



Harold Thomas Tierney, RT3 (Radio Technician 3rd Class)

Date of Birth: 07/22/1922

Registered for Service: 06/30/1942

Lost on USS Trout (SS-202) 02/29/1944 <http://www.csp.navy.mil/ww2boats/trout.htm>

Race: White, Ht: 5'8", Wt: 140, Eyes: Blue, Hair: Brown, Complexion: Dark

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification: None

AWARDED TO HAROLD T. TIERNEY

8/1944: Submarine Combat Insignia

1/14/1946: Certificate Signed by Harry Truman, President of the United States of America
"In grateful memory of Harold Thomas Tierney who died in the service of his country At Sea, Pacific Area, attached U.S.S. Trout, 14 January 1946 (Presumed) He stands in the unbroken line of patriots who have dared to die that freedom might live, and grow, and increase its blessings. Freedom lives, and through it, he lives - in a way that humbles the undertakings of most men."

8/2/1946: Purple Heart

"The Secretary of the Navy is further authorized and directed to award the Purple Heart posthumously, in the name of the President of the United States, to any persons who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard of the United States, since December 6, 1941, are killed in action or who die as a direct result of wounds received in action with an enemy of the United States, or as a result of an act of such enemy."

12/18/1946: World War II Victory Medal

8/2/1948: American Campaign Medal
Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal
Good Conduct Medal

LETTERS FROM THE NAVY

6/9/1944 Dear Mr. and Mrs. Tierney: It is with deep regret this Bureau confirms the report that your son, Harold Thomas Tierney, Radio Technician third class, USNR, is missing. Detailed information in connection with his disappearance has not been received in this Bureau at this time. The Navy Department is aware of your anxiety. You are assured that when additional information becomes available it will be sent to you. In order to prevent possible aid to our enemy, please do not tell anyone the name of your son's ship or station, or discuss publicly his missing status. In order to explain certain matters of importance to you concerning the missing status, the enclosed booklet has been prepared. You are urged to read it carefully and keep it for future reference. By direction of the Chief of Naval Personnel. Sincerely yours, A.C. Jacobs, Commander, U.S.N.R, Head of Casualties and Allotments Section

6/1/1945 Dear Mr. and Mrs. Tierney: More than a year has elapsed since your son, Harold Thomas Tierney, Radio Technician Third class, U.S.N.R., was placed in the status of missing. He was serving on board the U.S.S. TROUT when that submarine was reported overdue and presumed to be lost. Pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended, the Secretary of the Navy has given careful consideration to the disappearance of your son. In view of the lack of information concerning the circumstances under which the vessel aboard which he was serving was lost, and because of the possibility that the personnel may be unreported prisoners of war, the Secretary of the Navy directed that your son be continued in the missing status until such time as evidence is received which clearly establishes the fact that there is no hope of his survival, or until word is received that he is alive. The Navy Department is aware of the anxiety you are experiencing during this period of uncertainty. You are assured that you will be promptly informed upon the receipt of further information concerning your son. By direction of Chief of Naval Personnel. Sincerely yours, W.J. McNicol, Jr., Lieutenant, U.S.N.R, Assistant Office in Charge, Casualty Section

1/22/1946 My dear Mr. and Mrs. Tierney: Your son, Harold Thomas Tierney, Radio Technician third class, USNR, has been carried on the official records of the Navy Department in the status of missing in action as of 7 April 1944. He was on board the USS TROUT when that submarine failed to return from patrol operations in the Pacific area. The TROUT departed from Pearl Harbor on 8 February 1944 to patrol waters in the China Sea where she was likely to encounter the enemy. On 16 February 1944 she took aboard fuel at Midway Island enroute to her patrol station. The submarine was unreported after her departure from Midway. In view of the length of time that has now elapsed since your son was determined to be missing and because there have been no reports that any of the personnel of the vessel survived or were taken prisoners of war, I am reluctantly forced to the conclusion that your son is deceased. In compliance with Section 5 of Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended, the death of your son is, for the purposes of termination of pay and allowances, settlement of accounts, and payment of death gratuities, presumed to have occurred on 14 January 1946. I extend my deepest sympathy to you in your sorrow. It is hoped that you may find comfort in the knowledge that your son gave his life for his country upholding the highest traditions of the Navy. Sincerely yours, James Forrestal, The Secretary of the Navy, Washington

2/14/1946 My dear Mr. and Mrs. Tierney: As Commandant of the Ninth Naval District, may I express to you, and to the members of your family, my very sincere sympathy in the loss of your son, Harold Thomas Tierney, RT3c, USNR, who has recently been reported by the Navy Department as deceased. While I realize the great sorrow that has come to you in the loss of your son, I am sure that you will find comfort in the knowledge that he served his country in its time of greatest need. His memory, and that of others like him, will be forever honored in the hearts of a grateful people. Sincerely, A.S. Carpender, Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy, Commandant

