



# NOTES

Compliments of

*The Coca-Cola Bottling Co.*

# 1943

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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<del>3</del>	<del>4</del>	<del>5</del>	<del>6</del>	<del>7</del>	<del>8</del>	<del>9</del>
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FEBRUARY						
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APRIL						
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JUNE						
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AUGUST						
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SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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*This book is the property of*

FRANK M. FRAZITTA

1944

Sun. Went to church + then went to the woman's club with Chuck + talked with + played Chinese Checkers with some girls. They really were nice.

Mon. Started my first day of school. All we did was sit down in class most of the day + part of the afternoon saw slides

Tues. Seemed to have caught a small cough. Marched part of the morning + then had a swimming test. Climbed ropes + jumped off a platform into the water.

Wed. Still did nothing in class. Drew rifles today. Cough in throat is getting worse

Thurs. Had a busy day today. Learnt a little how

to shoot a revolver. Had 7  
shots. <sup>(22)</sup> Also practiced marching  
again, manual of arms + exercised  
with guns for inspection for Sat.  
Fri. Went to nite school route  
+ did the same as in the day.  
Went to a Fire ~~the~~ Fighters  
school + learnt how to fit oil fuel  
Sat. Rained. Had a strict inspection  
inside. Went to a show downtown  
Sun. Went to Newport News  
to a show. Later on went  
back to camp.  
Mon. Went to a different  
elect. room. Still the work  
is a complicated mess. Got  
rid of our rifles today.  
Tues. Just about the same  
Wed. Went to a bldg. today +  
saw an actual switchboard +  
boilers + diesel engines. Learnt a

little today.

Thurs. Same thing. Saw  
Bung Ho (a picture). Pretty good.  
Am certainly constipated.

Fri. Studied awhile & then  
had a pretty stiff test.

Sat. Had a regular parade  
inspection. Met Sam Reynolds  
& another fellow from Co. 1. And  
with Hallack, we went to  
Va. Beach. It really must be a  
nice summer resort. It was  
the first time I've seen the  
Atlantic Ocean.

Sun. Hitchhiked back to the  
boat & from there we went to  
a show in Portsmouth.

Mon. Another week started in  
school. From the information  
I've heard, it certainly is pretty  
tough & dangerous on a W.C.

Tues.

wed. Nice day, still got a cold

Thurs. Catching upon my letter,  
still a nice day & got a cold

Fri. Went to nite  
school.

Sat. Had personal inspection,  
went with Chuck Hallack  
to Portsmouth & then turned in.

Sun. Went to Newport News  
& to a show. Nothing much  
else. Oh yes! met Dan  
Durado from home town &  
talked over old times. Later  
at nite, I met another fellow  
from Fern St. who use  
to work in the mill in  
the next room. It cert-  
ainly was swell to see  
them & talk over  
old times.

Mon. Baggage inspection & a little  
lecture on our duties  
when we go aboard ship tomorrow  
Tues. Went on board a D.C.

and stood there all day,  
and had watches, etc. I  
think I'm not going to  
like this kind of ship  
from what the regular  
crew says. What show!?

Tues Wed. Went to school  
today & learnt a little about  
Gyro Compass. Will have to  
go on watch tomorrow morning  
on board ship 4 a.m.

Received a package from Steve  
Gardner's grand~~father~~parents.  
Thurs. . . .

Fri. . . .

Sat. Night watch today &  
Sun. Washed clothes & showered

Jumpers.  
Sun. Etc.

Mon. Went to school & had  
our electrical engineer teach us  
Wues. Rumors of us getting a  
10 to 15 day leave. Went swimming  
at the Fleet Recreation.

Wed. Many anxious faces  
on the fellows tonight.  
Many of his are true. Some  
anticipating that we are  
moving out tomorrow.

We are all waiting for  
the word to lash up.  
Crnie (the fellow below me  
is in pretty poor spirits.  
He hasn't had a letter from  
his girl in 3 days.

Thurs. Packed up & moved  
out today at 5:30 P.M. to the  
other receiving station down the

way a piece  
Fri. Hung + loafed around  
most of the day, except for  
a little snabbing.

Seem to have quite a lot  
of difficulty breathing lately.  
Sat. Went to the show  
at N. O. B. + then to the  
fleet Rec.

Sun. Same thing

Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. - - - - -

Fri. Got news that we start  
our leave this morning. Started  
out about 10:30 A.M.

Sat. Arrived in Pittsfield this  
morning. Mom certainly was  
glad to see me.

Went to the D. A. with Ma  
+ Pa. Had a pretty good time.

Sun. went swimming at  
the club with Tony, Andy + Frank

Got a sun tan there  
Mon. Met David Gardner (Sat.  
Certainly was good to see him.  
met a few other fellows in  
the service  
tues. Getting kinda monotonous  
Everyone seems to be gone in  
the service -

wed. Went to Boston & saw  
Bill (Uncle) slept there.

Thurs. Went with Uncle Bill  
& saw Uncle Tony. Then I  
took the bus to Taunton  
& saw Mr. Fred & Carol.

Fri. Carol certainly has  
a liking to me. Went  
bowling with Fred.

Sat. Started back to Pittsfield  
Went to the Sario's of Italy dance.  
met a lot of nice young  
girls. Especially one blond

who took a liking to me  
& helped me out dancing  
the jitterbug, Rumba & Polka.  
She's about the first girl  
I seemed to do good in  
dancing with.

