

Dear Mom, Pop, + Brats,

I rec'd your two letters today. You know mom you write some parts of your letter like you thought they were censored. You know - like the part about Edith. I think her and I will be breaking up before long. Also if you have an idea as to where I'm at it's O.K. to write it.

I hope you're right about running into some Beverly boys out here. If you have any addresses let's have 'em. No doubt these are fellows here I know on other ships. I could blink them if I knew they were here. That's the advantage of being a Gun + standing signal watch. I do it for other guys on board who have friends on the other ones.

Last week we had some fresh fish that the boys caught + twelve of us (me included) got sick. It was the funniest feeling. Your whole body gets numb, your tongue swells up so you can hardly talk, your face swells to. Feels something like being plastered - I guess. I was over to a movie on a big ship (aircraft tender) when it came on. I didn't say anything until we got back + found the others had it 'cause they'd probably thought I was nuts or just another one of my jokes. They had a doc over and he gave me some stuff to make us puke and some castor oil to make us shit, also a



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shot of adrenalin in the arm. We were all O.K. the next day.

That was a pretty good one about picking Duke up by the ears pop. Well, I guess mom brought it on herself.

Every one is getting stir crazies by the day here. The other day Connolly, Reds, Horner + I were thinking about rowing back to the states in a packing box. We sat in it on the well deck + practiced for awhile then we lowered it in the water with Connolly in it to try it out. —

Too many leaks. After that the boatswain comes walking across the deck with two planks on his feet like skis + a foul weather jacket with a parka hood. What made it more funny the temperature must have been around a hundred.

Then a copswain walks up to me with his battle helmet + sun goggles on + says "Hey Dick, wanta' take a trip with me to Mars tonight, good show on at the Mars theatre". Guess it's the best, I'd well won't be so bad as soon as Edith + I are on the outs again.

How is everything up at the Episcopal church woman? It's changing huh, maybe you'd better try some of that old time religion. That's going to be a mess when Smuffy + Donkey ears take over ye olde Towne Hall.

I sure do ~~to~~ enjoy the baseball news. We



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get the scores every day but naturally they don't give me much satisfaction. I have to know why they lost then I can make excuses to myself.

What are you, wise or otherwise, Mom? What's this stuff about you understanding everything I wrote for a change. There ain't nothin' the matter with my writing. The censor can read it. I have a Japanese letter by the way (while we're on the subject) but I can't send it because it might contain information then you would go tell everybody. The censor says so. He figures if you can read my writing Japanese will be a cinch. I wasn't kidding about having the letter though.

We have had a little rain recently for a change and that has been a relief to everyone but the gunners mates. Naturally their tops get rusty and they can't shoot ~~the~~ peas so good then.

I'm glad to hear every one is fine back home. Tell Jesse, Jack, & Co. I got their card and thanks. It was real nice. I was Aunt Agnes, & Uncle Bob & Aunt Carrie. Be sure and tell them too. Your cards were all swell needless to say. Yours and Jimmie came ~~in~~ on the morning of my birthday, Mom.

I don't think it will be long before we're trucking on down the avenue away from this place. I hope so anyway.

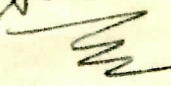
What do you hear about the oil being &

How are the Ulcers doin'?

I was talking to Pancho the other day & I told him about being sick. I told him I figured I was kicking the bucket over at the movies. He was very sympathetic. He said "you probably are dead, you're just too damn lazy to lie down!".

Well, I'm kinda running low again folks. I'm feeling fine & sure hope you're all the same. Give my love to everybody and write often. I wouldn't care if I never got any other mails as long as yours came through so keep 'em coming.

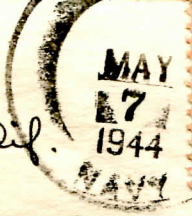
all my love & kisses

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mail

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