

Date	From	To	Text
44 03 20	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">March 20, 1944, Monday nite</p> <p>Dear Jo,</p> <p>I haven't much time to write, but I just wanted to tell you that I am fine and am getting all of your letters. Got one from Charlie today. Sends you his love. I am leaving for Canada in the morning but will be back in a couple of days. Give mom my love. Glad to hear you received a letter from Mary Lou. Got to catch a loco now. Bye for a while.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Love to all, Bro Ralph</p>
44 03 26	Ralph	Ange, e,	<p style="text-align: right;">March 26, 1944, Sunday</p> <p>Hi Ange,</p> <p>Thanks a lot for all the letters and the sports page. Try and send me some more sports pages.</p> <p>Well Ange I wish you could have read the letter I send to Sister Al. I only hope she doesn't get mad at me for what I said about that team. I guess it must have been some of Bob Curley's work. Can you imagine them trying to compare that "grammar" school team with the teams that Jim Kosch, Bud Rawl, Tim Driscoll and all used to play on.</p> <p>We're leaving this dump for Holtville Calif. The day after tomorrow. We'll be down there only one month, just for nite flying alone.</p> <p>It's going to be darn tough leaving this girl that I have been going with here. We've had a heck of a lot of fun together.</p> <p>I swear you're the luckiest guy in the whole darn Navy. I never heard of a guy that got so many leaves as you. Someday when you're stationed way out of civilization like I am you'll look back and wish you had just one of those days back.</p> <p>I am sending mom some pictures of myself for her birthday. I'm also sending her my air crew wings. The pictures are pretty damn big. I got them done pretty cheap. Tell Jo to save the ones she doesn't want because I may need it some time.</p> <p>I hope Kane and you both had a good time. How does he look?</p> <p>I doubt if I can find any gas coupons for you. A lot of the group are driving to California and need the gas.</p> <p>Well take it easy now. I'll write later again.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bro Ralph</p>
44 04 01	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">April 1, 1944, Saturday</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p>

			<p>I wish I could think of some good April Fools joke to pull on you. But I can't Well we were all set on moving out of here last Wednesday but we're still here. And I have no idea when we'll be leaving for Cal. That's the Navy for you.</p> <p>The weather here is just like summer and boy is it beautiful. I certainly would like to play some baseball. Tell mom I'm feeling fine and give her my love.</p> <p>All my love to all, Bro Ralph</p>
44 04 04	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">April 4, 1944, Thursday</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>Received two letters from you and also the swell birthday cards. It makes me feel pretty good to know that you all think of me. Do you know I sent mom my wings, pictures, card and Frank the \$5 for her birthday and forgot altogether that it was my birthday too until I got the cards. I thought they were Easter cards.</p> <p>I haven't received your package as yet but will probably get it tomorrow.</p> <p>Well Jo I want to drop a line to my girl. The weather here is just swell. Don't let anybody use my baseball glove. I hope mom has a grand birthday. Tell me about it. Give her my love.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph</p>
44 04 09	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">April 9, 1944 Easter Sunday</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>Well this makes the second Easter Sunday I've missed being home. But let's hope I'll be there for the next one. I hope mom received the Easter telegram and also the birthday telegram that I sent her. I'm sorry that I had to spoil it by sending it collect, but I had to phone it into Western Union and besides I'm pretty low on funds.</p> <p>I hope everyone had a very nice Easter—nicer than I had. It was the same old work day here except that I got a chance to go to Mass this morning. We never have a holiday around here.</p> <p>Tell Ange I received his letter yesterday and to keep writing. The newspaper that you sent me had the sports section missing. That was what I wanted most.</p> <p>Jo, if you haven't written to my girl yet, try to soon. I want your opinion of her picture. She looks twice as cute in person, and I hope you can meet her someday. Give my love to mom.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph</p>
44 04 10	Ralph	Frank	<p style="text-align: right;">April 10, 1944</p> <p>Hi Frank,</p>

