



U.S. NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING BASE
SOLOMONS BRANCH
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Nov 25, 1943.

Hello Mandy:

How is everything going up on the hill? I suppose everyone is as busy as ever. I sure was sorry that I could not get home for the big event last Sunday, and if I hadn't have been out on this cruise, the chances are that I could have made it. However I think I have been pretty fortunate up to date, in getting as many leaves as I have. What do you think?

Well here it is Thanksgiving day and we are still aboard ship. I understand we won't get in now before tomorrow. We sure had one swell dinner aboard. In fact it made me think of one of gramma's dinners. We had everything from soup to nuts, and it really was cooked very good. We have been out now since the ninth of the month and the old time has just flown by. With the exception of that weekend that we had in Baltimore, we have been on the move all the time. The weather has been perfect without one rainy day, but the first of the week we came up around Cape Hatteras and that was my downfall. Boy did that wind blow, and this old tub rock, and pitch. We had a mutiny that night in the ward

worn, and it finally got so bad that the chairs were sliding out from under you, and things started floating around in the officers galley, and one by one the officers turned white, got up and left the room. I was O.K. for quite a while until I saw so many getting sick, and then it hit me hard. I made a bee line for the head, and just made it in time. When I got back, they had called the meeting off, so I piled right into the old bunk, and spent a restless night, but I wasn't sick any more.

I understand when we get in Friday our crew will be assigned to us at this time, and for the next couple of weeks, we will be very busy with them. At the end of this time we go out on another cruise of two weeks with our crew, and then with any luck we get leave. This should be around Christmas or New Year, with any luck. After this leave I understand we report to the shipyard and pick up our ship. From there on its any ones guess, as to when we end up. Well Marion, I guess this is about all the news for now, and as I said before with any luck I should be seeing you people, the last of this month. Remember me to Mother, and tell her I will write soon. Best to Fred and all the rest of the family. Lots of Love
Johnnie.