Sun. Started back to Norfolk  
Via N.Y.C. Met a blond (married)  
woman who was going to  
see her husband in  
Portsmouth.

Mon. Arrived in Norfolk  
& showed the young woman  
the ferry ~~to~~ Portsmouth.

Tues. Started resting up after  
my leave. The other 31 fellows  
are still going to school &  
don't know if they are getting  
their leave.

Wed. Caught up on all my letters  
and sleep.

Thurs. Went to school a few hours today and learnt about the engineering equipment and then drilled a while like in boots

Fri. Went to school a few hours again and then drilled + marched again.

Sat. In on duty - week-end. Stood in a saw-a show. Washed clothes. Ernie + Bill + De Fio finally got their leave, (9 1/2 da.). Boy are the happy.

Sun. Rumors that we won't get our ~~ship~~ till sometime in Jul Mon. Baggage inspection. Had some medium pains on my heart. Feel all tired out lately.

Tues. Went to school this morning. Was taught something about machinist's work + about the ships ~~at~~ nomenclature.

wed, Thurs. . . .

Fri. Went to see Chuck +  
then went swimming at  
the Fleet Rec.

Sat. Went to Portsmouth with  
Chuck + then while going  
back to the base, I met  
C. Juss. from my home town  
who use to work with  
me.

Sun. Mon Tues. . . .

wed. Saw a Professional  
wrestling match in Norfolk.  
First time I ever saw so  
many girls at one time at  
nite!

(Thurs.) Fri. Went swimming  
at the Fleet Rec. by myself

Sat. Went downtown with  
Starsiak. Went to a Free dancing  
instruction class and learnt a

little jitterbug and Fox Trot  
Lun. Rained and windy out.  
stood in all day and washed  
my dress jumper.

Mon! Went downtown with  
Stursiak + Wilson. just hung  
around a U.S.D.

Tues. Had one of my teeth filled  
at the Receiving Station.

Went swimming at nite up  
the Fleet Reef

Wed. Went to the Sick Bay  
to get examined because I  
had a little trouble breathing  
& small attacks on the heart.

Requested for an X-Ray on the  
chest. Will find results tomorrow.  
The other doctor couldn't find out  
what the trouble was. Am  
anxious to see about the X-Ray.  
at nite, went to the wrestling

matches with Bill Wilson + Ernest P. Starsiak. Saw the Green Hornet + Strangler Louis wrestle. Strangler Louis won. At night ~~there~~ some of the 667 crew got drunk + in fights. They are certainly enjoying the last few liberty nights in Norfolk. Thurs. Went out on liberty with Bill + Ernie. Us 3 had our pictures taken together. Received a letter from Dick Cobb. He said he's in the Pacific and saw action. Found out that the result of my ex-rays are negative. That is that nothing is wrong with my chest as far as the x-rays go. But I'm having considerable trouble breathing + have sharp pains everywhere.

March 24, 1944.

Fri. Got straightened out on my pay accounts in which I got \$6.50 which was supposed to be pd. to me. Went to Lick Bay & got a laxative for my constipation. I hope this works for I haven't ~~got~~ gone in 2 days.

Sat. Stayed in & took a early & washed clothes here. Got ready & packed up to leave tomorrow.

Mon. Packed up & left on a troop pullman.

Tues. Still traveling on the train. Passed thru N. Carolina - S. Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Miss. & into New Orleans. Saw such poor country & houses not fit for some cows to live in.

March 27 to April 1944

Moved in barracks in Algiers, La

across the Miss. R. from New Orleans. Visited New Orleans a few times. Its streets if studied carefully can be detected to be old fashioned. But as a whole it's a pretty modern city. The people here don't have very much of an accent as the people say. Mostly, Georgia, Ky, N. Carolina & S Carolina Missouri & a few other states.

After being in Algiers for about a week, we moved on board our ship. D.C.-667, U.S.S. Wickman where they had women as well as men working on her. In April 4, she was commissioned and for about a week we took trial runs up the Miss. R. About a week ~~later~~ later, we started for Bermuda.

It certainly was a trip. The water wasn't too rough & plenty of us, including myself were sea sick. Now whenever the water is rough I get headaches & upset, spinning stomachs. We have 4 or 5 stop watches & in between time we clean up & check over electrical equipment. Finally we reached Bermuda. It really has beautiful scenery, but none of us has had liberty here since we arrived... 4 days ago. We just rested up a day or so & are now commencing ~~our~~ breaking in the ship.

Just got a five hour pass into Bermuda. Really is beautiful scenery & houses, flowers, trees, etc. Just the place I would like to live the rest of my life in.

Went to the aquarium there  
& saw all sorts of fishes.  
am still on maneuvers & all.  
These ~~det~~ depth charges &  
guns certainly shake the place.  
I stay in. I'm still allergic  
to seasickness, but am using  
all my will power to combat  
it. Lost quite a lot of  
weight & look 10 yrs. older.  
They seem to feed us the  
same old lousy food every  
week. The mess is certainly  
getting tough.

Many of the crew are  
getting sick of the officers.  
It seems like they are making  
this a "boot" ship. Many  
of us seem to want transfers  
if this keeps up. Rumors  
of Invasion soon is rumored.

