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Dear Sir Ian,

Thank you for your letter of 17<sup>th</sup> August. I very much appreciate your giving me a better feeling for how things were in the Colonial Service as the War broke over Europe.

There's been no further word from Mrs. Peri-Johnston. Though we're following up, we're not very hopeful.

Your mention of Mr. Abbott, the American Consul, is very interesting. We had never heard of him, and were unaware that there had even been an American Consul in Fiji at that time. We're pursuing this with our State Department.

We're somewhat familiar with the Americans on Enderbury. The U.S. Department of Commerce put together a program in the late 1930s to occupy several more or less disputed islands in the Phoenix and Line Islands; young men from Hawaii were hired to live on Howland, Baker, and later Enderbury, making meteorological observations but more than anything else just showing the flag. Responsibility for this settlement program had been transferred to the Interior Department by 1937, and settlers were on the ground on Howland and Baker. They were clearly not on Enderbury when Harry Maude and Eric Bevington visited there in late 1937, but obviously arrived sometime before your visit in 1941. Whether they had a real role in making meteorological observations and coastwatching, or were there only to stake a claim, is something we certainly don't know. The records of the whole operation, which one of our members has researched, seem to be pretty thin.

I wonder if it would be all right for me to refer a gentleman to you for a conversation. Mr. Gerard (not Gerald) Gallagher has recently contacted us from his home in Scotland. He's researching a (heretofore, to him) rather shadowy ancestor of his, none other than Gerald Gallagher, and found his way to our worldwide web site. He's a maritime insurance agent in his mid-40s, very interested in Gerald's life and times in the colonies. Would it be all right for me to give him your name and address?

Thanks as always for your advice and assistance.

Best wishes,