LETTERS FROM HAROLD TO HIS MOTHER

9/9/1942 Minneapolis MN

Dear Folks. Had my exam - be sworn in in the morning. They give us a room at the Leamington. Will probably head for Great Lakes about 10 am. Harold

9/10/1942 Minneapolis MN

Dear Folks. Passed everything ok. Head for Great Lakes tonight at 9. Will write again. Harold

9/13/1942 Camp Moffett USNTS Great Lakes IL

Dear Mom & Dad. Up at 5 o'clock this morning. Went to Mass at the Chapel at 7:20. The camp I am in is made up of all rated men. Most of whom are over 30. Got part of our outfit yesterday hope to get the rest soon. They say the radiomen don't get leave at the end of boot training so I don't plan on getting home. The regulations are strict as hell but it won't be hard to get used to. We had our first shots last night and boy is my arm stiff. The chow is plain but good. Send the three Mac's address. I forgot what it is. This letter is sure disconnected as all of them will be but you can probably translate them. Be sure you get all this address down correct. Your son, Harold. H.T. Tierney, Camp Moffett, 5th Reg 25th Batt Co 1002, U.S.N.T.S., Great Lakes, Ill. (United States Naval Training Station)

9/19/1942 Camp Moffett USNTS Great Lakes IL

Dear Mom. Received your letter today. You can send that picture back - the mothballs might eat it. We are only going to be here 3 more weeks because the men are coming in so fast that they can't keep up with them. We haven't got half our clothes yet. I was talking to the C.P.O. and he said the radiomen were the only ones that haven't been getting leave at the end of boot training so don't plan on me being home. So far we have had only two shots and a vaccination. We are expecting another one any day now. Boy do they shoot them through you - don't hardly stop walking. We got our haircuts yesterday. It took 6 barbers 40 min to cut our company of 120 men. That rating of Ed's is the same as mine plus 50% for the time he flies if he flies plus so much for being at sea. I will go to a primary school for 3 months at 70 hours a week and from there I don't know where but there is another six months of schooling someplace. Well I will write Charlie and Catheline a card then it will be time to turn in. With love, Harold



9/21/1942 Camp Moffett USNTS Great Lakes IL

Dear Folks. I am just getting around today doing nothing. Went to Mass this morning and got another folder that would be good for the kids to read. Sure have a nice bunch of fellas in my co. Of course there are the other kind too. I am on detail in the washroom. Everybody has something to do with cleaning up the barracks. I don't know if I told you about my haircut or not but it sure is a lu-lu. Some of the guys that got their vaccinations are plenty dopey. Mine didn't take. We have a guy in our company that seems a little batty. He was telling a kid that he was going to all the church services today so he would have it over with for a couple of weeks. You see it is compulsory to go to church. If you don't you get plenty of extra duty. He went to the Mass and the protestant services today but he will go next Sunday and like it. I would like for you to send my radio handbook. The red one with the soft back. Would like to brush up on it a little if I can find time. We had Major Peabody at the happy hour the other night. He is plenty good. He makes a violin talk - that is you would swear it did. I wrote to everyone I ever thought I knew last night. I never knew I had it in me. But a letter seems to mean a lot since I got here. I wrote to John and Ed. Don't suppose I'll be here by the time

they get it and get a chance to answer before I leave here. So far we haven't had very much drilling. I don't think we will because some of the fellas are starting at the job tomorrow. That is the jobs they enlisted at. So far I haven't heard from Mr. Paine or Julia. If they don't come across pretty soon I am going to give them the devil. Tell Granddad to wash before he set down to the table and quit his fibbing. Has the Lourdes started their football season yet? Is Dick raising hell or is he going to be eligible to play. If those kids don't get their schoolwork when I get back home they sure will get a few shiners. There isn't a rated man here that hasn't at least a high school education. That is the ones that are rated when they start. Harold.

9/29/1942 Camp Moffett USNTS Great Lakes IL

Dear Mom. Received your card today and the cake last Friday. Boy was that a treat. They have shortened the training to 4 weeks. That means I graduate the 9th and leave the 10th either for home or to school. So far there hasn't been much encouragement for the homeport. A rated co left here a few days ago and the radiomen didn't. Then again I was over to O.G.U. and there were a few of them that got theirs. Had a letter from F. J. Paint Co today that makes the second. Same old line about how short of help they are. They have a kid to help from 4 to 6 and Saturdays. If Bob can make anymore time than that kid he may be able to cut in. If he can make him go down to see him. Glad to hear the Lourdes are going good this year. Have one of the kids give me the line up. I got a letter from Hentges explaining the first game. Dick Shearer wrote me a letter and wanted to know if he should join the Navy. All I told him was what I have been doing. I forgot to tell you I won't get any liberty until after I leave here. Harold.

