December 7, 1944

Dear Folks,

I'm still sitting around, rather impatiently, waiting for my billet or assignment to come through. Out of 37 girls in our section only eight don't know where they're going & I'm one of them. We all ought to know the big secret by tomorrow. Then I can't let you know where I'm going until I get there. Hope it's complete I'll like.

The four of us will be scattered to the four winds, it looks like. Jeananne received hers today & is quite thrilled about it. After Saturday we will be women second class, 3rd, or in Army ratings interchangeable. Our salary takes a big jump up to $541! Until a few weeks ago we wore below the rank of petty officers third class, had no identifying marks on their sleeves to indicate whether they were 3S, seaman second, or
seamen first. Now they have small, square, navy blue patches with two white diagonal stripes that are sewed on the upper left arm. Two stripes are for L & C and three are for F & C. An apprentice seaman wears nothing on the left arm. They look like this:

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\[\text{Diagram of a patch with two white diagonal stripes.}\]
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Anyway we have to sew them on soon to wear them Saturday. It will probably take me all of tomorrow night to sew the four of them on my shirts & jackets.

You spoke about sending me an identification bracelet for Christmas. That would suit me fine.

If you haven't sent it to be engraved yet, I was wondering if you'd have my serial number (perhaps wave put on the back of it. My number is 7670957. How you plan to do it if you don't want to.

December 8

We certainly enjoyed the big lot of food you sent. The apples were the best I've tasted in ages. As for the peanut butter - it disappeared in a flash. As soon as I saw a bottle all wrapped up I knew that it was olive. Thanks allot for the whole works. I also received my box from the Wave Mother & that is almost gone. As I said before food doesn't last long around here.
you'll be receiving a package in a few days because I decided to send your brown suitcase home. I thought I might as well buy another one of my own since the prices are very low here. I got a dark blue with a light leather binding & is smaller than the one I bought in Rochester. I wrapped yours up very well & hope it goes through all right. I'll COD so keep back of that envelope too.

I just found out where I'm going! I don't know whether it's good or not. About all I can say is that I probably won't be seeing very much of that snow you're fussing about. Will drop you a card with my address the minute I land there.

Maybe I told you that there's someone, one of the girls who worked with me at Mechanics, was coming to New York & would try to see me. I wrote I told her that the only time she could see me would be the weekend of Dec. 24. Then the time
rolled around & I hadn't heard from her. I thought she must not have come. However, last Monday night I got a special delivery from her that had been mailed three days before, & in it she said when & where she'd meet me on the preceding Saturday. I wrote special delivery doesn't mean a thing. Anyway, to make a long story short, she finally got a hold of me on the telephone & I invited her to come over & see Regimental Review which is open to civilians. I told her just when I would be in marching & if I knew Vera, she was there. I'm anxious to hear from her again.

After digging around in the top of your Mother's cookies I knew it wasn't the one you had packed because I couldn't find any of your cookies. I wondered what had happened & your explanation cleared it up.

This afternoon, much to my disappointment I learned that I'm in charge of 18 other girls who are going in my direction. I don't want the job as it entails taking care of all the records for these girls, seeing that they behave properly, & get to where they're going. I got hooked into more jobs. The one I just got rid of, namely acting aide, was one that kept me on the jump constantly.

I'm enclosing the pictures we took the first day we
were in uniform. Tasting all this we got quite a kick out of it because the raincoat looked so crisp. They've lost some of it by now.

Of course you know Marie so the two lift are Marilyn Mc Clean and Jean Kane. Marilyn is the short one at the lift in each picture, and Jean is on the right. They were taken out in front of our terraces and are pretty good except for Jean. I don't think they do her justice.

By the way, I've forgotten to tell you that Jean says her father knows someone she also knows. He's Alameda. One day I just happened to mention that my sister's name is Donald and she about fell over. She was startled comparing other acquaintances.

The whole building is in an awful uproar tonight as every one is having some kind of a party. Tonight is our last one together as some of the girls start moving...
out tomorrow. Right now the kids are all gone on so that the floor is shaking and I can hardly write.

James called yesterday and we just gabbed. He is going to call again before I leave. He thought it was awful that we only got out once a week. At my next station I don't think I'll be going to school as I'll have about more latitude from the books of things I'm going to learn on the job. No one seems to know much about the type of work it is, so I may not be able to tell you much of what I'm doing once I start.

I don't think I've ever mentioned much about the people here in Lausanne. Of course we never talk to them but only see and hear them as they happen to walk along the street around our apartments. Every one of them is a Jew and all have a very decided Jewish accent. As for the people in New York or our home, they were all very nice and treated us very good. I certainly saw a lot of high-flying, nitzy, snazzy looking people there — more than I've ever seen — especially on Fifth Ave.

Will close for now. I plan on calling home tomorrow. That was some letter. With lots of love,

[Signature]

June