Many of us can't wait till it starts, so the war will be over with & we can go home to the ones & things we all love.

Heard from Brother Mario in Italy. He's still alive & well (so he says) so far. I certainly hope he gets the so called "overseas furlough". He's been in combat duty 2 years already.

This salty sea air & lousy water certainly makes me thirsty.  
Sat. May 13 -

Had our final examination by Bermuda officials. Right after inspection we put under way for Boston!

Got a little for seasickness Sunday. So did a few others. Monday morning sighted land. It's good old Boston. There's

smiles on every ones faces.  
In fact, I'm all smiles.  
The seamen are having  
liberty today 2 out of 3 sections.  
Our engineering officer is  
different + wants 1 out of 3,  
until the skipper told  
him off. (Good for him)

The yard workers are certainly  
not wasting time. The torpedoes  
tubes are off + already + many  
things are in progress  
all night. Even the  
chippers, welders work right in  
our compartments while we all  
asleep.

In my first liberty  
rite in Boston, Ernest Starbuck  
and I went to see my sisters  
Emily + Fred. It certainly was  
sweet to see them + also to  
set foot on ground once more.

One never realizes the small things  
in life which really mean a lot!  
At Cin's house we had regular  
spaghetti. Cinie + I really love  
into it + at it all. We really  
enjoyed the 4 short hours there,  
but they meant a lot to both of  
us. ... Finally managed to get  
a 48 hr. pass + go home + see  
the folks. They certainly were happy  
to see me. The last night there I  
met Dante Zaccari who joined the  
navy. He ~~is~~ just finished Boot Camp.  
We went to the Sons of Italy dance.  
... Saw Uncle Bill in the Restaurant.  
He hardly recognized me. He certainly  
was surprised to see me. ...  
The following day we loaded ammunition  
& refueled till 3:30 a.m. + showed  
off Wed. May 24, exactly 1 year of my  
Navy service. ... Few days later

learned that we were going  
to meet a convoy + go to Africa.  
May 29th we had our first  
General Quarters. The real thing!

A sub was detected under water.  
We lost it though. Everything  
is normal now. The way  
most of us act, you wouldn't  
even think we were in enemy  
waters.

June 7, 1944. Saw land this  
morning. There is a gas face  
on everyone. We are now passing  
through the straits which  
will lead into the Med. Sea.

The land on the left of us is Spain  
and on the right, is Africa. Beauti-  
ful mountains are in view  
now.

June 8, 1944. Saw the Rock of Gibraltar  
which is owned by the British.

It was at a distance by it  
certainly looked nice.  
We are now entering the actual  
part of the Med. sea., hugging  
the coast line of Africa so  
in case of attack.

June 11, 1944. Arrived at our  
destination! Everyone is happy  
& relieved. Not one ship  
lost in our convoy, nor no  
direct attack made at us.  
We docked right next to a small  
side of a hill next to another  
ship, D.C. 702, which Richter,  
Rever & Rigney were on.

June 12, Liberty on shore for me.  
I just found out we were  
in Karouba & Bizerte is 8 mi.  
away. We hitch-hiked to Bizerte.  
It's just a mass of ruins. The  
Red Cross building is about the

only building of operations.  
We got a cup of coffee &  
a do-nut for 5 francs (10¢).  
Almost every thing is  
rationed there, and money  
doesn't mean much  
there. From Bizerte we  
hitch-hiked to Ferryville  
about 23 mi. from Kefrouba.  
There a few places are  
opened & a few buildings  
fixed up. There is a  
small living population  
there. Most of the people  
there are poor & money  
doesn't mean so much  
there. They'd rather trade  
for cigarettes, matches, combs, etc. The prices there  
are real high. I got 2  
rings as souvenirs there.

But not German ones.  
June 13, 1944 to 15. The other  
sections went out on a  
longer liberty time. Most of  
them went to Tunis, about  
67 mi. from Karouba, a popu-  
lation of 22,000 or so. I had  
say it is a little better, but  
it is still a ragged town.  
Tomorrow is my liberty  
day, I plan to see Tunis  
myself.

June 16, 1944. Visited Tunis  
today. It's like a city of U.S. way  
back in the 1800's. It's really  
a filthy place to live in. Kids  
running around barefooted &  
in rags. Much blackmarket  
flourishes there. For instance  
I sold a pack of cigarettes for 40  
Francs (804) and he in turn

sold it to a regular native  
for more. Drove in Tunis,  
about the only place of  
interest was the Red Cross  
station. That's about the  
only place to read & eat  
anything decent which  
wasn't much. Couldn't  
get a ride back to Bizerte  
for almost 4 hrs. Finally  
got one and was an hour  
late. Nothing said about  
it though. It's the first  
time I was late since I  
entered the Navy. In Tunis,  
I also got a buggy ride.  
I'll always remember  
the seat there. Also TUNIS.  
The next two <sup>or 3</sup> days are spent  
for me on the ship.  
June 20, 1944 Started out of Bizerte,

Africa. Scuttlebutt is we are  
going to New York. I hope  
so.

UNDERWAY FOR A FEW DAYS  
NOW. . . . . Took a test  
for 3rd Class Electrician. Almost  
or in fact all of us got a little  
help by Vest, Beale & Barnett. We  
all passed it. I got 3.40.

JULY 1, 1944, Received news  
that I made 3rd Class.

