

U.S.S. TAYLOR (DD-68)
Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.,
27 May 1945.

Dear Dick,

Thought I would continue this letter and tell you a little more about our activities in the Pacific War. In my last letter I told you about the capture of Zamboanga City on Mindanao. Following this we were engaged in the tedious process of clearing the Philippines of the little yellow men. On March 26th we pounded Cebu. With all out training in this type of work the operation was routine to us.

On April 6th and 7th we had an opportunity to visit Manila. Aboard ship one is not aware of the havoc and destruction caused by modern warfare. Whenever we shoot at anything, no matter the nature, it is impersonally known as the "target". Close results, with the exception of a puff of smoke, are seldom observed. Manila brought home the thought that war is a great destroyer of material. Hardly a building is left undamaged. Streets and sidewalks are littered with the refuse of a destroyed city. In our sheltered lives in America it is difficult to picture a bombed city. Can you imagine living with no windows, roof and furniture with all plumbing destroyed; just surrounded by four meaningless walls?

Well that is what life in Manila is like. It is gratifying to remember that our General MacArthur refused to fight in Manila in 1942 but rather than destroy the town called it an open city and allowed the Japs to take it. The Japs during the captured years instead of improving it, actually stripped it of many essentials. When they saw they could not hold the city in 1945, despite their heavy fortification, they destroyed with wantonness that is typical of this sadistic enemy.

In the outskirts of Manila there are sections of the town that were not noticeably destroyed. The people here were friendly and in fact appeared happy to have carefree American sailors back again. And indeed some of the sailors were glad to be back.

Following the Manila trip we conducted training exercises in the Philippine Area. Gradually the Philippine Liberation is being completed and the "Terrible T" is looking for new islands to conquer.

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