COPY OF LETTER WRITTEN BY L. ROY MURRAY, Jr. Dec,1st, 1941.

S. S. Nishmaha,
At Sea,
December, 1st,1941.

Dear Dad,

We are at sea now but I want to write this down while it is still fresh in my mind.

It rained hard all night of the 26th, of November, and the next day, Thanksgiving day, it was still cloudy and a rather heavy swell was running, the ship was rolling a good bit but otherwise it was an ordinary day. We had a swell thanksgiving dinner with turkey, and five vegitables and all the trimmings, fruit cake, mince pie and all. I thought of all the people in the world who would enjoy some of what I had during these war times. After dinner I turned in for a nap, and got up at a quarter to five, ships time, (6-30PM GMT) and went on the bridge to relieve the third officer for dinner, as I do every day. After he left, and most of the crew were eating, I was walking up and down the bridge deck, and thinking about the ice cream I was going to have when I went below to eat dinner, when I sighted an object in the water four points on the port bow, and about three miles off. I got the binoculars and looked at it and it appeared to be a small boat with men on it but I wasn't sure, I gave the order hard left to the quartermaster and blew my pocket whistle for the sailor on watch to have him call the captain. The Captain was on the bridge immediately even before I could send for him, he must have been on deck and saw the ship swing. It was a few minuets before we could distingwish for sure if there were men there. The captain then ordered the engines on standby, and I rang the telegraph to that position. It turned out to be a raft with three men on it, but by this time the crew reported two more on the starboard side but futher away. The captain took over the bridge and the other officers came up. The captain ordered the number three boat swung for lowering and I went to the boat deck to help. We coulden't manouver a ship as big as this alongside such a small object, The chief officer took the boat and picked the three men up and brought them to the ship. A swell was running and the ship rolling and we had a hard time getting the almost helpless men out of the boat. We towed the boat to the next two rafts and it picked up about ten more men and in the meantime another raft was sighted and as it was beginning to get dark we towed the boat to the fourth raft without removing the men already rescued. The boat had to go a good ways and before he got back the lookout sighted another raft and we left the mates boat and proceeded towards it as we knew that the mate had a light and we could find him in the dark, but not the raft. The second officer had an injured leg since we left the Belgian Congo so the third officer took the next boat, and before he came back another raft with a small light was sighted, it was dark by then and soon we could hear men hollowing from an unseen raft so the captain told me to take a boat and go for them. I took the number four boat as I like it best of all, its a little better built than the rest. Most of the sailers were gone in the other boats, and there were engineer officers on the bridge helping