July 6, 1944 Saw my name  
posted up as one of the rated  
men. Only all our rates  
are temporary till the war ends.

July 8, Conway split up. We  
take our half to the channel  
in Norfolk & then proceed  
to Norfolk. Rumors are that we  
may get 72 hr. passes.  
July 10, sighted land.

It's New York! It certainly  
is good to see the  
states again. Anchored  
out on the bay tonight  
and unloaded ammunition.  
Didn't get much sleep  
July 11, Went into the  
Bkln. Navy yard for repairs  
& stores, etc. First section  
got 72 hr. passes. Mine  
comes up Fri. Received  
quite a lot of letters. It certainly  
was nice to eat U.S. stuff  
and drink their water. Have  
a watch tonight. Liberty  
tomorrow.

July 12. Had Liberty went  
to see my Uncle Jerry  
in Brooklyn. They all  
were surprised to see  
me and didn't know

who I was at first till  
I introduced myself. My  
aunt made spaghetti right  
away. We had wine, liquor  
ice cream, cake & beer. What  
a combination. They really  
acted like nice people. Jerry  
my uncle sounded a lot  
better than his brother, my  
pop. He even offered to go  
and take me all the way  
back to the base until  
I insisted I knew the way.

July 13. Duty tonight. Served  
on my ~~rate~~. Expect a 72 hr. tomorrow

July 14. Started on my 72 hr.  
pass home at 1200 P.M. Arrived  
~~base~~ home around 7:30 P.M.

Mom was certainly surprised  
and happy to have me home.

July 15. Met Sam De Filippo,

who had a weekend pass  
from ~~the~~ army in N.J. Both  
of us went to the house  
of Italy dance which  
was ~~hardly~~ dull. Almost  
everytime I go home, more  
& more of my friends are  
gone. We later went  
over the mountain  
to "Carls" which also was  
pretty dull & dead.

July 16, I visited a few  
relatives & then went  
swimming awhile. At  
night, met Rudy S. who  
just came from Camp Russell.

July 17, Started back to  
Brooklyn, N.Y. arrived pretty  
tired & worn out.

July 18, Liberty for me.  
Believe and I went to

Coney Times Square, Broadway.  
Then went to Coney Island.  
Things were pretty dead in  
Coney Island. Lillian met  
a red head swimmer and  
took her out. She swam  
at Coney Is. is Aqua-Girls,  
July 19, Duty today. Loaded stores  
and took ground readings  
on motor.

July 20, 1944 Getting prepared  
to shove off tomorrow.

July 21. Shoved off to Maine.  
Cape Bay.

July 23. Arrived in Maine.  
Beautiful country & fresh  
air here.

July 24. Put on a few manure  
here.

July 25. Had gunfire practice  
and a little refueling practice

July 26, Liberty for Starboard  
side. - Many fellows  
are fishing off the deck and  
are catching fresh galore!

July 27, to July 29. Had  
liberty in Portland. The  
town is certainly a wild one.  
The liquor is really expensive  
there, but everyone still  
drinks.

July 29, Left Portland.

July 31 Arrived in Norfolk  
and had a liberty there.

Reminded me of the old times  
there. There, I met  
Wallack. His ship is going  
with our convoy.

Aug 2. Left Norfolk & went  
aboard on our way on another  
convoy.

Aug 9. Still don't know

where we are going. It's Africa, but we don't know which part.

Aug 10 to Aug 23. Still underway had S. & P in the middle of the net. Had a contact with a sub, had orders to fire the "K" Guns while making a sharp right angle. If we had fired them, there would have been one less ship sailing, and I wouldn't be writing this, for we would have been blown sky-high. Fortunately our officers & the man in charge of the depth charges failed to hear the order. Two days later we had ~~an~~ a S. & P drill & right at that time we had a contact

5 We fired quite a few depth  
charges, but failed to  
make a score. It certainly  
was rough for us in the  
after steering. (The last part  
of the ship where the depth  
charges are rolled off.)  
Finally sighted land about  
Aug 19. It certainly looked  
good, but the Y.S. looks  
a lot better. Landed  
in Bizerte Africa Aug 22, 1944.  
Most of the soldiers who  
used to be here are gone to  
either Italy or in the  
invasion of southern  
France which started Aug.  
15 or 16. Most of the Y.S.  
controlled land here is now  
given to the French.  
Had a first liberty on the Karoubia

Base, Gave free beer, away  
to everyone there. Had to wait  
in line for about an hour.  
But it was worth it.

A few days later, had a  
happy hour on the base  
next to the ships; had  
some beer there which we  
took on board from the states.  
It really made us feel like  
home. I had liberty the  
next day, but didn't take  
it. It really wasn't worth  
going to Bizerte. There  
isn't nothing worth going  
to there. Although Bizerte  
really has been built up  
& populated since the last  
time there. Although it  
still needs plenty of build-  
ing up. It seems like the

U.S. has let the French  
take over almost every  
base except Karouba now.  
Most of the soldiers &  
sailors who were stationed  
here have gone either to  
southern France or Rome.  
The French people were  
really happy when news  
came that Paris was  
liberated.

Preparing to get under-  
way tomorrow.