			<p>Received the swell birthday card and also the money, which came in handy. So thanks a lot for both. Thank Fil for me too. I hope mom had a happy birthday and also a nice Easter.</p> <p>I haven't received the "Home Front" for quite a little while now and am going stale in the news. What's wrong? Slacking up on us?</p> <p>We were supposed to leave here the 29<sup>th</sup> of March. But as you can see we're still here. By now you ought to know how fast the Navy changes its mind. I don't know how long we'll be here now. Anyway it doesn't make much difference. It isn't too bad here, although I'd like to get to some civilized place where I can play some good baseball. Boy I miss it.</p> <p>I guess by this time you've already seen my pictures. They're pretty stingy but I got a break on the price. Hope you like the one of Mary Lou. She really is twice as nice as she looks in that picture.</p> <p>When I joined the Navy I told you I'd be in this country for at least a year, remember? Well it's 16 months now and I'm still here and I ought to be around for another three. Guess I'm pretty lucky.</p> <p>That's all I can think of at present. The weather here is pretty nice except that the wind blows and it rains once in a while. But I'm feeling fine and looking for some exercise. Hope everyone back home is OK.</p> <p>Regards to all, Bro Ralph</p>
44 04 22	Ralph	Frank	<p style="text-align: right;">April 22, 1944</p> <p>Hi Frank,</p> <p>Well, as you can see, I'm still here in North Bend. Boy it will really feel nice to get back to a big city again. Our squadron is the only squadron that has remained here over one month. It's going on to the fourth month now and I don't know how much longer we will be here.</p> <p>One thing I miss a lot out here is baseball. Oh they play plenty of it our here but not in this particular town. I miss reading about it too. In the N.Y. Times each weekend, on the sports page a short summary for the whole week is given. It isn't so big but I could appreciate it if you could mail it to me each week. I think it's Sat.'s Times.</p> <p>Well I'm glad to hear that you're getting the garden in shape. Home wouldn't be what it is without a garden.</p> <p>It rains here quite steadily but I don't mind it in the least. Hope everyone is feeling fine. Give my love to MaryFil and Fil.</p> <p>Regards to all, Bro Ralph</p>
44 05 12	Ralph	Frank	<p style="text-align: right;">May 12, 1944. Friday nite</p> <p>Hi Frank,</p> <p>I received your letter today and was glad to get some news from back home. Sorry</p>

			<p>I haven't written sooner but I've been kept pretty busy.</p> <p>I guess by now your already know that I'm down here in Holtsville, Cal. Yeah, way the hell down here in the desert. We're just six miles from the Mexican border. The flies are so bad here that I am afraid to fall asleep for fear they might carry me away. And some are awful big and mean too. For example – the other morning I was awakened by two, big flies on my chest who were arguing. One was saying to the other, "Let's take him outside and eat him" but the other replied: "Naw, let's eat him right here, a little at a time."</p> <p>But it isn't too bad Frank. It's kinda warm – 140° in the mid-afternoon. But it cools off at nite. Now I understand why in Mexico the people have a noon "Siesta" (Is that how you spell it?)</p> <p>No, I'm not on any ship yet. But I know what I'm going to be on. It's going to be a CVE or what you call a "Baby Carrier." We'll be doing mostly convoy or escort duty. But I don't have to worry about leaving the states yet. It will be quite a while yet. Anything could happen. I could even be transferred to another squadron and start all over again. What we're here for now is to get the last bit of training. This is our last training base – definitely.</p> <p>Well if I had some money I would go across the border to Mexicali and get some souvenirs. They also have silk hose there for the women. But I am completely broke and I'm sorry I can't send you any souvenirs. I doubt if I'll ever leave this base as long as we are here.</p> <p>I was glad to see that Ange got such a good break and is stationed in N.J. I received a letter from Al yesterday. My but he just loves to make them short.</p> <p>Well Frank, I'm feeling fine and have a nice tan. I'll bet you wish you had it. We have a pretty nice gym here and I get a little exercise. And for your information the only two girls I write to are Mom and Mary Lou. Hope everyone is fine. Give my love to Fil, MaryFil and all.</p> <p>Bro Ralph</p>
44 05 18	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">May 18, 1944, Thursday morning</p> <p>Dear Jo,</p> <p>I received two letters from you, one from Vic, one from Frank and the sport sheets and a letter from Lindy yesterday. Not bad huh? Tell Lindy I'll answer his letter soon. Well I started on a new schedule yesterday. I don't have to report to work until 2:30 in the afternoon and quit around 10pm. It's not bad at all. I haven't done a single thing since I've been down here except write and go to a show. In between those hours I usually go to a movie.</p> <p>I don't know for sure how long we'll be here but the squadrons that were here before us usually stood here about six or seven weeks.</p> <p>Thanks a lot for getting that plant for mom. I'll try to pay you back someday. I hope she liked it.</p> <p>You don't have to worry about mailing me the whole paper—just send me the sport sheets.</p> <p>Well it's almost time for chow so I'd better close until tomorrow. Don't forget to write to "Swammie" soon. Give my love to mom.</p>