10/4/1942 Camp Moffett USNTS Great Lakes IL

Dear Folks. Been kept pretty busy the last week. Our co. is on escort duty over at the main camp. By the time we get over and back there isn't much time for anything else. Was up to the administration building - got a chance to look at the records. Our co. leaves here the morning of the tenth. Some go home and some on to school you can guess where I go. I took out a 10,000 insurance policy. It costs me \$6.50 a month and I can keep it up after I get out of here at the same price or drop any amount I want. I thought it was a good deal - hope I did the right thing in taking out the full amount. So far I haven't made out an allotment. I want to find out how I am setting before I call the amount I want to take out. You can spend that \$30 in case you haven't already - I won't need it. Got a letter from about everyone except John and Ed and I can't expect theirs to get to them in such a short time. Will write more next time. Harold.

10/26/1942 Camp Moffett USNTS Great Lakes IL

Dear Mom. I have been putting this off thinking I would be moved out of here any day. It don't look as if that will happen until the end of the week. I was down to see Sis on a 32 hr. liberty Saturday afternoon and Sunday. All we are doing now is lying around waiting to be shipped out. I got a letter and picture from Ed it was written on the 9th and I got it Friday. You can write to the address on the envelope. If I don't get it here they will forward it to my next address. There isn't nothing to write about now. Will call you if I get sent to far away. Harold.

10/31/1942 OGU USNTS Great Lakes IL

Dear Mom. Still in O.G.U. There are RTs in here that have been here for 6 weeks. They moved us down to the cattle shed Monday afternoon. There are 800 men in our end of it and that many more in the other end. About 350 are RTs. Bill Dunneth is in here and he is only 3rd class. He sure is putting on the big shot stuff. I ask him if he had his name in the paper lately and he hasn't spoke to me since. Boy did he get mad. There isn't much to write except that there is a big draft coming upon the 2nd for Texas. Don't know if I'll be in on it or not. Drew \$72 today and got a money order for Paines. Am keeping the rest for whatever comes up. I am going down to see Sis tomorrow if I get out on time. I only get an 8 hr. liberty every other day now that they moved us down here. Well there isn't much else to write so until another time. Harold.

11/10/1942 R4A Naval Armory Chicago IL

Dear Mom. You're probably wondering what's wrong with me. I was moved here Saturday for a refresher course. Its just math like I had the first two weeks last winter. Will only be here from 10 days to two weeks. They sure keep you busy. Was up to see Sis Saturday night and Sunday. Mac is down in southern Ill. hunting. I am invited out for a quail dinner next Sunday of he gets any. That Squeaky is sure a little devil - talks all the time. Every time she sees a sailor she says "Sailor boy" and goes running for him. So you can see I get quite a bit of attention. Have you heard anything from John - it looks like you ought to by this time. Well write as soon as you can because I won't be here long. Tell me the football scores. I intended to call but I'm not quite as flush as I thought I would be. Harold. Harold T. Tierney RT 3/C, R. 4 A. Naval Armory, West of Randolph, Chicago, Ill.



11/21/1942 R4A Naval Armory Chicago IL

Dear Mom. I was out to see Sis again last weekend and Mac got back from his vacation Saturday. He brought some quail with him. I guess he was kinda soft because he sure was tired. We had the quail for dinner Sunday. I left his house a little after 8 and thought I had plenty of time to make it. I ran from the I.C. Depot and made it by about half a minute. I sent Paines the rest of their money. They give us the rest of our clothing allowance in cash so I will have to save it. If it's halfway possible I will be home for Turkey day anyway. May be in Texas by then. There are only 17 schools in the country for R.T.'s. We listed our preferences. I put down Chicago for first choice and Texas A&M for second. Thought maybe if I didn't get Chicago I might as least be halfway warm for the winter. I am going home with a kid that lives here in Chicago. We went through boot camp together. I get tired of staying here all week and then going out to Sis's and setting out my liberty. Harold.

12/30/1942 Cordell Hall USNTS Stillwater OK

Dear Mom. Well I'm here and started to school. We stayed in a dormitory that was just built a few years ago. It's a really swell place. We have inner spring mattress, two desks with desk lamps, two closets, two built-in dressers. In other words I just have one room instead of 1,000. They furnished us with books, paper, notebooks, pencils, and a \$15 slide rule. Only have 3 blocks to go to school. Boy am I glad I'm not going to Chicago. The waves stay here on the campus but they're no good. They're nothing but a bunch of bags that couldn't get a date in the civilian life. Not even a 4f. They have started to pour it on already but if you just keep busy it isn't so bad. New Years is a holiday and I'm busted flat - don't know what I will do. Harold.



1/8/1943 Cordell Hall USNTS Stillwater OK

Dear Mom. O K L A H O M A It's a bit frosty when we got up in the morning but it don't take it long to warm up. The day we pulled in here it was snowing. It was all gone by noon the next day and we were going out without coats. I got Tricia's Xmas card when I got back to the armory but I still haven't seen the package she said she sent. I wish I knew what it was so I would know whether I missed anything or not. Did Mary see Dick off at the train or bus? Be sure and send me his address in the next letter - he will be enjoying it very much by then. I know. I didn't know about Teresa Marie. I was there Xmas night and was that living room a wreck. There was paper and everything strung from one end to the other. I wrote her a letter the day I got here and she said she wanted to hear from me by Tuesday. Guess maybe she did. I have to knock and do a little studying. Last weeks grades were 3.84 in EE and 3.9 in Math, which is good enough for anyone. Harold.

