~120th Street~~ East End avenue!

Will you please send me Mrs. Razzatt's name -- Zema -- I can't seem to get even an approximation of her name. Anyway I want to write her a note and I don't approach it enough to do so.

I am taking Doris to Washington this evening to go on a vacation with her father at a North Carolina resort. I expect she will be gone about two weeks and I must say I shall relax considerably while she is gone. I shall stay at Friendship and attend one of Evalyn's small informal dinners for 150. Also I have Plans.

The fact is that I understand Collier's wants a Washington correspondent and it sounds like a good job for me. So I am going to stifle my blushes and see that they learn about my merits. Maybe they won't take a woman but I live in hope.

*It was grand seeing you and
Much love
Doris*

file

100

May 20, 1943.

Dear Doris:

Mrs. Roosevelt will be in New York City on Sunday the 23rd, as she told you, and wants very much to see you so she hopes you can come to supper with her at the apartment, 15-A, 29 Washington Square West, at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Roosevelt has to go to a meeting at 9:00 p.m., in the interest of the situation in Harlem. Justine Wise Polier asked her to go, and if you would like to go with her, she would be delighted to have you.

I am sorry I won't be in New York on Sunday, but this is a flying trip (literally) and I am not needed so I shall stay here. I hope if you get to Washington again before you go that I shall have a chance to see you.

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Fleeson ~~Washington~~
Cardozo Hotel
Washington, D.C.
180 East End Avenue
New York, New York.

VDS

THE WHITE HOUSE

Miss Doris Fleeson,

~~Carlton Hotel,~~

180 East End Ave

New York City —

BY HAND.

Miss Doris Fleeson:

(Look up address in NY telephone book - it may be under Doris Fleeson O'Donnell and the address is East End Ave.

Dear Doris:

Mrs. Roosevelt will be in NYC on Sunday the 23rd as she told you and wants very much to ~~maxxyzux~~ see you so she hopes you can come to supper with her at the apartment, 15-A, 29 Washington Square West at 7:30 p.m.

Mrs. Roosevelt has to go to a meeting in the interest of the situation in Harlem. Justine Wese Polier asked her to go, and if you would like to go with her, she would be delighted to have you.

I am sorry I won't be in NY on Sunday, but this is a flying trip (literally) and I am not needed so I shall stay here. I hope if you get to Wash. again before you go that I shall have a chance to see you.

affec.

m.c.t.

Miss Thompson:

No success in locating New York
address for Miss Flesch.

However, she is in Washington
today at Carlton Hotel. Should this
letter be sent to her there, by hand?

VDS

Please readdress envelope -
It is in my Tel. book under
Hessan O'Donnell

July 26, 1945

100

Dear Doris:

I was glad to get a post-card giving me your address and I do hope you are having an interesting time.

I have just returned from a trip to the West Coast with a stop-off in Nevada for a few days to visit a friend who is out there for the usual reasons. While there I saw a newspaper man who asked me about you. He said he had heard you had gone abroad and I told him that was true, but I did not then know where you were.

Then I went on to Seattle to spend a few days with Anna, who is having a struggle managing the children, the house and her job on the paper, but she is such a gallant person I must confess I have great admiration for her as a person, in addition to my devotion to her as my daughter.

Do let me know how you are and how things are going. Best of luck.

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Fleeson, 773328
Co. Civilian
War Correspondent
APO #4637
c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

MCT:HY

Please address me as shown below until otherwise advised:

TYPE or PRINT NAME: **10023e** **501** Doris (First name) FLEESON (Last name) 773 328 (Army serial number)
civilian (Company, battery, etc.)
was correspondent (Regiment or other organization)

APO No. 4637

c/o POSTMASTER NEW YORK, N. Y.
The above complete address should be placed on all mail sent to me.

My cable address is AMGIBO

NORMAL SIGNATURE Doris Fleeson

The APO number, city, State, and cable address will be inserted by the post postal officer; the remainder of the card will be completed by individual concerned or designated person.

WAR DEPARTMENT

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

Hq., New York Port of Embarkation
Office of the Commanding General
1st Ave. & 58th St., Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mrs. Roosevelt

The White House
Washington, D.C.

