

Letters of A. Morton Thomas, 1942-1945

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WWII Letters

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(All letters are handwritten on United States Navy stationary.)

CORRESPONDENCE

Nov. 24, 1942

1730

Dear Georgia --

Just returned from supper and inquired at the desk what time the last mail collection was and he said 1815, so must write a hurried note in order to beat the dead line.

I trust you arrived home safely - did you have much rain on your way back? I guess that you were pretty tired out when you reached home. Please take things easy and get rested up.

I discovered this morning that you did not have the information on my tires [?] that I filled out in Columbus and so mailed it to you this morning. Please see that it gets to the Gasoline Ration Board as soon as possible. Also don't forget to ask Cory Quinn about writing up the paper for "Power of Attorney" for you.

Well darling, after you left, "Joe" and I reported at headquarters and we filled out more papers, etc. After that we were at liberty to roam about the base until 2000 last night and then we took a two hour hike or march around the station. They say that the purpose of it is to toughen us up -- some fun -- eh what? Got up this morning at 0700 and reported in to headquarters and completed getting squared away (papers in final order) and now all we have to do is sit around and wait for our orders to come through. However just to keep us amused we still have to take our two hour march every night whether we want to or not. Hope to receive our orders by tomorrow

or Thursday and move up to Solomons Island either Friday or Monday. However do not have the least idea when it will be. And so we are taking everything in, going aboard the various ships and watching them come and go. This place is a busy place and also a very interesting one.

How is mother and Dad? Give them my best regards. Tell them I am very much alive and will be for a long, long time.

Well darling must bring this note to a close, but will write you a longer one tomorrow if nothing unexpected develops and have the time.

Remember darling, I love you very, very [both double-underlined] much, and miss you just as much. Don't worry about me, I'll be all right. Just you take good care of yourself so that you will be in perfect health when the baby arrives.

With all my love

Morton

P.S. I will think of you every night at 10 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE

Wednesday, Nov. 25, 1942

1550

Georgia, darling --

Just returned to my quarters from getting a hair-cut and my head feels much better now.

Well since my last letter to you last night nothing much has happened. Took our regular two hour hike last night and then after a brief bull session went to bed. Got up this morning at 0700 and then breakfast and then over to headquarters to muster in and see if our orders had come in. The answer was the usual "no"! After that a few of us wandered around the docks and looked over some ships that had returned from sea duty and watched the activities going on. At 1230 we had muster again and still no orders. This afternoon I went to the Naval Air Station with a few of the fellows to the ships service store and got this writing paper. The other fellows got some long winter underwear, sweaters, etc. which I already have.

The cold that I started to get last Sunday has completely disappeared. How is your bad cold coming along? Have you been able to get rid of it yet?

Since I left you Monday after lunch I have not been off of the station, in fact have had no desire to due to all of the activity going on around the base. However cannot tell you about it even tho I would like to.

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Outside of that darling I really am at a loss as to what to say except that I am well and everything is going along fine. I don't know when I will get any liberty, but I sure will make every attempt to obtain liberty when the baby comes.

On the way home you called the doctor and made arrangements to see him?

How is everything going along at home? Say hello to mother and dad. Have not been able to send cards to anybody because I have not been in town to get any and there are none at the station.

Darling, I think constantly of you and wonder what you are doing and how you are? I love you very dearly and wish I could see you each night in our own little home. But it won't be so long before we will be back together again like we were prior to my going into the service.

Well, dearest, I will say au revoir until my next letter to you.

Love

Morton

P.S. Don't forget every night at 10 P.M. I will be with you for a couple of minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Monday, Nov. 30, 1942

1740

Dear Georgia --

Just returned to my quarters from supper and before I go to tonight's class in navigation will write a few lines to you.

I did not receive your two letters which you wrote the early part of last week until this noon at lunch. I have been looking for them since I arrived up here at Solomons. It sure made me feel good to hear from you: In fact I had to call you right after I finished reading them in order to hear your voice and talk to you. I am sorry that I interrupted your shower tho.

As you already know, we did not receive our orders to proceed up to Solomons Island until 8 P.M. last Wednesday night. And we had to be all packed and ready to catch the boat by 7 A.M. the next morning. So you can see how short a notice the Navy gives you to proceed to another station. The boat sailed at 7:30 A.M. and did not reach Solomons Island until 6:15 P.M. All we had for Thanksgiving Dinner was a ham sandwich, a cheese sandwich, a piece of cake and a piece of candy which we had bought hurriedly Wednesday night after we were notified of our transfer. The reason for this was because of the fact that the boat had no meal facilities. After we arrived up here we had papers to fill out and then had a deluxe supper of sliced bologna, kidney beans, boiled potato, bread, coffee, dessert. Then we were assigned to our bunks and quarters. The quarters consist of

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a large dormitory (frame) building, a two story affair. I am located on the first floor on the top of a double bunk. There are approximately 160 [or 110, or 100 -- second digit is superimposed -- appears to be corrected to 160] men in my dormitory on the first floor, all quartered on double decker bunks and one wardrobe cabinet apiece which is about the size of a broom closet. Keep all of my clothes except the ones that I am wearing in my bags. However the meals are pretty good and they are keeping us busy day and night, seven days a week between classes and practice navigation and conning cruises out in the bay. Although my letter may sound a little discouraging, life is not so bad and am faring under it very well. I ~~felt~~ feel fine and like it fairly well.

When I arrived up here Thursday night I found out that my crew had shoved off on their training cruise and I had been left high and dry. The office up here notified Norfolk of the situation and I am now standing by awaiting orders to either go on out to my original crew or be assigned to skipper another crew. Have been expecting some definite word from Norfolk since Saturday but up to now have received no word. May hear tomorrow and then again may not hear until next week -- that is the way it goes -- you cannot make any plans.

I am glad to hear that you went to the doctor and that you are in fine shape, but please try to lose some weight like the doctor has requested you to. Also please do not do too much running around or keep late hours so that you can keep properly fit for the baby. After the baby comes then the sky is the limit. I do not mean to be preaching, but am so concerned about you and the baby, because you know I love you dearly and will also the baby.

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Darling, thanks for getting those things for me that I asked you to. It will be all right to send them here, because even if I do shore out before they arrive, I will return in a week and can pick them up then.

My travel check for my Great Lakes trip has not arrived. If it does not come by Wednesday I am going to write to Columbus, inquiring about it. Just as soon as it comes I will send it to you. I also will send you my pay check as soon as I get it. Don't forget that you have to pay the last installment of the income tax on Dec. 15. I hope to have the money to you by then. I have approximately forty dollars left and so am financially well off. Since we have no liberty we cannot spend any money except on soap, meals, and lodging, etc.

How is mother and dad? Give my regards to them and tell them that I am fine. By the way how are you getting along with them. Are they treating

you all right? -- if not, please tell me so. Please do the best you can until you can go back into the house Jan. 15.

Since there are no post cards here at the station I have been unable to send any to my friends, so you will have to give them my regards whenever you see them.

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Gosh, darling, you just can't realize how much I miss you and your little "pot." I would give a fortune to eat one of your nice home cooked meals and would give ten years of my life if the "three of us" and "Jeff" were all back at 5506 just like we were prior to July 1. Oh well! What's the use of wishing -- but someday we will be all together again. Darling, I want you to know how much I love you, that I think of you constantly, and wish that we were together. You mean everything in the world to me and am looking forward to loving little "Stephen."

Well darling, it is growing late and must bring this letter to a close. Darling, I love you very, very [second very is double underlined] much and miss you twice as much.

All my love,

Morton

P.S. Think of you every night at 10 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1942

1725

Georgia, my darling --

Your package came in this morning's mail and what a beautiful sight it was when I opened it. You certainly are a dear in getting me those things -- I can use every one of them to great advantage. I like the wool robe very, very much -- it fits me swell and it is certainly nice and warm. I shall consider it as your Christmas present to me. Thanks a lot for getting the razor for me -- I am sorry to have put you to so much trouble.

I enjoyed your letter which was enclosed in the box. It gives me new life every time I get a letter from you.

Glen Yount left yesterday for Pittsburgh to board his new ship which is being built there. He is Engineering Officer aboard a LST [Landing Ship, Tank]. Hal Mattlen has just this minute left to drive back to Norfolk where he and his crew are boarding a LST training ship for a two week training crew. The boys are gradually drifting off to either get their ships or go on training crews.

As for myself I am still waiting on my changed orders from Norfolk. Dropped by the office this afternoon after I came ashore from a days training cruise to see if any new orders had come

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through, but no, they had not. And so pigeon-holed here for some time.

Today I went out on a brief training cruise on a LCI [Landing Craft Infantry] with some other prospective skippers. Left about 9 A.M. and returned about 4 P.M. Were out in the bay getting the feel of the ship by maneuvering it, etc.

Gosh darling just got orders this very minute to proceed tomorrow morning to Little Creek, Va. to meet my crew #3057 and so must report to the administration office immediately for further instructions -- Will write to you from Little Creek when I get there.

So long darling -- I love you.

Love

Morton

CORRESPONDENCE

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 1942

1020

Hello Darling --

Well, here I am still sitting at the table beside my bunk in my quarters at Solomons Island. Got up at 4:30 this morning, washed and completed packing, had breakfast and had just boarded the "Lillian Anne" for my boat trip back to Norfolk and Little Creek when orders came through cancelling the scheduled trip down to Norfolk due to the bad wind gale blowing up the bay from Norfolk. Heavy gale warnings are being flown all up and down the bay. And so the trip has been postponed until tomorrow morning -- that is if the gale abates by then.

It was funny that my new orders came through just as I was completing my letter to you last night. It came as a complete surprise because I had just been by the administration office about an hour before inquiring about them and they said that they knew nothing about them -- well that just shows what the navy is like. I had to cut my letter ^short to you because I had to report immediately to the administration office for further ~~and~~ instructions, etc. and I wanted the letter to go out in last nights collection which was at 6 P.M.

It seems that I have been assigned to a lower crew number which is #3057. They have been out on a two weeks

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training ~~crew~~ cruise under the temporary command of an ensign. They are now down at Little Creek, Va. having returned two days ago from their training cruise to await orders to proceed to Boston to take over their new ship which is

being built there. I am to replace the ensign in Little Creek and take the crew up to Boston with me. My further orders for proceeding to Boston and taking over my ship are waiting for me at Little Creek. So this is just about all that I know about the set-up until I get to Little Creek and read my orders and instructions.

According to past experiences, I will be in Boston for a week or two going over the ship every day while it is being fitted out, then acceptance trials which test the maneuverability, speed, seaworthiness, etc. of the ship before the Navy formally accepts the ship, then the formal commissioning of the ship. After all these formalities we are officially discharged from the shipyard and will bring the ship down the coast to Norfolk for further training. It will take about a week to make the trip down the coast since no traveling is permitted at night and so must put in to port.

Will keep you informed as I travel along and things develop. In fact I dropped by the Post Office located here on the station and made arrangements for all my mail that came here to Solomons ^to be forwarded on to you at the folks address. Being that I will be jumping around from place to place making it almost impossible for my mail to ever catch up with me I thought it best to have it forwarded on to you and whatever is really important you

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can forward on to me. I will keep you well posted where I am, where I will be, and for how long and when to write to me.

Darling, am feeling fine and am in good spirits: the only thing that would really set me up right would be to just hold you in my arms real tight for just five minutes, give you a big kiss and tell you personally that I love you, love you more than anything else in the world, that I adore and worship you and that you are constantly in my mind.

Well enough about myself, darling -- tell me how are you? Please write and tell me all about yourself and what the doctor has to say about you and "Steve." Just as soon as the doctor tells you about when the baby will arrive, please let me know and I will make every effort to be by your side at the time. I certainly do hope that you will be able to obtain a nurse. In fact impress upon the doctor that it is imperative that you have a nurse regardless of the cost. You know that you are all that I have and want you to take proper care of yourself.

This morning I got paid and will send you a money order for \$100.00. I think it best to keep a fair amount with me since I do not know whether I will have to pay my own transportation up and may be in Boston from one week to three weeks waiting on my ship

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and will have to pay my expenses while there and so am taking \$80 along with me, that is ~~witt~~ with what I already had and taking some out of my pay check.

So far have not received my travel check from Columbus and intend to write a letter today to them inquiring about it.

Well, darling, just got back to my quarters from afternoon class in navigation and boy a real gale is sure blowing outside -- doubt if we will be able to sail tomorrow for Little Creek if it keeps up like this.

This afternoon I got a money order for \$100.00 for you and you will find it enclosed with this letter. Just as soon as my travel check comes through I will mail it to you. Try to do the best you can on the money and will send you more when I get it.

Well, darling, I will say "au revoir" until my next letter to you. Say hello to mother and dad and give them my best. Loads of love to you and I love you.

Your devoted husband

Morton

P.S. Remember 10 P.M. every night.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thursday, Dec. 3, 1942

Georgia Darling --

A strong gale is still blowing down here and the weather has gotten very cold -- strong gale warnings are still being flown up and down the bay and so our trip has been postponed again and so here I am still at Solomons Island. However if the weather improves expect to leave on the "Lillian Rose" tomorrow morning.

Besides going to navigation classes all day and part of the evening, everything else is status quo. However when I get to Little Creek I expect to run into excitement and red tape again in getting squared away with my new orders concerning my attachment to my new crew, proceed orders to get my ship, etc.

Darling in reading in your last letter to me about how you planned to take care of the various and sundry bills, I think that your plans are fine. In fact, darling, I am going to entirely depend upon your judgement upon taking care of the financial affairs. You always have done it in great shape, so why not keep up the good job. You know that I am perfectly confident in your judgement after our six years of being together.

Have you seen Cory Quinn about drawing up the "Power of Attorney" paper for you? When it is ready, mail it to me and I will sign it and return it to you. You should do this promptly because

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of my going to sea, and if something should happen to me, you would be legally secured in handling my estate in your behalf.

Darling have you finally decided on the name for the baby if it is a boy -- and also what about a girl's name if it is a girl. I have been thinking over some names, but cannot think of any good ones -- so I will have to leave the matter entirely up to you. Your selection of things always was very good and always pleased me very much. I'll tell you what -- I'll make a bargain with you -- you name the first child and I will name the second one (if there is one which I hope). How does that sound to you?

Well, dear, it is time to go to my afternoon class (which lasts for three hours) and so had better draw this little note to a close. Remember dear that I love you very, very much.

Always

→Morton

CORRESPONDENCE

Monday, Dec. 7, 1942

Dear Georgia,

Have just returned to my quarters after a pretty busy day. Well, before I go any further let me review the events that followed after I left you Saturday night at the train and bring you up to date. Had a very nice train trip up here to Boston arriving here about a half hour late. Had a nice breakfast in the station with two other navy men whom I met on the train before I retired and were on their way up here to Boston to a Supply Officers School. After breakfast I left them, collected all my luggage, got a cab and shoved off to the shipyard. There I reported in and after getting squared away, the officer in charge Brought me down to Bachelors Officers Quarters here in South Boston. It ^ (B.O.Q.) is a mammoth place and very nice -- next door to it is another large building for quartering various ships crews, a capacity of 5000 men. My crew is located over there. Being that my two officers were out of town for the day and so could not contact them and so could not do much that day. And so about noon I called Betty Philpott and she surprised me by saying that she expected a call from me that day. It seemed Phil had called her early that morning to tell her that he was leaving Solomons for a two weeks training cruise

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And also that I was arriving in Boston to get my ship. She invited me out to her parents home where she is living for dinner and the afternoon. Had a nice dinner and they all treated me royally. We were planning to go to a show last night, but a young couple, friends of hers, called her up to come over to their place and so she and I went over there where there was even another couple and we had supper there a very enjoyable time. Got back to my quarters about 11 P.M. This morning I had breakfast here at B.O.Q. and then went down to the shipyard. When I got there my other two officers were there waiting for me. We introduced ourselves and I like them both very much. Had

some business to square away first and then went down in the yard to get my first look at my ship. It is just about two thirds completed with workmen swarming all over it like a bunch of ants. It is supposed to be ready for commissioning by Friday afternoon, but I have my doubts, it most likely will be next Monday. After fooling around for a while at the shipyard came back to the enlisted mens quarters to meet and look over my crew. Assembly was announced for them and they came tumbling out. I was introduced to them and then talked to each one of them personally. They are a pretty good looking bunch of men and I think they will make a good crew.

The rest of this week will keep me busy getting things organized, getting official documents signed, outfitting the ship, getting supplies and stores and all that goes in commissioning a new ship. It is a bigger job than I anticipated but will work out all right.

So far have not had time to see much of Boston except for a trip across town to visit Betty and her folks. By the way, speaking of Betty,

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I gave her your address at mothers and she is going to write to you. Well darling that is about all that I can say about myself at present.

It certainly was a thrill to stop off in Washington to see you, my dearest. I think that you look fine, in fact you are growing lovelier every time I see you. You certainly were a dear to go to so much trouble to make reservations for me on the Boston train. You know, darling, just seeing you for those few hours just made me feel like a new man. I feel like somebody injected some new young blood in my veins and am ready to lick the world. So you see how you affect me.

Thank mother for the lovely box of candy and carton of cigarettes. It was certainly sweet of her to get them for me. By the way you tell her that I admire her for being a real Navy mother by not weeping or crying and instead keeping

a stiff upper lip and a smile. Also say hello to dad and tell him that I was sorry that I could not see him, but will in several weeks when I come home to see you and the baby.

Darling I am enclosing my address here where you can get in touch with me. I will be here all the rest of this week. Even tho my ship is commissioned Friday (according to schedule) will be here another week for trial runs, fitting her out and provisioning her and

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(tho I may be on shipboard) I will be back and forth to here on official business until I sail for N.O.B. at Norfolk. And so will pick up whatever mail there is for me here.

Sent my dirty clothes to the laundry this morning and will get them back Thursday afternoon. It sure felt good to get rid of those dirty clothes.

Well darling it is getting time for dinner and so I guess that I had better wash up and get ready. There is a dining room for officers right in in the building and they serve very good meals at fairly reasonable price. And so darling, I will say "au revoir" till tomorrow.

Love

Morton

My address is: --

Bachelor Officers Quarters U.S.N.

Building #37 - Room 304
495 Summer St. Boston, Mass.
(Summer) [in print, rather than cursive]

CORRESPONDENCE

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1942

1635

Dear Georgia --

Was unable to write to you yesterday because I was on the jump every minute from 9 A.M. on thru the day and then last night my other officers and I had late dinner here at B.O.Q and then went out to a show getting back in fairly late.

I have two very nice subordinate officers -- one of them which is my Executive Officer is a native of Boston and was in the Printing business prior to his going into the service. He has a car and since he knows the town makes it very easy for me to get around to the various navy bases, such as the Boston Navy Yard, Lockwood Basin, East Boston and then down to Lawley's shipyard down at Neponset [Neponset, George Lawley and Son Shipyard] in South Boston. Spent all day yesterday between all of the above mentioned places getting my charts, navy journals and publications and communication information.

My other officer (Engineering Officer) is from Ohio and is a very nice chap. I think that I am very fortunate in getting two nice men like them.

Was down at the shipyard this morning for several hours taking care of a few things and all afternoon the three of us assisted by a couple men from our crew have been getting our charts in order and correcting and adding supplementary information to our "Light Lists" and

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"Coast Piloting Journals." It will take all day tomorrow to complete this work.

Yesterday morning we witnessed the commissioning of L.C.I. (L) 223. It so happens that the commanding officer of that ship ~~were~~ was in the same company "G" with me at Cornell. We were both much surprised upon seeing each other.

Did you know that I have with me all of the important papers, such as our life insurance policies, deeds to the house and all of those valuable papers. I would like to get them to you because I don't want to ^keep them with me. I am somewhat afraid to send them through the mail and so will keep them and bring them with me when I come home to see you when the baby arrives.

I bought myself a couple of T shirts and medium weight crew neck sweater to wear under my blouses at the ships service stow this afternoon.

Well darling, so far I have been a very good little boy and have not gotten into any mischief. Have been to the movies twice, that was Monday night and last night. Tonight I guess that I will stay in and sit in the lounge here at B.O.Q. and have a drink or so, talk a while and then retire.

Have you seen the doctor lately and what does he have to say. Darling take good care of yourself and I am anxiously waiting to receive a letter from you. Please give my regards to mother and dad. Also always remember that I love you very, very much.

Love

Morton

CORRESPONDENCE

Thursday, Dec. 10, 1942

1655 -

Dear Georgia --

Your letter was waiting for me in my box at the desk when I returned here at B.O.Q. for lunch -- and was I glad to hear from you -- it was like a message from heaven -- and why not, aren't you my precious little angel.

Went down to the shipyard this morning with John Marray, my executive officer, to see how my ship was progressing. Left "Ogive" Olgivy, my engineering officer, back here at B.O.Q. in the Officer's Lounge with four members of the crew to continue correcting and adding supplementary data to our navigation journals, piloting journals and light lists. By the way he finished his the job later this afternoon -- in fact I was with him during the latter part of the afternoon helping out and he just left me a few minutes ago to write a letter or two and then clean up for dinner. We usually call it a day about four thirty.

Well, going back to my trip to the shipyard this morning, I was present at the commissioning of L.C.I. - 224 which took place at 10 A.M. And so that leaves us next to be commissioned. We were originally scheduled to be commissioned tomorrow afternoon, but due to the ship construction being somewhat behind schedule it was postponed until Saturday afternoon. The work on the ship is

going along rapidly, but there is still a lot to be done and I doubt if it will be fully ready for commissioning before Monday. But they are really concentrating every effort to have it ready by Saturday and it may be according to the present schedule. - Will know definitely tomorrow. Also while down at the shipyard this morning had a lot of official letters pertaining to my ship and its outfitting ^waiting for me [three-word phrase inserted] to read and initial. There is certainly a lot of paper work and procedure to go through.

We will, however, after our commissioning be here in Boston for at least another week before leaving for Norfolk. Will lay up here at the shipyard for at least a day or so to complete outfitting the ship, making minor changes and correcting defects. I have the authority to stay at the shipyard until I am satisfied that the ship is in proper condition to sail. After we leave the shipyard we then move over to the Boston Navy Yard where we will spend several days being depermed, obtain our ammunition, other supplies and equipment, then from there we move over to Lockwood Basin where we put in for another two or three days in order to have our gyro compass and chronometer calibrated. - also to pick up other information of secret nature and also take on some special supplies. So you can see what a merry-go-round I am going to be on next week -- and boy! am I going to be busy. Then after all of this we will have to wait around a day or so for LCI 226 (my sister-ship) which will be commissioned two days later after our commissioning so that

we can proceed to Norfolk together. However will utilize those couple of days on maneuvers out in Boston Harbor so that the crew can get practice in their various drills.

But in spite of all this activity you can still write to me here at B.O.Q. until I tell you not to. Darling I don't think that it is necessary for you to send my leather sheep-skin because I will get one allotted to me for shipboard. However I wish that you would send me my two ~~sweat-shirts~~ sweat shirts.

Darling when you go out to see our old friends will you please tell them that I am too busy to write them and not that I don't think about them. That I have to use most of my spare time to write to you. Give them my best regards and tell them when I get a chance I will send them a card.

Last night, after dinner, I went up to the lounge with Ogive, we had dinner together, had a drink, talked awhile and then went to bed. We are having dinner together again tonight (his room is next to mine) here at B.O.Q. and then after dinner we have some work to do on our crew organization and their station bills.

Boston is certainly a changed place since that tragic "Coconut Grove" fire. The night clubs are all shut down

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and no dancing is permitted. Also the people here are still horror struck and shocked due to the loss of so many of their close friends. And so the only thing doing is the movies -- but I understand as the various clubs pass inspection they will be permitted to open again for business.

It seems odd going around here in Boston. Due to its position here on the Atlantic coast and also because of its importance as a seaport it is almost completely blacked out. The street lamps are kept very dim, the automobile headlights are all covered over except for small lower section, all store signs

and window displays are dark and the curtains on the theater doors and restaurant and store doors are all drawn so that the city looks like a ghost town until you open a door and see all of the life and activity behind it.

Well darling it is almost time for dinner and also the space on the sheet is growing small and so had better stop my chatter. I certainly did enjoy your lovely letter and am looking forward to more. Take good care of yourself and remember that I love you very very [two underlines] very [three underlines] much. Give my regards to mother and dad.

Love and kisses,

Morton

CORRESPONDENCE

Sunday, Dec. 13, 1942

2130

Dear Georgia --

This is the very first moment that I have had to write you since I talked to you last Friday, as a matter of fact I still have some invoices and reports to check on tonight, but have pushed them aside to write you a few lines tonight so that this letter can go ashore the first thing tomorrow.

Honestly darling, I have never been so busy in my life as I have been yesterday and today. My work starts from the time I get up in the morning until

the time I turn in which is about 10:30. I thought that I was pretty busy on the War Dept. job, but that was a baby to this.

Was up at 7 A.M. yesterday morning (Saturday), had breakfast and finished packing my bags. John Mawry dropped by at 8 A.M. and picked Ogiby and I up to drive down to the shipyard. A Navy station wagon took our bags, etc. down for us so we did not have to bother with them. About 9 A.M. the crew arrived at the shipyard with all of their gear and then the fun began, getting them on shipboard and their gear stowed away. Before they had completed the job two larger trucks came on the dock alongside our ship with foodstuffs, and ship supplies. All of this had to be unloaded, checked against invoice sheets and stowed away on board. While all of this was going on an army of workmen including painters welders, machinists, carpenters, inspectors, etc were climbing all over the ship

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completing the outfitting of the ship and putting on the final touches. In the meantime I was traveling back and forth from the ship to the shipyard office straightening out matters, signing papers and miscellaneous odds and ends. At 2 P.M. we took time out, dressed ourselves up to look real nice and had our formal commissioning exercises at 2:30 P.M. After the commissioning I signed official papers excepting the ship and becoming the commanding officer. And so now darling I am true skipper with a ship of my own -- LCI (L) - 225.

After the exercises were over we then picked up with our work where we left off. Later on in the afternoon other supplies came for us and we did not finish loading until after dark.

Had our first meal which was supper last night on shipboard and it was very good. We are very fortunate in having a good ships cook. The crew worked late into the night getting things stored away because the weather looked like it was going to get bad during the night and we wanted to get things

under shelter. I did not finish working until almost midnight and then tumbled right into my bunk. Our officers quarters are small but very comfortable and my bunk is very comfortable. Was up this morning at 7 A.M. and started right and where I had left off the night before. Getting a ships company organized is quite a job with the setting up of watches, Court routine bills, Etc. Of course my other two officers are very able assistance and all three of us are on the jump every minute.

This morning the foul weather broke loose about 10 A.M. with a raging gale and snowstorm blowing in from sea from the northeast. It has been raging all day, but during the past hour it

3

has slacked up some. There is about four to five inches of snow on deck and the weather is bitter cold -- however it is very warm and comfortable on shipboard. Have not been ashore once today. This noon for dinner we had roast chicken and all that goes with a good chicken dinner. It was a mighty good meal. The crew have been busy all day getting the supplies and foodstuff stowed away in their proper places and checking for missing items. I think that by tomorrow night we should have most of our supplies pretty well stowed away. After the workmen get through with the outfitting that has yet to be done and we will most likely then move over to another base across the harbor for more outfitting. I imagine that we will be here in the vicinity of Boston for the rest of the week. However I guess that you had better address my mail from now on to:

U.S.S. LCI(L) #225

Amphibious Force - Atlantic Fleet

% Postmaster, New York City, N.Y.

Nobody stopped by at B.O.Q. today so I guess that there is a letter from you there waiting for me. However I will be stopping by there on official business tomorrow and will pick it up tomorrow.

Tell me darling, how is everything going along with you. Has the doctor been able to tell you any more about when he

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expects the baby will arrive. Be sure and let me know as soon as you can so I can make plans to be with you at the time. Darling you don't know how much I miss you. I wish that you were here across the table from me right now so we could have a real chat instead of my sitting here writing to you. However I get a lot of comfort in just writing to you. From now on darling you will not hear from me as frequently as you have in the past but will try and write to you as often as I can even if it is just a few lines. So try and not be so terribly disappointed when you have to go for a day or so before hearing from me.

How is mother and dad -- are they treating you all right? Give my love to both of them and tell them that I am fine and in good health -- also say hello to the rest of the bunch for me.

Just as soon as my travel checks come through (I expect one Wednesday) I will forward them to you. Also so what about that "power of attorney" that I asked you to send me -- that is important.

Well darling it is 11:15 P.M. and I had better get to bed because I have to get up at 6:45 A.M. tomorrow and I have a very busy day ahead of me.

Darling, I want you to know that I love you more than anything else in the world and want you to be a brave little mother and not worry about me because I am going to take good care of myself. Please prove to me that you can be a

real Navy wife and mother. And so, dearest, until my next letter to you I will say good-night and pleasant dreams --

Love

Morton

CORRESPONDENCE

Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1942

2000

Hello Darling --

Just got back here in my quarters from making my long distance call to you from the Administration Bldg. in the Navy Yard here. Arrived here at the Navy Yard later this afternoon after a four hour shake down cruise in the harbor and vicinity. It was pretty cold traveling with the temperature hovering around 18°, a forty five mile gale blowing churning the water up into rough white caps and to top it all occasional heavy snow flurries. Winter has really set in up here -- it started snowing Saturday night and snowed all night and half of Sunday -- then we had another brief snow storm last night and occasional snow flurries today and all during the time the temperature has been ranging between ten and twenty-five degrees. Snow is packed tight all over the streets -- it doesn't slush up and melt like it does at home -- the automobiles just pack it down and ride on a cushion of snow -- the city looks like a fairy land covered with a white blanket. When we came into port this afternoon all of the bow and

four part rigging ^of our ship was completely covered with ice from the sea spray.

Today's shake down cruise was my first experience at being in command of my ship underway. I was accompanied with a harbor pilot who assisted me ^in navigating through the various channels

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and naval precautions with which I was unfamiliar. Also on board were nine other technical men and inspectors which were checking the various mechanisms on board ship. Everything came through in fine shape and the crew did a good job. I was somewhat proud of myself when we had completed our trip and was tied up in port.

Darling I called you last night from the shipyard office. I had been unable to write you for a couple of nights due to my being kept so busy -- honestly darling, that is the truth -- I have not been ashore, that is, outside of the shipyard since I came on board last Saturday morning. I am on the go from 7 A.M. to 10 or 11 P.M. every day -- I didn't realize that outfitting a new ship, getting the crew organized and getting supplies, etc. requisitioned and aboard was such a big job. Well now getting back to why I called you. And so ~~the~~ since we were to shove out of the shipyard today at noon and move over here thought that I would call you and let you know that I was still thinking about you. Of course as you know ~~the~~ you were out, and so was determined to call you tonight because I had a hunch that you would be expecting a call from me tonight.

I apologize for being so vague over the telephone, but all telephone calls going out of the yard are censored -- that is, there is an officer sitting right at a desk beside the telephone listening to every word that is said and a situation like that makes you feel very uncomfortable -- but that is Navy regulation and must be followed. And so that was the reason why I could not be definite in my

talking to you. From now on I will have to be very vague in my telling you what I am going to do, where I am going and when. However may tell you something about them after

3

they have been done. I think you understand so please be a good girl and bear with me.

As a matter of fact, in regards to censorship, I have to censor every letter that is written by members of my crew. Every night at 8 P.M. they bring their letters to my quarters unsealed and I then read them for censorship and they if they are all right I stamp them "Passed by Naval Censor (note envelope) then send them myself and then they are sent ashore the next morning by special messengers for mailing. I feel like a "heel" reading their personal mail, but I have to do it and they take it in good faith. So you can now see how strict we are in correspondence.

Darling, it seemed wonderful to hear your voice over the phone and talk to you. But after I hung up and was walking back to the ship I felt awful homesick and would like to have taken the very next plane to Washington to see you, hold you in my arms and tell you "I love you" However if everything goes well, I expect to be home with you for a day or so sometime between Christmas and the end of the month -- it all depends on how long we will be here in Boston and what my new orders will be. If I am still in Boston at Christmas will make a hurried trip down from here. I am determined I will see you even if it is only for several hours.

I think that we will be here in the vicinity of Boston until

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next Monday or Tuesday, Dec. 21 & 22. And so why not send your letters to B.O.Q. as you have been doing instead of to the Postmaster, N.Y.C. until I actually leave. I have somebody go to B.O.Q. every other day to check mail for the crew. Of course ^when we leave for sea duty you will then have to send it to the Postmaster because that is the only way mail gets to ships at sea. It is a slow service, sometimes taking a week or more -- it depends upon the frequency that the mail ship contacts us or our base where we may be stationed. And so it will be easier for me to get mail to you (living at a fixed address) than it will be for you to get it to me. However keep writing and I will receive your letters eventually.

I have received all of your letters and telegrams up through Tuesday, Dec. 8 (By the way please date your letters in case they come to me a week late and I can refer to them by date so that you will ^know which letters I have received) I also received your package containing the three sweat shirts. Thanks a lot for them -- I can use them while up here in this cold weather -- However do not bother to get me anymore winter clothes. We received quite a bit of winter and fall weather clothing for the ships personnel and I think that I am well prepared for the cold and wet weather.

I was sorry to hear from you tonight that the Bonnings are planning to move out before you wanted to go back in the house. However I would not let the matter worry you. Just close up the house until you are ready to go back into it. I think that would be the best thing to do.

I received my travel check from Norfolk to Boston which amounted to \$46.24. If I get time tomorrow I will write you a money order for \$46.00 and send it to you so that you can apply

it to any outstanding debt that you think best to apply it to. I have not received as yet my travel check to and from Great Lakes and Columbus and also from Columbus to Norfolk, but I guess that they will come through eventually. When they do I will forward them to you. Today was theoretically my pay day, but since my transfer pay account is down at Norfolk will not draw any pay until I get back down there -- but am not worried because I am still fairly well financially well off. Being on shipboard like I have been has kept me from spending much money except for laundry, additional small clothing, soap, toothpaste and other incidentals.

Darling how are you feeling these days? Just think it wont be much longer for you to carry "Steve" around. I guess you will be glad when you can get back to normal shape and enjoy life again.

While writing this letter to you I have had a lot of interruptions -- members of the crew coming to my quarters about different matters and different routine checkups that it is now 10:15 P.M. and I am quite tired. Being that I have another busy day ahead I had better stop -- however could go on writing for another hour. How is my mother and dad? Give them my best regards. And above all remember that you mean everything in the world to me and that I love you very very much

All my love,

Morton

6 [next page = back of page 5 -- addendum to letter above]

Due to our being so busy have not been able to dispatch a man to go over to B.O.Q. and pick up the mail and so of course have not received any mail from you since your letter of Dec. 18. However must send a man over

tomorrow to collect all the mail since we will be leaving this vicinity shortly.
and so from now on please send my mail to:

U.S.S LCI(L) - 225

Amphibious Force, Atlantic Fleet

% Postmaster, New York City

New York.

It takes mail from eight to fifteen days to get to us through these channels, so it does not pay to send it either "air mail" or "special delivery."

Enclosed with this letter you will find a money order for \$46.00 Use the money as you think best.

Well darling how are you feeling these days. Just think, it wont be much longer before there will be the three of us instead of we two. Doesn't that sound wonderful. I am anxiously awaiting the proud moment of becoming a father.

Well darling, must get back to my work so that I can get it done and get to bed. Say hello to mother and dad and tell them that I am well and happy. And as for you darling my customary little saying, "I love you, love you more than anything else in the world and that I miss you very much." And so darling until my next letter. -- "Au revoir"

With all my love

Morton

P.S. I think of you every night at 10 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPH

[New Page of scrapbook: small black and white photo (2 by 3 inches) of part of a ship, with "225" in white lettering on the hull; appears to be at a dock or shipyard; ramp is extended.]

CORRESPONDENCE

Sunday, Dec. 20, 1942

1835 --

Dear Georgia --

I was completely taken by surprise this morning when upon calling you by long distance from Boston, dad answered the phone and the first thing he said was that I was a father of a grand baby girl. You could have knocked me over with a feather because I did not have the slightest idea that the baby would arrive so soon -- thought that it was not due until around Dec. 27. I nearly fainted with joy when I heard the good news and could hardly keep my feelings under control -- I wanted to tell the grand news to the whole world. I am tickled to death that it is a little girl, now everybody is happy (you, Mother, Alice & I) - How did Dad take it? I know that he wanted a boy.

Dad and mother told me that you had a very easy time, in fact that you did not realize that you had the baby. I think that was wonderful. And so we really have a little 6 ½ pound baby girl with black hair and looks something like me -- This is what mother told me. I am just dying to see the little one and hold it in my arms. Of course to see you also. However we are putting to sea very shortly and do not expect to be able to get home for another week or so.

However just as soon as I can get away I will come home as fast as I can to see you and ?

2

By the way what are you going to name her? It would happen that we had a name for a boy and none for a girl. Oh well, darling you will have to decide on a name yourself. Whatever you select will be all right with me. Dad said that after the baby was born he tried to get a telegram to me, but was unsuccessful. You see darling how difficult it is to get in touch with me. However in due course of time I will get your letters so please dont stop writing. Everytime I get a chance I will call you by long distance so that I can get news about you and the baby. Have not received a letter from you since the one of Dec. 13.

Did you receive the money order for \$46.00. Whenever my other travel checks catch up with me, I will forward them to you.

Darling, it is still bitter cold up here -- the thermometer went down to 14° below zero last night and has been below zero all day. The ~~zero~~ thermometer read 5° below the night before and none of the four snows have even begun to melt -- so you can see what winter is like up here. However our stay up here is just about over and then we will be heading south.

Well darling, I have a lot of work to do before I go to bed tonight. Today being Sunday means nothing to me because I have been on the job since 7 A.M. this morning.

Again darling let me say that I'm thrilled about hearing that you had a grand baby girl and that both of you are doing so well. Wish I could be there with you. And so darling remember that I love you very very much and the baby also. Say hello to mother and dad and make them take good care of you and the baby.

Love to the both of you

Morton

[There appears to be a something else written below, but it was cut off of the scan. Appears to be the tops of 6 letters of 3 words?]

CORRESPONDENCE

January 18, 1943

0915

Dear Georgia --

Was all set to write you a nice letter last night when a couple of officers came aboard about getting some work done on the ship. They did not leave until after 11:30 P.M. and then I was too tired to write. And so am writing the brief note with a money order for thirty dollars enclosed.

My cold is much better and I am feeling fine. They are working me pretty hard tho getting things done to the ship and the flotilla to which our ship has been assigned organized. However if work lets up the latter part of the week and we are still tied up here I may get a chance to come home -- but dont count on it. However will call you by telephone the latter part of the week.

How does it feel to be back in your own home -- wish I were there with you. Please take things easy and dont work too hard.

If I am not mistaken I believe that today is Margaret Anne's one month birthday -- Happy Birthday -- I will send her a present when I get a chance. How is she coming along? I suppose that she is growing like a weed.

Well darling I am awfully busy this morning but want to get this letter off to you with the money. Will try and write to you tonight.

Remember darling that I love you and the baby more than anything else in the world and that I miss both of you very much.

All my love

Morton

PS I think of you every night at 10 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

Monday, Jan. 18, 1943

1830

Dear Georgia --

I seem to have a little quiet spell for a while right now and so will try to take advantage of it and write you a short note. It has to be short because this is my last piece of writing paper -- however will endeavor to get some tomorrow at the canteen.

I mailed you a letter this morning with a money order enclosed in it for thirty dollars. Use it for any purpose that you think best -- it is yours to use.

Tell me darling, how are you feeling? Please dont ^do too much even if you feel all right. Remember that you have not fully recovered and you must take care of yourself for the future.

I was disappointed to hear that the house was not as well taken care of as we thought that it would be. But don't feel bad about it -- fix it up the best you can and dont worry about it. I am glad that Alice helped you out so much. I know that was a big lift for you. And by the way, say hello to her for me and tell her many thanks.

How is Margaret Anne? Again wish her a happy birthday from me just think she is one month old already -- time certainly does fly. Has she gotten adjusted to her formula yet and also is she gaining any weight? I sure would love to see her -- give

2

her a great big squeeze for me. How is Mrs. Bailey (the nurse) taking care of the baby? Do you like her as well as Mrs. Perdum. Now why don't you keep the nurse for another week -- it will make things better and easier for you as well as the baby I think that we can afford it.

How is mother and dad? I am sorry that they were broken up over you and the baby leaving them, but I think it best that you be in your own home where you can do as you please and are amongst all of your neighborhood friends. By the way, say hello to the bunch for me and tell them that I think about them often.

Have been down here at Little Creek for several days now and expect to be here and in the vicinity for another couple of weeks or even longer. And so there may be a chance I might be able to come home for a day or so within the latter part of this week or sometime next week. However will call you the latter part of the week by telephone.

Say hello to mother and dad and tell them that I am well and think of them often.

And now to you, the dearest little wife in all the world. I want you to know that I love you dearly and that I have you constantly in my mind and wish that I were at home with you. With all my love to you and Margaret Anne I will say good night.

Love

Morton

CORRESPONDENCE

[lined notebook paper]

Tuesday, January 19, 1943

2115

Dear Georgia

Have been so busy today that I have not had time to go ashore and get some writing paper and so must write on this pad paper -- however this isn't so bad.

I seem to be pretty tired tonight and if nothing else turns up tonight plan to tumble into bed right after I write this letter to you. Have been busy every minute since I got up this morning at 0630 until now -- of course I took time out to eat. By the way speaking of eating, for my noon meal I had delicious roast beef, spegehti (how do you spell it?) sliced tomatoes, milk and canned pears for dessert -- for dinner I had a large "T" bone steak about three-quarter of an inch thick and make your mouth water, mashed potatoes and gravy, asparagus and coffee. So you can see for yourself that I am getting a plenty to eat. In fact I think that I am putting on a little weight. Have not weighed myself lately tho.

Well darling, it is definitely out about my being able to come home this week, but if everything shapes up the way I expect it will, I hope to get about 48 hours liberty (two days) the early part of next week. Will let you know more about it later on in the week after I see how things shape up.

How did Margaret Anne enjoy her birthday yesterday? I certainly do wish I could be at home every night and watch her grow.

It must be very interesting to watch her grow and develop as time passes. However I guess I will see quite a change in her when I get home next week.

Are you gradually getting the house straightened up? It wont be long before you will have it back in good shape like it was before we left it. Again darling, I want to caution you against doing to much around the house. Please take good care of yourself.

A censorship officer was aboard today going over matters in regards to the censoring of mail and one of the things he told me was that it was prohibited to reveal the location of the ship, even when it is in port or where we are and how long we will be in a place. However will be able to tell you where I was two weeks after I have left that place or port. And so darling you will have to make yourself content with what meager information I can tell you. However as long as I can write to you and tell you how I am and a few other things that will help a lot. Anyway the war cannot last forever.

Well darling, I am awfully tired and it is 2200 already and I have another busy day ahead of me tomorrow and so will say good-night till next time. Remember that I love you very, very much and miss you and Margaret Anne just as much. Say hello to mother and dad.

With all my love

Morton

CORRESPONDENCE

Wednesday, January 20, 1943

2045→

Dear Georgia --

Well things seem to be pretty quiet tonight and so hope to be able to get this letter written to you without any interruptions -- I hope! Last night while writing to you I was interrupted several times which makes a letter somewhat difficult. However it seems to be the only way I can get letters written and so am getting used to it.

Tell me darling, how are things going along for you? Are you gradually getting settled down back in the house. I guess that it is a grand feeling to be back in your own home and with your old neighbors and friends. By the way have you met the folks that moved to the O'Briens house next door. Do you like them and do you think that they will be good neighbors -- I hope so for your sake.

How is Margaret Anne? Does she still look like her daddy or is she beginning to take on her mothers beautiful features? Be sure and give her a great big kiss for me and tell her that her daddy is looking forward to coming home and holding her in his arms.