1/23/1943 Cordell Hall USNTS Stillwater OK

Dear Folks. I got a letter from Sis the other day. The way she talks that kid will be talking in another week or two. She says she is another squeaky. They certainly have been keeping us busy. Our first month is gone and I am still in the running. That radio course is sure helping. About next week I am going to send my slide rule down for my dinner. It does about everything else. Yesterday we learned to find the hypo of a triangle. We just had room inspection and about every room in the place had dirty springs. Everything else was up to par. It looks as if I am going to learn to dance. Taking a few more lessons tonight. You multiply those grades by 25 and you have the %. Harold.

2/4/1943 Cordell Hall USNTS Stillwater OK

Dear Mom. Well my grades aren't quite what they were I have about an 86 which isn't bad considering 62 as passing. They sure have been putting it to us. Last week we went through trig. in 3 days. This week we go through quadratic equations and vector algebra. I got a letter from Tricia. I guess it's going to be cookies as soon as she gets some sugar. To think we get all we want. Stillwater is a town of about 10,000 it's about 60 miles to Oklahoma City or Tulsa. I just got a letter from Sis - you'd think she needed a dozen maids. There isn't a heck of a lot to write. Don't do nothing but go to school and see a couple of movies a week. I've got my income figured so I only have to pay \$7 so it won't be so bad. So it makes a "man" pretty tired to march 3 hours in the snow. Wait till I write him - will I lay it on. He says he's going to marry Mary when he gets out. Big idea huh? Harold. Six guys left today. They were banana boat bound. About a dozen dropped back in the next co.



2/15/1943 Cordell Hall USNTS Stillwater OK

Dear Folks. I was thinking about calling home today but when I found out what the charges were I backed down. We just started our eighth week. The seventh was supposed to be tough but it wasn't as tough as it was cracked up to be. There isn't much to say, just study, go to class, study. Has Ed heard anything about share duty? Tell Dick that is a lot of bunk about not getting leave if he goes to trade school. They had that old story going on at Great Lakes when I was there. He told me the same thing. They put us four to a room. A bunch of new waves came in so they put them in the south wing of Cordell and doubled the sailors up. Some deal huh. Sis ought to wait until about the 20th of March - I think I will be home for another 7 or 10 days. Harold.

2/1943 Cordell Hall USNTS Stillwater OK

Dear Folks. I guess it's about time I start a letter home. I got the box the other day and it sure wasn't hard to take. We built a one tube detector today and it worked. I thought we were studying hard the first 5 or 6 weeks but I guess we were loafing. Don't know if I wrote since they moved us around. They got us four to a room, with bunk beds. A new batch of waves came in and they didn't have anyplace else to put them. So they doubled us up and put them in the south wing. Went out and played golf Sunday - I ain't saying what my score was. You know even radar men have to have their exercise. Harold.

3/9/1943 Cordell Hall USNTS Stillwater OK

Dear Folks. Just drew tonight. I am going to T.I. Grue and Dunnette are going too. I done quite a bit of inquiring around. The 1st class men that are here instructing say it is the best school. They pick all their instructors from there. That's another reason why I figure I'm going to the right place. I have all the points I need and a few more. We get delayed orders with eleven days. Will have to report on the 1st of the month. Won't give me much time but it's better than nothing. Got about a dozen other letters to write tonight and there isn't anything to write about anyway. Harold.

4/4/1943 RMS Class 15 Treasure Island San Francisco CA

Dear Folks. Thought I went through boots once but here I am right back for six months of boot camp. We don't start school until Monday. I called Art and the rest the day I got to Frisco. We had a full day to go on so I spent it there. Went over to Mare Island and saw a few of the ships. Harold.

5/5/1943 RMS Class 15 Treasure Island San Francisco CA

Dear Folks. Guess maybe it is about to time to write. I was over to Art's over the weekend. Art's making dam good money. I will write them today and see about Bob getting a job over there. Haven't been out to see Mabel yet. Expect to go next weekend I have off. I made it through the last month with a pretty fair average. They changed the deal on the second class rate so don't expect to get it until I leave here. You don't hardly have time to turn around. I thought they kept us busy at Okla. but I sure would like to be back there. I got the candy the day before Easter. Didn't last long. If Bob don't get in send him out here. Either Art or myself can have him a job before he gets here is we just got the word. Harold.

6/18/1943 RMS Class 15 Treasure Island San Francisco CA

Dear Mom. Just got your letter and a letter from Ed, Tricia, and Paines all the same today. I think I can find out exactly where Ed is if they don't take a look at my letter. He said he got yours, Dick's, and John's the

same day he got my last one. Seems like they come in bunches. I was expecting to see Bob last weekend. I didn't know what they would do for a place to sleep. Art has a room for 1 and that's all. Tricia said that Gramma was sick again. If you buy a coffee or an end table, don't get one of solid wood. They aren't very strong. Get an imperial if you can. Harold.

