

NAVY DEPARTMENT

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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DEAR EDNA,

THIS LETTER MAY TURN OUT TO BE A LITTLE ON THE ELEMENTARY SIDE. I JUST NOW FINISHED WRITING A STORY FOR A YOUNG FELLOW TO READ. I'VE BEEN SPENDING AN HOUR AND A HALF EACH MORNING TEACHING ONE OF OUR BOYS HOW TO READ AND WRITE. HE'S 18 YEARS OLD BUT HAS NEVER BEEN TO SCHOOL. THE SKIPPER BROUGHT HIS CASE TO MY ATTENTION A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO AND ASKED ME TO HELP HIM. WE GET ALONG QUITE WELL. I MADE UP A SPELLING BOOK FOR HIM TO STUDY AND HE LEARNS A FEW NEW WORDS EACH DAY. ONE OF THE OTHER FELLOWS ABOARD TOLD ME THAT COCHRAN DOESN'T MIND MY TUTORING BECAUSE I NEVER GET ANGRY WHEN HE MAKES MISTAKES. IT MADE ME FEEL GOOD.

HOW ARE THINGS AT SALEM THIS YEAR? I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT ANOTHER COLLEGE YEAR HAD STARTED UNTIL MY "LOG" CAME IN TODAY'S MAIL. THE MONTHS CERTAINLY DO SLIP BY UNNOTICED. JUST THINK--I'LL SOON BE 25. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I DON'T FEEL A DAY OVER 50.

DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS THREE OF OUR OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED. IT SEEMS THAT EVERY TIME SOME-

- 2 -

ONE LEAVES HIS JOB IS AUTOMATICALLY TURNED OVER TO ME. AT PRESENT I AM THE NAVIGATOR, GUNNERY OFFICER, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, RECREATION OFFICER, EDUCATIONAL OFFICER, WATCH OFFICER, AND UNOFFICIAL CHAPLAIN. THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING DOING!

THE "MIGHTY A" HAS BEEN HERE IN OKINAWA FOR TWO MONTHS NOW. THIS DUTY WAS RATHER HARD TO TAKE FOR A WHILE, BUT MOST OF US HAVE REACHED THE POINT OF ACQUIESCENCE NOW. THERE'S A RECREATION FIELD ON THE SHORE HERE, SO WE GO OVER TO STRETCH OUR LEGS A COUPLE OF TIMES EACH WEEK.

THIS LETTER WILL BE TOO LATE TO CARRY MY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS. I DO HOPE THAT YOU, DORIS, YOUR MOM, WALTER, AND PRISCILLA ALL HAD A NICE CHRISTMAS. WAS IT A WHITE ONE?

EDNA, I'M GOING TO ENCLOSE MY CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND BEING COLLECTED TO BUY THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE. WOULD YOU GIVE IT TO THE COMMITTEE FOR ME?

REMEMBER ME TO MY OLD PAL, VINNIE RIBAUDDO, AND GIVE MY REGARDS TO MISS BURNHAM, THE COACH, MR. SULLIVAN, AND MY OTHER FRIENDS AT SALEM.

SINCERELY,

BOB