

U. S. S. IOLANDA AKS-14

MONDAY, APRIL 15

DEAR MAC:

PERHAPS WRITING TO YOU REALLY ISN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA, BECAUSE HEARING FROM US CAN ONLY SERVE TO REMIND YOU OF THE FACT THAT YOU'RE MISSING THE ONE TRIP THAT YOU WANTED SO MUCH TO MAKE. NEVERTHELESS, WHILE I STILL KNOW WHERE YOU ARE LOCATED, I WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW SORRY I AM THAT YOU'RE NOT WITH US. AS YOU KNOW, THE DOC DID EVERYTHING HE COULD TO PERSUADE THE REPOSE DOCTORS TO RELEASE YOU. THE FACT THAT THEY REFUSED CERTAINLY INDICATES THAT THEY FELT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOU TO STAY WHERE YOU CAN GET THE BEST MEDICAL ATTENTION POSSIBLE. AND WHILE IT'S NO FUN TO HAVE YOUR HOMECOMING DELAYED, IT'S FAR BETTER TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR ARM HEALS PROPERLY.

THE OTHER THING THAT I WANTED TO SAY IS SOMETHING I'VE OFTEN HAD IN MY MIND BUT WHICH, BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE SOUNDED AWKWARD, I NEVER GOT OFF MY CHEST. AND THAT IS SIMPLY HOW MUCH IT MEANT TO ME TO HAVE SOMEONE UP ON THE FLYING BRIDGE WHO I KNEW COULD BE COUNTED ON TO KNOW THE RIGHT ANSWER. AS MUST HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS, COMMUNICATIONS WAS NEW TO ME--AND IN SUCH A SITUATION HAVING A GUY SUCH AS YOU ON HAND TO RUN THE SIGNAL GANG WAS A GODSEND. CONSIDER THIS LETTER AS BOTH A TRIBUTE TO YOUR ABILITY AND AS A THANK-YOU NOTE. NOW IT'S TIME TO HIT THE SACK. GOODNIGHT AND SO LONG--IF YOU DON'T BEAT US BACK I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT ON OUR HEELS.

*Robert Lancaster*

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LT(JG)R.L.LANCASTER  
USS IOLANDA--AKS 14  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO

GEORGE L. MCKELLAR, SM 1/C, USN  
USS REPOSE (AH 16)  
FPO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

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