

13 April 1973

Mr. Edward R. Stanley
Hotel Edgemore
East Orange, NJ 07017

Dear Mr. Stanley:

I understand through your son that you were a school-mate of the late Raymond A. Spruance. I am writing Spruance's biography, which will be published by Little, Brown and Company early next year, and I would appreciate any information you could provide about Spruance's boyhood days.

For example, I am interested in his personality, character, friends, and family. Anything you could provide will be of great value to me and will enhance the accuracy of the biography. Would you be kind enough to help me out? I am enclosing a return envelope for your convenience.

For your information, I also am enclosing a monography on Spruance that I wrote several years ago, I hope you will find it interesting.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas B. Buell
Commander, U.S. Navy

TBB/mdb

Enclosures

Ans 5/7/73

EDWARD O. STANLEY
373 WILLIAM STREET
EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY 07017

April 16, 1973

My dear Commander Buell

Thank you for your monograph on Admiral Spruance and your letter.

Raymond Spruance and I were classmates for a year or two in the class of 1898 of the Eastern District School of the East Orange School system (in a building since demolished to make way for Route 280) I have a small group picture of the 8th grade of that class and Raymond doesn't appear among them - that would have been the Spring of 1898.

My recollection is that he was sent on here by his family in Indiana to attend the schools here which had a fine reputation. So he lived with two ^{maiden(?)} aunts named Miss - during the school terms

He was then a very shy boy and was neither a leader nor an active participant in the boisterous, running and shouting games that took place in the dusty school-yard before school or at recess times.

He always came to school with a neighbor boy who was a classmate + somewhat more robust, so that it sometimes seemed to me that Raymond rather avoided independence of action. I was not at ^{all} intimate with him so these are merely observations. But not surprisingly, on p. 37 of your monograph you note that his wife said "he was innately shy and very sensitive". Certainly these

were the traits of the 10 or 12 year old boy

So I was really surprised when I read of his attendance at the Naval Academy and ^{his} rise to such positions of responsibility, which he filled with such competence and value.

I recall wondering when or how such a great change had occurred in his personality - ~~or~~ were the elements of his greatness there all the time just temporarily blunted by shyness?

Although we lived on two streets that were parallel and only a block apart - I was not a member of his "gang" (if any). So we did not meet or associate in any of the "pick-up" games that took place afternoons or Saturdays and I cannot comment on his activity in such things.

I shall look forward with interest to the appearance of your book and hope hope that our East Orange Public Library will recognize how appropriate it is to buy a copy.

Sincerely yours

Edward O. Stanley

EDWARD O. STANLEY
373 WILLIAM STREET
EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY 07017

East Orange, N.J.
May 10, 1973

My dear Commander Buell;

Thank you so much for sending me that copy of the Year College Review. I am very glad to have it.

I enjoyed reading your address too and wished that I could have been present on the occasion and heard Admiral Morrison's remarks. It must have been an inspiring and moving event. Although I had a course in the Odes of Horace, naturally I didn't remember the one he quoted.

By the way have you seen his slim booklet "Spring Tides" - a collection of half a dozen of his essays on sailing, in one of which he tells how, with only wife aboard his yawl - he cast off the ^{bow} forward mooring line to the float - but a strong puff of wind parted the stern line before he was aboard and the yawl was off on the starboard tack while his wife was not supposed to know how to sail. There was no disaster fortunately.

With my compliments to you on your address + appreciation for your thoughtfulness in sending it,

Sincerely
Edward Stanley