

Monday 22 September

Dear Folks,

The mail is going to close early tomorrow morning so that I will have to get this off tonight. I imagine that this letter will quite probably go across on the same clipper as my last one will, but when I'm situated like this about all that I can do is to write whenever there is an opportunity to get the letter off and hope that the arrivals will be more or less regular.

I am getting along fine here. Things on the ship are pretty much the same. I spend all my time in work right in the Log Room which is the Engineering Office, and it looks as though my job will be chiefly to keep things running there with very little to do with the actual operation of the plant.

The ship had a couple of picnics for the men over the weekend. They went over to a small island near us here, where there are only two or three native huts and played ball, swam, etc. and then had some beer and hot dogs. The parties went off very well and everybody seemed to enjoy them. They have to give them something to do when we are just lying out like this.

I had the duty on Saturday, and then on Sunday five of us went up a small river over here a few miles. It goes right through a very dense jungle so the trip was very interesting. We had our pistols along and made so much noise with them that I think we frightened away all the animals that are supposed to be found up in there.

We also stopped off at a native village on the way back. It was a pretty sorry affair, with huts that are about as filthy as anything that I have ever seen. Most of the people around here are Moros. There are lots of stories around about how fierce they are, or rather were. Where we happen to be right now I think that the only tough ones that are still left live back up in the hills, though many of the men around the shore still wear their bolos, which look a good deal like that one you have up in the attic. These out here seem to be somewhat longer than that one however.

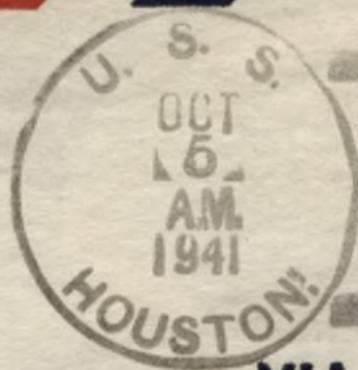
The censorship hasn't started for us out here yet. When it does that will be quite an added chore for me as there are only five of us on the board and somewhere around a thousand people on here to write letters, and many of them have penmanship that is worse than mine.

It has been a little bit warm around here the last couple of days although it is never as hot as it is in Manila. We had a partial eclipse of the sun yesterday that apparently attracted some attention from the Japs and Chinese where it was total.

I believe that Rogers whom you mentioned has just come aboard here for duty. He came out on the Henderson which stopped off here a few days ago, and while I have not had an opportunity to talk to him yet, I believe that he is the one whom you referred to.

I hope that by now you are getting good reports from Mary, and that things are not too quiet around the house with all the children away. Needless to say I also hope that this one will be back a lot sooner than it appears right now.

Devotedly
Robert



VIA AIR MAIL

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