



U.S. NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING BASE  
SOLOMONS BRANCH  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Mom, Pop, and Brats,

I've been assigned to a crew since I last wrote this morning. There are six of us so far. I'm the only quartermaster so I guess it won't be long before I get rated. We have a signalman, radioman, machinist, carpenter's mate, electrician's mate, and me. As soon as we get a full crew we will go on a cruise. This will probably be before the week is out. The radioman is from Mt. Holly. He's a striker too. He knows all the people from Burlington & Ramocas that I know so we have a lot to talk about.

The guy who bunked above me is a signalman striker. His name is Connelly and he's from Brooklyn.

If I don't go on a cruise I expect to get a 26 hr. pass this Saturday. I don't know whether to come home or not. I wouldn't have much time. It takes two hours to get to Washington & then I don't know how the train runs.

I'm in a different barracks now. This one is much better than the other one. A lot cleaner and much less crowded.

It is now the next day. I am going to school today. When we're not out we have to go to school and keep up with

our studies. Codes are always changing and so is procedure for sending semaphores, flags, hoists, & blinkers. I guess I'll be getting some school as long as I'm in the navy. I met the skipper this morning. He is a Lieut. J. G. He was really glad to see me. Only a couple of more guys and we'll be able to put out. He's as anxious as we are to get movin'. He told me he would try to get me rated in a month if possible.

It is raining to beat hell out. I had a good time in Washington the other night. Stoebe and Montague, two guys I came here with, & myself ~~and~~ did the town. We stayed out all night and slept until noon (10:30 & went to miss) the next day. Boy what a base they have in Washington. It is like heaven compared to what I've been used to. You can walk out anytime you like. If you haven't got any duty lay in bed all day. There are about 500 Waves stationed on the base to. Naturally that doesn't interest me - ~~much~~ - much -

Well, I have to punch it off now. I hope you're all well. I'm fine as usual. I was sorry to hear about Aunt Nellie but I guess she was pretty sick. If you had sent a telegram no doubt I could have come home for the funeral. I said a prayer for her at church Sunday.

Say hello to the Maloys and Aunt Carrie and Aunt Agnes.

Lots of love

Rich

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