

*Handwritten: This letter
received Jan 2/44*

Dear Ones,

Believe it or not - a typewriter!! The ship's purser - I can't help but think of Sonny and the Peaks Island Ferry - let me come in here tonight and use this machine, really great. Only one trouble - nothing to say.

I am playing a lot of bridge and doing a lot of reading. The other night I sat down in the ward room - that is the officer's mess room - and wrote V-mail to everyone to whom I owe mail and a few others beside. I have written some six pages of my scraawl which I will send airmail to you along with this letter and a V*mail to Helen Babsy so that you can compare the efficiency of the two methods. All this mail - most of it will be illegible in V mail photostat if it is not already in the original size - but I don't have much to say anyway - as long as the address is clear - APO 7769 S.F. - and he, she, or it knows I am thinking of him, her, or it. Believe me (when I write I can confuse my 'E's and I's, but on the typewriter my scrawl doesn't cover my spelling slips.) in the past three weeks I have seen exactly 3 pieces of mail - am I looking forward to mail call, and I want to be sure I have something to look forward to from the various and sundry corners of the US I have visited. I am also going to send you - I know you save my letters or at least stuff like this - along with my impressions of sailing day, a character sketdh of one of the boys. It was written on deck and you may not be able to read it all word for word and I am too lazy to typeit all out.

I really have plenty of time to kill. My detail is to give about three hours of exercise a week to the troops aboard; that obviously does not leave my overworked. I have read a couple of anthologies, innumerable pocket book detective stuff, a couple of Willa Cather's offerings, 'The Late George Appley', Andre Gide's 'Counterfeiters' and sundry other stuff. Friday night I went to Jewish Services, it was well attended. I got a kick out of the fact that even in that small gathering the issue of what perdentage of the service shoud be in Hebrew and what in English - I knew I had come to the right room. Of course, there is no Jewish Chaplain, but any one of several officers and enlisted men is capable of a good service. I hope that after the trip we are allowed to write at least our impressions of the trip, that is, how we lived, relations with crew and Navy and with enlisted personnel; I remember Neil Clark's very vivid letter describing his passage. I imagine iwill have my shot at it too.

I can tell you that I am doing my own laundry and that to conseve water on long trips like this we have salt water showers only. So far, knock on wood, the trip has

been very easy physically. The food is good; the selection is excellent. Service - couldn't ask for anything better. Al Laue and I have not got any further in his teaching me of German. Shipboard life - even in the salt air etc - is not very invigorating - a little listless as you can well imagine. O, well, you always wanted me to go overseas the summer after my last year as an undergraduate - this is the year, I am on my way overseas, but I have the advantage of still being an undergraduate. That reminds me ; I'll drop Dave Owen a line as soon as I arrive and we can write something intelligent. The boy on the typewriter next to is writing a short story - or the great American novel or some such thing. Maybe I'll do the same.

When I say I can't think of another thing I mean it. I'll keep adding a word here and there along the way.

Sm,

Sumner

Sumner T. Keeneland

When you get this, you
will know we have hit it

Over heads

STB