



Naval Training Station
Bainbridge, Maryland.
Oct. 24, 1942

Dearest Darlin

The canteen opened unexpectedly this evening so I was able to buy some writing paper.

Maybe you will get two letters the same day.

We took the 10.30 a.m. train from Phila Wednesday afternoon riding to the station in a long bus in which there were no seats and looked like a big dog-catchers wagon with its wire sides. There were three of them and the crowd sure raised hell, hollering "let me out, I didn't do it" and barking like dogs.

We arrived in Port Deposit about 11.45 a.m. (Port Deposit looks like Winslow Junction) and

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Took a more comfortable bus
to the Training Station. I was
prepared for the sea of mud
we rode into when we came
in the gate. I told you the
state of incompleteness the place
is in. The first thing we
did was eat and we sure
were hungry. After eating we
went to the main administrat-
ion bldg. (We spent hours waiting
for other recruits to go through
so you will understand why it took
so long. One thing you learn in
the Navy is patience and I don't
mean maybe.). We had roll
call and then went upstairs
where we were supposed to
get the rest of the works. How-
ever, all we finally got was our
bedding consisting of a bunk mattress

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and a small Pillow a little larger than the one on the sofa.

Thursday we went over and started waiting again until we finally got what is called your "Small Stores" consisting of a spool of black thread, a spool of white thread, a supply of buttons, two shoe brushes (dandruff + Polishes), Tooth brush, Life buoy Soap, Pen Knife, P+G. Soap, whisk broom, scrubbing brush for clothes, (go ahead laugh) 200 yards very small rope for tying clothes, comb and a soap dish, for which they said \$2.10 would be deducted from our pay.

We then got undressed and started through a series of Doctors, 28 in all, Every one looked at something different. I must be a healthy man I passed everything but my teeth and according to the Dentist it will take him 2 months to

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fix them all. We then went down the ladder (that's what a stairway is called) and started at the end of a long counter after we were measured for everything and received our uniforms.

They even had a foot machine and in the Navy I take a 7½ E from then we went into the fitting room & tried everything on. Things really fit like a glove here.

Friday and Saturday have been spent on instructions how to roll our clothes and drilling. The eats are good and in our barracks there are 112 men all good fellows. All our clothes are stenciled with our names on.

New recruits are pouring in

V

steadily I was the 131st one.
Just as soon as a barracks
is completed it is filled.

Write + Tell me how Tim
Camille + Johnny are and if they
are behaving. If anything is
going wrong let me know right
away and I will try to straighten
it out from here. Don't pay any
bills save your money for groceries
until you get more.

I forgot to tell you that
Friday we were vaccinated
and got 2 shots, one in each
arm. For about 15 minutes
last night I had chills so bad
my teeth chattered, I checked with
the other fellows and most
of them were affected the same

VI

way, so it must have been
the shots.

We have to get up at 5.45
A.M. and lights are out at 9.30
P.M. Except on Sunday we can
sleep until 10.30 A.M.

I won't get any leave for
3 weeks and maybe not for eight.
If we don't get any for eight weeks
we get a 10 day furlough. They
are giving us plenty to do and
our C.O. says they are trying
to push us out in 5 wks. as
they are so in need of men.

Well morning there is nothing
more to say for awhile. I wish I
could see you and the Indians
for awhile. Write soon and let me
know how everything is.

Parker

P.S. Go by the address on the envelope.



UNITED STATES NAVY

Barracks 426
Company 8
Bainbridge Maryland
Oct. 24. 1943

Dearest Darlin'

I guess you thought you would never
hear from me. Things have certainly been
in a hectic stage here. The camp isn't
even half completed and they are pushing us
through a sort of consolidated training so we don't
have too much time to ourselves. The Writing
Paper you gave me got lost in the shuffle so
I was just able to borrow a piece, this piece
and an envelope. The training station lantern
is supposed to open Monday and I will
write you a long letter then and tell you all
I have to ship now. John was right about
the dressing business, but the lots are good
& plentiful. Our company officer is one swell
fellow and everybody likes him. There are 112
men in a company. I have more clothes

now than I can ever remember being at one
time before. We have been learning how to roll them
so that they will go in a sea bag and you will
be surprised when I tell you how many leather ties
possible to get into such a small space. I can't
believe it myself even when I see it. To-
day is the first day we have been able to go
without rubber. The mud has is almost dry and
there is plenty of it as you can see by my
clothes. I am writing this on top of my bunk which
is an upper and can look out the window here
and see the rolling forest covered hills of Maryland.
This camp is up on a fairly high hill and we get
a good view, all around us are buildings under
construction and even the ones open still have
workmen working in them.

