

OPENED BY CENSOR
PASSED BY CENSOR

S. 85

PAR AVION

AUCKLAND
2 PM
11 MAY
1940
N.Z.



Mr & Mrs Abbatt,
123, Downs Court Rd,
PURLEY,
Surrey.

ENGLAND.

Tuesday 23. 4. 40.

Dear all,

Let me start by explaining that I do not know how much I am allowed to put, so if you find a neat little piece cut out, you'll know the mice (censor) have been at work.

We called in at Curacao for refuelling purposes the other day, and are now on our way to the Panama. I'll tell you all about it when I get home, but for the present let it be sufficient to say that I am thoroughly enjoying it all.

~~After~~ For the first few days out I wasn't a bit bored; Everything was so new and interesting. But after that I started to become bored, and boredom breeds home-sickness, so I said to meself I said "Young feller me lad, you must find something to do." So up I got, ~~and~~ walked out of my cabin, to pace round the deck. It was harder than you might think. NOT TO WALK ROUND THE DECK! All I had in the way of tools, was paper, a penknife, and three pencils. At last I hit on

something. Why not make some stencils they might come in useful (never mind how!) later on. So for the last few days I have been fully occupied, and have never had to look round for something to do.

I have been going to bed at 6.30 pm. every night, and getting up again at either 12 or 1 am., ^{for a 6 hours watch} therefore after breakfast the rest of day is my own except for about 3 hours, when I relieve the 1st officer for meals, and do a short two hour watch.

Sleeping takes up part of the day of course, and then I can have a bath or amuse myself doing some washing. Just to ease mum's mind, I'll tell you that I have got all the washing up to date, (there is no laundry), and have also got it ironed! As we are now in whites I do not need any of the shirts or black socks ~~of course~~, so there will be no more for a little

while anyway. Well as I was saying about being "occupied". That's sleeping, bathing, washing, and then drawing, writing, reading and stencils. So you see I am not so badly off after all, am I?

One thing about this ship, there is no rationing. I can eat all the butter, sugar or bacon that I wish, and, I might say here, I have sugar in my tea now. Let me explain how it happened. You see the Thursday morning after we had sailed, the cabin boy brought me some tea and toast. I said "Thank you very much," and he said nothing (like all good cabin boys). Well I drank the tea and while I was putting ^{the cup} ~~it~~ back on the saucer, I realised that there was something peculiar about the taste, and then it was that I realised it had been sugared! Since then I have had it all the time, and I like it much better.

Now let me give you a little

Mum, you need not worry⁵. My cold went after the first two days. My heel was better after I had ministered a little first-aid, and my tooth is now completely through, and hasn't given a bit of trouble the whole time. Thanks all the same for thinking about it.

Oh! There's just one thing more. I know I never sound it, but I am very grateful to you for making this trip possible. — you know!

Well I'll say 'bon soir', 'guten abend', and 'good evening', although at the moment dawn is breaking!! Did I hear someone whisper "Oui mademoiselle!" I thought so!

Really this is too much! so
Goodbye & Goodluck, ^(affectionate) and all the
rest of 'em!

From your loving son,
Len.

P.S. Iris had better tell her firm to invent a gas fan or something. They might do well down here.

Goodbye. I shan't be long.

P.P.S. Now's the darts?

EXTRA EDITION:- Well, we're in port now, and I am finding it extremely interesting. The other officers came up to me and told me that they had all received letters, and I'm afraid I felt a bit out of it. Quite by accident^{ally} I went to my cabin for something, and what do you think? Yes your letters. Thanks ever so much. I appreciate them an awful lot. You say you miss me. Well all I can say is I miss you all, and everybody at home, but I just have to forget about it. It's the only way. The 1st officer seems to think it's a long way to come for a first trip! I have written several air-mail letters, and hope I haven't forgotten anybody. I have seen some wonderful sights, but all that must wait. So once more Goodbye. Affectionately Len.

111 2509 26
7 43 2 3 2 6
L. ABBOTT.
C/o SHAW SAVILL &
ALBION CO., LTD.

OPENED BY CENSOR
::