Yesterday a member of my crew came to me (a lad of [illegible]) and asked me if I would mind giving him your address to forward to his girl -- that she had expressed the desire to write to you since you were the wife of his skipper. I thought that it was an unusual request, but he was so sincere about it that I gave him

2

permission and gave him your address. And so you may receive a letter from his girl any time soon. I am curious to know what she wants to write to you about. If you have time try to answer her letter. Thats a good girl darling.

Later this afternoon I let John Murray, my executive officer, go on a sixty-two hour liberty to go home and see his wife. He planned to change trains

in Washington D.C. and said that if he had time between trains he would call you by telephone and say hello. When he returns from liberty, then Winston Ogilvy, my engineering officer is going on a 62 hour liberty, that is if no changes take place in our plans here where we are. When he returns, then if I can get away, I am going to take a 62 hour liberty -- and so if everything works out as I have planned it, I expect to be home ~~this~~ early sometime Monday morning and will be home for Monday and Tuesday, returning Tuesday night getting back to the ship early Wednesday morning. Will call you either Friday or Saturday about my plans. By then I hope I will know definitely about my plans for coming home. And so here's hoping that I will be with you next week.

Darling I have a lot to tell you, but cannot and so must keep it to myself. However my cold is almost gone and I am feeling fine and things are progressing very well.

Well darling, here it is the end of another day I don't mind the busy days but I sure wish that I could be home with you and

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Margaret Anne every night. But I cant so must content myself in sitting here and writing to you. Darling I want you to know that I love you, love you more than anything else in the world, that I miss you tremendously and am looking forward for this awful war to come to an end so that I can come back home to you and Margaret Anne. And so with this in mind I will say good-night.

Love to both of you

Morton

P.S. I think of you every night at 10 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thursday, January 28, 1943

1940

Dear Georgia --

Arrived aboard ship safely yesterday morning at 0830 after a trying trip. The train was three quarters of an hour late leaving Washington and poked along getting into Petersburg two and a half hours late. However the Norfolk and Western train to Norfolk was behind schedule and just managed to change trains before it pulled out, but en route down from Petersburg to Norfolk made up some of the lost time arriving in Norfolk at 0800. Everything was progressing in fine shape when I returned, in fact I dont think I was ever missed. But ever since I have been back have been going every minute. Wanted to write to you last night but was too tired and went to bed at 2100. Was

This last trip home to see you and Margaret Anne was the best yet. It certainly did feel wonderful to come back to my own home with you waiting there at the front door to see ^meet me and ^a nice hot dinner ready for me. It reminded me of the good old days. I shall relive every minute of the time we had together on this past visit. In fact it was all I could do to muster up enough courage to leave you and return to the ship.

I certainly could notice a big change and Margaret Ann -- she has grown so big and getting real plump. I am certainly proud of her and I

tell everybody about her. I think that she is a pretty baby and will become a nice looking girl -- she should if her mother has anything to do with her because she certainly is a beautiful woman, - yes, I mean you!

By the way speaking about you and your beauty. I showed John and Ogive with your picture and they asked me how a good looking girl like you could ~~mary~~ marry a chap like me. They thought that you were a doggone good looking girl. -- not that I didnt already know it.

Ran across Joe Sibigroth [? possibly Sibegtrol] this morning and he said that he had just got down from Boston a couple of days ago. The ship that he is "Engineering Officer" on is just in front of mine. He looks fine and said that he had quite a trip down.

Well, darling, would like to write more to you but must get back to some work that I want to finish up tonight. But I did want to take time out to write you a few lines and let you know that I had returned safely. Say hello to Mother and Dad and tell dad that I hope he is feeling better. Darling I ^will write you a much longer letter tomorrow night. Remember dear that I love you and Margaret Anne more than anything else in the world and that the two of you are constantly in my mind.

Love to the both of you

Morton

CORRESPONDENCE

Friday, January 29, 1943

2125

Georgia, my dearest --

Have just about called it "quits" for tonight after another busy day. In fact the days are getting busier every day which makes them pass awfully fast trying to get everything done that should be done that day. I thought that things would slack up as time went on, but on the contrary the work is piling up. There is so much to be done and it takes considerable time to do it. -- Well, so far already I have had two interruptions -- one, a messenger from headquarters with a memo for me to sign for and the other an officer from another ship about a matter -- and so it goes.

Today had to take another physical examination due to the fact that my health record was mislaid by the medical dept and I have to have another record made. This made my fourth physical exam since I have been in the navy. I certainly am a well checked man. Also have to take all of my shots all over again that is for tetanus, typhoid, yellow fever, etc. So my arms are being jabbed again with hypo needles. However I am glad that the shots doesn't bother me except that my arms hurt a little from the reaction.

For the past three days the weather has been pretty bad. A strong northeast gale has been blowing steadily with a heavy downpour of rain and sometimes it is mixed with sleet and snow.

2

It is pretty cold and miserable. I am glad that we are tied up at the dock instead of being underway at sea or anchored out. However regardless of the weather, work goes on the same.

Darling, the way things are shaping up it does not look as if it will be possible to come home again on liberty before we leave. Things are moving so fast with numerous conferences and meetings which I must attend that it is going to require my full attention until we leave. However if an opportunity

arises I will make every effort to get home to see you and Margaret Anne once again.

Tell me, darling, how is everything going with you and Margaret Anne? Is she still being a good girl? When you take some pictures of her will you be sure and send some prints to me so I can watch her grow by remote control. Also I would love to have some recent snapshots of you ^from time to time so I can also keep up with you as you change from time to time. After all darling if I cannot be with the two of you personally, I can at least be with you by photographs (camera shots)

Darling, about the baby's christening -- I suggest that you wait until next week (the latter part) until I know definitely about whether I will be able to come home again or not. I will know by then. If I cannot make it why don't you go ahead and have her christened without me. After all I don't think that it would be quite fair to her to delay her christening until I come home. She should be christened early in her life so that she would at least be of some faith with proper godparents like every other child has. Why don't you have Alice and

3

Esther as godmothers and "Jim" as godfather for Margaret Anne. What do you think?

Darling, if I cannot get home again please try to not be too terribly disappointed. I know that it is tough, but we both ought to be thankful about the last time we had together. To me it was wonderful and I would love to duplicate it. So now ~~try~~ dry your tears, keep a stiff upper lip and be a real true navy wife that I will be proud of. Take good care of Margaret Anne and tell her all about her daddy so that he wont be a total stranger to her when he comes home.

And now darling, about myself. I am feeling fine. Have picked up a slight cold but am doctoring it and hope to be rid of it shortly. Outside of being kept pretty busy, am all right except for my being lonely for you and Margaret Anne.

Well dear, it is 2230 already and I am pretty tired tonight and had better get some rest in order to keep this cold under control. And so will say good-night until next time. Say hello to mother and dad. Remember that I love you and Margaret Anne very, very much and miss the both of you tremendously. Have you constantly in my thoughts.

Love to the both of you

Morton

CORRESPONDENCE

Sunday, January 31, 1943

2110

Dear Georgia --

Tried to call you from here at the base last night about 2215 but the long-distance operator said that it would take two hours before she could put my call through to you. I did not want to wait up until after midnight because I wanted to get some rest in order to check my cold and so told the operator to cancell it. And so plan to call you early this morning from the "Officer of the Day's office" in the administration building here at the base before the office got to busy and clutered up with officers and men. However just as I was finishing breakfast this morning, two staff officers of my flotilla came aboard to see me – they had not had breakfast, so I asked them to join me at breakfast and they accepted with pleasure. And so my plans to call you early this morning right

after breakfast went overboard. By the time they went ashore it had grown late in the morning (about 1000) and of course the office was busy with officers and men bustling about and a few trying to listen to the conversation since it is only a regular desk telephone.

So darling, you can see why it was so difficult to talk to you over the telephone. However regardless of the ever present difficulties I was determined to call you because I knew you were expecting a call from me and I did not want to fail you.

[There seems to be a missing page, from the scans or the originals, because the next page is marked "3" by the author and begins mid-sentence. Need to check in Archive.]

3

until the three of us will be re-united again is a great comfort and cheer to me and lifts me up when things seem to be getting tough and I am getting blue. All I have to do is to look at your picture and then think of you and what you are doing and I feel better immediately. Oh, bosh! enough of this sentimentality and on with my letter.

The weather down here has been miserable ever since I returned. It has been raining and drizzling all the time and the atmosphere has been damp, raw and cold -- just downright mean! However today it turned warmer and cleared off this afternoon -- maybe it will be nice for a few days. I was very much surprised to hear that you have been having snow at home because we have not had a speck down here.

Darling, it looks as if the possibility of my coming home again before we leave is definitely out. Our time is beginning to grow short and we still have an awful lot yet to do which will require my full attention. And so, dear, even tho I want to come back home again to see you and Margaret Anne once again very, very [second underlined twice] much I don't think I will be able to. We will

have to cling onto the cherished memories of our last visit together (the three of us) until we can be together once again in the not too far distant future -- perhaps sooner than we expect -- who knows? However darling please do not feel to bad about it. We both knew that it would come sooner or later and that we would have to face it eventually. I think that we have been very fortunate to be together as often as we have during the past seven

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months. That is a lot more than some husbands and wives have had. So buck up, darling, and be a big, strong and true Navy wife, one of which I can always be proud of. After all, this war cannot last forever and then we will be together again to carry on as one happy family. However, darling, I will call you one or two more times before we leave -- you can count on that.

Darling will you please tell mother and dad about my not being able to come home again for another visit. Tell them to take good care of themselves and that I think about them often. Also that I will try and write them a letter this week if possible.

Georgia, for some unknown reason, I could just write on and on to you tonight. It seems as if you are sitting right across from me and we are talking together. I am alone here in my quarters -- John and Ogive went into town for a show. -- Please, darling, dont get alarmed, I am quite sane -- I am not going out of my mind yet.

Indeed darling it is growing late and better call it a night. Take good care of yourself and Margaret Anne and whenever you get a chance drop me a line and let me know how the both of you are and what you are doing. And so, darling, I will say good-night until next time.

With all my love to you and Peggy.

Morton

CORRESPONDENCE

Monday, February 1, 1943

2045

Dear Georgia --

I know it was foolish of me to call you again last night, especially because of the expense, but our telephone conversation yesterday ^morning was so unsatisfactory that I felt awful bad about ^it and it preyed upon my mind, and so after writing to you last night made up my mind to call you again and get things squared away better. So that is why I called you again last night and after our telephone conversation I felt a whole lot better, in fact as if someone had lifted a heavy rock off of my chest. I think that you felt a lot better too after my second call.

Telephone service from here is terrible -- there are no public telephones here on the station and I have received permission to use the O.O.D. phone after 2230 on week days and the early morning hours on Sunday. However I then have the difficulty in getting a long distance call through to Washington. Sometimes I have to wait two to three hours. When it is that long I just have to put it off till the next day and try again. Nevertheless, it is worth all the trouble to be able to talk to you for even just a few minutes.

Got up this morning at 0530 and was underway at 0630 on an assignment -- did not get back in until 1930 and so have had a strenuous day -- in fact I am yawning my fool head off. When I finish writing to you I think I will turn in for the night.

(over)

Was planning to write you a money order today, but since I have been away from the base all day, have been unable to. However will write you one tomorrow as soon as the money order window at the base post office opens which is not until 1030 and so will delay the mailing of this letter until I can enclose the money order in it. I will send you a money order for thirty dollars and that will still leave me twenty eight dollars which is more than ample for me to live on until next payday. You take the money and spend it on whatever you need or apply it to any bill you owe. I know that you need every penny that you can get your hands on with all of those debts staring you in the face. Try and do the best you can. I know you will.

Have you received your navy check yet? If you do not be sure and check up on it at the Navy Dept. in Washington. Do you think you will be able to pay off the taxes on the house this month. I hope you can.

Well, darling, how are you and Margaret Anne tonight. I trust that you both are well and everything is going along all right for you. Please remember to try not to do too much -- dont wear yourself out -- remember that you dont have to do everything the same day. Please, for my sake, darling, take good care of yourself.

Darling, the space is growing short and so is a good excuse to stop and get some rest. Tell Margaret Anne that her daddy thinks about she and her mother constantly and that he loves both of you very dearly. And so goodnight to both of my loved ones.

Love

Morton

CORRESPONDENCE

Tuesday, February 2, 1943

2210

Dear Georgia --

Have just finished my work for the day and now for a few lines to you before I turn in for the night. So far have not received any of your letters but if you wrote me Sunday I should not receive it until Thursday. However how late it comes I shall still welcome it because it is nice to hear from home and especially from you dear.

How is everything going on good old Glenwood Road? Has the snow melted away yet or are you ^still slopping around in it. The weather down here has been pretty nice lately. I hope it keeps up. I think it was awfully nice of Logan to shovel the snow off of the walks for you. It makes me feel good that the neighbors are taking good care of you. By the way, say hello to them all for me.

And now tell me darling, how are you and Margaret Anne making out without "daddy" at home to look out for you. I sure wish I was at home with the both of you. But even if I can't be there in person I am always there in mind. I suppose Margaret Anne is growing and changing everyday -- also getting bigger and heavier. I sure wish I could be there to watch her grow. Why don't you get Ralph to take some pictures of her in the near future so that you can send them to me so that I can tell how big she is. Have you taken her to the doctor yet for a check-up and what did he have to say about her? Also did you see your

doctor and what did he have to say about you. I hope that he found you in good condition. Have you lost any more weight? Please pardon all of my questions tonight darling but I am just interested to know and since I havent talked to you lately am just curious.

Are you getting all of my letters and how long does it take them to get to you. I am going to try to write to you every night whenever I am in port. Of course when I am at sea I will not be able to write and of course unable to mail a letter to you until I get into a port.

Attended a conference this afternoon of all the commanding officers in our flotilla with our flotilla commander in regards to our preparation for getting underway in a few days. We still have a lot of things to do but our time is rapidly growing short which means that we have some real busy days ahead of us. Being busy like this certainly does make the days go fast, in fact they literally melt away. However in spite of being kept so busy, I feel fine and my cold has almost disappeared.

Well, darling, I have not had time to write mother and dad yet, but hope to sometime this week. Honestly dear I just dont have the time. I have to make time in order to write to you. However, tell them hello for me and that I inquire about them and all of my letters to you.

Darling it is after 2300 and so had better bring this letter to a close. Remember, darling, I love you very, very much and think constantly of you and Margaret Anne -- good night!

Love

Morton.

CORRESPONDENCE

Wednesday, February 3, 1943

2205

Dear Georgia --

Received your letter in this afternoons mail and was mighty glad to hear from you. In fact I have already read your letter three times and each time that I read it, it makes my spirits rise. Honestly, darling it seems like ages since I have received a letter from you. Although prior to this time i did not expect any letters from you because of my many frequent visits home during the past month, telephone calls, etc. and also because of you being so busy with Margaret Anne, it did make me feel somewhat blue every day when the mail was brought aboard and distributed to John, Ogive and the crew. They would all eagerly claim their respective letters and packages and go off into various corners to read their mail. Of course I receive a lot of mail every day too, but it is all official navy mail and not a nice warm letter from home. And so again I repeat it was actually exciting to get a real letter from home and especially from you, the dearest little wife in all the world. I have your letter spread out in front of me and your picture sitting in front of me on the table which creates a perfect atmosphere to write this letter to you.

Today has been another of those busy days -- have been on the go since early this morning and just knocked off at 2200. Honestly darling I have so much to do in getting things squared

2

away during these next couple of days before we get underway that I am constantly on the go. Difficulties and problems are arising every minute which in lots of cases require my personal attention. John and Ogive are about just as busy tending to other things that doesnt require my attention and the crew

have been working day and night. Food supplies, stores, spare parts, additional equipment, etc. are coming aboard at all hours of the day and night which requires working details all the time, plus trying to get the ship, itself, ready for sea by painting, securing gear and a thousand and one things that goes along with the job. Then again there are conferences, matters coming up that require me to go over to the other neighboring naval bases and stations, personnel problems, medical and dental examinations for the crew, etc. This what I have just enumerated is just a small part of the work that I have to do.

But in spite of all the work, I feel fine and like my assignment very much. If I could only come home every night and be with you and Margaret Anne the job would be perfect. My cold is clearing up and should be gone in a couple of days -- I hope!

And so the boys in the neighborhood got together at a poker game. I sure would like to have been there with them. It would have been a pleasure to even lost my dollars to them. Who won all the money -- I suppose it was Fred Reynolds -- he usually does.

From your remarks in your letter I would say that your

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neighbors and friends are certainly being nice to you. Their visiting you like that will keep you from getting lonely. Whenever you get a chance go visit them (take Margaret Anne with you) and enjoy yourself. I don't want you to just hibernate in 5506 -- get out and around and see people and have a good time even if I am not with you.

I let John and Ogive go ashore last night. They are young and get restless to go ashore. I don't have any desire to go ashore. First of all there is nothing much ashore. The transportation to and from town is terrible and so far and uncertain. It is not worth getting all dressed up to go in to town. However if

you were there in town I would be going in every night, in fact nothing could stop me.

From your letter you certainly must have had some real winter weather after I left. So far we have not had any snow down here, however it did start raining down here this afternoon but I think it has stopped by now.

Did you receive the money order for thirty dollars? Use it for what you see fit. I have still a plenty of money to carry me through until next payday.

Darling, I would like to write a lot more to you but it is after 2300 and I am awfully tired and so had better bring this letter to a close. How is Margaret Anne coming along? I am so glad to hear that she is beginning to notice things and smiling -- it wont be long before she will be quite a young lady. Be sure and tell her that her daddy says hello. Also darling how are you feeling these days. Please dont work too

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hard. Take good care of yourself. How is mother and dad? Give them my love. And now darling, please remember that I love you very, very much -- and that you mean everything in the world to me -- that I look forward to the day that I can return home to you and Margaret Anne and the three of us be together again always

Love

Morton.

CORRESPONDENCE

Friday, February 6, 1943

2155

Dear Georgia --

Have just completed all that I am going to do for tonight and now for a letter to you darling.

I tried to get a call through to you last night at midnight but the operator said that the army had the lines all taken until 0300 this morning and so decided to try and make a call to you early this morning before priorities were put on them again this morning. That is the reason why I called so early. I was afraid to put off until tonight to call you because if I had been unable to get a connection through to you I would have been out of luck and so thought it to call you a day ahead in order to be sure that I would get you.

Darling I hated to make the telephone call to you because I knew it would be difficult for you to take it, but yet I knew that you would want me to call you before I left and of course I wanted to call you once again before I left. Darling, it made me feel terrible to hear you crying over the phone -- I know you tried so hard to keep the tears back but just couldnt. Nevertheless I am very proud of you and of your strong courage. I know it will be awfully hard for you and that it will be terribly lonely, but remember I am lonely too and and longing for the time to take you in my arms. And so, dear, please try and be brave and keep your

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courage up and your spirits high. Just remember that I am thinking constantly of you and Margaret Anne and counting the hours until I can come back home again to you.

Darling I am not leaving the country definitely yet, but am just moving further south en route and so of course you will still get letters from me from here in the U.S. and when I get ashore will try and get a call through to you. So you can see darling, I still won't be out of the country for a while yet, but just moving on from one place to another. I think that you will be able to follow me as I move along.

Of course, darling, while I am at sea I will not be able to write to you for the reason that there will be no way to mail a letter to you until we reach a port. Sometimes this may not be for a week or so. But, just as soon as we make a port I will be the first one with a letter to put ashore for you. And as long as I am in port I will write you daily, so that you will be well informed about me. Also, darling, write me whenever you get a chance. I love to hear from you and Margaret Anne. I don't care if it takes two weeks before I receive your letters. I still enjoy them no matter how delayed they are. Your letters are like vitamin pills to me -- they give me new life.

Yesterday, I sent you a package. I hope you have received it. It is something that you needed and wanted badly. I am sorry that I could not send you more but that ought to help you out for a little while.

Darling, I have not had a chance to write to mother and dad yet. I have been so terribly busy all this week. In fact have had to make time in order to write to you. Thought and fully

intended to write them before I left but it looks as if I will be unable to. And so will you please call them and explain the situation to them. It is not that I don't think about them or that I don't want to write to them, but honestly darling have not had the time. Please give them both my love and tell them I will ^try and write them soon. I also have been unable to answer to "Gene" Thuney's letter. However after I get away from here I hope to have a little more time for myself

and will try and write to him soon. Say hello to both Esther and Gene the next time you write to them.

I am glad to hear that you paid the taxes. That is swell! I hope that in due time you will be able to get squared away on all of your bills so that they wont be worrying you forever. Whenever I get a chance and have some spare money will forward it on to you to apply to your bills or yourself.

I was sorry to hear about the seriousness of the rash on Margaret Annes face. I hope that it will clear up shortly. Outside of the rash I trust that she is doing fine. I am so glad to hear that she is growing so big and putting on weight.

And now, about yourself darling. Are you taking good care of yourself? Please take it easy and dont ^do too much to overtax yourself and run yourself down. As for myself -- I am feeling fine except that I am a little tired from the strain I have been under during the past two weeks getting the ship ready for sea.

Well darling, this will be my last letter to you for about a week or so. However just as soon as we get into port I will have

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CORRESPONDENCE

Aboard U.S.S. LCI (L)225

Wednesday, February 17, 1943

0845

Dear Georgia --

Arrived at this foreign port later yesterday afternoon after being at sea for ten days en route here. After we had been at sea for three days the flagship notified us of the change in our destination and instead of putting into another port in the U.S.A. we headed directly for here. It seemed good to get my two feet on solid ground after pitching and tossing around for the past ten days.

The trip was quite an experience -- we had fog, heavy gales which tossed up waves from twelve to twenty feet high, rain and then too, some real nice weather. We only saw land three times between our departure and arrival here. In spite of the nasty weather did not get a bit seasick although practically all of my crew did. So you can see I ain't such a bad seafaring man.

Ever since the moment we docked have been kept busy getting things squared away, the usual routine a ship goes through when it stops at a port of call. Had planned to write to you last night, but five of the other "skippers" ganged up on me and insisted I go ashore with them and look around. There were eight of us and we had quite a nice evening -- officers club

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for drinks and dinner and then topped the evening off visiting the various cabarets. Life is so different down here, it is quaint with its native tongue, customs, etc. It is exactly like the way it is written about in magazines and books. You would really enjoy seeing it all. I know exactly how exciting Louise and Perry found it when they took that trip some years ago -- of course they were on a pleasure cruise and I am not which makes a lot of difference -- they were looking for excitement and I only find it when I can as a pastime.

I cannot get over the fact what ~~three~~ five or six days will do in changing the weather, climate and all natural conditions. It is really hard to believe.

Going back to my remarks about last night -- I had the best filet mignon for dinner last night -- it was over an inch thick smothered with mushrooms and was it good. Of course down here there is a plenty of everything -- you would hardly know there was a war going on -- that is as far as the native population is concerned.

And so darling this is the reason why I am writing to you early this morning. I want this letter to go out in the mornings male. I do hope that it will not take so terribly long for this letter to reach you.

I guess that you have been wondering where I am and why you have not heard from me either by telephone or by

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letter -- but you should know by this time that when you do not hear from me I am at sea someplace and unable to write. Of course too, the further I get away from the United States the longer and more difficult it will be for my letters to reach you. However regardless of the distance I am away from you I will write you every day when I am in port and can get a letter mailed to you.

Please do not worry about me darling because I am feeling fine and eating like a horse. Also am beginning to develop a beautiful sun tan that will make "Kenny" pretty jealous of. I guess that you had better keep those white shirts until I ask you to send them to me. I do not think it wise to mail them now while I am moving around so much -- they may get lost. I bought some

additional clothes before I left back in the U.S.A. and if I need some other additional things which I will most likely need from time to time I will buy them with my money. And so if I do this I will not be able to send you home as much money as I have been doing in the past. However I will still send what I can spare back to you because I know you need it.

Tell me, dear, how are you and Margaret Anne? At night when I was standing my watch on the bridge and a big moon shining down on me I reminisced (thought) of you and Margaret Anne -- wondered how you were -- wished that I could get some

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word to you to tell you where I was -- thought of the grand times that we have had together in the past and even almost shedding a few tears of loneliness to be back with you and Margaret Anne in our home and return to the good old days when we were together at all times.

Listen darling this life is no cinch. Of course its fascinating, interesting, thrilling and exciting, but I would chuck the whole damn thing overboard if I could only be back home with you. I miss you terribly, darling and if it wasn't for your picture here to console me I don't know what I would do.

How is Margaret Anne? Is she still growing like a weed? I guess that it wont be long before she will be quite a young lady. Have you had her christened yet? If not when are you planning to? Why dont you have Ralph take some pictures of you and her and then some of both of you together. If I cant come home to see you, you can at least send recent pictures of yourselves so that I can keep up with you. I am sorry I cannot send you some

pictures of myself, but have not had the opportunity to get any. But will when I get a chance.

How is everything going for you at home? -- that is financially? Are you getting gradually squared away with your bills, is Ralph going to help you fill out the income tax -- is the home all right and how is the car holding up? Please pardon all the questions but am just curious.

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Darling, did not receive a letter from you the day before I left and so far up till now have not received any mail from down here. ^ The last letter I have received from you is dated 2/1/43. I do not know whether any mail has arrived down here for us yet or not. I am going to inquire about it when I go ashore to mail this letter to you. Please darling whenever you get a chance, write to me because I love to hear from you. Even tho the letters may be ancient, your letters are very consoling.

How is mother and dad? So far have not had a chance to write to them but I'm going to write to them tonight if I can. Give them my love and tell them I am well and think about them often.

Darling, I have no idea how long I will be here, but I don't think it will be long. And then I will be on my way again. And so please do not worry if you do not hear from me for two weeks or even a month. You see we are able to stay out for a month at a time if we have to. However darling you will hear from me as often as I can get a letter mailed to you.

Please be patient darling -- I know it is tough. But try and see it through. Just remember that I love you, love you more than anything in the world and that I worship you and am looking forward to returning to you and Margaret Anne as soon as I can.

Love

Morton.

(OVER)

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In case you have lost my address here it is again:

U.S.S LCI(L) 225

Flotilla 5, Group 15

Amphibious Force

South Pacific Fleet

% Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thursday, February 18, 1943

2100

Dear Georgia --

Have just pushed my work aside to take time to write a letter to you. Was unable to write to you last night on account of a meeting that the commander

had scheduled for all the commanding officers of the ships in his flotilla. I was busy right up to the minute the meeting was scheduled and it lasted until after 2200 and by the time I got back aboard my ship it was too late to write.

I thought that after we left Norfolk after going all through that time up there as busy as a little beaver outfitting the ship, taking on supplies, stores, spare parts, food stuffs, fuel oil, etc. that when we reached our next port things would be much softer. But no, as a matter of fact am just as busy, if not busier. Before I had completely secured my ship to the dock when we first arrived here a couple of officers came aboard followed by a stream of workmen to make changes, alterations, improvements, asking for reports, etc pertaining to the ship and ever since we have been docked here have been on the go day and night. It sure is a great life. My life is like a doctor with his office in his home -- he is subject to call twenty-four hours a day.

Have not been to town since the first ~~time~~ night I arrived here. Remember I told you about it in my last letter to you. However this afternoon had to go over to another base which is about ten miles inland and drove over in a station wagon. This

was my first opportunity to see the island country which is comparatively rough and covered with heavy jungle tropical growth. It was very picturesque and interesting and all so different from the country I have been used to seeing.

Darling, did you ever receive my package that I mailed to you just prior to th leaving the "States" Remember, you asked me to send some to you if I could. I hope that it will help you out until you can get some.

Also did you get my cable that I sent to you last night? I had a cable blank on board ship and wrote it here and asked one of my crew who also was going to send a cable home to his wife to send mine for me since I was too busy to go into town: That brief little cable cost me \$3.40! Enough, eh what! But I did want to get some word to you and since I cannot call you by telephone that was the next best thing.

So far we have not received any mail since we arrived down here so of course have not received any of your letters which makes it awfully difficult to write a one sided conversation. You know it takes a letter which has just arrived from home to inspire you to write one back immediately. Also another reason which makes writing difficult is that I cannot tell you where I am, what I am doing, where I am going and which are the most interesting things for you to read. However, dear, you must be satisfied wh with what sketchy letters I write. I have a lot of interesting things I would like to tell you, but cant. But some day I will be

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able to tell you all about everything.

How long does it take my letters to reach you? I am sending them "air mail special" in order to expedite them to you. Even with that I guess that it will

take them a week to reach you. Of course as I continue my way en route it will take even much longer for them to reach you.

Darling, tell me, how are you and Margaret Anne? Are you both well? Please take good care of yourself darling and dont work too hard. How are mother and dad? I have not been able to write to them yet, but am going to try to tonight. Please tell them when you hear from me and give them my love, and tell them I am thinking about them even if I do not write.

Well, Georgia darling if I am going to write another letter tonight I guess I had better bring this one to a close. Tell Margaret Anne that her daddy is thinking about her all the time and wants her to grow up to be a nice young lady so that when he returns home he will be real proud of her. And now to you darling, your husband thinks constantly of you, wondering how you are and what you are doing. Every night when I get into bed I lie there and think of you for about fifteen minutes before I go to sleep. You know darling that I love you, love you more than anything else in the world and that you mean everything to me and that I am patiently waiting until we can be back together again.

Love and kisses to both of you

Morton.

CORRESPONDENCE

[The next scanned page (pg. 77 of the scanned file) is a duplicate of the above typing, starting after the "3", indicating page 3, above. I will repeat it here to exactly match the scan. It can be deleted later if it was just a scanning error. It is possible that the creator of the scrapbook copied the page and included it in the original scrapbook.]

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Love and kisses to both of you

Morton.

CORRESPONDENCE

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[The next scanned page (pg. 78 in computer file) begins as follows, mid-sentence with no heading/salutation, so there is probably a page missing in the scans or originals. Need to consult original in archive.]

[Possibly Friday, February 19, 1943? Missing first page.]

very difficult to write to you since not having heard from you for such a long time. However will struggle along writing you what I can and keep on asking my questions until I hear from you. If we do not receive any mail here before we leave it will be over another month before we will have the opportunity of having the mail to catch up with us. But as long as I can mail letters to you and let you know how I am that helps a lot. However I am very much concerned about you and Margaret Anne and would love to get your letters and hear all about you.

Are you getting your navy allotment checks all right? If you do not get them on time be sure and call the Navy Dept. about it.

Today my ship along with some others were assigned to another flotilla being formed down here. It is now Flotilla 7, group 19 of the South West Pacific Fleet. I will give you my new ships address at the end of the letter. I think that this assignment will be pretty definite. I have also been designated as division commander of a division of six ships which is a good break for me. However there is still no sign of a promotion coming as yet -- but hope to get one in the next couple of months.

How are you and Margaret Anne making out? Do you still have to give her her 2 A.M. feeding or has she outgrown that by now. How much does she weigh ~~way~~ now? I suppose that she is getting pretty big too. Does she still look like her daddy or is she changing to be a pretty girl and look like her mother.

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Tell me darling, how are you feeling these days. Have you gotten back down to your desired 120 lbs yet or are you still trying -- please pardon my kidding! Has the doctor made a check over of you yet and what did he say about your physical set up.

Have you heard from Gene and Esther lately? The next time you write to them tell "Gene" that I still have his letter and sometime when I get the time I will answer it. And so in the meantime say hello to them for me.

Well darling outside of saying that I am still here in the same port and will be for a short while there is nothing more that I can tell you (permitted to tell.) I am feeling fine and am enjoying the different type of weather very much.

Darling, please remember that I love you very, very much and miss you just as much, that I could just take you in my arms and give you a great big kiss. Tell Margaret Anne that her "daddy" says hello. And to you, mommy, your husband says again that he loves you very much. And so darling good night until my next letter to you.

Love

Morton

My new ships address is:

U.S.S LCI (L) 225

Flotilla 7, Group 19

Amphibious Force

Southwest Pacific Fleet

% Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

CORRESPONDENCE

Saturday, February 20, 1943

2110

Dear Georgia --

Well darling, here it is another Saturday night and I am sitting here alone in my quarters. Ogive went into town to have a little fun. I had some work to get done and so told him to go on into town and I would look after this ship. He and I are the only officers aboard since I put John into the naval hospital when we docked here last Tuesday afternoon. He has been in the hospital ever since and what even makes matters worse I do not believe that they will release him before we leave here and so have already started making arrangements to get a new executive officer assigned to me from down here. Sent a dispatch to Washington day before yesterday requesting permission to obtain an officer from down here. So far have not received the authorization, but already have a couple of men lined up. And so expect to have my new officer on board by Monday or Tuesday, the latest.

And now going back to John's illness. He was stricken ill in the afternoon of the day before we were scheduled to leave from Little Creek. Call the flotilla

doctor in that night and he said that he had a temperature of 102 and would look at him the next morning before we sailed. That he did and said that John's temperature was still 102 but thought that his illness was due to the reaction of the yellow fever injection

2

shot he had taken the day before. He told him to remain in bed until he felt better. He stayed in bed for the first four days of the trip, but seeing that Ogive and I were getting pretty well flagged out from standing his watch as well as our own which meant a watch of twelve hours a day apiece which ~~h~~[undecipherable] is pretty hard on a person when underway for any length of time, he said that he felt better and would stand his watch. However we could see that he was still ill and we made things as easy for him as we could. However when we finally reached port he admitted that he was still feeling pretty low and running a temperature. I immediately got in touch with a flotilla doctor who was on the ship that docked next to us and after carefully looking him over and taking his temperature which was 102 he said that he had better go to the hospital. A half hour later he was on the way in an ambulance. I was talking to the doctor this morning and he said that the hospital still had him under observation and that he had some kind of neurotic trouble affecting the central ~~nerveous~~ nervous system which caused him to be dopey, have a temperature, have poor reflex action and tend to be sleepy all the time. And so it looks as if I will leave him behind. I talked to him this afternoon over the phone and he said that he was feeling better but that the hospital was still making tests on him but but had ^not told him what was the trouble with him but he had heard that he was being replaced by another man which made him realize that he would be detained here for sometime. I feel really sorry for him.

3

It has been another busy day for me, darling, but did manage to get away for an hour over to the ships service store to get some tooth paste, soap, razor blades, comb, cigarettes, shaving cream, a new belt, sun lotion, noxzema, shoe polish and brush and other miscellaneous items that I needed. Tried to get a couple new pairs of white undershorts but they were out of my size but will try again Monday. Bought myself one of those pith tropical sun helmets which everybody wears down here to keep the bright sun off of your face. It is very comfortable to wear.

A couple of hours ago a couple of the skippers in my flotilla stepped aboard and wanted me to go over to the officers club here on the base to have a couple of drinks with them but refused. Have not been out on any pleasure since the first night we arrived. However I have made plans to go out this coming Monday night with two other commanding officers in my flotilla. It most probably will be the last time before we sail. And then when when we leave here we will be at sea for a long time before we will be able to put our feet on shore again.

We are still taking on stores and supplies, etc. It seems to be an endless task but I guess that we will get squared away pretty much in the next couple of days. There just seems to be no time to stop and catch a breath -- you are on the go every minute of the day. Don't tell me that the navy life is a soft one. I believe I have worked harder since I have been aboard my ship than I have ever worked in my life.

Tell me darling how are you and Margaret Anne? I think about the both of you most of the time wondering what you are doing and wishing that I were home to be with you. So far we have not received any mail and so of course have not received any of your letters. I guess someday they will catch up to me or me to them.

Darling the censors came around early this morning and informed us that we would have to curtail our mailing address. I guess that you noticed that part of the return address was scratched out on my last nights letter to you. And so I will give you my revised ships address.

Darling it is after 2200 and I am awfully tired and am ready to go to bed after I censor about twelve of the crew's letters. And so dearest please excuse me if I draw this letter to a close now. Say hello to Margaret Anne for me and remember darling, I love you very very much and think about you constantly. – Good night!

Love

Morton

Revised address:

Lieut. (j.q.) Allan M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.

U.S.S. LCI (L) 225

% Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.

TELEGRAM

Western Union

G85NPC 20 WIRELESS

NS USNAV 834PM FEB 17 1943

LC MRS GEORGIA E THOMAS

5506 GLENWOOD ROAD BETHESDA-MD

DARLING ARRIVED SAFELY IN FOREIGN PORT EVERYTHING FINE.

MORTON THOMAS

437 AM

[Hand-written in lower right corner:]

Wi 4406 Addsee

PC 730a-18 Mailed

TELEGRAM

Postal Telegraph

LC 152 W.NB252 N.FB142

LF 63F (ELEVEN) EFM=WIRELESS VIA MACKAY=F USNAV=

=EFO MRS GEORGIA THOMAS=

5506 GLENWOOD RD (BETHESDAMD)=

[Stamped:] 1943 APR 30 PM 1 42

LETTERS RECEIVED MANY THANKS VERY HAPPY TO HEAR FROM YOU
DEAREST AM FIT AND WELL YOU ARE MORE THAN EVER IN MY
THOUGHTS AT THIS TIME=

ALLAN M THOMAS.

[Handwritten on stamped area:]

Number Wi4406

Phoned to Adse
Time 2 pm
By AI to be Mailed

TELEGRAM

Postal Telegraph

LA65 W.NA37 LC185N EFM IMP= SANSORIGNE PUSNC

[Stamped:] 1943 APR 12 AM 4 45

MRS GEORGIA THOMAS=

5506 GLENWOODRD BETHESDAMD=

ALL MY LOVE DEAREST YOU ARE MORE THAN EVER IN MY THOUGHTS
AT THIS TIME PLEASE DONT WORRY=

ALLAN THOMAS.

[Handwritten on stamped area:]

Number Wi4406

Phoned to Add

Time 810a

By Z to be Mailed

TELEGRAM

Western Union

WN113 (157 120 32) VIA RCA SANSORIGENE USNAV=

[Stamped:] 1943 MAY 6 PM 7 21

EFM MRS GEORGIA E THOMAS=

5506 GLENWOOD ROAD BETHESDA MD=

MY LOVE AND GREETINGS ON MOTHER'S DAY. I WISH WE WERE TOGETHER ON THIS SPECIAL OCCASION. ALL MY BEST WISHES FOR A SPEEDY REUNION. ALL MY LOVE DEAREST.=

ALLAN THOMAS JR.

CORRESPONDENCE

(blank unlined paper)

[The next page of the computer file scan, pg. 86, appears to be the missing first page of a previous letter, Feb. 19 1943. Should I insert it there? I am unsure if the scan or the original scrapbook/album is out of order.]

Friday, February, 19, 1943

2110

Dear Georgia --

Have just finished my work for the night and now for a few lines to you. Have really been on the go all day today. Was underway at 0700 this morning and went over to another place in the harbor to get things done to the ship (unmentionable) and returned shortly after ~~lunch~~ noon only to find three enormous truck loads of stores and provisions waiting for us to be taken on board plus other items.

Expect to be here until sometime the middle of next week getting things squared away and ready. And then -- the long journey. However up till the time we leave I will continue writing to you because after we leave it will be longer than a month before you will hear from me again. But nevertheless whenever we get to a place where I can write to you and mail the letter I will very promptly because I want to keep you informed as well as I can even if I cannot

reveal my location. You will just have to do some good guessing -- and you are pretty good at that.

Last night I wrote a letter to Mother and Dad after I finished writing to you and I sure did have a good sign of relief because I have been trying to get a letter off to them for some time. I guess they will be pleased to hear from me.

So far have not received any mail since we arrived here and so have not received any of your letters which makes it

[End of scan.]

CORRESPONDENCE

[The next scanned page, pg. 87 of 87, is recognizable as a duplicate of an earlier page. I will paste it here again -- it can be edited out if this was a scanning error.]

[This is the same as pg. 2 of the letter dated Wednesday, February 17, 1943.]

for drinks and dinner and then topped the evening off visiting the various cabarets. Life is so different down here, it is quaint with its native tongue, customs, etc. It is exactly like the way it is written about in magazines and books. You would really enjoy seeing it all. I know exactly how exciting Louise and Perry found it when they took that trip some years ago -- of course they were on a pleasure cruise and I am not which makes a lot of difference -- they were looking for excitement and I only find it when I can as a pastime.

I cannot get over the fact what ~~three~~ five or six days will do in changing the weather, climate and all natural conditions. It is really hard to believe.

Going back to my remarks about last night -- I had the best filet mignon for dinner last night -- it was over an inch thick smothered with mushrooms and was it good. Of course down here there is a plenty of everything -- you would hardly know there was a war going on -- that is as far as the native population is concerned.

And so darling this is the reason why I am writing to you early this morning. I want this letter to go out in the mornings male. I do hope that it will not take so terribly long for this letter to reach you.

I guess that you have been wondering where I am and why you have not heard from me either by telephone or by

[End of scan.]

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L)225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Wednesday, Sept.29, 1943
2000 - #44

My dearest Georgia,

Anchored here in the bay tonight at our base about an hour ago after a busy day of training. And the day has been a miserable one with heavy continuous rain and fairly cold. And so it seems good to be out of my wet clothes and storm gear and comfortably

sitting here in my quarters where it is nice and warm and dry. Am pretty tired tonight having been up and underway since 4:30 A.M. this morning and just as soon as I finish this letter to you I am going to pile into my bunk.

There was very little mail for the ship tonight and I did not receive any mail except a couple of official letters. However I hope to receive some letters from you in tomorrows mail. By the way have you received any more of my letters. You should receive at least one or two letters a week from me because I try to write to you regularly if possible every other day which would total at least three a week.

However, darling, please do not worry about me when my letters are late in reaching you because I am very well and safe. And at the present time I am not in or near any combat zone so am out of danger.

Darling, I am sorry to hear that Peggy has not received the nice toy bear that was sent to her. As I told you in one of my previous letters the local postal authorities would not guarantee its safe passage across to her and so it may have become lost. I am awfully disappointed about it because it was a very nice toy bear and I thought Peggy would enjoy playing with it. However still be on the lookout for it because it may still reach you.

Did you receive the snapshots that I enclosed in my last letter to you. How do you like them? I don't think that they are so terrible, do you?

Well, darling, how is everything going along for you at home. Have you been able to rent the house yet and also have you decided to go visit Esther and Gene. I would if I were you!

How is our little darling daughter these days. I suppose that she is still growing like a little weed and getting cuter each day. Has she

begun to learn to walk yet and also how is her talking coming along. My, how I wish I could see her. Please tell her that her daddy thinks about her often and loves her very dearly. Give her a big hug and kiss for me, will you mommy - thanks.

Well, darling, here it is near the end of September and I have been away from the states and you for eight months already. My, how time does fly - it wont be long now before Christmas will be upon us. And then again, my dearest wife it seems like we have been separated for ages. Oh, how I yearn for the day when I can return home to you and Peggy and never have to leave you again. My darling you are constantly in my thoughts all the time regardless where I am or what I am doing. I love you very dearly and am terribly lonely for you. Always remember, my dearest, that I love you now and forever - I LOVE YOU.

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A. M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. I always remember our special
time together every night at 10 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Friday, Oct. 1, 1943
2130 - #45

My dearest Georgia,

Received your #75 letter dated Sept. 18 in tonights mail and

Was so glad to hear from you. However have still to receive your #67 and #74 letters to complete your series of letters to date.

Darling, I am very glad to hear that you have rented the house! And to only a married couple with no children and at \$13500 per month - gee that is swell! However I think that Perry V. is pretty cheap to collect 5% out of the rental money for his fee. I certainly wouldn't do it to Louise knowing that her husband was in the service. However that is characteristic of Perry and so am not surprised.

I am very glad to hear that you have decided to go up to visit Esther and Gene for the winter. I know that you will not regret making that decision in spite of all the opposition you received from mother and dad and also Alice. I am sure that both Esther and Gene will do all they can to make both you and Peggy comfortable and happy. I sincerely wish you a very nice trip up on the train. From your letter it sounds that you are going up with Mr. & Mrs. Thuney - is that right? Please give Esther and Gene my best regards and tell them that I think that it is very nice of them to invite you to be their guest during the long dreary winter months. I certainly do wish that I could be with all of you there - wouldn't we have a great old time - just like the old times we used to have. I think about those good times the four of us used to have together and wish this d--- war was over so that we could enjoy them again.