NEW YORK
JUL 13 1945
8:00 PM

BRAND CENTRAL
ANNEX

August 4, 1943

11-4

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

After all the Army's care in providing me with tent and tent poles, I have landed in the Ritz here, and very comfortably too. However, this weekend I am starting to move around the country where I imagine things will be somewhat different and it will suit me just as well.

I find that I long, perhaps too much for a magazine writer, for activity and perhaps I shall have to change my gait. Any way, I feel fortunate in my first story--the journey with the WAACS on a troop ship was moving and an unforgettable experience. The WAACS exceeded even my expectations, and I can assure you that they did a fine job. It was amusing to see the older officers in command aboard the boat who were very suspicious of the whole performance, come to accept them and finally to act as if they had invented the whole idea. It was an earned tribute to a well disciplined group of nice girls and very conscientious officers.

As you will note in my story--you see I am assuming that you read your competition and I hope that you will read this and let me have the benefit of any advise or suggestions--the first message that we had from the British was one of appreciation for your visit here, ~~as~~ I tried to convey in my story, I got very definitely the feeling that the WAACS were being welcomed as envoys from American homes and American farms who did so much for this island and its children during the hard days. Certainly they were given a welcome by the reserved English that a Latin race could hardly excel.

There have been so many publishers and senators here that I could hardly feel homesick. Also Elmer Davis who is one of my old friends, but I do find that I miss Miss Doris very much and I shall make every effort to get home at Christmas to be sure that she is doing all right without me. I do not know if I told you that I expect her to go to the Lutney school

AIR ✉
MAIL

in Putney, Vermont, this winter. She visited it and apparently likes it. I think the climate and the change of scene will be nice for her, and it is said to be an excellent school. If she can get along well there during the school year and I can have her with me summers, I shall try to be content.

We get so little American news here, I do not know what you are doing, but I hope that you are able to make the journey we talked about. Now that I am so far from home, I know better than ever what it means when you go visiting. In fact, if you come back here I assure you I will be in the front line cheering.

Remember me to Tommy and Mrs. Helm. I shall hope to see you all on my return.

Always affectionately

Doris

Doris Fleeson
War Correspondent
Public Relations Office
A10 887, U. S. Army
c/o Postmaster, N. Y. C.

AIR 
MAIL

October 4, 1943

Dear Doris:

I have just read your first article in the Woman's Home Companion on the WAC's trip and it is a swell story.

Now I have a letter from Lady Reading saying how much she was impressed with you. She thinks you are going about getting your material in the right way. I gather you are going to live in homes all over England and she is going to help you. I think she can do it better than anyone else.

It is wonderful you have so many friends over there so you are never really lonely, though I am sure you miss Doris. Be sure to let me know if you get home for Christmas. If you don't and you would like me to try to have Doris come to us, let me know. Perhaps you will arrange for her to go to someone in your family. Having been away so much of the summer, I did not get a chance to see her and now that she must be in school I am afraid I will not get to Putney. I know Putney quite well because a very old friend used to spend her summers there. It is a delightful spot.

The trip I took was very interesting, but most exhausting emotionally as well as physically. I saw so many hospitals I can not even count them and I have come home with a pride in the young people of this generation which I can never express and a sense of obligation which I feel I can never discharge.

100

I went to New Zealand and Australia and made seventeen island stops. I never got to New Guinea because General MacArthur was too busy to bother with a lady. I did get to Guadalcanal and met the Senators on their return trip. They must have had an interesting experience.

Take care of yourself and write me how things go. I will continue to read your stories.

Affectionately,

0

Miss Doris Fleeson
APO 887
Care Postmaster, NYC

October 28, 1943

100

Dear Doris:

I was delighted to get your letter which evidently crossed mine to you.

If I go to Boston I will surely see Doris and, of course, I am delighted that your sister used my name.

I haven't seen your second article yet, but am watching for it. I am sure you could not be with the Air Force boys and not become attached to them and concerned about them. My admiration for all the young men is beyond expression.

I have been very busy since I got back. Our mail has been tremendous, but it is all encouraging in that it makes me feel my trip was worth while, my usual critics notwithstanding.

