

A.S. U.S.N.R.
G.C. CONDON
RM. 246 LYONS HALL
UNIV. OF NOTRE DAME
NOTRE DAME, IND.



UNITED STATES NAVY

my roommate is Merrill
Clubb from Oklahoma,
a nice guy but pretty easy
going. Does his studying
hurriedly, but maybe he
knows the stuff. I don't think
he does, although he had a lot
of it that I haven't had.

Feb. 4, 1943

Dear folks,

Now I know what Jerry has
gone through for almost two years now.
It is one "hell" of a life in comparison
to our civilian life. However, that's the
way it has got to be, so I might just
as well go along with everything. Anyway
I couldn't possibly do otherwise. Regretation
is the word. Golly you're tied down at all
times. During free periods one doesn't even
time to himself. They are just calling for all
those who haven't had their physicals to come
over now. I haven't had mine as yet so
I imagine that call will reach our corridor
pretty soon. (Didn't get it today)

Our uniforms are not like the
regular navy in that we wear heavy dark blue
shirts, black ties, and watch caps (stocking caps)
instead of the jumper and navy cap. We have already
been fitted for our midshipman's uniform which

we get to wear providing we complete our first month satisfactorily.

Our first afternoon was taken up by ~~my~~ reporting in, room assignments, issuing of uniform etc. They really kept us busy. Had several musters (~~to~~ meetings) where the Lt. in charge of our Company (Co. 2) layed down the law. On demerits we are allowed on 25. If we get 26 we are out. Some offenders carry 10 demerits others even more. However I don't think I'll get any of those. ^{we live in regular} College dorm - 2 men to a room.

My orders stated that we would have no formal class work during the first month. The personnel in Chicago must not know anything, after we bragged them up so much. We formed classes on Tuesday, and had practice runs all Tuesday aft. We have to form by squads and march to classes. Our subjects are:

Mathematics - geometry, trig. etc.

Ordinance - study of naval weapons and their use.

Seamanship - study of naval customs, rules etc.

Drawing - blue print reading in preparation for the study of damage control.

Infantry - Drill in the drill hall.

Later (4:45 to you) This is the life - it is now 1650 and I just got back from the drill hall which is about a mile away. The entire battalion marched to the Drill Hall and had a lecture

our pay, except for \$5-10 every two weeks, is withheld to apply on our uniforms. However, I don't expect I'll need much money so don't send any unless I ask for it.



UNITED STATES NAVY

and demonstration on how to make our beds in Navy style. Also some demonstrations of maneuvers, executed properly. It seems that around here one is supposed to be a snicker-mind. Things are told once, and after that you're supposed to know and do.

I just got permission to have the radio in my room. They have to be reported at the battalion office. I'm not sending my clothes home immediately. I have them in the suitcase, same place! but I might need them to wear home in a month. Although we were taken into town and measured for our midshipman uniforms that's no sign we all get them. The road is a hard one ahead.

About the hardest subject for me is drawing. I'm actually blank when it comes to reading and understanding diagrams. I planned on doing a lot of work on that this weekend but now that's out the window. When I came in from the Drill Hall I found that I am on the Watch squad for Sunday. The squad goes on duty at 1915 hrs.

and is on duty until 1915 Sunday. A twenty four hour stretch, during which time one is not permitted to study. If this watch should fall during the week, I would have to cut all classes and everything. I'll have to study Sat.

I'm glad my turn is coming up this weekend as we were informed this afternoon that the only way one could get an overnight leave would be to have a letter from the family or kin (other than brother & sisters) that you would be spending the night with them. Then that might not even be accepted. If you get an proposition for anything your weekends aren't granted. I'm scared of this darn drawing stuff. So Mary will have to write a letter stating that she is coming to Chicago, and that I should meet her there. The bad part of that is that I have a class until 1415 (2:15) Sat. Anyway, I could make it into Chicago by six o'clock I'm sure.

Just passed the word that there is to be a show at 6:55 P.M. that everyone must attend. They expect one to study and yet they never give one time to study. It seems like I'm going to be too busy to write much but I'll get at least one letter a week off to you. Mary would like me to write everyday but I can't even make that for her. At ten o'clock the day is over only to start another at 6 the next morning.

Love
George