

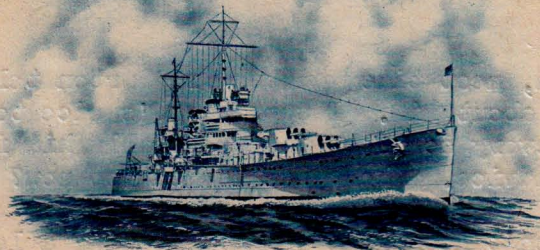
David Nicolls R.M. 3/2
USS Philadelphia - 300
% Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

U.S.
JUN 20
1 - PM
1945
NAVY



Mr. Donald Nicolls
82 East 18th Street
Columbus, Ohio





U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA

Thursday afternoon
June 28, 1945

Dear Don,

I got your letter this morning so I'll answer it right away for I know mail call is a welcome time down there too. I don't have much news and we've been just sitting around doing nothing that amounts to much. We get liberty every other day and I've been going swimming pretty often.

It sounds like everything is going O.K. with you at college. The folks told me about the R.O.T.C training you were getting and it sounded like you didn't care much for it. You'll get used to the saluting and stuff after awhile. I can imagine how hot it must be at football practice in this weather. It's been real warm here too.

I have looked into the dope on going to college under the G.I. bill of rights and it doesn't sound like too bad a deal and I might take them up on it for I still think the fellow with the college education is going to be head a shoulders above the rest of the mob when it comes to getting a job after the war. They aren't going to give a damn how many medals a guy won in the war and how long he was overseas etc. The big thing is what he knows. I asked Bob what he planned to do after the war and he's undecided about college but maybe we can talk him into it. I don't suppose Gene would even listen to us would he?

We just had another mail call and I got a nice long letter from Mom. She was telling me about the same news you were about college. What's this about you being pretty fast for an end. She said something about running third in your group of seven ends.

Mom was telling me about Bob's letters they got that he had written the 4th and 8th. He got himself a tennis racket and said he was going to get the Jerry prisoners to build him a tennis court so he could get some exercise. He was going to go to Paris with the Captain but the Colonel said he couldn't let them both go at the same time.

Say Don, next time you see Mr. Barton tell him I said "hello" and was asking about him. I suppose it's nice to have someone from home to visit every so often and especially him for he can give you a lot of good advice. Where is his son Bob now?

It doesn't look like I'll be getting a leave for awhile yet but I sure hope to get one before the summer is over. I think though, that we'll get one in the fall. Just so I don't get one and get snowed in like last time...remember?? I've promised Marian I'd show her the sidewalks and I mean to do it. I sure would like to get home and see her and the folks.

Bill Shipsteadt was home on a 30 day leave recently and his ship is on the east coast so I'll have to look up the ship's number and keep a lookout for it for I sure would like to see him. Most of the fellows from home are out in the Pacific by now....I'm still in no hurry to head that way.

What have you been doing in the way of entertainment lately? Bob Goodballet said there is plenty to do there and was trying to give me an idea where you live from your address. He says its in the Northside. I liked the town when I was down there and it seemed to be real clean and everything.

Well Don, I'm out of news and have liberty today so I think I'll go get ready. Some of us are going to a show tonight at the big U.S.O. auditorium here. They are going to have some fights, a radio show and other attractions so it should be plenty good. They had Olsen and Johnson's show there the other night and the fellows said it was good.

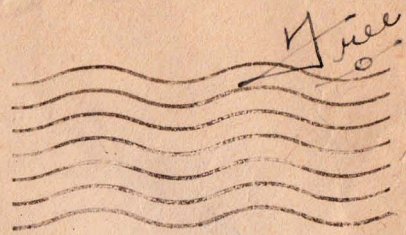
Write when you can and I'll try to answer as soon as possible. Keep studying hard and have a good time. If I'm lucky to get a leave one of these days I'll try to drop down to see you if I have enough time. So long for now and best of luck in your work.

Your Brother,

Dave
-01

David Nicolls RM3
USS Philadelphia - 300
% Fleet Post Office
New York, New York

U.S.
JUL 16
1 - PM
1945
NAVY



PROCESSED BY
CMS
NAVAL CENSOR

MR. DONALD NICOLLS
82 EAST 18TH STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Monday morning
July 16, 1945

Dear Dow,

I'll try to dig up enough news to write you a letter this morning. I have the midnight 'til morning watch again but there's not much cooking right now. I haven't had any mail for several weeks now so I'm very behind on the news from home but maybe we'll get some within the next few days so I'll get caught up again.

I suppose you've heard the song "Sentimental Journey", well we've changed it to "Presidential Journey" in our case and have brought President Truman to Europe for his Big Three Conference. We left the States last week with the Cruiser Augusta and after four days out we got the official word that the President and several other high government officials were aboard the Augusta and we were taking them to Europe.

I can't tell you just now where we brought him over here but you probably have heard where he left us and I heard several minutes ago on the radio that he had arrived in Potsdam. I would have liked to have gone there with him too but we only go as long as the water holds out.

We figured something big was in the air when we were just sitting around and waiting last month. We had ideas that this might be it but didn't know for sure until we left. It's been an interesting trip so far and one I'll never forget. Quite a contrast to the duty we had last year at this time.

How is everything going with you at school? You should really be in shape after all that football practice and I'm hoping to see your name in the lineup this year for them!!! That isn't asking too much is it? Are you guys going to take the Big Ten like you did last year? I hope so.

