

DOLLAR STEAMSHIP LINES

New York · California · Orient · Round the World

on board
Kobe, Japan
10 July, 1937.

Dear friends,

Just a "Hello" from the Allens on the cruise. The whole lot of us, including the sister-in-law, are on board and eating ourselves fat - there ought to be a law against so much good food three times a day. Bess gave up her San Diego job for a year to come out with us and is now almost as disappointed as I am at my orders to command the naval station at Olongapo. I had so hoped for a destroyer or river boat that I was quite sick when my radio orders to shore duty came. However, I have resisted the impulse to send any pleading messages.

I must tell you that Clark is a different boy. He is husky and strong and growing like a foot-ball player. He and I work out with the medicine ball and he can take it as rough as I can - and this was the boy that was so sickly a year ago. I don't know what has happened, but along with this Mrs. Allen has been studying what she calls "New Thought" - mighty like Christian Science, and she herself is so much more calm and less worried about what will happen to the children that I hereby recommend the study to anyone who has trouble of any kind. She says she doesn't expect us to take her seriously but she takes herself seriously and has done a lot of good for herself, which is all very fine. Janet graduated from high school the day before we left, at fifteen, and she had been hoping to win the first prize of five hundred dollars in the Gorgas Memorial Essay contest with her article on the Panama Canal, and when she came out with fourth place, honorable mention only, in the national contest

she was so disappointed that she has barely recovered her cheerfulness now. I'm afraid she was a bit spoiled by her earlier success. Bess is teaching her on board and she is carrying on studies that will help her on in her college work later. She wants to be a journalist.

I reckon I shall see your boy before he leaves Cavite, and can give him first hand information about how well and happy you were looking in Newport. I know how happy you are going to be to see all the young folks this summer.

I saw Admiral Kalbfus for just a minute when he came on board this steamer in Wilmington to call on the Captain. He was just beaming and there was no doubt about how much he was enjoying his cruise. I shall look forward to seeing the ex-hard-working-Chief of Staff flying his three and then four star flag in those jobs back there.

Well, it's certainly nice to have had the War College year just before coming out here. I know I shall get a lot more out of it for that. And the study habit has helped me on this long passenger cruise to do some fine boning of navigation and other practical subjects. The James's (Marine Lt. Col.) are with us on board, and before they leave at Shanghai to go to Peiping they will have been on board two months, having boarded the ship at Boston. I drove overland alone, in five days, which gave me a good leave in San Diego.

Give my best to the newlyweds when they arrive. They're a grand pair. It seems a shame that all the other Snyders are leaving the Orient just as we are coming out. All best wishes from all of the Allens to you both.

Sincerely,

Jerry Allen