

Richard Cobb R.O. M. 3/c
U.S.S. Hunt DD 474
10 Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Ca.

JUNE 12, 1945

DEAR FRANK,

I RECEIVED YOUR SWELL LETTER A WEEK OR SO AGO AND AM JUST GETTING TO ANSWERING IT DUE MOSTLY TO LAZINESS I GUESS. I AM IN A PORT IN THE PHILLIPPINES AND HAVE BEEN FOR A COUPLE OF WEEKS, EXPECT TO BE IN A FEW MORE DAYS YET. I HAVE HAD MY EYE OPEN FOR YOUR SHIP BUT I AM INCLINED TO THINK YOU ARE SOMEWHERE AROUND LUZON INSTEAD OF DOWN HERE WHERE I AM. ARE YOU IN THE PORT WHERE THE FLEET REPLENISHES AND GETS REPAIRED IF SO THAT IS WHERE I AM. I SAW A LIST OF SHIPS PRESENT HERE, THIS MORNING BUT DID NOT SEE YOUR SHIP LISTED. IT SURE IS HOT AROUND HERE ISN'T IT, IT WILL TAKE US SOME TIME TO GET USED TO THE CLIMATE BACK HOME. YOUR LETTER WAS CENSORED PRETTY MUCH, YOU SAID YOU WERE IN THE MAIN PLACE SO I FIGURED IT TO BE LEYTE BUT AS I SAY I DON'T SEE YOU LISTED AS BEING HERE.

MY SHIP THE HUNT WAS ONE OF THE SHIPS THAT HELPED RESCUE MEN FROM THE CARRIER FRANKLIN~~G~~ WHEN SHE WAS HIT SO BAD; WE PICKED UP 422 MEN AND BELIEVE ME WE WERE SURE OVERLOADED. THE MEN WE RESCUED LATER SENT US A LETTER THANKING US AND WE WERE ALL PRESENTED WITH A COPY OF IT TO SEND HOME. ON THE EIGHTEENTH OF MAY THEY TOLD ON THE RADIO AND IN THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE FRANKLIN~~G~~ BEING HIT AND ALMOST SUNK AND NAMED US IN PICKING UP SOME OF THERE MEN, OF COURSE YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW EVERYONE ON HERE GOT LETTERS FROM HOME TELLING HOW THEY HAD HEARD AND HOW PROUD THEY WERE, SOME HOW OR OTHER MY FOLKS DIDN'T READ THE PAPER THROUGHLY ENOUGH SO HAVEN'T WROTE SAYING ANYTHING ABOUT IT. IT WAS ACTUALLY A MIRACLE THE FRANKLIN EVER GOT BACK TO PORT, IT WAS A TRAGIC HAPPENING AND AS YOU PROBABLY SHE LOST AT LEAST ONE THIRD OF HER CREW AND MANY MORE INJURED.

ON REREADING YOUR LETTER I DON'T GUESS YOU COULD BE IN THIS PHILIPPING PORT THAT I AM BECAUSE YOU SAY YOU HAVE BEEN MAKING LIBERTY IN A CITY AND ALL THERE IS NEAR HEAR IS A RAIRLY LARGE VILLAGE AND WE AREN'T ALLOWED TO GO ANYWHERE NEAR IT. I WENT ASHORE ONCE JUST TO BE ABLE TO SAY I HAD BEEN ASHORE IN THE PHILIPPINE IS. WE ARE CONFINED TO ONE AREA AND THERE IS NO ONE TO SEE BUT SAILORS AND DRINK A FEW CANS OF BEER SO NO ONE IS PERTICULARLY FOND OF GOING ASHORE. I SURE HOPE TO GET A CHANCE TO GO TO SOME PLACE LIKE MANILA AND GET TO SEE AND MEET SOME FHILLIPINO'S, SO NEAR YET SO FAR SEEMS TO BE THE STORY. I ALWAYS HAD HOPES OF GETTING TO AUSTRALIA BUT CAN SEE THAT CHANCES ARE A HUNDRED TO ONE OF EVER DOIND SO.

GLAD YOUR SENSIBLE ENOUGH AND DON'T GO MONKEYING AROUND ANY ~~THESE~~ OF THOSE CAT-HOUSES IT DOESN'T PAY.

AIN'T IT THE TRUTH THAT THE ONLY ONES THAT GET TO SEE OR TALK WITH WOMEN AROUND HERE ARE THE OFFICERS, WELL I HAVE GIVEN UP AS IT IS A CINCH NOTHING CAN CHANGE IT, I JUST WANT TO GET BACK TO CIVILIAN LIFE WHERE I STAND AN EVEN CHANCE WITH THE NEXT MAN AND CAN DO AND SAY AS I PLEASE. I DON'T REGRET BEING IN THE NAVY THOUGH AS IT TEACHES ONE A LOT IN EXPERIENCES OF LIFE.

IT IS SWELL YOU MET SOMEONE FROM GOOD OLD PITTSFIELD, HERE I HAVE BEEN OUT HERE GOING ON NINETEEN MONTHS NOW AND HAVE YET TO MEET A FELLOW FROM THE HOME TOWN, WELL THATS THE WAY IT GOES. I THINK MY BROTHER IN LAW IS ON HIS WAY OUT HERE SO I AM ON THE ALERT IN HOPES OF GETTING TO SEE HIM.

THINGS SEEM THE SAME BACK HOME, I GUESS YOU KNOW MY FOLKS LIVE AT 44 HENRY AVE. NOW SO WHEN I GO HOME I WILL HAVE TO HUNT FOR THE PLACE, ALSO I HAVE A NIECE TO MEET, BORN SINCE I HAVE BEEN OUT HERE, I GUESS SHE IS ABOUT TEN MONTHS OLD NOW. MY SISTER NORMA IS THE ONE MARRIED, I THINK YOU REMEMBER HER DON'T YOU.

WELL FRANKIE I HAVEN'T A THING MORE TO SAY, I AM IN FINE HEALTH AND HOPE YOU ARE THE SAME. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND I SURE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON.

YOUR "BOOT" BUDDY,

DICK