How are the little Bambinos and let me
know if everything is O.K. there. Monday I will try
to buy some paper and then I will tell you every-
thing that has happened since my arrival in Be-
guenel. Is Anne still with you? No by the
address on the Envelope when you answer.
Parker.

Bainbridge Md.
Tues. Oct 27

Dearest Darlin,

Today is Tuesday and I haven't had any answer to the letters I wrote you. I got your letter so I guess you found the slip in the clothes.

I think I told you all we did up until Sunday. Monday it poured here all day and my cold was at its worst so I didn't go to breakfast or lunch but got the fellows to bring me some oranges over. They always give everybody an orange for breakfast unless they have Grapefruit which is seldom. So I ate 1/2 doz oranges. We had inside drills Monday and inspection on everything. So far Powers + I (He is the fellow in the bottom bunk)

and needs plenty of it.

if you get a chance call

Mr. at the Hudson Agency

and tell him he had best get the
poebard and sell it. It is over
at Needhams and I can't sell
it for the price I wanted for it.

This pencil is running
out of lead and I don't know whether
I have any more or not. I stood in
line for an hour to get in the Shy's
store to get this one. Well the
pencil just run out and I can't
get the old lead out or the new
in. found a good wooden pencil
to finish with. Well mommy
I have just time to grab a some
before light out so until the
next time

Good night
Parker

Bainbridge Mt.
Oct. 29 - 1942

Dearest Darlin

I received your Halloween
box today and was tickled to
get it. My Beunk mate &
our neighbors have knocked
a big hole in it already.
Yesterday made an even
week and we were all glad to
pass one of our eight milestones
yesterday, Wednesday we drilled
and made our application for
insurance. Everything here
is done as the company and as
a whole. There is a certain
time for everything. I took
out the \$10,000 as I told you
I would.

Today was sort of a bonus
day for us. We are considered

The cook company of 46 outfit
and we and three other
companies were picked to give
a demonstration before the ~~6888~~
Regiment commander on the
Tomb school foot-ball field.

Tonight they are having
movies in the mess hall but
I can't go. I had some work-
ing to do and I wanted to
write this letter.

I haven't heard from my
family yet and I haven't written
to yours or Lew.

I don't know what to
say if I write a letter to
mom. I don't know John's
address if you send it to me
I will write to him right

away.

There are 27 companies at this base now and new recruits are coming every day. This station comprises 1750 acres so you can imagine the size of it. I told you how hilly it is here, the Tome field is on one of the highest hills, the afternoon was a perfect October afternoon and as we marched up the hill onto the field the ~~forest~~ forest clad hills rose & fell in the distance. Green grass underfoot made it very nice since we have been clambering through mud. They had a small Band there from one of the ships, I think it was the

III

York Town and our exercises
were given to martial music.

Before we started the
commander himself went
through the whole routine
twice and with the music.

His every gesture was perfect,
we were forced like this:

0	0		
5	0	Field	140.
1	0		170.
0	0		
0	0		

It was very stirring and
watching him I got a big lump
in my throat. I don't know
why. maybe the music or
the him screamed against the
distant hills, the field is on
a plateau.

all the fellows were

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very serious and I think if anyone had made a mistake he would have been shot on the spot.

We had to lead the others and show how it was done and Mr Storace praised us very much for our performance.

They have a Radio in the barracks now for which we all chipped in 50¢.

The drill we had was a series of marching formations and what they call a manual without arms. The same as if you had a gun. Its the regular exercises they use at Annapolis, maybe you have seen it in the movies. There

are 16 exercises without the
marching and 64 counts to
each Exercise. We have
been learning it for the past
week. also it was followed
up by the semaphore code
from 1 to 2.