			Bro Ralph
44 05 22	Ralph	Frank	<p style="text-align: right;">May 22, Monday</p> <p>Dear Frank,</p> <p>Got your letter yesterday and also the sports letter. So thanks for both.</p> <p>Life has been pretty easy since I hit this place. I fly about one hour a day and that is all I do. The rest of the 23 hours are mine. I think I'm sleeping too darn much and getting lazy.</p> <p>Frank, I put in for a leave for June 1<sup>st</sup> till June 15<sup>th</sup>. Of course everybody puts in for leaves but very few get them. I doubt if I will. I did want to wait a couple months before asking for it so I could have some money saved for it but you can never tell what may happen by then. They may stop all leaves. Well, what I wanted to tell you was that just in case I do get it, I'll need money. I may have to wire you for 50 or maybe 75 dollars. What I want to know is, it that OK with you. I probably could save enough to pay you back later.</p> <p>There isn't much to say I received a letter from Chuck Forrisier today. The first in about six months. He's in New Guinea. Well give my love to Mary Fil, Fil and all.</p> <p>Love, Bro Ralph</p>
44 05 25	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">May 25, 1944, Thursday morning</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>Received another letter from you yesterday. Jo, the reason why the money took so long to reach me was because you sent it to Fleet Post Office. It must have got there in about an hour. But from there they just sent it by mail. Now what I want to tell you is, and tell Frank this too – in case you want to send ma a telegram – or in case I wire to Frank for money – wire it back to: R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c VC84 Western Union Office Holtville, Calif.</p> <p>Don't worry about me leaving here so soon. If I do leave here I can always let you know and I won't go no further than San Diego. That's our next stop I think.</p> <p>You wanted to know what I'm doing with my money. Well one thing you can be sure is that I'm not spending it on girls. The girl I went with up in North Bend must have spent over \$100 on me the time I was there. That's no lie. I'll bet I didn't spend more than \$15 on her the time I went with her. That's the way they all were. Well my base pay is \$78 a month. \$22 comes out for the allotment, \$10 out for the Red Cross, \$7 for insurance, which makes a total of about \$40 out each month. That leaves me about \$38 a month and I have to do a hell of a lot of things with that. It would take too long to list. However, this is the last month I have to pay the Red Cross. Another thing you don't know is that I've been getting flight pay every other month. That's about \$40 extra a month for flying. But with that I pay back everybody I owe money</p>

			<p>too. But I think starting next month everything will be OK.  Tell Lindy to send me the sport sheet.  Don't count on that leave too much. But have the car in case I get it. I'll send you a telegram if I get it. If I don't get it now I'll get one before I leave the states. I'm pretty sure of that.  Don't forget to give Frank that address in case I wire for money. If I ever do wire, have him wire back as soon as possible.  Well tell mom I'm fine and I hope she is too. Give her my love.</p> <p>Love to all,  Bro Ralph</p>
44 06 06	Ralph	Jo	June 6, 1944
			<p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>How are you? Fine I hope. I guess by this time Charlie must be home and you must be engaged. Well all I can do is give you my congratulations. And give Charlie my best regards. Tell him I said that he is very fortunate in getting a girl like you. There isn't another that can compare in N.J. (except Mary Lou – ahem)  I've been here over a month now and in all that time it hasn't rained a drop of water. It hasn't even been cloudy one day. But I'm not complaining at all. In fact this warm weather agrees with me.  Well I'll excuse your if you don't write for the next week or so because I can understand with Charlie home.  I hope everything is fine at home. Tell mom I said to take good care of the chicks. Give her my love.</p> <p>Love to all,  Bro Ralph</p>
44 06 08	Ralph	Frank	June 8, 1944
			<p>Hi Frank,</p> <p>I've been up since 2am this morning. We just started dawn patrol. It only lasts about a week. We knock off at around 11 am. If I'm not flying I can sleep all the while.  Well I could have come home on leave again yesterday but I was hesitant about it. I wasn't quite ready and they were only giving me 10 days. I may wire to you for the money before you even receive this letter but it may not mean I'm coming on leave immediately. I just want to have it ready. I might send you a telegram this afternoon if I go to town. If we're still here on this base by next Saturday (June 16). I'll try to get a leave starting around the 20<sup>th</sup>. Well there isn't a thing left to write about. I'm feeling fine and hope everyone at home is too.</p> <p>Love to all,  Bro Ralph</p>
44	Ralph	Jo	June 8, 1944,

