

Oct. 5, 66

Dear Mom & Dad,

Haven't seen the good old U.S. since the 22nd of Sept. Sure do miss it.

It's been a long crowded trip across this Pacific Ocean. The voyage is soon coming to an end. We are due in Viet the 9th if this tub continues to motivate. You would never believe the way we live on this ship. By the way its name is the Gen ~~For~~ Nelson M Walker. We are packed on here. Some 4,000 men trying to eat, sleep, and breathe with just elbow room. The bunks are stacked four high making different size groups divisible by four. The ship is divided in to compartments, each holding a couple hundred or more. To sum the tub up its cramped living.

We left the Port of Tacoma at two o'clock Thursday after noon. It took forever to get out of the sound and

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into open water. The ocean was rough the first two days, but I managed to eat this — they call food and keep it down. The third day I spent fighting off sea sickness. That night and the fourth day the big pond really got mad and ship was dipping its nose into waves, just like the movies. Needless to say my stomach lost everything a couple of times. Since then the ocean has continued to get calmer and sea sickness is no longer a problem.

Most of us don't have any duties on board so it's just one long day after another. Everyday there is 15 minutes of P.T. if you want to be found. It breaks the boredom. The day before yesterday I had to give a 30 minute first aid class to my platoon. Other than that is beer lean on the rail watching the water, reading, writing, eating, and sleeping.

There really isn't much to write

about from day to day. Like we seen a couple of other ships. There have been some whales spotted and also sharks. We saw an island way off in the distance yesterday. It just looked like a mountain.

Well it looks like a an official high sea adventure, for in a couple of days I will have ~~to~~ crossed the largest water mass on earth, Disc. Oct. the 1st the average depth of the water below us has been 18 to 20 thousand feet. This ocean is really beautiful. When they sing of the blue Pacific water they aren't kidding. Sometimes its a deeper darker blue than Hawaii's sea. Like yesterday it was almost glass smooth. I don't think a camera could really capture its beauty.

Tomorrow we port at Okinawa and all the mail goes out, we don't receive any mail till we're in our base camp, that also is when we get an address. In Okinawa we have to

have stamps on our envelopes. I only had
a couple of stamps. I'll write as
much as occasions allow. Which will
probably be all the time.

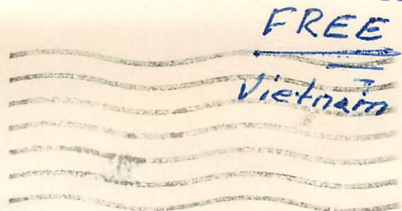
Lots of Love

Donnie

P.S. Hows everything on the home front.

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