Well Buck, I have several other letters I want to get written so I'll cut this short this time but will write more later. Write when you can and send the news.

Best of luck, study hard, and I hope to see you one of these days.

Your brother
Dave

David Nicolls RM3/2

David Nicolls R.M.#
455 Philadelphia - 300
70 Fleet Post Office
New York, New York



Mr Donald Nicolls
82 East 18th Street
Columbus, Ohio



U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA

Tuesday evening
July 31, 1945

Dear Don,

We got a lot of our first-class mail yesterday and today and two of your letters came so I'll answer them this evening while I have some time. You seem to be doing real well at school and I'm glad to hear it.

Things here are going fine and we're getting a lot of liberty and I've seen a lot of interesting things and places the past few months, rather weeks. I went with a group from the ship to see one of the concentration camps and it is hard to believe all they say and write about one of those camps until you see one and then you begin to wonder if people are really civilized. We went through the torture chambers and all that and it must have been miserable.

I went to one of the capitols over here and had a good time. They have some modern buildings, cafes & night clubs that are really nice. Lots of pretty girls too. but of course they didn't jazz me one bit. Not much!! To go there we went by train and they really travel. They're electric and nice & clean - really surprising.

We don't know when we'll be heading back but soon I think. We have to wait for the Big Three to patch up the world I guess. I sure would like to get a leave when you get your vacation for I'd like to hear all about school and college life.

I tried my darndest to get in touch with Bob but it was impossible due to complications. I'd sure like to see him but I guess I wait now until the war is over and we get home.

I got some swell pictures of our ship and the Augusta as we were coming into port when we brought the President. I have one of us + one of the "Augie". A civilian took them and sold them through a department store where we got them. I'll send them home + you can see them when you have your vacation. It's the best picture I've ever seen of our ship.

Well Buck, I've got to close now for I have several more letters to answer before I quit tonight. Write when you can and hope to see you soon. Best of Luck -

Your brother
Dave

P.S. About that job Buck - if it's good for extra now by gad - it's a good job. I think so anyhow.

David Neells

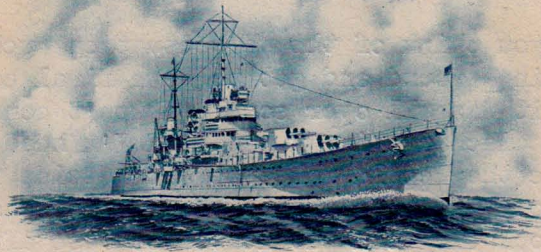
David S. Nicolls RM3/C
David S. Nicolls RM3/C
USS Philadelphia - 300
% Fleet Post Office
New York, New York



Handwritten signature/initials



Mr. Donald Nicolls
82 East 18th Street
Columbus, Ohio



U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA

Sunday evening
August 12, 1945

Dear Don,

I've had two letters from you in the past few days so I'll answer them this evening while I have some time. You seem to be getting along fine at school and from those grades you got you must really be burning the old midnight oil. Those grades were really good Don and keep up the fine work.

I called home a few hours ago and talked to Mom and Dad. They told me they had a visit last night. Bob Goodballet, you know, my friend from the ship, is home on an emergency leave and he and his wife dropped in to see the folks for awhile last night on their way to Idora. Bob's Dad is pretty sick so he got a ten day leave. It was the first time Mom and Dad had met Bob but Mom said she knew him right away.

I guess we're ready for some new duty soon but I can't tell you what it is just now. I'm hoping that I can get home for this coming of the following week since you will be able to come home then. I don't know if it will be possible but if there is a chance of it I will try my darndest. I'd like to see Art before his furlough is up too.

Yesterday afternoon four of us went out golfing and had a lot of fun. We started out with just four balls and ended up with one. I found one and lost three so had to quit after the 7th hole. After the game we went to a Chinese place and had chow mein and then went to the Park and watched the Fords (two legged ones) go by. After we saw enough fords we came back to the ship.

I'll take you up on that Wisconsin game Buck if I can get home then. I'd sure like to see the game with Marian and Mom and Dad. I'd be for you guys of course but I don't know about Marian but I think I could change her mind but maybe you could change her mind by licking the pants off Wisconsin. Yep, I'd sure like to see that game.

I got a letter from Betty and she sent a picture of her and Dunk taken in Frisco. It was real good and I was glad to get it for I haven't had one of them since they were married. I got a letter from Gene too and he was telling me about his Army life in the Philippines.

What do you think of the war situation Buck? I sure wish they would quit dickering around and get to some final conclusion. It sure would be good if it was all over soon. I won't consider it over though until I have that discharge in my hand and I'm headed home with a one way ticket. Maybe they could make the Japs decide in a hurry if they gave them a few more of those atomic bombs. Those sure are powerful aren't they. I hope they can put it to good use after the war though and won't have to use it to kill people.

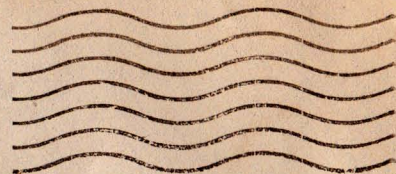
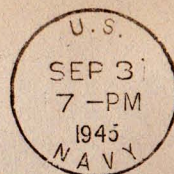
Well Buck, I've tried to think of some more news but I guess I've run out so I'll close for now. If at all possible I'll try to get home to see you but I can't promise anything of course. Until next time then Bye for now and keep up the good work at school.