06 08			<p style="text-align: right;">Thursday morning</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>We started on dawn patrol this morning. We start flying at three in the morning and knock off at 11 am. It only lasts about one week. I slept all this morning though because I didn't have to fly.</p> <p>I could have come home on another leave yesterday, but I refused it because I wasn't ready but most of all because it was only 10 days. I'll take one latter on even if it is only 10 days. But do you think it would be worth it to be home for only about three days?</p> <p>Well if Charlie is home give him my regards and give mom my love.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph</p>
44 06 11	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">June 11, 1944</p> <p>Dear Jo,</p> <p>By the time you receive this letter. I'll be on a new base. Our squadron is moving up a notch to Reams Field. It is on the outskirts of San Diego, about 150 miles from here. Only a few hours ride. We're going up there Tuesday.</p> <p>Sorry I couldn't be there with Charlie and Vic. I guess I could have but I just wasn't ready. Unless things change I'll be home some time between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Did you tell Frank to send me the money? If he hasn't sent it by now, tell him to hold on to it and I'll wire for it. But if he has sent it, it's just as good. By the way I may need some dough when I get home. And tell mom to hold on to that gas for me and to get all she can.</p> <p>Well Jo, I'm gonna hang up now. Give my love to mom. Hope you're having a good time with Charlie!</p> <p>P.S. Just got back from Communion</p> <p>Love, Bro Ralph</p>
44 06 14	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">June 14, 1944, Wed</p> <p>Dear Jo,</p> <p>We got here yesterday. It only took four hours. The name of the place is Reams Field and its nine miles from San Diego. There's quite a change in weather here. It isn't even half as warm as it was in Holtville. It's very cool, too cool sometimes.</p> <p>I don't know how long we'll be here. How's everything at home? Nothing else to write about. Give my love to mom.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph</p>

44 06 22	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">June 22, 1944, Ream Field</p> <p>Dear Jo,</p> <p>I've just finished writing to Ange and Al and thought I better include you. I received all the sports pages and Lindy's letters yesterday. They were good. Tell him I said thanks and I'll write to him soon. I was sorry to read about the B's losing that game. How are they making out?</p> <p>I still haven't touched a bit of work since I've been here. I go horseback riding every; once in awhile. But most of the time I am laying down on my bunk, sleeping or reading. Saw a swell picture here on the station last nite. It's called "The Adventures of Mark Twain." It's a new one.</p> <p>Do you still writ to "Swannie?" She's over in Evansville, Ind., right now. She's in charge of a playground for kids over there and plays softball for what is supposed to be the Champion girls' softball team of Indiana.</p> <p>Well I'm gonna hang up now. Give my love to mom.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph</p>
44 06 29	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">June 29, 1944 R. J. Scafuro General Leland Naval Repair Station, San Diego, Calif</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>I'm going to write this to you in a hurry while I have time. I have the time because I realize it's been almost a week since I last wrote to you, or anyone. But I have been receiving your letters and I also got Frank's and Lindy's. The picture of mom looked swell.</p> <p>As you can see by my address, I'm not with squadron VC84 any longer. My pilot and I and seven other gunners are going to another squadron. Only this squadron isn't in the U.S... It's in Pearl Harbor. I'm telling you this while I have the chance just in case you don't hear from me for a stretch at a time. Four of the gunners are from N.J... We may start for Pearl H. tomorrow or it may; take a week. I don't know, but do know it will be soon.</p> <p>The only reason I'm telling you this is because there is nothing to worry about. Pearl H is just like another training base in the U.S. and I'll probably be on that island a long time before we go aboard our carrier. Tell Frank I said that I think I am getting a better deal this way because if I would have stood with my squadron I would have been on one of those very small carriers. But now I'm going to be on a large carrier and with pilots that have had plenty of action and had experience. Anyway my old squadron is due to go out in a month or so.</p> <p>We're not doing a damn thing here except waiting to hear our names over the loud speaker which means to start packing. While waiting we're getting everything ready.</p> <p>Well Jo the only thing I'm sorry about is that I couldn't get home before going out. But I think I've been pretty lucky in spending over a year and a half in this country. I'll write you more before I leave and I'll have more to say then. I'll also try hard to</p>