Underway & headed for  
the states, alas... One more  
week to go. Was reported  
that a ship was sunk  
off the coast of Carolina by  
a sub. Have been having  
sub contacts lately, but  
nothing serious. News

a hurricane slashing  
up the east coast. Our  
convoy is trying to avoid  
in, but the last minute  
prepared to go right  
through it!... A few  
more days to go... The  
hurricane moved faster  
up the coast & our ships  
just barely missed it.

Entered Boston Sept 19. Had  
liberty that night. Called  
up Emily & told her to  
have those pies ready  
for I'm coming to to  
her house Thursday.  
She certainly was sur-  
prised to hear that  
I was in Boston.

It certainly is swell  
to get back in the states

and smell the trees, food  
flowers & above all the  
U.S.A. It certainly made  
me feel good to hear  
Emily's voice & Fred's.  
No one realizes how good  
the U.S. is till he leaves  
it.

Had the duty Sept. 20.

Sept. 21. Visited sister.

Brother-in-law & neices.

Certainly was happy to  
see them & vice versa

Had supper there & slept  
over nite. Janet &

Carol certainly grew. Carol  
is as bright as ever. Fred  
seems changed a lot. Seems  
older & tired & sicker.

Sept. 22. Had liberty. Went  
to a movie & then bought

a set of tailored made blues.

Sept. 23. Duty. yard workers still fixing shirts.

Sept. 24. Liberty tonight.

Met a girl name Gida Darch. About 16 to 18 yrs.

old. Very pretty though. Dirty blond hair + brown eyes + a pretty face.

Took her to a show + saw Lena Horne in person.

Then took her home which was in Watertown Mass.

Sept. 25. Started my 72 hr. pass today. Arrived home 1:30 P.M.

Mom was certainly glad to ~~hear~~<sup>see</sup> from me.

It certainly was swell to see the folks + Pittsburg

Sept. 26. Visited the mill.

A lot of changes & new faces  
there. Mike, Red & Maria  
were glad to see me.

Sept 27. Just looked over the  
city. Called up Joan to ask  
her about Bob, her  
brother who had Malaria  
& is now in Chile. But  
of all the luck she was  
out, but I talked with  
the mother awhile.

Sept 28. Took mom & Gene  
to the show & after to the  
Cross Rail for a few Tom Collins.  
Sept. 28. Left for Boston... Arrived  
in Boston & had my tailored made  
blues altered to fit better. Then  
reported back to the ship.  
Had liberty Fri. with Ernie.  
Sat. Had liberty with Cofta.  
Picked up two girls & took them

to Brookline where they lived.  
One that Cofta had wouldn't  
neak. So the one I had  
followed suite. Both of us  
were disgusted with them.

Sun. absenty . . . .

Mon. Liberty.. Went with  
Cofa + Lanfer to the  
Silver Dollar. Left at  
about 9:30 and Cofa +  
I met two girls + went  
with them. Lanfer went  
to South Station to meet  
his girl. Cofa + I took  
the two girls to Milton where  
one of them lived. We  
really had a good time with  
them. Then left Marty, the  
one I was with + Cofa's  
I took his girl home (in  
Roxbury).

Tues... duty  
Wed. stood in + duty...  
About 17 fellows sneaked  
out on liberty. Most of  
them got caught + now  
the whole ship is  
restricted without liberty  
while in Portland + maybe  
Norfolk.

Thurs. Left Boston + arrived  
in Portland, Me. the  
same day. No liberty,  
everyone is restricted.

Fri. Sub maneuvers.

Sat. Sub maneuvers +  
tracking them down (Practice)

Liberty for chiefs only.

Sun. Left Portland, Me.

today for Va.

Arrived in Norfolk, Va.  
Had one night liberty.

Went + met "French"  
Maul + went to the  
30th division club where  
they hold dances. Had  
a fairly good time there.  
Next day I went out on  
the bay I waited for our  
convoy. Next day Oct 12  
Went out at sea convoying.  
So far we all think its  
Bizerte again. There's  
rumors of when any  
ship arrives back it'll  
be converted to an G.P.D.  
"Attack Personal Destroyer."  
Am still kinda contipated  
and getting a little sea-  
sick but have not vomited  
yet. Ran into a small  
storm. It's getting a  
little smoother after

2 days.

## "Flash back"

Around sometime Oct 1955,  
I went to the dispensary  
went the pharmacist  
mate in Boston for  
my breathing. He tested  
my heart & lungs  
& said they were  
okay & not diseased,  
& since they weren't  
diseased he couldn't  
do anything about it.  
I'm still short of breath  
& sometimes get sharp  
pains around & below  
the heart.

Nov. 2, 1944 Arrived in Bizerte  
Africa again. Stood over  
nites. Next day started out  
for Palermo, Sicily. Took about