7/1/1943 RMS Class 15 Treasure Island San Francisco CA

Dear Mom. We just finished our 5th month Sat. This month we are taking receivers, navigation and gas and diesel engines. This is the toughest month of them all. It's going to take a lot of time. Lab and classes fall on liberty nights once in a while. How's the new house? Hope it's nicer than the last one. How do Irene and the rest like the walk to school. Ought to do them good. Got a card from Sis. It was a special one bawling me out for not writing. They are still hunting a place to move. Was over to Art's last weekend. I went over with another fellow here who has a car. He has a sister living in Vallejo. We went out with a couple of Oakies. Friends of his sister. There was a lot of guys that dropped back from Co. 14. They have to take what we're in over again. Byrnes, a kid I roomed with in Stillwater, went to the hospital at Mare Island Saturday. Expects to get surveyed. He has something wrong with his heart and sinus on top of it. The gals from Fannie Farmer wrote me a letter, don't know if I will ever get around to answering it or not. I'm getting so I hate to write more and more. Been trying to get Art to write Granddad a letter but he don't seem to go for any persuasion. The guy that has neglected to write, Harold.



7/7/1943 RMS Class 15 Treasure Island San Francisco CA

Dear Mom. I am sending the airmail special delivery and hope it gets there before the 11th. I haven't paid the income tax yet. So I will send it along and let you pay that too. There isn't much to write about except that we are getting to the interesting part. Won't be long until I am out of this hole. I still say they can keep Calif. Harold.

8/6/1943 RMS Class 15 Treasure Island San Francisco CA

Dear Mom. Guess maybe it's about time I write. They fouled up our liberty, now we only get 2 weekends out of 3, instead of every other night. I got a birthday card from Harnacks and Sis. Haven't written to either of them yet. I imagine you had a big surprise by now. Ed said he wasn't letting anyone know he was coming. I haven't seen or heard from Bob. What did he do, go with Gentling? I am going to see if I can't save some money in case I get a leave. Maybe I will and maybe I won't. The co.'s that have been graduating didn't know until last week or so. Been trying to get Art to write to Granddad but I can't seem to make the grade. Harold.

9/14/1943 RMS Class 16 Treasure Island San Francisco CA

Dear Mom. I've got to tell you sometime or another. I dropped back a month the first month we run into exams. I guess I didn't know how to take the notes very good. I got an A when I repeated and am 5 points above class average this month. Maybe it's just as well. Although I hate to think of being here another month. I have four weeks left following this one. The fellows in 15 are really only around 5 days - couldn't hardly get home in that time. Why don't you get train reservations so you could be here the last week. I will have liberty every night then. I know it will be kind of had to get away from home but I think you ought to try it. If I happen to get to go to sub school at New London Conn., I would probably be able to ride part way back with you. I finally passed my swimmers exam. We had to swim 50 yards and tread water for 5 minutes. I almost drowned myself but I got tired of going over there 4 nights a week. Harold.

9/22/1943 RMS Class 16 Treasure Island San Francisco CA

Dear Mom. Received your card today. I will write Catheline a letter tonight. Should have written sooner. Bob Shearer called me Sunday night. Says he's been here for 6 weeks, but didn't know where I was. He called me every night last week but whoever answered the phone didn't tell me he called. Well I am finally on the home stretch. I have two more weeks that count. This stuff really works a little more interesting than radio. I am going to put down for East Coast. That's the only way I can get home. We fill out our dream sheets this week. I am going to put down subs first and P.T. and second. Here's hoping I make the sub. Will write again when I hear whether I make the sub or not. Harold.

10/6/1943 RMS Class 16 Treasure Island San Francisco CA

Dear Mom. Passed my physical for sub. I put in for East coast. I don't think I will get home because we will get our orders out of Mare Island. Will get five days but that will be before I go to Mare Island. Get Shiltz's address for me. I may go to Seattle on my five days. Alice is taking Bill and Ann and going back home for the duration of a round trip ticket. She is leaving the 14th. Harold.

10/8/1943 RMS Class 16 Treasure Island San Francisco CA

Dear Mom. I can use the pants. I already have two dress jumpers, another one would be just in the way. Send them to Art's and I will pick them up. I leave here a week from Saturday. I will get five days from here to Mare Island. If I do go to New London, I probably wont be able to get home. Harold.

10/30/1943 US Submarine Base New York NY

Dear Mom. I am now on the other side of the U.S. It seems pretty good to get off Treasure Island. We get swell food, liberty 3 out of 4 nights and 3 out of 4 weekends. The guys that I run around with in 15 are still here - we are going to New York this weekend. We are studying the same thing we were at T.I., only all we get is sub gear. We will be here from 6 to 8 weeks. I should have let you know that I was coming thru Chicago. But I was only there for an hour anyway. Sis waited at the depot and our train was four hours late. Squeaky was just about asleep by the time I got there. Was going to call Mac when I got to New York but we walked from one train to another there. I waved at Tricia as the train went through the Valley. Saw Charley in Omaha while the train was there. Cathline was in her PJ's so didn't come down. We are just lying around till Mon. to start school. Just as well of spent it at home. Harold.



