Miss you all!

Dear Mom and Dad,

We are on our way at last - much 
sudden, but not unprepared - we 
left Tuesday night, got the train to the 
fetch and thence to our ship in N.Y. 
It was terribly hot and we were 
laden with gas masks, hats with cantars, 
curtains, mask bags on our backs 
and suitcases and portmanteaus. Such 
excitement, and I must deny that 
I felt a twing of pride too. 
It took a long time to embark 
along rows of military men as 
henchman as ourselves. We also had our 
helmets on - easiest way for entry and 
but heavy and hot. We are aboard 
an Australian ship - the crew of course 
from down under. There are just 14 
by us nurses on board and aboard 
3,400 soldiers. We sit on the deck 
mast of the time reading and talking.
Lively lads - Vincenzo and I became acquainted with two Australian engineers nice young men - they live in Yamba New South Wales. They told us a lot about porpoises their country also brings us fruit in every morning - it is really cold at night and so foggy. One of our poor Misses Margaret is deathly sea sick and so miserable. We get a basket of fruit every night.

We had a scare on our 1st night at sea. Miss Wallace our chief nurse came in our stateroom and frightened us half to death - she told us 2 submarines had been following us. We were told to dress warmly in woolen shirts, knitted sweaters, felt caps, overcoat pockets with chocolate bars and small necessities. That was the way we slept, if we slept. Reni dug out her sickle and read some passages - we were too keyed up and nervous to sleep but we must have because we were awakened by our steward and we were still here!
My dear [Name],

I hope this letter finds you well. It's been a while since we last spoke, and I wanted to reach out and check in on you.

I've been quite busy lately, working on some projects that have taken up most of my time. However, I did manage to take a weekend break a few weeks ago and went on a trip to the countryside. It was a much-needed getaway, and I found myself reflecting on some important aspects of my life.

One of the things I've been thinking about is the importance of maintaining a healthy work-life balance. As someone who works in a fast-paced environment, it's easy to get caught up in the demands of the job. But I realize now that it's crucial to take time for oneself and to engage in hobbies and activities that bring joy.

I've been reading a lot lately, and I've discovered a new perspective on life that I find quite inspiring. I hope you can find some time to read as well and perhaps find similar insights.

I look forward to hearing from you and catching up in person soon.

Best,

[Your Name]
It is so cold out back in our state room. Blackout curtains at the portholes we still haven't lost our sense of humor, however.

The English kids were admonished by their parents about returning home with their damn Yankee accent! We laughed about that.

July 7. The watch almost shot up our own destroyer this a.m. It just turned up our of the fog and they were really alert.

Surely thought along with it and we surely thought surely this a.m. There was much shouting drill this a.m. The danger zone had an emergency drill this a.m. There was much shouting along with it and we surely thought surely this was the real McCoy. We are close to Iceland — in fact we are close to Iceland — in fact we can see it in the distance. No wonder.

It is so cold. I hope we never have to jump in this ice water or we will never return home. It is light all night.

July 13, 1942

The coffee is horrible as we are becoming tea drinkers — we or rather I
rather feel so far away from home & the scene is so dark and deep and all we can hear are the waves pounding against the ship - night and day. We had short concerts and dances in the evening. Rumor was that we went 200 miles off course, so it avoid some U-boats. We also arose at 5am to see a gorgeous sunrise.

July 12

Beautiful day - the coast of Scotland is in sight - to-night we are in the harbor safe and sound. Our perilous voyage is over.

July 13th

We sailed up the broad river Clyde to-day - ships and planes soared overhead. Many ships lined the river banks. It is a great shipbuilding area and we saw many Scottish "Rooie the Rousties in their overalls working around and climbing all over the ships. People lined the
We said a sad goodbye to our friends and fellow passengers. We were the last off, so we watched the rest of them leave - it was sad, but I expect it is only among the first of many goodbyes. Jack - my Australian friend is going to send you a cable to say me arrived safely.

Thus, after days of waiting at H.M.S. Diif - our long 13 day voyage through submarine infested seas we are finally here. I shall now be able to post this letter. Don't worry about the Taim. It was kind of rocky at times but we made it. I shall send my address as soon as possible.

Give my love to all.

Your loving daughter

Mary xxxxx