

JUDMS5_BernsteinS_06091944tr

Transcribed by Kara Kralik 06/09/2020

June 9

Dear Ones -

At sea again - good ship, an Army transport this time - 2 meals a day - quarters are very comfortable - facilities are even better than the first trip. We played some bridge last night; the sleeping was swell and we were under way when we got up this morning. It is a cold chill day - dark and dreary - but the ship is buzzing right along. I share a stateroom with a Navy ensign. We have a shower - fresh water - very swell. We are fortunate that all our luggage, gear, & equipment is with us - when we get to our assignments there will be no waiting for that stuff to show up. For the first time in 6 months, I thought I was to be separated from the old gang that first got organized at Reynolds. I am not with Al or Fred or any of the boys; Howie Baumgarten has moved out on another ship. But I got on this ship and lo and behold one of our old gang who had left Reynolds & the states about a month before we had & is now assigned out here in New Caledonia. He was with us in those happy days with Major Reeves. So - I am

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still with someone from Reynolds. It seems natural to be on a boat again, too, and have to carry the life jacket around. What does seem unreal, and to *[sic]* good to be true, is that in a few days I'll be reporting in to a job, an assignment; I'll have something to do! - my orders give my new address as Hq. Service Command APO 708 - but I'll write you the complete story & address as soon as I get the lay of the land.

That is it right up to date. I'll continue this note off and on during the trip. Life on ship board except for boat drills is a matter of filling time reading or playing cards. No sun to

bathe in today.

June 11

I am in the New Hebrides. Our boat got here - I can't say what island of the group - this morning and I got out to Hqrs just in time for an excellent lunch. I will sign in in a few minutes and get what dope I can on the set-up here.

The trip up was OK - a little rougher and more [*illegible*] but not too bad. It was such a short trip that there is little to tell. We had all

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our baggage right with us - so I have all my stuff right here. A jeep picked me up at the dock & I couldn't help but think of that day - almost 10 months ago when I arrived at Camp Forrest & called up the 730th for some transportation. Once again I face the happy job of adjusting myself, meeting new people, making new friends, and getting back into the harness of work.

As far as old friends are concerned - they are now only correspondents - none of them are with me.

I saw Abbott & Costello in "Who Done It" on board ship - a good laugh but nothing subtle just good honest horseplay & burlesque. Movies are #1 entertainment around here - I guess.

But I hope I can keep my bridge playing and casino at a peak of accuracy. I am very glad that I enjoy cards - a swell past-time.

Well, I am not going to try to guess as to what is in store for me - I'll write a blow by blow description to you.

Love,

Sumner

Still using APO 7769