5/20/44

Dear Mom, Pop, and brats,

Well, I guess it's about time, huh? There hasn't been much doing. We're still loafing around. Just like a summer vacation. We were at a different island about a week ago. Up there we had beer, picnics, ball games. When I think of what the poor civilians have to go through.

I'm sitting in the pilot house writing this. The loudspeaker attached to the radio is on. Johnny Mercer is singing 'Gal Jive' now.

I'm sure glad to get the cellar news. I guess the A's are just having a little trouble getting adjusted.

I'm sorry to hear Cagle missed his ship. I guess it'll pretty tough on him. So Donald has turned into a housemaid, huh? All the boys on the tub are fine

'Am I feeling all right'. Are you kidding, Mom? All the climate here does is make us a little balmier. You asked me if I steered the boat, it's not a boat it's a ship and anyone steers it, even a boat, if we had one. The only time I do is coming in & out of port and at General Quarters.

So Serb wants to bid me about the A's. Tell him the last I heard Detroit was doing their

best to whip the A's out for the bottom. If you can get him in one of his trances be sure & let me know when the war will be over. The saying out here is "Golden Gate in Forty Eight". If that don't hold time the next best thing they can think of is "we'll all be through in Fifty Four."

Duke was right. 'Genesi' was my favorite. Tell the 'Oremo' hello' themselves. Tell 'Donald' I'll get him a whole outfit if he wants it. all I have to do is get on an island where there are some natives. You can buy an island from them for a pack of cigarettes. They have all that kaypinka.

I hope those books get out. We lied alongside a ship that just came here from Pearl the other day and swapped books with them. Me, Frank, & Homer, & Reds talked them into selling us 4 boxes of candy. We are the most popular guys in the crew now. We gave every body a bar. Our consciences bothered us so we gave it out. They still can't figure it out. They all think there's a catch somewhere. Who knows, maybe we will be able to figure one out.

The 'sports page' is on the radio now. Derby the team beat mine 1-0. Don Black pitched a 3 hitter & lost. T.S. The phillies beat Cincinnatti.

The hit parade is on now. It's a rebroadcast. Hit songs sure do change fast. None of them on now were popular when we left the states. Seems like years but it's only a few months.

Well, I'll write again tommorow night.

write often and I'll write as often as possible. Give my love to everybody. I hope you're all feeling well.

All my love and kisses,

Rich

Richard Ulmer Fm 3/c
USS LCI(L) 725
c/o Fleet P.O. San Francisco

air mail

Mr. & Mrs. D. Ulmer
238 Second Street
Beverly
New Jersey
USA