

10 October 1941

Dear Folks,

I have been having a pretty easy week this time. We have been able to get off the ship at one o'clock each day, and I have been over in Manila almost every afternoon. I've spent a good deal of time just shopping around, and am still trying to get a radio that will satisfy the ship's requirements. I have had two out here already that do fine so far as reception is concerned, so do not expect any real difficulty in getting one that will suit. I played golf again yesterday afternoon out at what is supposed to be the best course in the islands. It is a very beautiful course and in excellent condition. They have a lot of Chinese and native labor to keep it up and is more carefully cared for than any of the clubs around Washington. However the membership is predominately Filipino and Jap, and our reception out there is sort of hard to predict. Once or twice they have raised the fees on the Navy people so as a result most of them play regularly at the other course where we are always welcome. I had an interesting ride home, the four of us were brought in by the head of the penal system out here. He is a native with a lot of time in the constabulary and on various jobs in the southern islands. He is right proud of his new prison near here and asked us all to come out and see it. We had seen some others down south where they have over two thousand convicts with no guards and no fences. The convicts live on farms with their families and have no idea of running away as they live a great deal better than would if they were completely on their own.

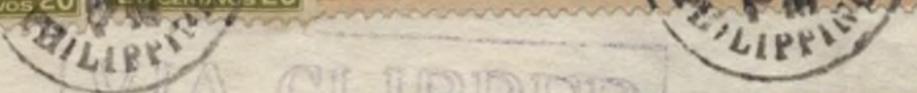
Things on the ship are going along very smoothly and quietly. I still have plenty to do and am virtually my own boss as to what I do and when I do it. Not having to stand any watches makes a big difference. I haven't seen Admiral Hart yet. He has been out on the ship once or twice, but doesn't stay on board.

The Russians are having a pretty hard time of these days I hope that they are going to be able to hold out into the winter, it apparently is helping to keep Japan quiet. One of the local papers has had a correspondent over in Siam and they are all fired up about the Japs preparations there. These papers out here are as bad as the ones in the States in dramatizing everything they get ahold of, and very few real facts come out.

The weather has stayed wet all week. It makes things a little cooler perhaps, but it is the dampness and not the heat that bothers people around here.

I hope that you are getting good reports from Mary and that you are both well. If Sarah and Hank can use any of our things up in the attic I hope that they will go ahead.

Devotedly
Robert



VIA CLIPPER

VIA AIR MAIL

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