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Miss Sally Loving  
5817 North Washington Blvd.  
Arlington, Virginia  
U.S.A.

November 3, 1943

Dear Miss Loving,

I received your most welcomed letter today and I want you to know that it sure pleased me to no extent to hear from you. Frankly, I thought you weren't going to answer. Not because of neglect but because of your school teaching. Miss Loving, you more than likely feel like most of us do today. We all are less happier in our everyday lives but I believe we can attribute it directly to this war. I am sure that you shall get into the swing of teaching school again but you will never forget your class of 42' I don't believe. You had many friends in that class and I will say, although I didn't graduate with it, it was a fine class. I could tell you were very fond of Nibby, Avis, Norma, Orville, Claude, Margie, and the rest. I am sure though you shall see these kids every so often, of course not as often as in school but I don't believe they shall forget you. Nibby and the like speak of you often. Before I go any farther Miss Loving I am going to ask you to pardon my writing in case I don't write very straight but I am standing up writing this (no chair) and the ship is rolling quite noticeably. I sure was surprised to learn that Miss Chappell got married. Yes, I can imagine the school does seem lonely when people leave that you are used to seeing everyday. You know Miss Loving, I didn't think a war could change people and things as much as it is doing. I am a firm believer in that everything works out for the best but it is hard to believe that this war is for the best. Maybe it is though, it may wake a great many of us up. Thank you Miss loving for the compliment. I sure did appreciate it. I will do my best to uphold your faith in me and I shall do my best to make a good husband for Nina. I am proud of Nina and I attribute any success I have or gain to her. On board ship, I am in the Engineering Dept. and I admit it is tough especially since I haven't had any practical experience in Electricity. But I am learning slowly and I am doing my best. Whether I'll pursue it after the war or not, as yet I am

not sure. When I do start my life's work I want to make sure my whole heart is in it. To date, I cannot truthfully say my whole heart is in it but I am giving it a fair trial. At least I am learning something and don't have to swab decks and wash dishes. I graduated from Electrical school in Ky. And received my diploma but they only took the highest 50% (for RATES) and I wasn't in it but I was in competition with men whom some of them even had ten years experience. There again Miss Loving I say I believe every-thing works out for the best because although at the time I was hurt when I wasn't rated, well after I got aboard ship I was glad, because I would have to work with hot electricity that I never encountered before and in Electricity you don't make mistakes very often or they may ship you home feet first. Really I am glad that I am having to do some practical work in order to learn it. This way I do work and an advanced Electrician supervises it. It may be a long time Miss Loving but sincerely I do believe in my heart I shall make good because I desire to. I figure if a person tries to do right, sooner or later he or she shall come out on top. Don't you believe that so? Well before I get to sounding like a preacher I'll change the subject. I hope you had an enjoyable summer vacation and I hope you are or soon get into the swing in your job. I sure wish I knew my Civics like you do Miss Loving. As the Navy says, "You are in the ball." Well I suppose I better sign off now and turn it in as you need all the sleep you can get in this man's Navy. I shall appreciate hearing from you as it inspires me very much.

Sincerely,

Tom