7 hours. Saw the Island  
Malta, & a few small islands  
arrived in Palermo, Sicily.  
It really has beautiful scenery  
but many bombed houses  
and buildings. Tried  
to get an overnight liberty  
to go "Castellmare", where  
mom & pa were born. But  
was unable to go because  
of no available transportation,  
commander in ports orders  
for being out over night because  
of killings & robbing etc.  
Saw Palermo show & got  
souvenirs & took a few  
pictures. The place was  
really a bombed wreck with  
boys peddling articles & trying  
to steal stuff from us.  
Stood in Palermo 3 days &

then left for Bizerte to pick  
up a convoy. Next day picked  
up a convoy & started back  
for the state. Ran into very  
rough weather. Rescued a  
sea gull which was  
injured & tired from  
the storm. ~~Keep~~ kept him  
for over a week until  
he got strong & then he  
attempted to fly off  
the ship but failed &  
landed into the sea. That  
was the end of our little  
"Chmer". Spent my birthday  
out at sea. It really was  
a disgusting day; rough  
and a little sick was I!  
Spent Thanksgiving also,  
out at sea. If it wasn't  
for the rough weather

we'd have been  
in a few days ago.  
Had canned Turkey and  
really a pretty good  
dinner, but I got  
sick a few hours  
before the meal.  
We happened to be  
going through Cape  
Hatteras at that time  
which is always rough.  
Arrived in S. Carolina,  
("Charleston") Found out  
that we were to be  
converted into one of the  
first type of floating  
Power plant. That  
meant the Pacific  
for us. Everyone has  
long faces. We are,  
through, getting 12 days

arrived in S.C. Dec. 1, 1944

leave, but that doesn't seem to much to any of us. Received letters Xmas cards, & 2 packages from sisters & home friends.

~~Jan~~ now Dec 2.

getting prepared to go home tomorrow

Dec. 3. Am on my way home.

Took 24 hrs. to go home.

Mom & everyone happy to see me!

Had news of before that John Trapani lost his left foot in

Italy while stepping on a land mine at night.

Went to Taunton while on leave. Saw the kids

& were they growing fast!

Fred seems to be his old self again. Cindy

baked my favorites again. <sup>(Pres)</sup>  
They really tasted swell.  
Left Emily & went to Boston  
to see Uncle Bill. He also was  
surprised to see me. After  
work, we went to his  
house & spent most of the  
night & morning talking.  
Went back home & met  
Aldo Manfreds in the air corps  
ground crew. We went  
out in his car a few times  
& had a swell time. One  
night we went to the  
Masonic Temple dance given  
by the Elmvale Co. for the  
employees. Service men were  
invited. Met lots of pretty  
girls. The first time I ever  
saw so many pretty girls  
in Pittsfield. Next day

took Ma + Pa to show +  
then had a bite to eat +  
something to drink.

Mon. Dec. 11. 1944. Met Joan  
+ her girl friend while  
going to see Uncle Tony.  
She is getting prettier  
every day. Every time I  
see her my heart  
seems to beat faster.  
Talked with her a few  
minutes + then had  
to catch the bus.

Saw Uncle Tony + all +  
left. Prepared to leave  
Pittsfield Wed. morning. Went  
to Schenectady for a few  
hours + met Ernie Stasiak's  
family. His sister really is  
pretty nice looking. Met  
his girl friend Gugu. She

is even prettier than  
the pictures I've seen  
of her. Missed the bus  
& train to Albany & hitch-  
hiked. From Albany to  
Charleston, didn't meet anyone  
I knew. Arrived in S.C.  
2 hrs. late. Got away  
with it. Made  
a liberty in Charleston.  
Met a girl. Had a fairly  
good time. Only she gave  
me a fake tel. number & name.  
Made another liberty & went  
to the Policeman's Ball. It  
was a swell dance, but  
not enough of girls. Most  
of them really drunk.  
The last liberty in  
Charleston, Cal. (Toys  
men) and I had liberty.

met him in a restaurant  
where he was supposed  
to meet a girl. Later he, I  
and the waiters with Call's  
girl's brother ~~to~~ all went  
to his house. I with  
the waiters. I had a  
fairly good time. Only Call's  
girl's brother was a  
little drunk & almost  
started a few fights  
with us. We both arrived  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. late at the ship,  
but was covered up.

Next day <sup>(Jan 11)</sup> showed off for  
Calif. Arrived in Panama  
Jan. 12. Passed Palm Beach &  
Miami Fla. Jan. 13, passed  
Cuba. Jan 14. In Caribbean sea.  
Jan 16, arrived in Balboa &  
Passed thru Panama Canal.

One section had liberty. Not I  
thou. All said it was a wide  
open town. Jan. 17, Left

Panama. Jan. 18 up the Pacific  
coast. (18) Passed coast of Central  
America (19) Passed equator. (21)  
off the coast of Mexico.

Jan. 25. Arrived in San  
Diego. Had liberty & went  
to Tijuana, Mexico.

Had a swell time there.

Bought a few souvenirs  
for the <sup>central</sup> girls & Mom. Got  
some Tlacolol a Mexican  
cactus juice drink.

Jan 27. Left Diego. Feb 2  
Arrived in Pearl Harbor.

Feb. 5. Had liberty. Walked  
around. Isn't as good  
as expected it to be.

Bought gifts for the family.

Feb. 6 to 9. Went out and practiced firing at robot planks, sleeves. Had G. & almost all the time.

Feb. 10. Liberty for 1st section.

Feb. 11 to 28. Went with "Doc" Prell on the Gloor at Pearl Harbor for my stomach. He said the same thing.

Nervous stomach. Am now taking medicine every morning composed of about 5 drops of linethel poison & a little glycerine.

Having practice with subs & aircraft carrier.

March 1. While having practice with carrier, was suddenly called back to Pearl Harbor, probably our orders arrived. Everyone

is in suspense ---. Left March  
2, 1945 for Eniwetok in the  
~~Marshall~~ Marshall Is. Took  
5½ days. Smooth going all  
the way. Stood there  
2 days. Arrived March 7, left  
March the 9th. for Ylithi  
Is. in the Caroline Is  
arr with small convoy.

