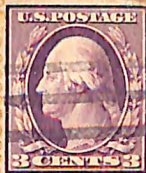


MAIL CENSOR
U.S. ARMY BASE



1st letter

12-27-17

Mrs. J. P. Walker,

~~114 W. 101 St.,~~

88 Center St

~~New York City.~~

(please forward)

New Rochelle

~~S. J. J. J. J.~~ - c/o Mrs. S. H. Ogden N. Y.

AMERICAN LINE.

"U.S.M.S. "NEW YORK" & "PHILADELPHIA."



AMERICAN LINE.

UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS.

Sailing under the American Flag.

FAST TWIN-SCREW STEAMERS

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ST. PAUL, ... 11,629 ,, PHILADELPHIA 10,786 ,,

LIVERPOOL—NEW YORK SERVICE.

POST CARD.

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON
THIS SIDE.

Here's the boat - away
we go - a life on the
Ocean wave —————



U.S.M.S. "PHILADELPHIA".

Sneaky -

Didn't think we'd do it - but here we are comfortably escorted in the library of this good ship telling jokes and the more serious of us trying to tell the best. I've started two of those kind of rumors you've heard of - one that 150 nurses will sail with us, and the other that we have life saving practice every morning - each man shows up with a life preserver on and is thrown overboard.

Just about now you are realizing that I'm on my way, and it makes me fearful to think of you -

bless your wonderful heart.
we have been blessed so
wonderfully with these
last six weeks, and our
faith and prayers have been
so generously rewarded that
we can both face this
trial with heads up. I
haven't the least fear of
your weathering the storm,
and for myself I am con-
fident of a happy exper-
ience and a quick return.

Now you just go ahead
and busy yourself with
the many things you have
planned. If the allotment
does not materialize look
it up at 104 Broad St.,
and I'm sure they will
help you out. Send Kate
\$10 on the Liberty Bond as
soon as you can, and get
mine fixed up - but do

not under any circumstance entail your
own self. you will handle all those things
properly I know.

I'm planning a lot of reading and
studying on this trip - but you know
how those things go - a jolly bunch of
fellows - plenty of inducement to stay, and
the boat rocking one to sleep continually
all these don't suggest work. I'll do
some, however.

The lunch bell is ringing and I
feel like having a bite. Don't know how
long I'll be able to eat - but you know me.

Just finished lunch - Soup - Lobster,
mulligatawny soup - Fried chicken - French fries -
squash - ice cream - pastry and coffee - good.

Now I'll drop a line to mother.
you know how to address me, and I
fancy that ere this you have written.
Don't forget the five commandments. Keep
your mind fixed on the honeymoon that's
coming - So long Sweetheart o' mine.

x x x L.T. x x x

① Friday afternoon.

I wonder where we are?
The scenery looks just like
pictures I've seen of it, but
still the boat hasn't turned
on end, ~~yet~~. We're somewhere
on the ocean sure enough
and the going is good. Not
once has the boat done
worse than roll a wee
bit, and today it's pleasant
and warm outside despite
the mist and lack of sun.
Only a few have been
talked into seasickness so
far, but if some cheerful
gents I know don't soon
get sick themselves, or quit
talking of it, then one or
two more of us will fall.

I am firmly resolved that talking will not make me sick. I shall save all my qualmings for heavy weather.

We are well prepared for the wily sub. A gun crew always on deck, and watchers on duty constantly. Then, of course, we are camouflaged, and at night entirely dark from outside appearances. This afternoon we had our first boat drill when life boats were assigned to us. It was quite a comical sight to see the crowd standing around with life preservers strapped about them. There must be constantly on the banks.

The bunch on board is exceptionally congenial. The few civilians among us mix well, and make good company.

The accommodations are excellent - especially the food. Really we are eating all the time, and are tempted by so much that is mighty good but unnecessary, that I wonder if the outfit wouldn't like us all seecick.

A 1st Lieut. aboard is a wonder at the piano especially on the sort of songs I know and like. I enjoyed him so much yesterday afternoon that I was tempted to shine in one time when the saloon was nearly deserted. Last evening some one sent for me, and I sang to the crowd for over an hour. Just like old times - and I enjoyed it too. get -

I thought my self fortunate ⁱⁿ ^{until} ^{part at} finding a place at the first table. I realized that it meant break ⁱⁿ 8 o'clock. and to make matters ^{worse} they correct the time during ^{each} ^{night} ^{and} the change cuts from 30 to 35 ^{minutes} from our sleep. I suf.

You should see the crowd ^{enjoying} ^{here} an afternoon nap in the saloon. Some real amusing attitudes sure ^{enough}. There's a fellow in the corner ^{who is} ^{on} due for a mild awakening if he ^{doesn't} quit the chams - ^{enough} for this day.

