





May 12, 1943.
Norfolk Va.

Dearest Darlin,

It seems like a long, long time since I've written you. We were on a long trip. When we left Houston we accompanied the rest of the ships as far as Norfolk and continued on our own to Newfoundland. It was pretty cold up there, especially when we had been sun burned in Texas. We didn't get any mail until we came in today and then we got 7 bags of it. I got all your letters at once and was sure glad to get them. Our trip was one long storm from Cape Hatteras into Newfoundland. But don't ever worry about the storms. This ship can really ride the waves. I haven't seen any 40 foot waves yet like you read about in books, but I have seen some 25 footers. If we miss the subs, everything else will be O.K. Our closest shave was the day before we got in our escort got a close contact, and they really did some cute zig zagging with this baby elephant. The escort dropped depth charges all over the ocean but



NAVY DEPARTMENT

You can't tell whether they hit anything or not.
I haven't been sea sick yet and I don't think I will
be. One fellow on here gets sea sick as soon as the
first ocean wave rolls under the bow, and he stays that
way until we are back in again. The only sickness I
get is yawning for you and the Kiddies. I think I made
a foolish gesture coming in the Navy. You would too when
you saw this bunch of screwy kids that make up 70 percent of
the crew. I would give most anything to be home with you
again. A picture of you and the kids is always in my mind.
I don't have to look at the one in my locker. We are
not to get any leave this time but I guess when we come back
from our next trip we can count on a little. There are big
doings in the Spring time. This war can't last much longer
and when it's over the Gov't can have their navy back.
I want to be with my Honey and my Papoos. The first week
out was kind of a scary business, but we soon got used to ex-
pecting it. At most anything, when we're coming back empty
everybody hopes we will be sunk so we can get a 30 day
survivor leave. When we are going filled everybody is afraid we
will be. I don't want any more of those northern trips. The
water is too cold, 32°. One fellow fell overboard in
Newfoundland. He went to step into the whale boat and missed it.



UNITED STATES NAVY

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I wish I could get home to tell you some of our experiences, ones that I can't write. It was something Junior getting in the Navy. He is at a good Boot Camp, at least it's not any mud-hole. It's funny they sent him all the way to Great Lakes. In my mail I got a letter from Bickelle, one from Lew and one from Brand. I'm sending you Lew's letter, though I should keep it to cheer me up when I have the blues. It's a whippersnapper.

Tell the Musketers their Daddy misses them very much and is looking forward to the next time he can get home. I think on our next voyage I'll write a lot of letters and mail them to you all at once as I will have to. There is so much I wanted to talk about and now I can't think of hardly anything. I had to knock off for chow, but I'm back again. We had a swell feed tonight. Chicken. I'm kind of in sweat. The Skipper went to Washington today. I don't know whether to send the money home as he may get changed orders and we may get a leave, right now we are standing by, but we will be here at least a week anyway. If I send the money home it will leave me without enough to get thru. Pay day is the 15th and I should know for sure by then.

You said Johnny was in Norfolk, I'm going ashore tonight and try to see him. Just like looking for a



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needle in a hay stack. I've been kept pretty busy
on this trip. The chief got a 30 day leave at Huston and
our 1st class carpenter mate and 2nd cl. ship fitter went over the
hill. That left only two of us in the construction and Repair
Dept. It kept us stepping. I could very easily get
2nd of this month but I hate to take a chance on getting
the allotment all screwed up. They are so slow at Wash-
ington. I think I'll turn it down. After all we loose
\$5 a month. Did you know that when we leave the
Navy we get a six months pay? I didn't either, but it seems
to be a fact though I'm not sure. Honey be sure to
write just as quick as you can, so I can get it before we
sail again. Let me know how everything is and how my
Dad is. Tell me why the f--- parties. Tell me a lot of things
you think and don't say. Confusion is good for the soul.

I mailed you a pillow case from Norfolk last mite. I'm
making one tonight that I bought in Newfoundland, providing
I can find something to put it in. Well Honey until the
next round up which won't be long.

Parker

May 19, 1943

Dearest Darlin;

I received your last letter today. You didn't tell me whether you had received the last Pillow case or not. Honey I don't know how to explain the way I feel about you, but you are the only one that matters to me. I loved you when we were married and I've never stopped loving you. When you're mean to me it hurts so much Darling and I worry and worry about it. It has always hurt so hard. I'm a long way from perfect and I guess I'll always be the same, but you will always be my love and nothing can ever change that. This missed you more than you'll ever know, even to be home and be nagged again would be better than not having you at all. I don't think you would be that way any more, and I'm just living for the day we can be together again, because it's going to be the way it should always have been, and would have been if I had done the right thing. I guess I made you

that way. If you could only guess how deep
I love you and how deep a harsh word from
you can hurt. You're my everything mommy
and though it's hard for me to say the things
I feel the deepest, it's there. When I come
back it will be like being married all over
and I will come back. The Navy won't
ever change me honey, I guess I'll always be
me. Your bundle of trouble. It won't be long
now before we pull out again. I don't know where
we're going, but any place is better than the
last place.

I tried to find Johnny last night,
but liberty started so late that it was
time for lights out. Perhaps tomorrow night
I can locate him. Mike is O.K. and
made it home and back alright. The train
connections were perfect and we get in
Norfolk right on time 7.30 a.m. The ship
was in a turmoil as if you remember I told
you they were painting it, and that kept
me pretty busy. Tonight is the first
night I've really had time to sit down and
write before lights go out.

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one thing I want you to remember beautiful, is that yours my life and right now there's a big hurt in my heart that I can't be there with you. When I come back I am going to try to make up to you, somehow this terrible mistake I've made. I was thinking of seeing the Chaplain about getting out of here, but I don't think I should do that. I would always feel as if I was guilty, and this is a lot more than just a job. What do you think? Above all Darling I'm not afraid. The only thing that matters is you, but I want to do my duty here too. Maybe the Priest would tell you what's best. I don't know. My heart is torn in two, wanting to be with you so much, and it seems so impossible.

Tell the little shavers their Daddy says hello and after this trip we may get a decent kind of leave.

It's so terribly hard on those left at home, Mallard has a little boy about 7 mo. old and his wife is very nice. She was all broken up at the station. She asked me

to take care of him. He is about 6 ft and
weighs about 210 lbs and is N.A.A.V. High
Diving champion. women sure get queer
notions. I must look kind of fatherly in
my old age.

Honey you said something about try-
ing to make me jealous. You could never
do that. You can't even get through your
soul how much I love you. I can't even
imagine you doing anything wrong. You
are like an angel to me. You have always
seemed that way to me. If you ever did I
don't think I would ever have any faith in
any human being again. It always puts a
warm glow in my heart to know the feelings
of such a wonderful mother. Darling
it's almost time for lights out so I'll have
to cut the cord. I'm just waiting until I can
come home again and hold you so tight —
Good Night Darling.
Parker