

My Dear Admiral: To a man ~~directing~~ directing the naval warfare against Japan-and doing ^{it} so grandly as to win the admiration of the American public daily- the subject of this letter will appear too trivial to have been brought to your attention. It is and in doing so I appreciate the attitude in which it places me. ~~xxxx~~ My only excuse for so doing is the human and sentimental-the thought of how disappointed eight little kids will be- and the knowledge that in the midst of war you, too, are ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ touched by such matters. Now to the point;

Marlin Andrews, Fort Worth insurance man whose son, a pilot, in Navy bombing squadron IO4, brought in this morning a letter from Mrs. Edward Healy, IO43 Altgeld Street, Chicago, whose husband, ~~xxx~~ a gunner in the same squadron, lost his life. She has eight small children, five boys, three girls. Her husband had written her of the souvenirs he had collected to send to the children for Christmas, shell necklaces ~~xxxxxx~~ and hula skirts for the girls, other articles for the boys etc. She received an inventory of his effects, later a bill of lading ^{weight} giving the ~~weight xxxxxpounds~~ of the box at 86 pounds. When the box arrived it weighed 12 pounds; missing were all of the souvenirs.

Andrews has the idea that the Navy might have ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the souvenirs shown on the inventory, replaced and flown in ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ so these kids could get them. Would such be possible?

No doubt some branch of your organizations gets requests of this character by the thousands; we get them by the hundr^{ds}. Naturally, but few are ever passed on ~~xxxx~~ and only the thought of how disappointed these little kids will be,

#2

prompts my doing so in this instance.

I am delighted to know that you have been made an admiral of the fleet-the highest Navy title so far created. It is recognition well deserved, but in my opinion, rather belated. There is no rank-irrespective of that of other nations- that would give proper recognition to or show ~~xxx~~ the nation's appreciation of ~~xxx~~ what you and other ^S who ~~xxxxx~~ planned and are directing our war program have done and are doing.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,