



sept.7,1943

Dearest Darlin,

Well here ~~I~~^I am somewhere in the middle of the Atlantic with the tub trying its best to swap ends, its a hard cruise on the crockery and what ever else appears to be unlashd at the time. I am writing this one from the sick bay as their typewriter is one of the best on the ship and it is also the most quiet place and very soothing to the nerves. I am not sick or have anything wrong with me except one of the ~~many~~ turned ankles I seem to have a knawk for acquiring.

I think constantly of you and the musketeers and look forward to the time when we can all be together again. A good record doesnt mean very much on this ship when it comes to handing out leave, nor the time between leave. I was kind of surprised at the way the past leave was handled as only a very few knew there was going to be any and there was no notice or anything else posted to acquaint those that weren,t in the know with the fact. one thing is certainly nice to reflect upon and thats that the war cant last forever and the time will come when ones life will once more belong to one as it were. I imagine the real navy is quite different from the indifferent reserve navy, though there is probably both pro and con in that argument too.

I am about fed up with this painters rating or what the navy calls a painter, it justs amounts to being a nurse maid to a bunch of irresponsible school kids that have no idea how to take ~~care~~ care of any kind of tools and care less. they finally got this stream lined oil tub painted the way it should have been done in the first place, but the navy has a lot of persistance and after three of four attempts arrived at the happy conclusion. The knowledge contained by those that have been in charge of the painting of the ship at various times since the commissioning has been astounding, it has opened my eyes more than once at some of the ingenious decisions that have come from those profound minds. I dont see where it pays the Government to send them to sea when the ship yards were all so short of paint inspectors, however, they must know best.

The Captain was^a transferred to another ship and I guess everybody was more or less glad to see him go. He was the smartest man I have ever ~~known~~ known though extremely tempermental. I havent had any cause to meet the new skipper yet but things seem to have improved on here the big question is how long they will stay that way. Our department will always be more or less behind the eight ball on account of Miller since he succeeds so admirably in making himself the most disliked man on the ship. Such are the vagaries of life I guess. One thing can be said for him is that he really knows how to contact the right people and doesnt bother with any officer lower than the Executive and sits on the right hand of that almighty.

I am thinking very seriously of dropping my rating and as it wont affect the allotment financially, Im afraid it would have to go through all that red tape again. If I find out otherwise it wont take me long to get rid of it. By the way, Mike was made second class and he weall deserves it. though they probably think they have bestowed a great honor upon him. They could make him Commander and he would still go back to the fishing fleet when the wars over, hes like johnny that way.

speaking of johnny reminds me of another little johnny I would like to bounce on my knee again. I would have liked to have been there when he clipped camille with the bottle, your description gave me quite a laugh. Tinker and Camille will be back in school by the time you get this letter, the end of a topsy turvy summer. The ship is rocking so that I have quite a time hitting the right keys, also the carriage forgets to go ahead or behind every now and then and it helps to make various mistakes besides the regular ones that I ordinarily make.

Most of the Officers had ^{their} there girls aboard to see the ship at Norfolk and incidentally we have an Ensign Parker aboard (Action in the North Atlantic?) who had a very sweet guest. It makes me feel strange to know that they have years of experience to acquire in the marital status before they will be even with me, though they will probably use it much more wisely than I have. A college education ought to do something for them, though I can still remember the college men that I broke in on milk routes during the denres^{sion} etc.

I almost let that last page get away from me, it could have been a line longer.

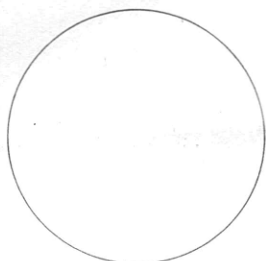
It seems like a long, long time since I have done any typeing, cant remember where the capitals, et cetera, go anymore. Wonder where Kilger is nowadays?

Perhaps after this hop I can get some leave or maybe the war will be over by the time we get back, at the rate we are going maybe we will be back in time for the next war.

Have you heard anything from Sister lately? Is she still going with Tom? It would be some joke if she would Marry him and wind up with all those kids. I could really spend the rest of my life needleing her about that. Well Mommy the conversation is growing disjointed through the lack of subjects so until the next round up----

your old man

No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To MRS. J.P. HILLMAN
275 NO. MISSISSIPPI AVE.
ATLANTIC CITY N.J.

