



Dec 6, 1942
Bainbridge, Md

Dearest Darlin

Tomorrow will be the Wars 1st anniversary. It hardly seems as if a year has passed since the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor.

I would have written a lot sooner but I was waiting for the word about coming home. Nothing is definite even now. You never heard so many rumors as there are flying around here. We were supposed to stay four more weeks without any leave so a bunch of the fellows went to see the Chaplain, since he is the only one can go direct to the Captain, and now it has been fixed that 60% will go and 40% will stay. Whether or not I will be in the 60% I don't now does anybody else.

II

one thing looks good we
got our dress blues and whites
Thursday. Only companies
one to eight are to have any
leave at all. So don't expect
me till you see me. Four
more weeks here and I will be
ready for a straight jacket.

Company 2 has had sickness
and were quarantined in their
bunks for 3 weeks. When they
heard that there was a riot and
they broke a lot of windows. also
company 23, 22 and 21 had trouble,
they are all under seaman
guard today.

one of our company members
wrote a song that is going to
be adopted by the Station as the

Station song.

I am sending you
the Barnbridge Mainsheet so you
can read about it. I wish
you would write more often
as it is very monotonous here.

Tell me how Camille
is and if the other two roosters
get it.

We had the drill this
Saturday and took 1st place, also
winning the inspection rooster
two weeks straight.

I still have a cold and
don't expect to leave it until it
come home.

If you need money don't
be afraid to ask the Red
Cross as they have a very
definite tie up with the Navy.

~~IV~~

All the fellows expect to be
in the 60% that leave. There
will be some disappointed boys
when the news comes out. We
are supposed to know Monday
or Thursday. As soon as I
find out I will let you know.

Did you hear any more from
Johnny.

It snowed here today the
ground is still covered. The
first day of the cold spell our
heater broke down so about 3:15
a.m. I got up and went in the
shower room as that was the
only place any heat was left.

A lot of the fellows were in
there so we had a bill
session until it was time for

X

breakfast. It took all that day to get it fixed and we were nearly frozen. Its getting near chow time and the fellows are holding to know if I am going. This afternoon I have a big wash to do and some darning. I think they should let the married men bring their wives in the Navy with them. It still looks as if there will be more snow. I will let you know as soon as I can about coming home so when I do call my Dad and let him know as I don't think I will have much time. Till later Darling.
Parker.

Mirror of World Opinion

"The Greatest Power Known"

There is no greater love known anywhere than when men will to lay down their own lives that the lives of others may be saved. If you must go, it is well indeed that this great love is the dominating passion impelling you to go.

Go forth then into battle filled with love—love of home, parents, children, wives, sweet-hearts—and the love of God.

Love is positive; hate is negative. Love is constructive; hate is destructive, destroying even the hater.

God is Love; God is also All-Powerful. Therefore love is all powerful, the greatest power known to man.

Fight if you must, and kill if you must, but let it be for your love of God and of all things worth while and for their preservation. But never let hate become your driving force. . . .

With love in your hearts you will live and conquer, and some day safely return home victorious and glorified.—MAYOR JOHN A. HOGG, Vancouver, Wash., in a talk to Navy volunteers.

Dec 12, 1942

Dearest Darling,

Things have happened pretty fast this week. 50 four men were graduated today. Those going to trade school. If I knew what I know now I would have come in as an apprentice seaman. None of the Rated men left. It looks as if we will have to stay four more weeks which is the full training period in the Navy. We won't have a liberty or leave in this time. 580 fellows were graduated from companies 1 to 12. They left at 11.30 a.m. for the Station.

Company 7 from down stairs has moved up here with us and a new bunch of rookies are moving in down stairs. All

of them are from the South.

This Place is a mad house today and was last night.

To Sleep was nearly impossible as the ones going home were so excited to sleep and raised hell all night. I was tossed out of bed three times.

We are getting a new company commander, who he will be no-body knows. Mr Starace is taking a new company of rookies. He will be the biggest loss of all as he was a swell guy.

I got five demerits during inspection for leaving a magazine under my mattress. I forgot it was there. Until then I had a 4.0 Record.

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which is the highest it is possible to have in the Navy.

I have had charge of a work detail since we have been here. So when Mr Starace was leaving he came to me and said that I had done such a good job with my detail that he was taking them off. If I can get through the next four weeks the same way everything will be swell.

You will probably get a Christmas card from Charles Paul Spawter. We became good friends here so he wanted to send you a card. He is gone now, and so is Pat O'Donnell. Spawter went to Radio school and Pat went to a Gunnery school.

TV

I have heard our new C.P.O's name will be Robinson. none of us know him.