Some of the fellows are a
little sad tonight, a few of
them had friends on the
Wasp.

Well mommy I have to
make my bed yet, so will
knock off until next time.

Tell the kiddies I said hello
and to mind their momma.

Thanks for the writing
paper. I sent you \$2.00
did you get it?

III

Send me a needle (only) as we didn't get any in our supplies just put it in the envelope I didn't send the paper back to you as yet about the allotment as we haven't filed them. I think we will get around to that soon.

As soon as I can get it all filled out I will send it right away. Till later
Parker.

Oct. 31, 1942
Bainbridge Md.

Dearest Darlin

In your last letter it sounded as if you were kind of lonesome. Don't be worried, in a few more weeks I'll be home on leave. The Quarantine will end a week next Wednesday and maybe we will get to leave then on a liberty. Though no one seems to know.

Yesterday we had another needle and we have 4 fellows in the sick bay and sit in bed here in the barracks. Strange as it seems this one didn't bother me at all.

Last night they opened up the camp movies for the first time, it was a good

II

picture, "Ben Turp" in Washington
the only thing wrong is they
only have one projector and
when they come to the end
of a reel they have to stop
and put on another reel.

Today we had a lecture
on how to protect ourselves
against Sharks, Barracuda
and Portuguese man of War fish.

Also on how to make
floats from our clothing, would
you believe an ordinary white
sailor hat can keep one
floating for hours?

This afternoon we
played company T a soft ball
game and lost 19-13. We
were ahead in the first inning
12 to 1 too.

III

This A.M. we had company inspection by 3 Ensigns.

Sometime after it was over we got our weekly report, we took first place on the cliff field I told you about and on the above inspection we got 4.5, the nearest company to us got 2.5. We are by far and away the best company here so going over to ~~mess~~ chow tonight it went to some of the fellows heads and when the call went out for chow they weren't in line in time and came running after the column. A. C.P.O. saw them and when we got to the mess hall we all had to about face and march all the way back again. It caused some

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some commotion as they feed close to 500 men in our mess hall and we are the second company in and the rest had to wait till we got back. We really put on a show for them on the way back, they saw how we were picked for one of the four leading companies and how we won first place in the drill field.

I wish this damn radio the boys fought would break down or some one would snatch it from the top of the locker, its a nuisance.

I'm glad you had a nice time at the hall I would have liked to ^{have} seen you when you

II

were getting your "consequences"
try to get out often mommy
became all work and no
play makes a Rosy Brief.

At the same time I
mail this letter I am sending
in a separate Envelope the
information you need for
Mrs. Hall. I made out
the Government allotment and
you should receive^P it sometime
next week. We were only able
to make out what it says on
the yellow paper so best
it I have to make another
separate allotment and I will do
this as soon as they give me
the opportunity or will send
you the difference until they do.
Just give the information to

VI

Mrs. Hill that is one the yellow sheet and the signed white sheet. (It is signed by Mrs. Starace.) Give her those two papers and forget about the entire matter.

You asked me if I liked it here, I don't think anybody likes "Boot Camp," all we see all day is barracks, mud, clean, work, drill, and eat. It is very monotonous.

We get two more needles, the next ~~succeeding~~ Friday and the one after. They are worse than anything here.

Tell Eric I was asking for him and that I'll beat him in darts when

VTT

I get home.

Have you heard anything from Johnny yet?

One of the fellows just told me that a fellow by the name of Kotek was given a medical discharge today. He has been in sick bay for a week, he had Arthritis of the right knee.

Well mommy this will be all for now. Keep your chin up and remember I love you with all of me, and will be looking forward to the time I can get home and give you a big hug etc.

Let me know how the Indians are, it was nice that the teacher liked the

VIII

clean way they came to
school, it shows they have
a swell mamma. These half
wits are jitter-bugging all over
the place so until later
Yours Parker.

P.S. If I forgot ~~and~~ anything
you asked me asked me again.
Thanks for the kisses in your
letters, shall I wear lip
stick? - I don't think it's reg-
ulation.

P.