I talked to the Newspaper Women's Club in New York and also to both here in Washington, and many other groups, and I find a lot of interest in what I saw.

Do take care of yourself as well as you can.

Affectionately,

0

Miss Doris Fleason
A.P.O. 887
Care Postmaster NYC

211
10.28

September 15, 1943

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have received your letter of July 26. It was good of you to write me so promptly, and be sure that I appreciated it. I was delighted to see that you were able to take the Pacific trip and after being in a war theatre, I am more than ever convinced that it means much to the people away from home who will see you. I find the soldiers here very, very homesick and avid to "talk American". I must say that the Government has done wonders in giving them American surroundings, food, etc. I stayed at a bomber base and it was like a piece of home in many respects. I even had fried chicken dinner there the other night. The manner in which I waded in was a disgrace and I was saved only by the fact that everybody around me was eating it with the same avidity.

I know what it must mean to you to see Anna doing so well. I am in a position to appreciate that it is a struggle for her to do so much. Please remember me to her sometime when you write. It is always a pleasure to recall her gay sayings and smile.

Doris seems to have had a good vacation on Cape Cod and is in excellent health and spirits. My sister and she visited several schools and finally enrolled her at Choate, 1600 Beacon Street, Brookline, Massachusetts.... My sister wrote that she gave your name for a social reference. I am sorry I did not have the chance to ask your permission ~~for this~~ for this. I do not need to tell you that Doris and I *proudly* ~~say~~ say that you are our friend.

I wrote my second story about the Bomber base that I visited--I happened to be there to "sweat" out the raid on the Messerschmitt plant at Regensburg, which was so active. It so happened that the group where I was had low position in the formation--they called it being "tail-end Charlie"--and they took considerable punishment. It was a tremendous experience, and very exhausting, but I would not have missed it for the world. Like everyone else who covers the war here, I have become passionately attached to these boys who are flying our planes over Germany and occupied Europe. It became very real and personal to me after hearing them talk. I have written Doris a long letter about it, and I have no doubt that it ~~will~~ *will* have its effect upon her. As a matter of fact, she has written me about a letter that her cousin Dick wrote from the South Pacific where he is in command of an Island, as follows: "Dick said he did not like Clare B. Luce and that Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt were smart enough to realize that the only way the Allies can win is to be cooperative and not competitive. I agree". So I guess I do not need to worry about her thinking. Of course, my sister and her husband are wonderful influences for her. Both are Ph.D.'s from Yale and I have entire confidence in their choice of schools. The catalogue also shows that Dr. MacCracken, President of Vassar, and Ada Comstock, President of Radcliffe, are among the directors of Choate school, so I know I shall be satisfied.

By the way, if you are ever in Boston and have a moment, would you be kind enough to call Doris and say hello? I know she would deeply appreciate it and so would I.

I have applied for transfer to North Africa in the hope of going on to Sicily and Italy. I think I can do it but it may take time. Meanwhile, I am trying to develop some stories on the Red Cross, which is doing such a good job here.

My best to Tommy and Mrs. Helm. I wish I had access to more news--about what you are all doing. But some day, I hope to see you and catch up. Until then,

My love, as ever

Doris Fleeson

100
February 24, 1944.

Dear Doris:

I think it is an outrage that John O'Donnell could pull such a mean trick. I hope he isn't deluding himself into thinking he is endearing himself to Doris, junior. I gave your note to Mrs. Roosevelt and she was furious about it. She sent Doris some flowers and a book, just to cheer her up.

It looks as though we are going to the Caribbean and the trip should be interesting if somewhat strenuous. There will be the usual criticisms but people who know are urging it.

Please take care of yourself and write us. In the meantime, I'll keep up with you in the Woman's Home Companion.

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Flegson
War Correspondent
Public Relations Office, USA
A. P. O. 887 - c/o Postmaster
New York New York

VDS

Send a basket &
some flowers to her
at school -

Yours to me Miss Thompson

R

Feb. 17, 1944

Dear Tommy:

John can get her
but address had her
a bank from former
Boston refuge!