Your brother,

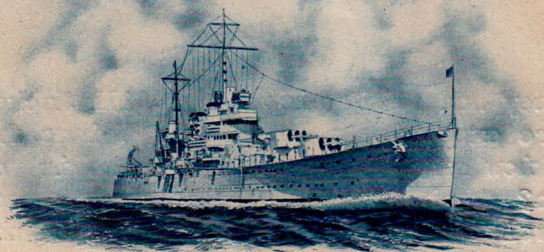
Dave

David Nicolls RM3/C

David Nicolls RM 7/2
USS Philadelphia - 300
% Fleet Post Office
New York, New York



Mr. Donald Nicolls
82 East 18th Street
Columbus, Ohio



U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA

Newport, Rhode Island
Monday, Labor Day

Dear Don,

I got your letter of the 25th the other day so I'll answer it this evening while I have some time. I've been falling behind on my mail so thought this would be a good time to get caught up before we leave here on our next trip.

Our skipper told us after the inspection Saturday that we were going out again on a cruise for about a month. He didn't say where we were going but we have ideas. He said that the USS Providence will relieve us here with this training duty and then we'd be going out for 3 to 4 weeks on a trip that, as he put it, would be more interesting and fun than a leave home (what a damned lie that was), also that this trip would cost any of us several thousand bucks if we were to take it as a civilian in peace time. We think we're going to South America to Rio or Recife, Brazil. We haven't the slightest idea why though and a fellow put up a sign on the Exec's bulletin board "Is this trip really necessary?" He also said that when we come back we'll probably go into a Navy Yard and decommission the ship. So..... a lot should happen in the next month or so.

I had Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday off so several of us went to Boston and had a good time. I couldn't get home like I wanted to because the Exec wouldn't grant anything but the regular liberty. We saw Stan Kenton Saturday night and then yesterday afternoon we went out to the ball park and saw the Braves and the Phillies play a double header.

I called home yesterday and only Ruthie was home. The folks had gone to Grandma Nic's and Ruthie had just come back from a vacation at the lakes. If all goes on schedule and we do get the leave that we should when we get back from the trip maybe I'll be able to make it home for the Ohio-Wisconsin game. I'd sure like to see it and take Marian down there to see us lick them. It should be a push-over for you guys. The games I'd like to see this year is State vs Minnesota or Michigan. I was reading a football annual and they were giving all the dope on the teams and you guys and Minnesota seem to be the favors in the Big Ten.

They had a big picture of Bill Hacket on the cover and I guess they are expecting a lot of big things from him this year. I suppose you know him "Pois-en-ally." Who is your roommate, one of the players too? Maybe you won't get to play much this year Buck but if you can travel with the team and just be on the team is really something. Heck, I'd go for that. I'd like to be on the team just to get the physical exercise you guys get. I think right now a couple of good rough work-outs would kill me.

I finally got my second class after waiting all this time. I was supposed to get it when I came back from school but I've been screwed three time because of changes in plans etc. but finally the first of this month it came through. It's the same as a S/Sgt. and I draw about 115 dollars a month.

They've lifted the censoring of our mail now so we can write and say anything we want now. I always did hate to write a letter knowing someone was going to read it after. Marian knows I think too for it's hard as the devil to try to make love through letters especially when some jerk is going to read them before they even get to the one they're intended for. Another thing they allow now is that when Navy personnel is on liberty or leave they can wear civilian clothes.

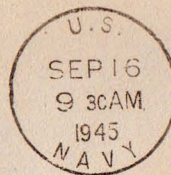
You sounded like you were in trouble when you had to drill the boys. I got a good dose of that at Madison for I was a section leader and had to march the section everyplace we went. When we were in Malta last summer we had a lot of marching and drilling and I had to drill the Marines once and I really gave them hell.

I guess I'm out of news for now Buck so I'll close for now and write a few other letters I want to get written before we leave. Write when you can and send the news and I'll try to write you as often as possible. Best of luck to you and hope to see you soon.

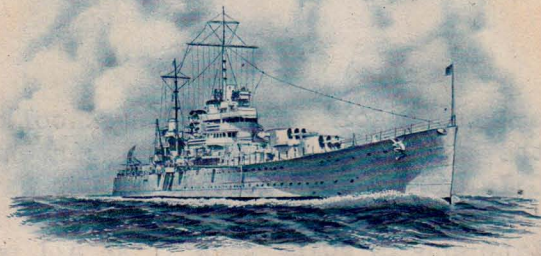
Your brother,

Have

David S. Nicolls RM2/C
USS Philadelphia - 300
% Fleet Post Office
New York, New York



Mr. Donald Nicolls
82 East 18th Street
Columbus, Ohio



U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA

Southampton, England
Saturday afternoon
September 15, 1945

Dear Don,

We had a mail call this afternoon so I'll answer the letter I got from you sent the 4th. Glad to hear from you and things seem to be going fine.

Yes, we dropped anchor in England again. This time it was in Southampton. The reason for this trip was to do some more escorting. The former German luxury liner "Europa" has been taken over by our Navy and they have put it into running order up in Bremerhaven, Germany and today she's supposed to come down here and we're going to escort her back to the states where they will repair her and put her on the seas again.