Smooth sailing so far. While  
underway, passed Truk  
Is still occupied by  
the Japs. Nothing happened.  
2 days but heard broadcasts  
of Map Is being bombed,  
which is just 120 mi.  
from where we are going.

Arrived in Ylithi on Mar  
1945. Stood here about  
2 days & moved on to Leyte P.I.  
Arrived on Leyte P.I. on

Mar. 1945. No trouble  
on the way. All smooth  
sailing. Stood in  
Leyte about 4 days to a week.  
Many ships sunk &  
many fleet concentrations  
here. Left Leyte for Manila  
Went south of Leyte &  
North of Mindanao Is.  
up past Cebu which  
is in enemy hands  
& which is a narrow  
strait to go through  
& either side is enemy  
territory. All night were  
well on the alert for  
land was just 2 miles  
on either side. We passed  
through safely. No trouble.  
We then went through  
the Sulu Sea & into

the S. China Sea. Had  
to Pass Battan on one side  
& Corregidor on the  
other. In order to get into  
Manila Bay to Manila.  
Took a few pictures of  
Cinnetok, Ylithil, Leyte &  
Battan, Corregidor & Manila.  
While going between the  
2 historical Is. a few  
Japs attempted to escape  
from one island to the  
other by swimming.  
But Patrol boats watched  
gunned a few & capture  
2 of them. A few more  
incidents like that  
happened. Arrived in  
Manila Bay on April 1945  
stood out in the harbor  
a week. Saw many

Jap ships sunk. In  
estimated 200 + something  
arrived at the Pier I in Manila  
on Apr 6, 1945. Exactly one  
week later <sup>APR. 13, 1945</sup> the U.S.S. Wiseman  
~~commenced~~ <sup>started</sup> supplying power  
to Manila, P. I. I.K.

really was a great day in  
our lives. We all practiced  
lighting off the generators,  
so most of us had some-  
thing to do with it.  
A few days, I had liberty.

Manila was in utmost  
ruins. Worst than Bizerte,  
Tunis, Palermo or any other  
place I've been at.

The dock right where we  
are tied to is in shambles  
about 2 weeks before I &  
a few others went to some

half sunken jap ship.  
There was nothing left  
to anything. Everything  
was burnt. In one ship  
I saw the first dead jap  
of this war (for myself)  
~~It~~ was half burnt & the  
smell was nauseating.  
Also while on liberty I saw  
a jap leg laying on the  
ground. The ~~Filipinos~~ are  
friendly to all of us & are  
willing & hard working  
men. all the people appreciate  
what the U.S. has done.

I took some pictures  
of the ruins, people, Chinese  
home & cemetery & also  
of fellows on this ship.  
We had a pretty tough  
time laying the cable

in the water with floats and lights. Many times I was in the dirty water helping out. They also have a guard with a gun watching the cable leading to the pole. A few weeks later one soldier was killed + another wounded while trying to unfuse a land mine which was located near our ship. They also caught two Japs working on our power lines mingling with the Filipinos. A week later in town where the receiving supply station for step down transformers where our power goes

