



UNITED STATES NAVY (1)

Dear Frank,  
I received both of your letters and was tickled to hear from you. I hope you'll excuse me for not writing sooner. When I got your second letter, I felt like a heel. I was really busy. You'll understand and it would if you go in the army. You see I get letters from every body and all over and sometimes they pile up on me and get busy down here. By the time I start to answer them I have a box full. Well that was the case with yours. I had sixteen letters on hand and I kept getting more. I tried to answer my family's letters as they came along with as many of these as I could. I had an envelope addressed to you from about three days after I received your letter but I could find time to write that letter. Yours finally hit the top of the pile yesterday, the same day I got your letter. I'm really sorry I didn't write sooner. Well, now to write a <sup>new</sup> letter. Thanks for the Christ <sup>mas</sup> card. It was swell. Now for that long awaited letter.

I was quite surprised myself to land in Cuba. I thought I was going on board a ship. I told my mother I'd probably be home for Christmas. I figured I'd get on a destroyer and pull in to



(2)

UNITED STATES NAVY

Bbley Navy Yard every now and then. Quite a few guys  
around the neighborhood did that. One of my friends is  
stationed down there now. You probably heard me talk  
about him - Eddie Johnson. Do you remember the day I  
was reading a letter <sup>from him</sup> to you and Joe Owens down in the  
basement of Royal right by the candy counter. Incidentally  
I owe that guy a nickel. Remind me to pay him some day.  
About four guys I know took part in the raid on Casablanca  
- Jimmy Kelly, Bill Lodge and a couple of others I can't think  
of now. Then three other guys I know real well are in the Pacific.  
One of 'em, Oscar Hildago, who is only 18 was wounded  
when his ship went down in the Pacific. I got a postcard and  
V letter <sup>which never reached me</sup> from another of the three who is on a ship around New  
Zealand. I got a Christmas card from a guy who has seen  
almost every bit of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Pacific. I got  
a lot of ~~the~~ <sup>almost all the</sup> dope from a newspaper - "The Bridge". The  
Road Home for Downcast Servicemen. It's put out  
by a couple of fellows around the neighborhood who haven't  
been drafted, because of poor health or dependents. It's real  
good. You can't beat the spirit in Bbley. They Bbley Daily  
Cagle also <sup>prints</sup> ~~publishes~~ every thing that goes in <sup>that</sup> paper  
and puts it in the "Service Section" or something. My  
name has been mentioned a couple of times. I like  
down here a lot but I would like to get some sea duty  
aboard an aircraft carrier or destroyer before the war's over.



3

UNITED STATES NAVY

I'll send you a post card of Muro Castle. I'm find out how the other half lives. We go on Liberty to a town called Caimanero. It's the most different from anything you have ever seen. It's an experience in itself to go to town. It's real nice down here. Anyone that has an eye for beautiful would really appreciate it. I find myself gazing over the blue waters of the Caribbean and at the surrounding mountains, palm trees and coconuts and really admiring it. I'm on a pretty good detail now. I'm in the beach crew. All we wear all day are bathing trunks and sneakers. I'm really enjoying this. We beach big fly ing boats. We handle rope and do work like you would expect a sailor. I might be able to get to work first out of it in about three months. We move the seamen around to get them ready. He's sitting in the shade of a tractor writing this. I parked another one so I would provide shade but some troop it to move a plane. It's a lot of fun. I'm learning how to brief pretty good. You say in your letter how your brother looks good like all service men. Well, I wish you could see me. Boy, I really got a swell tan and I have put on weight.

I know we always had swell times when we went out and I'm looking forward to a lot more. I felt kind of funny with wavy haircut I'll never get one of them any more. And in a place like that. Boy, that bring up about the gang getting pleasantly plastered as you put it every payday but that certainly brought me.



UNITED STATES NAVY

(4)

some pleasant memories, I won't forget  
Glad to hear that your brother's doing so well  
I was surprised to hear that he was a sergeant. Boy, he's  
really right in this. He got what he wanted and is already  
assigned to a plane. I don't think the war will be over  
until April '44. I'll be able to get flight orders by that  
time. It takes about fourteen months before you can become  
rated. Boy, that sounds like the life listening to  
the Hit Parade <sup>at 13,000 ft.</sup> was in the forward  
of our planes. There seemed like enough room for me  
there but when I tried the tail position I was all cramped  
up. There's more to it than shooting a gun. Tell him if  
he is ever down this way to look me up. I'd be  
more than glad to show him around. Your cousin must  
be a pretty bright lad. I got your first letter Jan 2  
and the latest one Feb 3. I had a swell Christmas  
and New Year's. Boy they certainly treat us Royal.  
You couldn't have beaten the eats we had. We had Turkey  
and Ham and all the dressings to excess. Then we all  
got a bag of Christmas candy, bag of nuts, pack of  
cigarettes and a cigar. We had a very good U. S. O.  
show down here though there were no prominent stars.  
We had singing of Christmas carols Christmas eve.  
I was on guard <sup>with</sup> when the New Year came in. The  
guys didn't get in until all hrs. A couple of them  
offered me a drink about 2 o'clock. They were really



(5)

UNITED STATES NAVY

stud potted. I don't know how many times I met  
them while walking my post. I was dreaming up  
New Year's resolution all the time I was on. Most of  
which I have already broken. I have been promising myself  
I'd learn Spanish since I come down here. I bought a  
book on it Spain 20 lessons by some professor at the Univ. of Miami  
after I was down here about two weeks but have never used it.  
My mother was the same with me she said you don't need  
any thing's you'll be in the service soon and I'm glad  
she was that way. I'm glad to hear that your brother got leave  
I bet youse had some time celebrating. I wish I could  
have been with you. Coco though I only knew for slightly  
I really liked him and took to him. He's an accepted member  
for getting a stew on with. Incidentally we have a  
little puppy for a mascot. We call him "Two Bass".  
I wouldn't mind hearing from Joe. I'm glad he liked  
my present so well. They are a real good bunch at Royal  
now to tell you about them all. Harry Pollock is still  
on the loose. Ken Sha is in Field Artillery, Ft. Bragg, N.C.  
Joe M. is drafted Army Air Corp Atlantic City. Marty  
Patcher is in Army. I don't know where. I write to his house  
until he gets settled. Joe I was expects to be called soon  
from rejected by Army. Taking a good ~~off~~ course for a defense  
job. He's a good guy if you ever met one. Bob Kaurage  
in Field Artillery. Dad's the boy that was going in the



UNITED STATES NAVY

Army in Corp or nothing. John Hanno drafted to Army.  
You at Oswego, N.Y. Nick Debla Tony's brother  
was about to be drafted when I last heard of him. I  
imagine Dutch will be going soon. Haven't heard nothing  
in it. How's this for a team for a good time - Dutch Frong  
Dan Hen, Joe you and I. I got the same thing as  
from Royal Guard as Joe. My people are all O.K.  
My brother is getting ordained April 28 and my sister's  
getting married right after that. Hope to get home for  
that. Lights are going out. I tried  
finishing this when I came back from the  
movies. The lights are out now.

So I close  
Joe!

Any thing else you want to know give me  
the word.

Sherman, P. D.

FROM

Peter Joseph Sherman S<sup>2</sup>  
Box 354 M. O. B. U. S. N.  
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba



AIR  
MAIL



Frank Shields  
244-87<sup>th</sup> St  
Brooklyn  
N. Y.