Am so glad to hear that Peggy is recovering so nicely from her burns. I hope that no scars will remain to mar her lovely skin. I think that it is wonderful to hear that she is beginning to learn to take a few steps when you hold her by your hands. You be sure and tell her that her daddy is very proud of her and loves her very dearly. Please give her a big hug and kiss for me -will you mommy

Well, darling, as for myself I am fine and in good health. Everything is going along just about the same and so there is not much

to say. Had two officers (one navy and one army) on board this evening for dinner as my guests and they just left about a half hour ago after a very pleasant evening. Today we finished up our present training program and so have a few days to ourselves to get things squared away. If I am able to find the time I might slip away for a day or so and enjoy myself. However I don't think that I will go down to the "Big City" this time because I will not have enough time.

Darling I certainly am awfully lonely for you and miss you terribly. I continually yearn for the day when I can return home to you and we can pick up right where we left off. I love you very dearly, my darling wife and you are constantly in my thoughts. Remember always dearest that I Love You!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Monday, Oct. 4, 1943
1530 - #46

My dearest Georgia,

Am writing this letter to you on board my ship which is tied up at a dock here in a port down the coast a short ways from my regular base. We come down here every other week to take on fresh water, supplies, provisions, etc. We came down last Saturday morning and plan to go back up tomorrow. We are staying down here

a little longer this time in order to take on fuel and the usual things plus some minor repairs and overhauls in preparation for a journey that we have to make very shortly. And so am being kept pretty busy on board. However was invited to a dinner and a party afterwards at Mrs. Mackey's who I met about a month ago when I was down here before. Both she and her husband are very nice and they have a beautiful home. Grant Fitts, executive officer of the 230 was invited also and so we went together. Spent Saturday night with ^them and all day yesterday returning back to the ship last night. Went to the golf club yesterday afternoon where they are members and had a pleasant time drinking cocktails on the veranda, stayed for supper there and then drank and danced that night with two very nice girls that they knew and ^had invited them to join us. Have been busy all day getting things squared away. But tonight Grant and I are going out to Mrs. Mackey's again to spend the evening.

Well darling I suppose that you are all packed and ready to get underway on your trip to Minneapolis to visit Esther and Gene. I hope that you have a very pleasant trip up and that Peggy will be a real good girl. I know that Alice and mother and dad will miss the both of you very much, but after all you have to consider your own welfare first.

Have the people moved into the house? I am so glad to hear that you think that they will make very desirable tenants. And with only the two of them there should not be an awful lot of wear and tear on our furniture. But don't let it worry you because we can always get new furniture.

Darling please say hello to Esther and Gene for me and ask him to drop me a line whenever he gets a chance. I would like to hear from him.

Well darling there may be a lapse of about a week between this letter and my next one to you. I think you understand why. However

just as soon as I am able to I will ^get a letter off to you. Because darling I love you very dearly. As a matter of fact if it were not for you I just couldn't carry on like I do. Knowing that you are patiently waiting for me to return home to you inspires me to carry on. Darling you are constantly in my thoughts and I am very lonely for you.

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Please give Peggy a big hug and kiss for me.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Wednesday, Oct. 6, 1943
1415 - #47

My dearest Georgia,

I guess that you will be surprised to hear that I am still here at our operating base. Have had a brief delay in our plans. Came back up here from the port down the line where I had been over the week-end yesterday morning and have been pretty busy ever since taking gear on board and getting things squared away. However since there is a temporary lull in my activities for the moment I am taking advantage of it to write a short note to you.

Last night "Bill" Sykes had a little "farewell" ^stag party for five of us on board his ship and we had a very enjoyable time. He had his usual fresh oysters and stout and beer. He said that the fresh

oysters were specially for me because he knew how much I liked them. I guess that I ate about three or four dozen - and boy were they good! I had been on board my ship for dinner earlier in the evening. Just as the party was breaking up he took me to one side and said how sorry he was to see me leave because the two of us were just getting to be the best of friends and he enjoyed my company so much. He went down on my ship with me as my guest when we went down the coast to the other port for the week-end and we had some good times together.

Darling your #74 letter dated Sept. 16 arrived in last nights' mail And was so glad to hear from you. However have not yet received your #67 letter as yet and that is the only one out of your series of letters that I have not received. I suppose it will be popping up one of these fine days.

Well darling I suppose that today you are very busy and excited getting ready to catch the afternoon train to go up to Gene and Esther. I think that it is very nice that you are able to go along with Mr. & Mrs. Thuney. They will be a help and company for you during the trip. Please give them my best regards. And to you, darling, I wish you and Peggy a very pleasant trip up.

As for myself, dearest, I am very well and in the best of health. I am looking forward to our little trip up the line because it will be a change. But on the other hand have met some very nice people while being stationed here and do hate to leave them because they have been very nice to me. Also it will mean the "finis" to my visits down to the "Big City" because I will be too far away. I have had some very nice times down there too. However that is the navy life for you -always on the go from one port to the next -making friends and then parting from them.

Well darling please never worry about ^me because I will always be all right. The only thing that gets me down is my loneliness for you.

Darling, I love you very very much and miss you terribly. Please give Peggy a big hug and kiss for me and to you, my darling wife, I send a thousand hugs and kisses which someday I will redeem twofold. Please take good care of Peggy and yourself because the two of you mean everything to me. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Sunday, Oct. 10, 1943
1925 - #48

My dearest Georgia,

Arrived here at our new operation's base this morning after a very good trip up the coast. Have been busy most of the day reporting-in and getting various matters squared away. Have a little more business to attend to tomorrow morning and then I will be completely squared away and ready for training operations similar to that which we have been doing for the past five months down at our former place. Everything is gradually moving northward and so we must move along with them as they go in order to carry out our part of the training. However darling am still in the same country as I have been ever since I have been over here except that I have moved further north up the coast.

Do you remember "Joe" Sibigtroth that was out at Columbus

with me (he and "Marge") Well several months ago I detached his ship that he is engineering officer on to come up here for training work. And they have been up here ever since. And so when I pulled in here this morning he was the first person to greet me. I had him on board this noon for lunch with me and we had a great time "batting - the - bull". He looks fine and we had a lot to talk about. Of course he wanted to know how you and Peggy were and he told me that Marge has a grand position teaching school in New York City.

Well, darling, I suppose that by this time you are completely settled and ~~and~~adjusted in the Thuney's household. Did you have a good trip up on the train and also how did Peggy stand the trip. I hope that everything went well. How do you like Minneapolis? I bet that it seems good to be with Esther and Gene again. I only wish I were there with you too. Wouldn't it be great to have the old foursome together like in the past. Please give my very best regards to both Esther and Gene and tell them that I think that it is very nice and thoughtful of them to invite you to spend the winter months with them and that I certainly do appreciate their generous hospitality.

Well, sweetheart, there isn't much to say about myself except that I am fine and in the best of health. Please don't worry about me, my sweet, because I am still out of the combat areas and perfectly safe.

Darling please let me know when you get the increased allotment. It was supposed to go into effect Oct. 1 and so your November 1 allotment check should be \$250. If you do not get it please let me know as soon as possible. Still have not collected my back lieutenant's pay but hope to by the end of this month. Just as soon as I do I will either cable it ^to you or send you a money order. I know that you can use it and so will send it to you as soon as possible. Darling, in regards to your making arrangements about having the allotment checks forwarded to you or have the Navy change the address I will leave entirely up to you because I do not know how to advise you.

Ask Gene what he thinks about it and if necessary write the Bureau of Naval Personnel and ask their advice. However I am most anxious that the checks reach you safely.

2

Just before I left on the trip up here I received a nice letter from Mother and Dad and also a very sweet birthday card from Mrs. Cheney with a very nice note attached to it. Mother and dad said that they were very sorry to see you and Peggy leave to go up and visit the Thuneys and that they were going to miss you very much. They said that they looked forward to each Sunday to see you and Peggy. I believe that they have gotten very much attached to Peggy and love her very dearly.

For some unknown reason, my dearest, darling wife, I am very blue and down in the dumps tonight in spite of having just arrived at a new base with new faces and excitement around. Just before I started to write this letter to you I got out all of the pictures that you have sent to me of Peggy and you and went all through them several times. I treasure them like old "Midas" did his gold. Darling I certainly do wish I were back home with you and Peggy where I should be. I have gotten so disgusted with this life that I am living. My place is with you, making you a home, supporting you and giving you my love and devotion instead of being here. We were never meant to be separated like this because we had so much in common such as a lovely home, a nice baby and a beautiful love and companionship. Oh, my darling, regardless of the tremendous distance that separates us I still hold you very deep in my heart. You are constantly in my thoughts both day and night regardless where I am or what I am doing. You and Peggy mean everything to me and nobody else could ever change it. Dearest, you are my only love and will only be forever. Always remember, darling, that I love you very, very dearly and miss you terribly. I pray every night that this terrible war will come to an end soon and I can safely return to you and pick up right where we left off and we shall

never be separated again. Oh, my darling wife, how I long to take you into my arms and hold you tight and smother your lovely lips with tender and passionate kisses. Always, remember that I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Please give Peggy a great big hug and kiss for me.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.

U.S.S. LCI (L) 225

% Fleet Post Office

San Francisco, Calif.

Tuesday, October 12, 1943

2015 - #49

My dearest Georgia,

In tonight's ship mail that came aboard were two nice letters from you , #66 and #67 dated Sept. 3 and 4 respectively, your lovely birthday greeting card and the very nice birthday card from Peggy. It was the first personal mail that I have received since I have been up here at this new training base.

It is very strange that this little group of mail was so delayed in reaching me. It has taken over a month for it to reach me. Usually it only takes from fifteen to twenty days for it to arrive at its destination. However I guess that it got delayed somewhere along the route. And so with the arrival of these letters I have received up to date all of your letters up to and including #75 dated Sept. 18.

Darling I enjoyed the clever birthday greeting card that you sent to me. It is very characteristic of the two of you and our association and I got a big “kick” out of it. Also the birthday card from Peggy was very sweet and thoughtful and it made me feel very proud to get a card from my young daughter.

Judging from the remarks in your #66 letter you must have had a wonderful time at Ocean City, Md. visiting Perry and Louise. You sure did consume a lot of liquor and I wish I could have joined you on the hard shell crab and soft shell crab feasts that you had. Have not had any crabs over here as yet, but have been enjoying oysters and lobsters whenever I am able to get them.

Darling, I am so glad to hear that the doctor in his medical check-up on Peggy says that she is doing so grand and also that she is recovering from her burns so nicely. That goes to prove that you are certainly giving her the best of care to have such good results. I am very proud of my little family and love them both very dearly.

I am so glad to hear that you are going to have Van Durand take a picture of you to send to me. It will make the nicest Christmas present that I could wish for. I hope that the picture turns out to be very lovely of you because I have been wanting a nice picture of you for sometime. If I cannot have you (in person) with me the next best thing I can have then is a nice photograph of you to carry with me wherever I go or wherever I am. However, darling, I would welcome nice snapshots of you either alone or with Peggy whenever you can take any. I think that there is nothing nicer than a series of informal or action snapshots of people.

Darling, in regards to my whereabouts that you wrote about in your #67 letter you are “cold” on 1; “hot” on 2 and “very cold” on 3. you mentioned of another place in the same paragraph that would be “very hot”. However in my last journey up the coast (northward) am in

the general proximity of another large to city. Try and guess where I am now and I will let you know whether you are "hot" or "cold". I would like for you to be able to follow me if you can as I travel along from one place to another.

Well, sweetheart, how is everything going along for you and Peggy up at Minneapolis. Do you like it up there? And how are you and Esther making out with your two respective children. Do they get along pretty well

2

together? Please say hello to Esther and Gene for me and tell Gene to write me a letter whenever he gets a chance as I would like to hear from him.

Darling, I am so glad that you enjoy my letters so much. It is very difficult to write an interesting letter to you because I cannot tell you much about what I am doing or where I am or what the place is like. I have to be very careful what I say and cannot write long newsy letters like you do. However I do the best I can with what little I can talk about. Of course the main thing I have to say to you is how much I love you and miss you.

Oh, my darling, dearest wife, I love you more and more as each day passes. And the only thing that keeps my spirits up is knowing that you are patiently waiting for me to return home to you and Peggy. Darling, it is a grand feeling to know that you have a lovely, loving wife waiting for you to come home to. And I pray every night that someday soon I will be able to return home to you and take you in my arms and embrace you and kiss you and never leave your side again forever. Always remember, darling, that I love you very dearly and miss you terribly. Again many thanks for the lovely birthday cards. Please give Peggy a big hug and kiss for me and tell her that her daddy is very proud of her and loves her very much. And of course darling you are my only true love. I shall

love you forever - I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Wednesday, Oct. 13, 1943
2015 - #50

My dearest Georgia,

In last night's mail that came aboard I received three more letters from you and was so glad to hear from you. The letters I received were #77, #78, and #81 dated Sept. 23, Sept. 26 and Oct. 3 respectively. Your #76, and # 79, and #80 letters are yet to be received to complete the series of letters up to and including #81 of Oct. 3.

All of your letters are so interesting and complete in detail that when I read them it seems as though you were actually here talking to me. I read all three of them over several times last night so that I could thoroughly digest all the things you had to say. I think that the four photographs you took at the beach are splendid. You and Peggy are very good in them and the one of Peggy standing in the Teeter - babe is precious of her. I shall add the four pictures to my collection which I cherish very dearly. At least three times a week I get my collection of photographs out and look them over and say to myself that I am a very fortunate person to have such a lovely wife and baby daughter waiting at home for me to return to after the war. Darling, I am very proud of my little family and

am constantly talking about it and showing the pictures of it to people that I meet over here.

Thanks a lot for the nice birthday greetings that Peggy and you sent to me in your nice letter of Sept.23. Also thanks again for the two lovely birthday greeting cards that I received in yesterdays mail from Peggy and you. I am so glad to hear the Peggy had her first tooth on my birthday. I should say that was a nice present for all of us.

I am glad to hear the you received the photographs taken up in the country that I mailed to you and that you like them. I thought that they were very good and that you would like to have them to put into my scrap book. But, darling, please dont get jealous of Pearl because as I have told you before in my previous letters you are the only person I love and will ever love forever. Pearl knows all about you and Peggy and that I am madly in love with you and so you have nothing to concern yourself about. It just so happened that I was very fortunate to meet such a nice person as she and have not met anybody nicer than she over here and so whenever I was in the "Big City" always went around with her when there. I must admit that I think she is very nice, very attractive, has loads of personality and fun and has been very nice to me. However in my last jump northward up here I have left her behind and the "Big City" and I guess I will never have the opportunity of enjoying either again.

This base where I am now stationed is way out in the country far away from everything. It is a two and a half hour drive to the city which is not nearly as large as the "Big City". It is very dead here and I do not care very much for the place. Of course there is an officers club on the base with a bar and also they have moving pictures three times a week. I have been to one of the shows. It was about two years old, but nevertheless pretty good and I enjoyed it.

And so Bruce Roberts is in the big show over in the Mediterranean Area

and Kenny is in India. This war is certainly scattering our friends all over the world. I suppose Charlie Ludwig will be leaving the States anytime now.

Darling, I guess that you had quite a big job getting everything squared away around the house and things moved over to the folks and some of your belongings shipped by express in preparation for your visit with Esther and Gene. I certainly admire your spunk and courage for doing the things you do. I guess that you felt very much relieved after everything was completed. Your friends certainly did give some very nice parties for your going out of town. I know that they will miss you. And they have already told me in their letters.

Darling, I am so glad to hear that you enjoy my letters so much. Sometimes I am afraid that they are a bit dull because there is not much that I can write about. However I do the best I can. But, darling, it is no effort at all to tell you how much I love you and that I miss you terribly and wish I were back home with you and Peggy and the three of us united into a happy family like it should be. Oh, my darling, never worry about my ever stopping to love you. I could never do that, because I have you locked tightly in my heart and you will never escape from it. Because my darling you are the only person I love and will ever love forever. Please give Peggy a great big hug and kiss for me and to you my darling wife I send you a thousand hugs and kisses. Always remember, dearest, that I love you very dearly and miss you terribly.

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. I cannot understand why you have not received the bear. It may still show up.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Friday, Oct. 15, 1943
1930 - #51

My dearest Georgia,

Received three letters from you in tonights mail and was so glad to hear from you. In fact I have read them over twice already and plan to read them again after I pile into my bunk before I go to sleep. The letters I received were #76, #79, and #80 dated Sept. 20, 28 and 30th respectively and now with their arrival your series of letters are complete up through your #81 letter dated Oct. 3.

Received the six lovely photographs that were enclosed in two of the letters received and am tickled to death with them. I am completely overwhelmed with excitement from receiving so many nice pictures of you and Peggy. I think that they are all very good and I do greatly appreciate of you having some taken of yourself alone because I have been asking an awful long time for you to send me some snapshots of yourself. After all I am just as much interested in having pictures of you as well as of Peggy. Both of you mean an awful lot to me and that is the reason I like to have pictures of you to see how you look as time passes on. If I cannot be at home with you to see how you look the next best thing is to send me photographs of yourselves so that I can look at you through the medium of your pictures. Oh darling, you just don't realize how much I enjoy looking at the pictures of you and Peggy. I look at my collection of pictures every time before I write a letter to you. They bring both of you right here before me and as I write my letters to you I feel as though I am talking to you right here in my quarters. Darling, sending me nice photographs of you and Peggy is the nicest and loveliest thing that you could send me. I treasure

your pictures with all my heart. I don't think that one picture of you makes you look fat. In fact I think that they are all good of you. By the way, I think that since Peggy was born that you have changed to be even prettier, or should I say more beautiful and lovelier than ever. I can hardly wait for the time when I can rush home to you and see how beautiful and lovely you really are and take you in my arms and hold you real tight and kiss you very ardently.

Darling, thanks a lot for enclosing that letter written by a friend of Barney's in regards to his visit at his summer cottage. By the time I finished reading the letter I had tears in my eyes for laughing so much. I showed it to my other two officers and they just roared with laughter. I think that it is one of the cleverest articles I have ever read.

I am so glad to hear that you got everything squared away at 5506 and your things moved over to the folks. It was very nice of dad to take off from work that afternoon to help you move your things over. I know how you hated to leave your home again but please don't feel too bad about. ^it I think you are doing the wise thing by renting the house and going up to visit Esther and Gene for the winter. They will be a lot of company for you and Peggy and the six of you should have a very merry christmas together with two babies to play "Santa Clause" to. My, how I wish I could be with all of you for Christmas. I suppose my christmas will be like any other day - perhaps I will be working that day -who knows? As you say in your letter maybe we can be all together again for Christmas of 944. If so it will be the biggest and happiest Christmas that we have ever had

Speaking of Christmas, my darling, I am very much excited over the Christmas boxes that your planning to send me. I will greatly appreciate whatever

you send to me because I know it will be nice and just what I want

or need. You were always very good about getting presents for me. Darling, I hate to say this and I feel terrible about it but I don't think I will be able to send either you or Peggy any gifts for Christmas. The place where we are stationed now is many, many miles from town and the only time that I get a chance to go in is on a Saturday afternoon or Sunday and all the stores and shops are closed all day Saturday and Sunday and so I don't know how I will be able to do any shopping. I guess I will be lucky if I can get a few Christmas cards to mail. I feel awfully selfish and cheap receiving presents from you and Peggy and not sending any gifts to you. However maybe an opportunity will come up where I might be able to get you something.

Darling I am awfully sorry to hear that you have not received that gift that was sent to Peggy. However since it could not be sent by air-mail it may take two to three months before it arrives. Keep an eye out for it because it may still reach you. I certainly do hope that it has not become lost because it is a nice little gift for Peggy and I think that she would like it.

I am glad to hear that Dad is storing the car in his garage and that he will take care of it for us. I think it is a splendid idea to put it up on blocks to save the tires.

Darling, in regards to your question about our Christmas cards. I think that it would be very nice for you ^to have some cheap cards printed for the three of us worded thus: "Georgia, Morton and Peggy Thomas" Don't you think that would be nice - I do.

The Mac Donalds next door to you must be lovely people and excellent neighbors, judging by all the things they do for you. I am looking forward to meeting them and knowing them as "Hi neighbor". Please say hello to them the next time you write to them.

Well, darling, it is growing late and I have a report to work on

yet before I can retire and so had better say good-night until my next letter to you. Please remember me to all of our friends whenever you see them or write to them. How is Peggy these days? Please tell her that her daddy thinks about her all the time and loves her very dearly. Please give her my customary big hug and kiss that I would give her every night when I put her to bed. And, darling, to you I send my usual thousand hugs and kisses which I sincerely wish I could deliver to you personally. Because, darling, I love you with all my heart. There is no husband in the world that has as nice or lovely ^a wife as I have in you. You are the finest of them all and I worship you and love you with all my heart and soul. You are the only person that really means anything to me and I shall love you always with an ever increasing devotion and love. Putting it into three simple words - I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Our time together is still at 10P.M. every night.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Sunday, Oct. 17, 1943
1900 - #52

My dearest Georgia,

Returned to our training base about an hour ago from a trip down to a small summer resort town where we took on our customary weekly fresh water supply. Since we cannot replenish our fresh water supply here at the base we have to go to the nearest town to get it. Went down

early yesterday morning and remained there until this afternoon. I understand that we will continue the procedure as long as we stay at this base. Went ashore for several hours to look the place over with a couple of officers off of the other ships. There wasn't much doing ashore and so after a nice five mile hike returned to the ships. And then after supper went over on the next ship tied up to me and a group of us played cards all evening. Slept a little late this morning and then just messed around most of the day doing odds and ends and sat on the pier to look at the ships. and so you can see, darling, what a dull week - end I have spent. I am going to top it off by going to the show tonight at the base. After the show I suppose I will stop by the officers club and have a drink and then return aboard early and get a good night's sleep to be ready for a busy week ahead of me.

Did not receive any mail from you tonight. However somewhat did not expect any because I have been receiving so many nice letters from you during the past few days. But regardless of how often I receive letters from you I am always looking forward to each nights mail that comes aboard hoping that there might be still another letter from you. Your letters are the only enlightening pleasure that I have to look forward to. And your lovely letters are so interesting and complete in details that when I read them it seems that you are sitting right here beside me talking to me. Darling, you can never know how much I enjoy your letters and what they mean to me.

I wrote a letter to Mother and Dad this morning and I thanked dad for helping you move your things over to their place. I know that they both hated to see you leave to go visit Esther and Gene because I am quite sure that they love both you and Peggy very dearly in spite of their peculiar way of showing it.

Darling, I think that it is very thoughtful of you to send me a couple of Christmas boxes and I shall look forward to receiving them. It is going to be very lonely not spending Christmas together like we have always done in the past. Remember how we used to prepare for it - you made

your lovely Christmas cookies - getting the tree and ornaments - our stockings which we filled, etc. Those were the great old days and I long for them again. Please see that Peggy has as nice a Christmas as possible and maybe by next Christmas we can all be together to celebrate “a big Christmas.”

Darling, did you have a good trip up on the train and how did Peggy stand the trip? I suppose that by now you are pretty well settled in your new home with the Thuneys. Please give them my best regards and tell Gene to drop me a line when he gets a chance.

Well, darling, everything is going along about the same for me, I am fine and in the best of health. However today I have been somewhat blue and read over your #76, 77, 78, 79, 80, and 81 letters to help cheer me up. Darling, I love you so much, in fact it is about impossible to tell you how much I love you. You mean everything to me and you are constantly in my thoughts. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and darling to you I again send a thousand hugs and kisses. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.

U.S.S. LCI (L) 225

% Fleet Post Office

San Francisco, Calif.

Tuesday, Oct. 19, 1943

1915 - #53

My dearest Georgia,

Have just concluded a very busy day. All during the morning was out on training operations returning back to the base at noon. And this afternoon from 1:30 P.M. to 5 P.M. sat on a conference forming and discussing plans for present and future training operations. After the meeting returned to my ship and had supper and then after supper held a meeting of the commanding officers of the ships in my division. The meeting just finished about fifteen minutes ago. And so you can see how busy I am at times. But it really isn't so bad and I enjoy my work. Sometimes it gets awful boring and monotonous and on my nerves but I suppose I could have a worse assignment and so should not complain. I guess that I am just never satisfied.

Today at the conference I met a young army captain whose home is in Hyattsville, Md. and attended the University of Maryland graduating from there in 1937. It so happened that we knew quite a few of the same people that went to Maryland. And so we had quite a pleasant chat.

Well, darling, everything is going along just about the same for me. We are doing the same old grind of training ~~of training~~ troops as we did down at our former training base. As for myself, darling, I am fine and in perfect health. Have begun to acquire a nice tan since we have been up here.

Have not received any letters from you for about five days now, but hope to receive one in tomorrow's mail. Have you received the gift that was sent to Peggy sometime ago. It should be arriving within the next several weeks. Still keep on the look-out for it because I think that it will eventually reach you.

Well, darling, how are you and Peggy these days? Has she gotten adjusted to her new surroundings at the Thuney's. And how does she and "Mike" get along together. I suppose that she is still growing like a little weed and getting cuter by the day. How is she coming along with her jabbering (talking) and her efforts to walk. It must be very

interesting to watch her form her little habits and ways. I only wish I were able to be home with you and she and watch her grow up.

Well, darling, time is certainly flying by awfully fast. Here it is the middle of October already and I have been over here nearly six months already. Dearest, you can never imagine how lonely I am for you and how much I miss you. I have grown to realize since I have been away from you how much you really mean to me, how much I depended on you and above all how much I really loved you. Oh, my darling, I love you very dearly, in fact above everything else, you are constantly in my thoughts day and night. Darling, I love you with all my heart and will continue doing so forever. I LOVE YOU.

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Give Peggy a big hug and kiss for me

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Thursday, Oct. 21, 1943
1915 - # 54

My dearest Georgia,

Was somewhat disappointed tonight when the ships mail came aboard and there was not a letter from you. I was looking forward all day today to receiving a letter from you since I have not received a letter from you since the latter part of last week. I suppose I will

receive two or three letters in a bunch in tomorrow's mail or the next day. That is the way it usually happens.

Was up early this morning and underway carrying out a special training exercise. Returned from it about mid - afternoon and now we are riding at anchor out in the channel just off of the base. Last night I had to attend a conference and after the conference dropped by the Officers Club for a couple of drinks and then returned aboard my ship. Tonight there is a movie on the base and a few of us are planning to go. It is a fairly old picture called "Gentleman Jim" with Errol Flynn. I don't remember ever seeing it and so am going to take a chance on it being pretty good. And so, darling, in order to go ashore to the show with the other officers I will have to make this letter a short one and write you a nice long one next time. Also since I have not heard from you for some days now I don't have much to talk about.

Everything is going along just about the same for me. As you know in carrying out a training program it is practically the same old thing over and over again. However once every week we have a theoretical tactical problem to carry out which is always different and somewhat interesting. And that helps to break the monotony. As for myself, darling, I am fine and in perfect health and I think that I am putting on a few more pounds in weight. However I have not weighed myself for quite a while and so am not sure.

Well, my darling, how is everything going along for you and Peggy? I trust that you are both well and happy in your new surroundings. How are Esther and Gene and Mike? Please give them my best regards and tell them I wish I were up there with all of you. Wouldn't we have a great time - the six of us together. Please give Peggy a great big hug and kiss for me and tell her that her daddy thinks about her very often and loves her very dearly.

Tell me, darling, how are you these days? Are you glad that you

decided to visit the Thuneys? Do you think that it will work out satisfactorily. I am sure that it will. Darling, you are always in my thoughts. Even when I am busy at work you creep right into my mind and before I realize it I am off on a tangent tangent thinking about you rather than my work. Oh, darling, I love you so very much, in fact it is impossible to describe my great love for you. To me you mean everything, and nobody else could ever compare with you. I am patiently waiting for the opportunity to return back to your side, dearest, and never Ever leave you again. Always remember, darling, that I love you very, Very much and miss you terriably. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Our time is always at 10 PM every night.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Saturday, Oct. 23, 1943
1930 - #55

My dearest Georgia,

Returned to our base late this afternoon from a trip down the bay to take on our usual weekly fresh water supply. Went down yesterday morning and stayed overnight returning this afternoon. Just as soon as we tied up at the pier I sent our mail orderly over to the base post office to pick up the ship's mail because I was anxious to see if there were any letters for me from you. And sure enough, just

as I had expected, in the ship's mail were four letters from you and one from my folks. Boy, was I overjoyed to see your letters and I opened them immediately and hungrily read them very carefully so as not to miss one word you said. I was just about starved for news from you and the receipt of your lovely, long, newsy letters completely satisfied my appetite for some words from you. Oh, my darling, you just cannot realize how much I look forward to your delightful letters. They are the only tie or medium of association we have together and they mean so much to me. And darling your letters are so wonderful, so vivid, so complete in every little detail and so well written that I can almost visualize everything you do. So for this evening I have read your four letters through very carefully twice and plan to read them over again before I go to bed tonight.

Well, by now I guess you are wondering what were the letters that I received. Well, darling, they were your #82, 83, 84 and 85 dated Oct. 4, 5, 9 and 11 respectively. And they were all very newsy and interesting.

2

I am so glad to hear that you received a letter from me at the Thuney's so soon after you arrived there. Just as soon as you told me in one of your previous letters to start addressing your mail to Minneapolis I carried out your instructions. And am so glad to hear that you have received all of my letters in the series up through #45 dated Oct. 1 with the exception of #44 which you should be receiving shortly. Darling, please do not give up hope about receiving the present for Peggy. Since it had to be sent as an ordinary package it may take several months for it to reach her. If it does not reach her within another month I will try and send her another one.

Judging from the remarks in your letter you must have created quite a bit of excitement when you took Peggy down to the White House for a visit. I am very pleased to know that everybody was so favorable

impressed with our little daughter and I think that was a very nice compliment that Gen. Watson paid you.

Darling, in regards to your last allotment check which you received Oct. 2 - it should have been \$200 as it was. Your new allotment did not go into effect until Oct. 1 and so your first increased allotment check for \$250.00 should be received about Nov. 1. please inform me as soon as possible whether you received your increased allotment or not next month. I expect to collect my lieutenants back pay on the first of the month. And if i do i will send most of it to you by money order.

You certainly did have quite a time in getting ready to catch the train to go up to the Thuneys. And darling, I certainly do admire you for your courage and stamina for making such a big move like you did all by yourself. It was very nice of dad to help you with your bags, and etc. to the station. That goes to prove that he must think the world of you because he usually is quite indifferent about such things.

3

Darling, I am glad to hear that you made the train trip up with not too many difficulties. Yes, I guess that it is quite an ordeal traveling such a long distance by train with a small baby and I guess that you are very glad that the trip is completed and behind you. I imagine that it was a nice feeling to step off of the train in Minneapolis and see Esther and Gene waiting for you.

Judging from the description in your letter they must have a very lovely place and Minneapolis must be a very beautiful place to live. I am so glad that you are favorably impressed with the city and that you think your visit will be a very pleasant one. I have never been to Minneapolis, but have always heard that it was one of the garden-spots of the nation. The country must be beautiful with so many large lakes,

and it was very nice of Gene to take you all around in the car to show you all the sights. I am quite sure that you will be very happy visiting Esther and Gene and I know that it will do Peggy a lot of good being with "Mike" and other people instead of just being alone with you at home. I expect that she will adjust herself to the new environment pretty quickly and should learn things quicker with an older child around to teach her.

I am very sorry to hear that the Thuney's are planning to sell their house on Glenwood Road to become permanent residents in Minneapolis. I know that we will miss them terribly back home as neighbors. But on the other hand I am very glad to hear that "Gene" is doing so well with the Minneapolis- Honeywell Co. and has such a brilliant future ahead of him. Maybe after the war he might be able to find a position for me with them and then we could move to Minneapolis and become neighbors again. Be sure to tell "Gene" that I am very glad to hear that he is doing so well.

4

And so the "Roberts" have a little baby boy - "Stephen Kent". Please extend my heartiest congratulations to both [Marchelles] and Bruce. But darling, in spite of them taking our boys name of "Stephen" we shall still save that name for our next child (?) which I hope will be a little boy.

What do you mean by your remarks in regards to the Van Vlesks and their continued happy married life. Is the marriage going on the rocks and why?? Please tell me all about it.

Darling, I am anxiously looking forward to receiving the two lovely Christmas boxes that you are mailing to me. I know that I will like everything that is in them because I always did like the things you used to give me.

Well, darling, it is growing late and I want to write a letter to mother and dad yet tonight and so had better bring this letter to a close. But first of all let me reassure you that everything is going along just about the same for me and that I am fine and in perfect health. However I am very lonely for you, my darling wife, and nothing could make me happier than to be able to come back home to you and take you once again in my arms and hold you tight and tell you how much I loved you and missed you. Oh darling - I yearn for the day when the three of us can be together again in our own little home. It doesn't seem quite fair to us to have an ugly horrible war separate us like this when we were so happily married and everything to live for. Oh well. just be patient my darling sweetheart and we shall more than make up for the long months that we have been apart. Always remember that I love you very dearly and miss you terribly. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Please give Peggy a big hug and kiss for me.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.

U.S.S LCI (L) 225

% Fleet Post Office

Monday, Oct. 25, 1943

2030 - #56

My dearest Georgia,

Received your nice letter of Wednesday, Oct. 13, #86 in tonight's mail and was very pleased to hear from you. Have been out all day operating and returned to the base about an hour ago. Did not

expect to receive a letter from you ^so soon on account of receiving three from you last Saturday, but I love pleasant surprises and especially a letter from you.

Yes, darling, I received both of your lovely birthday cards and acknowledged their arrival in one of my previous letters to you. They did arrive a little late, but were still very welcome and I appreciated your thoughtfulness very much. It was not your fault that they arrived late because you certainly did post them in plenty of time to reach me by the 23rd; bit it was just one of those unfortunate happenings that they were delayed en route.

The Mackeys, that I spent the very enjoyable week-end with as a guest sometime ago are native folk. They are lovely people and went out of their way to be very nice to me. He has a very prosperous business of his own and is fairly wealthy. They have two very nice children, a boy of fifteen and a girl thirteen and as a whole are a very nice home-like family. They have a beautiful home in the suburbs, two automobiles and belong to a country golf club, etc. They were perfect hosts and I had a grand time visiting with them.

You certainly did make my mouth water when you mentioned about the nice devil's food cake with white icing that you made for Esther's birthday dinner. The rest of the dinner menu sounded very good too. Please tell Esther that I wish her a very happy birthday and that she will have many, many more. Let's see is this her 39th or 40th birthday. I seem to forget? I am quite sure she is at least six or seven years older than I am - Ha - Ha!!

Yes, darling, by all means pay your share of the expenses for you and Peggy because it is very nice of them to have you there visiting with them without still being further indebted to them.

I am so glad to hear that you have more leisure time for yourself

now than you did when you were back home. I guess that it does seem like a vacation for you to have a little spare time for yourself to read, write letters and do odds and ends. It must be nice to have Mr. Thuney there to look after the children while you and Esther are galavanting around.

Well, darling, I am fine and in perfect health. Am still being kept pretty busy doing the same kind of work that I have been doing in the past.

How is Peggy these days? Has she adjusted herself to her new home as yet? I suppose that she is growing larger every day and learning new things and forming new habits.

Well darling it is growing late and I have to be up and underway early tomorrow morning and so will say good- night until my next letter to you Always remember, my darling, without a doubt, that I love you very dearly and miss you terribly.

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. I shall be on the look-out for the two Christmas boxes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Wednesday, Oct. 27, 1943
2005 - # 57

My dearest Georgia,

My other two officers (“Al and [“indecipherable”]) went ashore tonight over to the officers club for the evening and I am having a very enjoyable time here in my quarters all alone reading over some of your more recent letters and looking through my collection of pictures of you and Peggy. Sometimes I am very glad to be rid of my officers so that I can be alone and enjoy a couple of hours visiting with you by reading over some of your lovely letters and looking at your pictures and thinking about you and the grand times we had together before I went into the navy. Oh, my darling, I am terribly lonely for you and miss you more as each day passes by. This is no life for a happy married man who loves his wife and baby daughter very dearly and longs to be back home with them where he really belongs. I am just living for the moment when I can return back home to you and take you into my arms and hold you tightly and smother you with kisses and say, “Darling, I am back home to stay and the three of us will never be separated again.”

Did not ~~having~~ have any training operations scheduled for today and so have been tied up at the pier all day cleaning up the ship, making some minor repairs, doing a little painting and other miscellaneous work. I was ashore most of the day on business - had to attend a two hour conference this afternoon - making plans and getting arrangements squared away for future training operations. And so when I am not busy at sea I am usually kept pretty busy on shore. However I like being kept busy because it keeps my mind occupied and makes the days and weeks pass fairly fast. In fact sometimes I have a difficult job keeping up with the days. As you know I not only have my own ship to look after, but also the other ships in my division. And I have had the complete charge and responsibility of them, their comings and goings, their various mission assignments, etc. ever since last May when I left my flotilla commander. Outside of routine reports and administrative letters and memoranda between my flotilla commander and myself we have been left very much on our own to carry out our special assigned duty. And so I am like an old mother

hen with her brood of small chicks looking after my ships, getting them repaired when necessary, taking care of their personnel and discipline problems. assigning them to various tasks, working up procedures and policies for them and many other things.

Well, darling, enough of my raving about myself. I do believe I am getting egotistical. What do you think? And now let me ask how you and Peggy are. Judging from the remarks in your last letter you both must be very happy and comfortable visiting with Esther and Gene. I am so glad that you like it in Minneapolis. Please give my best regards to Esther, Gene and Mike. I only wish I could be there with all of you and maybe we could have another one of those "Southern Maryland Breakfasts." Boy wouldn't that be fun!

Darling, you are constantly in my thoughts both day and night regardless of what I am doing or where I am. I love you with all my heart and always will, forever. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and to you my darling wife I send my customary thousand hugs and kisses. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Friday, Oct. 29, 1943
2115 - # 58

My dearest Georgia,

Just completed my days work about fifteen minutes ago and

I am dead tired, but before I turn in for the night will write a few lines to you. Returned here to the base about mid - morning from a training operation which we went out on yesterday morning. Then after disembarking the troops pulled out into the stream and anchored. The crew immediately turned to and started cleaning up the ship and painting and ^doing various odd jobs that had to be done. I had a lot of reports to write up plus a lot of official letters to be written and quite a bit of official correspondence to ^go over and reply to. And then in the midst of all that I had to go ashore after lunch to attend a meeting which lasted for several hours. After the meeting returned to my ship and picked up again where I left off on my own work. Just took enough time out to eat supper and then went right back to work again and finished up at 9 P.M. I have kept my poor yeoman banging the typewriter continuously all day. The reason for my being so busy is that it is near the end of the month and a lot of reports have to be turned in by the first of next month. It also happened that I had a considerable bit of correspondence to reply to. And so in all I had a lot to accomplish. And tomorrow I have another busy day ahead of me with still more reports and miscellaneous work. In fact I expect to be kept pretty busy on board ship the entire week-end.

Received a very nice joint letter from Esther and Gene dated Sept. 19th with a lovely picture of "Mike" enclosed with it in tonight's mail. It seemed real good to hear from both of them individually with their respective letters. Tell them that I too wish I could be in Minneapolis with all of you during the Christmas Holidays. Wouldn't it be grand and wouldn't we have a lot of fun! Gosh, I guess that is one wish that cannot come true - not this Christmas anyway. However I will be there with you in mind even if I cannot be there with you in body.

Darling, I did not receive any mail from you tonight, but hope to within the next day or so. How is everything going along for you? Is Peggy getting over from being a spoiled "mamas baby" and getting used to different people being around her. I suppose that she and Mike have grand times romping around the floor together. How is she progressing in her attempts

to walk and talk? I certainly wish I could see her and be able to take her up in my arms and give her a big hug and kiss and tell her that I am her daddy. I wonder if she would like me?

Well, darling, it is growing late and I am very tired and so I will say good-night until my next letter to you. I think about you all the time and wonder how you are and what you are doing? Oh, my darling, I love you more than I can say. To me, you mean everything and just knowing that I have the most wonderful wife in the world waiting for me back home just makes me all the more determined to get this war over with and return back home to you and Peggy. Darling, I love you very, very much and miss you terribly. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Every night at 10 PM is "Our Time"

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Sunday, Oct. 31, 1943
1915 - # 59

My dearest Georgia -

In tonight's mail I received your lovely letter dated Oct. 18 (#88) and a letter from mother and dad. Your #87 letter has not reached me as yet but guess that will arrive by tomorrow or the next day. I am very glad to hear that my letters are reaching you much quicker from

here than when I was down at my former base. I hope that all of my future letters will reach you as quickly as my #48 did.

No, darling, Bill Sykes who gave the farewell party for me is not a LCI skipper. He is a native of this country and is ^the skipper of on a patrol boat in this country's navy and was stationed at the same base where I was doing harbor patrol duty. He and I became well acquainted and very good friends and we had some very enjoyable times together.

I am very pleased to hear that Peggy has another tooth which now makes two. That was certainly a nice 10-month birthday present. Tell her that I think that she is doing wonderful and that I am very proud of her.

Mike certainly must have had a grand birthday party with so many children attending it. It must have been quite an entertaining affair. Please give "Mike" my best wishes for a happy birthday!

Darling, I am so glad to hear that George and Gene have been so kind to take some pictures of you and Peggy. I hope that they turn out real good so that you will send them to me because I am always anxious to receive recent snapshots of the both of you so that I can see how you look. I am afraid that my picture-taking has come to a tragic end with my departure from down the line. It was only through Pearl and her camera and film that I was able to get any pictures taken to send back home to you. However maybe I will run across somebody else that has a camera and will take a few snapshots of me so that I can ~~send~~ send you some pictures of myself.

Darling, I just don't know how to advise you about spending four dollars to have the small radio repaired that the Ewarts broke. Why dont you ask Gene for advise. I would suggest doing whatever he advised you to do.

"Joe" Sibigtroth was very pleased to hear that you were planning to

write to "Marge" and very gladly gave me her address to send to you. It so happens the Marge is going to Washington D.C. to visit friends over Thanksgiving and was planning to look you up. Her address is: -

Mrs. Joseph C. Sibigroth
55 Murray Ave
Port Washington, N.Y.

Went down to the bay this morning to take on board our fresh water supply and returned here at the base late this afternoon. Tonight after I finish this letter I am going ashore to the base to see the show which is "The Immortal Sargent" with Henry Fonda. Ogive [?] and Joe are going with me.

Well darling, it is almost time for the show to start and so had better say good-night until my next letter to you. Always remember that I love you very dearly and miss you terribly.

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1943
1030 - #60

My dearest Georgia,

Had the disbursing officer on the base come aboard the ship this morning and pay the ships company their monthly pay due them.

most of my back lieutenant's pay was credited to me on this months or should I really say last month's because it was dated Oct. 31, certified money list. I collected a total pay this time of \$258 00 which included my back pay due me. However I still have \$93 00 due me for back pay which was not credited to me on this past money list. Have written a letter to my flotilla disbursing officer about the matter and hope that it will be credited to me on the next money list so that my pay situation will finally be cleared up. It certainly has taken a long time to get my pay ~~settled~~ situation squared away. It has taken nearly five months to get it squared away plus the writing of six letters to my disbursing officer. That is the disadvantage of being away from my flotilla staff organization for such a long time and at such a great distance.