We had a very dull trip over. We left Newport, R.I. a week ago last Thursday and it was pretty rough most of the way over and the ship rolled more than I ever saw it do before since I've been on her. You seldom went topside for the water was coming over the maindeck all the time and there was a great possibility of being washed overboard. No I didn't get sick but I got darn tired of walking at an angle all the time.

We anchored off the town of Portsmouth last night about a thousand yards from the S.S. Queen Elizabeth. She sure is a wopper of a ship and looks like a big office building when she's lit up at night. This morning we got underway and came up the river to Southampton and tied up in the Navy Yard here. We're to be here less than four days so they say and then we'll head back.

Tomorrow I have liberty and I'm going to London for the day. It's only about 60 miles from here and you can make it in about an hour and a half by train. Half of the crew went today and the rest of us are going tomorrow. I'm really getting around Europe lately it seems.

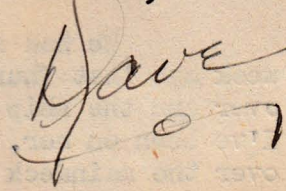
We should be back in the states by the end of the month and I still don't know if we'll get leave or not but I sure hope so. It seems ages since I've been home. I'd sure like to get home to see a game at state.

You seem to be doing alright in school and on the team Buck. Keep up the good work. I have every intention to go to college on the G.I. bill when I get out of the Navy and Godballet has been buzzin' my ear on the idea for the past few months. He had a year at State and is going back if at all possible. He's married now but thinks he can get along O.K. even though the money you get from the government isn't a lot. I may do the same thing for it's a cinch I want to. I think a guy that takes advantage of the education is way ahead of the next guy. How about asking some of your ex-~~service~~ friends to give you the dope on it and passing it along to me. I may want to get married one of these days too.

Say Buck, Mom and Betty have written telling me about the swell pictures they have received of you in your football togs and I've been boasting to the gang about my brother who is on the Ohio State football team and I'd like a picture to show them. How about it....do you have any around that you could send me? I'd sure like to have one.

Well Don, I guess this is all for now. We just had another mail call and I've hit the jack-pot with nine letters so far this afternoon. Write when you can and I hope that I can get to see you one of these days soon. Best of Luck, Buck.

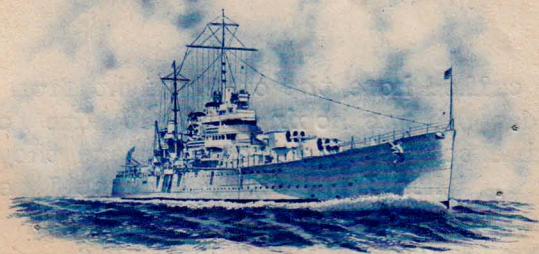
Your brother,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Your brother,".

David S. Nicolls RM 7/2
David S. Nicolls RM2/C
USS Philadelphia - 300
% Fleet Post Office
New York, New York



Mr. Donald Nicolls
82 East 18th Street
Columbus, Ohio



U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA

Newport, R. I.
Saturday afternoon
September 29, 1945

Dear Don, (Glamour-Puss),

I got two letters from you when we got back from England so I'll answer them now while I have some time. We've been trying all afternoon to get the Ohio State game on the radio but we haven't been able to pick it up. We've been getting the scores though and right now you guys have them 27-0. I sure wish I was down there right now.

We're going down to New York Monday for a week and then to Cuba. We'll be in New York for a week and I think I'll be able to get home for a day or so for we're going there to get some good liberty. After that we're going to Norfolk for two days then to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. We have an Admiral aboard and he has a training command down there and we're going to take him down there for his annual inspection of the place.

We'll be down there for several days then head back for Philadelphia. We are supposed to get into Philly about the 24th and stay there over the 27th for Navy Day. Navy Day is a big day for the peacetime fleet and they are going to have a big ceremony and celebration for a day or so. After that there is talk of de-commissioning so if they do that I'll probably get a leave in November.

If I can get that leave in November there is a good possibility for me to see a couple of games for you have two home games and on at Pitt. I'm going to see at least one if I have to go over the hill to do it. I'd like to get a nice long leave and have Marian down and go to Columbus or Pittsburgh to see a game. I haven't seen a good game in ages.

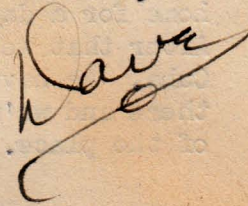
The other day a Marine on the ship from Columbus came up to me and gave me the article from the Columbus paper showing all you guys on the "All-Glamour Team". It was a pretty good item wasn't it? Mom sent the article about you being on the second team but said you told them it wasn't so. The part where you stepped on some guys hard was right though huh? One of the guys said to tell you that's a hell of a way to treat your team-mates.

I called home the other night from Providence and talked to Mom and Dad. Dad was hoping I'd get home for the game today but there isn't time to get home from here and they only give us overnight liberty up here. When I was in Providence I met Jean Lynch and Joan Dankel who are going to an Art College there. It sure was good to see them and we talked about old times etc.

I guess I told you about the liberty I made in London when we were over there or did I? I know I wrote you from Southampton but maybe it was before I went to London. We got there on a Sunday afternoon about 2:30 and left about three that night. We had a lot of fun and saw a lot of the sights such as Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, London Tower and London Bridge, Scotland Yard, and I even went on a little boat trip up the Thames River. Have you ever heard of Piccadilly Circus in London? Well, we had a lot of fun there. I'll tell you about it sometime.