(2)

Saturday afternoon
Dec. 29, 1917.

We've just run into some
sort of a storm. Have been on
deck most of the day - but
now it's a bit windy and
wet. A beautiful day tho' till
now - the sun shining -
warm - and the sea smooth.
We are in the gulf stream -
hence the mild temperature.
If it's no worse than this
I may make it without
being sick.

I said "may" notice
for last night I was on
the verge of giving up -
what? Oh just hope that's
all. I didn't tho' and I'm
still battling 1,500. It would
be no disgrace at that.

There are fellows on board
whom I haven't seen since
yesterday morning. It isn't
costing this Steamship Co.
very much to feed us either.
Haven't missed a course
yet but can make no
promises except that I'll
stay with 'em till the end.

And sleep! Mon Dieu!
maybe I talk, and maybe
I don't - but certainly I sleep.

Today at noon there
was target practice. A
certain box was thrown
overboard, and when the
ship had gone quite some
distance she was turned
broadside to it, and away
they blazed. The box was
too far away to see, but
those with glasses claimed
hits right along.

~~the~~ we had boat

Drill again too when we all got out
by our life boats with life preservers
on. Lots of fun sure enough.

Some Y.M.C.A. guy is going to have a
service here tomorrow, and I am billed to
handle the music. Don't fancy it particularly.
Now to wile away some more time.
There is good company aboard and always
plenty to do - yet to simply pass time
is so easy task.

Sunday - the 30th Dec.

Three days are finished now, and with fair
success there remain five more. I'm getting
to like it too. Haven't been the least bit
sick except for the headache Friday night,
and am now waist deep in "The House
Seven Babes". Since seeing that ^{house, and} ~~the~~
the home of Hawthorne in Salem ^I ~~have~~
wanted to read it. Well I am.

Last night was beautiful ^{moon}
full and clear - stars wonderfully ^{bright}
and the sea calm but a bit choppy ^{at}
It was warm too, and beautiful ^{on deck}

Had church this morning in ^{the dining}
saloon. Sang a few hymns - said a ^{prayer}
took up a collection, and then ^{some fellows} ~~and~~
gave a very uninteresting account of ^{some}
conversions he had made among ^{the sailors}
sailors of Belgium, France, and England

was not nearly so helpful and
 inspiring as the service we
 attended last week at
 St. Mary's. Remember the
 little shrub. wasn't he,
 just too sweet for words.
 'she precious lamb.' Don't
 you care Kiddie - away
 down in my heart I was
 very much flattered, and too
 I wished to myself that
 I was just such a kid.

How can I pen these
 next few lines? May a
 great strength come upon
 me.

a half hour ago I
 put on my ~~rice~~ rice
 warm ~~helmet~~ helmet, my
 overcoat. my gloves - and

all that would make me
warm as toast whilst
I browsed on deck. I was
truly inspired as I stood
at the rail watching the
angry water as it surged
from the side of the
ship impatient over the
disturbing of its quiet.

Now you are surmising
something. I know, but
you ^{are} all to be fooled -
sadly fooled.

Break me - tea is here
is it four already? Truly
it is. Bear with me
till I sip the English
Breakfast.

I was a jolly good cup,
forsooth, and during the
drinking of it the fog came up.
Reminds me of Lannon - Bear
old Blythe.

where was I? Something
important I know. Oh yes
at the rail watching the

waves. Well over my helmet I
my service hat - do you remember
Suey? Surely you can't ~~find~~ forget
child you nursed from San Francisco
New York ministering to its comfort
way. All that love and labour -
so that I might wear that hat
short minutes, for in that time
floating off from the boat - there
at sea. "Represent in Pace."
that hat a lot too!!

Did I tell you I have met
S.A.E's. My cabin mate proved
one from Washington & Lee Univ
and he knew of another from ~~the~~
Trinity there is always something
with these few remarks I
close.

U of No. Carolina.

happening

(1) along toward the end.

when the censorship rules came out and I started to camouflage this letter I decided the best thing to do was to quit writing. For why write to be blue penciled? Therefore I cut out trying to chronicle each day.

We had a couple of days through a storm, and believe me this old boat took it hard. It was a mighty interesting experience

however, and I'm glad
for it.

haven't been one bit
sick. Really expected it
to be difficult to be
soldier and sailor too, but
it wasn't. Some few fellows
have spent the whole
trip in their bunks. ~~There's~~
There's was largely ~~just~~
pure yellow because I knew
two who could have made
it and they willed so.

Have fixed up a cable
that you'll get before long.

Our letters must be in
very soon and I want to
send a birthday card to
mother. Send this to her when
you finish it, please - Don.