And so, darling, right after I saw that everybody was properly paid I went up to the base post office and made - out two money orders to you, one for \$100 00 and the other for \$50 00 totaling \$150 00 which you will find enclosed in this letter to you. I am afraid that \$150 00 is the most that I can send you for the present time because I have a ships mess bill that I have to pay and I want to buy some hot-weather clothing such as kahki shorts, kahki summer shirts with short sleeves and sport collar, some white socks and some personal things for myself such as cigarettes, soap, shaving cream, tooth paste, etc that I need because of my depleted stock on board. I usually stock up every two months so as to always have it on hand in case we have to go somewheres where it is impossible to buy such things. I will try and send you another fifty dollars when the rest of my back pay comes to me. Please use the \$150 00 anyway that you want to. Use it to help pay off the taxes or pay Alice back or for whatever else you may have need for it.

Did you receive your increased allotment of \$250 00 on the first of November. If you did not, please let me know immediately and I will check on it. You should start receiving the increased allotment on Nov. 1 because I made it effective Oct. 1.

How is everything going along for you and Peggy. I trust that the both of you are very well and happy with Esther and Gene. Please give them my best regards. Also please give Peggy a big hug and kiss for me which someday I will redeem twofold. Darling, you are constantly in my mind and I love you with all my heart and I miss you terribly. always remember the - I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Thursday , Nov. 4, 1943
2100 - # 61

My dearest Georgia,

Have not received a letter from you since last Sunday and that was your letter #88 dated Oct. 18. Your #87 letter which will complete the present series has not reached me yet. Have been looking forward to a letter from you all week and certainly thought there would be a letter for me in tonights mail when it came on board. However much to my great disappointment there was none. I guess that your letters have gotten delayed somewhere en route. Maybe in tomorrow's mail there may be several letters from you - I hope!

Have you received my #60 letter, dated Nov.2 ? Enclosed with it were two money orders - one for \$100 00 and one for \$50 00 totaling \$150 00. That is some of my back lieutenant's pay that was due me. I trust that the

money will help you in getting some of your debts paid off. Maybe next month I will be able to send you another \$50 00.

A couple of days ago I mailed you a picture portfolio of the "Big City" where I used to go on week-end liberties occasionally and also that is where "Pearl" lives. Have not been permitted to mail post cards or picture portfolios due to censorship regulations until this week. And so will try and send more to you.

By the way, darling, has Peggy received that little gift that was mailed to her. It should have reached her by now. If it has not, I guess that it has become lost. I mailed a card to Peggy and one to "Mike" having a picture on it of the type of toy that was mailed to Peggy. I am quite sure that she would have taken a fancy to it and taken it to bed with her each night.

Darling, I don't think that I will be able to get you or Peggy anything for Christmas even tho I would like to very much. I get into town very seldom and when I do it ^is on a Saturday or Sunday and the stores are closed. Also you have to have coupons to buy anything nice and there is so much red tape to get them that I just do not have the time to do it. And so darling please forgive me if I do not send any christmas gifts to either you or Peggy. However in spite of no gifts fromme to be opened on Christmas morning my thoughts will be with you wishing you a "Very Merry Christmas."

Cannot say much about myself except that I am fine and in good health and am being kept pretty busy doing the same old thing. Yes, it gets pretty monotonous at times, but I guess that I shouldn't complain.

Darling, last night while I was out on operations, standing on the bridge ^alone with a beautiful moon shining down on the water, you were continually in my thoughts. I kept thinking about you and I and our nice little home and the good times we used to have together. Gosh, what I wouldn't

give to have those days back again right now. I guess that I did not fully realize then how happy we really were and how much I loved you and how much you really mean to me. It took a war to make me fully realize How much you mean to me and how very dearly I love you. I knew then That I loved you, but I know now that I love you more than humanly Possible. I love you with all my heart and continually repeat "I LOVE YOU!"

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Please give Peggy a great big hug and kiss for me.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Saturday, Nov. 6, 1943
1900 - #62

My dearest Georgia -

Received your very nice letter #89 dated Oct. 20 in tonights mail and was glad to hear from you. Have not received a letter from you since last Sunday which is almost a week ago and then prior to that received one letter from you on Oct. 25. And so have only received two letters from you within the past two weeks. Have still not received your #87 letter which you evidently wrote on or about Oct. 15. However, darling, I know that it is not your fault because I know that you are writing to me every other day. I guess that the incoming mail is arriving in such large quantities over here due toChristmas that it is just getting bogged down and that may be the reason for the delay in the arrival of your

letters. However it is very discouraging when your letters arrive so few and far apart. Because, darling, I live from one day to the next looking forward to your lovely letters and hearing all about you and Peggy. By the way, darling, did you ever receive my #44 letter dated Sept. 29. You have never mentioned it to me in any of your letters that you ever received it. Please check on it and let me know about it.

Also in tonight's mail I received a very nice Christmas package from Alice and Barney. It was a box of twenty-four 5 cent Hershey milk chocolate almond bars. It was a very welcome present because good milk chocolate candy is very scarce over here. I have already "eaten" one of the bars and it tasted very good. I shall drop them a note thanking them for the nice present. It was very thoughtful of them. I am looking forward to

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the two nice Christmas boxes that you have mailed to me. Up till now they have not arrived, but they should any day now. Just as soon as they do arrive I will let you know.

Darling, I think that the two pictures of Peggy and Mike that you enclosed with your letter are very good and I shall add them to my treasured collection of pictures. Peggy is certainly growing up to be quite a big girl and I am very proud of her. At least once every week I take out all of the pictures I have of her and look at them and compare them. I have the pictures all in a progression order from her earliest up to the latest that I have of her and I certainly can tell how she has changed and grown. I hope that she will not be too old when I return home to you because it will be difficult for her to understand that I am her "Daddy." and so darling, please tell her that she does have a daddy who loves her very, very much and some day will come back home to her.

Darling, I am greatly disappointed that you do not know where I

am. I thought all the time that you had a very good idea where I was, but judging by your guesses in your letter you are far off and very cold. I am in a much larger country than what you guessed in 1 and 2. However it is very close to your guess #1 and #2 and just west of it. I have never been in #1 or #2. When I first arrived over here I landed on the east coast at a very large seaport which I referred to as the "Big City." I stayed there approximately two weeks and then left my flotilla commander and took my division up the coast a short distance where we spent approximately five months training. And then as you remember about a month ago we left down there to come on up the coast to where we are now. And where we are now is fairly near another large coastal seaport. The picture portfolio that I mailed to you several days ago is where we first landed over here ^which I referred to as the "Big City" and have been over here in this country ever since. However we have been gradually working our way up the east coast to where we are now.

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and now, darling, do you have a clearer idea where I am ~~now~~ now? you had better get the Atlas out and study it. Please make one more attempt at guessing and I will tell you whether you are hot or cold.

And so "Gene" is going duck hunting for a whole week. The "Lucky stiff." Doesn't he realize that we are fighting a war. Tell him that duck and pheasant hunting is small time stuff and that he should go in for "big game" such as "Jap hunting". It is a popular sport over here, in fact there are thousands over here hunting every day. There is no limit to the quantity that you can bag and the season lasts for the duration. All kidding aside, I envy him because I always wanted to go duck and pheasant hunting and wish I were able to join him. I hope that he is very lucky and has a very enjoyable time.

Darling, I am so glad to hear that you are having such an enjoyable time visiting with Esther and Gene. I knew that you would and that

is the reason why I encouraged ^you to rent the house and go visit them. You are not alone as you were back at home and you and Esther have always had things in common and the best of friends and now with your respective children you have still more in common. Also it is an excellent experience for Peggy to be with Mike. he will be like a brother to her and she will learn to associate with other children by being with him. Also she will learn to do things quicker by watching him. And so all in all I think you did a very wise thing by going up to Esther and Gene. And also I think that it is perfectly swell of them to invite you to visit with them. I shall never forget their kindness and thoughtfulness in that Respect.

My darling, please do not worry about me because I am all right and can always take good care of myself and I promise you that I will return

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to you perfectly safe and sound and completely unchanged except maybe a little older and more experienced. I know that it is pretty tough to keep from worrying when you read articles in the paper, see horrible photographs and even moving pictures of the terrible war. But, darling, I have been very fortunate so far in that I have not been near the combat zone just yet. I have been staying behind with my little group of ships training troops by the thousands so that they will be experienced when they are shoved into the combat area for the real job. And so darling, my life is that of a school-teacher- teaching and training - teaching and training - week in - week out ; month after month that sometimes I think I am about to go crazy. It becomes very monotonous and boring doing the same thing over and over again. However I ^seem seemed to be doing a very good job and have been commended for my good work several times.

Darling, I want you to always remember that wherever I am or whatever I am doing you are always in my thoughts. In fact I think about you

day and night. Sweetheart, I love you with all my heart and constantly look forward to the day when the war is over and I can return to you and take you in my arms and hold you tight and say, "darling we shall never be separated again." Please give Peggy a big hug and kiss for me and to you, my darling wife, I send a thousand hugs and kisses which I shall redeem two fold when I return home. I love you very, very dearly and miss you terriably. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Our time is every night at 10 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.

U.S.S. LCI (L) 225

% Fleet Post Office

San Francisco, Calif.

Monday, Nov. 8, 1943

1950 - #63

My dearest Georgia,

Received the two lovely Christmas packages from you and Peggy in yesterday's mail and was thrilled to receive them. And, darling when I opened the packages they looked so lovely with everything all wrapped with Christmas paper, ribbon, seals and cards. You certainly did go to a lot of trouble to wrap them so nicely and the spirit of Christmas just gushed forth from the two boxes. They ^ (the mail) arrived while I was eating supper, and when the two packages were brought out of the mail sack for me, I stopped eating to open them right away. And upon opening the packages got so excited that I did not want to eat any more of my supper. I just

laid the two boxes in front of me and carefully unwrapped the packages to see what nice things you had sent me. Everything that you sent me was lovely and just what I wanted. As I sat here opening the packages a few tears crept into my eyes and a large lump came in my throat because I then fully realized that I was having my Christmas right now and that I would not be at home with you this Christmas like I always have been in the past. Your two boxes certainly did bring me a lot of joy and I appreciate it so very much. Oh, my darling, it is going to be a pretty dull Christmas for me this year and I am going to miss you terribly and all the good times we had together every Christmas.

Darling, I think the navy cuff links are beautiful and am very proud of them. I shall place the best pictures of Peggy in the photograph album. And all the rest of the nice items I can use to the best advantage. Please don't feel bad about the blue wool scarf. I shall pack it away carefully until I get into a cold climate again. Maybe I will need it when I return back to the states to you. I have already smoked my new pipe with some of the "Walnut" tobacco that you enclosed in the box and both smoke well. The six linen socks handkerchiefs and the two pairs of tan silk socks will come in handy because I can always use them. I will also put the navy clothes brush and the shoe shine bag to work immediately. I also got a big kick out of the Cartoon Book and my other officers enjoyed it too. And darling many thanks for the razor blades, candy, chewing gum and soap.

Darling, have enclosed with this letter the October Bulletin of my Lodge. There is a nice article in it (which I have marked) which I thought you might like to read.

This morning we left our operating base to come up the river to the city for a two week stay to make repairs, go into drydock, clean - up and paint the ship, etc. Arrived up here about noon and have been busy all afternoon getting matters squared away. Have to go ashore early tomorrow morning and will be busy all day taking care of ships business.

And so for the next two weeks will be busier than a one-arm paperhanger getting my ship squared away. However hope to find time once in a while to slip ashore on my own for a little recreation.

Darling, how are you and Peggy these days? I trust that you both are well and happy? I think about the both of you all the time. And darling always remember that I love you very dearly and miss you terribly.

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Please give Peggy a big hug and kiss for me.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Wednesday, Nov. 10, 1943
1900 - #64

My dearest Georgia--

I am certainly a tired person tonight and after I finish this letter to you and one to mother and dad am going straight to bed without a moments delay. Have been ashore all day to-day with a navy truck and a working detail from my crew going around to the different warehouses trying to get various supplies and equipment needed for the ship started out this morning at 0830 and did ^not return to the ship until 1700. It is a pretty tough and tiring job. I did the same thing yesterday all day and plan to get started again early tomorrow

morning, but hope to finish up temporarily by tomorrow afternoon. Quite a few of the things I need are not in stock right now, and so next week I am going to repeat my efforts and try to complete my list of necessities.

Arrived up here in the city from our operating base last Monday about noon and expect to stay here for about two weeks to overhaul our engines, make repairs and improvements to the ship, go into drydock to get our bottoms scraped and painted, propellers fixed, etc. Then also while we are here are cleaning and painting the ship, replacing some of our work out equipment and acquiring additional new equipment and all that which a ship does when she puts into port after being at sea for some time. And believe me, being in port like this is no fun. Infact I work harder when I am in port then when I am at sea. When night comes I am pretty tired and am ready to hit the sack. Have not been ashore at night

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for recreation since we have been here. However tomorrow night plan to go ashore to the officers club for a while for a few drinks and a look around.

In today's mail I received two nice letters from you, a letter from mother and dad and a letter from Alice (your sister). Your two letters were #90 and #91, dated Oct. 22 & 24th respectively. And, darling I enjoyed your two letters so much. For some unknown reason the mail is not coming thru as quickly as it used to and for that reason your letters are slow in reaching me. I guess that the mails are overtaxed right now with all the Christmas packages and mail that is being sent overseas to all the fighting men.

And so you got Gene off on his hunting trip. I bet that he will have a marvelous time and I wish him the best of luck. Please don't get sick from eating too much pheasant!

Have you received the two money orders that I enclosed in one of my letters to you? They totaled \$15000. Please use the money any way that you think best.

Yes, darling, judging from the remarks that mother and dad make in their letters to me, they really do miss you and Peggy very much and are patiently waiting for you to return to them. However dont let them influence you in the length of your visit with Esther and Gene. Since both you and Peggy are very happy up there with them, why not stay with them as long as they will have you.

Darling, have not received your third Christmas package as yet, but will be on the look-out for it. In my last letter to you I told you that I had received the first two Christmas boxes and how lovely they were and how much I enjoyed them. Again, many thanks for them, my darling.

Say, darling, that concoction that you call "Chocolate Goo" which you get at the ice cream place must be quite a dish. You had better not eat too much of them if you want to keep a slim waist line.

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You certainly do seem to be having a grand time going around to Dinners and parties. I am so glad to hear that Esther and Gene's friends are being so nice to you and you are having such an enjoyable time. Your life with them is a whole lot nicer and more enjoyable than sitting all alone in 5506 with just you and Peggy with occasional visits from your friends. Yes, darling, I think you did the wisest thing when you rented the house and went up to visit Esther and Gene. And I will never forget their invitation and wonderful hospitality to you and Peggy.

Well, darling, if I am going to write a letter to mother and dad yet

tonight and still get to bed early I had better bring this letter to a close. However for some unknown reason I could go rambling on for another half hour, but better not. However will take the time to tell you that I love you very dearly and miss you terriably. And that I think about you and Peggy all the time. Darling, please try and not get "blue" or down in the "dumps." I know that it is very lonely for you with me being so far away from you, but try and be a good and true "Navy Wife" and always wear a smile even tho your heart is lonely. Always remember that I love you and you,only and that I love you with all my heart. In other words, "I LOVE YOU!"

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Please give Peggy a big hug and kiss for me.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Friday, Nov. 12, 1943
1930 - # 65

My dearest Georgia,

Your #87 letter dated Oct. 16 finally arrived in todays mail and was very glad to receive it. That now completes your series of letters up to and including #91 dated Oct. 24. Also in your letter you mentioned that you had received my #44 letter dated Sept. 29 which I inquired about in my last letter to you.

Well, darling, am still as busy as a little bee running around to the different warehouses trying to get various supplies and equipment for the ship. Also writing out reports and tending to business pertaining to the ship. Was ashore all this morning tending to business returning to the ship about noon. And then have been busy about the ship all afternoon.

Last night Joe Sibigroth and I went ashore to the officers club for a few drinks and then to a movie. Saw a double feature - "Berlin Correspondent" and "The Other Woman". Both shows were pretty good. Returned to the ship about midnight.

Darling, I am so glad to hear that you are so happy and contented visiting with the Thuney's. I guess that it is much nicer up there with them than all by yourself down at 5506. Why dont you stay with them as long as you are welcome there and I am quite sure that Esther and Gene are glad to have you. I imagine that Peggy is having quite a time romping around with "Mike". It is very good for her to have another child around for her to associate with. She will learn things a lot quicker and will not be timid when around other children or become spoiled by having everything for herself. Yes, I imagine that they are very entertaining to watch. I wish I could see them.

Darling, I am glad to hear that you received a letter from the Navy Dept. in regards to your increased allotment. Did you receive the new allotment on Nov. 1 - you should have, because the allotment was supposed to go into effect on Oct. 1. Also have you received my letter containing the two money orders in it for \$15000. I hope you have by now because I know that you can use the money.

Well, darling, I have very little news to tell you except that I am very well and that I love you very, very much and am very lonely for you. Yes, darling, I miss you terribly, in fact I never knew a person could ever be so lonely for a person as I am for you, my darling wife. You are always in my thoughts wherever I am or whatever I am doing,

always wondering how you are and what you are doing and wishing that I were back home with you. Please give my best regards to Esther and Gene and tell them that I think that they are wonderful to be so kind to have you visit with them. Also, sweetheart, please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss for me and tell her that daddy loves her too. always remember, my dearest, that I love you with all my heart. In short, I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Dont forget that every night at 10 PM is "Our time"

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S> LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Sunday, Nov. 14, 1943
2015 - #66

Happy Birthday, darling --

And I hope that you have many, many more to come. I only wish I were back home with you so that I could hold you tightly in my arms and express this sincere greeting to you personally. Have been thinking about you most of the day wondering what you were doing to celebrate your birthday. Did you have a birthday cake and some ice cream? Tell me, darling how does it feel to be twenty six years old? You don't feel a bit older, do you? - of course not!

Am still here in port working on the ship and expect to remain

here all this coming week. Have quite a bit of work to get accomplished and it will require every bit of the allotted availability. Have been fairly busy most of the day getting odds and ends squared away. However did manage to squeeze in a short nap this afternoon after dinner. It was the first nap that I have taken in a long time.

Last night "Ogive"[?] and I went ashore for dinner and to a movie. Ssaw a picture call "The More the Merrier" and it was pretty good.

Yesterday, I received a nice letter of "Commendation" from my big boss, Admiral Barby, who is the commander of the seventh amphibious force of which I am a unit, of, commending me, my officers and my ships company for the high standard set in performing our duty during the training period down at our former operating base. The letter was sent to me via my flotilla commander and he forwarded it to me with his congratulations. I felt rather proud to receive a commendation like that and hope that I may be worthy to receive more in the future.

Darling, how is everything going along for you? I suppose that old man winter is just about on top of you by now and that it is getting pretty cold for you. Have you got enough warm clothes for the two of you to withstand that very cold weather they have in Minneapolis. How is Peggy these days? Have her burns completely disappeared yet? If not I hope they will soon. Have you discovered her third tooth yet and how many steps can she take by herself. Just think next month she will be one year old already - my doesn't time fly. Also my ship will be one year old on the twelfth of next month.

Darling, for some unknown reason tonight I feel down in the dumps and blue. I would gladly call it "quits" right now and rush right back home to you and Peggy where I really belong and where my heart and love really is. Oh my dearest darling sweetheart, I love you

so very dearly and I am terribly lonely for you. I surely wish that this war would end quickly so that I could return back home to you and Peggy and the three of us be united again never ever to be separated again. Darling, you are constantly in my mind, first in my thoughts and forever in my heart. Always remember, my darling that I Love You!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Tuesday , Nov. 16, 1943
2030 - #67

My dearest Georgia,

Have not received a letter from you for nearly a week now, and it seems like a year. Everyday I keep looking forward to receiving a letter from you and when there is none I tell myself that there surely will be a letter for me in tomorrows mail. I understand that the mail service is completely overloaded and swamped with the tremendous volume of letters and packages coming over here for the service men for Christmas and that is the reason why delivery is so slow. They are doing there best to get our mail to us as quickly as possible and so I should not complain.

Have been ashore all day tending to business for the ship and trying to get supplies and equipment that I need for the ship. In the meantime the entire crew are busy at work on the ship overhauling engines and mechanical equipment, cleaning and painting and making miscellaneous repairs and improvements. Did not return to the ship until about 1800 and had supper, and then after supper jumped right into my official mail to get it all cleared away. Just finished up about a half hour ago. I certainly have been kept very busy since I have been in port. In fact so busy that I have not been able to get into any mischief - no, not even a date - isn't that awful! But speaking of dates, you are the only person I really want a date with, and, if I could arrange it I would ^gladly cross the ocean to have it with you. Yes, darling, you are the only person I ever want a date with and if we were together right now all the rest of the women could drown themselves in the sea and it wouldn't bother little me. Because you are my one and only love and darling I love you with all my heart.

Has Gene returned from his hunting trip? And did he have a successful trip. I hope so. Tell him to write me and tell me all about it. I would like to hear all about his experiences.

Darling, how are the Thomases and the Thuney's making out together. I trust that everything is going fine for all of you. How is Peggy? Has she gotten adjusted to her new home yet? Also how is she and Mike getting along. Are they good friends or do they clash.

And now, darling, how about yourself? How is everything going along for you. How are you making out with your finances? Do you think you will be able to get out of debt this winter. I hope so. Do you still like it up there with Esther and Gene? By the way, please give them my best regards and tell them I wish I could drop in and spend a nice week-end with ^all of you sometime.

Well, darling, as for myself I am very safe and well. The only ailment that I have is "loneliness for you" Oh, if I could only return back home to you and we could live again like we did before I went into the service. Wouldn't it be wonderful! Darling, I love you very dearly and miss you terribly. Please give Peggy a big hug and kiss for me and to you my darling wife I send a thousand hugs and kisses. Always remember, "I LOVE YOU!"

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Thursday, Nov. 18, 1943
2000 - #68

My dearest Georgia,

In yesterdays mail I received two letters from you and was mighty glad to hear from you and learn how you and Peggy are. The two letters I received were #93 and #94 dated Oct. 29 and Oct. 31 respectively. Your #92 letter has not arrived as yet, but guess that I will receive it tomorrow or the next day.

Am glad to hear that "Gene" had such a wonderful and successful hunting trip. Tell him that he is a better hunter than I thought he was to return home with 35 pheasants and 11 ducks. I have never had the opportunity to eat pheasant. Is it good eating? Be sure and eat several extra pieces for me.

Darling, I am so glad to hear that you took Peggy to the doctor For a medical check-up at the same time Esther took Mike and ^am very pleased to hear that she is under_weight because like you I thought that she looked quite plump. Judging from the facts that Peggy is small - boned and short in stature it appears that she is going to take after the Thomas family and be a small person - I hope that she won't be too small. What did the doctor have to say about her burns. Does he think that they will entirely disappear. Darling, by all means, take Peggy to a good doctor whenever you get a chance and whenever necessary for a medical check-up because I want her to grow up to be a strong and healthy young lady. I am so glad to hear that you like the doctor that Esther goes to so very much.

I am sorry to hear that Marcelle had such a difficult time in having her baby. I guess that you should consider yourself very fortunate in having such an easy time in giving birth to Peggy and also for having such a good doctor like Dr. O'Donnell to attend you. I guess that Bruce will be a very proud father when he learns that he has a son.

Yes, darling, Glenn Yount was detached from his ship prior to its departure from the states and he was given some kind of an assignment at San Diego and he has been there ever since. Thanks a lot for keeping me informed about the various ones because I am always glad to hear about them and what they are doing.

Darling, judging by the remarks in your letter Peggy and Mike must be very cute and entertaining playing together as they do. It is nice that they get along so well together.

I am glad to hear that you are going to spend the entire winter with the Thuneys. I think that is very nice of them to want you to stay all winter with them. Also that is a very nice idea to return to Washington and visit mother and dad for a couple of months in the spring. I know that they would be thrilled to have you. Why dont you have Esther and

Mike come down to Washington with you and then the four of you could drive back to Minneapolis together.

Darling, I am writing this letter aboard my ship while it is ~~tying~~ laying in dry-dock being over-hauled and the bottom being cleaned and painted. Put her in dry-dock yesterday morning and expect to stay here until Sunday. everything is going along fine and I am very well and kept pretty busy.

Darling, I hope that there might be a possibility of my coming home next spring or early summer for a 30 day leave. Keep your fingers crossed, Darling. darling, please take good care of yourself because I love you very dearly and miss you terribly and am patiently waiting for the day that I can return to you for keeps. I Love You!

All my love to the both of you
Morton A. M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Saturday, Nov. 20, 1943
2030 - #69

My dearest Georgia,

Well, here it is Saturday night and here I am sitting here in my quarters listening to a short wave re-broadcast of the "Hit Parade" radio program for the armed forces over here from the U.S. And the program is very good. Am still in drydock having work done to the ship, but expect to come out of dry dock tomorrow. Have quite a few workmen swarming all over the ship tonight trying to finish us up by

tomorrow. Went ashore this morning to tend to some ships business and while ashore bought some socks, undershorts and a pair of kahki

trousers for myself. Several days ago I bought myself a pair of tan shoes to replace my old ones that I bought in Washington just before I went up to Cornell. I think that they wore pretty well, don't you.

Last night, Ogive [?] and I went ashore to a movie in town and we saw a picture called "Tales of Manhattan" which I thought was pretty good. Have you seen it? Also saw a good "Mickey Mouse" cartoon and you know my weakness for cartoons.

Well, darling, I have not received your #92 letter as yet, but hope that it will come tomorrow. Also have not received your third Christmas box as yet, but expect that should arrive sometime next week. I am anxiously looking forward to receiving it.

Darling, I would love to have a real nice picture of you, just as you are now, so that I could sit it here in front of me and look at it while I am writing to you. The picture that I have of you ~~know~~ now is that old one of you taken before we were married. It is a very nice picture of you but it would be very nice to have a more recent picture of you so that I can see you as you really are now. And so darling just as soon as you have a chance please have a nice picture taken of yourself and send it to me.

Are you still eating pheasant? Your dinner parties with nice drinks sound awfully good to me. Wish I could join you sometime - wouldn't that be wonderful. However when I do get back home the four of us will really have a big party followed ^by a Southern "Maryland Breakfast." I am just waiting for that day to come. Oh, my darling, how I wish I were back home with you right now. I am so terriably lonely for you!

How are you and Peggy these days? I trust that you are both

very well and happy. I think about you all the time wondering how you are and what you are doing. Please tell Peggy that her daddy says hello and sends her a big hug and kiss. And to you my darling sweetheart I send you a thousand hugs and kisses which I will redeem twofold when I return home. Darling, please always remember that I love you very dearly, that you are the only person I love and will ever love until my dying day. In fact my love for you grows stronger (if that is possible) as each day passes by. I love you with all my heart and miss you terribly. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Please give my very best regards to Esther, Gene and Mike
P.P.S. Don't forget, "Our time" every night at 10 P.M.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Monday, Nov. 22, 1943
2015 - #70

My dearest Georgia,

In tonight's mail I received two of your lovely letters and was so happy to hear from you. The two letters were #95 & #96 dated Nov. 2 and 4th respectively. Your #92 letter has not reached me as yet but guess that it will turn up within the next couple of days. Also in tonight's mail I received Phea[?] Wetsel's letter that you forwarded on to me and a nice letter from mother and dad. I enjoyed reading the Wetsel's letter very much

and many thanks for sending it to me. I think that it is very nice of them to extend such a cordial invitation to you and Peggy to visit them. I am sure that they would love to have you visit them. Perhaps you could stop off and visit them for a week when you return to Washington in the spring. In your next letter to them please be sure and give them my best regards.

Mother told me in her last letter that she had sent a doll to Peggy when she was in New York. I think that was very nice of her and I am sure that Peggy will enjoy it when she is older. In every letter that I receive from the folks they remark how much they miss both you and Peggy. She also said in the letter I received tonight that Mr and Mrs Fellows were over to see her and had Francis's baby and that she was very cute but not as cute as Peggy - ahem!

Darling, I am so pleased to hear that you are enjoying yourself so much, doing things and going out to dinners and parties and living once again a normal life. I am also glad to hear that you are getting plenty of rest and relaxation and that you are taking better care of yourself. I think that you did the wise thing when you decided to visit Esther and Gene. The life that you are living now is the kind that you should live all the time with people of your own age enjoying their company and active socially instead of living all the time with older folks like mother and dad or living all by yourself. You are young and full of life and excitement and should be with people of your own age doing things and enjoying life as it should be enjoyed. I know that you will thoroughly enjoy the Purdue-Minnesota football game. Wish I could see it too. Why don't you try and stay with Esther and Gene as long as they will have you. I think that your staying with them is the best thing in the world for both you and Peggy. I am glad to hear that you have come to some agreement on your paying them for their trouble to have you. I think that \$6000 is a fair amount and I am sure that it is worth that to you.

Darling, I am so glad to hear that your November allotment check

was for \$25000. And now you should continue to get that amount of money each month from now on until I get another promotion and then of course I will increase it accordingly to my increase in pay. However it will be quite some time before I will get another promotion.

It is great that Peggy is doing so well and is enjoying herself so much with Mike. it must be very amusing and interesting to watch them play together. I am afraid that she is going to miss him when you leave there. I guess that we will have to get a little baby brother for her to keep her company. Maybe I can talk the Navy into letting me come home to attend to that matter.

Gee, darling, but I wish this damn old war would come to an end soon so that I could return back home to you and Peggy and all three of us could live a normal happy family life again - wouldn't that be wonderful - the three of us together again, I continually think about you, wondering how you are and what you are doing. Because, my darling, sweetheart I love you very dearly and miss you terriably. Please try to be patient and courageous until I can return home to you and I will try and make up to you for all the time we have been separated. Always remember darling that I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Please say hello to the Thuneys for me.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Wednesday, Nov. 24, 1943

My dearest Georgia,

Am now back in full swing with our training program. Returned from port to our operating base yesterday and commenced our training operations today. Am writing this letter to you while we are out on night operations. Went out on operations this noon and will not return until about noon tomorrow. And so that is the way it goes. Tomorrow is theoretically "Thanksgiving Day" but to us it is only another work day. However we are going to have chicken for dinner to substitute for the old conventional turkey which we were unable to get. Thanksgiving is not a custom over here and so of course no effort is made to have an abundance of turkeys on board.

I suppose that you and the Thuneys are planning to have a big "Thanksgiving" dinner with all the trimmings that go with it. I certainly do wish to be there with you. Wouldn't it be wonderful! Even tho I cannot be there with you in person I will be there in mind because I shall think about you at the time you are eating your dinner. Please eat an extra piece of turkey for me. Also please give thanks to the Lord for the fact that even tho we are separated by thousands of miles of ocean between us we are inseperable and our bond of love is growing stronger and more dearer as time passes; that we have a lovely healthy baby daughter and that all of us are safe, well and happy. And so, darling, with all of that in mind I guess that we have a lot to be thankful for. Sometimes I get very blur and discouraged because of the nasty deal fate seems to have thrust upon us and wonder why you and I have to suffer like we are doing, but then again when I think that there are thousands of couples suffering from the same fate I Just grit my teeth and say, "Well if others can do it, so can I." and so darling, be as patient and as brave as you can. Just as soon as this damn old war is over I will comeng rushing back to you and Peggy as fast as I can. Because, sweetheart, you and Peggy are my very

life and all that matters to me. I love you both very dearly and Miss you terribly.

Please give Esther and Gene and also Capt. and Mrs. Thuney my very best regards and a very happy thanksgiving. Give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and to you, my precious darling I send all my love with thousands of hugs and kisses. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Friday, Nov. 26, 1943
1830 - #72

My dearest Georgia,

Did not have any training operations scheduled for today and so have been tied up to the pier all day. The crew worked about the ship and I was ashore a bit of the time on business. Was in conference with my big boss, Capt. Jamison (a four striper) this morning and he informed me that he was bringing some visitors on board my ship this afternoon to look it over and would like me to show them around. And so early in the afternoon he brought with him two navy captains, an American brigadier general, an Australian general, three colonels, two lieut. colonels and three majors. They spent an hour on board and were Very impressed with the ship and the job that it can do. By the way, Captain Jamison has been my immediate superior officer ever since I started

training operations over here and he is the person that recommended me for commendations for my good job of training down at our former operating base. He is a swell man to work under and he has taken a fancy to me and is very nice to me. So far I have been able to efficiently carry out the different phases of training assigned to me and my ship and therefore have pleased him.

Have to be up and ready to get underway tomorrow morning at 2 A.M. to participate in a large training problem and will be out all day returning late tomorrow night. And also I have a busy and long day ahead of me.

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In today's mail I received three letters from you and was I thrilled to get them. I always get excited whenever any of your letters arrive because I look forward to your lovely newsy letters. The letters that arrived were your #92, #98, and #99 letters dated Oct. 27, Nov. 9 and Nov. 11 respectively. Your #97 letter is the only one missing now to complete your series of letters up to and including your #99 letter.

Darling, I am so glad to hear that my letters are reaching you in such good time and that you enjoy them so much. I wish I could make them more interesting by describing the different places over here and telling you about the things I do and see, but due to censorship regulations am unable to. And so sometimes I am afraid that my letters may seem a bit dull. If so you must understand that I cannot write nice interesting letters like you do.

Day before yesterday I had an American army major come on board To see me about a training matter and when he was ushered into my quarters to see me he immediately recognized me and said that he knew me at Univ. of Maryland. He graduated from Maryland in 1936 and belonged to Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He used to come down to my fraternity house quite a bit and knew quite a few people that are friends of mine.

We had quite a chat. His home is in Hyattsville. Also the Executive officer of the operating base is a native Washingtonian and was born in the same hospital where I was born. He has lived there most of his life. He has the Sunday Star paper sent out here to him and when he gets through with it he sends it down to the ship for me to read. He and I have become very friendly and have some enjoyable times together at the officers club on the base.

I should certainly say that you did have your troubles in getting ready for your dinner party for the hunter's widows. And I think your favorite joke about the sailor magician and his parrot associate is a rich one and

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I got a big laugh out of it. I told it to my pharmacist mate and he thought that it was very good. Tell Esther that when she begins to lose her sense of humor it is a sure sign of old age and mental fatigue. Your party must have been very lovely and a huge success.

And so you are having affairs in the basement with other women's husbands. Shame on you! Esther's friends will be running you out of Minneapolis if you don't leave their husbands alone. Why dont you pick on some innocent single men instead of demoralizing old faithful devoted husbands.

Darling, I am glad to hear that you received my letter with the two money orders in it for \$15000. I know that you really could use that money to help pay off some of your outstanding debts. I only wish I could have sent you more. Maybe I can send you some more money next month. I am anxious for you to get all of your debts paid off so that you will have no more financial worries and maybe you can start saving a little money for a reserve in case we need it in the future. I think that you are doing very well in the way you are handling the finances and I am

very proud of the capable way you are doing it. Please let Gene find out about the taxes and advise you on the matter. Please abide by his judgement because I cannot advise you about such matters. However if you need any information about my income or anything else dont hesitate to ask me and I will forward such information to you.

I am glad you received the scenic views of the "Big City." they should Clarify to you as to my whereabouts. However have moved further up the Coast and mailed to you another folder of scenic views of the city where I am now. In fact that is the place where I spent the last two

4

weeks making repairs to my ship and making engine overhaul.

And so you have commenced to love real winter weather with blizzards, and etc. And here I am enjoying nice warm weather.

Tell "Gene" that I wish him a very happy birthday and that he will have many more. I think that the verse on the birthday card that you sent him was excellent and very appropriate. I highly endorse the verse. where did you ever find such a card. I think that it is a rare one!

I guess that Peggy's gift has become lost and I am terribly disappointed about it. However I will try and find something else nice to send to her.

Well darling it is growing late and since I have to be up at 2 AM I had better bring this letter to a close and get a little sleep. It does my heart good to hear that you and Peggy are so happy and comfortable visiting with Esther and Gene. Please give them my very best regards and tell them that I don't know how I will ever be able to repay them for their gracious hospitality to you and Peggy.

Please tell Peggy that her daddy thinks about her very much and loves her very dearly and sends to her his customary big hug and kiss. and darling please always remember that you are constantly in my mind and that you have all of my heart. You mean everything to me and I love you more than words can express. However I will sum it up into three little words which have a wealth of meaning and the are --
I LOVE YOU.

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. "Our Time" is always every night at 10 PM

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut . A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Sunday, Nov. 28, 1943
2030 - #73

My dearest Georgia,

Today we did not have any training operations scheduled and so this morning we went down the bay to our usual place and took on board our fresh water supply. Returned back here to our operating base late this afternoon. While the ship was taking on water went ashore and looked around the beach and watched the people in bathing and on the few amusements they have there. The place is a very popular summer resort and hundreds of people come down every week-end for a holiday. Have mailed you a scenic folder of the place which I thought you would enjoy to look at. One of the pictures showing the jetty is where we tie

up when we put in there. Also mailed you another scenic folder of the large port city near here where we spent two weeks making repairs and engine overhauls to the ship.

Tomorrow morning I have to get up and get underway at 2 AM to participate in a training problem which will last until sometime tomorrow afternoon. After the conclusion of the problem will have a few days rest from training and will utilize that time in working on the ship and as for myself will try and get up to date on my administrative work such as reports, personnel matters and official correspondence.

Have not received your third Christmas box as yet, but hope that it will arrive sometime this week. Am anxiously looking forward to receiving it.

Darling, I want to tell you again how much I enjoy your lovely letters. They are so interesting and so vivid and descriptive that I can almost visualize everything that you do and what is going on back home. Your wonderful letters are the main thing that keeps me going and my courage up. They are the only tangible connection that we have between us besides our great bond of mutual love and trust. Oh my darling sweetheart, you mean everything in this world to me. And if it were not for knowing that you were at home loving me and patiently waiting for me to return to take you once again in my arms my fighting in this horrible war would be aimless. I love you with all my heart and soul and will always love you and only you until my dying day. You are constantly in my thoughts and I am very lonely for you. I love you more that any possible words could express. In other words darling - I LOVE YOU!

How are the Thuney's and the Thomas's faring these days. I trust that both families are very well and happy. Please say hello to Esther, Gene and Mike for me. How is Peggy progressing in her learning how to talk and walk. please tell her that her daddy thinks about her very often and that he loves her very much. Please give her my usual hug and kiss.

Well, darling, it is growing late and since i have to get up so early tomorrow morning had better bring this letter to a close until next time and get a little sleep. Sweet dreams, my darling, lovely wife and always remember that I love you very dearly and miss you terriably. Good night!

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. "Our Time" is always at 10 PM every night.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.

U.S.S. LCI (L) 225

% Fleet Post Office

San Francisco, Calif.

Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1943

2130 - #74

My dearest Georgia,

Just returned to my ship from seeing the movie on the base tonight. The picture that I saw was a Marine picture called, "On the Shores of Tripoli" and it was very good and I enjoyed it very much.

Did not have any operations scheduled for today and so have been tied up at the pier. The crew have been busy all day working about the ship and I have been getting a lot of my ship office work squared away. It certainly does pile up when I am busy with training operations and so always welcome a holiday in the training schedule so that I can get some of my own ship work done. You would be surprised to know how much work there is attached to running a ship. It is just like managing a private business of your own. There is a continual

daily influx of official correspondence that has to be read, filed and answered. Weekly, monthly and quarterly reports to be worked up and submitted to the various bureaus and commands; personnel problems and welfare matters; the pay, allotments, and insurance and other disbursing matters; training and educational material; establishment of policies and the carrying out of operational orders and communications and a thousand and one other things that have to be attended to. Outside of that, darling, I don't have much to do except command the ship and look after the rest of my division of ships.

Yesterday afternoon I attended a conference on the base pertaining to the training program being carried out here. After the conference, Don Ritchie, Executive Officer of the base, invited me to have cocktails and dinner at the Officers Club as his guest. And then of course after dinner sat around and talked and consumed a few more drinks. Had a very enjoyable evening.

Well, darling, how is everything going along for you and Peggy at the Thuneys'. I trust that the both of you are very well and happy visiting with them. Do you think that you are going to be able to endure the extreme cold weather that they have in Minneapolis during the winter? It will be your first experience of real cold winter weather. And I know how you dislike cold weather. How are Peggy and Mike coming along as playmates. I imagine that they are very cute playing together and must be very amusing to watch. How is she managing under her new diet and has she acquired any more new teeth - also how is she coming along with her learning to walk and talk? Please pardon all of my questions but I am just interested.

Darling please say hello to Esther and Gene for me and tell them that I think about all of you very often and wish that I were back there with you. We would have some grand times together like we have had in the past. May the day soon come when I can return home to you. Won't we have a gala celebration!

Darling, please tell Peggy that her daddy thinks about her very often and loves her very dearly although he hardly knows her. Please give her my customary big hug and kiss. And as for you, my darling wife, I repeat and will always keep repeating that I love you very dearly and am terribly lonely for you. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. 10 P.M. every night is "Our Time"

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.

U.S.S. LCI (L) 225

% Fleet Post Office

San Francisco, Calif.

Thursday, Dec. 2, 1943

2115 - #75

My dearest Georgia,

Went to the movie tonight on the base and saw Walt Disney's "Fantasia". I thought it was very good but it was not an appropriate show to exhibit at a navy base because most of the enlisted men did not like it and so were a very poor audience and made a lot of noise and wise cracks and in all spoiled the entire show for the others who were enjoying it. Have you seen the picture? After the show stopped by the officers club and had a couple of beers and then returned to the ship to write this letter to you.

In yesterday's mail I received your #97 letter dated Nov. 7 and

was so glad to get it because that completes your series of letters up to and including your #99 letter dated Nov. 11. By the way, did you ever receive my #57 letter dated Oct. 27. You have never specifically mentioned that you have ever received it. But in your letter that I received yesterday you mentioned that you had received all of my letters up to and including #58 dated Oct. 29 which therefore would include my #57 letter.

I am glad to hear that you enjoyed the Minnesota -Purdue football game. It must have been very exciting. However you certainly did have miserable weather - but that all goes along with football. It was a very wise thing that you poured some anti-freeze (martinis) into your radiator (stomach) before and after the game or otherwise you would have taken a cold.

No, darling, I have not received a Christmas package from Alice as yet, nor have I received your other two Christmas boxes. I guess that all ^of them should be reaching me pretty soon now.

Yesterday I received from the naval supply depot over here a nice sixteen foot dinghy with a four cylinder (9.75 horsepower) Evenrude outboard motor on it. I had ordered it for the ship a couple of months ago and I finally got delivery of it yesterday. I need it very much when I am anchored out in the stream and want to go ashore on business. Up till now I had to depend on a base duty boat to pick me up and take me ashore and return me to the ship. And now I can go and come as I please. I tried the boat out yesterday on a trial run and it is certainly a sweet running little craft. Can you see me tearing around in the stream with it. Tell Gene that it is just the thing to use to go fishing in. I am going to use it as the "Captains Gig" for my personal use.

Darling, I am so glad to hear that you are having such a wonderful time visiting with Esther and Gene and that their friends are being so lovely and hospitable to you. They must certainly have a lot of very nice friends. And it is very kind of Esther and Gene to introduce you to all

of them. Again I repeat that I don't know how I will ever be able to repay them for their generous hospitality to you and Peggy. Please thank them for me and give them my best regards. I am also pleased to hear that Peggy is doing so well and is getting cuter each day.

Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy loves her very much. And as for you, my darling wife, I send a thousand hugs and kisses which when I return home to you I will redeem twofold. Darling I love you very dearly and miss you terribly. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. 10 P.M is always "Our Time"

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Saturday, Dec. 4, 1943
2045 - #76

My dearest Georgia,

Have been anchored out in the channel all day taking things fairly easy. We did not have any operations scheduled for today and so have been taking advantage of the free time to get the ship's log up to date and to square away a lot of routine reports, letters and etc. The crew have been working around the ship all day doing odds and ends. Had to go ashore this afternoon for a while on business to talk about

operations for the coming week and while ashore stopped by the barber on the base to get a haircut. Do not plan to go ashore tonight to the officers club, but take things easy in my quarters and listen to the radio, write a couple of letters and then "hit the sack" early.

