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Dear Sir Ian,

I hope you are not upset with me for giving Pam Ribbey your address, from which (much to my surprise) she tracked down your 'phone number. But I was very glad to learn from her that you are well, and soon to celebrate your birthday.

Which reminded me that I might have failed to send you a copy of our updated book on the search for the elusive Earhart on Nikumaroro, so I'm enclosing a copy with best wishes from all of us. This volume includes an account of our work in 2001 and thereafter, on Nikumaroro and in Fiji. We were on the island on 9-11-2001, and I was reminded of your response when I asked you about your feelings on being in the Pacific during the Battle of Britain. You said that everyone simply got on with their jobs, and that's what I told myself to do in the days after 9-11. Not that I had much choice.

We are hoping to make another trip to Nikumaroro in 2007 – the 60th anniversary of Earhart's disappearance – and do some serious archaeological work on the "Seven Site," where we think Gerald Gallagher collected the bones that Dr. Hoodless examined at Sir Harry Luke's request. We've had no success in finding the bones themselves. They are rumored to still be in Fiji, but so far this is only rumor. One of our members in the U.K., Simon Ellwood, was able to spend some time with Sir Harry's papers, which were very interesting but not informative with regard to our specific interests. I've also through the records of the U.S. Consulate in Suva, 1940-43, in the U.S. National Archives. Some interesting insights into the views of the Consul, Abbott, on Fiji and the WPHC, but again, nothing specific to our project.

Pam Ribbey's assertions about a meeting on Canton in late November 1941 certainly took us aback – it was this, of course, that brought her to us in search of you. Again, I hope you don't mind that I shared your address with her; if it was a problem, I can only extend my very sincere apologies.

With best wishes for a splendid birthday and many happy returns –