

April 28, '45
" 29, " "

Dear Folks,

Again I'm sorry that my letters are so few and far between. It almost seems that one or two might be missing, and if you find that dates are more than two weeks apart, you can be pretty sure that such is the case. Even that is a maximum far beyond my aims. One trouble is that it seems foolish to write if you know no mail is going out, but then comes the time when you don't get enough warning; or if there is enough, then you are too tired to make use of it. From now on I'll try and record the dates of my letters to you so I'll know definitely how things stand, a system I should have started back in November. It does seem strange not to ^{have} gotten an answer yet ~~from~~ for the letter telling of the first visit to Japan! And your latest word (Paris of April 4) is that Ma is on her way to Great Neck for a nine day junket, which I figure is now two weeks past!

T. Richards


D describes a
Paradise Flycatcher,
then unidentified,
which landed on
the ship, and a
"Barn" Swallow

- Too bad about Dorothy. It certainly is
tough on poor old Harry, whom I'll try and
write to soon. Sad too as Uncle Bob's
funeral must have been; there must have
^{been} quite a few old friends to see, as you
suggested - one of the few ^{nice} things usually
true of funerals.

That weather at home is really
hard to believe. Immediately I wonder,
not at first about crops, etc., but of
the possible effect on the bird mig-
ration! Mr. Wharton seems to have
made a good haul of ducks. It's un-
fortunate, Pa, you weren't up to going
along, especially because of the hooded,
a male of which you've never seen, have
you?

So they've joined up in Germany.
I certainly think we did well to get
as far as we did even if it's only
half the distance the Russians have
come. The boys on the "forgotten" front
are finally getting a share of glory I'm
glad to see. To think that we were
there eighteen years ago!

Out here there wouldn't be so
much to tell of even if it were permitted.
It's rapidly getting warmer, and we're
T. Riccardi

looking forward to some more beer and perhaps steady parties, more movies and, above all for me, another chance to see white terns and flying foxes. Speaking of birds a small one was caught on the hangar deck the other day and presented to me. Of course it died very shortly, and I ruined the skin trying to make a specimen of it. Though the remains have been kept for future identification. The body was about the size of a chickadee, though the tail feathers, pulled out in the process of catching him, are over eleven inches long. He may be a Trogon (see description of family in Encyclopaedia Brit. - condensed bird vol. of mine - or Birds of Panama Canal Zone, and could you make a little sketch, including detail of bill, Ma, and note down measurements and range of family, Pa.?!), though he ^{is} more likely a member of a family unfamiliar to me. This specimen has a blue bill () ^{and eye ring!} bluish legs, mostly blackish plumage, but with a maroon back, brownish to black wings and a white lower belly. Soon after he died, I saw what looked even at close range like a barn swallow

T. R. R. R.

circling and flying low over the ship!

I just finished "Vanity Fair", which I found not without a hero at all. Old Dobbin was a real man even if his weak little girl was hardly worthy of him. The book dragged in spots, but had a nice finish. Another book also recently read and even indexed in "A Short History of the Army and Navy," by Fletcher Pratt, former commander-in-chief of the Fleet. He critically analyzes the action of every battle of every war from 1775 to 1918, and I found myself amazed at how much I had forgotten and especially how much I never knew, and also found myself quite fascinated. In case you're interested it's a "fighting forces - penguin special," a pocket book.

Next on my program is a Patricia Wentworth and then on along with it "A Pocket History of the World," history "suddenly" being found so interesting.

A band concert wound up to-day, which up above was very calm. Flying feet were in evidence.

Love to all

Toots

P.S. Am in excellent health as usual.