

Midshipman Claude Garfield
S.S. Thos. MacDonough
c/o Postmaster, N.Y.

U.S.
5:30 PM
Oct 20
1943
Navy

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

Oct 15th

Dear Miss Loving,

I received your letter [finally] dated July 24th. You didn't have the name of my ship on the envelope so I had trouble in getting it. Was very glad to hear from you. It was a welcome letter. Guess I am just a poor letter writer. No excuses, I reckon.

I imagine school is in full swing again by now. Lot of trouble again due to the war, huh? Well the war will be over soon -, the papers say! I believe that they are really a little optimistic, don't you?

I wrote a letter to Jake but haven't received an answer as yet!

Well, South America is still my stomping grounds and I doubt if I will be home for a few more months anyway. Hard to say, you know. My health is fine and dandy although it could be better. The trouble is that I thought that S.A. had plenty food, but all they have at all in quantity is fruits, etc. Well, you know how I am about that, but we do okay and even get ahold of some ice cream & chewing gum at a couple USO's that they have in Trinidad and British Guiana.

Did Miss Chappell go West again last summer? She really gets around, doesn't she? Please say hello to her for me & tell her I haven't forgotten her. Mention to her that I must be getting more mature or older. I enjoy Shakespeare's famous quotations when I see them now. And when you can enjoy something like that in this heat, you are really improving. Guess Mrs. Bell knows all about the weather down here as well as I, though – especially in a little jungle town with dust flying all around & trying to choke you.

Please also say hello to Mr. Richmond, Mrs. Baldwin, Miss Jackson, Mr. Jackson, Miss Elliot, and the rest of the sponsors & teachers I used to know. Don't forget Miss Harbaugh, bless her heart!

Johnny York & Tom Brodie have both left the States by now, I think. Understand that Tom & Nibbons are going to have a visit from the stork next year sometime. At least, so I hear.

Tom didn't say anything about it in his last letter, however, but it has been a long time since I have been able to get my mail.

Please send me any information that you can gather on Ernie **Gillenwaters**' death. Got my news from Jack Whitehouse in the South Pacific. My connections have been better with him than those from home for some reason.

Well, its chow time again, so I'm always ready, willing, & able on that subject, you know. So will have to close for the time being. Don't forget to write & tell me the news, And by the way, I got that letter that was written by all the fellers & girls at your house. I really did enjoy that letter. It was good to hear from them.

Well, hope you are all well, happy, & more important contented. Guess there is very few left this year. Hope they do have an Alumni Dance however.

Love from the Ancient Mariner with reference to the good old class of '42

Claude