



Jan. 1st 1943

Dearest Darlin':



I can't answer your letters
as they are somewhere in New York. We
were supposed to terminate this trip
there but got last minute orders to come
to Norfolk. They had sent all our mail
to New York. All I received was your
new Birthday card and the musketters.

I got a letter from my sister
saying that Pop made seats for the
gang. I can't imagine Johnny on on.
He will be so big when I see him
again I won't know him.

By the time you get this letter
we shall be on our way to Europe. Where
abouts I don't know. I know our Tokyo
meander wouldn't last for long.

I don't know whether or not I

told you we were in Aruba for Christmas.
We had a White Christmas. A Christmas in
Whites as that was the uniform of the day.
I got in my Birthday suit on the Signal
Bridges and got a swell dinner. When
we left Norfolk to go there the water temp-
erature was 42°. In Aruba it was 80°.

I guess in ~~my~~^{your} letters you will
tell me how Santa treated you. How I
wish I could have been there. Someday
we shall all be together again. Then
Perhaps I can make up some of the
rough times I've given you since we've
been married.

How are the Musketeers behaving?
If they don't get in line get Pop after them.
He's a good disciplinarian.

Have you heard anything from Mary
Cinemi? I hope she didn't make a mis-
take but I think she did. She has just join-
ed the army of wives, mothers and sweethearts that
are following the servicemen from place to place.
I've thought often of moving you to Norfolk, but
the Bents, even in the Government Projects, are

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so high it doesn't seem sensible. Then again there is going to be quite an influx of people from here after the war. The entire country will have to be rehabilitated and this is about the worse place to be stranded in I can think of. They have a place here called Ben-mural that was built for the families of servicemen. The rents there are around thirty dollars per month. Heat not included. None of the places here include heat. It is quite a job to even get a place here and in the above place there is quite a waiting list. What I'm trying to get at is if you ever wanted to come down here I would try to locate something, but I don't think it the sensible thing to do, though nothing would make me happier. On top of all that there is no certainty that we shall continue coming into Norfolk as frequently as in the past. On top of that there is nothing that says we won't. I've been thinking about it for a long time and I've never found so many ifs in anything before.

if you wanted to come
" we had the money to move the furniture.
" " could get a place
" the ship was to continue using this as a home port
" " is going to stay on the Atlantic Coast
" kids could survive this nasty weather
" a place could be found near school for them and
" " " " " stores " you.
" we could get food after the war.
" there was a place as good as we have now.
" the place we now have is to be gambled away there.
" I want to get transferred.
" you " become a widow so far from home.
" " met another sailor you might like more than me.
" anybody with good sense would live in this dump.

There are so many ifs Honey. I
just can't get any kind of an affirmative
answer. Maybe you can throw some
light on the subject. Well Darling,
the lights are about to go out and I
can't write very well in the dark. I
love you, love you, love you, love you, love
you, love you, love you, love you and
love you.

your ol. man



U. S. NAVY

Jan 21, 1942
Bainbridge Md.
Co. 44 D.S. 4
Barracks 645
H. Training Stat.

Dearest Darlin,

arrived here all O.K. but too late to get my hammock etc., another fellow and I were the only ones back and we had the new barracks all to ourselves. We pulled 3 tables together and slept on them. He took his jumper off and went to sleep. I read the magazine until 12:30 P.M. when he woke up. I asked him if he wasn't cold and he said no. I went to sleep then and awoke about 3 A.M. He had his jumper back on and peacoat including his gloves.

This new barracks was never occupied before and we had all the work to do here that we had in 426. Some fun!

I don't know how long we will be here, we are likely to be shipped any day or be here a



month. Some of the fellows were shipped out today, mostly bakers, cooks, and molders. I saw the draft muster and there are only 3 painters on it. One is named Holt and the other is E. W. Hillman. He is the first one I have heard of by the same name since I came to Camp. Our new chief is O. K. He is an old salt who was in the Philippines at the outbreak of hostilities. He owned two homes there, and he said he had a new Hudson with only 1200 miles on it sitting on the dock. He never got it out. He said he was took in Manila Harbor in July on a submarine and finished with "we got a hot reception".

I have just gotten word that I am going to be appointed M. A. (Master at arms) of these barracks. It is a signal honor, more so here

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there in 426 or 418. We bunk separately, that is the M.A. of the upper deck and me in a private room. Our only superior is the chief himself. We don't have to stand any watches or go on any work details. In other words his orders are given to us and we transmit them and see that they are carried out. We have disciplinary powers of giving watches and taking away liberties. (if we get any of the latter).

