

Shipping Dogs in the 1944

David Streeter, BCOA Historian, wrote in the 1966 November-December issue of the BOCA Bulletin about obtaining the basenji related materials of the late George Gilkey. He quotes from some interesting letters from Veronica Tudor-Williams to George Gilkey about shipping dogs during the war year of 1944.

June 7th, 1944:

"Just what I thought would happen has happened, the pups could not be shipped at the beginning of June as all ships were wanted for the invasion of France. It's all been most terrifically exciting, especially as we live on the South coast &^ its so far going far better than anyone could have hoped in their rosiest dreams, may it always be that way. But with regard to the puppies the situation is that all papers are filled in & everything is ready to ship them directly there is a ship sailing for the States. It may be at a few hours' notice."

June 26th, 1944:

"This is just a short letter to tell you that so far there have been no ships available for sending the puppies to America. I really am getting very worried about it, as they should have left nearly a month ago, but when you heard the news of the invasion of France & the Allied landings I hoped you'd guess that it meant all the ships were wanted for some time to come...I wait to hear every day from Dawsons that there is a steamer leaving, but so far it's only been letters to say no ships are sailing for America....They can leave on a few days' notice. Then I shall cable everyone separately "Puppies sailing" & you'll know to expect them in about a fortnight, possibly less."

David Streeter follows up with:

"I think there might be a moral to this. Think about t it the next time you find out that your puppy missed the connection at the Chicago, Dallas, or New York City air ports and will be delayed for 3 or 4 HOURS."