

NAME: Clarence

RANK: Not Available

ORGANIZATION: U.S. Merchant Marine

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations

- The following excerpts are directly from three original wartime period letters written by Clarence. These are three of many letters from Clarence in the site curator's possession and more will be transcribed in the future.
- The following excerpts are presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpts aside from an edited racial slur and edited profanity for the protection of younger readers. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Clarence writes his wife in the United States:

“Nov. 4, 1945

Well here we go again just to say a few lines. We moved the ship about 5 miles away this morning but we still are a good distance from the dock. The way they talk we still don't know what we are going to do.

We wen't ashore last night to see a movie. This is still a army & navy camp no town. Its all dirt and small shacks that they built to live in. We went over by some cliffs to see the j _ ps that killed themselves by jumping down. They were stuck in the sand. you can see their arms and heads or their feet. Boy it was something to see...

...I sure would like to be home with the baby and you. I'm always thinking that if I stay away he will forget me and that I don't wan't to happen. But I guess that you will remind him that he has a daddy who is a sailor and away at sea. At least thats what I hope you will do for what is the good coming home if you don't act like you are known and wanted at home.

Well honey there is not much more I can say except that I miss you and love you and that we get home soon...

With Love & Kisses

Clarence”

Clarence writes his wife again in the United States:

“Nov. 8, 1945

Well I finally got some mail today. it sure was good to get the 4 letters. There has been very little mail so far. I guess because we have no orders and no where do they want our cargo. But today we had

four cars that they took off. And we finally got notice that we are going to Nagasaki, Japan.

Well we finally left at noon for Japan. That is one of the places that they atom bombed.

Well honey I guess that is all the news I have to say. But now I guess that we will get unloaded and head for home. We will be back before the holidays I hope. That would be nice to be with you and the baby one christmas. At least we might have one at last together...

...Well thats all for now honey so I will end with lots of love & kisses for you both.

Yours with all my love

Clarence"

Clarence writes his wife again in the United States:

"Nov. 11, 1945

Well here I am again with a few lines just to say hello and that I am in the best of health. Hope you are fine at home... We have been here four days and no mail. They don't even know we are here. And the way it looks they don't want our cargo here. So we just sit around and wait.

We have been ashore in Nagasaki already. The people are friendly here. There is not much here to buy. and the place is pretty dirty. We went to see the atomic bombed area. And you don't have no Idea how it looks here. You can't tell how it looks here because it don't leave but a couple of buildings standing. And the rest of it is just blown down flat. Away from the center you can see just how far the explosion had effect on the buildings. They are all leaning to one side. And they are burn't. It must have been one h __ l of an explosion. There must be about 10 sq. miles of bombed out area. You can thank good scientests that we have for getting it first.

Well honey that is about all I have to write about this place. Oh yes you don't have to worry about the Geisha girls here. They are out of bounds to all Americans. Us included. And the Marines are big M.P.s to all the services. They rule this area and they sure put enough M.P.s around town just in case.

So you see we can't do anything uptown... And I sure miss you honey. So I will close with love & kisses.

Clarence"

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- Clarence made it through the Second World War and passed away in his 80s.
 - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime period film in the public domain that covers the above described event, the atomic bombing of Nagasaki (viewer discretion advised):** <https://archive.org/details/effects-of-the-atomic-bomb-on-hiroshima-and-nagasaki>
 - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers the atomic bombing of Nagasaki which Clarence mentions in his letter (reader discretion advised):** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atomic_bombings_of_Hiroshima_and_Nagasaki