I started this in the bunks but was called here in the battalion office while the regular man went out for awhile. So far I haven't had any grave decisions to make, only made some passes out for sick bay.

morning, it was awful lonesome here that first night.

It seemed as if we had just really found each other, it was like a honey-moon, more of a one than we had ever had. You will always be my darling and no one can ever take your place, and no one ever has, not for a minute. If I haven't ever done anything in this world I have a wonderful wife. Any advancement I ever get in the Navy I will owe to you for as much inspiration and don't think of anything better. Bidolle won't even let me call you my "old lady" I will have to keep an eye on him if he ever gets near G.C.

You can see this letter is sort of smudged, I sharpened the pencil and the block got all over my fingers.

Bidolle is the only water-tender on the muster ship, so I don't think



U. S. NAVY

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he will be with me long. We have this place pretty well cleaned up and it looks more like home?

Have you heard whether Nancy has heard anything from Henry as yet?, that is anything new?

Biddle and I were going to ask for a certain ship that his brother-in-law is a warrant officer on, but they tell us here we can't be placed on a certain ship, so we are trying to figure out another way to get around it.

The whole outfit was sent out on a tough work party to -



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day, breaking rocks on a road of
all things. When I found out what
it was my cold started to bother me
again, so I got exposed to sub-
zero, and the Doctor put me on light
duty as he said my throat looked
kind of raw. I don't know any-
thing about swinging a sledge hammer
anyway. I tried out as a painter
not a laborer. Most of the fellows
were pretty burned up. I don't
think they will put them on it any-
more. Probably some nice job like
K.P.

Well mommy there isn't any-
thing more to say except that when
I unpacked my Seabag the glass was
broken in your picture. I tried to

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Pack it well, but the Sea rolls
get thrown around so much it
got broke anyway. The picture was un-
harmd.

When you answer this I think
the best thing is to send it to company
4A, although there are only about 30
of 4A in this company now. I'm pretty
sure I will get it. Address it.

Company 4A — O. G. U. (OUT GOING UNIT)
DARROCKS 645.

U.S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION ETC.

Always yours
Parker

January 25, 1943
Bainbridge, Md.

Dearest Darlin'

It is seven twenty A.M. Sunday morning and we are still here, perhaps a dozen have left, but not more than that. I am on the 'Be ready' list so it won't be long before I am on my way.

My new job here sure keeps me on the jump, I rarely get to bed before twelve and have to be up at five thirty so as to get the men up at six. They are using practically every body in the barracks on work details, it is a job to find enough to set a watch.

It has been a long time since I have used a typewriter and this Remington is a lot different than the old Oliver, so you will have to excuse the numerous mistakes you will see.

I have not been able to find out the difference between a grommet and a mast head, I am going to try to get down to see the knot chief sometime this week, leave it to Pop to figure out a major problem like that, there are so many easy things he could have thought of instead.

There were another big gang arrived in the O.G.U. yesterday, we hope it will relax some of this working party business on us. That remains to be seen.

Chief Small, that's our new Chief, fell in the G.I. can yesterday and banged himself up pretty good, but he is back on duty again today. He is a very cocky little guy, he is just about your size and twice as sassy, he jumped on top of the can to call off some names and the lid caved in. He is quite a character, he has been in the navy for eighteen years, eleven of them on a submarine. I think I mentioned that in my last letter. He said one time he had thirty-six depth charges dropped after him in thirty-two minutes. He is about to have an increase in his family and is trying to find a house near the base so he can move his family closer to him, I think they live in Baltimore.

How are all my little Indians? I miss all of you a lot, maybe I'll be able to find a way to get home before they ship me out, but it is quite a hard job when you have to stand by for a transfer.

Biddle said his wife told him that the Navy has made a new man of him, he said he didn't think he was as good since he was twenty. I got him a week-end leave yesterday, it took him all day to get over it, I don't think he has quite recovered yet. All I have to do now is figure a way to get one myself. Biddle isn't on the 'Be ready' list. It looks as if we are going to be split up at last. This seems like an awful short letter but you must remember that the type doesn't take nearly the space that a pencil would. It is so hard to find anything to write about. Bainbridge is always the same mucky place, the only difference is that there is a little more mud where we are now than where we used to be. It is the same old story, the O.G.U. has just opened and we are the guinea pigs again. One consolation is that it won't last as long as the other experimentation did. Well mommy I have to get back on the job as I hear my worries going up the steps from chow and a couple of them have just come in the office to argue for some liberty, so until the next round up I'll remain your loving husband,
Parker.

