

- Friday -
5/19/44

*Somewhere America
in South America
possibly Brazil*

Dear Miss McGlynn,

I should have dropped you a line before this thanking you for seeing I got my copy of the "Log", etc. It made very interesting reading, especially those articles about the guys I knew; Connie, Joe Sullivan, etc. I kind of let my mail slide, and as a result I have about 15 letters staring me in the face. However, I'll get 'em caught up in a week -- I hope.

I'm still living the same routine life so I've nothing exciting to write about the life down here. That except ~~from~~ Johnny Constantine's letter in the March 31st issue of the "Log" might well describe the life down here were it not for the fact that the people down here are on the conservative side. I'm slightly European-ish, if I am expressing myself correctly.

X There are two distinct classes down here. I suppose you can call it upper and lower. The lower class is slightly on the dusky side, more or less a by-product of inter-racial marriage, etc. ~~Socially, they are~~

~~not worth meeting or knowing.~~ Their living conditions are primitive; to me it seems even more than you might be able to find anywhere back in the states. On the other hand, the upper class is exactly what the term denotes. They still contain the old country conservatism and customs. The younger set attend all the U.S.O. dances but they are always chaperoned by their mother. Perhaps you might like to sit a dance out, the Mrs. always sits herself between you and the dance little Miss. Were you to go riding or to the movies, an invitation always includes the mother. It's an old (censored) custom. I can tell you an actual experience I had that very plainly shows what ^{an} driving at. Three to four days previous to the Lenten season, the natives have a three to four day "carnival". They really observe Lent down here; so, they make merry previous to this time. Regular festival spirit. I had been in town enjoying the sights and was on my way back to the U.S.O. to catch some transportation back to the base. I was on my way down a hill in the better section of town when to

and behold my eyes cast themselves on a vision of
London (London at that) such as I hadn't seen since
I had left the states. Trying to live up to Navy
tradition I tried to engage her in a conversation. By the
way, she was leaning over a wall about 10 feet above
my head. She spoke fairly good English. I judge
she was married for she told me she was very
glad to meet an American sailor but it didn't
look right for her to be talking to me, her
people wouldn't approve, and would I please
leave. I left. That little episode should give
you some idea of what I mean by upper class. *

The economic situation down here is well
worth observing. The laborer or those from
the lower class haven't gained much from a
monetary view point. Prices have risen ~~tremendously~~
tremendously. The upper class who are able to invest
are making the profits. I judge our high stand-
ard of living affects people the same the world over.
It will be interesting to see the outcome of all this
after the war. *

Please excuse the scratches, etc. I can
do much better on the typewriter, but I use that
enough. I like to try writing in longhand every now and
then. Hope you can read this - As ever - Henry

Off duty
Donald S.K. 3/ N.A.F.