11/10/1943 Sub Base New London CT

Dear Mom. Just waiting for some fellows to go out on liberty. The school here is sure slow compared to T.I. It seems funny to study some gear and actually understand it. The quiz we had last Saturday was to see all we knew about a certain diagram. I wrote 8 pages. The best part of it was that what I wanted to say came out so easy. It's about 5 or 6 miles to town, a bus goes that costs 12 cents or we take a taxi for a quarter. It isn't as nice a liberty town as San Francisco or Oakland, but we always manage to have a pretty good time. The fellows that were in 15 that I used to run around with at T.I. are still here. They have two weeks left after this one. When you address the next letter put "Radar" after the Box 7 part - it saves a day or two delay after it gets to the station here. We won't get to go to sub school because they need R.T.'s so bad. Probably will head back to Mare Island in about 5 weeks - will call or send a telegram if I do. Love, Harold. Don't tell people I told you what I was studying.

12/8/1943 Sub Base New London CT

Dear Mom. I guess I go back to Mare Island at that. There are 6 of us that go to the South Pacific for assignment. I just got my leave chit back unapproved. If I never come to this base again it will be to soon. If

you want to come to Chicago or go to Omaha be there by Tuesday. Don't know exactly when I will be leaving here but it will probably be sometime Monday. That will put me in Chicago on Tuesday sometime. Love, Harold.

12/16/1943 Sub Base Mare Island, CA

Dear Mom. I sure hope you didn't go to Chicago. We didn't hit Chicago or Omaha. Will be at Mare Island sometime Saturday. If they leave us there a week, I can spend time with Art. I suppose that is too much to hope for. Say, take about \$20 and buy something for yourself and the rest of the family and I will send you the money when I get to Calif. Harold.

12/24/1943 Washington Street San Francisco CA

What I've said in this letter keep under your hat. Dear Mom. Just been transferred to the Trout. It's one of the best subs there is going. It is pulling out around the last of this month. We go to Pearl Harbor then to Australia. I am going to make out an allotment of about \$70 or \$80 and send it to you. If you write airmail I may get it before I leave here. We have an ice cream freezer aboard and a washing machine. I am also the only Radio Tech on it. I should get rated pretty quick. If I write and put the word jump in any way in a letter I will be in Australia. Otherwise I will be in Pearl Harbor. Harold.

1/23/1944 USS Trout San Francisco CA

Dear Mom and Dad. Won't be able to send any money home this pay. I need some shoes, etc. Have been going to school the last week - seems as though I would get enough pretty soon. I thought the other schools were dry but compared to this one they were very interesting. Is Pat still wanting to get in the service. Hope he don't do like Dick did. If Bob wants to go to college I will pay his expenses providing he don't start playing around. Haven't as yet received your Xmas package. Guess it will catch up to me pretty soon. Got a letter from Sis today. She didn't have as much to say as I usually have. You might call Paine's and tell Mr. Paine I received his Xmas present when I was in New London. I should have written him at that time but you know me and writing never did go together. I actually did get around to sending a card to most everyone. Be a good thing if I ask Tricia if her right arm is o.k. Harold.

1/26/1944 USS Trout San Francisco CA

Dear Mom. Received a letter from John yesterday. It was written Dec. 22 - it had been to New London and back out here. Got a letter from Sis and that is all in the last three weeks. I am sending a money order this time. A fellow paid me some money he owed me since T.I. Harold.

HAROLD'S LAST LETTER TO HIS MOTHER

2/15/1944 USS Trout San Francisco CA

Dear Mom. Received your package the other day. It sure took long enough to catch up. Sis wrote me another card that said, "Why don't you write." Haven't heard from Tricia since I was back in New London. I paid Paine's a long time ago. They're probably wondering what happened to me as I haven't written them since then. There isn't much to say, but if you don't hear from me for some time please don't worry. Harold.



LETTERS TO HAROLD FROM HIS MOTHER, RETURNED "UNCLAIMED"

