

32 NICOL ROAD,

BALLARD ESTATE,

BOMBAY.

17TH. FEB. 1943.

Dear Mum &amp; Dad,

I must admit that my conscience has been pricking me these last two or three days for not getting started to this letter, the redeeming feature is that I have already sent airgraphs to Jean and to Mard and these have considerably cut down my news.

There is an hour yet till the dinner gong goes and I have just come down from doing a bit of sunbathing. When I am not on watch most of my time is spent passing the time. Do not think that I do nothing at all as I have slightly more work to do now than when I was third but even that is not by any means forbidding. Looking after the batteries is what I do, and any other odd jobs which might crop up.

The new third is from Lancashire. He is seventeen, and I do not know whether it is his age or not but he is a bit scatterbrained and careless in his work. The chief is not very satisfied with him.

I was very sorry to see the last second leave as he and I got on very well together. He did not want the transfer he got, even though he had been out here two years. Although there are one or two disadvantages about out here I would not get such a good ship as this out of a home port. There are also one or two other things to be taken