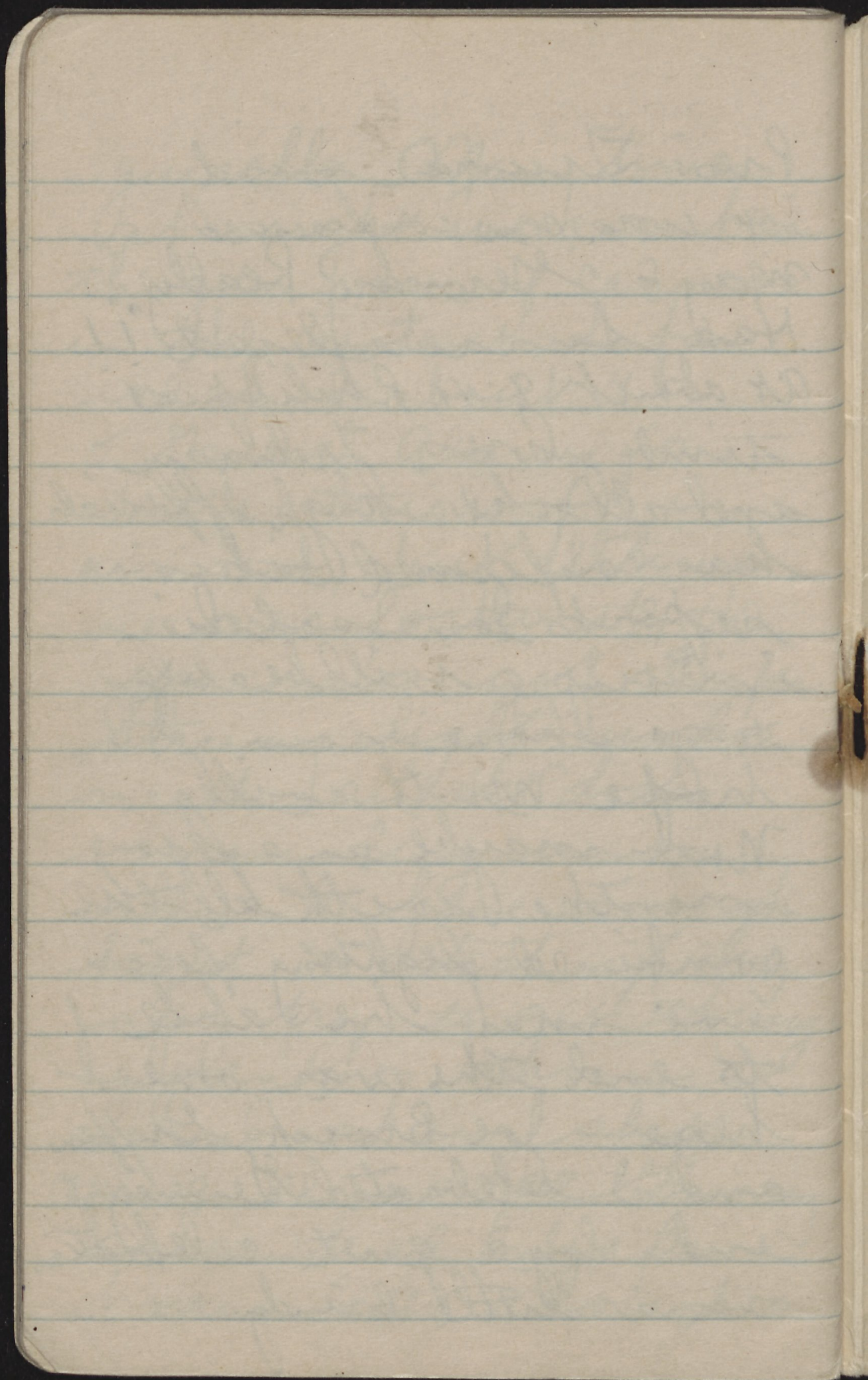
to the soldiers were  
forced to kill 23 Japs +  
captured 4. All of them  
had grenades + attempt  
to destroy the station. McArthur's  
headquarters is right near  
there + they also attempted  
to get him at ~~the~~ same  
time, but failed. Now our  
ship must + is on the  
alert for the enemy for  
if they know we are  
the source of the vital  
power to all key points  
they will attempt to destroy  
our supply power ship,  
+ also us. We have been  
fortunate so far. We also  
have been lucky, we get  
2 cans of beer every other  
night just before the

movies. In the town of Manila, it is mostly a soldiers town many soldiers just back from the front which is only 15 miles away, stream into town with rifles & machine guns. Little do we realize how near the war is to us. Out here, I saw this is the Army stage show. The original car docked the ship right next to us. At the show, almost every man was a combat man with guns & ~~camouflaged~~ camouflaged clothes & with them were many Filipinos

guirella. Many times  
at night we can hear  
the gun roar of cannons  
in the distant. So far  
we had about 4 or  
5 General Alarms for  
battle stations for an  
air raid, but all times  
we were fortunate, the  
japs never got this far.  
Strung lights under  
neath all the docks  
surrounding us in  
order to have enough  
light to detect if any  
japs try to get through  
I plant or throw a  
bomb at our ship.

Apr. 29. News that Germany  
surrendered. Only a few  
hours later through

Pres. Truman said  
it was unconfirmed  
May 8. Germany Really  
Has Surrendered!!  
At about 9:41 Philippine  
time. Gen Truman  
and all the high officials  
has confirmed this  
report. Some soldiers  
in Europe will be able  
to go home now. I  
hope Mutt will  
Now maybe in a few  
months with all the  
combined fighting forces  
we may be able  
to end the war over  
here. Joe Broich Guffen  
and I celebrated Germany's  
end by a quite celebration  
over a little brandy.



## COMPARISON OF METRIC AND U. S. SYSTEMS OF LINEAR MEASUREMENT

U. S.	Approximate Metric Equivalent
1 inch	25 millimeters
1 foot	30 centimeters
1 yard	.9 meters
1 mile (5280 feet)	1.6 kilometers

Metric	Approximate U. S. Equivalent
1 millimeter	1/25 of an inch
1 centimeter (10 millimeters)	25/64 of an inch
1 meter (100 centimeters)	3 feet, 3 1/3 inches
1 kilometer (1000 meters)	3279 feet (6/10 mile)

## FOREIGN MONEY

Approximate rate of exchange, Sept. 1942

**British Pound Sterling = \$4.03**

British Coins	Approximate U. S. Equivalent
Farthing	1/3 ¢
Half Penny (2 farthings)	2/3 ¢
Penny (2 half pennies)	1 2/3 ¢
Twopence	3 1/3 ¢
Threepence	5 ¢
Fourpence	6 1/3 ¢
Sixpence	10 ¢
Shilling (12 pence)	20 ¢
Florin (2 shillings)	40 ¢
Half crown (2 shillings, 6 pence)	50 ¢
Crown (5 shillings)	\$1.01
Sovereign (20 shillings)	\$4.03
Guinea (21 shillings)	\$4.23

	Unit of Currency	Approximate U. S. Equivalent
Australia	Pound	\$3.23
New Zealand	Pound	\$3.25
Egypt	Pound	\$4.03
Canada	Dollar	\$ .90
India	Rupee	\$ .30
China	Yuan	\$ .05
Brazil	Milreis	\$ .05

