

Enroute to the States

Jan. 26, 1944

Wednesday

Dear Miss Loving,

Well here I am again, this time though quite away from home. Three thousand miles to be exact. I am going to try and give you a picture of my trip across this time so that means I shall have to wait until I get to New York before I mail it so that it won't be censored. We are on our way home now as far as I know but you can never tell what may happen. I have even heard we are going to the Azores before we go home but that may just be gossip. We left New York early in Jan. and of course we came to Europe on business which I cannot discuss of which you already understand. First we hit port at Gibraltar, stayed there for awhile, then did patrol duty in the Medeterrean around Spain and North Africa. Africa, is what they call it, the "dark Continent." Of course we didn't see any of Spain or Africa except from the sea but you could see homes and various other signs of life in Spain. Ashore in Gibraltar, one can walk into Spain in a very few minutes but the only catch is you aren't allowed there without a permit but then I didn't mind because that place is Nazis ridden. Gibraltar, itself has a lot of Spanish in it though and I was able to get a couple Spanish souvenirs all of which are very costly. Of course I got them for the little woman. I got her a letter opener made in Spain. Coins (Spanish) were hard to get. English money is mostly used in Gibraltar although they have Gibraltar money which is only good in Gibraltar. Something like the Confederate money. Gibraltar itself, is pretty from the sea but I don't think much of it now that I visited it. For some reason or another, these foreign countries all have a sort of musty smell to them, like they have been close up for a long time. Food is not too plentiful though fruits, of all sorts and figs are abundant. They average 40¢ a dozen. These are an independent people here, they wont give you a break on any business transaction. American sailors have to pay two to three times as much for anything as do their own folks or the British. Liberty isn't good there, the only entertainment is the joints of which are pretty well packed by British, and American sailors. The climate is ideal here, around 70° most of the time late Jan. and you wear white hats ashore. The English are exceptionally nice to us here and tell us all about everything. Pardon my writing but we are at sea as I have said and it is a little rough. Gibraltar, is a large and beautiful sight from a distance and it gives you a thrill when you first see it. It is quite high and I can see where they originated the saying "Strong as the Rock of Gibraltar." The Rock is well fortified and some nights you can see search lights pop on from every nook and corner of the Rock. Well I won't say anymore on that subject but to sum it all u it is quite an experience. Right now though I am looking forward to getting back to the good old U.S. and I hope maybe I can get to see you. I haven't received any mail since I left N.Y. so I don't know whether you have written to me or not. I have hopes of getting a letter from you when I get back to the States though. Well, so long for now.

Sincerely,

Tom Brodie

P.S. The English Coin is a florin (40¢) and the Spanish Coin is (one) cent