Thanks for the loan ²⁴ 2/24/44

Maybe will meet in
England - hope so.

I have had a dreadful
time - John forbade Doris' operation,
got a relative appointed temporary
custodian of her & I had to hire
a lawyer in Boston to fight it. Now
a doctor chosen by John's lawyer
advised the operation so it is going
through. But due to the delay, I
have to take off and can't be
present.

2/

Aeris braces up well but
it is all not good for her.

My love to you all
- it was such a happy
interlude to see you again.

Yours
Aeris

D.F. War Correspondent
Public Relations Office, U.S. Army
APO 887 c/o PM, N.Y.

100
May 15, 1944.

Dear Doris:

FLEESON

As usual, it was good to hear from you. I am glad young Doris got pleasure out of the flowers and books.

I feel as though a sword were hanging over my head, dreading its fall and yet know it must fall to end the war. I pray that Germany will give up now that the Russians are approaching and our drive in Italy has begun. However, I have seen no encouraging signs.

Martha Gellhorn has gone back to London and I hope you two will meet. She is there for Colliers.

I think I wrote you about the Caribbean trip which was interesting, a bit strenuous and I think worth while.

Life keeps on being busy - everyone in the world seems to be holding some kind of convention and I am asked to all of them!

The President returned from his vacation looking grand and I think is going to try to regulate his work so he will get more rest.

I expect to be in Hyde Park for July and August with as few engagements away from New York City as possible. I will have Anna's three children and two children of a friend, so I will keep busy being a grandmother, I think.

Tommy and Mrs. Helm send their love
and we all miss you very much. Take care of
yourself,

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Fleeson
War Correspondent
PRO. Hq. ETOUSA
A. P. O. 887, U. S. Army
c/o Postmaster
New York, New York.

VDS

WOMAN'S
HOME

ompanion

EDITORIAL ROOMS

London
May 1, 1944.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Doris wrote to me about your kindness to her during her operation and I am as always in your debt. She recovered swiftly and easily -- all the uproar was so thoroughly unnecessary. Apparently it gave her a very useful study period -- in her midyear's soon afterward she made 100 in math, 98 in history and 96 in geography.

This is a most extraordinary period to live through here. I go to bases and visit troops as much as possible -- the waiting is easier, I find, that way. It still remains an emotional ordeal to spend the spring with so many who will not see another one. The men feel it of course though they say very little about it.

I hope the next time I write it will be from a different place. As you can imagine, I am trying to plan it that way!

Please remember me to Tommy and Mrs. Helm. I miss you all so much.

Again my thanks and love to you. It is hardly stop press anymore that you are a wonderful friend but I am in a position now to appreciate it more than ever.

Doris Fleeson

150

June 26, 1944.

Dear Doris:

I am thrilled to hear of your happiness and when you are married I shall wish you all the happiness in the world.

You undoubtedly know that John O'Donnell is remarried and I have heard rumors that he may make it a little difficult for you as regards Doris, Jr. I hope that this will not be so and that your happiness will not be marred by a fight over the child. If there is anything I can do at any time, be sure to let me know.

Take care of yourself and I shall be anxiously waiting to hear of all your experiences and shall look forward to seeing you and your husband. Tommy joins me in good wishes and love and I know Edith Helm would too if she were here.

Affectionately,

~~Miss Doris Fleeson~~
Miss Doris Fleeson
War Correspondent
PRO. Hq., ETOUSA
A.P.O. 887, U. S. Army
c/o Postmaster
New York, New York.

VDS

WOMAN'S
HOME

Companion

EDITORIAL ROOMS

London
May 29, 1944.

*all
5/29/44*

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am expecting to move with a hospital early in the invasion so you can imagine what life has been for me of late. But I have wonderful news that will not wait -- I want to tell you myself.

I am going to be married to Judge William Clark of New Jersey and I am happier than I have ever been in my life. Bill is here in the Army now. We cannot be married for two months due to Army regulations but we shall be married as soon as possible, meanwhile I shall continue working as usual.

Doris and I are going to have a most lovely life from now on and I know you will rejoice with us. I hope it will include many more visits with you than have been possible in the last year.

You are often in my thoughts .
I hope things are going well .

