

[Transcription begins]

#60 Monday night
October 23, 1944

Dear Douglas - My regular night to write you and a letter from you dated Oct. 10 was received this afternoon, so I can answer it without delay. You speak of having been thru rough weather and it was all most interesting to us, the mention of "fiddleboards,"¹ "chairs roped around the table." It certainly looks as tho you really have your sea-legs now and needn't worry about getting sea-sick.

Every so often you mention a new officer--this time Ensign [indecipherable]--is it usual to change as often, are the others promoted or sent to the other ships and is it apt to happen to you?

We, too, have our maps on the "bulkhead." Over the kitchen radiator I have just put up the new Geographic map of your part of the world and have just put the pins in Leyte (Tacioban & Dulag). Last night right after the 11:00 news broadcast we heard Gen. MacArthur direct from the Philippines, as the flag was raised & he put the islands back under legal rule. It was quite thrilling to hear it & I can imagine how thrilled "Manzola" must be (did I remember his name correctly?) There over on the opposite wall, between the windows & the cupboard side of the sink, I have "Germany" and have just put the pin in Aachen. It looks marvelous and yet the unconquered territory still looks huge!

I'm glad you have a new man for your quartette and hope the pitch pipe and music are a help. Roger Hard, Sr. stopped after church with six hymnals written for men's voices, which he had taken the trouble to get for you--do you want me to send them to you or keep them until you ask for them? I think hereafter I will just score in red questions I would like answered, then when answering you can check without having to wade thru my entire letter.

The native sailing craft must be quite a sight-- [indecipherable].

No, Dad, doesn't change a bit. He has just had a very good photograph taken for the Republican Committee--seemed to think he might need it. One of the proofs caught that funny little grin he has when "caught in the act" and I persuaded him to have just one printed for me. He keeps real well, eats everything and is very busy. Tonight he is at the Aquila Club which has rooms just opposite the Hall Library, and there the Republican Committee are checking names.

I think I am glad that your liberty is accumulating--isn't there a possibility that you can use some of it when you return to the States? Milton Sherman's son who graduated with you & has been on a carrier in your neighborhood has been at Quonset for a short time much to his parents' surprise.

¹ This refers to compartment designation stencils on the various bulkheads for the placement of articles on the ship for use during rough seas. Fiddlehead boards designed with various cut-outs were used to secure dinnerware, cooking pans, and furniture.

Fancy you with a .45 strapped to your side! (The radio has just been playing something from the Gondoliers.)

Everett Jones is on the "John Kendrick." Keep your eye out for him. Don Kern met Bryson Dawson & Kenny Greene at Pearl Harbour. Norman Bridge is being married this coming Saturday.

I had a very pleasant two days in Boston as Clara Kern's guest. The weather was gorgeous, so warm that I carried my coat over my arm. We had two luncheons in Boston, one breakfast & one dinner at Clara's & saw Diana Barrymore (John's daughter) in "Rebecca." We had a chance to see Don's [sic] and Frances' home & son "Skipper." She is living there preferring to do that rather than live at home or with Clara for she has all the room she needs for the baby but she is lonely & I know Don misses her & his baby.

Our little Daryl has a bright red all over suit with a pointed hood lined with blue. She runs over & talks with Mrs. Jones or Mrs. Gray & loves her Ba-ba (Grandpa!).

Sunday afternoon your old teacher Mrs. Caulfield, now Mrs. Sheridan, called with her three children--a girl about seven, a boy about six and another boy about five--sturdy children and beautifully behaved. The little girl sang a French song for us in a faint high pitched wavering voice but I'm afraid the desired affect was lost as Daryl slapped her in the stomach just at the most telling note and as the two little boys howled with glee, we could not be too severe. Mrs. Sheridan borrowed Marilyn's soldier suit (she used to tap dance in it) and your old George Washington costume. Evidently a costume party for them was in the offing. Halloween is almost upon us as witness our clothes line cut last night.

Yesterday Dad and I drove down to Coles to get some wood. Do you remember years ago when you and Bob started to build a hut down in the woods & brought up all their old tent floor boards? Dad hauled them out from under the house & cut them into fireplace length & you would be surprised what a pile of good dry wood it made.

The political situation gets more tense. I do not know under what propaganda you have been either Republican or Democrat or neither but we are definitely for Dewey. Have you received your ballot & returned it?

Yesterday when we went to Coles I said I would take Daryl so as to give Marilyn a rest, I would take Chip & give him a good game of ball but you can imagine our surprise when just as we were driving into the Farm Gate, Bing appeared on the scene! He must have been asleep on the back seat all the way down. I did not dare let him out of the car while we were down there for fear he wouldn't be around when we wanted to return.

There is a nude portrait of a woman partly shrouded in a shawl crouched on a box, in the current issue of Good Housekeeping. Every time Daryl sees it she says softly "chair-

chair!" (Have you forgotten your childish expression for going to the toilet?!"

Dad has at last finished insulating the storages & now I can get them straightened & in good order & get your room ready.

I have been mildly considering a new position but have finally declined it because of the long hours involved. The position was confidential temporarily but it was a money raising campaign & would be over about next September. I would have had full charge of an office of about fifteen girls but at the height of the campaign there would have been night work & the regular hours were 9 to 5:30 and Saturday morning. It was a wonderful opportunity, excellent salary & just the kind of work I love & am fitted by experience for but after all I still have a family to consider & a son who might pop in unexpectedly! Here's hoping & heaps of love

Mother.

Mary Noyes has been home on a short pass--we did not see her but Jones said she looked snappy. [Transcription ended]