Well Handsome, I'll close for now and go to chow. I hope to see you one of these days and I'm going to try my darndest to see one of your games. I think chances of seeing one in November are very good. Be seein' you Best of Luck

Your Brother,



P.S. Tell that roommate "Glamour Boy" Jim that I said "hello" and don't you two guys forget to put your hair up tonight!! Only kidding Buck, wish the women would bestow some honors like that on me but thenwith my puss?????????

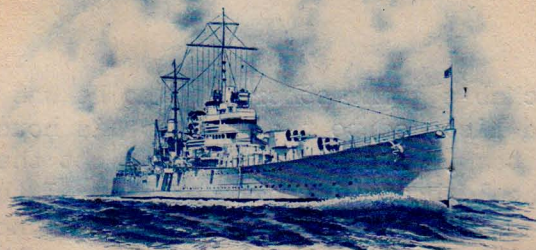
PPS. Here's an old picture I dy (hell I'll start over) Here's an old picture taken in Malta last year of Goodballet and myself.

PPPPPS.. I just heard you have 47 points now. Take it easy on those farmers. I hope you take Minnesota like that.

David S. Nicolls RMK
David S. Nicolls RM2/C
USS Philadelphia - 300
% Fleet Post Office
New York, New York



Mr. Donald Nicolls
82 East 18th Street
Columbus, Ohio



U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA

Norfolk, Virginia
Wednesday evening
October 11, 1945

Dear Don,

I'll take some time out this evening and send you the latest news from here. I'll try to write and send you the news from time to time but if you're too busy to write very often I won't expect you to for I know what a rough schedule you have right now and Mom usually sends the news but if you do get a few minutes now and then I'll want to hear from you but what I'm trying to get at is that you don't have to take time out from your work to write me.

Well, I suppose by now you know I had a nice visit with the folks even though it was for only five days counting time on the train. Everything at home was swell and it was really swell to get home. I sure missed all the gang and you kids around the house. It seems so funny with only the Folks and Ruthie at home now. Ruthie and I went to see Woody Herman one night at the Palace and that was about all the night-life I saw. Marian couldn't make it down because it didn't give her enough time and the long train ride was hardly worth it. I hope to get home next month for a 20 or more day leave so I'll see her then.

Right now we're in Norfolk again and on Monday we leave for two days firing in the bay then we come in again, get the Admiral and take him to Annapolis for three days then come back here and let him off then go to Philadelphia for Navy Day arriving there about the 24th. After Navy day we expect to be put in the Atlantic Reserve Fleet which means the Philly will be finished... I hope. After that I don't know what I'll do but I'll either get another ship, get shore duty, or stay as one of the skeleton crew of the Philly. I don't think I'll get out until next spring sometime.

I heard the game the other day rather last Saturday and it was pretty good only a little bit one sided after the half. Tom Manning finally said,,, Nicolls in at left end for Ohio Stateit was Nicolls who made the tackle.....Nicolls was the intentional reciever of that pass....which reminds me Buck. Fisher was to make a pass to you but couldn't find you on that play...where were you???

Geo. McNab's grandmother died so he was home again and we got together and listened to the game at his house and were we ever pulling for the team. I sure hope we can get the game here this weekend. You should beat Wisconsin easily. I think I'll be able to see a couple of games next ~~year~~ month if I get home for you have one at State, then Pitt at Pittsburgh, and then another one at State so I'm going to try to see as many as possible.

George and I tried to get a date last Saturday night and darned if we could...no kidding. All the girls we used to go with are away at school or married. We went to the Elm stag but left there in about 15 minutes for it made us realize what failures we were.

Say Don, there are a few guys at State that you might say hello to if you ever happen to meet them. I know the chances are one in 10,000 but just in case. Larry Morris from Y-town is one and Goodballet's brother is down there now. Guess you've seen Eddie Davis. Maybe I'll be down there with you one of these days.

Well Buck, I guess this is all for now. I'll write more news when I get some. Write when you can. Keep up the good work and I hope to see you next month. Best o' luck.

Your brother,

Dave
4510 R
(sometimes I wonder)

P.S. That picture the folks have of you is really good Don. I Have one of the smaller ones here on the ship.

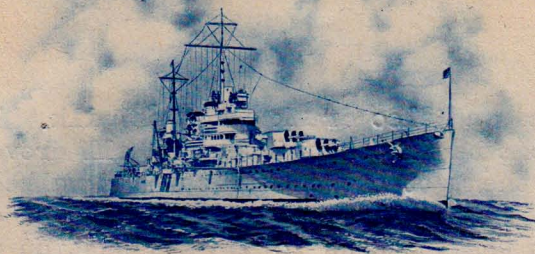
P.P.S. We were hungry when we got to Russia - Soviet!!

P.P.P.S. I agree with you - Mom's cooking still can't be beat. Not by a long shot!!

David S. Nicolls RM2/C
David S. Nicolls RM2/C
USS Philadelphia - 300
% Fleet Post Office
New York, New York



Mr. Donald Nicolls
82 East 18th Avenue
Columbus, Ohio



U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA

Enroute Philadelphia
Wednesday evening
October 24, 1945

Dear Don,

I received your swell letter the other day so I'll answer it now while I have some time. Things seem to be going O.K. with you at Columbus and right now things are going O.K. here for we just left Norfolk for Philadelphia. We'll get there Friday and remain until around the middle of November.

