12-20-43 [#74]

Dearest Mom & Pop -

Just a line to say hello & to let you know that Sam fine & that all is well. We still have received no mail, but I'm hoping this will go off tomorrow. Just even then it will probably be slow reaching you. We've been considerably on the move, & so far I've not been ashore since sunset you about the island - some of the others have & its my turn next tho; if & when there's an opportunity. We have been swimming several times over the side & it's really fun - we hang ladders & great nets over the side & everyone jumps in & swims & climbs out & repeats the process over & over until he's washed enough to quit. The water is wonderful - warm & very clear - and quite calm. It's pretty hot to stay below to write & read in the daytime; it's no good trying to do either up above. So I've taken up sketching. It's been so long since

I'll be done away that - it looks a little wooden but it's fun trying - The greatest difficulty is finding anyone who will stand still in the same position long enough for me to get it down on paper. Today I tried a self portrait in watercolor - it awful but was fun to do - tomorrow I shall try again in a different color range. We've had some very interesting experiences that I can't tell you about, but I'll try to remember it all for a later date. I'm feeling fine, the tan is doing very nicely, I'm not the least bit, we never know one day from another. Four more days to Christmas - I'm glad now I've waited for the packages - it will really be fun opening them out here. I do hope you are both feeling fine & that you had a nice Xmas - for heavens sake don't worry about us - but take all the fun you can - Such wish I could send you some of this sunshine & balmy breezes to bask in. Goodnight kids - all my love & lots of kisses to you both -

Cal

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