

PO/MM M Varrin

HMC MTB 459

18th Dec 1944

Dear "Sister, husband and kids"

Received your wonderful parcel today and I want to thank you very much. I sure won't go hungry for awhile as my locker looks like a grocery store. I've got everything from cans of corn to tins of milk and that includes tins of chicken, cake and god knows what but I'll enjoy every bit of it.

It comes in good out at sea in the middle of the night when you have nothing but sardines, bully beef and jam. A hot can of corn or something really hits the spot and I ain't kidding.

The boys are eating my lump sugar like candy the buggers.

I also got a parcel from Carol, the Tayler's in North Bay and a stoker who used to be on the Ross Norman with me. He has never forgotten me and has been trying to get over here with me. If he makes it I'll get him on my boat as one of my stokers.

Carol sent me a nice portrait of herself and I think she gets prettier looking every day that I'm away. Gee she's a swell kid. I'll never find another like her I'll bet.

I'm growing another beard. I haven't shaved for five days now. I didn't even have to request it. I just told the Jimmy I was growing it. I've sure been getting away with a lot in this flotilla.

I guess the kids will be back in school by the time you get this letter eh. I sure wish I was going to school sometimes. I'm a school teacher for green stokers so it seems. Everytime we get a new stoker from Canada lately they give him to me to break in (or break his heart). I sure have a lot of grief at times.

How is Nip doing? Does he like his job any better there than he did in the other two places? I guess he has English speaking men to work with anyway eh. That's half the battle. I've got a crew like the league of nations. Everything from a Frenchman down to a Newfoundlander. They sure are a great gang though and they'd do anything I ask them. I have a lot of fun aboard this ship. I hold the next highest rank to the two officers so I get my own way anyway.

Well folks I guess I'd better sign off for now.

Thanks again for the wonderful parcel. I sure appreciate it.

So long for now, write again. Lots of love & kisses to all.

Your Brother

"Murray"