Saturday is Navy Day and it'll be a big day for all sailors for they have a big program planned all along the coast for all the ships that will be in port. We'll be in Philadelphia and of course will be treated like kings since the ship is named after that city. The ship will be open for the public from nine to five from the 27th through the 29th. After Navy Day we go into the Navy Yard there and they're going to put a lot of extra bunks in and get us set for our new duty of bring back troops from Europe. We thought we were going into the Fleet Reserve but they need ships to bring back troops so they're converting about 8 carriers and 6 cruisers for the duty. I guess the reason is because the English took back one of the Queens and several other big troopships that we were using.

We're to be in the Yard until the 14th so maybe I can get home to see a game. If I can't get to Columbus I'm going to try and make the Pitt game at Pittsburgh for that won't be so far. I hope I can get home though for a few days and have Marian down. I still don't have enough points to get out so I'll still be around for some time to come. I think, by my calculations, that I'll get out about April or May.

I had a nice time over the weekend. Bob Goodballet and I had a 48 so we went to Washington and visited with Aunt Ruth and Aunt Gert. We got there about 2 Saturday afternoon and listened to the State-Purdue game(I'll come to that later!!) and then about five the women came home from work so we went to the store and got some chow and had a swell steak dinner. In the evening we went to a night-club down town and saw a show.

We slept Sunday until noon and when we got up they had a big waffle breakfast ready for us and it sure was good. I really ate

over the weekend and also drank a lot of milk. In the afternoon Bob and I played some badminton and then we all drove over to the park by the zoo and then got out of the car and walked several miles thru the park and it was really beautiful. After we came back to the house we ate and then they took us to the bus station where we got a bus about 9:30. It was a swell weekend and it was good to get away from the Navy and just take it easy.

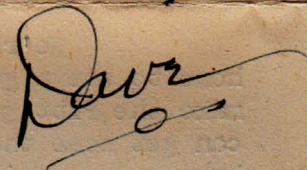
Now.....about the Ohio State- Purdue game. Bob and I were all pepped up for a good game and victory number 13 and before it was all over your team had us pounding our heads together. What was the matter anyhow. Your line wouldn't hold at all and they just went through you every time it seemed. What do you say....? Were they too much for you or was that just a bad game for Ohio State. I sure hope you trim Minnesota this weekend but you'll really have to go some to do it I think.

Glad you cleared me up on that deal that Tom Manning was fouled up on Buck. Guess he was all messed up on the play. He ~~should~~ should have told about that 19 yard run you made though.

Glad Mom and Dad got down to see the Wisconsin game and I know you were glad to see them. They both wrote and told me about it and they sure did enjoy themselves down there. Glad they're coming down for the game on the 3rd and hope I can go down there with them if I can get off...which is the big problem.

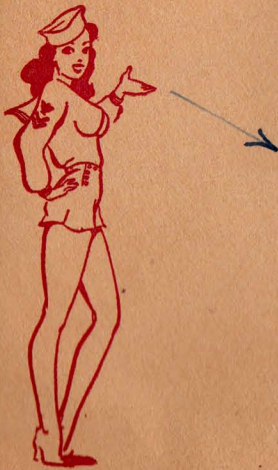
Well Buck, I guess this all for now. I'll write more later and send the news and you do the same in the meantime. Hope to see you one of these days. Don't let last Saturdays game get you down. I'll try to see you before we leave for Europe again.

Your brother,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Your brother,".

David C. Nicolls RMK
455 Philadelphia-300
To F.P.O. New York

U.S.
NOV 21
3-PM
1945
NAVY



Via Air Mail

Mr. Donald Nicolls
82 East 18th St.
Columbus, Ohio



off the coast of France
Tuesday evening
November 20, 1945

Hi Buck,

I'll take time out and write you a letter this evening 'cos I don't think I've written you since I was home.

Right now we're going along the coast about 200 mi out - and we'll start into the English Channel tomorrow at daybreak. That's pretty tricky navigation through there and we usually try to hit those places in the daylight so we can see what we're doing. On Thursday at ten AM we'll

2
arrive at Le Havre and will start
back for New York Friday with
about 1200 army boys.

We left Philadelphia last Wednesday
and that night when we got to
sea we hit the roughest storm this
ship's been in for about five years
and it was just plain hell. The
waves tossed us around like a
match stick and we lost a small
boat we carry plus a lot of the
small stuff around the ship. In
the radio shack here all our files
flew all over the deck and got
all mixed up and five of our
typewriters tore loose and were
smashed to smithereens.

That lasted for two days
and nights then it finally
cleared up and we spent the
last few days trying to get
the ship put back together

3

again. You never saw so many sailors pick at one time before. I didn't "toss my cookies" but I didn't feel so hot. That was enough of that!!

I sure wish I could have seen you when I was home now. I know the folks wanted me to go to that game but they had the arrangements with him and I didn't want to break any of their plans. Maybe next year I can see several of your games. Marian was there you know so I didn't have a dull weekend at home. The folks sure did enjoy the weekend and Dad talked for hours about it when he got home. Very few Dads get to sit on the field on Dads Day.

The leave was really wonderful. We had perfect weather and it made things much nicer than all that snow last year. We went for a long hike in Mill Creek Park one afternoon and

saw Poland get walloped in FB that Saturday. We went out about four nights and Y-town is still pretty dead. All in all it was one full week.