Received your #103 letter dated Nov.19 in todays mail and was so glad to hear from you. Also received a very nice letter from mother and dad, and to top it all , a very lovely "Thanksgiving" greeting card from Esther and jGene. Please tell Esther and Gene that I thought it was very thoughtful of them to think of me at Thanksgiving time and that I appreciate the card very much. And speaking of Thanksgiving, did you have a lovely thanksgiving dinner with turkey and all the trimmings. My, how I wished I could have been able to have been there at the table with all of you - wouldn't it have been wonderful? The Thuneys and the Thomases all together once again.

Darling, I am so glad to hear that my letters are reaching you so quickly and regularly. That is the way I like for them to reach you. I only wished that your letters reached me that efficiently. However I guess that I should not complain because the service is fairly good over here considering the meager mail facilities they have over here.

Darling, I am sorry to hear that you have difficulty with Peggy in getting her to eat every now and then. However, darling, although she exasperates you at times, please do not be too hard on her. I hope to hear soon that you have taught her how to drink out of a cup. Please tell her that her daddy loves her very much although he does not know her very well and thinks about her very often. Please give to her my usual big hug and kiss.

Well, darling, how is everything going along for you. I certainly think about you and wonder how you are and what you are doing and if you and Peggy are both well and happy. Please be patient and courageous , my darling, and keep on carrying on like you are

until I can return home to you and Peggy and then I will try and make up to the both of you everything that you have missed and been deprived of. Oh, my darling, I love you very dearly and miss you terribly. I love you with all my heart and soul, my beloved wife and will always, forever. Heres throwing a thousand kisses to you. Always remember my darling, I Love You!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Monday, Dec. 6, 1943
2145 - #77

My dearest Georgia --

Returned back here to the base from training operations about a half hour ago after having a busy day at sea and now for a letter to you, my darling wife.

When our mail was brought aboard tonight there was a large mail sack filled with Christmas packages. My hopes immediately soared that there might be a package or two for me from you or Alice or my folks. But to my great disappointment there was nothing for me. However my two should come any day now - I hope!

On the first of the month I collected the rest of my back lieutenant's pay and so now my pay situation is all squared away

and up to date now. It certainly should be after all these months (7 to be exact) of trying to get it squared away. And so darling I am enclosing a money order made out to you for one hundred (\$10000) with this letter. I know that you can certainly use the money to help you pay off your financial obligations. I hope that this money will help you some. By the way, darling, I think that you are doing a very noble job in getting our deplorable financial situation cleared up and our books out of the red. Won't it be a grand and glorious feeling when we can say that we do not owe anybody a penny and that we have a nest egg in the bank. Are our allotment checks coming to you satisfactorily for the sum of \$25000. And also are you getting your monthly house rent from Perry satisfactorily and on time. Darling if you need any advice in regards to financial matters such as taxes, and etc. please do not hesitate to ask Gene about them because I am quite sure that he would be glad to advise you. He would also know more about such things than I would because since I have been out of the country for quite a while now I do not know what is going on.

Well, sweetheart, how is everything going along for you and Peggy. I trust that you are very well and happy and that you are enjoying your visit with Esther and Gene very much. Judging by the remarks in your letters you seem to be and I am very happy to hear it. Because knowing that you are well and happy relieves me somewhat of my concern about you. Darling I am constantly thinking about you wondering how you are and what you are doing and if you are well and happy.

As for myself I am very well and safe and still being kept pretty busy doing the same old thing. However I am very lonely for you and wish I were back home with you and Peggy and we were living a normal happy family life once again. Wouldn't that be wonderful! Oh well, lets buck up - this war cannot last forever and I shall be coming home maybe sooner that you might expect

and then we shall make up for all the time that we have been apart.

Please give my regards to Esther, Gene, and Mike and give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss, and to you, my dearest wife, I sent all my love and accompanied with a thousand hugs and kisses and the three little words, "I LOVE YOU!"

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Thursday, Dec. 9, 1943
0930 - #78

My dearest Georgia,

Was unable to write my usual "every other day" letter to you last night on account of a dinner party that I had aboard my ship last night in celebration of our first birthday of being a commissioned U.S. Navy ship.

On the twelfth of this month my ship will have been in commission one year. As a matter of fact it was commissioned at three o'clock in the afternoon of Dec. 12, 1942 at Boston and at the same time I assumed the command of the ship. And so I thought it would be very nice to have a small birthday party in honor of the occasion. Since the twelfth was on a Sunday, I decided it would be better to have the

party in the middle of the week at which time we have a lull in our training program and are tied up at the pier.

And so all yesterday morning the crew worked like little demons cleaning up the ship, scrubbing the decks, cleaning down the passages, polishing bright work and making the ship fairly sparkle and shine. I have never seen a bunch of men work so hard. At noon a holiday was declared on board the ship and the men all secured from the ship routine to do as they pleased. Last night the crew had a large party that I arranged for them with beer and everything ^on the base and the crews of the other ships in my division were invited as their guests. However before going ashore to their party, the crew had a marvelous chicken dinner on board the ship.

For my dinner party I had invited Capt. Jamison, U.S. Navy (my temporary skipper that I have been serving under ever since I have been participating in these training operations both down the line at our former base and now up here), Colonel Langford, an Australian army colonel of great prominence and Major O'Brien of the Australian army who I work together with in carrying out the respective training operations. Due to the small size of my ward-room I was unable to invite any more guests, but even tho the affair was small it was very nice. I told my cook that I wanted a very nice dinner and good service and he did a perfect job. For dinner we had chicken-gumbo soup, fried chicken, mashed potatoes with chicken gravy, peas, sliced tomatoes, a lettuce, celery, and cucumber salad, ice, tea, bread, home-made cherry pie, vanilla ice cream, with chocolate sauce and coffee. How does that sound to you? All of us ate to much and complained of the terriable uncomfortable feeling that we had. After sitting around for about an hour smoking and swapping yarns and stories left the ship and went up to the officers club where we spent a pleasant evening drinking and talking. Everything went along perfectly and the affair was a complete success. Also this morning my [indecipherable] mate reported that the crew's party was a success of which I was very pleased to hear.

Well, darling, enough of my idle chatter, tell me sweetheart, how are You and Peggy these days. I trust that you are both well and happy. Please say hello to Esther and Gene for me. Also have you received my letter of Dec.6 with the money order for \$10000 enclosed. I know that you can certainly use the money. Please give Peggy my usual hug and kiss and to you my darling wife I send a thousand hugs and kisses. Always remember that I love you very dearly and miss you terribly
I LOVE YOU.

Morton (A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Friday, Dec. 10, 1943
1800 - #79

My dearest Georgia,

Today we participated in a large scale training program which we always have at the conclusion of each training program and it was a very interesting and successful operation. Our particular phase in the problem started at 1 A.M. this morning and we did not secure from our assigned task until four- thirty this afternoon and so have had a long and busy day. However will have a two day lull in our operations which will permit us to get a little much needed rest and also get some work done about the ship. Have just finished eating my supper and after I finish this letter to you plan to go up to the officers club for a short while and have a couple of scotches and soda (if there is any Scotch) and then return to the ship and pile into my bunk early because I am very tired.

Have not received a letter from you for nearly a week now
And when the ship's mail clerk brought the mail on board tonight
was very disappointed when there was no mail for me from you. I
had my hopes up to receive at least one letter from you today. Also
darling have not received your last two Christmas packages as yet
but expect they will be arriving most any day now.

I trust that by this time you have received the money order
for \$10000 that I enclosed in my #77 letter of Dec. 6 to you. Darling
I only wish the amount could have been more but that is all that I
could spare and still keep enough for my own livelihood. However
I guess the hundred dollars should help out a little in aiding you
to get your debts paid off. I hope that it won't be very long before
you will be able to scratch off the books all of our debts and
be able to start putting some money in the bank as savings. I know
that you will feel greatly relieved when you ca do that very thing and
I shall be very pleased to hear it.

I suppose by now you are experiencing some real winter
weather. Has it been very cold and have you had much snow as
yet. and here I am enjoying this delightful warm weather and
acquiring a beautiful dark sun tan.

How is everything going along for you and Peggy? And how are
the Thuneys these days? Please say hello to them for me and that
I think about all of you very often and wish I could be there with
you. It would be like old times and wouldn't we have a lot of
fun.

Sent some V - Mail Christmas cards to the Wetsels, Doyles, Geniene[?]
Aldrich, Queally, ~~Quinn~~ Quinns, Loafman's[?], and the Van Vlicks. Thought
that they would enjoy hearing from me. They were similar to the ones
that I sent to you and the Thuney's.

Well, darling, guess that I will say good-night until my next letter to you. Please tell Peggy that her daddy loves her very much and sends her a big hug and kiss. And, darling, please always remember that I love you more than anything in the world and that you are constantly in my thoughts. I love you very dearly and always will, forever.
I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. 10 P.M is "Our Time"

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Monday, Dec.13, 1943
2030 - #80

Dearest Georgia --

Was unable to write a letter to you last night because after I returned back to the base from our operations yesterday I was invited up to the officers club for dinner, drinks, and the evening as the guest of our army colonel that I had on board my ship that day. have a very enjoyable evening and when I returned to the ship was too tired to write a letter to you. And so, darling, I apologize for being tardy in writing this letter to you.

Well, darling, your mail finally caught up with me last Saturday, in fact, I was completely swamped with mail. And I was

certainly a very happy person. First of all, I received your lovely Christmas package containing the nice two pound box of Fanny Farmer's Candy. The package came thru in excellent condition and the candy looked just as nice as the very day it was packed in the box. And darling, do you realize that the butter creams that are mixed in the box are the first that I have had since I left the states. Darling, The candy is delicious and I have enjoyed it so very much. Thanks so

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much for sending it to me. It was very thoughtful of you. I still have some left, in fact, I am eating a piece of it right now. My other two officers are enjoying it also and send their thanks, also. Also along with the box of candy I received four of your very nice letters, #100, #101, #102, and #104 dated Nov. 14, Nov. 15, Nov. 17 and Nov. 21 respectively and besides all of that your very cute card of the bunny and the world that you posted on Nov. 23. And so, my darling, you can readily understand how excited I was Saturday afternoon when all that mail came for me.

Darling, I am so glad to hear that you had such a lovely birthday and received so many grand gifts. The Thuneys certainly did do their very best to see that your birthday wa a real success. I only wish I could have been there with you to enjoy it and say in person - Happy Birthday, darling! And so you and Gene are still feuding over ages and monkey glands!

Yes, mother wrote me and old me that dad had put anti-freeze in the radiator of our car and also had the battery recharged.

Darling, are you going to save Peggy's first pair of shoes. I think you should as a memo. Maybe you could have them preserved. That certainly is a skure sign that Peggy is growing up when she starts to outgrow her shoes. Judging by the remarks in your letters about

Peggy's actions and habits she must be very cute and adoreable and I feel very flattered when you say that she is very much like me in many ways. I am anxiously waiting for the day when I can return back home to the both of you and then I can enjoy Peggy too. When you get a chance please send to me some more recent snapshots

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of Peggy so that I can see how much she has grown and changed. Darling, I am very glad to hear that you know where I am. And all of the ~~deductions~~ conclusions that you made about where I was and where I am now are absolutely correct. And so you win the sixty-four dollar question! I am glad to hear that you received the picture folders that I mailed to you. I thought that you might be interested in seeing some of the places that I have seen.

Yes, darling all of your Christmas packages have reached me in excellent condition and your wrapping of the first two packages was very good and the contents were intact. I am sorry that I annoyed you by not waiting until Christmas to open the packages, but honestly darling I just couldn't wait that long to see what you had sent to me for Christmas. I knew that whatever it was it would be very nice and so had to see what it was. Also my other officers and my crew open up their packages immediately upon receiving them and so I thought I would do the same. Please forgive me.

Just before writing this letter to you I re-read your last four letters and enjoyed them just as much this time (the fourth time) as I did the first time that I read them. They are so well written, so newsy and interesting and also vivid in every little detail and event that I can mentally picture how you and Peggy are and what you are doing. You just can't realize how much I enjoy your letters. Without them to cheer me on life would be very dull and disheartening.

Well, darling it is growing late and I am pretty tired sand so had better say good-night until my next letter to you. Please give my very

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best regards to Esther, Gene and Mike and tell them I think about them often. Also darling please tell Peggy that her daddy is very proud of her and loves her very much. And that she should be a very good little girl and obey mommy.

Darling. As the days and weeks pass by I realize more and more how much you really mean to me and that I love you more than words can express. You are constantly in my thoughts day and night regardless of where I am or whatever I am doing. I love you with all my heart and will continue doing the same forever. You are the only person in this world that I love and will ever love as long as I live. And so, darling, with all that in mind I send to you a thousand hugs and kisses and with these these three little words always on my lips, "I LOVE YOU!"

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. 10 PM every night is "Our Time."

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1943
2030 - #81

My dearest Georgia,

Am sitting here in my quarters alone tonight listening to a short wave radio program being transmitted from the states. My other two officers went ashore to the officers club for the evening and I am enjoying being alone to myself for a change. About an hour ago took a lovely hot shower and washed my hair. And now just before starting to write this letter to you I spent about fifteen minutes looking at all the pictures I have of you and Peggy and wishing I were back at home with the both of you where I rightfully belong. Even tho I am not back home with you in person I am always with you in thoughts and mind, my darling. In fact you are always constantly in my thoughts because I continually wonder how you are and what you are doing and realize just how much I dearly love you and miss you. oh my darling, I will never be able to express in words how much you mean to me and how very, very much I love you.

Last night I had dinner up at the Officers Club on the base as the guest of Captain Jamison (my skipper) and spent a very enjoyable evening.

This afternoon after lunch Grant Fitts (one of the skippers in my division) and I went out in my little dinghy (with outboard motor) to do a little fishing. It was a beautiful afternoon putting from one place to another trying our luck at fishing, but we did not have much luck with our fishing. He caught four Bream and I only caught three. However although our luck at fishing was poor we had a lot of fun exploring around. Stopped at a small village and went ashore to a store and had something to eat and drink. Did not return back to the ship until about 6 P.M. While in the boat only wore a pair of shorts and so acquired some more sun burn. Am now as brown as a berry - you should see me. Wish Gene could have been with me - he would have really enjoyed himself.

As you can see darling I am having things fairly easy these few days during the lull in our training program. However will be back to the grind again next Monday for another long stretch. Tomorrow morning I have to go into town on business which will take up the most of the day. However if everything turns out all right plan to spend the night in town and enjoy myself and return back here the following morning. Joe Sibigtroth is going into town with me to keep me out of mischief.

Well, my darling sweetheart, there is nothing much I can say about myself except that I am very well, in fact a perfect specimen of health, sleep very well, have a marvelous appetite, enjoy scotches and soda whenever I am fortunate enough to get them. And so you can see that your husband is in pretty good shape.

Please give Esther and Gene my best regards. And please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy thinks about her all the time because he loves her very dearly. And of course darling I continually repeat that I love you very, very much and am terribly lonely for you and your love. Always I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Friday, ~~Nov.~~ Dec- 17, 1943
2015 - #82

My dearest Georgia,

This morning the expected thing finally happened and that was orders to proceed north for extended service in the forward area. I have been anticipating this to happen for the past month because I had foreseen "the writing on the wall". And so darling this has been a very busy day for me. And as characteristic of the Navy, whenever anything happens it always happens in a sudden - like manner and with a mad rush with a lot of things to do and very little time to do them in.

When I received the orders this morning I had a thousand and one things to do, people to inform on the base, matters and schedules pertaining to our training operations to get squared away, personnel problems to be taken care of, ships business to attend to, and, arrangements for our departure from the base to come up here to the city to load on fuel oil, water, provisions, supplies, etc. for our voyage.

Departed from the base after lunch after saying good-bye to everybody including Capt. Jamison and others and arrived up here later this afternoon. No sooner had I arrived here that I started immediately to get myself (and the ship) loaded with fuel and etc. in preparation for our little jaunt. Expect to be working most of the night and all day tomorrow etc. until we are in full readiness to leave. Tomorrow I have a lot of ships business to attend to plus attending an important conference pertaining to our task ahead of us.

Part of my crew were scheduled to go on a 48 hour liberty commencing this morning. But after this affair ^came up had to immediately cancel all leave and liberty and so the crew all suspect that something is brewing and are buzzing with excitement. Most of them suspect what is up but of course I am not going to tell them until we are underway.

And now, my darling, please don't begin to fret and worry about my safety because everything is going to be all right and no harm shall come to me and maybe after I do my little bit up there my flotilla commander might let me return to the states for a thirty day leave. Wouldn't that be nice?

Have not received any mail from you this week as yet, but hope to before I leave here. If I dont it will take a little while for it to catch up with me. Darling, I don't know whether I will be able to write another letter to you before I leave here. However if I am able to I surely will. And so, my dearest darling, please do not be impatient if you do not hear from me for a couple of weeks. Just as soon as I reach my destination I will write you the very first thing.

And so, my darling, will say good-night and au revoir to you until my next letter Always remember that I love you very, very dearly and miss you terriably. You are always in my thoughts no matter wherever I am or what I am doing. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss. Also please say hello to Ester, Gene and Mike for me. To you, my darling wife, I send a thousand hugs and kisses and continue repeating that "I LOVE YOU!"

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Every night at 10 PM is "Our Time"

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. U.SNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

Sunday, Dec. 26, 1943

1845 - #83

My dearest Georgia,

Arrived here safely early this afternoon completing the second leg of our trip up to the forward area. Have one more leg to go before we reach our destination and then we will have plenty of work in store for us. So far our trip has been very good, the weather excellent and the seas mild. But operations are pushing us along on our trip to our destination as fast as we can travel with only sufficient time to take on fresh water, fresh food supplies and provisions and to pick up intelligence reports and operational orders at each one of our port of calls. In fact at the completion of our first leg when we put into a port we were there only six hours and then were on our way again. And again this time we will only be here at this port for a very short time.

And so you can see, my darling, that I have been kept pretty busy ever since I last wrote to you. In fact this is the very first opportunity that I have had to write a letter to you. Am going to put this letter on another navy ship here in the harbor tonight so that they will mail it for me. Darling, I am afraid that from now on I will not be able to write to you as often or as regularly as I have been doing in the past because I will be out on operations most of the time. However, darling, I will write to you as often as I can, even tho it may be a short note to let you know that I am well and safe and that I love you. Also, darling, the mail service up here is said to be very poor and so my letters will take much longer to reach you than they did when we were at our last place.

Have not received any mail from you since last Saturday a week ago which was Dec. 11 and that was your #104 letter. And I suppose it will be some time before your mail will finally catch up to me.

Well, tell me, darling, did you and Peggy have a nice Christmas? even tho it is a little late, I wish Peggy and you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Please write and tell me all about your Christmas. Also please express my Christmas greetings to Esther, Gene and "Mike". To me Christmas Day was just another day traveling underway at sea. However at our last port of call we were very fortunate to get two hundred pounds of fresh turkeys and so we did manage to have a nice Christmas dinner.

How are you and Peggy these days? I trust that you are both well and happy. I think about you all the time wondering how you are and what you are doing. By the way did Peggy have a nice birthday ? Please wish her a happy birthday for me. I suppose she is getting to be quite a big girl now. Please give her my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy loves her very much and hopes that he can be home for her next birthday.

Darling, I am growing lonlier and lonlier for you as the days pass by. you are constantly in my mind and I full realize now just how much you do mean to me and .that I love you more than anything else in the world. Please try and be a brave and patient little navy wife until I can return home to you and take you into my arms and never let you go again. My darling I love you very dearly - I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A. M. Thomas, Jr.

(United States Navy stationary, handwritten)

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Wednesday, Dec. 29, 1943
2010 - #84

My dearest Georgia,

Arrived here safely at our destination this afternoon after having a very good trip up without any incident. However traveling in these waters up here is quite a bit different than in traveling in the waters down the line where I have been operating in the past. We have to be constantly on the alert for enemy aircraft and submarines.

I reported to my flotilla commander as soon as I arrived and he was very glad to see me and my outfit. It has been seven and a half months since I last saw him and we chatted for over an hour about what I had been doing down the line and that I had done a great job. To hear that coming from him made me feel very good.

As my group of ships sailed in we received a very cordial welcome from all the ships that are up here and a few of the skippers of the other ships that I used to associate with have already come aboard to see me. And so this afternoon has been somewhat of a "reunion session" with the boys asking me how things are back on the mainland and what white women are like and they telling me about their experiences in their operations up here. From what they tell me they are kept pretty busy up here with operations and etc. the "Old Man" (my flotilla commander) told me this afternoon that he was very anxious for me to get squared away as quickly as possible so

that I would be available when he needed me.

Life is quite different up here than down the line where everything is peaceful and people are living a normal life. Up here everybody is on the alert and never knowing from one minute to the next what is going to happen but always ready for it. It is certainly a change from the dull monotonous training operations that I have been doing for the past seven and a half months.

Darling I understand the mail situation is very bad up here. The boys say that they consider themselves very lucky if they receive mail at once a week. And the mail goes ashore to be posted at irregular intervals of maybe two or three times a week and of course when on operations which usually last for five or six days and we are away from our base no mail goes out at all. And so darling my regular schedule of letter writing to you of every other day will be no more and so in the future you will not receive letters from me as frequently as you have in the past. However darling I am going to write to you as often as I can and hope that the letters do not have to lay around too long before they are taken ashore to be posted. Darling you can always depend on me to write to you as often as I can and please do not get alarmed about my safety when you do not get a letter for a week or ten days. You must understand that I am either out on an operation or a special assignment or that our mail to be posted has been delayed in being picked up by the mail boat.

Darling, how are you and Peggy these days ? I am very anxious for my mail to catch up to me so that I can receive some of your letters and learn how you are and what you are doing. The last time

I received a letter from you was on Dec.11 which is over two weeks ago. And I suppose it will still be some time before any mail will

arrive for us. I suppose that Peggy is growing like a little weed. Has she acquired any more teeth and also how is she coming along in her attempts to learn to walk and talk. I certainly do wish I could see her. Please try and send me some more pictures of her.

And now, my darling, precious little wife, tell me how is everything going along for you. Are you still enjoying your visit with the Thuneys? And also how do you like the winter weather in Minn.? Please give my very best regards to Esther, Gene and Mike and tell them that I think about all of you very often and wish I were back home with you.

As for myself, I am fine and in the best of health. Please do not worry about me because I am O.K. and will always take good care of myself.

Darling, I am more lonely for you than ever. How I wish I were back home with you and we were living a happy normal life together like we did before I went into the service. Darling I think about you constantly day and night. Please always remember that I love you with all my heart and soul and that you are the only person I love and will ever love forever. To you, my darling sweetheart I send you a thousand hugs and kisses with these three little words attached, "I LOVE YOU.

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR

U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Saturday, Jan. 1, 1944
1330 - #85

Happy New Year, darling --

About an hour ago finished eating our New Years Day dinner and it was quite a meal. At our first port of call en route up here (also our jumping-off place from the mainland) we were very fortunate to be able to obtain a nice supply of chickens and turkeys. We had the turkeys for Christmas and had the chickens today. Our dinner today consisted of chicken-gumbo soup, delicious fried chicken , mashed potatoes and chicken gravy, canned asparagus, dressing, cooked cranberries, pumpkin pie and iced tea. How's that for a good meal? And I really made a pig of myself. As a matter of fact, I was compelled to lie down for a half hour to rest my stomach.

Ever since we arrived up here have been very busy getting the ship squared away and in readiness for future operations. As for myself I have been busy getting acquainted with the flotilla organization, their operational procedure and general indoctrination of their entire set-up.

Have seen some more of the old gang and have also met a lot of new ones who have joined the flotilla while I was down the line. all of them are a swell bunch of men and I am going to like it up here very much. By the way, can you guess where I am now? I will give you three guesses.

Darling, it seems like ages since I last received a letter from You. You just cannot imagine how much I miss your letters when There is a long delay in their reaching me. Your lovely letters mean

So much to me and I look forward from day to day to receive them. I only hope the mail will catch up to us sometime next week.

Have not heard from mother and dad for over a month now. Do you receive letters from them often and how are they?

Please wish Esther, Gene and Mike a Happy New Year for me and that I hope to be able to come back home to you folks sometime during this year. And then we will have a big party to celebrate!

How is Peggy these days? Have you taken any pictures of her recently ? If you have, please send me some prints of them. Also, darling, how about that nice picture of yourself that you were going to have taken and send to me. Please do that for me, because I would love to have a nice recent picture of you. Please tell Peggy that her daddy wishes her a Happy New Year and also a very successful year. Also tell her that he loves her very dearly and thinks about her very often. Please give to her my usual big hug and kiss that I would personally do if I were home.

And now, my darling wife, tell me about yourself. How are you? I trust that you are very well and that you are still enjoying your visit with the Thuneys. How are your financial problems coming along. I hope that you will be able to have your debts entirely paid off Soon.

Well, darling, must get back to work and so had better bring this letter to a close. Always remember darling that you are my only sweetheart and that I love you very dearly and miss you terribly. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Monday, Jan. 3, 1943
2215 - #86

My dearest Georgia,

Have just returned to my ship from seeing an outdoor movie on the main deck of one of the large ships anchored near us. The name of the picture that I saw was "Casablanca." Have you seen it? I thought it was a good picture and I enjoyed it very much. Seeing movies every once in a while on one of the ships up here is the only amusement or recreation that we have. There is no navy base on the shore up here where there is an officers club and of course there are no towns up here except a native village or so or a small army base and so we just lay out in the bay at anchor when not operating and enjoy life to ourselves. Liberty ashore for the evening or for a week-end is a thing of the past, in fact just a memory, because there is nothing ashore to go to or see. I guess that I should consider myself very lucky to have stayed so long on the mainland as I did and able to enjoy town and city life and white civilization every once in a while.

Our mail has not caught up to us as yet, darling and so am still anxiously waiting to receive some of your lovely newsy letters. It seems like ages since I received any mail from you and I am impatient to hear how you and Peggy are and what you have been doing and all about yourselves. I sincerely hope that our mail will catch up to us sometime this week.

Have been very busy since we arrived up here making some alterations to the ship, painting, making some repairs and getting the ship squared away for operations. Tomorrow I hope to report that my ship is in readiness and then I guess the "old man" (my flotilla commander) will be assigning me to some tasks to carry out. He has been asking me every day when I thought I would be ready and today I told him that I would be in readiness by tomorrow. The crew have been working long hours and very hard to get things completed and I admire their spirit. I also have been working pretty hard getting my monthly and quarterly reports made up and mailed out to the respective bureaus and commands.

How are you and Peggy these days? I trust that you are both well and happy. Please tell Peggy that her daddy says hello and sends her his usual big hug and kiss.

Darling, I think about you all the time. In fact you are constantly in my thoughts both day and night regardless where I am or what I am doing wondering how you are and what you are doing and if you are happy and fully realizing how dearly I love you and how lonely I am for you. Oh, my darling sweetheart, I love you more that words can express. You mean everything in this world to me and I love you very, very dearly. To you, my darling wife I send a thousand hugs and kisses with these three little words attached. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. 10 PM is always "Our Time"

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR

U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Thursday, Jan. 6, 1944
1500 - #87

My dearest Georgia,

This morning our mail finally caught up to us. The mail-boat put four large mail sacks on board for us and the boys nearly went wild with excitement knowing that there was mail for them. It has been three weeks since we last received any mail. It took nearly an hour to get the letters and packages assorted before the mail could be distributed and then everybody lined up to get their respective mail. Then a complete silence reigned over the ship for about an hour while everybody quietly and excitedly read their mail from their loved ones back home.

In the mail that was delivered I received nine letters from you, a Christmas package from you, a letter from Gene, a letter and a Christmas card with a money order for five dollars attached from mother and dad, a Christmas card from Alice and Barney, a Christmas card with a nice note on it from Mr. & Mrs. Fellows, a nice letter from Mr. & Mrs. Loafman, a nice Christmas card from Mrs. Eva Cheney with a nice note on it, a notice from my lodge and thirteen copies of the Washington Evening Star paper. - not a bad haul, eh what!

Darling, the letters I received from you were your #105 letter up to and including your #113 letter dated Dec. 9, and so, darling, I have received to date all of your letters up to and including your #113 letter. And it was wonderful to receive your lovely letters again

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And so many. I spent over two hours reading over my mail and have

not as yet looked at the newspapers. Have already read your entire bunch of letters completely through three times already carefully digesting every word that you wrote. Reading your letters was similar to reading a book because they covered a space of time from Nov. 23 to Dec 9 and I arranged them in consecutive order according to date and read them in that manner. Darling, your letters are so wonderful and refreshing to read that they renew my vigor and will to carry on in spite of my great loneliness for you.

Your lovely Christmas package came through in excellent shape, but the paper package of nuts were pretty stale - moisture had gotten into them. Outside of that which could not be helped everything was in good condition. And darling it was very thoughtful of you to send me so many nice things that I needed and could use. Thanks a lot for the package darling. I certainly do appreciate it and fully realize what a marvelous, thoughtful and loving, darling wife I have. In case you have forgotten what you placed in the package I will enumerate the articles.

10 pkgs. of Chesterfield cigarettes	2 Oh Henry Candy Bars
2 cakes of Lifebouy soap	2 Pkgs Walnettoes
1 deck of playing cards	3 Pkgs of Life Savers
2 toothbrushes	

Again I repeat, my darling, myny, many thanks for the nice Christmas package. You have certainly been a wonderful "Santa Clause" to me!

Am so thrilled to hear that Peggy is beginning to walk and to stand alone. I bet that you are thrilled about it too. And so her first word spoken was "bad" Thats good! And also that she is proudly exhibiting four teeth. She is certainly growing up to he be

quite a young lady. It must be very interesting and exciting to be

able to watch her make attempts to walk and talk. I certainly do wish I were home to see her. Please tell Peggy that her daddy congratulates her on her accomplishments and is very proud of her.

Darling, thanks a lot for sending the two colored pictures of you and Peggy together. I think they are very good. It is a shame that Peggy had to move in one of them, in fact the best of the two pictures.

I am awfully sorry to hear that you are having so much trouble with the rash breaking out on Peggys face and body. Why don't you ask the doctor if exzema is hereditary because if I am not mistaken I remember hearing my folks say that I had the same thing when I was small. Darling you certainly do seem to have your troubles, between the rash situation and th "sucking the thumb" curse. You certainly will be a well experienced mother by the time Peggy is grown up. I hope that you are successful is curing the rash on Peggy in a short time.

Darling, thanks a lot for sending to me one of our Christmas cards that you mailed out for us this Christmas to our friends. Yes it is a little plain, but very nice and appropriate. Also thanks for forwarding Kennys Christmas V-mail to me. I shall return it to you so that you can put it in your scrap book. Also, darling, thanks a lot for the newspaper clippings that you enclosed in your letters. The were very interesting to read and I appreciate your interest in sending them to me.

Darling, if you can I think it would be very wise to pay the 1942 income tax amounting to \$400. It will have to be paid sooner or later and so when you get a little money saved I think it would be the best thing to pay it. No, darling, nothing has been deducted from my salary for income tax since June15, 1943.

Well darling had better bring this letter to a close because I have some work to get done this afternoon. As for myself, darling, I am very well and safe and so please do not worry about me. Please do not count too much on that 30 day leave that I wrote to you about sometime ago that I hope to get either this late spring or summer because it might not come through. However I think there is a very good chance that I will get it. In the meantime, darling please take good care of Peggy and yourself and always remember that I love both of you very dearly. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and to you my darling wife I send a thousand hugs and kisses with these three little words attached, I LOVE YOU.

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Please give my best regards to the Thuneys

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Sunday, Jan. 9, 1944
2030 - #88

My dearest Georgia,

Today has been a very easy day for us with nothing much to do but general ship routine and I had a couple of reports to make up. This noon we had turkey for dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberries (dehydrated), stringbeans, mince pie and iced tea. My plate was piled high and I ate like a little pig. You know how

I like turkey and I sure had my fill. After dinner while permitting my large dinner to digest I wrote a letter to Esther and Gene which they should receive at the same time that you receive this letter because the mail boat comes around tomorrow morning to pick up our outgoing mail.

In my last letter to you I forgot to mention that I received a nice Christmas card from Alice and Barney with a short note written on it.

Have not been in any operations since we arrived up here, although some of the other ships have. Have been getting ourselves oriented up here and getting adjusted and squared away to the new routine up here. However have been quite busy making some engine repairs to the ship, painting, and making a few alterations and improvements to the ship which takes considerable time. Yesterday we went alongside a large supply ship which just arrived to take on board some fresh provisions and dry stores. Have been over on the flagship to talk to the "old man" several times about my operations down the line and also about the operations up here. He has explained a lot to me about the procedure and routine of these various operations up here. Just returned to my ship a short while ago from a visit to my group commander discussing various matters.

Well, darling, enough about myself and now let's change the subject to you. Have not received any more mail from you since last Thursday when I received nine of your precious letters. But tomorrow the mail boat is to pick up our incoming mail and hope that there will be some mail for me from you. How are you and Peggy these days? Has the bad rash on Peggy's body improved?- I hope so. Also how is she coming along with her attempts to walk and talk. It must be very interesting to watch her in her attempts. Please tell her that her daddy is very proud of her and loves her very dearly even tho he does not know her very well. Please give her my customary big hug and Kiss.

How are your finances coming along? I hope that shortly you will have all of our debts paid off and you will be able to soon put some money in the bank. By the way am enclosing a statement from my lodge for my 1943 dues. I thought that you said that they told you that I was exempt from paying any dues while I was on foreign duty. Will you look into the matter for me and if necessary pay my 1943 dues for me because I do not want to be dropped from the lodge for non-payment of dues.

Well, darling, it is growing late and so will say good-night until my next letter to you. Please always remember that you are continually in my mind and forever in my heart. I love you with all my heart now and forever. Darling, to you, my dearest wife I send a thousand hugs and kisses and sincerely hope that I will be able to return home to you on a thirty ^day leave within five or six months. I pray for that day to come. Always remember, darling I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Tuesday, Jan. 11, 1943
2200 - #89

My dearest Georgia,

Have just returned to my ship from seeing a movie on one

of the larger ships anchored near us. It was an old picture and fairly good. The title of it was "Too many blondes" with Rudy Vallee. However out here we consider ourselves fortunate to be able to have movies every night whether they are good or bad or new or old.

Yesterday I completed all of my present reports and work on hand and so today have had things fairly easy. Did a few things for myself such as clean out and straighten up my drawers in the cabinet where I keep my clothes, washed out some dirty socks, sewed on a couple of buttons and other little miscellaneous jobs. And then after lunch ~~stretched~~ curled up on my bunk and read some magazine stories out of the Saturday Evening Posts that we have on board."Ogive"[?] gets them every week. It has been the first afternoon in a long time where I have had nothing to do but entertain myself and I certainly did enjoy myself. I felt like a millionaire on his private ~~yaarcht~~ yacht enjoying the luxuries of life. Tomorrow however I have a small assignment to take care of and so will be underway most of the day returning about dark.

The mountains on the island make a beautiful landscape from where we are anchored. They are very high and rugged and always a blueish grey color with heavy billowy white clouds either covering their peaks or laying down low about midway between their peaks and the flat plain below which extends down to the sea. It makes a very beautiful setting and looks very familiar to one of Maxfield's Parish landscape paintings.

Since there is nothing on the shore to go to we just idle our time out here riding the hook about three miles off-shore when we are not busy operating. Of course there is always some work to do but I have my work pretty well squared away and so plan to take life a little easy and catch up on my reading until something pops. Every night a small boat comes around and picks up a part of the crew and the officers of each ship present here and ~~at~~ takes them

over to one of the large ships here to see the movies. That is the only entertainment we have here.

Well darling what do you think of the exciting life that I am living? I'd give a million dollars (if I had it) to ^be back right this very minute in our own little home with you and Peggy and the three of us living a happy normal family life together. Wouldn't that be wonderful! However, my darling sweetheart, it can't be so terribly much longer before we will be able to all be together again. I am living for that day to come. And darling I promise that we will never become separated again.

Please give my usual big hug and kiss to Peggy. And, darling, always remember that I love you very dearly and miss you terribly.

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Thursday, Jan. 13, 1944
1900 - #90

My dearest Georgia --

While waiting for the officers boat to come around and pick me up to take us over to the movie on one of the ships thought I would write you a few lines and let you now that I am well and safe. Have not received any mail for a week

now and so have nothing much to write about except to tell you that I love you very dearly with all my heart and that I am terribly lonely for you and am eagerly looking forward to the day when I can return home to you and the three of us be together once again for ever.

Early yesterday morning I left here on a special mission returning last night after a very good and safe trip. It seemed good to get underway and out to sea again on a little trip. Today we have not done much, remaining at anchor, doing ship routine and I had some work to do. After lunch I found a shady spot on top of the deck house where there was a slight breeze blowing and read a couple of magazine stories out of a Saturday Evening Post. Am reading a serial story consisting of eight parts called "The Opening Door" by Helen Reilly and is very good. It is about a murder in a New York City family and is very interesting. Perhaps you may have read it. I suppose you are somewhat surprised to hear about my reading stories, both magazine and book because I did very little reading when at home. Well, darling, there is nothing much else to do but read, and to be perfectly frank, I am enjoying it very much. And so you see your husband can be a literary man when he wants to be one.

How are you and Peggy these days? I am anxiously waiting for some of your letters to arrive so that I can read how all of you are, and what you have been doing and also to learn how Peggy is and how she is progressing in her efforts to learn to walk and talk. I think about you all the time. In fact you are constantly in my mind both day and night. How are Esther, Gene and Mike? Please give them my best regards.

Well, darling, it is just about time for the boat to arrive and so will say good-night until my next letter to you. Please tell Peggy that her daddy loves her very much and sends her a big hug

and kiss. And to you, my darling wife, I send a thousand hugs
and kisses accompanied with the world famous three little words,
I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. 10 PM is always "Our Time"

P.P.S. Again, I repeat, my darling sweetheart, that I love you more than
Anything in this world.

Morton

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Sunday , Jan. 16, 1944
1300 - #91

My dearest Georgia --

Finished eating a big Sunday dinner about half-hour
ago and while my stomach is trying to digest it will write a
few lines to you to let you know that I am well and safe. Had
fully intended to write to you last night, but when the movie boat
stopped by my ship en route to the ship where the movies are shown,
"Chuck" Wyle, my group commander, was aboard and wanted me to
join him to go to the show and also at the same time talk over
some matters with me pertaining to my division. And so I went
along and by the time I returned to my ship it was quite late and I
was pretty tired and so went to bed. However our outgoing mail is

not to be collected until late this afternoon so that this letter will be collected just as soon as if I had written it last night.

The picture that I saw last night was pretty good and I enjoyed it very much. It was a comedy - type of picture of second rate called . "The Bride Wore Crutches" Movies out here are the only recreation outside of reading and listening to the radio that we have and so try to go to the movies as often as I can. Remember how often we used to go to the movies together back home in the good old days.

Had a very good dinner today - Vegetable soup, roast leg of lamb, baked potatoes, asparagus, stewed tomatoes, butterscotch pudding and iced tea. It was very good and I scraped my plate clean. Have not weighted myself for some time now, but guess that I must weigh about 158 pounds. I eat like a pig, sleep like a log and to be perfectly frank have never felt any better in my entire life. And so you see this navy life seems to agree with me in everyway except one. And that one exception is that the navy has taken me away from you, the one and only person that I never wanted to be away from. This kind of life that I am living is fine for a young single fellow with no responsibilities and full of adventure and not a care in the world. But look at me, an old married man who is madly in love with his darling wife and never, ever wanted to be separated from her for any long length of time and whose heart and thoughts are back there with you and wishing all the time that I were with you and Peggy back in our own little home living a normal happy family life - the three of us together. Darling I am terribly lonely for you and wish that you were here so that I could take you into my arms and hold you tight and smother you with kisses and tell you how much I love you.

Please say hello to Esther, Gene and Mike for me. Also please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy loves her very much and is very proud of her. Darling, please always

remember that I love you very, very dearly ^and that I am terriably lonely for you. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Tuesday, Jan. 18, 1944
1830 - #92

My dearest Georgia,

Some mail finally arrived up here for us and the mail-boat distributed ^it around to the ships early yesterday afternoon and there was much excitement because we have not received any mail for quite sometime now. I received quite a little bit of mail consisting of three letters from you; two letters from mother and dad, a Christmas card from Esther and Gene; a notice from the Reader's Digest that Esther and Gene had given to me a years subscription to the magazine, a nice Christmas card from Harry and Louise Young with a note on it, and a Christmas card from Mr. & Mrs. Keto with a nice note enclosed saying that they had subscribed to the Saturday Evening Post for me. And so I don't think I did so bad - do you?

The three letters I received from you were #114, #116 and #121 dated Dec. 12, 16, and 31 respectively. The other intermediate letters must be somewheres en route. Had hoped

that ^they would arrive today before I wrote this letter to you tonight so that I could have had the complete sequence of letters here in front of me. I dislike to receive letters where there are a few missing out of the sequence because it is difficult to reply to your letters when you do not know what is written in the missing letters. However that is the way it goes and so must make the best

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of it. I guess that the other missing letters will be arriving within the next couple of days.

Darling, when the mail-boat came alongside my ship to give us our mail I became greatly excited, although I tried not to show it in the presence of my officers and crew, because I knew that there must be some mail from you. And when our mail orderly brought my mail to me in my quarters I looked first for your letters and opened them immediately and read them eagerly to see how you were and read all about you and Peggy. I read them first hurriedly to pick out the important items and then after reading them completely through, started all over again and read them very slowly and carefully digesting every word you said and making a mental picture of what you had written about. Darling, I live right with you as I read your letters. In fact the whole world about me seems to vanish into vapor as a background with you and Peggy emerging up into the foreground very plain and distinct and so close that I could reach out and touch you when I read your lovely wonderful letters which are so vivid and complete. Darling your lovely letters renew my courage to carry on even though I am terribly lonely for you, my darling wife.

It certainly was nice of Esther and Gene to subscribe to the Reader's Digest for me and I appreciate it very much. It will afford me a lot of enjoyment during my idle time. I wrote them

a letter of thanks yesterday. I also wrote a nice thank -you note to the Ketoes for the subscription to the Saturday Evening Post.

By the way, darling, do you have any trouble reading my awful writing. It seems to be getting worse all the time in spite of my trying to improve it. Because of my bad writing have started to

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write my letters to other people on the typewriter. But hesitate to write my letters to you on the typewriter because to me its seems too business-like. Writing a letter in long hand seems a lot more personal. However darling if you do have any difficulty in making out my writing please say so and I will bang them (my letters to you) off on the typewriter.

Am glad to hear that you received my money order for one hundred dollars. I only wish I could send that amount of money to you more often because I know that you could really use it to pay off your bills.

Darling, am anxiously waiting to receive your other letters so that I can read all about the nice birthday party you had for Peggy and also about the nice Christmas all of you had. Judging by the remarks in your two letters of Dec. 12 and 16 you were going to have a very nice birthday party for Peggy and up to then she certainly had received quite a few nice presents. Everybody is certainly lovely to her and I am so very proud of her.

Darling, did you have a nice Christmas - I suppose that you did and have told me all about it in one of your letters I certainly did wish that I could have been with you and enjoyed Christmas and New Years Eve - wouldn't that have been wonderful? Oh, well, maybe next year we will be able to do it together and

we will certainly make up for this one that we missed being together.

Did you have a nice time at the New Years Eve party at the Beans and whose husband or husbands did you kiss. I bet that they can't kiss like your old hubby -- or can they? I was in my bunk fast asleep at 11 P.M. that night because over here in the forward area Christmas New Years is just another day for us.

Well, darling, it is almost time for the movie boat to be stopping by and since that is the only recreation we have try to go whenever possible. Please dont worry about me because I am fine and in perfect health and very safe.

Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy is very proud of her and loves her very much. Darling please take good care of yourself and please always remember that I love you very, very much and miss you terribly. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Again I repeat, I Love You!

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Thursday, Jan. 20, 1944
1830 - #93

My dearest Georgia,

Received your #115 letter dated Dec. 15 in yesterdays mail which partly completes the series of missing letters. However have yet to receive your #117 thru #120 to complete the series up to your #121 letter that I received last Monday. I hope that the missing letters will arrive within the next couple of days.

Yesterday I wrote a letter to Louise and Harry Young thanking them for their nice Christmas card and note and asking them to give my best regards to all of the folks up there. Within the next couple of days I am also going to write Genieve and Fred a short note. Due to the fact that I have a little spare time of my own these days I am trying to catch up in a little letter writing to some of the people I have received letters from.

Have not received any of my magazines as yet but guess that they should be reaching me pretty soon. Have just about read all the magazines we have on board and so will welcome the new magazines when they arrive. However several days ago the Navy Dept sent us a dozen fiction and non -fiction books to augment our ship's library and so have been reading a couple of the new books which are pretty good.

Have not been doing much lately except "ride the hook" and take things very easy until the time arrives for us to participate in an operation or to carry out an assignment. And so outside of a couple hours of taking care of official correspondence and reports each day, the rest of the time is for my own personal use. However yesterday the "old man" did call a conference of all the commanding officers on his ship to discuss a few matters which took up practically the whole afternoon. I guess that this lull will not continue so very much longer before something will be popping and then we will be busy again. I can say one thing and that is that I am not near as busy up here as I

was down the line training troops. Down there I really worked hard with very little time for myself. And so have enjoyed this lull in activity - in fact it seems like a vacation to be able to read in the afternoon or take a nap and then go to a movie at night on one of the other ships. However I hope this inactivity does not keep up too long because it will become very monotonous and get on my nerves. You know how I always like to be on the move and doing something.

I am very glad to hear that Peggy is receiving so many nice presents and that she received such a nice dress from mother and dad. I only wish I could have sent her something nice for Christmas too. but I guess that I will have to wait until I get home to get her a nice present. And so I will have to content myself in sending her my love and my usual hug and kiss until I can buy her something Nice.

How are you and Peggy these days, my darling. I trust that you are very well and happy. I think about you all the time and wonder how you are and what you are doing. The two of you mean everything in this world to me and I love you very dearly. Please give my best regards to Esther, Gene and Mike. always remember, my darling sweetheart that I love you with all my heart and soul. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you.
Morton
(A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Saturday, Jan. 22, 1944

My dearest Georgia --

Finished supper about an hour ago and now for a letter to you before I go to the movie tonight. Have been alongside our repair ship for the past couple of days having some ~~canves~~ canvas awnings put over our weather decks and other miscellaneous work. Outside of that everything is just about the same. And so my darling, there is very little news to tell you except that I am very well and that I love you very dearly and miss you terribly.

Yesterday I wrote a nice long letter to Genieve and Fred. I have owed them a letter for a long time but just could never get around to write it. However since I have spare time for myself these days am catching up on my correspondence. I only wish our mail would come to us more frequently. The mail service is very poor up here. There is no regular schedule of delivery - sometimes it comes up by plane and other times by ship. Does it take very long for my letters to reach you now since I have been up here?

Did I tell you that Harry and Louise had gone back to his folks to live and work on the farm. I imagine that his parents are very pleased to have them back on the farm with them. I think that is the best place for Harry since he is the only child and the farm will eventually be his someday.

How are the Thuneys and the Thomases these days? And also how is Gene bearing up under the strain of being a father to two children and a proxy husband to my wife. Tell him that some day I will return the favor to him. I like the idea of The possibility of getting a job in the vicinity of Minneapolis and

buying a house next door to the Thuneys. That would be like old days again. Tell Gene to find a good job for me and I will accept it - maybe he needs an assistant.

By the way, when am I going to get this nice picture of yourself that you promised me a long time ago. I certainly would like to have it. Please have a nice picture taken of yourself and send it to me as soon as possible.

How is Peggy coming along in her efforts to walk and talk? I suppose by now she is making pretty good progress. You will have to send me some pictures of her so that I can see how much she has grown and changed. Please tell her that her daddy is very proud of her and thinks about her very often.

How do you like the cold winter weather up in Minneapolis? Is it much worse than our winters at home?

Well darling, I want to take a shower before I go to the movie and so had better stop. Always remember, my darling wife, that I think of you constantly wondering how you are and what you are doing. I love you very dearly with all my heart. Please take good care of yourself and don't worry about me because I am very safe. Give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and to you my darling sweetheart and wife I send a thousand hugs and kisses.

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.

U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Monday, Jan. 24, 1944
2030 - #95

My dearest Georgia,

Did not go to the movie to-night because I just wasn't in the mood to go and so my other two officers went leaving me all alone here in the ward-room enjoying my solitude. It seems good to be alone for a change without having somebody around. Just before I started to write this letter to you I had my collection of pictures of you and Peggy out on the table here in front of me and looking at them and comparing them. I treasure my collection of pictures very dearly and look at them often. I only wish that I had more recent pictures of Peggy so that I could see how much she has grown and changed. By having nice pictures of her is the only way I can follow her as she grows up. Also darling I would like to have some nice snapshots of you because I am interested in seeing how you look as time marches on.

Since I have been up here in the forward area have grown a moustache again and I think it looks pretty good. Have decided to keep it as long as I am up here and even maybe until I return back to the "States." I wish I could have a picture taken of myself with it so that I could send a picture to you so that you could admire your handsome husband with a moustache. Have also acquired another vice and that is smoking a cigar frequently which I know that you would dislike.

Today we had a near tragedy on board the ship. Our pet cockatoo has complete freedom to wander all over the ship. He loves to get up on the life lines or the gun splinter shields or on the benches on the weather deck and especially wherever any of the crew are because he likes company. Well this afternoon he was perched up on the starboard life-line and lost his balance and fell overboard. Fortunately a couple of the crew were nearby and put a boat hook out for him to get on. He floundered around for a couple of minutes in the sea before he could manage to get a perch on the boat-hook. But when he did get a grip he clung on for dear life and the boys brought him back on board. There was quite a bit of excitement for a few minutes because all of the men have become very fond of him and he is treated royally on board. In fact he is considered part of the ships company. He talks quite a little bit and loves music and will dance back and forth on his perch whenever he hears music. He drinks coffee, eats fruit, candy or practically anything that you give him. He even tried chewing gum that one of the men gave him.

Last night Ogive and I went over to one of the other LCI's to play a little poker and believe it or not I had very good luck and won about twenty-two dollars. In fact the several other times that I have played since I have been up here have always won at least three or four dollars. I don't know how much longer my winning luck will hold out but so far it is very good.

This morning we went out to sea for several hours to

practice some maneuvers and it seemed good to get underway again and splash a little salt spray over the deck. My division

did very well and I was quite proud of it.

Did it tell you that I wrote a nice letter to Genieve and Fred Aldrich several days ago. I have owed them a letter for a long time and felt somewhat ashamed of myself for not writing before This.

Do you hear from mother and dad very often. How are they? I get a letter from them about once every week and I write a letter to them regularly every week. I try to write to them every Sunday whenever possible.

How are the Thuneys these days? I suppose Gene is working hard with time out for golf three afternoons of the week. Tell him to keep his eyes open for a good job for me when I return from this damn war.

I am anxiously waiting to receive your other letters so that I can hear all about Peggy's birthday party and also about the nice Christmas that you had. Your letters are certainly slow in reaching me, but that is the penalty for being up here in the forward area.

How are you, my darling wife? I trust that both you and Peggy are very well and happy. Please give Peggy my usual big kiss and hug and tell her that her daddy loves her very dearly. And to you, darling, I send a million hugs and kisses and then some more because I love you more than anything else in this world with all my heart. I LOVE YOU!

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Wednesday, Jan. 26, 1944
2000 - #96

My dearest Georgia -

Did not go over to the movie tonight because I wanted to write this letter to you instead. And before writing this letter reread your three lovely letters and enclosed Christmas cards that I received in yesterdays mail. Yep, some mail finally arrived for us in which I received three letters from you, seven additio editions of the "Star" newspaper that the folks are sending me and my first copy of the Saturday Evening Post magazine that I received for a Christmas gift.

The letters I received from you were your #118, #119 and #120 dated Dec. 23, 26 and 28 respectively. Your #117 letter is the only one that I have not received to date to complete your series of letters up through #121. However I guess it should be arriving most any day now. Darling it was very thoughtful of you to forward those Christmas cards with notes on them to me and I enjoyed reading them very much.am returning them to you in this letter as you requested me to.

Judging by the remarks in your letter you and Peggy were heavily showered with lovely Christmas gifts and I would say that you had a wonderful Christmas. It certainly was lovely of everybody to remember Peggy and send her such lovely presents. Please

thank them all for me too. I wish I could have been with you Christmas morning to see Peggy's reaction when she saw the trimmed Christmas tree and all the presents. That must have been a very exciting moment - her first real Christmas. Esther and Gene were certainly grand to give you and Peggy so many lovely gifts which I know you both appreciated. Summing it all up, the Thuneys and the Thomases appear to have had a very successful Christmas which makes me very happy to hear .It ^always makes me happy to hear that you and Peggy are well and happy. I know that Esther and Gene are largely responsible for your happiness and contentedness and I feel greatly indebted to them for being so kind to my wonderful wife and daughter. Please quote me as saying that.

I guess that you were thrilled to receive a long distance telephone call from Alice and Marie. It was very nice of them to call you. Also darling it was very thoughtful of you to call mother and dad on Christmas morning and I know that they were thrilled about it and greatly appreciated your thoughtfulness. I can always count of you to do such thoughtful things like that - that is one reason why I love you so much and fully realize what a wonderful wife I have.

Darling, I am very pleased to hear that Dr. Robb said that Peggy was doing so well and that she was a perfect baby. After all that means an awful lot to have a fine healthy baby daughter. And I think that we have a lot to be thankful for even though fate has temporarily broken up our home and I am a great distance apart from you and Peggy. However no matter how great the distance or how long the time of separation our home is still closely bonded

together by our great and strong love which becomes even stronger and more enduring as space and time lengthen.

The white "Navy" goat with the music box inside that the folks sent to Peggy was quite an appropriate gift. I am glad that she likes it. I see that the folks are determined to make Peggy a navy — [?] girl right from the start.

And so you are going to save the lovely nightgown that mother gave you for Christmas until I get home to allure me. Darling you will not need a nightgown to allure me - you will be sufficient.

Darling, I am so pleased to hear that Peggy is walking and also Mike. They must be quite a pair together and really keep you on the alert all the time keeping them out of mischief.

Well darling I have my ships log to write up yet tonight and so had better bring this letter to a close. I am very well and not working too hard although I have been pretty busy today. Please take good care of yourself and Peggy and don't worry about me because I am fine and safe. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy is very proud of her and loves her very much. Darling, please always remember that I love you with all my heart and am terribly lonely for you.

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. 10 P.M. is "Our Time"

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.

U.S.S. LCI (L) 225

% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Friday, Jan. 28, 1944
2030 - #97

My dearest Georgia,

The movie boat failed to stop by the ship tonight and so was unable to go to the show. But it is just as well because I wanted to write this letter to you tonight and I was unable to write it earlier in the evening because of being busy on some ship's business.

Darling upon reading your letter it made me feel very blue and sad because you sounded so lonely and despondent even though you did try to conceal your feelings. Darling, I fully realize how you feel and how lonely you must get at times, especially in the evenings when Gene returns home from the office to his wife and baby and the three of them are so happy together and there you are alone with nobody to come home to give you a cheery greeting or to love you or for you to love or to tell your troubles too that would fully understand like your husband. I know just how you feel and a hard lump comes up into my throat and sweat comes out on my body when I think how you are suffering from loneliness and lack of love, affection and understanding that you had become accout

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accustomed to during all the years that we were happily married. Oh, my darling, this war is certainly cruel to separate us like it has and sometimes I feel as though I cannot carry on much longer and would run for home to you as fast as I could. But when I begin to feel that way I just grab ahold of myself and say, "Look here, you are not the only husband that this war has separated from his

wife and baby and if they can endure it so can you” And then I begin to feel a little better knowing that there are thousands of husbands and wives suffering the same fate. And so, my darling, although it is tough and sometimes almost unbearable to carry on always remember that there are thousands of other wives suffering too, and so try and be as brave as possible, keep a stiff upper lip and always wear a smile and be proud that you are a true Navy wife with your husband fighting for his country and his family so that they shall always be free and happy. Also, my darling precious wife, never forget that your husband loves you more than anything else in the entire world with his whole heart and soul and that he thinks of you constantly day and night regardless of where he is or what he is doing, because you, his wife, that he would very gladly give his life for means everything in the world to him. You, my darling wife, ^you are my life and hope and knowing that you love me as you do and that you are bravely, patiently waiting for me to return home to you and Peggy to renew our happy family life is the only thing that keeps my courage up and makes me all the more determined to carry on.

Darling, I am very pleased to hear that you had such an enjoyable time at the New Year’s Eve party and it was very thoughtful of Gene to kiss you for me at Midnight. I only wish I could have been there to kiss you and believe you me, it would have been a real honest-to-goodness kiss.

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I am awfully sorry to hear though that after you returned from The party you were so blue and kept thinking about us so much that You could not sleep. Darling I have a feeling that 1944 will see us together again. The reason I say that is because our command over here is now sending a few officers back every month for new construction (new ships) and when they return to the states they receive a thirty day

furlough before reporting for their new commands. I spoke to the "old man" about my going back to the states to take over a new ship, but since I am now one of the top senior men in his flotilla he is reluctant to release me for a while because of his need for me. I was told by my group commander one day when he was having dinner on board my ship that the "old man" was keeping me on account of his planning to promote me to be a Group Commander (in command of twelve ships with my own flagship) to either relieve one of the group commanders here or to send me back to the states to take over the command of a new group of ships-being commissioned. If I do the latter I of course will get a thirty day leave plus additional time to organize my new group of ships. And if I am retained over here, after eighteen months of foreign duty which will be by August 6, 1944, I have the privilage of requesting a change in duty to the states and which request should be granted. And so, darling, I don't see any reason why I won't be home to see you sometime during 1944 - maybe this Spring -maybe this Summer and maybe this fall - but whenever it is I shall rush home to you as quickly as I can.

Have not received any of the magazines that mother subscribed to For me and in my last letter to her I asked her to tell me what

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magazine they were so that I would know what to look for. Also have not received the Readers Digest that Esther and Gene subscribed to for me but guess that it will be reaching me soon. However have received my first issue of the Saturday Evening Post that Mrs. Keto subscribed to for me. I only hope that mother did not subscribe to the Readers Digest too.

Darling, I have written two letters to Esther and Gene since the last letter he wrote to me. One of the letters was thanking them for their gracious hospitality to you and Peggy and the other letter

was thanking them for the subscription to the Reader's Digest. I hope that they received both of the letters. Please let me know if they did.

No, darling, of course I would not object to you getting a part-time job if you feel that you would like an outside interest and get your mind occupied. However, darling, I will leave that matter entirely up to you because you know best how you feel and what you would like to do. If you think that you could leave Peggy satisfactorily with Esther and she is willing to take care of her for you and that it would not be too much of a strain on you working and taking care of a baby at the same time then I would suggest going ahead and look for some type of a part-time job. However, darling, I am not urging you to do it unless you really want to. Maybe Gene could find something for you.

Am so glad to hear that Peggy is doing so well and is getting so cute and playful. I am not surprised to hear that she is the one that gets into mischief and leads Mike along because she is taking after you.

Well, darling it is growing rather late and I am tired and so will say good-night until my next letter. I am very well and safe. Please give Peggy my usual hug and kiss and to you, my darling, I send a thousand hugs and kisses with all my love. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

Sunday, Jan. 30, 1944
1915 - #98

My dearest Georgia --

In today's mail your #117 letter dated Dec. 20 finally arrived and I was certainly glad to receive it because I was anxious to hear all about Peggy's birthday party and also because it was the only "missing link" in your series of letters. Also received your #123 letter dated Jan. 4 and so have now received all of your letters up to and including #123. Some of them have been slow in reaching me, but they all have finally reached me which is the main thing.

Am so glad to hear that Peggy had such a lovely birthday party and that she received so many nice presents. It was a shame that she could not eat any of her birthday ice cream due to its richness which causes her rash. Darling I am also very glad that you have been able to determine the cause of her exzema and know how to control it and prevent it.

Darling, I think that it is wonderful that we are completely out of debt and I know that you must feel greatly releaved from the strain and burden that you have been under trying to get all of our debts paid off. And I congratulate you on your perseverance and determination to get our financial situation out of the "red." When you get enough money saved up and a little bit besides in reserve I suggest that you try and pay our 1942 income tax. However I will leave that matter up to your better judgement as to the manner you want to handle it.

I am very proud to hear that Peggy is doing so well in her learning to walk and getting to be more and more a little girl. It must be very interesting to watch her change and form new habits as

she grows older. I certainly do wish I could be there to watch her. And so she has added “tick - tick” to her vocabulary. Well, she must get all of her smartness from her daddy -Please don't hit me! She and Mike must make an interesting pair to take care of.

Yesterday, the “old man” made a formal inspection of my officers, crew and ship and at the conclusion of the inspection he said that I had a very good ship and was very pleased with it.

Have not been doing much up here except routine movements, etc. and so life is very dull. Once in a while we go out on a small operation, but nothing exciting. And so, I must confess that at the present time I am taking life fairly easy, but which is very monotonous and boring because there is nothing much to do.

In regards to your question about when does the thirty-day furlough start. It officially starts after you report into naval district headquarters back in the good ole U.S.A.

Well, darling, a couple officers are coming on board tonight to play some cards with us and so had better say good-night until next time. Please give my best regards to Esther, Gene and Mike. Also give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss. And to you my precious, darling wife I send a million hugs and kisses all tied together with the three little words from the very bottom of my heart “I LOVE YOU!”

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S.LCI (L) 225

% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

Tuesday, February 2, 1944
1100 #99

My dearest Georgia,

Have misplaced my fountain pen this morning and cannot find it at the present the time and so am writing this letter on the ship's typewriter. Please pardon the typewritten letter.

Am writing this letter to you this morning because I am leaving shortly on a ten day recreational leave down on the mainland. Expect to be gone about a month allowing for travel time down and back and the ten day leave. A policy is in effect up here to return enlisted men and officers in the forward area back to the mainland for recreational leave every so often. And I was very lucky to be included this time. And so darling, will be unable to write to you for about a week or more until I reach my destination on the mainland. However I will write to you as soon as I arrive there. Am going down to the "Big City" for my leave. There are others in the group down and so we should have a good time. In fact it will seem mighty good to see civilization again where there is a little life and gayety. It is a very monotonous and boring life up here confined to the ship all the time and no recreational facilities available. I understand that arrangements have been made for our entertainment down there such as cocktail parties, a dance, a beach party, free transportation and etc. which all sounds pretty good. Will also have to look up Pearl Bennett while am down there and try and get some more snapshots taken of myself so that I can send them to you. Will write to you while I am down there and let you know what kind of a time I am having and what I am doing. I will not be able to receive my mail though

until I return and so will not be able to reply to any of your letters until I return back here. I certainly do wish that we could be together on this leave. Wouldn't we have a wonderful time?

Well, darling, how are you and Peggy these days? I trust that you are both well and happy. How is Peggy progressing in her efforts to walk and talk. Please tell her that her daddy is very proud of her and loves her very much. Also say hello to the Thuneys for me.

Since I have a lot of things to do this morning I had better bring this letter to a close and so darling will say "au revoir until next time. All the time I am on this leave I am going to constantly think about you and us and how much nicer it would be if you and I could have enjoyed it together. Please always remember that I love you more than anything else in this world and always will. I love you very dearly with all my heart. "I LOVE YOU".

All my love to the both of you,
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss.

P.P.S. 10 P.M. is still "Our time"

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Tuesday, Feb. 8, 1944
1730 - #100

My dearest Georgia --

Am writing this letter while at sea en route to the mainland for my ten day recreational leave. Expect to arrive at our port of destination sometime tomorrow afternoon. Have just finished eating my supper and so while my meal is digesting thought that now would be a good time to write a few lines to you before I start my leave. Also wanted to get this letter written to you tonight so that it will go ashore the first thing after we arrive so that it will get started on its way to you as soon as possible because I know you are anxious to hear from me.

At first I was scheduled to be a passenger on one of the destroyers coming down here to transport the leave party down and back, but at the last moment my ship was drafted to help transport additional men coming down on leave and so instead of enjoying the lazy life of a passenger I have had to carry on in my usual duties as "captain" of my ship plus the added responsibility of the transportation of the leave party on my ship. However just as soon as I dock tomorrow and get my necessary business squared away I am going to turn the responsibility of my ship over to the executive officer and am going ashore on my leave and completely forget my responsibilities until I return to the ship from my leave.

I don't know exactly what I am going to do yet, but will

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manage to get into some kind of mischief along with the other officers on leave. Some of them are LCI officers who I know pretty well and so I guess we will be able to keep ourselves busy. Some entertainment has been planned for us by the admiral of our fleet and so expect to have a busy and enjoyable time. Will write you at a later date and let you know what kind of a time I am having. I only wish you were over here in the "Big City" so that

we could enjoy my leave together. Wouldn't we have a wonderful time. Oh well, maybe it won't be so terribly long before I will be returning to the "states" and then we will be able to have some wonderful times together.

Of course while I am down here on leave I will not receive any mail from you until I return back up the line to my operations base and so will not be able to reply to any of your letters until I get back.

How are you and Peggy and also the Thuneys these days. I trust that all of you are very well and happy. Please give my very best regards to Esther, Gene and Mike. How do you like the cold winter weather up in Minneapolis. Is it too cold for you? I could stand a little cold weather for a change.

I suppose Peggy is still growing like a little weed and getting into mischief all the time now that she can walk and get all around. I suppose that she and Mike make quite a team and keeps you continually on the go trying to keep up with them. When you get a chance and also the film please take some more pictures of Peggy and also ^of yourself so that I can see how much she has grown and changed. Has she acquired any more teeth and is she saying any more new words. Please pardon all the questions, but I am

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just interested like any father would and specially in my case where I have seen very little of my daughter.

Oh, my darling, you will never realize how much I miss you and Peggy. I think about you all the time wondering how you are and what you are doing and how much I wish I were back home with you where I should rightfully be. I am very lonely for you,

my darling, because I love you so very dearly. There is nobody in this world that could ever take your place in my heart. You mean everything to me and no words could ever express how much I love You. Even though I am going on this ten day leave and most likely will have a very enjoyable time I will still be very lonely for you and be continually wishing that I was spending my leave with you, just you and I together, instead of by myself with some other navy officers and perhaps occasionally with some women over here. However, darling, please do not worry about your husband going astray over here even if he does have a few dates over here. I shall always remain true to you because you are my wife and the only person I love and will ever love during my entire life.

Well, darling it is getting dark and I have to check over the ship Before darkness sets in and so will say good-night until my next Letter to you. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and to you My darling wife I send a million hugs and kisses with the three little Words that mean so much, "I LOVE YOU.

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Again I repeat "I Love You.

CORRESPONDENCE

To
Mrs. Allan M. Thomas, Jr.
3416 Humbolt Ave. South
Minneapolis, Minn. USA
% Mr. F.M. Thuney.

From

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
February 21, 1944

My dearest Georgia --

Have just returned aboard my ship from a very wonderful ten day leave. Please pardon me for not writing to you darling, but my time was so crowded with activity that I just could not seem to get around to it. It was all I could do to find a little time to get some sleep. However in spite of all my activity and fun I thought all the time of you and wishing that we were enjoying my leave together. Since I could not find time to write I sent you four cables. Did you receive them Darling please pardon the short V mail letter but since I am getting underway very shortly to return up the line this is all that I have time for before I leave. However en route up I will write and tell you all about my leave and when I arrive back up at my operation's base. I will mail them to you. Since I will be underway for some while you will not receive any letters from me for a while. I bought you and Peggy something and mailed it to you and so you should be receiving two packages in about three weeks time. Please give Peggy a big hug and kiss for me and to you, my darling, I send a thousand hugs and kisses. I Love You

All my love to the both of you
Morton
(A.M. Thomas, Jr.)

CORRESPONDENCE

WESTERN UNION

LD 68 CABLE

1944 FEB 11 PM 3 48

F USNAV VIA RCA
EFM MRS ALLAN M THOMAS JR
3416 HUMBOLDT AVE SOUTH MPLS
LOVING GREETINGS. YOU ARE MORE THAN EVER IN MY THOUGHTS AT
THIS TIME. ALL MY LOVE DEAREST
MORTON THOMAS.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
%Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Monday, February 21, 1944.
1900 #101

My dearest Georgia,

Returned back aboard my ship this morning about 1000 from my recreational leave and was underway at noon en route back up the line. And so am writing this letter at sea and will mail it just as soon as I arrive back up at my base of operations.

Darling, I feel terribly ashamed of myself and humbly ask your forgiveness for not writing to you while on leave. I fully intended to, in fact I took writing paper and addressed envelopes ashore with me in order to write. But honestly, darling, I was kept busy all the time, in fact darling ,getting very little time for a good night's sleep. But I did have a wonderful time and made the most of it because I knew that it would be a long time before I would get another leave.

Just as soon as I returned back aboard this morning I wrote you a hurried V-mail letter so that it would go out in the mail before I left because it would be another six or seven days before I would be able to mail another letter to you and I did want you to know that I was O.K. and had not forgotten you. I also sent you four cables while on leave. I trust that you received them.

And now let's turn our attention and thoughts back to the day that I arrived in the "Big City" so that I can tell you all about my wonderful time.

About 1500 in the afternoon or Wednesday, Feb. 9, we tied up at our berth in the "Big City". It took a couple of hours to get my passengers (officers and enlisted men) that I had brought down on my ship for leave squared away, that is endorsing their orders, giving them last minute instructions, and seeing that they were properly logged off of the ship. And so I did not get ashore until about 1800. By that time it was too late to try to find a place to stay so I decided to spend the night on board ship and go to the officer's billeting office the first thing in the morning. However Clements, Sutter, and myself went ashore for dinner and to a show. I tried to call Pearl Bennett and let her know that I was in town but she was out for the evening. After the show we returned back to our ship to spend the night. The three of us had a very pleasant evening and it certainly did seem good to be back down to the "Big City" where there was a lot of activity, life, gaiety, food, and Drink.

The next morning the three of us went over to the navy Officer's billeting office to see if they could find some accommodations for us to stay. The city is very crowded with so many service men on leave that it is almost impossible to get a room of any kind there. At first they said that all the hotels were

all booked out and didn't think that they could do anything for us. But on checking through their records they noticed that a furnished apartment had been vacated the day before and nobody had been assigned

Page 2

to it as yet and that if we wanted it we could have it as long as we liked. They said that it was a very nice place. We said that we would go look at it and if we liked it we would take it. and so we hopped into a taxi and drove out to the address. It was only a ten minute ride from the heart of town which made it very convenient and was located on the fifth floor of a new modern apartment house overlooking a bay of the harbor. It was very nicely furnished with a large living room opening out on a beautiful concrete balcony. It also had a nice large dining room and two large bedrooms with one of the bedrooms opening out on another balcony. It also had a nice bathroom, kitchen, and hall. It was completely and beautifully furnished with two radios, beautiful rugs on the floors and nice bed linen, etc. We were very pleased with it and said that we would take it. They wanted twelve pounds (approx, \$39) a week for it which split three ways was no too expensive considering the luxury of the apartment. Also it would have cost us more than that for a nice hotel room.

We got all squared away that morning and went down to the Hotel Australia, the largest and nicest hotel in town and where most of the navy officers stay, to see some of the other officers and find what was going on. While having lunch there I came across Comdr. McGee (my old man) and my old friend from down the line, Lieut. Comdr. Flippen, who I worked with while training troops down at our first operations base. They insisted that I must come up to their room at the hotel and have a drink with them. Of Course Comdr. McGee knew that I was coming down on leave because he issued me my sailing orders, later flying down on leave himself, but Lieut. Comdr. Flippen was very surprised to see me and wanted to know all about me. We had

a very pleasant afternoon together and I also met some other navy commanders,etc. They invited me to have lunch with them the next day and go out with them to a party in the evening. Of course I accepted. whenever I was down at the hotel I always dropped up to their room to have a drink.

Before going into lunch with Clements and Sutter I called Pearl at her office and asked her if she would have dinner with me at “Princess” that night and dance(it being the nicest restaurant-club in town with a good dance band), She was pleased to hear that I was in town and said that she would like to and that also she had some news for me.

And so that night Pearl and I went to “Princess”. While there she told me that she was engaged to be married to an American army major and was to be married next month and how thrilled she was over the entire matter. She had met him about two months ago in town where he is now stationed and will be there for some time. I was quite surprised to hear the news, but was very happy for sake. And so after a very pleasant evening I took her home and gave her my best wishes on her coming marriage and said good-bye and good luck. and so ended my little affair with Miss Pearl Bennett. She certainly is a lovely girl and I enjoyed her company very much when with her. However I still have not met any person over here that I would swap you for. Darling, there is not another woman in this entire world that could ever compare with you and in spite of a few occasional dates you are still the only person I love and will ever truly love until my dying day.

Well,darling, since my story is a long one and I cannot put

Page 3

it all into one letter because of space and time I am going to break

it all up into three parts with a part in each one of my next two letters.

And now, darling, again I wish to apologize for not writing to you while on my leave. It was not because I did not think of you because, darling, you were in my thoughts all the time regardless of where I was or what I was doing. I was wishing all the time that we were spending the ten days together. Wouldn't we have had a wonderful time? It would have been like a second honeymoon for us. However, darling, the time will come along pretty soon when I can return home to you and then we will make up for all the months that we have been separated. We will make it our second honeymoon and do everything and anything that you would like to do. I am anxiously waiting for the time when I can return home to you and take you into my arms and hold you tight and smother your lovely lips with ardent kisses and never leave you again.

Tell me, dearest, how are you and Peggy these days? I trust that the both of you are very well and happy. Also how are Esther, Gene, and Mike? Please say hello to them for me. I suppose by now Peggy is quite a big girl walking around and talking. I certainly do wish I could see her and give her a big hug and kiss. However since I cannot you will have to do it for me. What have you been doing lately? Are you still enjoying your visit with the Thuneys and how are you standing the winter weather? I am very anxious to get back up to my operating base so that I can pick up all my mail that is waiting for me so that I can read your letters and hear all about you and learn how you are and what you have been doing.

Well, darling, I have some work to do and also must check over the ship and see how everything is and so will say "good-night" until my next letter to you. Please always remember that I love you very dearly with all my heart and am terribly lovely for you. You mean everything in the world to me and I love you more than words can describe and shall love you more and more as time goes on forever.

To you, my darling, I send a thousand hugs and kisses which I shall redeem twofold when I return home to you. I LOVE YOU.

All my love to you and Peggy,
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Don't forget "Our Time" every night at 10 PM.

CORRESPONDENCE

WESTERN UNION

LD22 CABLE

FEB 16 AM 8 21

SANSORIGING VIA RCA

EFM MRS ALLAN M THOMAS JR

3416 HUMBOLDT AVE SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS MINN

DARLING YOU ARE MORE THAN EVER IN MY THOUGHTS AT THIS TIME. ALL MY LOVE DARLING.

MORTON THOMAS.

ADSE

PN

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MAILED

CORRESPONDENCE

WESTERN UNION

P77

LB313F (TEN) EFM VIA MRT=USNAV=

EFM MRS ALLAN M THOMAS JR=

3416 HUMBOLDT AVE=SOUTH MINNEAPOLIS MINN=

LOVING GREETINGS. YOU ARE MORE THAN EVER IN MY THOUGHTS AT

THIS TIME. ALL MY LOVE DEAREST=
MORTON THOMAS JR.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Tuesday, February 22, 1944.
1000 #102

My dearest Georgia,

It is a beautiful morning at sea with a clear blue sky and a moderate rolling sea and a cool invigorating breeze. I was up this morning at 0830 and had a big breakfast. Have just checked over the ship and now for a letter to you with the continuation of the story about my leave.

My first chapter closed on the night of Thursday, Feb. 10, where I went to "Princess" with Pearl Bennett. I slept until 1000 the next morning and the three of us got a little breakfast for ourselves at the apartment having taken a little food off of the ship to serve our wants. I then got dressed and went into town in order to keep my luncheon appointment with Comdr. McGee and Lieut. Comdr. Flippen. Before meeting them I stopped by the navy disbursing office to get some clothing coupons in order to buy some some things for myself and also for you and Peggy. In other words to do my much delayed Christmas Shopping. Had a very nice lunch and then left them to do my shopping with the understanding that I was to join them that evening at 2000 at their hotel room to go to the party that was being given for them and that they had a nice date for me. I said, "fine" and went on my way. Had a very enjoyable time shopping around,

but the stocks in the stores are very much depleted like they must be at home and so there is not very much of an assortment to select from. However I did find a nice pair of pajamas for you which I hope you will like and I bought Peggy a pretty little dress which I hope you will like also. I bought them in one of the nicest department stores in town. The two items are my much delayed Christmas presents to you and Peggy and I hope that you will like them. When I bought them I forgot to buy some cards at first to place in them and since they wrapped the gifts at the store for mailing I was therefore unable to put any cards in.. So please pardon the gifts without any cards. You should be receiving the two packages about the middle of March. I bought myself a couple of kahki shirts, a pair of sandal shoes, a wash rag, and six pairs of kahki socks.

After I finished my shopping I stopped by the officer's wine mess and bought my week's ration of beer and whiskey to take back to the apartment to drink. Clements and Sutton had also gotten their ration and with mine we were pretty well stocked up. The three of us then went to the American Red Cross Officer's Club for dinner and had a very nice steak dinner. After the dinner I caught a taxi and went down to the hotel to meet my friends. After having several rounds of drinks we started out for the party stopping by my girl's apartment to pick up our dates. And, darling, when I was introduced to my date I was very pleasantly surprised to find that she was a very attractive blonde with a nice figure, pretty face, a very lovely smile, beautiful hair, nice soft voice and in all respects a very nice girl of twenty-six years of age. Her name was Thelma

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Pearce, but likes to be called "Judy". From there we went to the party. There were ten couples of us (all navy officers) and we all had a Very enjoyable time eating, drinking, and dancing. The party broke Up about 0300 and I got home about 0400.

I slept the next morning until about noon and then the three of us went out for lunch. After lunch the three of us went to a matinee movie and saw "Random Harvest" which I thought was an excellent show. I have just recently read the book and was anxious to see what the movie was like.

After the movie we went to the hotel for drinks and then had dinner. After dinner I left the boys and went back to the apartment to take a shower and ~~getted~~ dressed to pick up "Judy" at 2030 to go to "Ramona's" (a night club) to dance. She looked very lovely in a smart evening dress and I was very proud to have her with me. She also was a good dancer and had a good sense of humor and very enjoyable to be with. We spent a very pleasant evening together.

The next day being Sunday and she not having to work we decided to go to "Bondi Beach" for the day. It is the nicest and prettiest of the beaches around the city. It has a beautiful wide sandy beach on the ocean with tremendous waves crashing in on the beach continuously that are so powerful that they actually knock you over. It was a beautiful hot day with not a cloud in the sky, in fact just ideal for the beach. She had packed a large picnic lunch for the two of us and I had brought some beer along and so about noon found ourselves sunning on the beach. The surf was wonderful and I had a great time enjoying it. Had to leave about 1700 in the afternoon because we had to get back in time to clean up to go to a party that we had been invited to that night. We joined Clement and Sutton and their dates at the party. Again I had a wonderful time and thoroughly made a pig of myself eating prawns (shrimp) and lobster and drinking beer. The party did not break up until about 0330 in the morning.

Slept until about noon and then we got up and went out to lunch. That afternoon we went over to the zoo at Taranga Park because Clements and Sutton had never been there and wanted to go and so I

said that I would go along with them and see it again. That night the three of us attended a formal stag banquet and entertainment that was given for the benefit of us naval officers on leave. There was an abundance of food and drink and the entertainment was pretty good and so we had a very enjoyable time.

Spent a very lazy morning in bed the next day. After lunch I made a long distance telephone call up to Newcastle to my friends, Mr. and Mrs. Mackie and also to Mr. and Mrs. Tobin whom I had become very well acquainted with when I was stationed up the line at my first operating base a moderate distance from town. They both were very pleased to hear from me and insisted that I must come up to visit them for a few days at least. Mr. and Mrs. Tobin own a beautiful hotel located on a high bluff overlooking the sea just outside of town and there is a beautiful beach there too. I used to spend quite a few of my week-end liberties there and they became very fond of me and treated me like a son of theirs. Nothing was too good for me and I became very fond of them too. They are a typical Irish couple, Mick and Mary with a big heart. In fact she sent me a fruit cake for Christmas and writes to me frequently.

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The Mackies who I met through Mrs. Tobin also have a beautiful home and have also been very nice to me. Mr. Mackie is in the furniture business and is a very prosperous merchant. And so I said that I would come up to visit them on Wednesday afternoon and spend several days up there with them. I agreed to spend the first two days with the Tobins and the last two days with the Mackies. After talking to them on the phone I went to the railroad ticket office and booked my seat on the flyer for Wednesday afternoon. I then returned to the apartment to help Clements and Sutton get the apartment ready for the party that we had scheduled that night. There were six couples of us that night and we had a very nice time dancing to the radio and

drinking and talking. "Judy" was my date for the evening. About 0100 we served a light supper consisting of sandwiches, cold cuts, prawns, and beer. Of course we were eating something the entire evening along with our drinks. The party broke up about 0400.

Slept fairly late the next morning and then got up and cleaned up the apartment. The three of us had lunch together at the officer's club and from there I went to the railway station to catch my train for Newcastle that left at 1415. Arriving at Newcastle at 1700 I went right out to the Tobin's and they received me like I had been a long lost son. My chief pharmacist mate was also there. He came down on leave also and went directly up there to spend his entire leave there. They are very fond of him also. In fact the two of us are their sons, so they say. He is a splendid chap and plays the piano beautifully. He has been on my ship ever since I arrived over here and I consider him a good friend of mine although he is not an officer, but by rights should be.

Had a marvelous dinner and that night we had a big party in my honor. There were twenty people there for it. Mrs. Tobin had a special guest come to the party for me and she was a lovely thing. Her name was Mary Rowley and had beautiful brown hair, green eyes, a nice figure, pretty smile, and a lovely personality. She was a good friend of Mrs. Tobin and Mrs. Tobin was anxious for me to meet her. Mrs. Tobin had told her all about me and had given me a wonderful build-up. A nice friendship immediately began and I had a marvelous evening. She was visiting with Mrs. Tobin's sister, Marie, on a holiday and was staying at Marie's home which fronts on the beach about a block from the hotel.

Got up about 0930 the next morning and had a big breakfast. After breakfast we went down to Marie's house to get Mary and we went out of the beach to take a morning dip in the surf. Spent the entire morning on the beach surfing and sunning ourselves. Came back up to

the hotel for lunch and that afternoon Mrs. Tobin took "Doc", my pharmacist mate, Mary and I for a nice drive in her car to see some friends of hers that lived at Toronto on Lake MacQuairie. While there we had afternoon tea and "Doc" played the piano for us. That night Mrs. Mackie had a big party over at her home for us and as usual had a marvelous time.

Slept until 0930 the next morning and then ate a big breakfast after which I joined Mary and we went out on the beach for our morning dip and spent the entire morning on the beach. Then we went up for lunch and after lunch Mrs. Tobin drove me over to the Mackies where I was to stay for the rest of my visit while up there.

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Later in the afternoon Mr. Mackie came home and took "Doc", their son "Bill" and I down to the local brewery to have a few beers. The manager of the brewery was a good friend of his and wanted us to meet him and also to get our fill of beer. I tried to drink the brewery dry but did not even make a dent into their supply. They had a nice bar of their own in the brewery and you could draw all the beer you so desired. It was very cold and delicious. While there drinking I thought of Gene and wish that he were there with me. When we arrived home from the brewery, Mrs. Mackie had a lovely dinner for us. That evening they had some friends come in and also brought Mary over and we spent a very pleasant evening dancing to the radio, drinking, chatting and later on had a big midnight supper.

Slept until 0930 the next morning, "Doc" having spent the night there with me. Had a nice big breakfast and then drove over to the beach for a morning dip in the surf. Had lunch at the hotel with Ms. Tobin and in the afternoon went out to the country club where Mr. Mackie is a member and struggled through eighteen holes of golf. Having not played golf for such a long time I sure played like an

amatuer, but had a lot of fun anyways. After the game, we freshened up, and sipped drinks on the veranda until time for dinner at the club. Had a delicious dinner there at the club. From the club we returned back to the Mackies home in time to receive guests for the party they scheduled for the evening. The party was a farewell party for me because I was leaving the next morning on the train to return to Sydney. Of couse there was plenty to drink and "Doc" entertained us by playing the piano and we sang songs and had a very good time. The party broke up about 0400 and I was really high as a kite. The next morning I got up about 1000 feeling fine in spite of the big night before and ate a huge breakfast. After breakfast Mr. and Mrs. Mackie drove me over to the Tobins to say goodbye to them and then drove me to the railway station to catch my train which left at 1250.

Well, darling, so much for chapter two of my story about my leave. Will conclude my story in my next letter to you. It is just about time for lunch and so had better bring this letter to a close. What do you think of my leave so far? Don't you think I should consider myself very lucky to have such a wonderful time and such nice friends? Darling, please do not get upset about my harmless dates because the are only temporary associations which are very enjoyable while they last, but are not serious. I get a big kick out of them but outside of that darling they do not mean anything to me because you are my one and only love and nobody else matters. Believe me, darling, that is true. I love you and only you with all my heart and will always love you foreever.

Please give Esther, Gene and Mike my very best regards. And darling, please tell Peggy that her daddy loves her very much and sends her a big hug and kiss, And to you, my darling wife, I send all my love tied up with hundreds of hugs and kisses. I love you very dearly and miss you terribly. I LOVE YOU.

All my love to you and Peggy,

Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Wednesday, February 23, 1944.
1300 #103

My dearest Georgia,

Have just finished lunch and checked over the ship and now for a letter to you with the continuation of my story about my leave.

My second chapter of my story closed with my departure from Newcastle on the 1250 flyerback to Sydney. Had a delightful trip back arriving in town at 1535, and went directly to my apartment and cleaned up from the train trip. I called "Judy" that I was back in town and she invited me out to her apartment for supper. Before going out to her apartment I saw Sutton and he said that he and Clements had planned a party at the apartment for that night and that "Judy" and I were counted in on being there and so expected to see us later. I said, fine, and that we would be there. "Judy" had invited another couple for supper and we had a few rounds of drinks before sitting down to the table to eat...It was a very nice supper and I enjoyed it very much because I was rather hungry after the train trip. About 2100 the other couple drove us over to my apartment to the party and came up for a while. Being it was our farewell party we blew the works and had a rip-roaring good time with all the liquor and beer you could drink and at about 0200 in

the morning we had a spread on the table that would have stopped the appetite of King Henry VIII. As a whole it was a grand and glorious party and everybody was feeling merry and gay. It broke up about 0530. It took us about an hour to clean up the apartment and by that time it was so late that it was agreed upon that our dates might just as well stay and go to work directly from there. And so we all snatched a couple hours sleep and then made a mad scramble to get cleaned up and packed and grab a taxi to take the girls to work and us back to the ship. You would have split your sides laughing to see us tearing around that apartment getting everything squared away. However we made it, got the girls to work on time and got aboard our ship about 1000. And a couple of hours later we were underway at sea on our return trip back up the line. My leave certainly ended up with a whirlwind finish but I certainly did have a marvelous time and enjoyed every moment of it. I am glad that my leave is over so that now I can get a little rest. And so you can see darling, that my time was pretty well occupied and did not get hardly any time to write any letters. So, darling, please forgive me for not writing to you while on my leave.

