

Monday, September 1, 1941

Dear Folks,

I was so glad to get your letters, written the eighth and which reached me on the twentyseventh of August. I suppose that about now some of you at least are starting for Mississippi. You didn't say just when you were planning to go down there, I hope that the trip will be an enjoyable one for all of you.

I joined up with the Houston last Thursday and since then have been quite busy getting settled and learning my new job. I am Assistant Engineer on her, which suits me fine. The Chief Engineer seems to be a very fine sort and I feel that I am going to like things here fine. The ship is pretty much a duplicate of the Indianapolis you know and therefore there are a good many comforts on here that those on the destroyers have to do without. Also it is full to overflowing with both men and officers so that there are plenty of people to get the necessary work done. The crowd on here seem to have a very good ship and are quite proud of it. The new Captain took over on Saturday. The one leaving was very highly thought of by everyone here. He is flying back to duty at the Naval War College.

It is going to be hard to write much of a letter when I can't say anything about where the ship is or where it may be going. I can say that so far we have been very comfortable indeed. It is by far the most peaceful and quiet surroundings that I have encountered in a long time. There is far less concern about the prospects of a clash developing out here than there is back in the states with all the newspaper headlines. Nobody on here seems to take it at all seriously, and Admiral Hart has managed to keep the ship more comfortable as far as living conditions go than anything I saw of either the east coast or Honolulu fleets.

I have a good sized comfortable room to myself here, and will be able to put as much into my work as I want to I think, for only roughly half of my work will be routine. I apparently will not stand any watches at sea and will only have to stay aboard one day in four in port. So right now it looks as though I will continue to get a full night's sleep as I have been accustomed to lately. So far I have not been able to look up any of those whom you mentioned in your letters, but will at the first opportunity.

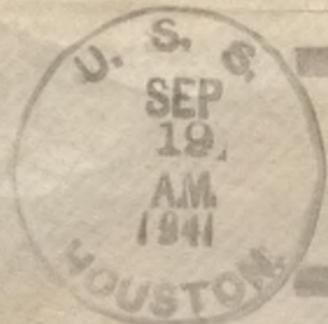
I hope that you had a nice visit with the "ewitts, and that you got a chance to talk to Dr Taylor upon his return.

I guess that Sarah and Hank will be moving into their place about the time that this reaches you. I hope that everything is going to work out nicely for them. Please remind them that they are welcome to use anything that they care to among our things in the attic.

The man that I relieved was certainly happy to get away. He is on his way back to Washington now to pick up his family. I meant to get him to call you up when he got there, but he left before I could tell him.

I'm afraid that I will miss a clipper with this. I have also heard that they are being delayed right now because of typhoon conditions out in the Pacific.

Devotedly
Robert



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