

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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[Archive]: WWII Letters

South Carolina, California: 1940-1945

A small archive of seven letters and one photograph from an African-American Naval seaman in World War II to his girlfriend, "Margaret," on the home front. Also included is a letter from a friend to Margaret, and two from her mother in South Carolina. All items are near fine or better with some creasing and age toning. A sailor referred to as "Paul" and "Mack" throughout his letters home, joined the Navy in World War II and was stationed aboard the U.S.S. Dent #116, a Wickes-class destroyer based out of San Diego. "I arrived here aboard ship at 7:50 pm! I had a good 1/2 hours' sleep from here and arrived here safe and sound." The letters mostly discuss him missing Margaret and reassuring her that he is still in love with her and that the war will be over soon so they can be together again. "Did I sleep good, how do you expect me to rest comfortable when it has been so long since I held you tight and kissed you at nite." Although his orders are not explicitly stated in his writing, presumably as a matter of self censorship, the Dent sailed to New Caledonia in 1943 "landing troops in the assaults on New Georgia, Rendova, Vella Lavella, and Cape Torokina, Bougainville." The vessel and her crew spent the next year in and around Australia eventually going back to the States to serve with the Amphibious Training Force, Pacific Fleet, at San Diego. A glimpse of the American experience in World War II.

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