We had a fire in the chimney today and all had to go outside till the firemen put it out.

Its a good thing it didn't happen at night as these barracks are regular fire traps.

I don't know what is in store for us now but I do know that when we finally get our leave we will go directly to sea afterward.

The ones that are left behind are very disappointed and the blues a prevalent here today.

V

Dec 13.

Before I could finish this letter our new C.P.O came in and ordered us to move to a new Barracks. So in case I forget my new address is company 4A Barracks 418.

We are now on a first floor which isn't as convenient as a second. It was tough on the company 7 fellows. They had no sooner moved up with us than they had to pack and move again. The new C.P.O's name is Roberts, I have seen him around before.

We had to get dressed in our Dress blues to have a picture taken, kind of chronic wasn't it? You will get a picture some time this

week. I had to borrow a dollar to get it. as I am down to about 33¢. The fellows leaving got there money but we didn't get any. I know you must be in a terrible hole but I feel sure everything will come out O.K. After all the Government owes you money and if there credit isn't good its no use having any.

Let me know how the kiddies are and how every thing is. There is too much noise in here to concentrate on a letter that is mostly the reason I cut them down, outside of the

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fact that I hate to
write letters. I miss you
very much honey. Just as
soon as my leave comes I'll
try to make up for lost time.
Let me know if you
hear anything from Johnny
or Mike.

Will mommy until the
next round up.

With love +
Parker.

Company 4A BARRACKS 418

Dec. 15, 1942
Bainbridge, Md.

Dearest Darlin,

We are all well and comfortable in our new barracks.

We spent a day cleaning it up so it would look as nice as our old barracks that we won the Rooster with three weeks in a row. The first day we oiled the floor and the Ensign came in and said it was the cleanest deck in his battalion.

Next door to us are two barracks that were just filled today, companies 89 and 90. They are all from South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia, also some from West Virginia. Mr. Storaie picked up a new company of Southerners also, and he says they are certainly dumb.

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I think we are growing to be old and fat here in this next month. Mr Robbins, our C.P.O. says we are on a paid vacation for a month, but the fellows don't care about that. They want to go home. We still have to get up at 5.30 a.m., but don't have to go out for morning exercises anymore. All we do all day is lay around and read, play checkers and cards, or go outside and play football soccer or football. It sounds nice doesn't it? Well it isn't, in fact I would rather have our strenuous training back again. I was thinking of applying for a work detail at the clothing warehouse.

home, but if anything should turn up I wouldn't be around to get in on it.

Mr. Robbins said that in the major recruiting centers they are sending recruits to Y.M.C.A.'s and Hotels until there is an opening in a training station, yet they are holding us here because there are no ships to put us on. One crop of Southerners that arrived here today told me that they spent three days at the Norfolk Station and were then shipped here. A month of this and I will come home in a straight jacket.

Paone and I play checkers incessantly and we

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have gotten so we can tell each others moves 10 moves ahead. A lot of the fellows are having drinks shipped in for Xmas and today when all the packages were given out they were all ripped open for inspection. So the fellows will be behind the eight ball for Christmas cheer.

I received a money order from the ship yard for Christmas which I am forwarding to you. I have exactly 11¢ left and as soon as we get paid (and I don't know when that will be.) I will send you the pay.

About that picture you sent me with all the sailors

in it. They were scrubbing
 these hammocks which is a piece of
 canvas about 4 ft wide and 8 ft
 long. There are eyelets in
 both ends and rope is run
 through them with Marline hitches
 and secured to the posts with
 clove hitches.

We were taken to the
 rifle range last week and given
 10 shots at a target 50 ft distant.
 I hit four bulls eyes which was
 up in the leading 25 out of our
 110 men, so you can see it
 wasn't easy.

Let me know how everything
 is coming along and tell the
 peckies to write me a letter.

I guess you are having your
 hands full but I'm in a con-

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reputation camp. I realize
how you must have felt off shore.

Just remember that absence
makes the heart grow fonder and
it's all for you.

Tell me how Johnnie's whoop-
ing cough is coming along and if
you have heard from John or
Hug.

I look forward to your
Anthony Rudel stories so be
sure to send them. This
is all for this round-up, and
don't forget the new address or I
won't get the letter.

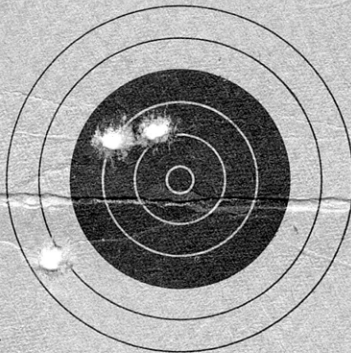
always yours

Parker

P.S. I can't find a copy of the
Bainbridge Main sheet. It had a
lot about Company 8 too. That's why.

