

Section Base San Diego
ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
San Diego, California

URGENT

MARCH 23RD, 1943
TIME; 8:30 P. M.

DEAR AFTON;

I AM ON DUTY AGAIN TONIGHT AND SINCE I HAVE A LITTLE TIME I THINK I SHALL ATTEMPT TO KNOCK OUT A LETTER VIA THE TYPE WRITER. OF THE SEVERAL LETTERS YOU HAVE RECIEVED FROM ME THIS WILL PERHAPS BE ONE WHICH YOU CAN READ. INCIDENTALLY YOU WILL NOTE THAT ALL OF THE LETTERS ARE CAPITALIZED. ALL OF THE TYPEWRITERS IN THE OFFICE ARE SET-UP LIKE THIS FOR COMMUNICATOIN PURPOSES:--HENCE THE CAPITAL LETTERS. YOU WILL ALSO NOTE THAT MY TYPING IS VERY RAGGED--THIS BECAUSE A NOVICE IS TYPING. IN MY PRESENT WORK I AM GOING TO HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO TYPE BECAUSE THE MESSAGES AND DISPATCHES THAT COME THROUGH THE OFFICE MUST NOT PASS OUT OF THE HANDS OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS. AND LEARNING TO TYPE IS GOING TO BE A PAINFUL DUTY FOR ME. HOWEVER THEY TEACH SPECIAL CLASSES HERE ON THE BASE FOR OFFICERS RANGING FROM NAVIGATION TO COOKING. CERTAINLY TYPING SHOULD BE INCLUDED.

WORD CAME TODAY FROM THE QUARTERDECK THAT A FEW OF THE OFFICERS FROM OUT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION MAY BE ASSIGNED TO A SHIP. ALTHOUGH IT IS'NT LIKELY THAT I WILL BE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO GET SUCH A CALL THERE IS NEVERTHELESS A POSSIBILITY. IF AND WHEN I DO I SHALL QUICKLY INFORM YOU.

DID I TELL YOU IN MY LAST LETTER THAT THE OUTLOOK WAS CONSIDERABLY BRIGHTER THAN IT WAS LAST WEEK. I BELIEVE I MENTIONED TWO THE REASONS AS BEING ONE, LETTERS FROM YOU AND SECONDLY OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVOTE MY SPARE TIME IN SOME CONSTRUCTIVE WORK WITH THE MORMON CHAPLAIN. SINCE THESE DEVELOPMNTS I HAVE STUMBLD ACROSS TWO OF MY MOST INTIMATE AND RESPECTED FRIENDSS OF A FEW YEARS BACK. BOTH OF THEM ARE STATIONED HERE, ONE AS AN ENGINEER AND THE OTHER AS A TRAINING PILOT. INCIDENTALLY THE FIRST ONE IS MARRIED AND ONLY LAST SUNDAY HIS WIFE GAVE BIRTH TO A BABY BOY OF WHICH THE FATHER IS AT THIS WRITUNG IS NEARLY PROSTRATE. HE SAYS MY ARRIVAL IN SAN DIEGO AT THIS CRUCIAL TIME IS NOTHING SHORT OF PROVIDENTIAL. JUST WHAT ASSISTANCE I CAN GIVE THOUGH IS STILL A MYSTERY TO ME. I HAVE ALREADY UNWITTINLY VOLUNTEERED MY ASSISTANCE AND MAY LIVE TO REGRET THIS MOVE. MY FIRST ASSIGNMENT IS TO ACCOMPANY TO HIM TO THE HOSPITAL TOMORROW NIGHT. JUST WHAT ELSE I SHALL BE ROPED INTO REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

I BELIEVE THIS IS ABOUT THE FIFTH LETTER I HAVE WRITTEN YOU IN LESS THAN TWO WEEKS. THIS IS WITHOUT DOUBT A NEW HIGH FOR ME ON LETTER WRITING TO ANY ONE PERSON. BUT THEN I HAVE NEVER HAD ANY ONE WEARING MY

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PIN BEFORE. AND RIGHT NOW THIS SAILOR INTENDS TO TAKE CARE OF HIS INTERESTS AT HOME. I HOPE UNCLE SAM AND HIS MAILMEN WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST ME ON THIS ENDEAVOR UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT I CAN GIVE IT MY PERSONAL ATTENTION--WHICH TIME I HOPE IS NOT TOO FAR DISTANT.

I WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO SEE ROY. GIVE HIM MY BEST REGARDS. ALSO IF HE AND BONNIE ARE GETTING MARRIED WILL YOU LET ME KNOW IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO GET THEM SOMETHING, I WOULD CERTAINLY APPRECIATE THIS INFORMATION. ALSO TELL ROY TO WRITE ME I MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM SOME INFORMATION THAT MAY HELP HIM.

BEST I CONCLUDE THIS EPISTLE NOWWHILE THE TYPING IS STILL LEGIBLE.

S'LONG CHUM,

LOVE,

Paul

OPERATIONAL
PRIORITY