Tell Tommy and Mrs. Helm that I shall give them a faithful report on my return and let them admire my beautiful diamond and pearl ring !

Much love as always to the truest friend in the world,

Doris

APO 350
June 21, 1944

file

100

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I have your letter of May 15 and it is so good to have word of you. I had hoped by this time to be in France and presumably I am on my way -- the waiting is cruel and the Army has almost baffled me but now I can only sweat it out.

I had already written you that I am going to marry Judge William Clark -- next month in France we hope and expect. He has already gone. For the first time I am really sharing the anxieties so many others have known -- I have three nephews in the services but it wasn't the same thing.

It seems to me we can be optimistic now about the end of the war but we have ^{paid} ~~had~~ and are still paying. I do not believe my conscience will let me rest if I don't always keep trying and working to avert another such war.

You are wonderfully considerate to think of Doris in the midst of all your worries and responsibilities. Her father has been a trial to her but she herself devised the solution of saying firmly that she wished to spend the summer in Kansas with my family who are glad to have her at any time. Kansas isn't exactly a summer resort but I am sure she will be loved and cared for and the change should amuse her. I asked her to write you a note. Her address is care of Mrs. Robert Jordan (my sister) 14 Sutton place South, New York 22, N.Y. Telephone Plaza 3-4284.

John has re-married. I don't know the girl but she took Doris to lunch and pried into my affairs which Doris resented furiously. Doris has told her father that if he wants to get married it's his business, not hers and that if he will mind his business, she will mind hers. I was rather taken aback at a 12-year-old defiance like that but he has been asking for it for years and now he has got it. Bill -- my Bill, ~~and~~ how wonderful that sounds to me! -- thinks maybe Doris knows how to handle her papa better than I did. He also laughed and said he wouldn't know quite what to do if she told him to mind his own business! I could tell him with truth that she has never talked that way to me in her life.

My sister tells me that John has not paid Doris' bill for her operation this spring and is two months behind in his support payments. That suits us -- I called her to pay all Doris' bills at once and never to ~~ask~~ ask John for money. Bill fortunately can take care of us both and John's position will certainly be untenable unless he keeps up his end. He has never paid more than \$100 a month for Doris and of course I didn't ask for alimony. I rather fancy that when the new bride finds out I am marrying Judge Clark she will be reluctant to let go of \$100 a month for Doris anyway.

My love as always to you all -- I think ~~of~~ of you so often and miss you.

Doris Fleenor

fel

100

December 12, 1944.

Dear Doris:

I am delighted your Bill arrived safely and looking well.

Would you and he and young Doris care to lunch with me at my apartment, #29 Washington Square West, on Saturday the 16th, at one o'clock?

I shall look forward to seeing you.

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Fleeson
219 West 81st Street
New York, New York.

VDS

219 W 86th St.
New York
Dec. 9, 1944

^{and}
12/10/44
Trafalgar Hotel - 349 5th Ave
I tried to call you in N.Y. at 8 PM

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I tried to telephone you the good news that Bill was home but you and Tomamy were en route to New York. So I "overflowed" Helen and sent you a telegram. The looks will and appeared pleased to see me!

Paris arrives

Friday. "My cup runneth over."

I had such a nice visit and appreciated see you all. I talked to the Companion editor about the

Colonel Rust material. We had
run an article in the first
person by an "u. p." I am
reading it to see what might
make a follow to it.

All my best to all
and as ever

My love
Doris

219 West 81st st.
New York.
Dec. 26, 1944.

~~100~~ 100
K. A. K.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

My picture is perfection . I have put it into a narrow gold frame and it smiles at me with such warmth and kindness and intelligence. It is wonderful to live with and , just as you always have, gives me happiness and courage.

Doris and Bill and I felt fortunate to have each other at this somber Christmas. They are getting along together splendidly .

I explained the situation about the Third Circuit vacancies to Pa Watson and he promised to speak to the President about it. Pa very sweetly said he thought the President should do it for me ! I personally think Bill's record on the bench and at war have some slight connection.

