

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,

We boarded our ship the day before Christmas and have been working like hell ever since. Christmas day a foreman down at the shipyard invited Frank and I to his home for dinner. We had a swell time and a swell dinner. His name was Zimmerman. His niece is Suzanne ~~Q~~ Zimmerman the national backstroke champ. She was over to see his tree. I guess you saw her picture in the sports page pop. She was voted #1 woman athlete of the year. Some dish, too.

In a couple of more days we leave for San Diego on our shakedown cruise. I don't think we'll be going across until March. We have to wait for 11 more ships to make a flotilla. I think we're going to be the flagships.

How is everything going back home! I've got a bad cold but outside of that everything's fine out here.

The skipper gave Connolly a three day pass to go see his brother in St. Lewis, Washington. He's

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really an ace.

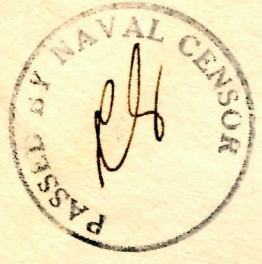
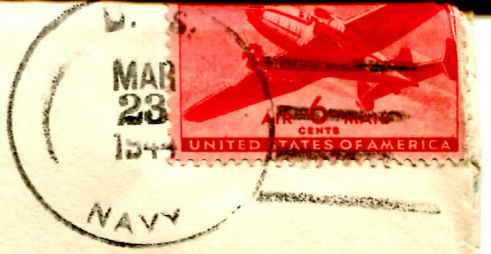
I sure do miss you all. Guess we'll have to finish this war up quick like. I wanta get home for next Christmas. This was my first Christmas away from home + it didn't seem like Christmas at all.

I got your telegram and money. Thanks + tell Aunt Carrie thanks too but I wish you hadn't sent it. You shouldn't have done it cause you need it more than I do. I don't feel natural unless I'm broke anyhow so don't send anymore.

Have you heard from the oil king lately? What has he got to say. Send me his address, huh. I'll have a lot of time to write as soon as we leave Portland. I've got all my charts + navigational publications corrected up to date. I also got my crow at last. Don't start getting paid for it until Jan. 15 though. Stayed up all night a couple of nights correcting those damn charts. Don't know where I got all the ambition. In the daytime I usually help load supplies. I'm still gaining weight. I'm up to 155 now. Wish I could get rid of this cold. The crew sent me a card + a buck + so did Aunt Stella + Uncle Adam.

Did you go out for basketball referee. I saw the University of Oregon + Washington play. They really stunk. I think I could play better myself.

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