

U.S.S. HOUSTON

Long Beach, Calif.
11 March 1936.

Dearest Moms,

Just a line or two to let you know that I am still alive and kicking and Oh'Boy what kicks. To day I turned down a chance to do duty in Texas from the first of June to the first of December. The duty would have been for the duration of the Centennial at Dallas. About two weeks ago they posted a bulletin on the Bulletin board asking for all boys from the state of Texas to put in their requests for this duty. The boys must be of average height and weight, must never have been on report and to have a clear record, must present a nice clean appearance, and above all must be able to take orders and to obey those same orders promptly and efficiently. Well the whole outcome was that there was no fellow on the ship with the exception of Bill Yates a Store-keeper in the same division that I am in and he had put in for this duty a long time ago as his cousin is going to be the head man of the bunch (he is a Lieutenant Commander). They called me up to the Executive Officers Office and told me that of all the boys that put in their applications to go to Dallas that there wasn't a one that came up to the regulations and that they would like for me to consider the offer and hoped that I would go. Well I told them that they knew there would be no chance for advancement for me while at the Centennial and that the Pay-master wouldn't care to see me go as I was the only one eligible to go up for the next Store-keeper rate and that if it was alright with them I would like to stay around and take advantage of that rate, so the outcome of that is I stay aboard the HOUSTON.

I don't know how well you think of the idea put Moms dear, I think I am doing the right thing. That rate means a lot to me and I sure intend to make it. The ship will be in Houston in August anyhow and I will be home then so be on the look out for your little boy Tex.

The later part of May we will be in Valpariso, Chile and that is another reason why I want to stick it out on this old tub. I sure do expect to have a good time on that trip, and I know damned good and well that I am going to make the best of it. A report came out about a month ago that the trip was called off but now that report has been blasted to pieces as the official dope has just come out that the HOUSTON will be one of the ships to make the trip. All together the trip will take about a month and I sure do expect to have some real tales to tell you in August.

Well Moms I haven't got much more news to tell you so I will close for the time being and get this letter off tonight as we go out tomorrow to fire our AA batteries and we just came in this evening to get rid of our boats, so excuse this if it is kind of short as I want to send it over with one of the boys in the boat crew. Good night dear mother and gang. Write soon and tell me you are not mad or angry with me for not taking that Dallas duty.

With all my love.

Bill.