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c/o P. O. San Francisco

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Lynn,

now, it's about time I answered your many grand letters. You have no idea how upon occasion they can lift one out of the dumps. Now that the college year has begun again I'll be looking forward to news and more news of Salem, college of our hearts.

*Since my last letter to you I've taken another jaunt of 3500 miles. (I did write to you from New Caledonia didn't I) We are now in a half-decent liberty port and have something to see besides the sea, coral, & Polynesians. Of course it's not States side duty but it's the best thing immediately west thereof. I wish I could tell you about the many interesting liberties we spend. As it is all the censors will pass is: "Had liberty today. Went to the Officers Club. Got one Bourbon & Cokes, etc for .25, instead of .50 & .60 as in San Fran & Boston." With that and all, war has not yet been hard on me. It's the dear ones at home who are

suffering in natural but needless worry. To me, this is an invaluable experience, particularly so if I ever return to teaching. Speaking of teaching, today I was reading in the N.Y. Times that 40% of American teachers are being paid less than \$1,500. I don't think I ever want to see that figure again, so when the war ends I may have to shop around for a new vocation, profession, or what have you.

Did I ever describe our watches to you? For four hours out of 20 or even less, I ascend the foremast to my battle station in Sky Control. Since we've been spending more time swinging about the anchor than underway, this is a four hr. period of engaging in the Spanish pastime - "throwing the bull". There are anywhere from three to six officers up there discussing anything from trend to something more substantial. You'd be surprised how serious the round table is when we attempt to fight or reason our way into a brave new world. Education occupied our attention for hours on end on one or two occasions. Here is the conclusion we arrived at.

1. Education in America is falling down on the job because
① it has no definite, central objective, a backbone as it were from which curricula could spring out as vertebrae.
② it has not taught the value of an objective - therefore Americans have no purpose for existing beyond today.

2. Education in the future in order to be consistent with national preparedness will have to be subsidized by the gov't by affording partial scholarships, etc. to students (liberal arts & all) for taking certain technical courses along with their majors. This is important because in a democracy the citizen is the potential soldier, and future wars are going to be so technical that at least a fundamental knowledge of radar, radio, etc. will be needed.

Sorry for that! I have a new job aboard now. Formerly I was Junior Division Officer in the division which maintains anti-aircraft upkeep. You see in addition to watches, we must make out exams in damage control, arithmetic, & other fields for advancement in ratings, make reports on condition of ship, & attend to a million & one details in the division. Now I am Division Officer in charge

of 25 colored & Hispanic mess boys. I am, for the most part, my own boss. The experience is an interesting one. There are college grads among the mess boys & sooner or later I'm going into a discussion of the negro in post war America. It should prove interesting.

I ran into an old friend of mine on the island here the other day - Fred Abodeely. You wouldn't know him but we struck up quite a friendship while he was photographer for the Salem News & I was dir. of publicity at Salem. He's now a 1st class photographer with the Seabees.

Billy Gibbs & I maintain contact but the others seem to have gone by the boards. Smitty is an ensign (I hear indirectly) in the Coast Guard on "17" cutter in the North Atlantic. Jim Sherry is an ensign in N.Y. And another friend of yours, John Sullivan, formerly of Queen V.S. is well out where my brother. John is in Gunker Hill, Indiana. My brother Tom is on a 3 months cruise on the U.S.S. American Pilot, P.O. Ft. Schuyler, N.Y. He's a Midshipman & will be commissioned ensign around

next April. He is on a 3 months
cruise now, will return around
December, & then goes for 3 months
more in January. He's studying
marine engineering. Now that
there's so few fellows around
Beverly, Tom might appreciate hear-
ing from Hally.

That's about all for now, so
until again, I'll close wishing
you all God's good luck during
the new school year.

Yours Sincerely,
Duck