

NAME: Andrew

RANK: Not Available

ORGANIZATION: U.S.S. Lough

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations

- The following excerpts are directly from two original wartime letters written by Andrew. These are the only letters from Andrew in the site curator's possession.
- The following excerpts are presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpts. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Andrew writes a friend who is also serving in the U.S. Navy:

“11, Dec.1944

Received your letter to-day and glad to hear from you. So you don't like the South. Well I wasn't in love with it myself but I would rather be there than where I am at now. So you are a diesel man now. How do you like that sort of work...do you really like sub duty...well when you come out this way you will be a, 'shellback.' it means you crossed the equator. To be a shellback they will treat you in this manner. They wet all of your body with salt water first; then about 20 guys paddle your can with straps boards wooden shoes; then you kiss king neptunes belly with oil all over it; then you get a bald head; they then put oil over your bald head and body; next about 15 guys paddle your can again; last your head is put in a bucket of salt water; they nearly drown you. You are then considered a, 'Trusty Shellback...'

...Yes we had the doctor aboard our ship at that time...I have also crossed the 180 Meridian line...maybe you are out at sea at the present time, but I think you will like it better then the Army. I have already had a ride in the Higgins boats. Maybe you will be driving one yourself. Sub duty as I was told is this; your eats are very good and every time you come back from a trip you get a good room in a hotel and the way I understand 50% sea duty pay. So I will not say what is best for you. Make your own choice...the only bad feature out this way is the weather, it is to hot...hope I get a chance to see you out this way if you are coming this way. Well I do not know of anything else to write so I will close this letter for now and say good luck to you...

Andrew”

Andrew writes the same friend again who is also serving in the U.S. Navy:

“21 Feb. 1945

Received your letter to-day and glad to hear from you. Am feeling fine and hope you are the same. Yes they give a guy a pretty good workout when he becomes a shellback, your can is pretty sore after the workout. You better enjoy the rain now if your headed this way the only thing you get will be sun and plenty of it...I wonder if that guy who trying to beat your time is a four F. I have been hearing a

lot about those from some of the sailors aboard ship. You are still young so don't let things worry you. So you are a Higgins boat man, I bet you know they have them at all harbors, and do an awful lot of different jobs with them...what is your job on them? Do you take care of the engines or are you the man that steers them. Well it is up to you what you like best I would not say which you should take...I even see those boats on big ships they use them for liberty boats at times. I guess it will be a long time before I see Frisco...I can tell you this much I have participated in the Lingayen Gulf operation. Did you take a trip to Hollywood? Did you have a nice Xmas? Well I will say so long for now...best of luck and maybe I will have more to write next time.

Andrew”

- Andrew made it through the Second World War and passed away in his 80s.
- **For visual context, this link connects to an original pre-war film in the public domain that covers the type of equator crossing ceremony mentioned above (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/77304CruisingWithTheCoastGuard>
- **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers Andrew's wartime organization, the U.S.S. Lough (reader discretion advised):**
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Lough_\(DE-586\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Lough_(DE-586))