Buck - Heri's hoping you beat Michigan for I've got money on you.

How do you like these women I'm sending?!! If they were real you can bet the sailors around here wouldn't let them go!!

I'm sending this air-mail so it will fly back but you don't have to send yours airmail because I'll get all your mail in New York.

Enough for now Buck. More later. Hope to see you soon and Best of Luck in your work.

Your Brother
Dave

David S. Nicolls
DAVID S. NICOLLS RM2/C
USS PHILADELPHIA - 300
% F.P.O. NEW YORK

U.S.
DEC 6
8 30AM
1945
NAVY

Full


MR. DONALD NICOLLS
82 EAST 18TH AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OHIO

WEDNESDAY EVENING
DECEMBER 5, 1945

DEAR DON,

I'LL TAKE TIME OUT THIS EVENING AND ANSWER THE THREE LETTERS I'VE RECEIVED FROM YOU SINCE WE'VE BEEN IN. I HEARD THAT UNCLE SAM HAS SENT YOU THE GREETINGS AND YOU PASSED. HOPE BEFORE THEY HAVE TO CALL YOU THAT THEY GET ENOUGH SUCKERS TO SIGN OVER AND THEY WON'T NEED YOU FOR I THINK NOW THAT THE WAR IS OVER IT WILL JUST BE A WASTE OF TIME FOR YOU DON.

MAYBE YOU WANT TO GO IN AND MAYBE NOT BUT I THINK NOW THAT YOU HAVE A GOOD START AT COLLEGE IT'S HELL IF YOU HAVE TO HAVE IT BROKEN UP JUST FOR SOME TIME LEARNING TO MARCH AND HOLD A GUN BECAUSE YOU ALREADY HAVE LEARNED THAT IN THE ROTC AND YOUR COLLEGE WILL BE MORE BENEFICIAL THAN A LOT OF FOOTWORK.

WE'RE LEAVING TOMORROW AT FIVE FOR FRANCE AGAIN AND WILL PULL IN THERE ON THE 13TH AND THEN LOAD AND HEAD BACK FOR NEW YORK. I'M JUST HOPING THAT WE'LL GET 5 OR 7 DAYS LEAVE AT CHRISTMAS AND I CAN GET HOME TO SEE YOU AND THE FOLKS. GOSH, HERE IT'S BEEN A WHOLE YEAR SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU AND A LOT HAS HAPPENED IN THAT TIME. I CALLED HOME LAST NIGHT AND TALKED TO MOM AND DAD AND THEY SENT ME WHAT NEWS THERE WAS. I WAS GLAD I CALLED FOR I GOT TO TALK TO MOM. SHE WAS DOWNSTAIRS FOR A LITTLE WHILE. I CALLED THE NIGHT WE GOT IN AND SHE WAS SICK IN BED AND IT HAD ME WORRIED BUT I GOT SEVERAL OF HER LETTERS THE NEXT DAY AND THEY MADE ME FEEL A LOT BETTER FOR THEY WERE REALLY CHEERY AND SHE TOLD ME THAT IT WASN'T ANYTHING TOO BAD....SHE SAID "I JUST GOT TO GOING TOO FAST AND HAD TO SLOW DOWN".

I'VE HAD A PRETTY GOOD TIME HERE IN NEW YORK BUT I STILL GET LOST IF I GET OFF BROADWAY. I'VE SEEN THREE GOOD BANDS THE PAST WEEK. I SAW VAUGHN MONROE AND JIMMY DORSEY SUNDAY AND SAW TONY PASTOR LAST NIGHT. THEY WERE ALL GOOD SHOWS AND MARIAN HUTTON WAS WITH TONY PASTOR. THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO IN THE BIG CITY THAT YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START. I WENT TO A BROADCAST ONE EVENING AND SAW THE SHOW "DETECT AND COLLECT" OVER NBC. WE HAD A SHIPS PARTY AT THE HOTEL ROOSEVELT MONDAY NIGHT AND WE HAD A LOT OF FUN.

HOW'D YOU LIKE THE ARMY-NAVY GAME? THE ARMY KINDA' PUT IT OVER ON THE NAVY BUT THEN I THINK THEY HAD A LITTLE BETTER TEAM AND I SEE THEY HAD 4 MEN ON THE ALL AMERICAN. I SEE WHERE AMLING MADE THE SAME ALL AMERICAN TOO. GLAD YOU GOT YOUR LETTER BUCK AND IT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN BE PROUD OF. DOES THAT MAKE YOU A MEMBER OF THE VARSITY-O CLUB OR WILL THAT COME LATER? I HOPE TO GO TO COLLEGE WHEN I GET OUT BUT AS YET I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'LL GO OR EXACTLY WHAT TO TAKE. MIGHT GO TO WISCONSIN.....WONDER WHY?

WEDNESDAY EVENING
DECEMBER 2, 1945

MOM SENT SEVERAL PICTURES OF THE FRAT AND SORORITY HOUSES DECORATED UP FOR THE HOMECOMING. SHE ALSO SENT ME ONE OF YOU AND RUTHIE IN FRONT OF BARNES BARRACKS. (AS SHE PUT IT). THEY WERE REAL GOOD AND I CAN SEE THEY GO ALL OUT DOWN THERE FOR THE HOMECOMINGS.

