

My Dearest Valentine,

Hi, Sweetheart. Today found us somewhere in the Pacific Ocean going through Task Force Operations. But, despite the work, so we done there were moments when I took time to think of you and the folks back home - as I do everyday. I wondered what you might be doing today and if you thought of me as I thought of you, especially because of what this day represents.

We've been rather busy, as I told you, since leaving the Philippines and occasionally my time is limited for writing letters, but I do the very best I can. The letters which I receive from you and the folks sure help to make the days shorter while on this cruise. In case you have lost count, it won't be too many weeks before we pull into the States.

I've told you about the ports we have visited in my past letters but for a short summary I'll run over them in their respective order. We left San Diego on the 31st of October and headed for the East by way of the West. We stopped in Pearl Harbor and Honolulu, Hawaii, where we enjoyed the beauty of Waikiki Beach and other famous spots. We continued our journey and had a wonderful time in Yokosuka, Japan, where we also bought most of our Christmas presents. On our way to Hong Kong, we stopped at Okinawa Island for three days. Hong Kong was indeed a city of hysterics. We spent Christmas there but of course it couldn't compare to spending it with you and the folks. New Years had client At-sea and we celebrated it with a party - in a cup of water. The Philippine Islands was a welcome rest for us after going through two months of steady operations except for our stay in Hong Kong. We reached in the Philippines for 14 days, at which time a good many fellows got sunburns during the days of winter. That brings us up to date on the cruise, except for another stop in Japan coming up soon.

That's all for now, hon. Write often and tell me how everyone is at home. Before I close I want to wish you a happy Valentine's Day, though I might be a little late. At least you'll know I was thinking of you. I miss you very much, sweetheart. Be seeing you soon!

Love Always,