

15 Oct. 1944

Dearest Folks,

Sunday afternoon - at sea - the sea is quite calm occasional white caps but mostly small ground swells. The ship, after shifting the cargo around at the last stop - doesn't roll so much, at least not in a small swells like those we are leaving. The day has been warm, even sultry and I imagine it will become more so as we ~~will~~ get further along; I put on clean dungarees and in two days they are sticky and dirty, altho I do not do much work. After I get off watch I hit the sack and sleep until noon then I get up and eat - lately I have been reading in "The Deeds of God" in the afternoon and then I go on watch again.

My how glad I will be when we reach our destination and I am able to settle down to a schedule that is more or less a routine. If one was stationed aboard this ship it would be different - there would be certain duties to do and in case of a Radio tele you could always resort in cleaning contacts on motors, but other wise it is not so eventful.

of course usually in the afternoon we have general quarters, which some times can

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be interesting. they work a horn and say "all
hands take general quarters stations" in the
case of some of us who are not ships company we
are mustered (Hu) in our hold. I have the
job of being tollan - by that I stand at
the head of the ladder and what ever orders
come over the P.A. system I repeat, (in a
loud voice) so those below can hear them.
Some times they have trial firing of their
guns - they fill large balloons full of
Helium and then after they are some
distance away the gunners try to hit
them. They also hold various types of drills
all of which are to familiarize the men with
the ship and various conditions which could
~~arise~~ ^{arise} in a emergency.

I read some out of my report today also
some from my weymouth. I didn't realize that
I would miss church as much as I do. I know
that when I get back I shall have a greater
appreciation for the church and its services
than I have before. I have thought of you all
today - wondering where you are and what you are
doing. I am still up in the air about where you
are - C. London or enroute to Seattle. I shall
be glad when I can get mail to answer my questions
and hear from you.

I must stop now - you are always in my
thoughts and prayers - lots of love Jim

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