Dear Folks,

We have a little free time between drilling & instruction on ships, so I'll start a little, 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 McClaran received a two pound box of Fannie Farmer the day before, & Jean Kanne got a big box Jannie & dates yesterday, so you can see that we are well provided & stuffing ourselves. We figured up about how much candy we've eaten since we arrived, & it averages about 5 pounds per week. Isn'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 five pounds. Jean Kanne has four, & five.
Just as I expected — but it is Monday, Dec. 4 & 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 if 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, shock-proof type & sells for around $4.50. Two weeks ago they had a cute watch in the ship's store here, just what I want. It sold for only $1.75 & which was very steep, but then they sell the Elgin & Bulova less for about $2.50. However, they wouldn't sell it to me because I wasn't in uniform yet. How isn't 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 the ship's store, 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 and 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 tramps. 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. Mom & 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 a big kick out of were, drinking from regular glassed instead of huge mugs, having napkins & tea spoons instead of table spoons, & 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 Fifth Ave. We
saw some perfectly huge diamonds in one jewelry store window. They were in rings, earrings, bracelets and necklaces. They looked like things in pictures. He 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 & it cost only about $2.50. After that we beat it back to Muni's or 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% hr. to get way down to 42nd St.
Sunday morning we set out again for the city at 9 a.m. and 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 or no splendid. That 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 "hot - to - trot." On the way, we saw an automat and decided a trip to New York wouldn't be complete without a visit, so we went in and worked the things - ma - uses.

We finally arrived at Carnegie & proceeded to our best up front - all five of charge 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 a while. I was very disappointed in the program. One composition was nothing but see-saw and the other was a lot of crunching sounds with a chance chiming in once and a while. As Dad would say, "nothing but a lot 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 quartet of whom were service people. We saw French, British, Russian soldiers and sailors, English and Canadian service women, and Canadian and R.C. F. 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.atty people around us? The hotel is a beautiful place, but if this world, as James would say. We finally headed for the taxi, very satisfied with New York and 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 5th Ave. and also saw a broadcast from Radio City. It was a very western 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 we felt as if we actually knew it very well. One can see that we did a lot of walking purely to see the sights, because we could have taken buses, etc.

James thought I'd be getting in again but 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 Kane I just don't know. I won't for several days. Maria is very disappointed with her assignment as it is 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, I think I find out about myself. I won't be able to let you know until I get there. Marilyn

Mr. Brand wanted hospital corps & got it. We will
all go separate ways. I hope I get what I want. As you know that is aromatography which also was Marie’s first choice.

I had my picture taken for the Rockford papers. 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, but 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 first shirt. They are for Stetson & my arm isn’t a bit sore, although a lot of the girls fell sort of low.

The shot of the Warden marching down Fifth Ave. was undoubtedly our group, because at one point a newsman can jotted in ahead of us & took some shots. Also some of the girls saw the newsman at the theater here & said it was us. He got around a lot don’t we?

Good, 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 & honestly 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 khaki gloves & a woolen white
scarf. The one I'm wearing in the picture belongs 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 muddy complexion. I hope I keep it.
Mavis has one, too.

About paying for the cigarettes. They cost me
$0.13 + you can cancel the bill + apply the rest of
the money to it. 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 54 a piece we send them to the laundry. Our
blue shirts are cleaned for 154 + it's worth it to
have them cleaned. Certainly cheap enough isn't it?

Tonight Jan + I both received our Valve Mattia
packages + we are digging in for all we're worth. I
also got a slip showing that I have an insurance
package now at the post office. I'll have to wait until

7:30 tomorrow to get it, but I can't imagine what it

3 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. She said you must

have just talked to her and she told your Jean planned

or calling.

Really must close now as we must be in

bed in 20 minutes and I haven't washed or 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,

Jane