So far we are having a very good trip back up and if everything goes well should arrive back up at our base of operations sometime the early part of next week. Am very anxious to get back up so that I can pick up my mail and read your letters that are waiting for me. I should have quite a few by the time I arrive up there. Also my magazines should be waiting for me.

We have another mascot on board the ship now. One of my

Page 2

crew had a nice black cocker spaniel, about one year old, given to him by a friend of his and he asked permission to bring it on board

as an additional member of the crew. She, because she is a she, is a very nice looking little dog, well mannered, very friendly, and reminds me a lot of "Jeff". She and I have become great friends and she very frequently sneaks into my quarters where it is nice and cool and takes a nap. She has become very popular with the crew, but has not yet been able to make friends with our cockatoo. And so we now have two mascots, a cockatoo and a cocker spaniel. I wonder what will be Next.

Darling, it seems that I have been doing nothing but writing letters to you since I left port, but after all I did owe you some letters and I did want to tell you all about my leave. Please pardon me for typing them but I knew that they would be long and that it would be easier for you to read and also could get more writing on one sheet of paper.

I am very patiently waiting for the opportunity to come for me to return home to the states and to you and Peggy on my thirty day furlough. That will be the most joyous occasion in my life when I can return home to you and take you in my arms and hold you tight and kiss your lovely lips. I pray every night that my furlough will come soon because, darling, I am terribly lonely for you and my only hope and ambition is to return back home to you and Peggy and resume our happy home life again like we did before I went into the service. In spite of all my fickle flirtations down there on my leave, you are the only person I love and if you had been over here with me on my leave I would never have ever looked at them. After all, darling, you are my wife and the real sweetheart in my life. You are the only person I love and will ever love forever. You mean everything in the world to me and there is not another woman in this world that can compare with you. I love you very, very dearly with all my heart.

How are you and the Thuneys these days? I trust that you are

all well and happy. Please give them my best regards. I shall write them a letter just as soon as I return up the line. Have not written to my folks since I went on my leave and so must write them a letter because I know that they must be wondering why they have not heard from me.

Please tell Peggy that her daddy thinks about her very often and loves her very much. Give her my usual big hug and kiss.

Darling, you are constantly in my thoughts all the time regardless of where I am or what I am doing. I love you with all my heart and soul and send you a thousand hugs and kisses with the three little words, "I LOVE YOU."

All my love to you and Peggy,
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Saturday, February 26, 1944.
1300 #104

My dearest Georgia,

Am writing this letter to you while still at sea en route back up the line. The weather has been beautiful all the way and we are having a very good trip. Have just had lunch and checked over the ship and thought that I would write a few lines to you and tell you how much I love you and miss you.

While traveling at sea there is not much to write about, but all this morning you have been on my mind and I therefore felt the urge to write a letter to you. I even had to get all of the pictures of you and Peggy out this morning and look at them. I spent about half an hour looking at them and thinking of you and Peggy and of the happy times we had together in our little home and with our friends before I went into the service. Gosh, it seems a long time ago when we were last together. You don't know how much I miss you and my lovely home. I guess that we did not fully realize then how happy we really were. But I do fully realize now how much you do mean to me and that I love you more than ever. You are my very life and knowing that you love me and are patiently and courageously waiting for me to return home to you is the only thing that keeps me going. Sometimes I get so terribly lonesome for you that I wonder how much longer I am going to be able to carry on like this away from you. I am just wishing for the day to receive my orders to return to the states for my thirty day furlough. Just as soon as I landed in the states I would rush immediately to you wherever you were. Oh, my darling, I love you more than words can express. You mean everything in the world to me and I love you very dearly with all my heart. When I return back home to you after the war we will never ever be separated again.

I can hardly wait to arrive up at our base and pick up our mail and read your letters that are waiting up there for me. I am anxious to hear how you and Peggy are and what you have been doing. I suppose Peggy is growing like a little weed and is now quite a big girl walking all over the place and jabbering away in competition with her mommy. My, how I wish I could see her and take her in my arms and tell her that I was her daddy and loved her very much.

How are the Thuneys these days? Please give them my very best regards. Give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss. And to you, my darling

wife, I send all my love wrapped up in a thousand hugs and kisses.
Again I repeat and will forever keep repeating, I LOVE YOU.

All my love to you and Peggy,
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Monday, February 28, 1944
2130 - #105

My dearest Georgia,

Arrived here at our main operating base this afternoon en route up to our operating base in the forward area. Expect to remain here for a day or so before proceeding on up the line. Had a very good trip back up except that it was a slow one due to one of the other ships having engine trouble and we had to reduce our speed in order for her to keep up with us. And so we were a day longer in arriving up here.

Went ashore late this afternoon over to the new amphibious training base which they have just established to mail my letters that I had written to you en route up at the fleet post office that is there and while there came across Capt. Jamison, Lieut. Ritchie, Major O'Brien, Lieut. Comdr. Flippen and many other army and navy officers with whom I had worked when I was stationed down the line training troops at the other two bases. It was like "old home week" seeing the old bunch again and they were all surprised to see me

again. There were about forty that I knew and I had a great time talking and joking with them. A couple of them invited me to have dinner with them at the officers mess, which invitation I accepted and had a very delicious dinner. It seemed good to sit at a stationary table that did not rock after being at sea for a week. After dinner I visited around with them all. Capt. Jamison was very pleased to see me again and asked how I was getting along. Returned to my ship about a half hour ago because I wanted to write this letter to you and let you know that I had arrived this far safely.

Will still have to wait until I get back up to my forward area operating base to pick up my mail that is waiting there for me. And there should be quite a bit because we have been gone almost a month. Can hardly wait till the time to get your letters that are waiting for me to read them and find out how you and Peggy are and what you have been doing. I think about you all the time because you are constantly on my mind. Even though I am thousands of miles distant from you my thoughts and heart are very close to you at all times.

Tomorrow I expect to be kept pretty busy getting my ship's business squared away and also assisting my officers in obtaining fresh meats and provisions, dry stores and supplies for the ship. It is difficult of obtain many of these things further up the line and so we are going to try to stock up to the maximum while here. And tomorrow will be a real busy day for me.

Darling, how are you and Peggy these days? I trust that the both of you are very well and happy. Please give my best regards to Esther, Gene and Mike. Give Peggy my usual big kiss and hug for me and tell her that her daddy loves her very much. And to you my darling wife, I send you all my love from the very bottom of heart all wrapped and sealed with a thousand hugs and kisses and a card attached saying, I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Wednesday, March 1, 1944
2030 - #106

My dearest Georgia --

Have just finished getting my ships business squared away for the day and now for a letter to you. Have been ashore all day making arrangements for fresh provisions and dry stores and other items for my ship. Went ashore early this morning and did not return back to the ship until late this afternoon and was continually on the go all day. The base here is very large with many activities located here being that it is the main supply base for this part of the forward area. And so was compelled to travel around by jeep most of the time. I returned to the ship very tired but also very satisfied having achieved everything that I had planned to accomplish.

In my last letter to you I mentioned that I expected to remain here a couple of days before proceeding up the line to my forward operating base. Well, yesterday morning. my orders were changed telling me to remain here for a couple of weeks in order to overhaul some of my main engines and also to make all necessary repairs and improvements to my ship and get the ship all squared away in regards

to cleaning down and painting. And so expect to be here for at least another two weeks. Yesterday afternoon I sent a dispatch up the line to forward our mail that they are holding up there for us until we return down here to us and so hope that our mail will be coming

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down to us within the next four or five days. I am very anxious to get your letters and hear how you and Peggy are.

Yesterday afternoon while I was ashore attending to some business I stopped ^by the fleet post office which is the main one that receives and handles all of the mail for this forward area and inquired if they had any mail for my ship that they might be getting ready to forward on up to our^bræck branch fleet post office up in the forward area. They looked to see and sure enough there was a little mail for us that was just about ready to be shipped out. And so I took it and brought it back to the ship with me. The crew became very much excited when they learned that I had brought some mail because we have not received any mail for a month. Included in the mail that I picked up was your #137 letter dated Feb. 8 and the lovely valentine card from Peggy. I was quite thrilled to receive your letter and her card and enjoyed them both very much.

Darling, I am ashamed of myself to confess that I completely forgot about Feb. 14 being valentine's day. And so, my darling, I did not send either you or Peggy a valentine card. And I feel terriable about forgetting all about it. I guess that I was so excited over my leave that I completely overlooked it. Again, I apologize for not sending you and Peggy a card. However, darling, you are my valentine every day of the year.

Am very glad to hear that you and Peggy are fine and enjoying

your visit with the Thuneys so much. And so the two children have a bowl of goldfish. That was very nice of Mrs. Thuney Sr. to think of the kiddies and I suppose Gene is getting as big a kick out of the goldfish as the children are.

I am looking forward to receiving the letter ^in which ~~that~~ you enclosed

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the photographs because I am very anxious to see some recent pictures of you and Peggy. How about that nice photograph of yourself that I asked you to have taken and sent to me? When are you going to do that? Please do it soon, honey.

And so you are teaching our daughter to become a drinking woman - in other words "driving her to drink" - shame on you! And then you have the nerve to blame her weakness for drinking because of her daddy's bad habit. Just wait till I bet back home and tell Peggy about some of her mommy's bad habits. However since I am not there to protect myself I guess that I will have to suffer the insults that my wife tells my daughter about me.

I am very much surprised to hear that Peggy is so shy of strangers because both you and I are just the opposite. We both like to meet people and enjoy company. However I hope that she will gradually grow out of her shyness to people. Tell Peggy that I am very much disappointed in her.

In your letter you asked me to give you the figures on my earnings and deductions so that Gene could fill our our income tax return for 1943. My base pay is the only part of my total income that is subject to taxes. My subsistence and rental allowance is exempted. And so here are the figures of my base pay for the year of 1943 from Jan 1 thru Dec . 31

Jan. 1 thru Apr. 30 (Lieut.(j.g.))	166.67	per. mo.	x 4 mo.	= \$667
May 1 “ Dec. 31 (Lieut.)	200.00	“ “	x 8 “	<u>1600</u>
Total Base Pay - - - - -				2,267

Thus \$2,267 is my total income for the entire year of 1943 that is Subject to be taxed. In regards to deductions, there is a \$150000 Deduction for being in the Navy plus the other normal deductions For being married, for having one child, interest on our house notes,

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And all the other various deductions that Gene must be familiar with. Is that enough information for you to make out our tax. If you want any additional information please write me for it and I will try to supply you with the needed information.

Well, darling, it is growing late and I am very tired and also have another busy day ashore ahead of me tomorrow and so had better say good-night until my next letter. Please give Esther, Gene and Mike my best regards. Give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss. And to you, my dearest, darling wife, I send you all of my love with all my heart accompanied with a thousand ‘hugs and kisses. Please always remember that I love you very dearly and miss you terriably. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. 10 P.M. is always “Our Time”

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Saturday, March 4, 1944
1500 - #107

My dearest Georgia --

Since my last letter to you several day ago lots has happened to me. As I told you in my last letter that my orders had been changed instructing me to keep my ship here at this base for a couple of weeks in order to overhaul my main engines and to make other mechanical repairs. And so ever since we put in here at this base have been kept very busy taking care of my ship's business.

Yesterday morning I got up early to go ashore again to tend to some more business and while sitting in the ward room eating my breakfast I was seized with a sharp pain in my right side. It felt exactly like the same kind of a pain that I had ten years ago when I had my kidney stone trouble. I thought that the pain would go away in a short while and went about my work aboard the ship prior to my departure to go ashore. But instead of the pain going away it grew gradually worse until it got so severe that I had to lay down on my bunk. I then realized that my old trouble (kidney stone) had returned and called my pharmacist mate, "Doc" Humphreys and told him that he had better make arrangements to transfer me to the navy base hospital for temporary relief. In the meantime my pain had grown so severe that he had to give me a shot of morphine to ease the pain. They then ordered a boat to take me across the bay (about 8 miles across) to where the hospital is located. An ambulance from the

hospital met the boat at the dock and brought me up to the hospital. On account of the severe pain they gave me another “hypo” and put me to bed. A doctor came in to see me right away and gave me a quick examination and checked up on the symptoms. He said that it appeared that I had a stoppage in my urinary tract due to a kidney stone and that all that they could do at the present time was to give me temporary relief. I have had two similar minor attacks, one of them about three months ago and the another about a month ago. They quickly passed off and so did not pay much attention to them.

All yesterday they fed me nothing but liquids, but due to my stomach being upset could not retain them and vomited everything back up. Late yesterday afternoon they gave me another examination and took samples of my urine and also of my blood. Spent a very miserable day and night. In fact last night they had to give me another “hypo” to ease the pain.

This morning the doctor came in to see me and told me that it looked pretty definite that my kidney stone trouble had returned and since they did not have the facilities here at this base hospital to give me the proper treatment and necessary examinations that they were going to transfer me by the first available transportation to one of the larger (principle) navy hospitals down on the mainland either at Brisbane or Sydney. They did not know definitely which one it would be. And that I would be away from my ship for at least two months or longer.

And so when Mr. Agiloy (my executive officer) and “Doc” Humphreys came over to the hospital this morning I told them what the doctor had

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said and that they should pack up all of my clothes and gear and send them over here to the hospital. I also told Mr. Ogiloy that he would have to assume temporary command of my ship until I

returned and that he should report immediately to Lieut. Weyll [?] my group commander, who is also down here at this base with us, about my having to be temporarily detached from ship for medical treatment. I expect that Lieut. Weyll will be coming over tomorrow to see me. Mr. Ogiloy is coming over tomorrow to bring my clothes and things. I don't expect that I will ^leave here for the mainland for about four or five days.

However darling please keep addressing your letters to my ship like you always have done and Mr. Ogiloy will forward them on to me when I inform him of my new address. It will take quite a bit longer for your letters to reach me but that is the only way it can be done without your letters becoming lost.

This morning, when Mr. Ogiloy came over to see me he brought my mail to me that had been forwarded back down the line to us from the forward area. I received six of your letters and a letter from mother and dad. Also the gift package from Schraffts that mother mailed to me from New York City last October finally arrived. Also received the December and January issues of the Readers Digest and several copies of the Saturday Evening Post.

The letters that I received from you were your #124, 127, 128, 132, 133 and 134. The letters that are still missing to complete your series of letters up thru #137, dated Feb. 8 are #125, 126, 129, 130, 131, 135 and 136. However i guess that they should be arriving most any

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day now. It seemed so good to receive your letters and I enjoyed reading them very much. Have read them twice and plan to read them again fe before going to sleep tonight.

Today I feel much better and have been up and around ever since lunch time. However they still have me on a liquid diet and I am almost starved. Hope tomorrow they will at least put me on a soft diet because liquids are not very good to satisfy one's appetite.

And now, darling, please do not worry about me because I am all right and the navy will give me the very best of care and treatment. They might be a little slow but are very thorough. Will keep you very much informed about my progress. Had hesitated to tell you about it at first, but then thought it was my duty to tell you because after all you are my wife and should always know about my welfare whether it is good or bad.

Am glad to hear that you and Peggy are well and happy. Please give the Thuney's my very best regards. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy loves her very much. Darling, again I repeat, please do not worry about me because I will be all right. Will let you know how I get along. Please always remember, my darling wife, that I love you very dearly and miss you terribly. Again I repeat and will always keep repeating, I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Monday, March 6, 1944
0930 - #108

My dearest Georgia --

Had a very good night last night and this morning ate a good breakfast. The doctor made his sick call about half hour ago and now for a lazy day reading, sleeping or playing chess with one of the other officers here in the ward.

By yesterday morning my kidney stone attack had subsided and except for a slight pain in my side I felt fine. Yesterday afternoon after lunch they took me off of the liquid diet and put me on a regular diet. Also I was permitted to get up and wander around the hospital base wherever I pleased. Last night I went up to the mess hall for dinner and have been going up there for all of my Meals.

Yesterday afternoon I walked around the hospital base and looked it over and tried to work up an appetite for dinner. About 1500, "Doc" Humphreys, my pharmacist mate and two of my crew brought all of my clothes and gear over to me off of the ship. I didn't realize that I had accumulated so much additional gear because now I have two regular sea bags (large canvas duffle bags) filled besides my streamer trunk, wardrobe case and kit bag. It is going to be a nuisance traveling around with all that luggage and gear.

Last night went up to the mess hall for dinner and then after a short walk returned back to my ward and sat around and read and batted the bull with the other other patient officers in the ward.

Since the base is new and still under construction there are no recreational facilities available such as movies or recreation room and so there is nothing to do but walk around or read or sleep. Went to bed about 2130.

Do not know just when I will leave here to go down to one of the

hospitals on the mainland but hope that it will be within the next two or three days. Outside of giving me temporary relief the hospital here cannot do anything for me and must wait until I get down the line until they can put me under observation and relieve me of my stone. However I am feeling fine now and feel more like an officer on a rest cure. I only hope that I will not be siezed by another attack.

Just a few minutes ago "Doc" Humphreys dropped in to see me and brought me a letter of yours that had been delivered to the ship. It was your #126 letter dated Jan. 12 and was very pleased to receive it. I suppose that from now on my mail will be very slow reaching me being that I will be away from my ship and transferring from one place to the other.

Darling, please do not worry about me because I am all right and will be well taken care of by the Navy. Will keep you posted on how I get along.

Darling, how are you and Peggy these days? The two of you are constantly in my mind because I love you both very much. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss. And to you my darling wife I send all my love from the bottom of my heart tied up with a thousand hugs and kisses. Darling, I love you very dearly and miss you terriably.

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

Wednesday, March 8, 1944

1030 - #109

My dearest Georgia --

Am writing this letter on board ship ^at sea en route ^down to the mainland to one of the navy hospitals. Am sitting out here on the promenade deck enjoying the nice morning sun and air. Had a nice large breakfast this morning and since I am feeling fine now am ~~throu~~ thoroughly enjoying this trip. I feel as though I am on a vacation cruise without a care in the world. It seems good to get away from the responsibility of a ship and become a passenger on a nice large ship.

Yesterday afternoon after returning back to my ward from having lunch up at the mess hall at the base hospital my doctor came over and told me that I should get ready to leave the base hospital at 1415 that afternoon in order to be taken out into the bay to board a ship that was to take me down the line. There were two other officers in the ward with me that were going down also. And so I hurriedly took a shower and put some clean clothes on and got my gear together and squared myself away with the base hospital and by 1415 I was on my way in a boat out to the ship in the bay.

I had not been on board the ship more than a half hour when she weighed her anchor and was underway. She is a large cargo and refrigerator transport in the navy service. Before the war she was a combination passenger and cargo ship plying between the states and South America. And so she is quite a nice ship with all the comforts of home. I have a large outside stateroom on the promenade deck with an adjoining private bathroom with shower and tub all to myself. And since I am the senior officer of the few patients and passengers on board I sit at the head of the table at meal time. The ships

officers eat before we do. This is my first experience of traveling at sea on a large passenger ship and I am getting quite a thrill out of it and enjoying it (the trip) very much. I am taking life very easy enjoying the good meals on board, sitting on deck in a comfortable chair reading my magazines and enjoying the ocean air. This afternoon after dinner I think I will take a nap. I keep wishing that you were on board enjoying this trip with me. I know that you would really enjoy it and we could be having such a wonderful time together. After the war is over we will have to take a nice sea trip somewhere.

Darling last night I dreamt about you and I. It was a beautiful dream. You just can't imagine how lonely I am for you. You are constantly in my thoughts day and night. And I continually pray for the day to come when I can return home to you and we can be together again forever.

Please say hello to the Thuneys for me. And give Peggy my Usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy loves her Very much and is very proud of her. And you, my dearst, darling, Wife I love you very, very dearly and miss you terriably. Please always Remember that I love you more than anything else in the world with all My heart. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

Saturday, March 11, 1944
1315 - #110

My dearest Georgia --

Am writing this letter on board ship in the officers ward room en route down to the mainland to go to the hospital to be treated for a kidney stone. Had a lovely big dinner about an hour ago and thoroughly enjoyed it because I was awfully hungry having missed breakfast because of sleeping late this morning. In fact I did not wake up until 1100. I certainly am getting lazy. But it seems mighty good not to have any responsibilities for a change and take life easy.

Since I have been aboard this ship I have been feeling fine and have not had any more severe attacks. However I cannot tell when another one will come along. Being that I feel so good and have no pain I am enjoying this trip as if it was a vacation cruise.

During the day besides eating three good big meals I sit out on the promenade deck and read my magazines (Life, Saturday Evening Post and Readers Digest) which I brought along with me and when I get tired of reading I lay back in the nice comfortable deck chairs and take a short nap. The weather has been beautiful all the way down so far and it is very delightful sitting out on the deck enjoying the fresh sea air. At night there is always a couple of poker games in progress and I usually sit in one of the games and try my luck. Have played every night so far and up till now am about three dollars ahead.

Have just about completed reading all of my magazines that I brought

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with me and have enjoyed them very much. Tell Esther and Gene that I have just finished reading the December and January copies of Readers Digest

which I received in the mail prior to my leaving the forward area and have enjoyed them very much. Will have to wait now for my later copies of the magazines and also my mail until I reach the hospital and can write "Ogive", my executive officer and now acting commanding officer until I return to my ship, and tell him my new address so that he can forward my mail that he is holding to me. And so, darling, it will be quite a while before any of your letters will reach me. Also it will take a longer time for them to reach me unless I am going to be at the hospital a long time and you can write directly to me there. Will let you know just as soon as the doctors diagnose my case and tell me what they are going to do with me and approximately how long I will be in the hospital.

Tomorrow we are scheduled to arrive in port (the city near where I was stationed before I went up to the forward area) and remain there for a day or so before proceeding on down the coast. When I left the base hospital up the line, they thought that I would go to the navy hospital at this port. But yesterday the ship received word that because of this hospital being so crowded it was to take us on down to the large navy hospital located just outside of the "Big City". It is a much larger hospital and can take care of us better. However am not definitely sure where I will go yet, but will let you know just as soon as I definitely know.

Have not told mother and dad anything about my kidney stone trouble in my letters to them because I know that they would get very much upset and do a lot of needless worrying. And so please do not say anything to them about it until I tell you. After the doctors diagnose

my case and I learn what they are going to do with me and approximately how long I will be in the hospital I will write them about my trouble. You know how my mother worries over the most trivial things.

And I do not want to cause her any excess worry. You are different because you are my wife and I shall always keep you properly informed as to my health. However darling, please do not worry about me because I am all right and the navy will give me the best of care. I had this same trouble about ten years ago. Also remember when I went up to Great Lakes from Columbus, Ohio to have the same thing checked over.

Darling, I am anxiously waiting to receive your letter that you enclosed the photographs of Peggy in because I would like to see how much she has grown and changed. I also am very disappointed about you not having had a picture taken of yourself to send to me. I have been looking forward to receiving it for the past three months now. Yes, I think that it would be very nice to have a picture taken of the three of us together when I return home, but I still would like to have a separate photograph of you to carry with me wherever I go.

I guess that it will not be long before spring weather will be appearing for you folks in Minneapolis. I guess that you will be glad to see warm weather again so that you can get Peggy out-doors. Are you planning to spend the spring and summer with the Thuneys or are you going back down to Washington for the summer. I don't see why you don't continue with your visit with the Thuneys if they still would like to have you. It must be very lovely in Minneapolis during the summer. I don't know how my going to the hospital for treatment will affect my furlough back to the states. It may retard or delay it and then again it may advance it. The doctors also might recommend my being sent back

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to the states for duty there. I will just have to wait and see what happens. I certainly do wish I could return to the states for duty and then we could be together and I could still serve in the navy.

How are you and the Thuneys these days? Are you still enjoying

your visit with them? It certainly is wonderful of them to have you and Peggy stay with them and I shall never be able to repay them for their gracious hospitality no matter how hard I tried. Please give them all my very best regards.

Also please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy loves her very much and is very proud of her.

Darling, again I repeat, please do not worry about me because I am all right and the navy doctors will fix me up all O.K. Will keep you informed as to how I am getting along and what the developments are.

Darling, please always remember that I love you more than anything or anybody else in the world. My love for you grows continually stronger as time goes along. You air my one and only love and there is no one that can even come close to comparing with you. I love you very dearly with all my heart and soul. To you my darling precious wife I send a thousand hugs and kisses tied up with all my love and with my card attached saying, I LOVE YOU.

All my love to you and Peggy
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Tuesday, March 14, 1944
1330 - #111

My dearest Georgia -

Here I am at sea again en route on down to the "Big City" where I am going to the hospital. We are scheduled to arrive there sometime tomorrow morning and then will proceed immediately by automobile out to the hospital which is located approximately ten miles out of town.

Arrived in the other port last Sunday morning and layed-over until the following noon (Monday) and then put out to sea again to continue our journey on down the coast. When we docked that morning it appeared that we would be put ashore there where the other hospital was located in spite of the message that the ship had received telling them to take us on down to the "Big City" with them. Because no sooner had the ship made fast her lines to the dock when a couple of ambulances, two trucks, a bus and a car came down on the dock to take the patients off. After a half hour of waiting around the word was passed for us to get our gear packed and ready to go ashore when the word came around that we would not be put ashore there but would go on down the line. And so had to unpack all over again.

That afternoon liberty was granted to the ships company and also to the passengers and patients on board and so three of us went ashore to rest our sea legs and look about town. Being that it was a Sunday afternoon the town was practically deserted and everything closed.

We walked down to the zoo and botanical garden which is located along the river and looked at the animals and listened to a band concert that was in progress. Later in the afternoon we went to one of the hotels and had a T-bone steak dinner which was pretty good. After dinner we went over to the navy officers club and spent the evening. While there at the club saw some officers that I knew and had a very enjoyable evening. Returned back aboard ship about midnight.

Have certainly enjoyed my trip down on this ship. The weather has been beautiful, the meals excellent, my stateroom very nice with a good comfortable bunk, and the ship's officers very nice and congenial. I certainly would put on weight if I remained on this ship for any length of time. My kidney stone has not given me any more trouble and so feel fine. In fact I feel somewhat guilty being away from my ship.

I don't suppose that I will be receiving any of my mail for at least another couple of weeks because I have yet to write a letter to my executive officer and tell him where to forward my mail and I cannot write to him until I log in at the hospital.

Well darling, so far everything is going along fine for me. I trust that you and Peggy are both well and happy. I think about the two of you all the time wondering how you are and what you are doing. Oh my dearest darling I love you very, very much and miss you terribly. I pray for the day when we can be together again. Please give Peggy my customary big hug and kiss. Also say hello to Esther, Gene and Mike for me. Darling, please always remember that I love you with all my heart and soul and that you are the only person I love and will ever love until my dying hour. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S. Naval Base Hospital #10
Navy 135
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.

Wednesday, March 15, 1944

2100 - #112

My dearest Georgia -

The ship I came down on docked this morning about 0930 and a staff of corpsmen from the hospital were waiting on the dock to receive us (myself and approx. 100 other patients) and drive us out to the hospital which is located about fourteen miles out of town. Logged - in here at the hospital about 1100 and was assigned to a nice private room in S.O.Q. This hospital is quite large and very nice and the nurses and doctors are all very friendly and nice and so I do not think it will be so bad here. You know how much I dislike hospitals. At noon I went down to the officers mess to have dinner and the meal was very good.

After dinner the doctor in charge of the S.O.Q. ward came around to see me and checked up on me. He said that the doctor that would have charge of my case would be around to see me tomorrow. And so I guess tomorrow I will start getting the works.

This afternoon I walked around the hospital and looked the place over. It is quite a large hospital and very well equipped. In walking around I came across the recreation room for officers which is very nice. It is nicely and comfortable furnished with a radio - phonograph, ping - pong table and all the latest magazines from the states. I stayed there for over an hour reading and then returned to my room and took a short nap before going to supper. Supper was very good and enjoyed drinking milk and eating ice cream once again. These two items are very scarce up the line. After supper I returned to my room for sick call. After sick call a couple of the other officers and

myself went down to the recreation room and played a little ping - pong, read a few magazines and listened to a re-broadcast of Jack Benny's radio program. After that was over returned back to my room and started this letter to you. After I finish this letter I plan to turn in and get a good nights sleep.

The weather has turned very cool tonight and since I am not used to such cool weather am practically freezing to death. However I guess that I will soon get adjusted to the cooler climate.

Up till now I have not had any more of my attacks and so am feeling pretty good.

Darling, from now on until I tell you differently please address your letters to me at the hospital. Use the address that is at the heading of my letter. I guess that I will remain here for a while so you might as well mail your letters here to me rather than to the ship. They would have to be forwarded on down to me and that would take additional time.

Darling, how are you and Peggy these days? I trust that The both of you are well and happy. Please give Peggy my usual Big hug and kiss. Darling, please do not worry about me because I will be all right. Will keep you informed as to how I get along. Please always remember, my darling sweetheart, that I love you very, Very much and miss you terriably. I LOVE YOU.

All my love you and Peggy
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S. Naval Base Hospital #10
Navy 135
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Friday, March 17, 1944
1300 - #113

Georgia darling -

Have just returned to my room from having dinner this noon down at the officers mess. It was a very delicious meal and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The main reason why I thoroughly enjoyed it is because from now on I will be on a light diet while they are taking x-rays of me and giving me treatment.

I am scheduled to have my first x-rays taken tomorrow morning and so starting early this evening must prepare myself for the busy day ahead of me tomorrow by eating a light supper tonight and then taking a good laxative to cleanse my system out. After midnight I cannot drink any liquids. If these x-rays turn out good (if they don't I will have to have more taken) the doctor will be able to establish a diagnosis of my case and then know how to treat me for it. I am anxious to know what the story is and what they will do to me and also how long they expect I will remain in the hospital.

Yesterday afternoon my doctor came in to see me and took my case history. He told me that he would not be able to start to do anything to me until Saturday morning. I asked him that since he was not going to do anything to me that day would it be all right to go into town for the afternoon and evening. He said that it would be perfectly O.K. And so another officer patient

whose doctor had also granted him liberty for the rest of the day and I went into town. This was his first visit here to this city and so I ~~showered~~ showed him some of the places of interest. We had a very enjoyable time looking around. Then had dinner and went to a show afterwards. The picture we saw was "Mr. Lucky" with Cary Grant. Got back to the hospital about Midnight.

So far have been feeling fine, but can never tell when another attack will hit me. I guess that it won't be long now before they will have me all fixed up and then I can go back to my ship.

The weather down here is very cool and since I am not accostumed to such cool weather am having a terriable time trying to keep warm. I guess that I will soon get used to the weather.

Darling, how are you and Peggy these days? I certainly will be glad when my mail catches up to me so that I can receive your letters and read them and hear all about you and Peggy. It seems like ages since I last received a letter from you.

Please give my best regards to the Thuneys. Also please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss. Darling, I constantly think about you and wonder how you [^]are and what you are doing. Please always remember that I love you very, very much with all my heart and am terriably lonely for you. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy,
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

(Missing Page)

development of the x-ray pictures and a diagnosis made of my case before they will start treatment for me. I guess that maybe tomorrow they will start working on me. In the meantime I am laying around taking things easy, eating, reading, snoozing and visiting around with the other patient officers. I am feeling fine and so feel very much out of place being here in the hospital. I certainly do wish you were over here or this hospital was located in Minneapolis so that you could come and see me. It would be wonderful to have you come every day and spend the afternoon and evening with me. Visiting hours are from 1300 to 2100 every day.

When I write to mother and dad tomorrow I am going to tell them about my kidney stone trouble. I guess that I will have to because they will become curious when they receive my letter with a hospital address on it. I didn't want to write them until I found out what they were going to do to me and approximately how long I would be here. Oh well they will have to know sooner or later and so I guess that I might as well tell them now.

Will certainly be glad when ~~the~~ my mail catches up to me so that I can read your letters and learn how you and Peggy are and what you are doing. Because darling you are constantly in my thoughts. I eagerly await the day when we can be together again. It seems like ages since I last held you in my arms and kissed you. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss. Also give the Thuneys my best regards. And to you, my dearest darling wife, I send you a thousand hugs and kisses with all my love. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S. Naval Base Hospital #10
Navy 135
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Tuesday, March 21, 1944
0910 - #115

My dearest Georgia,

About 1930 last night my doctor came in to see me and said that he had some very good news for me. He said that my x-ray polygrams showed clearly that I did not have any kidney stones and that my entire system was as clear as crystal. He also said that the other examinations that they had made of me definitely did not show any trace of kidney stones and that my specimens of urine were very clear with not a single trace of any puss in it. He said that due to his conclusive findings of my not having any kidney stone that he was going to recommend that I be discharged from the hospital and returned to active duty.

I asked him then what was the cause of the severe pains in my side that were exactly similar to those that I had when I had my series of kidney stone attacks about ten years ago. He said that the pains were caused by a collic (a kink) in my tube leading out of my right kidney and would cause the same type of severe pain and nausea. He said that I may never have such a thing like that happen again. He advised that I drink as much water as I could.

I was certainly very glad to hear that I did not have any kidney stones and that I would not have to undergo that painful treatment. I also know, darling, that you will be relieved to hear the good news. I am very glad that I did not write mother and dad yesterday and tell them about my trouble because it would have caused them a lot of worry for nothing. However I plan to write a letter to them today and tell them about my check-over for kidney stones.

Darling, I guess that I will remain here for about another week waiting for my orders to come through transferring me back to active duty. I imagine that I will go back to my ship, but then again I may be given a new assignment. However I will just wait and see. In the meantime while waiting for my orders to come through I am at liberty to go into town whenever I please. and so I guess that I will go into town every now and then and enjoy myself and take advantage of the opportunity of a little additional liberty here.

Darling, you may as well continue addressing your letters to this address until I tell you differently. If your letters arrive here after I have left they will forward them on to me.

I am so happy that I do not have kidney stones. I was somewhat concerned about my old trouble returning. But now my mind is completely relieved. I know that you are glad to hear the good news. I am awfully sorry that I caused you any worry, but dearest I was positive that I was having some more kidney stone trouble and I always want to be honest with you and let you know how I am.

Well darling I am anxious for this letter to go out as soon as possible and so will say "au revoir" until my next letter. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss. And, darling please always remember that I love you very dearly and am terribly lonely for you.

I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR
U.S. Naval Base Hospital #10
Navy 135
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Thursday, March 23, 1944
1900 - #116

My dearest Georgia,

Have just returned to my room from having supper and now for a letter to you, my darling. After I finish this letter to you I am joining a couple of the navy doctors stationed here at the hospital, one of them being my doctor, who I have become quite friendly with and we are going to the movie here at the hospital base. They have movies here every night and I have attended a couple of the shows.

Everything is going along fine for me and I couldn't feel better. Am thoroughly enjoying the excellent attention that I am receiving here plus the good meals and ideal rest. Was talking to the doctor again today and he said that I may have had a kidney stone and passed it out of my system en route down here to the hospital prior to the x-ray examination. But that my system was now entirely clear of any kidney stones. I am certainly glad that I am O.K. and did not have to undergo that

painful treatment. Expect to be discharged from the hospital the early part of next week. And so, darling, I guess that you had better address your letters to me from now on to my old address back on the ship. Because by the time your letters will arrive over here I will be back on the ship and then your letters will come direct to me rather than have them come here to the hospital and then be forwarded up the line to me.

Yesterday afternoon another officer patient and I went into town together and saw a matinee show. The name of the picture was "Destroyer" with Edgar G. Robinson. Had dinner in town and then returned back to the hospital. Today, I have spent a lazy day reading and visiting with the other patients and this afternoon another officer patient and myself took a nice walk around the hospital grounds. Today has been beautiful and it was very nice walking outdoors.

Yesterday I wrote mother and dad a letter and told them about my being in a hospital for a kidney stone check-up and that I was O.K. and would be returning to active duty very soon.

Have not received any mail down here as yet, but hope that it will be arriving within the next few days as I am very anxious to receive some of your letters and learn how you and Peggy are and what you have been doing.

I suppose that you are looking forward to Spring and warmer weather so that Peggy and Mike can go outdoors to play. By the way how are they these days. I suppose that they are growing up like little weeds and getting into mischief all the time.

Darling, please give Esther and Gene my best regards. Also please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy is very proud of her and loves her very much. And darling, please

always remember that I love you very, very much with all my heart and am terriably lonely for you. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy,
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR
U.S. Naval Base Hospital #10
Navy 135
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Tuesday, March 28, 1944
1330 - #117

My dearest Georgia,

Please pardon me for not writing to you sooner, but have been unable to until this afternoon. Remember I mentioned to you in my last letter that the examinations showed that I did not have any kidney stones and that I expected to be discharged from the hospital sometime this week and return to my ship. And so while waiting to be discharged from the hospital requested several days leave to go into town and stay with my friend who had obtained an apartment down here while on leave. He was the navy officer that I met on the ship en route down here to the hospital. He is a brother Mason and was en route down here for recreational leave. We became very good friends and he even came out to the hospital a couple of times to see me. And he extended me an invitation to come in and stay with him whenever I could get leave from the hospital.

And so I obtained leave from Saturday morning until Tuesday

morning. Went into town about noon on Saturday and met him at the apartment. He has a lovely apartment, nicely furnished and in a lovely location in the city. Also he had it fairly well stocked up with beer rum, brandy and whiskey which was very nice too. That night we had dates and went to "Princess" to dine and dance. I had a date with "Judy" Pearce, the girl that I met when I was down here before on my recreational leave. We had a very enjoyable time. Slept late the next

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morning and that afternoon the four of us went out to "Koala Park" a natural preserve for Koala Bears located about twenty-five miles out of town. It was a beautiful spot and the bears are certainly cute little things. I wish you and Peggy could see them. I know the both of you would fall in love with them. That night we attended a navy officers dance sponsored by the navy. It was a very nice affair and we had lots of fun.

Fred and I slept late the next morning and when I got up I noticed the same type of pain in my right side. It did not bother me so terribly at first but was annoying. And so we proceeded to take showers and get dressed to go to lunch. While in the restaurant waiting for my meal to be served to me the attack became so severe that I had to leave. I went immediately to the navy dispensary in town to get a hypo to ease the pain. By the time I reached there I was in terrible agony and they made me lay down and gave me a hypo to ease the pain. A little later they sent me out to the hospital in an ambulance and everybody was surprised to see me return from my leave in such a condition. My doctor immediately came in to see me and my nurse has certainly been giving me the best of attention to relieve me of my pain.

This morning I feel better. My doctor was in to see me and gave me another examination. He seems to think that it may be something else than kidney stone trouble and intends to keep me here at the

hospital for another week or so in order to give me a complete check up. And so darling, it looks as if I will be here for another week or so and in that case you had better address your letters to the hospital here until I tell you differently. I certainly hope that they will be able to find out what the trouble is so that they can correct it. It is a nuisance to get these awful painful attacks because they put you out of

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commission for a couple of days until they have passed. However I don't think that it is anything serious and am not worrying about it.

Have not received any mail as yet since I have been here at the hospital and it seems like ages since I last heard from you. My mail should be catching up to me within the next couple of days, I hope. By the way, darling, have you received the pair of pajamas and dress that I sent you and Peggy from here when I was down here on recreational leave. I hope that you will like the gifts.

How are you and Peggy these days, my darling? I trust that both of you are very well and happy. I suppose that Peggy is growing like a little weed and is now quite a big girl. I certainly would like to see some nice recent pictures of her so I can notice how much she has changed. I certainly do wish that my mail would arrive so that I could read some of your letters. You and Peggy are continually in my thoughts wondering how you are and what you are doing. I wish that it were possible for you to come to the hospital to see me. It would be so wonderful.

Darling, please give my best regards to Esther, Genen and Mike and to my other friends whenever you write to them or see them. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy loves her very much. and darling to you I send a thousand hugs and kisses with all my love from the bottom of my heart. Please always remember, darling, that I love you very, very much and miss you terribly. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S. Naval Base Hospital #10
Navy 135
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Thursday, March 30, 1944
1900 - #118

My dearest Georgia --

Have just returned to my room from having supper down a the officers mess. Stopped off en route back at the officers recreation room for a few minutes to listen to the radio and look at a magazine.

Everything is about the same for me. However I feel a lot better than I did. The doctor did not do any thing today to me, but tomorrow he is going to give me a cystoscopic treatment to examine my kidneys and ureters again for possible kidney stones. He is also going to take some more x-ray pictures of my urinary system. After he is positive that my attacks are not caused by kidney stones he is then going to further examine me to try and determine the cause of my attacks. A couple of other doctor specialists are going to be called in to examine me also. And so it looks as if I am going to have some busy days ahead of me.

Today has been a beautiful day - ~~not a cloud in the sky, very~~

[undecipherable]

all the time. This afternoon

The city police band consisting of fifty members came out to the hospital and gave us a lovely band concert for two hours out to the hospital grounds nearby our ward. All of the patients that were able to get out attended and it was very nice. I enjoyed it very much because it has been quite a long time since I last heard a band play. Tonight a couple of us officer patients are going over to the hospital auditorium to see the movie. Yes, we have movies here at the hospital every night which makes it nice.

Since it is impossible to buy any Easter cards over here due to the fact that they are not printing any due to the paper shortage one of the nurses made up a simple design on a V-mail letter form for us. I thought it was very sweet of her to do that. I could only obtain two of the V-mail letters and so am sending one to you and One to my folks.

Still have not received any mail as yet which is very discouraging but hope that some of my mail will arrive shortly. Am very anxious to hear from you and learn how you and Peggy are.

Darling, how are you and the Thuneys these days? Please say hello to them for me and also wish them a Happy Easter. I think about you folks very often and wish I could drop in on you on a surprise visit. Wouldn't we have a wonderful time. I am just living for the day when we all can be together again like old times.

Well, darling, it is almost time to get ready to go to the show and so had better say good-night until my next letter to you. Please give peggy my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy loves her very much. And to you, my darling I send a thousand hugs and kisses with all my love. Darling, I think about you all the time and constantly wish that we were together again living a happy normal family life like we did before I went into the service. Please always remember,

my dearest darling, that I love you very, very much and am terribly lonely for you. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy,
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S. Naval Baase Hospital #10
U.S Navy 135
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Sunday, April 2, 1944
1500 - #119

My dearest Georgia --

The doctors finished working on me a short while ago for the day and will wait until tomorrow before they take any more x-ray pictures of me. And so, darling, now for a short letter to you.

The weather during the past week has been beautiful and it makes you want to get outdoors and play some golf or tennis or some other outdoor sport. In the afternoons I usually go outside of the ward and sit in the sun for an hour or so. It makes you feel so good.

Last Friday morning they cystoscoped me to examine my kidneys and ureters for possible kidney stones and gravel. They also took several more x-ray pictures to make sure that my kidneys were O.K. The cystoscopic treatment and x-ray pictures did not reveal any kidney stones or gravel. And so the doctors decided to make a check on my gall bladder for possible trouble. They are going to examine me thoroughly for every possible

cause of my attacks. Friday afternoon the surgeon gave me an examination. And then again on Saturday afternoon another doctor gave me an examination.

And then again this morning I had several x-ray pictures taken of my gall bladder. Will now have to wait for the results of the pictures and if they do not show anything I will then undergo further examinations. Right now I am feeling fine but never can tell when another attack will hit me. The doctors are determined to find the cause of my attacks and are planning to give me the complete works if necessary.

Yesterday afternoon Judy and a friend of hers came out to the hospital to see me. She brought me a nice book and some fruit. I enjoyed her visit very much. Darling, I certainly do wish you were over here so that you could come out to the hospital to see me. You would be such a great help and comfort to me. I don't know how much longer I will be here at the hospital but I think that it will be for at least another two weeks.

I still have not received any mail as yet and so am completely in the dark about how you and Peggy are and what you are doing. Are you planning to return to Washington to visit mother and dad this spring or are you going to stay on with the Thuneys. I certainly do wish my mail would come down from ^up the line real soon so that I can read your letters. It seems like ages since I last received a letter from you. It also makes it very difficult to write to you when I have not heard from you for such a long time.

