

Sunday

Dear Bob & Elva,

First to Robert many thanks for the Alumni letter. Enjoyed reading about all the folks most of whom I didn't know but whose comments & positions interested me. Of course especially pleased was I about the nice sentences about [] – (That's French for "me" in case Elva & Robin haven't gotten that far yet in French lessons!) Really did help my morals – you have no idea how much it needed to be helped especially during exams. All the class work here is sheer memory work- names, abbreviations, places, the chain of command – who works under whom? What office, Bureau, division does what? Battles- dates- all those insignia, decorations, medals, uniforms of different services- believe me those days my (i.e. that which I call my) brain was a haze of facts – most of which really didn't make much sense.

But exams are over now. We're "mid seamen" for about a week. Thursday night we expect to be sworn in as Midshipmen and from then on we wear our midshipmen hats. – like officers hats only with midshipmen insignia. 'Course we're all anxious for that – They're such an improvement over the seamen style especially with the short hair cuts. You'd laugh if you could be around our room these days. We got our Midshipmen hats about a week ago but cant wear them until sworn in. Meantime they rest on top of locker in the room But- at frequent intervals –(and they are frequent) we try them on. Those hats have been on with all sorts of arrangement. The other

day I walked into the room and there was one of the 8 roommates nude from waist down but with regulation shirt tie & Midshipman's Hat on. She was one of those unfortunates with what would not be termed a [] like figure and really the result was a picture. But it makes little difference to us what we have on – pjamas, slips, completely dressed or with just a towel- we still parade around with midm hat on. Since we can only wear it in the room until Thursday.

Was mate of the deck the other day. Read instructions carefully beforehand. Among duties one listed was the Mate should check to see that red lights over exits are lit. Went on duty at 2000- (8pm) and of course checked lights carefully. On my first tour of inspection next morning I noted 4 were out. Called officer of watch and reported 4 red lights burned out- recorded action in log only to discover later that these lights were turned off in the day time from main switch! Big smart me!

Since Thursday we've been going through what they call the "Shake – down" cruise. Period between when new seamen come in and start classes & between end of our exams and beginning of our Midshipmen classes. Thursday I attended lectures all day on such topics as "What to say to Kwanis Club, PTA, Junior League", "Uniform Hints", "Officer Clubs and Messes," "What men officers expect of women officers" etc. Believe me the Navy orientation program is quite complete. They tell you everything including when and how to excuse yourself to go to the toilet- almost!

Seriously though believe me they certainly do an excellent job of building up one's pride in the Uniform. If women offices behave out of line – it's no fault of the

Indoctrination school. One is constantly reminded that whatever one does that the individual is not doing it – The uniform is. It's a good thing too. That's why [] have such an excellent reputation I believe. Think of what an affect that has upon the folks that go through it. If all the people in the world lived up to Navy standards it certainly would be a wonderful world! A clean and wholesome world.

I must write Stewart and tell him how wrong he is regarding his adverse opinions of what is called "regimentation". Here the job is done so carefully-with reasons for every move explained fully that one's mind is adjusted as fast as one's behavior pattern. Navy life & form is the very best elements of Civilian life and etiquette accentuated about 10x. The Navy idea is that one works for the good of the Whole, the service- not the good of the individual. And yet individual superiority is recognized and advanced. A wonderful system – An Idealists system. Bob, as the idealist & you're really Navy. I' elaborate on this all when I get to see you. Here's hoping I can get "Proceed time" between stations so I can dive into Altoony.

We had our second uniform fitting Monday. Two white suits and another blue suit! Golly I've never had so many new clothes in so short a time. Have a bill well over \$200 right now. Do I worry? I'll say not – (we do get that uniform allowance you know. But it all seems so strange to put on a suit and not worry about the price etc. Alteration! Cats – Everything

had to be altered- But nothing is too good for the Navy you know.

Life goes on. You know I think my right arm is going to be longer than my left before I get through here – It sure is getting overworked – Shinning shoes, brushing clothes & saluting I'm worried that some day it will jerk out of joint. But it's a great life – I do like it – We sure do have fun laughing through it all together.

But enough of this talk about me. Isn't the news wonderful! We have a current events talk here every Saturday. They summarize events of War for us and boy they do an excellent job. For the first time since War began I really feel I know a little bit about what actually is going on. It's wonderful to feel a part of all of it too. Of course the campaign in France is highlight of the moment and our boys are certainly going to town aren't they? It won't be long now I guess. But here they seem to think the Germans have a lot of fight in them yet and the Japs have really only began to fight. But lets hope something leaks soon on German situation.

The enrollment figures for the center sound wonderful. Haven't got your letter here but say what about the local enrollment? How many? If that out of town contingent do arrive how about a house? Do you really think they will all show up? Edner gave me 41 as latest total. Why that's almost as many as we registered last time. Almost inconceivable to me. Where are you going to put them. Wonderful for the sandwich business – Boy wouldn't I like to have that many coming in. Why you could get that soda bar – Pay a full time person almost and coin money – Even serve dinners and build the new College from proceeds. Oh its wonderful news – and 2 more months to go. I'm so glad that prospects are so good – especially for Bob's sake. Maybe all your work was not in vain.

Where in hell did Stewart get 20 prospects from? Another wonder to me! What about his staff? I suppose that will be decided the night before the Center opens – Have you seen Judy & Stewart. I feel badly about not having written them but I just haven't had time. I've been trying to get a letter to Altoona once a week and as you can see I'm having a time working that in. Tell Edner all the news – if you find any in this & tell her she's too good a correspondent for me – Just can't answer as quickly as she does. I'll write her next Sunday.

Elva my seaman service number was 768-35-12- I recorded that on the original card. Didn't I? Can't

recall just now.

How are all my chickens? Betty Isenberg at Mirror?
Sorkin in store? Ann Marshall as sociologist – Did she
pass everything at the Midsemester? Bet you regretted
losing glover! Is Freedman driving Steve nuts or
is that his real vocation? How is Bea Rishe
and her language difficulties coming along?

Can't tell you much about the Clayville Procedure.
Next week-end we expect our first shore leave. I'll
be going home & I'll check on the various items. Mother
says Dad refuses to pick any of the things from my

garden until I get home so our beans & radish
ought to be out of this world until I get there.

After much ado of trailing from room to room & asking I
finally got a copy of the post. A fine article I thought but
was a little disappointed they did not mention our
Robert "per se" – Anyhoo – Altoona is on right track.

Elva – how are the folks at "Alsace Lorraine"?
Tell them to lay in a supply for around Sept 26th – 30th!
Won't it be grand if I can detour thru Altoona!

When does Robin start in Jr. High? Is she all excited
about it?

Is Thor completely adjusted to civilian life? How
about "Vickie" – any offspring yet? Bob I thought we
had a bet on Vickie's sex – If we did I don't remember
the ante but what ever it was you owe me!

Do write when you can and give me the news.
Must do my "busy work" as Bob says. Excuse writing
& scratches. I'm trying to write as fast as I can-
so little time- you understand I'm sure –

Sincerely,
Mary

P.S. Think of the dictionary business for the new freshman!
Yum Yum!