

Saturday 10 June 1944

Dear Mr. Carter and Kathrine

I feel very guilty, not having written before but I have been quite busy the past few weeks and wanted to write a decent letter.

I want to tell you both how much I thank you for all you did for me and in my behalf I feel now that I'm doing something a little more constructive to the war effort and certainly more interesting. We are at sea here and three weeks at a time and the days are long at times but the work is interesting, we see new lands, we wonder about the Atlantic and never really know what's coming next. The ship itself is a beauty, no great ship of the line, or monster of destruction, but a trim, fast, sleek ship that is heavily armed for its size and yet as comfortable and probably more so than the big ships. I feel now that I'm a little more in the Navy and in the war than I did in Panama. We have nine officers aboard and all of them excellent people but one great trouble has been due to the fact that 7 of the nine are hard headed Yankees and all black Republicans. My new black tendencies are not only in a minority they make me the constant target of abuse and argument. I can still yell and talk faster than 90% of them. My only consolation is the Executive Officer, a Sa. Jay, who holds up his end rather well weighing 220 lbs. He received a clipping from his home town newspaper, The Jeff Davis

"Parish News" which caused no end of consternation among the Republicans. It stated therein, in its headlines, that among the voters in the Davis parish were 8,973 Democrats, 3 foreign born, 38 illiterates, and 6 Republicans. There is still hope.

My job aboard is in part a nasty one but at sea a pleasant one. I am first in charge of the upkeep, maintenance and repair of the ship, with the exception of the Engineering spaces. I have to see that the hull is kept painted, that the hatches and watertight doors are workable, that all the repair work is done properly, that all the equipment, of under my dept, is in good working order and serviceable. Other than this, at sea, I stand officer of the deck watches 4 hours out of 12. The work is interesting and although times confusing very worth while. I had the good luck to be assigned to the ship while it was still being built so I knew first hand the fire, fuel oil, water and lighting systems. It's the kind of work I never thought I'd enjoy.

Incidentally we had the good luck to take Henry Meyers and his crew through the Panama Canal. They were flying Mrs. R. about the Americas. I enjoyed very much talking to May Meyers and discussing our mutual friends. They enjoyed the trip very much. I think they were happy to be away from "the Madam" as they called her. It's odd the way you run into Texas people everywhere you go. They laughed the best. He was kind enough to call up Mother and Dad in Washington for me when he got back.

I suppose Ruth has been quite busy with Susanne's wedding. I wish I could be in Ft. Worth tonight for the big affair. I am quite fond of the bride, two or three of the bridesmaids, but especially interested in the matron of honor. I would like to see her wedding or otherwise. Give Ruth my best regards and ask her to drop me a line if she has time and let me know the disposition of all our mutual friends. There was a terrible thing about Phyllis and her father that poor day. Is he in the Army or still in school. Betty as you know is working for the Army Air Corps, writing the History of the Air Corps or something on that order. It's good for her to have something to do and she seems to enjoy it.

I suppose you all are excited as we are over the invasion or, well, more. It should give Amos quite a lift to know that it won't be too long now until he is back home. Please let me know, if possible, any late news of Amos. I'd give my right arm to have been in on the invasion. Oh well perhaps after the Subs are licked for good we can go hunting in the Pacific. I hope so.

Thanks again for the wonderful opportunity you afforded me. I hope you are all well and give my best regards to every one, including the Barber Shop Gang at the Club. I'd enjoy hearing from you if you have the time. Sincerely
Greer.