Darling how are you and Peggy these days? I think about the both of you all the time and wonder how you are and what you are doing. I trust that the both of you are very well and happy. How are the Thuneys? Please give them my best regards. Darling, please do not worry about me because my attacks are not serious - just mean and annoying - and I am quite sure that the doctors will have me all fixed up soon. I will keep you informed as to how I am doing.

Darling, please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy is very proud of her and loves her very much. And, darling, please remember that I love you very dearly with all my heart and that I am terribly lonely for you. I am patiently waiting for the day when I can return home to you and Peggy and never have to leave you again.
I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S. Naval Base Hospital #10
Navy 135
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Wednesday, April 5, 1944
1900 - #120

My dearest Georgia -

Am feeling very good today. The doctors had nothing scheduled for me today and so have been taking things easy. Had breakfast in bed this morning and later on about 0900 my doctors came around to see me and told me to get up and get around today. And so about 0930 I got up and took a nice hot shower and shaved and dressed. The rest of the morning of I visited and read. Went down to the mess hall for dinner at noon and from there went over to the officers recreation room and listened to the radio and played some table tennis. Later on in the afternoon I got a haircut and then rejoined the bunch down in the recreation hall to play some pinochle. Have just learned to play the game and enjoy it very much. We played until supper time and then went to supper. There is a nice bunch

of officer patients here and we have a swell time together. There is a Lutheran navy chaplain here (a young chap) who has the room across the hall from me and he and I are enjoying each others company immensely. We have a lot of fun together.

Last Sunday night I was siezed with another bad attack in my side and had to take hypo's to ease the pain. My arms are beginning to feel like pin cushions being that they have been stuck so many times with the hypo needle. The attack lasted all night but was better by morning. Both of my doctors were in to see me and decided that I had better be cystiscoped again because of the symptoms of a small piece of gravel lodged in my right ureter. Although the x-ray pictures do not show the presence of any stones or gravel the type of attacks are typical of kidney stone attacks. And so the doctors planned to dailate my right ureter so that if a piece of gravel is present it will be able to work its way out more easily. They could not do anything to me on Monday because of my attack Sunday night. And so Tuesday morning my doctor went to work on me again with a cysticopic treatment. Those treatment are quite painful and sort of knock you off of your feet for a while afterwards. And so spent most of the day in bed. However by nightfall I was feeling better and went to the movie here at the hospital with several other officer patients. The picture was a very old one called "The Glass Key" with Veronica Lake and Alan Ladd. It was pretty good though and thoroughly enjoyed it.

The nights are getting quite cold here now and have to sleep under several blankets. However the days are beautiful and quite warm. Have been here at this hospital for three weeks now and so feel like a regular hospital patient. I hope that I will be discharged from here within another week or so. Of course it all depends on when I pass my kidney stone and also the results of the examinations they are making on me.

None of my mail has arrived as yet and I am just longing to read one of your nice newsy letters and learn how you and Peggy are and what you have been doing. It seems like ages since I last read one of your lovely letters. They mean so much to me. In fact your wonderful

letters are like vitamin pills that keeps my courage up and helps me to carry on without you by my side.

Oh, my darling. I am terribly lonely for you. I am patiently waiting for the day when I can return back home to you and Peggy and we can continue our happy family life together. I promise you that I will never leave you ever again. Darling, you mean everything to me and you are continually in my thoughts both day and night no matter where I am or what I am doing. I love you very dearly with all my heart and am terribly lonely for you.

All my love to you and Peggy
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

P.S. Please give Peggy mu usual big hug and kiss

P.P.S. Give my best regards to the Thuneys.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR
U.S. Naval Base Hospital #10
Navy 135
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Friday, April 7, 1944
1100 - #121

My dearest Georgia --

Have just completed having "Captain's Inspection" by the commanding officer of the hospital. He makes an inspection of the hospital every Friday morning at 1000.

This morning at 0800 I started my series of x-rays and examinations for possible stomach ulcers. This afternoon I have more x-rays to be taken completing the series with another examination and more x-rays tomorrow. I am quite sure that my stomach is in good condition, but the doctors want to be sure and so are giving me a complete series of internal examinations. When they get through with me I will know all about my insides. And I guess that is a good thing to know. When taking these examinations I have to go on various types of diets so that they can properly study me. For example I have not been permitted to have anything to eat today since last night. However after the examination this afternoon I will be able to have something to eat. One minute they are starving me and the next minute they are forcing food into me. It is a great life.

Yesterday I had no treatments or examinations scheduled and so took things easy reading and laying around. Played pinochle all yesterday afternoon down at the officers recreation room. Also have been playing quite a bit of table tennis and so am keeping in practice to give you a beating in table tennis when I return home. By the way have you been playing table tennis much lately. You had better start practicing up. Ha! Ha! Last night I went to the movie here at the hospital. The picture that I saw was Bob Hope in "They Got Me Covered". It was a screwball picture but I enjoyed it very much just the same.

Am beginning to grow restless being a patient and want to go back to duty. Enjoyed the easy life here at first because it was like a rest cure and what I needed. But now I am beginning to grow tired of it and would like to go back to my ship. If everything turns out all right I hope that they will discharge me from the hospital the latter part of next week.

I still have not passed my kidney stone and when talking to my doctor yesterday he said that he was going to cystiscope me again within the next few days and dilate my right ureter again to assist the passing of the stone. I certainly hope that I can pass the stone real soon.

For some unknown reason my mail which is being forwarded down here to me from my ship has not arrived as yet and I am getting very impatient to receive some news from you. Again I repeat it seems like ages since I last heard from you.

I trust that you and Peggy are very well and happy. I think about the both of you all the time and wonder how you are and what you are doing and wishing that I were back home with you. I suppose Peggy is growing up to be quite a big girl these days. Please give her my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy is very proud of her and loves her very dearly. How are Esther, Gene and Mike these days? Please give them my very best regards. Darling, please always remember that you are always in my thoughts and forever in my heart. I love you very dearly and am terribly lonely for you. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

2011.036, A. Morton Thomas
WWII Letters

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CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S. Naval Base Hospital #10
Navy 135
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Easter Sunday - April 9, 1944
1300- #122

My dearest Georgia,

A very happy Easter to you and Peggy. And for me it is a very happy day for me because in this mornings mail I received your #159 letter dated March 28, the first letter that I have received from you since I have been here at the hospital. And, darling, I was thrilled to hear from you again because it has been ages since I last received a letter from you. Up till now I still have not received my mail that should be on its way down here from my ship. I still have not received your #125, 129, 130, 131, 135 and on up to this last letter of yours that I received today which is your #159. And so you see I have a lot of your letters yet to receive. I certainly hope that they will not have to be forwarded back up the line to my ship again. If that happens it would take another month for them to reach me.

Your lovely letter has certainly made me very happy this beautiful Easter Sunday. Nothing else could have made me any happier. Am glad to hear that you and Peggy are well and happy. And I hope that you and Peggy had a very nice trip on the train back home. Am anxious to receive your previous letters so as to learn of your plans for returning home. I trust that by now you are fairly well settled with mother and dad in their home. I imagine that they are very happy to have you and Peggy back with them. In their letters to me they always remarked how much they missed you. And I suppose that you are somewhat glad to get back to Washington to see

Alice and Marie, Aunt Jenny and all of your friends again. I guess that you will be kept very busy for the next month being entertained by your sisters and all of your friends. Please give my best regards to all of them when you see them.

Darling, I am very pleased to hear that you received the presents that I mailed to you from over here and that you like them so much. They were small, simple gifts, but it was the best I could do with clothing over here being so heavily rationed and I thought you would like them.

Today I am feeling much better and got up this morning about 0900 and plan to stay up all day. Yesterday was a bad day for me, and I was in pain all the day and most of last night. However when I awoke this morning my pain had gone and have been feeling better as the day has progressed.

And now going back to yesterday. Early yesterday morning the doctor completed the series of x-ray examinations of my stomach. And then right after that my other doctor gave me another cystoscopic treatment for my possible kidney stone. This time in going up my right ureter he discovered the piece of gravel that has been giving me the attacks and he went after it. Boy, he certainly did give me the works and at times the pain was so great that I thought I just could not bear it any longer - but I did. He worked on me about a half hour and when he got through I was as limp as a wet rag. However he is a marvelous doctor, a specialist, with years of experience and I have the utmost faith in him. During the treatment he broke up the piece of gravel and removed a small piece of it. He could not remove the rest of it but did stretch my ureter so that it would pass out on its own accord. And so hope to pass the rest of the piece of gravel most any time now. After the treatment I was taken back to my room and put to bed. The treatment was

such a severe one that it upset my entire system and could not keep

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anything on my stomach. This morning I ate a small breakfast and This noon I ate a fairly good meal. I also suffered considerable pain all yesterday afternoon and last night as a result of the treatment. However now I think everything is going to be O.K. now. I am anxious to hear the results from the x-ray examinations of my stomach. All the rest of the other examinations showed that I was O.K. By the time I leave the hospital I certainly am going to have a thorough knowledge of my insides.

Again, darling, I must repeat that I was very thrilled to receive your nice letter today. Your letters mean so much to me and I look forward to them because you and Peggy are constantly in my thoughts. Both you and Peggy are very dear to me and I am constantly wondering how you are and what you are doing. And reading your letters makes me feel that I am back home with you. Oh, my darling, I often wish I were back home with the two of you and we were living a happy family life again like we did before I went into the service.

How are mother and dad? Please give them my love and tell them that I am getting along fine. Also say hello to Alice, Marie and Barney for me. How is Peggy these days? Please give her my usual big hug and kiss. And to you my dearest darling, I send a thousand hugs and kisses all wrapped up with all my love with the three little words attached, I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy.

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S. Naval Base Hospital #10
Navy 135
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Wednesday, April 12, 1944
1000 - #123

My dearest Georgia,

Am writing this letter to you sitting on a bench in the sun just outside of my ward. It is a beautiful morning and the sun is very nice and warm. Being that it is approaching winter weather over here the nights are getting quite cold but the days are very lovely and warm. Since the hospital is located out in the distant suburbs of town it gets quite cold and we all sleep under three or four blankets to keep warm.

Although I have not passed my kidney stone as yet I am feeling fine and have gone into town for a while during the past couple of days. It is just a matter of time now before I pass the stone which I hope will take place soon so that I can return back to duty. I hope to be discharged from the hospital the early part of next week.

Day before yesterday while I was in town I ran across "Syd" Blackman who had just arrived in town by ship for recreational leave. Do you remember him? He was up to Cornell with me and you met him and his wife (her name is Anne) and they had two small children. He was the last person in the world that I expected to see over here because I thought he was over in the Mediterranean Area. He is a junior officer on a destroyer and has been up in the Solomons Islands area for quite some time. We both were very much surprised to see each other. And so yesterday I went into town early and went aboard his ship and had dinner (noon) and he showed me all around the ship. There was another officer on board the same

ship that had been one of our instructors up at Indoctrination School at Cornell and we had been friends up there. His name is Thomas Wilson. And so had a very enjoyable time aboard ship. Later that afternoon Syd and I went ashore and since it was his first visit here wanted to look around the down town section of the city and perhaps do a little shopping. And so we walked all over town and I took him into all of the nice department stores. While we were in "Farmers" Dept store we came across some nice "Koala" bears and I told him that I had previously sent Peggy a "Koala" bear a long time ago and that she never did receive it and that I thought that I would buy her another one and perhaps this one might reach her. He also bought one for his youngest daughter. And so darling I mailed the package yesterday afternoon to Peggy and she should be receiving it in about six weeks time or around June 1. I hope that she will like the bear. We had supper together and then later we had dates and went to "Ramonos" to wine and dance I had a date with "Judy" and "Syd" and "Tom" Wilson had two very attractive girls and so we had a very pleasant evening. Of course I had to break up the party early because of the fact that I had to catch the midnight electric train back to the hospital. It is the last train out for the night and so had to make it since I had not asked for over-night leave.

My mail still has not arrived from my ship and so of course have been unable to read your previous letters. I cannot understand what the delay is. I hope it arrives before I leave here.

Well, darling, how are you and Peggy these days? I suppose that you are being kept very busy being lavishly entertained by your sisters and friends. Does it seem good to be back home. I imagine mother and dad are glad to have you back with them. Please give mother and dad my love and tell them that I am fine. Also give my best regards to my friends whenever you see them.

Well darling it is almost time for noon chow and so will say "au revoir" until my next letter. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss. And to you my darling wife I send a thousand hugs and kisses with all my love. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy

Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S. Naval Base Hospital #10
Navy 135
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Friday, April 14, 1944
1300 - #124

My dearest Georgia --

Received your lovely letter #160 dated March 31 in yesterdays mail and was so pleased to hear from you. I still have not received your other letters that are supposed to be forwarded down here to me from my ship. I cannot understand it. I guess that they will be turning up one of these days. Am going to write a letter to "Ogive", my executive officer and tell him to hold my mail there at the ship for me until I return because I expect to be discharged from the hospital the early part of next week to return to active duty and so should be back aboard my ship within two weeks time.

Am feeling pretty good now, but still have not passed my stone. was talking to my doctor this morning and he said that all of my x-ray examinations showed that my gall bladder, stomach and heart were in good condition and that my attacks were not caused by any of them. That they ^ (the attacks) must be definitely caused by the small kidney stone in my ureter. He also said that he had given me all the treatment that he could for my kidney stone and that it was now just a matter of time before I passed it and that if I continued to feel all right that he would discharge me from the hospital next Tuesday to return to duty. And since I am feeling pretty good

now I would just as soon go back to duty because this hospital life is beginning to get rather boresome. And so darling I suggest that you start addressing your letters to my ship rather than here because I will not be here after next week.

In reading your letter I was very pleased to hear that you had such a good time dancing when you went to the dinner party at the hotel. By all means, darling, please go out and dance whenever you have a chance. After all you are young and still like to do such things and so why not do them. Please do not be a homebody just because I am away from you. I do not mind if you go out and have a good time with friends, in fact, darling I encourage you to go.

Yesterday afternoon the three of us officer patients went into town and messed around. Had dinner last night and then went to the show and saw "Stage Door Canteen". It was pretty good. Today it is cold, rainy and very miserable and so am staying indoors and taking things easy. We have no steam heat in our ward and so huddle around the few electric heaters that we have or pile into bed and read. Am reading some ~~decte~~ detective and mystery books and am thoroughly enjoying them. When I get through reading them I will be a regular crime expert.

Am writing this letter to you on the nurses desk beside the electric heater and we ^ (nurse and I) are having a great time talking and kidding each other about nurses versus patients.

I guess that it seems pretty good to be back home where it is Warmer and with all of your old friends again. Please say hello to Mother and dad for me and tell them that I am gettig along fine. Please Give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy loves Her very dearly. And, darling, I am looking forward to my furlough just As much as you are because I am very anxious to return home to see You and Peggy. Please always remember darling that I love you very

Dearly with all my heart and miss you terriably. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S. Naval Base Hospital #10
Navy 135
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Monday, April 17, 1944
1030 - #125

My dearest Georgia --

Today is my last day here at the hospital because I am being discharged tomorrow to return back to active duty. Have not knowingly passed my kidney stone as yet but am feeling fine and ready for duty. In fact have been feeling like my old self since last Friday. And so am glad to leave here tomorrow and go back to duty again. I am beginning to think that maybe I have already passed my small stone and did not know it at the time because I have been feeling so much better the past few days.

I was granted permission to stay in town over the week-end and so called my friend, Lieut. Fisher, who is stationed in town and whom I met last February when I was down here on recreation leave and told him that I was coming in town and he invited me to stay with him at his apartment. He has a very nice large apartment and has been very nice to ~~him~~ me. Went into town early Saturday afternoon and

returned late last night. It was a beautiful week-end and I had a very enjoyable time.

Saturday night Judy and I went to a surprise birthday party at the Roosevelt Club that was given for one of the officers stationed here in town. There were fourteen couples of us and we had a grand time eating, drinking, and dancing. "Bob" Fisher and I slept late yesterday morning and then in the afternoon he and his girl and Judy and I went over to Manley[?] Beach. It is the nicest and most popular beach here. Had a lot of fun. Returned back to town where we had a nice dinner and then went up to his apartment where we sat around and talked and drank and listened to the radio. Returned to the hospital on the midnight electric train. My doctors were rather glad to see me go ashore over the week-end to see how I would react[?] before they discharged me. This morning they (my two doctors) were in to see me and find out how I felt. I told them I felt fine and did not experience any pain or small attacks while in town. They were pleased to hear it and said that I should be perfectly okay from now on.

When I am discharged from here tomorrow I report to the navy office in town and pick up my orders to return to duty and make arrangements for my transportation up the line. May be a few days before there is any available transportation. However I expect to be back up the line within two weeks.

If I have time tomorrow morning I will drop you a few lines before I leave here. If unable to I will endeavor to write you while I am en route up whenever possible. And so darling for the next two weeks my letters will be few and far between, traveling conditions permitting. However darling whether I can write you or not during the next two weeks, you will be continually in my thoughts.

Please give mother and dad my love and tell them that I am feeling fine again. Also please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and

tell her that her daddy loves her very dearly. And darling please always remember that you are continually in my thoughts and forever in my heart. I love you very dearly and miss you terriably. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR

U.S.S. LCI (L) 225

% Fleet Post Office

San Francisco, Calif.

Thursday, April 20, 1944

1900 - #126

My dearest Georgia,

Was unable to find the time to write you another letter before I left the hospital because of having so many things to do before leaving. Remember that I said in my last letter that I would try and write you another letter, if possible, before I left. But, darling, by the time I packed all my gear, had my orders written up, checked out with the hospital and said good-bye to everybody it was time for me to leave the hospital by car to go into town to report to the transportation officer for transportation up the line to my ship. And so Tuesday afternoon right after dinner I went into town.

When I saw the transportation officer that afternoon he said that there was no ship in port at the present time that was going up the line and so he suggested that I take the train up the coast to the next large seaport (where I last was before I left the mainland) where ships are leaving very frequently for up the line and take a ship from there.

However since it was fairly late in the afternoon by the time I got squared away with him it was too late to book me a reservation on the sleeper on the train that left that night and so had to wait over until the next train that left the following night which was Wednesday night. It is a 600 mile trip by train and takes eighteen hours leaving early in the evening and arriving at its destination the following afternoon.

Well, since I had to spent Tuesday night and Wednesday in town I called my friend, "Bob" and told him that I was stranded in town until Wednesday evening and was tinkering about coming out to his apartment. He

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said, "Swell" and to come right on out. And so that evening he and his girlfriend and "Judy" and I went down to "Princess" for dinner, drinks and dancing to celebrate my last night in town and my return to duty. We had a very enjoyable evening dancing. Slept late the next morning and then went down town to do some last minute shopping. I bought myself a small canvas over-night bag with zipper opening. I had been needing one for sometime and especially needed it now because of my traveling back up the line.

Judy got off a little early from work in the afternoon so that we could have dinner together before I had to catch my train that night at 7:15 P.M. After dinner we went to the station and she saw me off. Had a very good train trip and my berth in the sleeper was very comfortable. The trains over here are quite different from ours. Instead of berths on each side of the main corridor, the corridor is on one side of the train with compartments for two people off to the side of it. It is a very nice arrangement with plenty of room for two people. The seat makes up into a lower berth and the upper comes out from the wall. I had the lower berth. I had an Australian air force man in the compartment with me who turned out to be a very nice chap and we had a very interesting trip up. He was an Englishman who was attached to the air force

over here and we talked about England, Australia, and the States. Since they have taken the dining cars off of the trains over here because of the war the train stops at various stations for us to get off to eat. It was a mad rush everytime to get off to eat so as to get served first. It was novel to me and I got a big kick out of it.

Arrived up here about 3 P.M. this afternoon and then went directly to the transportation officer up here to report in and to make arrangements for further transportation up the line. He said that if I did not have so much gear that I could fly up by plane tomorrow morning. But since you

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are limited to only fifty-five pounds of baggage when flying and I have two-hundred with me air travel was out for me unless I wanted to leave my gear behind and send it on up by ship. However the risk is too great on having your gear get lost and said that I did not want to get separated from my gear and therefore thought it best to go on up by ship. And so must lay-over here until the early part of next week until a ship leaves here for up the line. And so he referred me to the billeting officer to get me a hotel room at government expense in town until time for me to leave by ship.

I have a very nice room in a hotel in town and now all I have to do is to enjoy myself and take life easy until time for me to leave. Had dinner downstairs in the dining room and after I finish this letter I plan to go to a movie.

Darling, I did not receive any more of your letters before I left the hospital and of course now I won't be able to receive any letters from you until I am back aboard my ship which may not be for another couple of weeks. Traveling around like this certainly does get your mail all messed up. I am very anxious to catch up to my mail and read your letters that are waiting for me.

I am feeling fine now, in fact, I feel like my old self again. I sincerely hope that I will not be troubled with any more kidney stones again. And so, my darling, please don't worry about me because I am in perfect health and feeling great and ready to go back to work again.

Am enclosing a picture of myself that Judy took of me when I was down on recreational leave last February. I think that it is pretty good and knew you would like to have it. Please note my beautiful moustache on upper lip. How do you like it?

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Well, darling, how are you and Peggy these days? I guess that it seems good to be back in Washington where the weather is warmer. I suppose by now you have seen all of your friends and have been having a very busy and marvelous time. I suppose that mother and dad are very pleased to have you and Peggy back with them again. Please give them my love and tell that that I am fine.

Have you been over to see the folks in our house and are they taking pretty good care of it. Also how is our car these days. I guess that are glad to get back home to drive it again. Is it running all right?

Well darling if I am going to see a movie I had better get going because it is getting late. Please give all of our friends my best regards. Give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy loves her very much. And darling please always remember that no matter where I am or what I am doing you are constantly in my thoughts and forever in my heart. I love you more that anything else in the world and you mean everything to me. I constantly pray for the day when I can return back home to you and the three of us can be together again for always. Darling, to you I send a thousand hugs and kisses with all my love from the bottom of my heart. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Saturday, April 22, 1944
1330 - #127

My dearest Georgia --

Have just returned to my room from having lunch downstairs in the hotel dining room. Had a very nice lunch before which I had several beers to whet my appetite.

This morning the transportation officer called me and said that I should be ready to leave tomorrow by ship to proceed on up the line to where my outfit is. And so I will not have to delay here as long as I expected too. I am very glad to be getting underway again because I am anxious to get back to my ship and go to work again.

Thursday night after I finished writing my previous letter to you I went out to a show and saw Tyrone Power in "Crash Dive". It was a very good show and I enjoyed it very much. After the show I returned to my room at the hotel and "hit the sack" early. The next morning I slept late and did not leave my room until lunch time. After lunch I called Miriam Sugars at her office and surprised her by telling her that I was in town. She is a very nice girl that I met here when I was formerly stationed nearby here. Remember in one of my letters to you last November

I told you that Joe Sibigroth ^and I went out to her home to a nice party. Also that her dad was a Mason and that he and I became very good friends. I had dinner at their home several times when I used to be stationed near here and also ^when I brought my ship here for repairs. During our conversation over the phone she said that I must come out to her home for dinner and the evening that night and see her folks. And so I agreed to meet her after work and go on home with her. In the meantime she was going to call home

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and tell her folks that I was in town and that she was bringing me home. They have a very lovely home and are very fine people. Her mother reminds me very much of Mrs. Cotter (Catherine Beck's mother)

After I finished talking with her I then went over to the fleet operations office to find out the exact location of my ship and what it was doing. Also to find out any other available pertinent information about my outfit. I have been out of contact with my outfit for some time now and was curious to know about it. After I left there I went around the building where the navy staff headquarters is located and saw some old navy officer acquaintances of mine. They were all surprised to see me in town and sorry to hear about my illness. Had a grand time visiting with all of them.

I left there a couple of hours later and went to meet "Mim" at 5 PM when she got off from work. We went on out to her home and her folks were very glad to see me again. Her dad immediately brought his "Scotch" out and he and I had several drinks before dinner. Had a lovely chicken dinner with all the trimmings and they feted me as if I had been there long lost son. By the way they do have a son in the Australian army and who is now up in New Guinea near where I used to be stationed. Spent a very pleasant evening and when it began to get late they insisted that should spend the night with them being that it was not imperative that I return to the hotel that night. After much persuasion I accepted their

generous invitation and we all remained up until about 2 A.M. talking and drinking. I slept in their son's bedroom. Got up this morning at 7:30 and we all had breakfast together and came into town with "Mim" and Mr. Sugars as they went to work. When I got back to the hotel I went to bed again and slept until the transportation officer called me about 1130.

This afternoon I am supposed to go to the horse races with one of the navy officers stationed here. It is a beautiful day for the races and I think

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we should have a good time. The bets are very reasonable over here and so you do not have to lose much if you dont want to and I am going to be conservative.

Tonight "Mim" is meeting me at the hotel and ten we are going out to dinner and then to the officers club for the evening. She and her folds had invited me out to their home to spend Sunday with them, but of course that is impossible now being that I am leaving tomorrow.

Darling, you will find enclosed with the letter a picture of my ship that was taken last November by "Mim" as I was bringing my ship alongside the jetty at Redcliff where I used to take on water every week-end when I was formerly stationed nearby here. That is "yours truly" standing on the bridge and "Ogive" standing on the deck below me. Mim gave me the picture last night and I am sending it on to you. She was standing on the jetty when she took it and I did not know it at the time. In fact I did not know her at the time but met her shortly afterwards on the jetty after the ship was tied up. She was visiting down there that day with a girl friend of hers. Except for the sun-spot I think that it is a pretty good picture of the ship with it underway. Please add it to your album of pictures.

Well, dearest, since I will be underway again starting tomorrow it

may be a few days or even longer before I will be able to write to you again. However as soon as I am able to I will write you the very first thing and let you know how things are. Please do not worry about me because I am feeling fine now, in fact, I couldn't feel better.

Tell mother and dad I will write to them after I return up the line. In the meantime please pass the news on to them that I write in my letters to you. Please give them my love and tell them that I am very well. Also darling whenever you see any of our friends please give them my best regards.

Darling, how are you and Peggy these days? I trust that the both of you

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are very well and happy. Darling, please always remember that you are constantly in my thoughts and forever in my heart. I love you more than anything else in the world and live for the day when we can be together again for always. Please give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss and kiss and tell her that her daddy loves her very dearly. And to you, my darling wife I send a thousand hugs and kisses and all my love. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Tuesday, April 25, 1944
1345 - #128

My dearest Georgia --

Am writing this letter on board ship at sea en route on up the line to [censored] to rejoin my command. Had lunch a short while ago and am now sitting in the ward room writing this letter to you. The other passenger officers are sitting around here also reading and playing cards. After I finish this letter to you I have been challenged to a game of Cribbage.

Sailed from port last Sunday and expect to arrive at our first port of call en route up sometime Friday. However I have quite a distance to go and so will be quite a while on reaching my destination. The weather has been very delightful ever since we left port and of course is getting warmer as we proceed north. This morning I spent a couple of hours on the boat deck of the ship taking a sun bath. There were several of us up there having a good bull session while enjoying the nice warm sun and invigorating sea air.

One of the officer passengers on board is a Lieut. Commander who graduated from the Navy Academy in 1935 and who is en route up the line to take over a destroyer command. He and I became acquainted the first day on board and we have become very good friends. He is a very interesting person and has told me about his experiences in the Navy. He was at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked and has told me quite a bit about it. He and I have been paling around together while we have been on board ship and are playing each other cribbage quite a bit of the time. Competition is pretty keen, first he beats me and then I beat him and we have a great time kidding each other about the game. He is waiting now for me to finish this letter to you to resume our Cribbage games.

Am thoroughly enjoying my trip up. The ship that I am traveling on is very nice and the meals are excellent. Am trying to regain the ten pounds that I lost while in the hospital and I should have no trouble in doing it because my appetite is very good and I am eating like a pig. I am taking life very

easy, just eating, sleeping, reading, and relaxing. I feel fine and am very anxious to get back to work again.

I bought some cards of pictures of some of the native animals of Australia, that I thought you would be interested in seeing [censored] left the mainland and am mailing them to you, Peggy, and the folks. Hope that you will receive them okay. Put them in the album that you are keeping of my service in the Navy.

Of course I have not received any more of our letters since I left the hospital and will not until I return back aboard my ship. And so must be patient to know how you and Peggy are until I can read your letters that are waiting for me. However I trust that both you and Peggy are very well and happy. I think about the both of you all the time wondering how you are and what you are doing. Every night after I get into my bunk I always lay awake for about fifteen minutes before going off to sleep thinking about you and Peggy and also about you and I and the happy times we had together before I left you to go into the Navy. Oh, my darling you just cannot imagine how lonely I am for you and your companionship that I had grown to depend so much on. It seems like ages since I last held you in my arms and kissed you. I live for the day when this war will come to an end and I can return back home to you and Peggy and never ever leave you again.

How are Mother and Dad these days? Please give them my love and tell them that I am fine. Also please give my best regards to all of my friends whenever you see them.

Darling, give Peggy my customary big hug and kiss and tell her that her daddy loves her very dearly, And to you, my darling sweetheart, I send a thousand hugs and kisses with all my love.

All my love to you and Peggy

Morton

A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Thursday, April 27, 1944
0930 - #129

My dearest Georgia --

Woke up early this morning and took a shower and shaved before breakfast. Had breakfast at 0730 after which Lieut. Comdr. Parker and I resumed our heated feud of Cribbage. We played two games splitting them between us and then I declared a recess in order to write this letter to you. He and I played Cribbage all yesterday afternoon and he gave me an awful licking. But after dinner last night we resumed our battle and reversed the tables on him by beating him badly every game. Tuesday night I got into a poker game and won thirty-two dollars. The game did not break up until 3:30 in the morning. Last night after I finished playing Cribbage the same old poker crowd tried to induce me to get into the game that was then in progress but I politely declined because I was tired and sleepy and was in my bunk by 2200 last night.

Everybody, that is we passenger officers, are now sitting around the two large tables here in the ward room writing letters because we are scheduled to arrive at our first port of call tomorrow and of course our letters will be put ashore at the time to go to the ^local fleet post office and from there be sent on to the states.

The weather has gotten considerably warmer during the past couple of days as we proceed northward. And so am now uncomfortably warm whereas several weeks ago I was complaining about the very cool weather.

I seem to no more than get adjusted to a hot climate then I go to a cool climate and then by the time I get used to a cool climate then I go back up to a hot climate again. My blood has a tough job thinning out and thickening up trying to keep up with the many changes in climate. But that seems to be characteristic of the navy life when you travel around so much in and out of the tropics.

This afternoon I plan to go up on the boat deck and take another sun bath and try to regain my brown color back that I lost while in the hospital. I guess that we might play a little Cribbage while enjoying the sun.

Darling, I am feeling wonderful these days. In fact I feel like my old self again. Have a very good appetite and am sleeping like a log. I only hope now that I will not be troubled again with kidney stones. Am anxious now to get back up the line to my ship and go to work again. However have enjoyed this opportunity of getting away from the responsibilities of my command and living a life of leisure for a change. Being a passenger on board another ship is very nice.

Well, darling, how are you and Peggy these days? I just cannot realize that she is now sixteen months old and must be quite a big girl. Please try and take some more pictures of her to send to me so that I can see how much she has changed. Please tell her that her daddy is very proud of her and loves her dearly.

Darling, please give my love to mother and dad and tell them I am fine. I am not writing any letters to them because since you are now living with them I expect my letters to you to be read to them. My letters to them would be almost a duplicate of what I write to you.

Please say hello to all of my friends whenever you see them. And give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss. And to you my darling I send a thousand big hugs and kisses with all my love. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Saturday, April 29, 1944
1035 - #130

My dearest Georgia --

Got underway early this morning from our first port of call and are scheduled to arrive at our next port of call tomorrow morning. Was supposed to have departed yesterday afternoon but was delayed until this morning.

Yesterday morning after we docked I went ashore with several other passenger officers and looked the place over, it being my first visit to the port. Later in the morning Lieut. Comdr. Parker and I went over to the local fleet operations office to obtain the latest information about the location and movements of our respective commands. Returned back to the ship for noon meal. After we ate Parker and I resumed our battle of "Cribbage" and he gave me a sound thrashing by defeating me three games in a row. However I took vengeance on him late last night after we returned to the ship from being ashore and trounced him three games straight.

At supper last night we had two U.S.O. entertainers, a man and woman, who have been touring the various army and navy bases over here

in this area, as guests after which they gave us a show on board ship. They were pretty good and gave us quite a few laughs. After the show four of us then went over to the Navy Section Base where another U.S.O. show headed by Comdr. Eddie Peabody, famous banjo player, was to be presented. It was an excellent show and I enjoyed it very much. After that concluded we then returned to the ship. The movies were still going on and so went topside to see the remainder of the movie. Since they were having a couple feature we saw the last half of the first feature titled "This is the Army" and the other comedy feature titled, "Crazy House". The movies were over about 11 P.M and ^then "Jeff" Parker and I played three games of Cribbage before going to bed. And so spent a very busy and enjoyable evening.

Darling, I am sending quite a bit of my gear back home that I do not need over here and have not used. It is a nuisance carrying so much gear around and makes traveling very difficult. I have found this out since I have been away from my ship and traveling around on various ships and trains, etc. Also by carrying carrying so much gear with me prevents me from traveling by air. And so have decided to send all unnecessary gear back home to you where you can keep it in good shape for me until I return back to the States for a possible new assignment. Yesterday afternoon I obtained a large box from the supply officer on board this ship and packed it full of my gear such as my two sets of white uniforms, one suit of blues, white shoes, white silk socks, woolen underwear, my blue flannel robe, white terry cloth robe, sweater, civilian clothes, scarfs, books, etc. I have addressed the wooden box to you at my folks address. It is going to be put ashore tomorrow when we dock to be shipped back to the states and should reach you within three months. Please unpack the box as soon as you receive it and have the things either laundered or cleaned and pressed so that they will be ready for me when I return home. Please let me know when you receive the box.

Well, darling, it is about time for noon chow and so had better bring this letter to a finish. I trust that both you and Peggy are very well and

happy. Say hello to mother and dad for me and also give Peggy my usual big hug and kiss. Darling please always remember that you are constantly in my thoughts and forever in my heart. I love you very dearly and miss you terribly. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy
Morton
(A.M. Thomas, Jr.)

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A.M. Thomas, Jr. USNR.
U.S.S. LCI (L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Sunday, April 30, 1944
1900 - #131

My dearest Georgia --

Anchored here in the harbor at our second port of call about an hour ago after a very rough and stormy trip from our last port which we departed from yesterday morning. I still have further to go before I reach my ship but do not know yet whether I will continue my trip on this ship or will have to transfer to another ship. It all depends whether this ship will go on up where I am based or not. Will not know until tomorrow morning when the skipper gets his orders. I sincerely hope that I will not have to transfer from the ship.

Comdr. Parker and I played cribbage most of the day yesterday with him winning a game and then I winning a game and so on. However I finally defeated him the most number of games and was therefore champion for the day. Last night I played poker and lost four dollars.

This morning after breakfast I completed making arrangements with the supply officer of the ship for the shipment of my box of clothing back to the States to you. He said that he would personally see that my box would be placed on a ship returning to the states and that it should reach you in approximately three months. After it reaches the States it will then be shipped on to you by Railway Express. I have also insured the box of gear for two hundred dollars and since it was impossible to estimate the cost of the insurance and the shipment by Railway Express it will arrive C.O.D. and you will have to pay the cost for express plus insurance. However I don't think it will be so terribly much. Darling, I hope you don't mind paying the charges. I would have paid it if I knew what it would cost.

This afternoon after noon chow Parker and I resumed our feud at cribbage and I beat him three games. He is waiting for me now to finish this letter to you to challenge me to some more cribbage. He thoroughly enjoys the game and we have lots of fun playing.

I certainly will be glad when I get back to my ship so that I can read my mail that is waiting for me. I am anxious to read your letters which must total about thirty-five in number and hear all about your activities and also see those latest pictures of Peggy that you mailed to me some time ago. I also have not read a letter from mother and dad since the latter part of January. And so you see that I am very far behind in my mail.

Are you planning to spend the summer with the folks and then return to the Thuneys in the fall or haven't you given it any thought. Please write and tell me about your proposed plans, that is if you have any as I am interested to know.

How are you and Peggy these days, my darling? For the past couple of days you have been in my thoughts more than usual. I guess that being inactive has given me more opportunity to think about you. Oh, my darling I

love you very, very dearly and miss your pretty smiling face, lovely hair, beautiful eyes, lovely lips, soft voice, nice figure and -- in other words you, my darling sweetheart. I look forward to the day when I can return home to you and Peggy and never ever leave you again.

Please give my love to mother and dad and tell them that I am very well. Give Peggy my customary big hug and kiss. And to you my darling wife I send a thousand hugs and kisses with all my love. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to you and Peggy
Morton
AM. Thomas, Jr.

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(United States Navy stationary, handwritten)

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A. M. Thomas, Jr.
U.S.S. LCI(L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Friday, Sept. 24, 1945
(1915) - #42

My dearest Georgia --

Received two letters from you in tonights mail and also a birthday card from the folks containing a check for five dollars. Your two letters were #68 and #70 dated Sept 5 and 9 respectively. I have yet to receive your #67 letter which should be arriving any day now. I thoroughly enjoyed reading your two letters and learning all about you and Peggy as to what you are doing. I mentally live with you as I read your letters. They are so interesting and

complete in details that I can actually picture what you are talking about in your letters and read them over many, many times.

Well, darling, as you know yesterday was my birthday and of course worked all day training. However did not have to work last night and so was invited by the “skipper” of one of the local patrol craft stationed here that anchors close to my anchorage to come aboard his ship to a birthday dinner that he was having in my honor. Since I have been here we have become good friends and we are always having meals on each other’s ships. Since he can carry wine and liquors on board his ship I go over very often to have a drink. Well to get back to the party - there were eight officers at the dinner and one of the courses was fresh oysters on the half shell still- we opened them ourselves . and stout beer. He knew that I liked oysters very much and that morning he sent three members of his crew up the bay to gather eighteen dozen from the oyster beds

up there and boy they were delicious. In fact I made a pig out of myself and ate three dozen. “Bill” Sykes (that is his name) said that he wanted to see me get my fill of oysters and I sure did. After dinner we just sat around and told stories and jokes, sang and every now and then hoisted one. Had a grand time and so did not have such a bad birthday after all. However I wished very much that I could have been home with you and we could have celebrated it together. Oh well, we will next year, I hope!

Am glad to hear that you are planning to go up to visit Esther and Gene for the winter months. I think that it is a very wise move. You will be with our best friends who will look after you and Peggy and will keep you from becoming so terribly lonely during the bleak winter months which would happen if you remained in the house all by yourself. I hope that you are fortunate enough to rent the house at a good price to a nice couple who will take fairly good care of it.

Darling am so glad to hear that Peggy is crawling around so well and also even pulled herself up on to her feet in the crib. Please tell her that her daddy is very proud of her and loves her very much. Please give her a big hug and kiss for me, will you darling.

Well darling I must close now because I have to go to a meeting on the base this evening. Please always remember that I love you with all my heart very very dearly. You mean everything in the world to me, my darling little wife and I am very lonely for you. And as I have many times repeated before and always will keep repeating forever I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

Lieut. A. M. Thomas, Jr. U.S.N.R.
U.S.S. LCI(L) 225
% Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, Calif.
Monday, Sept. 27, 1945
(2015) #43

My dearest Georgia --

I tonight's mail I received three lovely letters from you which I have already read three times and will read them again after I pile into my bunk tonight before going to sleep. Your letters were #71, #72, and #73 dated Sept. 10, 12, and 14 respectively. Your #67 letter must have gone astray because I have not received it yet but hope That it will be turning up within the next day or so.

Darling, in your letter of Sept. 14 (#73) you mentioned that you had not received a letter from me for a week and a half and that you were beginning to worry about my safety since you had not heard from me since receiving my #29 letter dated Aug. 25 on Sept 4 except for the telegram that I sent you on Labor Day. No, my darling, please don't worry about me because I am very safe and well. However I do not understand why some of my letters are so slow in reaching you because I try to write to you every other night, if possible. I guess that the mail must get stopped sometimes en route and that is the reason for the delay. Are you keeping track of all of my letters by their respective serial numbers and are all of them reaching you. Please let me know if some of them do not reach you. I am maintaining a complete record of the letters I write to you, their serial number, the date that I write them and the date you received them. And then likewise with your letters. I record them by their serial number, the date that you wrote them and the date I receive them. As so you see I am keeping a complete record of all of our letters so that I will know if any of them go astray. Our letters are very important to me because they are the only connecting link that we have to keep closely in touch with each other. If it were not for your lovely letters I just could not carry on. I live from day to day looking forward to your letters and hearing how you are, what you are doing and all about Peggy.

Darling, if you feel that you would like to go and visit Esther and Gene for five or six months and take Peggy with you, by all means go. You know that is exactly what I would tell you if I were home with you. Haven't you and I always done things together as we wanted to do them and not as other people have wanted us to do and haven't we always come out all right. Mother and dad and also Alice of course are going to oppose your going away because it means that you will take Peggy away from them and they don't want that. It is plain selfishness of on their parts. They do not realize how lonely it is for you with your husband away from your side and the many lonely hours you have spent by yourself

because they have never had their husbands separated from them like you have and of course will never understand. As you say in your letters it is very nice for them to visit with you and Peggy when it is convenient for them, but then when they are busy with other things they just do not have the time to fool with you. As so, darling, if Peggy's baby doctor thinks it advisable to take her up there to Minneapolis and you still are anxious to go I highly endorse and advise you to go as soon as you can and stay as long as you want regardless of all criticism that you may receive. I would go if I were you and you can tell Mother and dad and Alice that I said so. I feel that both Esther and Gene are very serious in extending their invitation to you and will do everything in the world to make you and Peggy comfortable and happy. The four of us always did get along so

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well together and I know no reason why you and Esther with your two respective children should not be excellent company for each other. Also it should be good for the two children to grow up together. Yes darling by all means do as you want to do and stop listening to others.

I wish you a lot of luck in renting the house to a nice couple. However if Perry is unsuccessful in obtaining some tenants for you I would put the rental into somebody else's hands. I am very glad that you had Columbia Specialty Co. check over the oil burner because regardless of whether you rented the house or not it should have been done. It is better to have it checked over and properly maintained than to let it just keep on running until it breaks down or wears out. It was fifteen dollars well spent.

Even though it is a little late please wish Alice a very happy birthday for me. Also say hello to both Alice and Barney for me.

From your letter Grace must have had quite a party for Gay and all of you mothers must have had quite a "catty" time bragging about your respective children.

Darling, I am so glad to hear that Peggy is learning to wave "bye - bye" when told and is progressing so rapidly and learning to do so many things. I expect anytime to hear that she has begun to walk. I certainly am very proud of our little daughter and you tell her that her daddy loves her very dearly and sends her a great big hug and kiss.

Darling, have enclosed in this letter four snapshots of myself that were taken during my last visit down to the "Big City" I think that they are pretty good and want you to place them in my scrapbook that you are keeping of me. By the way when do I get some snapshots of you?

Well darling as for myself I am fine and in the best of health. Am still being kept pretty busy doing the same old thing which sometimes gets very monotonous. But as I have said before it is a pretty safe life and then somebody has to do it and so why not me.

Well darling, it is growing late and I have a very busy schedule ahead of me tomorrow and so had better bring this letter to an end. However darling even tho my letter stops here my thoughts of you go on continuously, ~~nev~~ never stopping for even a second because you are always on my mind day and night, week after week and month after month. I love you very, very dearly and am terribly lonely for You. I^love you my dearest, with all my heart always. I LOVE YOU!

All my love to the both of you
Morton
A.M. Thomas, Jr.