

Saturday Morning
February 24, 1945

Dear folks –

We're still on our way, but I assure you it won't be much longer now. I've had enough sea time to do for a long time – we're all anxious to get settled and get our [] in order. All the girls are on edge lately and I know that my disposition hasn't been normal lately. It's all caused from living so closely and the heat and other minor discomforts we have to put up with. I'm just glad that the U.S.A. is worth all this!

Gee, I'll certainly be one very little disappointed girl if I don't have a lot of mail waiting for me. Am anxious to know if there's anything new on the home front.

This trip has been an experience I'll never forget – sometimes it just doesn't seem possible I'm traveling across the great Pacific.

We stopped at [] for awhile and were allowed to go ashore. Gee, but we had so much fun. We went ashore in landing craft boats as we were anchored away from the shore. We had free drinks at the officers' club – went swimming – went out to a ship for dinner – and then to a dance. I can't go into detail about it as I'd like to – but it was certainly a thrill – whoever thought I'd see that Island? I got a little sweat shirt with [] printed across it for a souvenir. As you can well imagine there was plenty of men to go around and every girl was popular. Gee, those guys were really glad to see us. The swimming was wonderful – I felt as if I were at a summer resort on a vacation

As you can imagine it is terrifically hot now – kind of reminds me of those summers in St. Louis – just as humid, moreso, I guess.

We are now traveling in a convoy which has slowed us up considerably. But it seems good to see other ships around us for company. The guns are manned at all times now to be prepared for any air attack. The fellows wear actual helmets and it's the honest to goodness real thing. You know you see pictures of this stuff, but it doesn't impress you like the real thing does.

I can surely realize now that we are winning this war when you think back that not so long ago it was very dangerous to be in these waters. We know practically the entire Pacific belongs to us.

I have a fellow on the ship now to keep me company. He's a very nice guy – went to Harvard – is an Ensign.

We sit on the boat dock in the evenings and then after 9 PM taps we ajourn [sic] to the wardroom to play cards and talk. It's really very pleasant – the nights are beautiful – but it's very hot inside the ship as all the hatches have to be closed.

My hair is so long now and I have put it in a pompadour – it's much cooler and looks really nice.

Otherwise the [] on the ship is the same. I'm so glad the war news is good – looks as if it'll be over in the Pacific before Europe.

I feel certain that when we come home, it will all be over! I guess there'll be plenty of casualties waiting for us from Iwo Jima and Manila.

I broke my own glasses – so I'm going to write to that optical company in Frisco and ask them to [] my prescription with my own glasses. These glasses are wonderful and certainly help.

This is all for now – I could really write on and on about lots of little things. I'm sure the next letter I write will be able to tell you about my new station. Hope you are all well and happy.

Love,
Maxine