

IN REPLY REFER TO

No.



NAVAL AUXILIARY AIR STATION, RODD FIELD
NAVAL AIR TRAINING CENTER
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

17 Jan 1944

Dear Monsignor,

I just chiseled a new typewriter ribbon out of the Navy and whom better could I find to try it out on than your venerable self? I have been rather careless about personal correspondence lately and trust that you have noted my neglect--if you haven't I shall feel spanked.

Christmas was a gay old season, one round of parties after another, there was only one drawback and that was the fact that I had to hear confessions and offer Masses day and night--leaving no time to share the pagan celebrations. I was really happy over the whole season--can honestly say that though it was the toughest and most gruelling Holiday season so far, I never have gotten the thrill out of priestly work that this Christmas brought.

Religion is looking up a bit around here--daily Mass attendance is on the increase, Sunday Mass attendance is up at least 50% and that brings joy, but the joy is only momentary for I know full well that there are hundreds of lads still missing and in this case it is not a lack of opportunity but a lack of interest on their part.

I can't remember what I have told (written) before but one interesting feature is that I have received permission from Bishop O'Hara to binate on weekdays hence I am now saying at least 11 Masses a week.

Out of the blue came a long forgotten fact--you recall the High Masses we all shared from the estate of Father Coffey--well in the haste of getting into the Navy I neglected to offer six of them. I have no opportunity of doing so here and besides the year is long since past--should I send you the stipends and what is the penance, dear Father?

It has been weeks since I have seen anyone from Dubuque--even Cavortin' Clair is as far removed as Waterloo Deanery is from The See. I have been hitting the ball with monotonous regularity, infact have had only four days off since reporting here three months ago. I really should get around a bit more since (confidential) both Drummy and I should be out on the highseas in about two or three months more and I assure you I am eager for it.