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c/o P.O. San Francisco

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Dear Miss McGlynn,

By now, it's about time I answered your many grand letters. You have no idea how upon occasion they can lift one out of the dumps. Now that the college year has begun again I'll be looking forward to news and more news of "Salem, college of our hearts."

Since my last letter to you I've taken another punt of 3500 miles. (I did write to you from New Caledonia didn't I). We are now in a half-decent liberty port and have something to see besides the sea, coral, and Polynesians. Of course it's not States-side duty but it's best thing immediately west thereof. I wish I could tell you about the many interesting liberties we spend. As it is all the censors will pass is: "Had liberty today. Went to the Officers Club. Got our Bourbon and Cokes, etc for .25 [cents] instead of .50 and .60 as in San Fran. and Boston." With that end all, war has not yet been hard on me. It's the dear ones at home who are

[Page 2]

suffering in natural but needless worry. To me, this is an invaluable experience, particularly so if I ever return to teaching. Speaking of teaching, today. I was reading in the N.Y. Times that 40% of American teachers are being paid less the \$1,200. I don't think I ever want to see that figure again, so when the war ends I may have to shop around for a new vocation, profession, or what have you.

Did I ever describe our watches to you? For four hours out of 20 or even less, I ascend the foremast to my battle station in Sky Control. Since we've been spending more time swinging about the anchor than underway, this is a four hr. period of engaging in the Spanish pastime - "throwing the bull." There are anywhere from three to six officers from Freud to something more substantial you'd be surprised how serious the round table is when we attempt to fight or reason our way into a "brave new world." Education occupied our attention for hours on end on one or two occasions. Here are the conclusions we arrived at

[Page 3]

1. Education in America is falling down on the job because
 - a. It has no definite, central objective, a backbone as it were from which curricula could spring out as vertebrae.
 - b. It has not taught the value of an objective - therefore Americans have no purpose for existing beyond today.
2. Education in the future in order to be consistent with national preparedness will have to be subsidized by the gov't [government] by affording partial scholarships, etc. to students (liberal arts and all) for taking certain technical courses along with these majors. This is important because in a democracy the citizen is the potential soldier and the future wars are going to be so technical that at least a fundamental knowledge of radar, radio, etc will be needed.

Enuf [Enough] for that! I have a new job aboard now. Formerly I was Junior Division Officer in the division which maintains anti-aircraft upkeep. You see in addition to watches, we must make out exams in damage control, arithmetic, and other fields for advancement in ratings, make reports on condition of ship, and attend to a million and one details in the division. Now I am Division Officer in charge

[Page 4]

of 25 colored and Filipino mess boys. I am, for the most part, my own boss. The experience is an interesting one. There are college grads among the mess boys and sooner or later. I'm going into a discussion of the negro in post war America. It should prove interesting.

I ran into an old friend of mine on the island here the other day - Fred Abodeely. You wouldn't know him that we struck up quite a friendship while he was photographer for the Salem News and I was dir. of publicity at Salem. He's now a 1st class photographer with the Seabees.

Billy Gibbs and I maintain contact but the others seem to have gone by the boards. Smitty is an ensign (I hear indirectly) in the Coast Guard on 117' cutter in the North Atlantic. Jim Sherry is an ensign in N.Y. And another friend of yours, John Sullivan, formerly of Revere H.S. is a LT. out where my brother John is in Bunker Hill, Indiana. My brother Tom is on a 3 months cruise on

the U.S.S. American Pilot P.O., PT. Schuyler, N.Y. He's a Midshipman and will be commissioned ensign around

[Page 5]

next April. He is on a 3 months cruise now, will return around December, and then goes for 3 months more in January. He's studying marine engineering. Now that there's so few fellows around Beverly, Tom might appreciate hearing from Wally.

That's about all for now so until again, I'll close wishing you all God's good luck during the new school year.

~~Your~~ Sincerely,
Dick