

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

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Eleanor Roosevelt Standard Three: Geography

May I have the distances between the following places

San Francisco to Honolulu	2085
Honolulu to Christmas Island	1158
Christmas to Penryhn Island	662
Penryhn to Aitutaki	704 710
Aitutaki to Tutuila, Samoa	1200
Samoa to Fiji	670
Fiji to New Caledonia	718
New Caledonia to Auckland, N. Zealand	976
Auckland to Wellington	240
Wellington to Rotorua, N. Zealand	180
Rotorua back to Auckland	60 110
Auckland to Sydney, Aust.	1163
Sydney to Canberra	160
Canberra to Melbourne, Aust.	250
Melbourne to Sydney	410
Sydney to Rockhampton	640
Rockhampton to Cairns	510
Cairns to Brisbane	780
Brisbane to New Caledonia	794
New Caledonia to Efati and Espiritu Santo	294
? { Espiritu to Guadalcanal	520
? { Espiritu to Wallis and Christmas	1400 - \$ 1440
Christmas Island to Honolulu	1158

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going to feel ashamed to have been so near Guadalcanal and not to have gone there. I'll send the package to Rose Franken's boy on New Guinea because in spite of my pleas General McArthur refuses to let me go there.

The Admiral had a dinner tonight. There's a full programme laid out for tomorrow as weather forecasts are bad and we don't leave till the next day for New Zealand. This will go off tomorrow.

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My last letter was written I think from Noumea. The Navy says this envelope will go from here soon by one of their planes. You will now be seeing daily a chronicle of my doings in the paper, but since they may be changed or cut out I am sending you the copies. I sent Joe two packages and a note from Noumea and tell Trude I told the man who promised to see to their delivery that the packages were valuable.

The trip here was smooth and we came at once to Wellington. The round is much the same daily -- hospitals, Red Cross clubs, camps, factories, etc. I did the important broadcast tonight so that is behind me. Tomorrow night we leave and go to receive a Maori welcome. Then another night by train to Auckland. The same round there. Jean Macauley wired that her boy was in a hospital in Auckland and I am trying to find out which one. (I located him and went to see him and reported back to his mother.)

Rotorua was an interesting experience. The leading

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citizen, Princess Te Puea met us. The head guide known as Rangī was at hand to escort us around the Maori area. She wanted to greet me in accordance with their custom and asked my permission which of course I gave. The meaning of this greeting is that you touch foreheads and intellect speaks to intellect. She is really quite a brilliant woman and really quite witty and said some things that interested me very much and made us all laugh. The park is somewhat like our Yellowstone in miniature and has geysers and hot and cold springs. One area is used by the people for their cooking. They have their own "holes" in which they put their pots and I remarked that they were very trusting and I wondered if no one ever stole from any one else. Whereupon Rangī looked at me and said: "Our children are taught never to steal", which made me feel there was something we could learn from the Maori. She gave me an interesting mask and a skirt made out of flax and took me to her home which was quite delightful and modern in every way. Some of our party went to see the fish which like everything else in New Zealand, though they were imported from the United States, are now said to be the biggest fish of whatever variety you may look at, to be found anywhere in the world. These were trout, I think, of a size which would astonish any fisherman at home.

In the evening they put on a dance for us and sang some of the Maori songs. It was a very colorful occasion and I can quite well understand how much our troops

what?

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have enjoyed being entertained by them. The Maoris invited them in groups of 300 or more, fed them, gave them a place to rest in the council hall, and entertained them on Sundays from the first landing in New Zealand. I am sure that there are a great many of our boys who will go home with a real sense of gratitude for the hospitality these people have shown them. Many of the Maori women work in factories and on farms throughout New Zealand and they are strong and healthy. They have little charms which they give their men when they go off to war and the superstition is that they will return as long as they keep this charm. I obtained several of these little charms and they will be pretty trinkets to give to people whom one hopes very much to see again. (Photos were taken of the greeting which caused a great deal of adverse comment after I got home.)

On the third we will go to Australia and I'll be there until the 16th and then back to Noumea and I still hope to Guadalcanal. I will be several days late in getting back to San Francisco but as I have no word from anyone I wonder if they are keeping you informed of my whereabouts. Be sure to arrange for my trip across to Washington or to New York via James if he is home. I feel a hundred years away as though I were moving in a different and totally unattached world. I don't like it much, it is a pity to be doing this when the zest for things is so largely gone. It is terribly depressing too I guess, though one isn't conscious of it at the time.

Everyone is more than kind. Do tell C.R. (Smith)

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and FDR that George Durna is most thoughtful and helpful and I hope F. will write him a letter and tell him how much I appreciate all he is doing.

The Red Cross needs more people to do the work out here. They need quicker action on cases. They need an understanding that the Navy and Army are set up differently and require a different set up.

George Carlin (United Feature Syndicate) cabled me today for copy and I can't imagine what has happened since I've been sending right along, filed two columns on arrival here and another on each day.

September 1st - Auckland

I am sending itineraries and the columns cover all activities, so a diary seems hardly worth while. I wrote several personal letters today and I'll try to get others off in the near future.

A radio came from FDR today saying the Quebec conference was successful. Elliott was still home and the reaction to my trip favorable, but F. never reads the unfavorable people so I'm anxious to hear from you. I wonder if I ever will!

Every minute of every day is filled and every evening but I'm fine and nearly half the time is behind me. I dread Australia and there are so many speeches I'll be talked out. George Durno tells me if he thinks things are well received or not, and that has been helpful. Not having you to watch audiences is a drawback. The mail