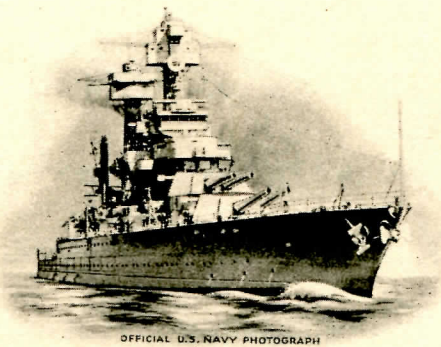


Thursday Night



OFFICIAL U.S. NAVY PHOTOGRAPH

U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION
NEWPORT, R. I.

Dear Mom, Pop, and brats,

I got your letter this morning and was glad to get it. I had forgot all about my birthday and when I read the letter I realized I am eighteen. I didn't get the cards yet. I probably won't until next week.

I am studying hard but I'll have to be good to get my rate in school. Only about 10 out of the 150 get their rates and the others are strikers until they are assigned to a ship. I have an awful lot of competition because more than half the students here have been to college. However, it is only a matter of a few weeks after I get out of school before I get assigned to a ship. As soon as I do I will get my rating if I ^{didn't} ~~haven't~~ get it before.

Boy, these hammocks are the nuts. Every night I wake up just in time to hang on

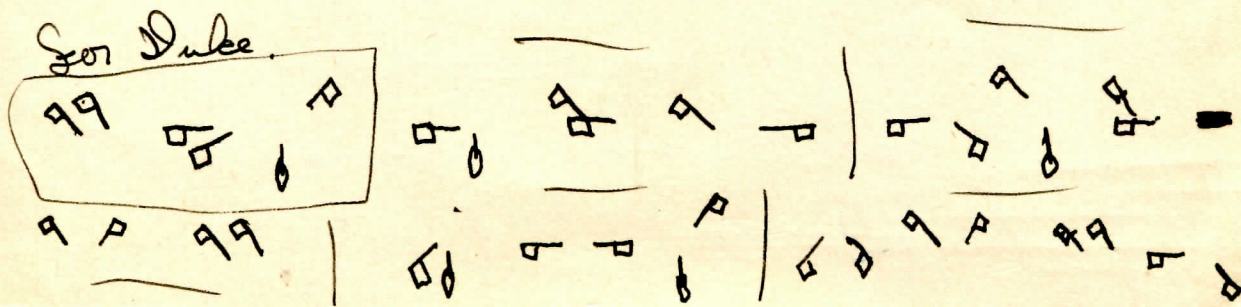
as the hammock overturns. Guys who fall out
get sent over to D-7 to see if they are mentally
unbalanced. D-7 is two of the hospitals. One guy
fell out and got knocked out. He was sent over. The
doc told him after he examined him to get the
hell back to his barracks and tell the P.O. if he
sends anymore of these — over he'll person-
ally kick his ass. He told the kid "you're sicker
than the P.O.'s over there." Some guys who can't
sleep in them do get medical discharges.

Whereabouts up here was your mother from?

~~Yes, I knew I was coming~~ Yes, I knew I was coming
to Newport about an hour before I left Bainbridge. They
gave us all tags to put on our sea bags and it had
Newport on it. You'll have to excuse the sloppy writing.
I sprained my wrist Sunday playing basketball. Tomorrow
I'm going out for the school baseball team. I hope this
wrist don't bother me because I want to make that team.

Well I guess I'll close now. I hope you're all
well.

lots of Love
Rich.



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