



AUG. 26, 1943

DEAREST DARLING,

THIS IS THE FIRST GOOD OPPORTUNITY I HAVE HAD TO WRITE YOU AND AT THE PRESENT MOMENT I AM SO FAR DOWN IN THE DUMPS THAT I DONT THINK THIS WILL BE A VERY GOOD LETTER. OVER FIFTY OF THE CREW WENT AWAY ON LEAVE TODAY BUT I COULDN'T GET ANY. THEY HAVE BEEN PAINTING THE COMPLETE SHIP AND IVE BEEN PRETTY BUSY AND IT SEEMS LIKE A DOUBLE DOSE THAT I CANT GET AWAY EVEN THOUGH THERE IS A NEW FELLOW THAT IVE BROKEN IN FOR THE JOB. I ASKED THE FIRST LIEUTENANT TO GET ME A TRANSFER OFF THIS SCOW IF NOT AS A PAINTER AS A SEAMAN 1ST. I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ON THAT SCORE EITHER SO I GUESS I AM STUCK ALL THE WAY AROUND. IT SEEMS AS IF YOUR PRAYERS ABOUT GETTING ME HOME ARENT WORKING SO WELL, TRY PRAYING THAT THIS TUB WILL GET TORPEDOED AND THEN IF I COME OUT ON TOP I WILL BE SURE TO GET 30 DAYS AND IF I DONT I WONT NEED ANY. I GOT ALL YOUR BACK AND FRONT MAIL/W/ WHEN WE GOT IN FROM TEXAS ALSO THAT LETTER THAT MARY WROTE ME AND ONE FROM LEW.

THERE IS ONE THING I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER THAT WHEN THE KIDS GROW UP AND IF THERE IS ANOTHER WAR NEVER LET THEM GO IN THE NAVY, WAR OR NO WAR. AT ITS BEST IT IS A SAD OUTFIT BUT THE OLD TIMERS TELL ME THAT THIS SHIP IS NOTHING LIKE THE NAVY. THE CAPTAIN IS SUPPOSED TO GET TRANSFERRED AND IF HE DOES MAYBE THINGS WILL CHANGE THEY CERTAINLY COULDN'T BE ANY WORSE.

MIKE IS HOME ON AN EIGHT DAY LEAVE AND WE WILL PROBABLY PULL OUT SOON AFTER THAT. THE SHIP YARD SEEMS TO HAVE CUT ME TO 7.50 DEFINITELY. TOMORROW NIGHT I WILL RATE LIBERTY AND I WILL SEND YOU SOME MONEY THEN, THAT IS IF WE GET PAYED. ILL SEND THE TWO MONEY ORDERS IN THIS LETTER AND AS SOON AS WE GET PAYED ILL SEND THE ADDITIONAL. IM WRITING THIS LETTER IN THE RADIO SHACK

AND THE TYPE WRITER I WAS JUST USING IS OUT OF WACK SO ILL TRY THIS ONE AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS. THIS IS A SINGLE SPACER I SEE AND UNTIL I FIND THE GIMMICK THAT DOUBLE SPACES WE WILL HAVE TO GET ALONG THIS WAY. NONE OF THE MARGIN BELLS WORK AND IF I DONT WATCH IT CLOSELY I OVER RUN THE MARGIN. IVE PUSHED A DO DAD BUT THAT DOESNT SEEM TO BE THE JIGGER ILL HAVE TO HUNT SOME MORE. YOU WILL NOTICE THAT ALL THE LETTERS ARE IN CAPITOLS THATS THE WAY THESE TYPEWRITER S ARE BUILT. I THINK IVE FOUND THE GISMO NOW AS YOU CAN READILY SEE.

HOW ARE THE THREE MUSKETEERS? I GOT THE FATHERS DAY CARD IN THE MAIL YESTERDAY IT WAS CUTE. HONEY IF I EVER GET OUT OF THIS TIN HORN OUTFIT HAVE MY SLIPPERS READY CAUSE IM NEVER LEAVING AGAIN. IM GOING INTO CONTRACT PAINTING FOR MYSELF AND HAVE MY OFFICE RIGHT THERE AT HOME. THE DAY THIS WAR ENDS ILL HAVE ONE FOOT ON THE GANG PLANK WITH MY HAND OUT BEHIND ME FOR MY DISCHARGE. YOU SAID SOMETHING IN YOUR LETTER ABOUT THEM RAISING THE RENTS IN THE VILLAGE, THEY DIDNT RAISE OURS DID TH THEY? I DONT THINK THE WAR CAN LAST MUCH LONGER BUT IM AFRAID WE WILL ALL WIND UP ON THE PACIFIC COAST BEFORE ITS ALL OVER. IM SUPPOSED TO MAKE SECOND CLASS THIS MONTH BUT I DONT THINK ILL TAKE IT AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT IT WOULD MAKE A MESS OF THE ALLOTMENT, YOU REMEMBER HOW LONG YOU HAD TO WAIT WHEN I WAS IN BOOT CAMP. IT WOULD BE THE SAME THING ALL OVER A AGAIN AND THE MONEY WOULD BE JUST THE SAME. THE LIGHT ISNT WORTH THE CANDLE. I WOULD RATHER LET ALL THESE ASS KISSERS WEAR THE STRIPES AND CAMPAIGN BARS, THEY WOULD THRIVE ON THEM BETTER THAN I WOULD.

ONE THING THE NAVY HAS DONE FOR ME IS TO MAKE ME APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF MY HOME AND WITH A DARLING LIKE YOU THEIR IT IS DOUBLY WORTH HAVING. YOU WILL NEVER KNOW HOW I HAVE MISSED YOU THESE PAST MONTHS AND IF YOU EVER ARGUE WITH ME AGAIN WHEN IM BACK IM GOING TO TURN YOU OVER MY KNEE AND WHALE YOU GOOD. WE HAVE HAD A BIG ADDITION TO OUR CREW, ALL BOOTS FROM SAMPSON NEW YORK AND SOME FROM BAINBRIDGE.

WHEN I TELL THEM I WAS IN COMPANY EIGHT THERE YOU WOULD THINK I HAD BEEN IN THE NAVY FOR FIFTY YEARS, MOST OF THEM ARE FROM COMPANY 174.

THEY MUST BE TURNING THEM OUT LIKE HOT CAKES, THEY TELL ME IT IS STILL A MUD HOLE AND THEIR BEING THERE IN THE SUMMER THEY SHOULD KNOW.

PORT AUTHOR WAS QUITE A PLACE I WAS ON LIBERTY THEIR WITH MY GANG, THE OLD MEN, AND WE HAD QUITE A TIME, WE ATE IN THE LEADING RESTAURANT AND BOUGHT A FEW QUARTS OF ASSORTED LIQUORS AND REMAIED TO A HOTEL ROOM AND KEPT THE REST OF THE GUESTS AWAKE ALL NIGHT. YOU PROBABLY GOT MY CARD FROM THERE, I SENT ONE TO MY MOTHER AND ONE TO ANNE.

WELL DARLING THERE ISNT MUCH LEFT TO WRITE ABOUT SO UNTIL THE NEXT ROUND UP WHEN MAYBE ILL FEEL MORE IN THE MOOD FOR IT ILL CLOSE

YOUR DIZZY HUSBAND

PARKER.