

18 December 1941

Dear Folks,

I'm sorry that I haven't been able to get any word to you more quickly, but of course all the mail schedules are out now, and the service from now on will be pretty bad. Perhaps after conditions steady down the service will be more regular, I hope so anyway.

The war started with a surprise and shock to most people, I suppose but the actions were certainly typical of the Japanese, and indicate how far they can be trusted. The losses at Pearl Harbor are unfortunate but should at least serve to blast part of the country into realizing what we are up against.

Since full censorship has now been invoked on both ingoing and outgoing mail aboard ship, there is almost nothing I can write of except that I am perfectly well and we are all doing our best to do our jobs. After having fought mock wars for so many years, there are a lot of changes that have to be made in one's thinking and living habits when the real thing comes along. We can only hope that it will be a short and decisive war, and that after it is over there will be somebody who will know how to prevent any repetitions of it.

Of course we are all following all the news accounts we can get, but we know virtually nothing that is not released for general publication. We are free to talk of anything that has been given out to the public press or radios, so there is no need for you to feel that any of your writings might lead to any difficulties with the censors,

I am planning on writing all of my letters in duplicate to increase the chances of one getting through. I will send one copy air mail if I think there is any chance of it getting that service. I don't know whether any clippers are still running or not.

I started my trunk home to you some time ago. However I doubt now if it is ever going to reach you. It had my dress uniforms, my good winter coat, a lot of books and a few other things in it. I might be able to get some reimbursement some day, but I don't know.

There is one other thing, and that is I hope you won't take a lot of these press despatches as being correct, particularly those which the Japs may originate. I have already heard of some which would have alarmed you greatly if they had reached you. I hope they did not, as they were completely false.

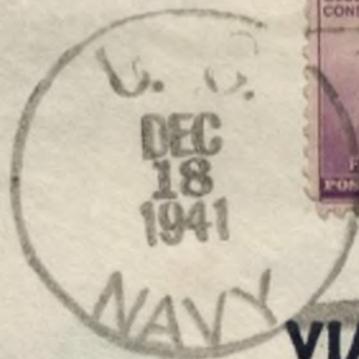
I hope that all of you will have had a happy Christmas, and that by next year I will be able to be back. Please take good care of yourselves and don't worry about me. We just have to trust in the Lord that everything is being done for the best. I will keep you informed as much as I can. There are some small cards available for use instead of writing letters. I will mail one of them whenever there is a chance of the mail getting off, however they are not particularly satisfactory, but will at least serve to let you know how I am getting along. I will also write at every opportunity. I don't know when I can expect any more mail from you. I am afraid that some of it and also the Christmas presents are already lost.

Give my love and best wishes to Sarah. I hope that she is getting along well. Frances has sufficient allotments coming in, I think, to keep her going all right, unless some real emergency comes up. The Germans and Italians declarations of war made little news here. I hope that it will not get serious on the East Coast there. If it does I hope that all of you will move back to the farm, or somewhere not worth bombing.

Take good care of each other, and write when you can.

your devoted son,
Robert

R. B. Fulton



VIA AIR MAIL

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