1/18/1944 Rochester MN

Dear Harold – I have written you several times and hope you get them sometime, but don't know for sure about your address. Will sure be glad when we hear from you. Write as often as you can. We haven't heard from Dick yet as to where he will be, but will probably be on a carrier or island base. Dad is still working long hours. He has had a cold all winter. The PTA had a dinner for the football team. The mothers helped so I went. Pat and Bob both got letters. Bob for manager. The B team is doing pretty good but they are nearly all new players. As far as I know Dick Shearer is still in Mass. But suppose he will be in England soon. Bob Shearer is in the S. Pacific someplace as his address is S.F. Hope you can run across him sometime. We have had a nice winter. Hardly any snow and not very cold, but I guess there is still time for cold weather. I wrote you about Grue being home. He is in New Orleans. Ollie Mertz is home. He is in the Merchant Marines. Will be home about a month. We haven't heard from the Bertelsons, but guess they are getting along real well. Sis said they met Mac Christmas night in Omaha and Patricia had a new fur coat, so suppose that was her Christmas present. Teresa and Squeaky have bad colds all winter. I guess their apartment is not very warm. Just got the mail. Had a letter from Dick and Ed. Dick is in Receiving Ship Brks E. Treasure Island. Don't know yet where he will go. Ed says he is getting along fine, even his elbow is taking the gaff. He was afraid he couldn't make P.T. with it. He expects a 14 to 18 day leave when he is through there. He didn't get much good of his other one as he was traveling most of the time. Write often as you can. Love from all. Mom.

2/1/1944

Dear Harold – As yet, we have received no mail from you. Hope you get my letters. Dick is still in S.F. on Market St. where Ed was. He expects to be sent out any time. Said he arrived there two days after you left. Ed is still in Iowa City. He is boxing, wrestling, playing football, etc. I guess he is getting along OK. Expects an 18 day leave when he gets through there. One of Gus's brothers was here for a few days. The one who had been in Aleutians – Bob seen him but didn't get to talk to him. Pat has entered the Golden Gloves. He won his first fight. They fight again Wed. and if he wins he goes to the cities. Mike Sternburg seems to think he is pretty good. Said he would take him to the cities anyway, as all he needed was experience, so maybe if he goes good in the fights, he will decide to stay out of the navy until he is 18. Has been talking of enlisting next summer. The month of January was like spring. The street flushers were out and I saw a picture of a man ploughing but the farmers are worried because of the lack of moisture. Granddad is pretty well. He listens to all the news but is pretty feeble. H don't go downtown anymore, so Pat has the job of shaving him. He usually sleeps until noon. We hear from John quite often – he was off on politics the last letter – was wondering about the solders vote. They are still debating it in congress, so don't know what is going to happen. Write whenever you can. Love from all. Mom.

Tricia called on our wedding anniversary. They were all OK. Just received your letter. Is it written on a typewriter or what? And why don't you put a date on it? You never do. What did Mr. Paine send you for Christmas? I have asked you several times if you had finished paying them. Mrs. Harnack was here the other day. She said to tell you hello. I hope Bob decides to do something for himself, but am going to let him decide. Maybe if he got out and worked for a year he would be ready then to do something. Love, Mom. Will send this airmail – see if you get it sooner.



2/8/1944

Dear Harold – We haven't heard from you for some time – received a letter from Dick yesterday. He wants you to write – thought maybe you could look him up. His address is U.S.N. Ca SW #1 c/o Fleet PO San Francisco. I think he is in Pearl Harbor. Says it looks like he will be there for some time. John would like to hear from you too. We had a nice March blizzard but it is nice again today. It will soon be time to plant the garden. Dad has his teeth all out now – thinks he will get his new ones in a week or two. Everyone has lots of fun with him. I guess he is going to have to pay some income tax or back tax or something. I guess the reason is he can't file for dependents in the 2 places and they haven't been taking enough out of his check there, so that all has to come at once – now. Mrs. Harnack was here yesterday. I was fixing a dress for her. Grue's wife went to New Orleans to see him. They live next door to Harnacks. I guess the Paynes are as usual. Pat will meet the fellow who won the bout in the cities again next Tuesday. Sternberg is putting on a boxing match then. Herrick lost in the semifinals in Chicago. Had a letter from Sis yesterday. She is having a party for Squeaky next week, her third birthday. Love from all. Mom

2/12/1944

Dear Harold. We received the money order OK and I salted it down. I was waiting to write until the Golden Gloves were over. Pat lost the quarterfinals, but guess it was a bad decision. The crowd booed so they couldn't announce the next bout and kept booing while the next one was going on. All the boxers told him he should have had it. Jacky Graves and was Mike Sternburg mad. Even Bronko Magurski, the football star, came up and told him he got a bum decision. So Pat feels worse than he would have otherwise. He is going to have a bout with the same fellow at the auditorium next time they have a boxing card and that guy better look out. We had a letter from Tricia and Gene has been classified A-1. I guess if he passes they will come up here and stay for the duration. Sure nice you can go to school again. There seems to be quite a future in the work you are in so get all you can out of it. Don't know what Bob will do about going to college but guess he is finally going to graduate. He wants to get in this war some way, is talking of going out on some of these work crews, would of course like to see some of the world, like the rest of you. Dr. Ghormley wants him to have his other leg shorter as his back is getting very crooked, so I don't know what the outcome will be. I guess the Golden Gloves has changed Pat's mind about enlisting this summer. He has decided to wait until after the Golden Gloves next year. Love from all. Mom
Haven't heard from Dick so suppose he is still in S.F.

