

Monday, 8 September 1941.

Dear Folks,

I enjoyed very much your letters which came in this afternoon on the clipper. The envelope had an August 25th postmark on it. Recently the Clipper schedules have been somewhat mixed up because of a series of storms awhile back that held them up for some time and apparently let them all collect at one end of the run. We now have one due in three days from now and then another four days later. Then there is a nine day wait for the next one. This letter will leave on the 12th if all goes well, so I think that I'll send it to McComb, as it should easily reach there by the time that you gave as your departure date from there. I am so glad that you apparently are going to be able to go down to Mississippi together, and that Aunt Minnie is going to be able to come back with you. Please remember me to everyone down there, particularly Tattie, I hope that she is feeling much better now.

Life is going on very smoothly for us here. I'm not permitted to say anything about the prospective location or future movements of the ship, but anyway I don't know any more about what we are going to be doing than you do. I never know when we are going to get underway, and when we do I have to guess myself where we are going.

I saw the President Harrison yesterday. She is on her way back to San Francisco now. Another President liner arrived a couple of days ago and we have about four officers aboard for transportation to other ships. One of them is Eddie Baker out of my class and Heilig's group who has just come from Indian Head. Minter Dial also stopped by for a few minutes. Its good to see somebody with more time to do out here than I have, even though it is only a couple of weeks. The people leaving here right now are getting away pretty much on time (30 months). They have recently announced that the tour out here for enlisted personnel will be reduced to 21 months. However it does not apply to those already out on the station. That has caused a lot of commotion and I imagine that it will be changed so that the new arrivals will not go back ahead of those that are already here. Another classmate of mine came aboard today, for transportation to a destroyer. He has just finished three years in Japan as a language student, and had hoped that he would be going back to the States, but I guess he will stay out here now as long as things remain in their present condition. He is of the opinion that the Japs are in pretty bad shape internally, and are trying to vacillate as much and as long as possible. Like everyone else who has had even the slightest contact with the Japs, he has absolutely no use for them as a group, although he has some very close individual friends. Even the Filipinos, right down to the last Moro seem to be all agreed that the Japs are going to be nothing but trouble for them. There is apparently no where near as much concern felt around here as there is in the States. At least it is not nearly as apparent anyway. If they are building any bomb shelters around here I haven't seen them. I have seen little "shelter lights" for sale, but that is about the only sign of civilian concern. We on the ship all gather a round to hear a fifteen minute broadcast each noon by Don Bekl

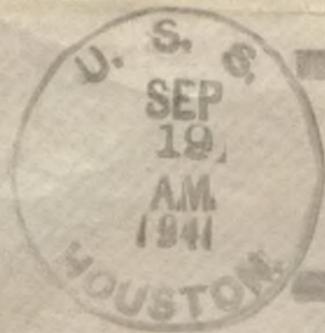
who is apparently the number one radio commentator out here. It may be he that you hear on your broadcasts from Manila.

We have a very good Chaplain aboard, and I have gone back to Church the two Sundays that I have been on board. I have enjoyed it very much, as he preaches a right good sermon. It is a right unusual setting, particularly if there are a lot of Mohammedans paddling around in the water nearby. Yesterday I played golf with a man out of '29 on board. We went out to the Manila Country Club, it was a very good course and the whole afternoon cost only about one dollar, so I feel that I can afford it as often as I'm able to get away. The most popular sport or rather pastime in Manila is the Jai Alai games that are staged every night, and a lot of the people have been out there.

I have been getting along pretty well so far with my job. I have a great deal to learn, and most of my time so far has been spent at paper work of one sort or another. I still haven't learned a great deal about the plant, but hope to be able to spend more time on that end of things in the near future. I'm also running the movies aboard, and that is a pretty tough job, trying to satisfy the demand for good ones. Almost everything that we get out here is over two years old, and it is just about impossible to have a good show every night. Last spring the ship was spending most all of its time in Manila and there are so many men on board that it could afford to pay \$15 a night to rent movies from the commercial circuit ashore. That got everybody accustomed to a lot better movies than the Navy circuit can give them.

I hope that your trip is a pleasant one, and that it will not be so hurried that you are all tired out. I know it will be a lot more enjoyable than last year's for Mother. Please give Mary my best wishes and hopes that she is going to find things to her liking at the University. I know that she is going to do well there. From Frances letters the two of them seem to be getting along very nicely, and Larry is developing awfully fast. It's already hard for me to picture him doing the things that she describes.

Devotedly
Robert



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