Dear Folks,

We have a little free time between drilling & instruction on ships, so I'll start a letter, but don't know how far I'll get. You can never plan on sitting down & finishing a letter because we never have that much time at a whack.

The packages arrived Wednesday & we certainly are enjoying the candy. Marilyn McLellan received a two pound box of Fannie Farmer the day before, & Jean Kanne got a big box of Fannie's dates yesterday, so you can rest that we are well provided & stuffing ourselves. We figured up about how much candy we've eaten since we arrived & it averages about 3 pounds per week. Don't that awful? We eat big meals, too, in fact the kids tease me about being the human garbage pail — everything they don't want I eat. Can you believe it? I got weighed the other day & I've gained three pounds. Jean Kanne has put on five.
Just as I expected—see it is Monday, Dec. 14 and so much has happened that I hope I don't omit anything.

First of all you are probably very anxious to know about the wrist watch situation. I'm pretty sure of just what I want so I really think it would be better if I bought it & then, if you wanted to put some money in, you could send it to me. What you described is about what I want—a comparatively small round face, with radium dial & a sweep second hand, & leather strap. This is the waterproof, shockproof type & sells for around $4.50. Two weeks ago they had a cute watch in the ship's service line, just what I want. It sold for only $17.50 which was very cheap, but then they sell the Elgin & Bulova line for about $25. However, they wouldn't sell it to me because I wasn't in uniform yet. How odd that silly? Two days later when I was in uniform, I went back &, as I expected, it had been sold.

I think we had better leave it that way—I will look around & see what I can find. May even be able to pick up something at a ship's service, either here or the next place I go.
The big weekend finally arrived, that one being the trip to New York. I will start at the beginning + try to tell you everything as it happened.

We were "let free" at 12 o'clock Saturday noon after being inspected as to personal appearances. Five of us from our apartment started out together along with hundreds of other trays. We dashed down to the subway which is about five blocks away & it was quite something to see all the white heads bobbing around. I had called James & made arrangements to meet him at 77th St. which happened to be, by the way, the stop for Lenox Hill Hospital. Mona & I met him at 10 o'clock & the other three kids went on to meet a friend of Marilyn's. As we hadn't eaten he took us to Shraft's where we had a very nice luncheon. The things we got was a big kick out of. We drank from regular glasses instead of huge mugs, having napkins & teaspoons instead of tablespoons, & eating with our coats off. You certainly notice these items after being without them for a month.

From there we walked over to Rockefeller Center, looking in all the windows along 5th Ave. We
saw some perfectly huge diamonds in one jewelry store window. They were in rings, earrings, bracelets & necklaces. They looked like things in pictures. We got quite a thrill from it.

We spent about two hours in Rockefeller Center & saw all the show spots by means of a tour. James got a big kick out seeing the place because he'd never been inside before. The biggest thrill we got was when we went to the top & looked out over all of New York. We could see everything from the ocean, up the Hudson, over to New Jersey & even the Statue of Liberty.

James had to leave us about 5 p.m. as he was due at work. He'll have to tell you himself about his two jobs — it's very complicated. Before he left he recommended a place to eat, so James & I went there. We had a wonderful meal — one of the best I've ever had out & it cost only about $2.50. After that we beat it back to Harlem on the subway. We got in at 8:40 & the deadline was 9 p.m.

Subways are certainly wonderful things. They get you there in a hurry. We are at 197th. That means we're that far directly north of N.Y.C. & still it only takes us 1/2 hr. to get way down to 42nd St.
Sunday morning we set out again for the city, at 9 a.m. As we hadn't been to Mass, in fact we couldn't go here on the station, we decided to do it up proper by going to St. Patrick's Cathedral which we did. At first we were behind a huge fellow and couldn't see a thing, but later on we got on the main aisle. The altar and the priest seemed miles away, but of course the Mass was the same, splendid as no splendid. But was a thrill, too.

After church we ate again, after which we picked up tickets to the New York Philharmonic at the Women's Service Club directly behind St. Pats. We walked all the way to Carnegie Hall taking in everything. Some of the shops are really 'hoity-toity.' On the way, we saw an automaton and decided a trip to New York wouldn't be complete without a visit, so we went in and worked the things. Then we finally arrived at Carnegie and proceeded to our box up front—all five of us of course. I was hoping you might be listening to the broadcast but decided after a while that if you had, you
certainly would turn it off after awhile. I was very disappointed in the program. One composition was nothing but see-saw + the other was alot of clacking sounds with a chance chiming in once + a while. As Dad would say "nothing but allot of noise." But anyway we had the thrill of sitting in a box seat at Carnegie Hall.