From
JOSEPH PARKER HILLMAN
USS NIOBRARA
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK N.Y.

(Sender's address)

26 SEPTEMBER 1943

(Date)

DEAREST DARLIN,
IT SEEMS ABOUT TIME THAT I LET YOU KNOW THAT IT ISN'T TIME
TO COLLECT MY INSURANCE AS YET. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHERE I AM BUT YOUR FIRST
GUESS WILL BE PRETTY CLOSE. SCOTTY IS BUSY BANGING AWAY A LETTER TO THE L
OF HIS LIFE AND I AM TRYING TO OFFER HIM SOME HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS IN THE
TRUE ART OF LOVE MAKING BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO GET HIM INTERESTED. MAYBE MY ID
ARENT AS HELPFUL AS I THINK THEY ARE, HOWEVER, HE HAS MANAGED TO GET HIMSELF
IN THE DOG HOUSE BUT NOT WITH ANY HELP OF MINE. THERE IS VERY LITTLE TO SAY
AS TOPICS ARE MORE OR LESS LIMITED AND TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING INTERESTING
WITHOUT INVOLVING CENSORED INFORMATION WOULD BE RATHER DIFFICULT. AS USUAL
I AM IN THE RADIO SHACK AS THIS CAPITALIZED TYPEWRITER WILL PROBABLY TELL
YOU, THESE\$ RADIO BOYS ARE A GRAND CROWD THOUGH THEY HAVE NO SENSE AND NOTHING
TO OBTAIN ANY WITH. I HOPE THE KIDDIES ARE ALL O.K. AND GETTING ALONG WELL
IN SCHOOL, PERHAPS I MAY SURPRISE YOU SOME DAY BEFORE RABBIT SEASON GETS
WELL UNDER WAY. YOU WILL PROBABLY CALL AND TELL MY DAD YOU HEARD FROM ME, IF
YOU DO ASK HIM IF HE CAN PICK UP A FEW SHELLS JUST IN CASE. I HAVEN'T SEEN
JOHNNY FOR SOMETIME BUT EXPECT TO RUN IN TO HIM SOON. MIKE IS O.K. AND LOOK-
ING FORWARD TO A LITTLE HUNTING TOO, THOUGH BOTH OUR HOPES ARE PROBABLY IN VAIN.
TIME WILL BE THE ANSWER TO THAT I IMAGINE, I HAVE A FEW DO-DADS FOR YOU AND
AN ADDITION FOR YOUR COLLECTION THAT I PICKED UP HERE AND THERE. IF THIS LETTER
ISN'T TYPED BETTER THAN SCOTTIES I DON'T THINK I'LL SEND IT. THAT IN ITSELF IS
SOMETHING THAT SHOULDN'T BE VERY DIFFICULT. HE IS SITTING HERE GROWLING ABOUT
COFFEE, THE GREAT AMERICAN BEVERAGE, END OF THE LINE, SEE YOU,
PARKER.

V...-MAIL

DO NOT
WRITE HERE

FOLD HERE

DO NOT
WRITE HERE

FOLD HERE

DO NOT
WRITE HERE

V-Mail Service provides the most expeditious dispatch and reduces the weight of mail to and from personnel of our Armed Forces outside the continental United States. When addressed to points where micro-film equipment is operated, a miniature photographic negative of the message will be made and sent by the most expeditious transportation available for reproduction and delivery. The original message will be destroyed after the reproduction has been delivered. Messages addressed to or from points where micro-film equipment is not operated will be transmitted in their original form by the most expeditious means available.

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
- (2) PRINT the name and address in the two panels provided. Addresses to members of the Armed Forces should include rank or rating of the addressee, unit to which attached, and APO or Naval address.
- (3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
- (4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope and a separate V-Mail letter must be sent if you desire to write more than one sheet.
- (5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary mail, 6c if air mail is desired).

☆ GPO 16-28143-3

ATLANTIC CITY N.J.

275 NO. MISSISSIPPI AVE.

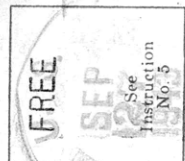
MRS JOSEPH P. HILLMAN

NEW YORK N.Y.

FLEET POST OFFICE

USS NOBRARA

JOSEPH PARKER HILLMAN PTR 3C



MAIL

DO NOT
WRITE HERE