John sent his lawyers into the fray as I think I told you but fortunately he seems to have chosen a decent one who was moderate in his demands and readily said John should pay up all he owes for Doris. Since this amounts to about \$1,400 we are hoping John won't want to pay and so can't press his claims to her time. It looks that way as I agreed to give him five days of this holiday and he has not so far made a move to take them. Of course he is and will remain unpredictable and a trouble maker so we are not complacent.

Bill is seeing Mrs. Clark's lawyers today to start the arrangements for that proceeding. So far he has managed to keep the Army at bay but they are talking of putting him on the Allied Crimes Commission so we are going to have to push our plans as fast as we can.

We are still talking of our lovely visit with you and send

Our fondest love

Doris

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WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
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A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

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C268CC 8W 18

NE WYORK NY 420P DEC 6 1944

MRS FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT

29 WASHINGTON SQ WEST NYK

BILL HAS ARRIVED SAFELY MY WEST SIDE BARONY IS APARTMENT 8K 219 WEST 81

TRAFALGAR 43496 MUCH LOVE

DORIS FLEESON

437P

ple for address

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

100

December 29, 1944

Dear Doris:

I love the perfume and especially your thought of me at Christmas.

I hope you had a grand Day with Doris and your Bill. We had a quiet time and enjoyed having five grandchildren with us.

With many thanks and looking forward to seeing you soon again,

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Fleeson
219 W. 81st St. NYC



For
Mrs. Roosevelt.

from
Doris Flessor.
with my love.

12-29

Apt. 5 C
14 Sutton place South
New York 22
Jan. 9, 1945.

W

100
D

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I am sorry things got so involved last week I didn't get a chance to call Tommy but I am returning Thursday and shall hope to see you both then.

To my great distress the President has left the matter of Bill's return to the bench entirely to the discretion of Attorney General Biddle. Biddle in turn has refused to recommend him which is what I would expect and regard in one sense as an honor, my opinion of the gentleman being what it is.

However I am not content to let even the Attorney General decide what the country owes its returned soldiers on the basis of his personal likes and dislikes and neither is Bill so our story is not yet ended.

What happened was this: General Watson spoke to the President who referred him to Biddle. Biddle told the General definitely he would not recommend Bill.

I then asked Harry Hopkins if I might see him about the situation and he said he would see me Thursday. I am still hoping the President will not let Biddle foreclose the issue at least until after the President gives Bill a chance to state his case personally.

Our other affairs are moving along in the right direction with no difficulties at all.

My best to you all as always. I hope the "simple" inauguration isn't too much of a strain.

Affectionately,

Joins Fleeson
1/10/45

AIR[®]
MAIL

14 SUTTON PLACE SOUTH
NEW YORK CITY

Jan. 1, 1945

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt :

I hope you had as pleasant holidays as was possible and good news from all your family. We had a quiet time here with my sister. John was in town only briefly and interfered very little. His new wife telephoned to express a hope for peace and his lawyer seems moderate and sensible. There are absolutely no indications that he intends even to raise the question of Bill.

Bill's affairs in that sector also seem to be prospering. He has conferred with Mrs. Clark's lawyers and her conditions were reasonable and promptly accepted by him. She returns to New York this week and then her active work will get underway in Virginia.

Regarding the judgeship we are so anxious about, Bill had to go to Washington last week so I went with him and called on Be Watson. He wasn't in but gave Roberta a message for me saying he had spoken to the President, who said it was

14 SUTTON PLACE SOUTH
NEW YORK CITY

a matter that should be taken up with the Attorney General. Pa said the President was very friendly. But recalling our conversations regarding the aforesaid A. G. you can see it didn't leave me very optimistic. I couldn't in conscience ask for help in that quarter even if I thought it would be forthcoming.

Meanwhile the Army is making passes at Bie for the Allied Crimes Commission which would mean his speedy return to Europe. Naturally, I take a dim view of that!

Deris had a very successful Christmas - much loot. She returns to Choate Wednesday.

Thursday Bie and I are coming to Washington and I will call Tommy and if it is convenient will drop in to say hello.

A most happy new year with my love to you both -

Deris

P.S. Maybe part of the reason for John's attitude may be that his libel suit against Dave Stern comes up again for trial this month! D.

