

NAME: Irving

RANK: Carpenter's Mate Third Class

ORGANIZATION: XX Naval Construction Battalion

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations

- The following excerpts are directly from two original wartime letters written by Irving. These are two of many letters from Irving 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 edited racial slurs and profanity for the protection of younger readers. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Irving writes a relative in the United States:

“Island X
Jan 12 1944

Recieved the letter you wrote the 13th of Dec. yesterday I have a little time on my hands so I will ans. Uncle...was right I was at the [censored], but xxx we have moved to another group now. you heard lots about them about the first of Dec. I hope you go to Chicago to Meck. trainx-ing you might get to see some action if you were an airial gunner but take it from me the only ones that recieve any glory out of action are the ones that get to go home after it is all over. If you are a Motor Meck. you probably wont get to see any action but you will still be x doing your part. Any way you wont have to kill any J _ ps I took care of your share for you. and besides if you are working on motors you will probably have a good place to sleep while the fighting is going on you wont have to sleep in a fox hole afraid to move afraid because if you move maybe one of your buddie will shoot you. Out here any thing that moves is shot and then we look to see what it was. Let me tell you...it gives a guy one funny feeling to run and hit the deck and xxxxx turn around to xx see one of your buddies blown to bits by a mine that you stepp over. These J _ ps are tricky fellows but they still dont fight like the americans. The only good J _ ps are dead ones. There is lots of things I cant write to you about but I will tell you when I get home...Well I hope 1944 brings this war to an end so I can come home. I dont like it out here at all and the sooner I get home the better. I hope this letter finds you out of quarentien and that you have the good luck of staying in the states. life out here isnt so plesent. there is lots of things you cant get out here that you can in the states so I hope it isnt long until I am back again. Let me tell you...I dont need to worry about going to h _ _ I have seen my share of it already. I am only too sorry for the boys that didnt have a chance.

I imagine our next stop is the [censored]. so the next time you hear from me I may be there. I only hope it is secure before we have to go.

as ever
J _ p Killer Irv.”

Irving writes the same relative again in the United States:

“Island X
Jan 16 1944

Recieved the letter you wrote the 29th dec. & was glad to hear you are doing ok. Did some Wave give you the works or something or just why are you down on them all of a sudden better get all of that stuff you can because when you get out here there isn't any to be gotten. I sure hope you get a furlough before you come out here into action because it isnt very plesen't and another thing the J _ ps dont like Marines at all. I guess they have thier reasons though. the Marines don't take any prisonears at all...

...I will try to bring you a J _ p skull if I can find some way to preserve it they soon start smelling out here where it is 115 in the shade. Our Xmas dinner was swell and so was New Years Dinner and we dont have rice. Those dirty rats kept us awake all nite last nite. I hope they stay at home tonite. I am the gunner on one of the ships guns & when we have a raid I have to be up. Write soon.

as Ever

Seabee Irv.”

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- Irving made it through the Second World War but when he passed away is unknown.
 - **For visual context, this link connects to original wartime footage in the public domain that covers Irving's type of organization, the Naval Construction Battalion (viewer discretion advised):** <https://archive.org/details/NPC-903>
 - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers sending home Japanese skulls as souvenirs which Irving mentions above (reader discretion advised):** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_mutilation_of_Japanese_war_dead