

31 January 1972

Mr. James L. Hall  
James L. Hall Company, Inc.  
105 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, California 94104

Dear Mr. Hall:

I am a member of the military faculty of the Naval War College having graduated from the College this past June. While a student I published a two-part article in the Naval War College Review about Admiral Raymond A. Spruance and the Naval War College, and I have enclosed the subsequent monograph for your information.

With the encouragement and approval of the President of the College, I have expanded my study into a full-length biography which will be published by the U.S. Naval Institute. The Spruance family is actively supporting my work, as are many former Spruance associates.

I understand that you are a friend of Randall Davies, who was a childhood friend of Admiral Spruance. I would like to contact Mr. Davies to ask for information about those early years. If you know his current address, would you be kind enough to send it to me?

Sincerely yours,

Thomas B. Buell

CDR Thomas B. Buell, USN  
College of Naval Command and Staff  
Naval War College  
Newport, Rhode Island 02840

Sunday Febr. 13 1972



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Ans 2/13/72

Dear Comdr. Buell :-

Your name is well known to me because Margaret Spruence gave me to read, the two part article in the Naval War College Review you wrote sometime ago, about Admiral Spruence.

I enjoyed and liked what you wrote so well, about our quiet Admiral. We were classmates, 1907 at the U.S.N.A., I resigned when we became First Class men - he continued on to become a World Figure.

I am sorry to report that Randall Davies was killed in an auto accident in the Las Vegas, Nevada area, some years ago. His wife is also dead. I knew them both personally, he briefly, his wife for many years.

Davies told me he was, as you report, a childhood friend of the Admiral. He (Davies) said he was amazed at the Admiral's brilliant career as a warrior, because in their childhood days the Admiral was always trying to act as a peace-maker in the neighborhood disputes! I wish Davies was alive to tell you more about the Admiral.

Your welcome letter of 31 January was



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forwarded by my San Francisco office, to me here. Mrs. Hall and I are spending some of the winter and spring months here. I am delighted to learn that you are to write the Admiral's biography, while there are so many who knew and worked with him still living, and in position to give you interesting information.

Judging from your earlier article, I feel sure you will do an excellent job. Mrs. Hall and I have been admirers and friends of the Spruances for some years. I think I have several letters from the Admiral - written during the War years that possibly might interest you in your work. If so, please advise me, and on my return to San Francisco, I will try to find and forward them to you.

Mail addressed to me, 105 Montgomery St, San Francisco, California, 94104 will always be forwarded to me.

I have been trying to remember, but cannot, who were the Admiral's Roommates at the Naval Academy. My 1967 Lucky Bag and the later book, History of our Class, I am not sure gives that information. The most accurate and detailed records of our Class and their later careers are



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kept my by Captain H.W. Abbott, U.S.N. (Ret.)  
840 Glorietta Blvd., Coronado, California, 92118,  
another classmate.

I have been in Raymond Spruance's clearing  
section <sup>at</sup> for many years, and will be glad to  
help you with your work in any way you may  
think I can, so please feel free to call on  
me.

Meanwhile, thank you for your letter, greetings,  
good luck and warm regards.

Cordially

James L. Hall

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Comdr. Thomas B. Buell, U.S.N.  
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