2 SHOTS ONLY ON EACH BULL. HITS OUTSIDE OF RINGS SCORE AS MISSES

18-2



Dec 25, 1942
Bainbridge Md.

Dearest Darlin,

Your Christmas Present arrived this a.m., but I wish you had saved the money for you and the kiddies. I was glad to get them and I knew you would do something like that. The other stuff was plenty.

I had the blues very bad last night. It was the most miserable Christmas Eve I ever remember having. We had to go to a musical entertain-ment at the drill hall and it was very nice, but not for the ones that really longed to be home.

There has been a thaw here and the place is a sea of mud again. It started to thaw in the

afternoon and rained quite a bit.
 at 5.30 the next 9. M. the ground
 was a sheet of ice and we had
 to help each other the $\frac{1}{2}$ mile across
 the drill field to the chow hall.
 Rev. Hetherington and I fell down
 twice and had a heck of a job
 getting up.

Last night at the musical
 there was a trumpeter that
 played with Hal Kemp's and
 McCoy's orchestra. Have you
 ever heard McCoy's trumpeter
 play the "Sugar Blues", well he
 is the guy. Was even Joe
 Le Donne gave a piano solo,
 he was pianist and arranger
 for Phil Harris' orchestra.

The boys that are going

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To New York pulled out yesterday on their leave. I came so close but a miss is as good as a mile. I don't think a Divine Suit is so becoming anyway. Why they had to keep us here for Christmas I don't know, unless it is the transportation problem. We haven't done a thing since we moved into these barracks except loaf. All the exercising and drilling we done to get in shape, now I guess they are un-shaping us. All we can hear on the Radio today is Xmas Carols. It looks like snow again and is growing cooler. I ought to write to Aunt Grace and my family but I just don't feel like doing anything. I have

that way since we left Feb.
it seems like a terrible
waste of time to just lay around
with so much to be done.

You asked me what ship I
would be assigned to. I don't
think the Navy has any ships.
Luke should stay to enlist
again or he can't now can he? There
was a fellow here that was turned
down five times but finally found a
recruiting station that would take
him. Don't send my Christmas
cards we got. Save them and I will
enjoy reading them in my old age when
I get a leave. I think I have gained
some weight but not much. I will
get weighed before I come home.

Acey-Dacey is just another

name for back gammon, and its
a lousy game. Checkers are better.

I am anxious to come home and
see the front room, it sounds as if you
have accomplished a miracle. Your
scrap book was swell. The fellows are
reading it and passing it from one
to the other. They think a lot of it.
I was glad to get your stories they
were with good. The library opened
yesterday so we will have some reading
now.

I sent out the cards you
sent me, to mom and my family and
I forgot where else. Oh yes, I sent one
to Ray Moore too. I got a card from
Clyde Kelp, my person at the Ship
yard.

I cant picture Johnny running
around and talking, as his old betta.

You don't know how much I would like to see you and the children. When I get too lonesome I get out one of your letters and read it, it makes me feel better.

I saw Slawter when he came back from his furlough. He said he received your card and acted tickled to death. He left the next day for Radio School at either Memphis Tenn or Miami Fla. I'm not sure which. You didn't tell me what the note was on the back of the card. Secret? You know I'm a very jealous person.

Didn't you get the picture yet? He sure to let me know.

We still hit the sack at 9.30 P.M. and get up at 5.30 A.M.

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only we don't have to go out for early morning exercises so we steal another 1/2 hrs sleep that we don't really need, then the C.P.O comes bustling in hollering his head off so we start rolling out.

The C.P.O's here are a swell bunch, though once in awhile we run into a tough one. You should see them getting the fellows up in the a.m. I will tell you more about that when I get home. its really funny. They are pretty easy on us because they agree that we got a raw deal.

Have you heard anything from the Government yet? If you haven't I am going to take it up with the Chaplain as he can do more than anybody here.

VIII.

Well its getting time to
play some more checkers and
spend another dreary evening
away.

There are candy and cakes
spread on four tables here,
everybody got oodles of packages,
one fellow got a red tie from
his girl and has been cursing
her all day for being so dumb.

He hung on his neck and wore
it to Chow and even an Ensign
stopped to laugh at him.

one fellow got a tiny Brassier
in a box the size of a tobacco can
from his girl, with the inscription
on it, "A Hammock for two"

Well Doclin, until later
Parker.



Dec 30, 1942
Bainbridge Md.

Dearest Doreen,

It has rained steadily here for five days which same makes plenty of mud, that is, more than usual. I have been on a working detail over in the drill hall, whipping rope ends.