GUESS THIS IS ALL FOR NOW BUCK. I HAVE THE DUTY NOW AND I'VE REALLY BEEN BUSY BUT I WANTED TO GET THIS WRITTEN BEFORE WE SAIL TOMORROW AND GET IT OFF TO TOMORROWS MAIL. HOPE TO SEE YOU AROUND CHRISTMAS TIME BUCK. BEST OF LUCK.

YOUR BROTHER,

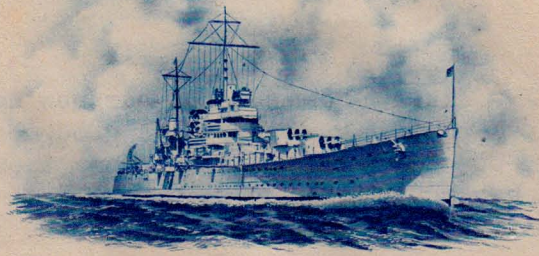
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David S. Nicolls Envelope
David S. Nicolls RM2/C
USS Philadelphia - 300
% Fleet Post Office
New York, New York



Pvt. Donald Nicolls 45024676
Bks T - 19-11
Co. D 1st Bn. 1st Reg.
Camp Flauche
New Orleans 12, Louisiana



U. S. S. PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia
Sunday afternoon
February 3, 1946

Dear Buck,

I got your address from Mom yesterday so I'll take time out this afternoon and send a letter your way. Now that you're in the Army I know the mail call will be the big thing each day. At least it is in the Navy.

Well, how goes things with you in the Army? I heard from Mom that they kinda' s___ on you SS guys and give all the breaks to the Regulars. It's the same way in the Navy but you can always beat them if you play your cards right. It's all who you know and not what you know so keep out of trouble and try to get on the good side of your superiors but don't make things so bad that the guys will call you an "ass kisser". I know you won't be one of these guys and you'll benefit from what you learn while you're in. If you don't learn a lot of stuff from books (that kind) you'll sure get a lot of personal knowledge that you'll never regret.

There's only $11\frac{1}{2}$ days left for me Don. Tomorrow I have to report to sick bat at 1300 for a physical checkup that is necessary before leaving the ship and then we'll probably leave Tuesday or Wednesday for our Separation Centers. First we'll go to the Receiving Station here in Philly for transportation to our Sep center. I don't know yet if I'll be sent to the 9th Naval District headquarters at Chicago and then be sent from there to Toledo or whether I'll go right to Toledo but it doesn't make much difference to me as long as I get there and get out.

If I go to Chicago and get a few days laying around before I get sent to Toledo I'm going to try to makè it to Madison for it's only three or four hours train ride from Chicago. If I get out at Toledo I'm going home for a few days before going to Madison and then going up there in civvies.

We had some fun yesterday on liberty. Five of us from the radio gang here went in town about noon and went bowling for about three hours then I went to the movie "State Fair" and I liked it a lot. I sure go for that Jeanne Crain in a big way. After that I went over to the "Y" and played some ping-pong and then went to another movie "Pardon My Past" with Fred Mac Murray. After that I came back to the ship and went to bed.

Today I have the duty so I won't be going over but I don't mind because it's too darn cold out.

How did you like the news about our new nephew? He must be quite the big fellow and will probably be a good football player some day. I'd sure like to see him. It seems funny though that we're uncles now doesn't it. I can remember when we were all at home just a bunch of kids. Tempus Fugit!!

I still don't know what I'm going to do when I get out but I think I'll take it easy for awhile, not that I need a rest but, it will seem so good to just take it easy and do what you ~~damn~~ please for a change. When I look back it seems like a long three years that I've been in the Navy.

How do you like the South? I never did get very far south but I don't know how I'd like it there because I can't seem to get along with most of the Rebels. I think I'll settle down in the middle west someplace. I for sure don't want to live on the East Coast.

Darned if I can think of any more news Don. I have to write a letter to Betty and Marian yet so I'll knock off for now. Don't send any mail for me to the ship now for I'll be gone before it gets here. Just write to the folks as often as possible and I'll read your letters there and try to drop you a line now and then.

Best of luck to you Buck, make the best of everything and try to get as far ahead as possible even though you aren't crazy about it. The way time flys you'll be home in no time. If you ever get short of cash or need anything don't be afraid to wire or write me and let me know for I know how hard it is to make ~~time~~ the pay days stretch from one pay to the next.

So long for now.....Let me know when you're getting a leave (Or as the Army calls it..furlough) and I'll break out the band!!!

Your brother,

Have
o.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

I passed a boy on the street like a nice girl should
and he followed me just like I hoped he would.
Boys will be boys wherever they may be
and this is the tale of what one did to me.
Now I went to my house like a nice girl should
and he knocked on the door like I hoped he would.
Now I opened the door like a nice girl would
and he walked right in like I hoped he would.
Now I left the light burning like a nice girl should
and he turned it off like I hoped he would.
I resisted like a nice girl should
and he insisted like I hoped he would.
Now I went to bed like a nice girl should
and he hopped right in like I hoped he would.
Now I pulled down my nightie like a nice girl should
but he pulled it up like I hoped he would.
Now I had a baby like a nice girl should
and he joined the Navy like a bastard would.

Navy Department Circular Nr.
234-57/593.,054/: 39mc8nw $\frac{1}{2}$