

Dear Mom,

It's been a long time since I've written. I already told you I was going to be busy and I am. Let me know when you come up because it will have to be on a day when I have liberty. Better make it a Sunday. I have Sunday liberty July 18 + 25th. Then the 8th + 15 of August. If you want to know the rest say so. I don't think you could see me on a Sunday when I don't have liberty but I'll find out.

I've been doing so damn much writing (work) lately I think my hand is going to come off. I don't know how we're supposed to remember this stuff they throw at us but they keep it up day after day. I guess by the time I get out of here I'll know more about navigation than the guys who wrote the book + then they'll probably let me navigate a landing barge.

In the past two Sundays I've had liberty and went to Providence with a friend who lives there. His name is Ernie Reed. We ate at his house and then went to the beach there in his car. His ~~fat~~ parents are nice people + make me right at home there. They say for me to stop in anytime. He's got a brother + sister too and the way they fight reminds me of home. His brother is Duke's age and his sister is 17. ~~They~~ We go to the beach in ~~his~~ car + his sister comes along + brings one of her girlfriends. There's a neat beach outside of Providence called Bonnet Beach + that's where we go.

I got Aunt Carrie's package. I'm going to write her a letter tonight.

I'll try to write more often from now on. Write as often as you can.

It's a good thing we have liberty once in awhile or I'd go nuts studying all the time. After the 12th week all we have is signaling + bleibers. Will I be glad when the 12th week comes, we are now on our 7th week. I think I'll sign up for P. S. boats. They give us what they want to anyhow but there's no harm in asking for it. Everybody can apply for what they want.

I'm writing this in class and it's just about over so I'll sign off. The reason I write on this it looks like I'm working on my notebook.

lots of love + kisses

Rich