

18. Jan. 1943

Dear Jack,

I have wanted to write you since leaving Tallahassee. I want first to thank you for the many favors shown me and above all for your interest in me and my family. Virginia and I have talked many times of the kindness shown us by you and Mrs. Anderson. We have always felt very much at home with you both and though that may be a crude way of expressing it it means a lot to us.

To give you a little news of us I'll start with Key West where I reported on leaving Tallahassee. I was there six weeks going through the indoctrination. Virginia came down the last week but left the kids in Georgia. We were transferred from Key West to Norfolk and I was attached to the Amphibious Force. I think I was slated for the African shore but missed the boat since it was moved up rather ahead of schedule. We arrived in Norfolk the day the convoy left for Africa. We carried the kids with us and were all set to stay awhile but I was transferred after a week to the Amphibious Training Base up in the Chesapeake and Virginia took the kids back to Atlanta and rented an apartment and prepared to live there. I spent six weeks there during which time I was taught seamanship, navigation etc. We weren't allowed off the base and were put through the mill. I enjoyed it but was plenty glad to be transferred. I was detached Dec 9 and ordered to New Orleans

to pick up my ships. I went by Atlanta and got
Virginia and the kids and we drove on down to New-
Orleans. We had a terrible time finding a place to live
here as the place is overloaded with Army, Navy and
Higgins employees. I found on arrival that my
ships aren't completed yet so I was given temporary
duty at the Naval Station. As a pleasant surprise I
found Dr Ekermeyer was also attached there. Since
being here I have had a two weeks course in
surgery at Tulane which was good and for which
I am very thankful. As I see it now I may be
here for some time and I am making the most
of it as New Orleans has lots to offer. Tulane,
L.S.U. & Loyola are all giving courses in
warfare. Virginia and I are also enjoying the
sightseeing and the French Restaurants!

I miss Tallahassee very much but I have been
very fortunate in drawing assignments so far
and I must admit I have enjoyed being in the Navy
for this little while. However I know what to expect
and am thankful for the time that we have.

Virginia and I send our best regards to all
of you

Sincerely
M.B. Clements
Lt. (jg) M.C. U.S.N.R.
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