After the concert we wanted to go see the statue of Liberty but our time was getting short, so we walked down to Times Square. What mobs of people!! We literally squeezed our way through the throng, a quarter of whom were service people. We saw French, British + Russian soldiers + sailors, English + Canadian service women, + Canadian + R.C. people + I don't know what else. We walked all around Times Square + stopped in for the heck of it, to have our picture taken. You can see the results.

From there we walked up to the Waldorf Astoria where we had dinner. Fancy people, aren't we? The hotel is a beautiful place, but of this world, as James would say. We finally landed for dinner, very satisfied with New York + thinking it's quite a wonderful place. The only thing we regretted was that we didn't have enough time to see all the things we would like to
I forgot to mention that we stopped around in Rockefeller Center, and also saw a broadcast from Radio City. It was a very serious program, but at least we saw and heard an actual broadcast.

New York is very easy to get around in, after being there for a day or two, you feel as if we actually knew it very well. It was nice to see that we had done a lot of walking, purely to see the sights, because we could have taken buses, etc.

James thought I'd be getting in again. I was quite startled to find out that I wouldn't be seeing him again. I'll be calling him before we leave which is in just another week.

Today they told some of the girls when they are going, but Jean Kanne and I don't know anything for several days. Maria is very disappointed with her assignment as it's not what she wanted. It isn't even related to aviation, which is what she wanted.

I can't tell you when she's going or what she's going in to, but when I find out about myself I won't be able to let you know until I get there. Marilyn

The hurricane wanted hospital corps to get it. We will
all go separate ways. I hope I get what I want. As you know that is anography which also was Marvin's first choice.

I had my picture taken for the Rockford paper. It was a funny shot - I'm standing in front of a counter of greeting cards in the store, looking at a big Christmas card. I'm not looking at the camera nor smiling, so I'm wondering what it will be like.

We were issued our dog tags today. Now I must buy a chain to put it on. We also received our latest shots. They are for Ontario and my arm isn't a bit sore, although a lot of the girls fell sort of men.

The shot of the Waves marching down Fifth Ave was undoubtedly our group, because at one point a man in uniform ran in ahead of us and took some shots. Also some of the girls saw the man in uniform at the theatre here and said it was us. He got a lot of shots don't we?

Yeah, it's been cold here. As we don't have a thermometer we don't know the exact temperature, but I'd say it was around 15° above accompanied by a strong wind. We only have cotton gloves to wear honesty, my hands have never been colder in all my life. We walked all over New York practically freezing
to death. As soon as I get out of here I'm buying a pair of flannel lined batting gloves & a woolen white scarf. The one I'm wearing in the picture belonged to one of the girls who let me use it as she had another. From being outdoors so much in the cold & wind I've developed a very nasty complexion. I hope I keep it. Mavis has one, too.

About paying for the cigarettes. They cost me 7/1.13 + you can cancel the bill + apply the rest of the money to $5. Does that come out about right?

Since I've been here I've washed my hair twice & it looks about the way it did before. I got a permanent only a little fuzzy. I put it up about every other night, although I never do the back. I'm so glad it's short because they check hair each week + if it isn't short enough they order you to cut it.

Since we can get our white shirts washed + ironed for only 5 + a piece we send them to the laundry. Our blue shirts are cleaned for 15 + it's worth it. I have them cleaned. Certainly cheap enough isn't it?

Tonight Jew + I both received our Honey Nutria packages + we are digging in for all we're worth. I also got a slip showing that I have an insurance
package over at the post office.  I'll have to wait until tomorrow to get it, but I can't imagine what it can be.

I sent a package today and hope it arrives by Dec. 7.  Lots of love, Mother on your birthday.

Jean called home tonight and her mother said that you sent your love to me.  I take it you must have just talked to her and she told you Jean planned on calling.

Really must close now as we must be in bed in 30 minutes and I haven't worked on anything.  Will try to write again very soon as I've thought of some other things I want to tell you, but don't have time right now.

Lots of love,

June