

The GEORGE A. WHITE Service Men's Center

OPERATED BY THE CITY OF PORTLAND . . . EARL RILEY, MAYOR

523 S. W. THIRD AVENUE * TELEPHONE BEACON 3667 * PORTLAND 4, OREGON

Dear Mom, Pop, and Brats,

Well, I'm still loafing around Portland. Wish we'd get on that ship and get movin'. Enclosed is a picture of our ship the first day in the water. Watch the latest newsreels for her last because I'm going to be steering her out of the Columbia River. - Wow, that's murder, huh. Well you know how it is, they have to have somebody dependable taking her in and out of port.

Guess who woke me up this morning? - Faucher. He got sent out here too. His ship will be the 226. I sure was glad to see him. We'll go across in the same flotilla. The lucky stiff got a ten day leave before coming out. Oh well - it's the breaks & guess. He's got a date with a welder tonight. I'll bet they'll be a sweet pair.

I went ice skating last night. Had a lot of fun. The rest of our crew hasn't come out yet. I hope they bring somebody younger than me. I'm the baby of the crew and these damn guys won't let me forget it. If I stay out after midnight I have to give them a detailed report of everything I did and why. Half the time I don't know whether

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they're kiddin' or not. 'Pop' the cook is the worse
one. He looks after everybody. You don't have to worry
about me. I'm in good hands - I guess. They even
got the eyes calling me 'the baby'. All the guys are
over 25 except me, Reds, Homer, & Frank and I would
have to be the youngest of the three four.

I hope you can make the twenty go round. I
wish I could send more but I can't. Those venetian
blinds will just have to wait. This place where I'm
it has "I'll be home for Christmas" on the juke
box and the boys just murder it. I sure do wish
I could be home ^{on Christmas} & miss you all more than ever.

Well, I guess I'll close now. Give my love
to everybody. I'll write again tomorrow. Please
write often.

All my love and kisses

Rich


The
Service

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Special Delivery Air Mail

Mr. + Mrs. Daniel Ulmer
238 Second Street
Beverly,
New Jersey