2/24/1944

Dear Harold. Received your money order for \$60 yesterday. You must have been in a terrible hurry that you couldn't write a line and also you left the money order receipt attached. You better remember that if it was lost you would have had no receipt. I am sending you a clipping from the M.V. paper. Gene is 1A now, but has been deferred for 6 months. Mac seems to be getting by so far. Dad is still at the 2 jobs. He is having his teeth pulled now so will soon have some fake ones, at last. We have had a very mild winter for which we are glad as the fuel oil is going to hold out OK. Have a letter from John regularly and also Ed. He is going to have his elbow operated on as soon as he is through at Iowa City. Irene had a little birthday party – yesterday was her birthday. She just had the neighbor girls here. Mr. and Mrs. Shearer was here Sunday eve. They haven't heard from Dick since he left the States Jan. 9. But Bob is in New Guinea. He is a Sgt. Now. Dick wrote last week – said to tell you to look for him in Pearl Harbor at the Naval Air Station. Take time to write a few lines. I don't know whether you received any letters or not and have asked you about the bill at Pains. Love from all. Mom.

Pat and I went to see the show Mission to Tokyo just to see what a Sub was like – also there was a Catalina plane in it that is the kind Dick was in in Florida.



3/26/1944

Dear Harold – Just thought I had better write you as it has been some time since I last wrote. Ed is home for 18 days. He goes to Ottumwa, Iowa next and then he will have to go south to Jacksonville or Corpus Christi. He came home a week ago today. Tomorrow is grandpa's birthday. He is about the same as usual. Dick is Casu #1 so you will know where to find him. Ed knows where it is and I suppose you do too. So look him up. He was expecting to see you in his last letter. Pat is still boxing. Has been in the cities twice and boxes here Tuesday. Dad has his new teeth, but hasn't mastered them yet. He has them out quite a lot so far, but does pretty well. We have had quite a lot of snow lately. In fact there is a March squall on now. Irene and Bob are in an operetta the school is having after Easter. They tried to get Pat in it but guess he thought a boxer had no place in an operetta. Fred is on a Scout hike today. Bob Hentges is home for 2 weeks. Earl Mestad was here and just left and Gentling was home. He is going to the U. of M. – going to be a Dr. Dr. Bouly (I don't know how to spell it) but you know who he is, is putting him through. Dr. W. W. Heyerdale was killed in an auto accident in New Caledonia. The navy wants R.T. – are now giving Seamen 1st class to boys who can pass the exam. I should think you would get a rating pretty soon now. Well, granddad is sitting here waiting for supper so guess I better get busy. Ed wrote Dick from here a few days ago, so if you see him tell him that will do for me too. Love from all, Mom.

John has a new job now. He takes care of the mail. He like it better – says he is his own boss and has no men under him and has the same rate as corp.

4/6/1944

Dear Harold – I hope you get these letters but maybe you will get them all at once. Ed was home for 18 days - all too short for him. He couldn't realize it was over. Bob is busy entertaining servicemen again. Hentges, Chuck Smith, the Gov. and Jim Kiley are all home now. We had Hentges for dinner Monday. Lourdes is having an operetta next week. Bob, Pat and Irene are in it. Pat is still boxing. He meets the N.W. Champion here next week. But as yet hadn't met the fellow who beat him in the Golden Gloves. He was supposed to be in Mankato last week but didn't show up and wouldn't fight here. Granddad isn't so well. We had the Dr. for him yesterday but he don't seem to come out of it. Dad has his new teeth working pretty good now. We haven't heard from the Bertelsons. Ed spent last Sunday in Chicago. They are OK but keep Mac busy. The boy scouts were entertained by the Jr. Chamber of Commerce last week. Fred drew the county engineer and spent the day with snowplows and tractors. One boy was mayor and one chief of police. We are at last having a little spring, but the frost isn't all out of the ground yet. Be sure and write as soon as possible. Love from all. Mom

4/22/1944

Dear Harold – We still haven't heard from you so will write again. Just had a telegram from John. He is at Fort Smith, Arkansas and will be home soon. We had granddad in the hospital for 10 days. His heart is very bad. They call it a tired heart. We brought him home yesterday but he has to stay in bed. Ed is at Great Lakes hospital. He was to have his arm operated on Tues. and was to be at Sis's today, so guess he is OK. Sis was home – she came the day before we took granddad to the hospital and stayed a week. She sure has 2 live wires. Everything was up high and then Teresa climbed for it. Pat won over the Northwest Champion here and also won a match in Minneapolis last week, but guess the boxing is about over with for this year. Lourdes has started baseball now. I guess Bob will pitch again. They only have 3 games scheduled. Gerry Nebb is at Iowa City now I see by the paper. Dad is getting along OK with his teeth now and seems to feel pretty good. We haven't heard from the Bertelsons for some time. The Haverills were coming up for Easter but they didn't get the pass through the way they wanted so thought they would wait until summer. I guess Bob will graduate this year. Jim O'Connor wants him to work for him and Sister Calista wants him to go to college so don't know what he will do. Will write again soon. Love from all. Mom