FREE

Joseph Parker Hillman Ptr.3c
Barracks 645 O.G.U.
United States Naval Training Station
Bainbridge Md.



Mrs J.P.Hillman
Mississippi Ave.
275 No. Atlantic City N.J.

26 January 1943
Bainbridge Md.

Dearest Darlin;

Not having received any answer to my last two letters I figured that the Navy has the mail all tangled up that is supposed to come here. I know that somewhere in the mail there is a letter for me.

Biddle and I are getting liberty tonight so I am going to his house in Wilmington which is twenty six miles from the base and play Bridge. I expect to meet his brother-in-law there who is a C.P.O. aboard the Delta. Biddle and I tried hard to get placed on that ship but we couldn't get anything done about it. Biddle is the only Water Tender in the O.GU. and has not been called as yet.

Tomorrow I am being transferred to the Philadelphia Navy Yard to go aboard the Merchant Ship or I should say The U.S.S.

Niborara, if you can say it that is more than I can. I understand it is a merchant ship hauling supplies to South America and Chief Small says it will be good duty. However I expect to find out more about it tonight when I get to Wilmington and talk to Biddle's Brother in law. It is even possible that it won't sail for awhile and that I may get a chance to get home. I am waiting patiently for Biddle to come in off a work detail so we can get started.

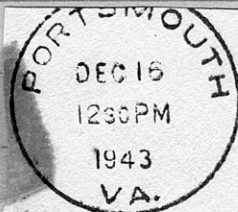
I received a money order from the N.Y. Ship today for what reason I don't know, which I am forwarding to you. Maybe they are going to send one every month which will be O.K. too. It came at about the right time as I can send them my new address so they can't slip up if they intend to keep up the good work.

There is nothing else to say and I had better stop anyway as I have made enough mistakes on this letter for you to hold against me but I can still spell tailor and taylor the way they should be spelled.

As soon as I get to Philly I will drop you a line or two to let you know what the set-up is. I think I will get a good chance to see Lew too. Well Biddle has finally piled in and it is five o'clock and that means we have wasted a half hour of the liberty already and I have as yet to get dressed. So until the next round up Mommy you will send my mail to the U.S.S. NIBORARA, no you had better not write until I get an official address or the permission to have one. Maybe I am not supposed to have one yet.

Your

Parker



31 Jan 1943

Phila. Pa.

U. S. NAVY



Dearest Darlin,

It seems as if I am a bit closer to you now, but yet so far away. Maybe I can wangle a leave and get home before the ship. I am working on that angle now.

It took all day Wednesday to get here and then all day Thursday to get secured. You have to go through so much Red Tape. One of many things we had to do was to spend about five minutes in a gas chamber. It is a funny thing to have a gas mask on and be able to breathe, it gives you a funny feeling. It was only tear gas and we had to take the masks off and get a whiff of it. I guess so we could appreciate the mask.



II.

This place is a long cry from Bainbridge. Bainbridge is like a boy-scout camp along side of here. Heist is real Navy. The food is super and there is plenty of it. The yard is like a city in itself, there are even street signs on the corners. The trolleys from Philadelphia come all the way inside and there is a regular trolley depot. Besides cockles of sailors there are Marine Barracks, churches, recreation centers, shoe repair shops, a large laundry (Harvey), Tailor shops and ship stores.

I took a long walk this a.m. I especially wanted to see the New Jersey. She looks like one big headache for the axis, I also saw the last two I worked on in the other yard, and loads of other craft including an English Battleship.

Last night over in the new -

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ation hall there were a lot of English sailors and Marines. They certainly look funny. The Marines have a snappy looking uniform, but the sailors look very comical in their outfits.

I have been going to look for Lew but haven't had time to do that yet. I think he is on the 4.P.M to mid-night shift don't he?

Oh yes, I met Mike Dewey on the stairs the other day and he is assigned to the same ship I am. Quite a coincidence huh? Have you heard anything from Guy or John? I miss Bidell quite a bit and keep hoping he will blow in here any day. It would still be a toss up if I found him as this is a pretty large place.

One thing, I at last have a

Permanent address, so you can write without worrying about me missing any letters.

I forgot to tell you my M.A. appointment followed me from Bainbridge and I have the same job here. I feel funny ordering some of the old salts around for they have probably forgot more about the Navy than I'll ever know. The Boise guys are the worst, they are some stuck-up and I guess you can't blame them. Write and let me know how you and the childrens are, and I will try to get a leave if possible.

Write to - Receiving Station
Navy Yard
Phila. Pa.

Yours always
Farmer