The Drill hall is nearly completed, they are sanding down the floors.

A detachment of about 30 men are leaving our company Jan. 1st, they volunteered for sea guard on merchant ships. They wouldn't take any rated men so I guess I'm slated for a bottle wagon.

I hope I don't get put in the ship's company here, that is what they call Bainbridge, a ship. Two of our fellows are going on

that today. There will be 48 of us left. We will possibly be combined with the company up stairs, or I should say on the upper deck.

New recruits are coming in every day, I don't know where they are putting all of them, it's surprising what this place holds.

I wrote a letter home yesterday, 16 pages of it. So that ought to make up for lost time.

Slawter is in New Bedford Springs, Bedford Pa. at a Radio School. He says they have the laundry done for them, also have their beds made by maids. They are quartered in the

Hotel there. Some Class.

Dec 31st The fellows that volunteered for Sea Guard are being sent for three weeks gun schooling in Norfolk. Mr S. said they were just clay Pigeons, Bunt. That's a lot of hoey, when your number is up you go. Clay Pigeons otherwise. I'm hungrier than a bear and we just got word that show will be 40 minutes late.

I had to stop yesterday as we had to go back to the drill hall and get these guys some hammocks, after that we got orders to go to the movies where they showed a picture in Sex Hygiene. A frog on the inside looks like a line-waist sandwich. It was a good thing for the younger fellows,

it should save them a lot of
headaches. They had another
picture of the war in Africa, also
a picture of the fleet in action.

This is all there seems to
write about for the time being,
all the fellows are packing and
very busy, that is the ones that are
going. we will have 48 left
out of 4A, that was made from G.7
and 8. It seems pretty positive
we will have to move and fill
in other units.

Say hello to my three
nephews, and until later
your Parker.

P.S. got a letter from Anne.

Dec 21, 1942
Bainbridge. Md.

Dearest Darlin,

This letter is a little late, mainly because there has been a terrific cold spell here and it has been too cold in these new barracks to do anything. Last night we had to wear our sweaters to bed to keep warm.

A friend of mine here, Vernon Biddle, has a bad case of sickness. I just got through getting a pass from the Ensign to send him to sick bay. I was over at 426 helping Mr. Starnes with his new company, Company 91, and when I came back Biddle was under four blankets and shivering his head off. So I went into his office and by now he is on his way down.

I received my first big disappointment in the Navy today. This a.m. the Chaplain sent a messenger over to 426 for me with orders to report to 408, that is the bldg where selections and placements are made. There were about 25 rated men there when I got there. He told us that a select group of rated men, as judged by the C.Q. test, were going to be sent to New York to assist in the raising of the Normandy, but first we had to pass a special physical test. So we went over to 401 and the Doctors started in. There were about 10 passed and

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I wasn't one of them. It is the last chance I will have of getting home for Christmas. I passed everything but the eye test. It was necessary to have at least 18/20 vision, I had 13/20 and 18/20. The Group leaves Wednesday for a five day leave and then goes to New York. The Chaplain said that the test was the one they give divers and that they expected to make divers of us before very long. I don't think I would like to be a diver as I have read too many stories about the bends. So maybe everything happens for the best.

I was glad to get the dollar you sent me as I was

IV

down to 11¢. We have received another \$10 pay so I am sending you half as that seems to be all I can do this Christmas.

Most of the fellows that went home on leave are back again today. I am going back to 426th the P.M. as it is warmer over there. Mr. Starnes said

It was 6° below at 5.30. a.m. I thought Maryland was a Southern state. We are up in the hills. I guess that's what does it.

Write and tell me about the kids Christmas. I hope they have a nice one, that is, as nice as possible.

One of the fellows here, Walter Bowen, was married three weeks

V

before he came here, and being here so long has got him to Norway. He thinks his wife is stepping out on him. I have been trying to give him a little fatherly advice and convince him he is wrong but it's a hard job. Everybody has the blues here. The place is like a morgue only a morgue is more pleasant. It makes me realize what a treasure I have when I listen to him. It won't be so long now darling. This afternoon we go up for our "dog tags" so that is one more step completed. The hardest job is finding some way to spend the time as we have absolutely nothing to do. I have killed off all my checker

competitors and I'm just waiting
to get a crack at Jim Ross. I
think he will be duck soup
now. They sent a fellow over
from company 91 to challenge me
to play there champion who was
from the state of Georgia so I
had to go over there and beat
him.

These Southern boys are
sure picking apart the cold
here, a few of them have never
seen snow before. It snowed
steadily here for the last two
days. Today is clear.

Well now until I find some-
thing more to write about.

Your
Parker.