

ENS R.E. Barry
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Fleet Post Office
New York, N.Y.

Wednesday a.m.

Dear Edna,

At last I get around to my writing! You'll have to excuse me, though, for not having written sooner. My time has hardly been my own for the past couple of months. Temporary duty aboard LST 389 came to an end on Thanksgiving day. I was stationed at a base in England for 2 weeks while awaiting transportation to the states. We (2/3's of #391 Complement) crossed the ocean by transport and docked in the Brooklyn Navy

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Yard. All of the enlisted men were granted leave. Jack, Mac, Bob, and I were sent to Norfolk to wait again - this time for our ship. The 391 came in yesterday and we returned home. The old ship is in mighty poor condition. The only heat comes from our latest acquisition, a small stove here in the wardroom. Hot water is a memory now! We have reason to believe though that LST 31 will revert to type and once again gain distinction as a "luxury liner" before many months have passed.

By the way, I received

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2 months mail yesterday, which leaves me with a good many letters to answer. I look forward to writing now!

I bought a few good books while in New York. Here's the list: Complete Works of Shakespeare, Frenchman's Creek, a Spanish book, Valley of Decision, a book on chess, Jane Eyre, a book on grammar, Story of 100 Symphonies. I looked around for a good biography of Jefferson but failed to find one.

I experienced a genuine relief when I finally discovered the source of a quotation of which has always appealed to me.

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Do you remember "This above all! To thine own self be true—" I came across it recently in re-reading Hamlet.

Gosh, Edna, there are too many people here talking to make writing easy.

Thanks a million for thinking of me at Xmas. It must have been great for Jack and Gene to get home. I haven't given up hope of seeing you. Let's cross our fingers and make a wish!!!

Sincerely,
Bob

Remember me to your
mom, Doris, Chris and
Wally.