

Dear Mom,

Just a line to let you know everything is fine with me. I got that letter you sent me after Christmas the other day. It takes a long time for them to get with me on accounts they go to the F. P. O. first. I'd like to see Pop with that load on. When I get home again I'll take him out and buy him three highballs, and sailor two. I showed Frank the letter and he said "What a clan that must be." He'd really like to meet the tribe. He doesn't know the half of it. Wait until he gets in our crazy house. He's crazy, too, so he'll be right at home.

Last week we had pictures of the crew taken and they came today. They sure are sharp. We ordered them + I'll send them as soon as we get 'em. I was wearing Pancho's hat which is 5 sizes too small + a Tee-shirt because I had my dungarees on. Wow! Do I stand out in a crowd. I look like a limey.

You can send me Paul Fougere's address and I'll invite the boys out there for a feed when we get in California.

We're leaving tomorrow for sure - I think. All the girls in Portland are moving to California now. It's so bad in this town me, Frank, + Homer have to carry baseball bats to beat the women off. The other night our buddy, Frank got Homer and I dates with friends of a girl friend of his. We went to a movie. Well the girl I was with just sat there with her arms crossed with a mean expression on her puss + the one Homer had kept striking him with a hat pin whenever he got too chummy. That was enough for us. We told them we were going out into the lobby for a smoke + then we left our chum

with all three of ~~them~~ them. Was he sore!

Has Pop sobered up yet? He'll never be the same after those two highballs. I'll bet. Like some of these guys who come in with their three beer load ons on this ship. I could murder 'em.

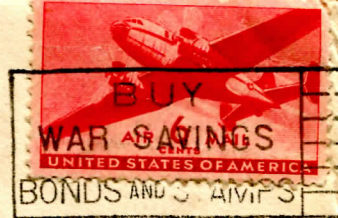
I've got liberty tonight but I'm too tired to go & anyway I've got a lot of wash. Not much doing tonight in town. Portland is a lot like Providence.

Well. I hope you're all well. Give my love to Aunt Carrie, the Maloy, etc. Goodbye for now. Keep writing often.

Lot of Love, Kisses, & Stuff

Rick
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