Enc letter re someone to write the story of the Women of the
National Achievement Award.

February 10, 1945.

Dear Doris:

I am enclosing a letter from
Dr. Mary Love Collins.

Mrs. Roosevelt wonders if you
would want to undertake this job or could
suggest anyone who would?

I will appreciate it if you will
return Dr. Collin's letter.

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Flesson
Apartment 5-C
14 Sutton Place South
New York (22), New York.

VDS

Dear Miss Thompson -

Can you get
attention for all

this

May have *Ellis*

The National Achievement Award

SPONSORED BY CHI OMEGA

COMMITTEE ON AWARD
MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
DR. BEATRICE M. HINKLE
MRS. LAURA GARDIN FRASER
MISS MARY VAIL ANDRESS
MISS ELIZABETH DYER
MISS MARJORIE NICOLSON

uk
2/1/45

26 COOPER BUILDING
HYDE PARK, CINCINNATI, OHIO

February 1, 1945

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

Thank you very much for your letter of
January 29th. I appreciate your suggestion and heartily
agree. Attached is a copy of my letter to members of
the committee.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Lou Collins

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
The White House
Washington, D. C.

February 1, 1945

(To members of the Committee)

Just as we were concluding the arrangements for a definite date at The White House for the presentation of the National Achievement Award for the year 1944, intimations of limitations on travel began to reach us *and later restrictions became official.*

In view of this fact I believe it would be best not to make any presentation for 1944 until the skies clear. Then when that happens the committee could meet and we could arrange for the presentation for 1944 and 1945 at one time.

The presentation would require travel not only on the part of members of the committee but also for almost all of the guests. Please let me know if this meets with your approval.

Sincerely yours.

Mr. Roosevelt:

You recall my telling you
we would sometime put in book
form the story of The Women
of the National Achievement
Award — a friend is trying
to locate the right person
for the writing job — not
stereotype nor battles —
but sensitivity — sparkle
and gracefulness —

If you know anyone
with this combination of gifts
and skills I would
welcome a confidential
suggestion.

Many love Alice

Robert J. ...
David ...

150

February 28, 1945

Dear Doris:

Mrs. Roosevelt says of course she will see you about the article on Anna. Do you want to come down to Washington or would you rather wait and see her in New York?

I will tell Mrs. Collins about the book on Chi Omega.

Your difficulties with John are discouraging. His last blast at Mrs. Roosevelt is giving us a lot of Catholic mail. I wish I dared write the people who read him how good a Catholic he is! I may yet when some pious cleric gets too pious!

Affectionately,

Miss Doris Fleeson
14 Sutton Place South
New York, New York

14 Sutton pl South
New York 22
Feb. 23, 1945

out
2-24

Dear Tommy:

Forgive my delay in answering your letter. I have been in Boston trying to wind up the Dedham proceeding brought by John against my sister. It's obviously academic now but John's shysters are trying to keep it open as a vehicle to harass me. I've been steaming up my shyster but he is, unfortunately, a mild man!

Meanwhile Iris is now here for her "long weekend" and very content so things are not too bad.

I don't think I see a book in the Clin Omega awards. A record yrs for the

fraternity. I wonder if Mrs.
Collins has a publisher.

My sister, who is with
the National Tuberculosis Assn.,
tells me that the Assn. president,
Dr. Haven Emerson, has praised
the award highly and said it
had gone always to ~~the~~ women
of the highest calibre who
deserve honors. That's in its
favor of course.

My own situation is so
"suspenseful" I don't like
to make promises. Until I
know what is going to happen to
Bill, I can't plan. He may be
going back to Europe. It will
be another month, I'm afraid,
before I can be definite. Very
trying to my temperament!
(Temper also, perhaps occasionally.)

The Post has urged me to
reconsider and do the piece on
Anna. Would Mrs. Roosevelt let
me talk to her about it, do you
think? Since they seem bent
on having it, I shouldn't want
it to fall into unfriendly hands.

My love to you both as
always.

Joan

Why Gildersleeve to San
Francisco and not Mrs.
Roosevelt? I wish I were
writing a column!

J.

✓ Yes please