

Monday Night,  
8 July, 1946.

Hi Earbanger,

I got the picture of Admiral Nimitz and was very pleased to do so but not half so pleased as was Captain Coggins. (Incidentally, his name is Coggins and not Collins. How long did you stay on here anyhow?) As I started to say he was tickled pink and had to borrow it to go agound to the Gunnery office and show it to all the officers in there and from the way he acted he seemed to think that having it would add prestige to his status on here. He wanted me to have Erler frame it and hang it in the office to take care of inspecting officers so I said "Aye aye, sir" and stowed it away in my personal belongings.

No, his wife and son don't live in Arlington; they live at 2634 Garfield St., N.W. Washington. You should have seen the tear jerker he wrote up to the Commandant the other day trying to explain to him why he should give him plenty of advance notice of where he was going from here and when he was going so he would be saved the inconvenience of moving his family all over the United States.

Well, are you still planning to go out now that they have passed the new pay bill? I still think you are making a mistake, Blanton. But then if you want to go on the outside and work for a living and fool around with all the strikes etc. that's your business. Oh, I admit there are a few disadvantages of staying in also, especially for you old married men but I don't think they anyways near compare with the disadvantages of being a civilian.

Do you know if the Marine Corps has established any certain time that a man rates in the States after a tour of foreign duty? I know that they came out ~~x~~ with the dope that a tour of foreign duty or seaduty would be two years for all paygrades but they didn't say anything about whether the war time system of allowing a man 6 months in the states after a tour of foreign duty would continue or whether we would go back to the pre-war system of doing an equal number in the states and an equal number out. I guess you know that my two years on this crate are up in August and my enlistment is up in February. I don't know now whether I want to go to Philly when I get off of here or to New Orleans. I really had the time of my life in New Orleans the two nights I spent there ~~at~~ at Christmas.

I don't think so much of the Terminal Pay Bill, Blanton. It looks like to me that it is more for the benefit of the guys already out of the service than it is for the ones that plan to stay in. I ~~xxx~~ was much more in favor of the one that went through and had rather see them pass a good 20 year retirement ball now than anything else and then of course if they want to go ahead and pass this Terminal Leave Bill, its alright with me but I'm not very far behind on my leave now and I expect to do more catching up in the near future.

Nope, I don't expect to make Sergeant Major at all. In fact I don't want any part of it. Why should I want to make Sergeant Major and add all those responsibilities to my already overworked life when all I get for compensation is a little more authority and no more pay. Nope, I'm not anxious for authority and anyhow, a First Sergeant can have about all the authority he wants if he works it right. I'm satisfied if they will just let me keep what I have. That's one reason I didn't take the two or three opportunities I had to go to OGS during the way was because I just wanted to get as tight a grip as possible on what I've got now before they started to busting the surplus ranks.

Yes, we have our third Executive Officer and our fourth Captain now. The new Skipper, Captain Cogswell, just took over from Captain Cruise last Friday and Commander Overfield has been in for over two months now. In spite of the fact that we ~~w~~ got fouled up and ran out of fresh water, which many of them blamed on the Exec., I think he runs things smoother than any we have had so far. At least with him as Exec and ~~E~~ Lt Comdr Conboy as Gunnery Officer, they let the Marines alone more than they have ever been let alone. They had an aide to the Exec, Lt Comdr Troth that was all for the Marines also but he is getting off and Lt Heck (you remember him for he was the officer in charge of the 5" mounts on the port side aft during the war), is now the aide to the Exec and you know what a heel he is.

That was funny about Joe Quilter's little girl asking him when he was going to get another stripe. They really loaded him down with the medals didn't they? I think he did a pretty good job on here myself considering the obstacles he was up against but not enough to merit all that. What am I getting out of putting up with all his petty nonsense? Say, why don't you ask Admiral Horne what's holding up the authorization for a ribbon for "Initial Occupation of Japan" and a Marine Corps Expeditionary Ribbon for same and also a "Third Fleet" ribbon? We're all anxious to get them on to wear with our new blues when we get them and can't understand what's holding up the show. Ha! Ha! Did you get your blues yet?

I suppose you have heard too much about the bomb test so I won't bother you with my version of it.

Did you get the note I sent you the night befor the big test? I couldn't find your address right then and I was in such a big hurry that I jsut slapped the first thing that came to mind on it for an address. I hope you got it.

Oh, I didn't mean any reflection on your knowledge when I was warnigg to not to sound off too much about your SSN. The truth is that I gave you and Walters both a number that I guess I shouldn't have for after I read it over care-fully, I saw that you weren't doing the work required of the number. In fact you weren't even on the right kind of dir-ector for I think it was a Mk 5 that it called for instead of a Mk 51. Oh well, it's in the past now.

No, I haven't heard a word from my friend Walters. I guess he has his hands full with that Limey Baby of his wife's. I still hear from Gis now and then and I also got a letter from Barr and Whitlock. They are both out now. Also I heard from Kressley. He got stationned somewhere in N.J. I think he said it was. I never did hear from Potter either. I don't know if he wentout or not.

Well, Fatboy, write when you get around to it and let me know the latest scoop from the place the scoop originates. The most pending question at present is when are we going back to the states. If you see anything of Vandy in the next few days hows to tell him to please have my relief waiting on the dock when we pull into Diego.

AS EVER,

TOP.