			<p>phone before leaving. Give my love to mom and tell her I'm feeling fine.</p> <p>P.S. Don't write to this address. I won't have it long. But in case you want to send me a telegram, it's OK.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph</p>
44 06 30	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">San Diego June 30</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>How is everyone? Fine as I am I hope. As you can see, I am still here in San Diego. Jo, I can't tell you when I'm leaving because I don't know myself. It could easily be tomorrow as it could be two weeks from now. Even as I am writing you this letter I have to sit somewhere where I can hear the loudspeaker – just in case they call our name.</p> <p>As long as Lindy won't be sending me the sports page for a little while, tell him I said that he better start writing an account of the baseball games and then sent it to me later.</p> <p>Have you hear from Mary Lou lately? I hope so. Well I can't think of anything else to write. Until tomorrow give my love to mom</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph</p>
44 07 02	Ralph	Frank	<p style="text-align: right;">San Diego Sun. July 2</p> <p>Dear Frank,</p> <p>Sorry I didn't write sooner. I guess by now Jo has told you that I am waiting to go across. They asked for seven gunners from our squadron. Four of us are from N. Jersey. However my pilot is still with me.</p> <p>We're going to Pearl Harbor to be attached to another squadron. I'm not sure but I think we're supposed to be there by the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It only takes four or five days to get there. I think we'll be getting a better deal this way because the squadron that we're going to will have plenty of experience. Also another thing, we might be getting a large aircraft carrier instead of a small one. However, I think we'll be at P.H. a long time before we go to meet the enemy.</p> <p>I told Jo not to write to me while I was here because I didn't know for sure how long I would be here. Well you can tell her to write if she wants to because the letter will catch up to me anyway if I don't get them here.</p> <p>You might be glad to know that I just got back from Mass and Communion. I was surprised to see so many Catholics at Mass. I offered it up to pop because I didn't have a chance to on Father's Day.</p> <p>This is a receiving and repair base. All the fellows who just get back or are heading for sea duty stop off here. VCF4 is about ready to go out so this transfer will</p>

			<p>not make much difference. I think I'm going to like it more.</p> <p>Mary Fill must be getting to be quite a character. Every time you mention some of the things she does I can just picture her. Tell her that Uncle Ralph sends his love.</p> <p>Sorry I had to put you through all that trouble about getting the money ready to send to me for my leave. I was ready a couple times to come home. That's all for now. Say Hello to Fil.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph</p>
44 07 04	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">San Diego, Calif 4<sup>th</sup> of July Bang! Bang!</p> <p>Dear Jo,</p> <p>Well here is another fourth of July. It's 10 minutes past 10AM here so it must be 10 minutes past two pm there and all the ball games going on. I hope you all have a good time.</p> <p>I'm still here in Diego waiting. I'm sorry but I can't think of anything to write. So I think I'll close now and get a little sleep before chow. Give my love to mom. Hope everything is OK.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph</p>
44 07 23	Ralph	Frank	<p>Tuesday nite July 23, 1944</p> <p>Dear Frank,</p> <p>I received three letters from you today. Boy was I glad to get them. Also the one's from Al which you included.</p> <p>Had forgotten about Frank's being where you said he is. I was there Sunday to see a ball game. No kidding you can see more star ball players here now than you can in the States. Bud Donahue and Ed Unser left here a few weeks ago. I guess you already heard that Kenny Unser is here and we get together in the evenings and talk about good old Allendale.</p> <p>Frank, I'd like to know if you can start a bank account for me. I could keep the money here with me but I'd rather have it somewhere where I will be getting some interest on it. I might send some money in a day or two and if you can start it please do so.</p> <p>I guess I ought to tell you now that the Censors are a lot stricter on us because this is a squadron. It's not like being land based. Even a squadron in the States is not supposed to reveal its location or any other bit of military information. As I said before some of the group that are stationed here on the base are allowed to say things that we aren't. So I really can't say as much as I would like to.</p> <p>I'm glad to hear that mom is taking everything OK. You don't have to worry about me going to mass and receiving. I went to both Sunday and offered both for Al and mom.</p>

			<p>I don't expect to be here too long. But you know how things change. There's not much more to write. Give my love to Fil, MaryFil and all.</p> <p>Love, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>
44 07 25	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Tuesday nite, July 25</p> <p>Dear Jo,</p> <p>The mail is finally beginning to arrive. I received four letters from you, three from Frank, and Lindy's Sports page. It sure was good to read all those letters. By the way how long does it take to receive a letter from me? For your information, I haven't received the newspaper yet. You better tell them my address has changed. Maybe you better not, because it will be changed again in about a month.</p> <p>Frank included a coupla letters he got from Al. Glad to see he's OK. I had forgotten all about Frankie being in Honolulu. I already told you that Brad Donohue and Ed Unser have left here.</p> <p>Before I forget, here is Mary Lou's add. "2208N. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Evansville, 10, IND."</p> <p>I think that's a good idea about learning to drive. I wouldn't give up until I got my license if I were you.</p> <p>I might be sending home some money in the next few days. I'd like to start a bank account. Can you do that for me? Maybe I'd better tell Frank to do it.</p> <p>Well tell mom I'm feeling fine and that I pray for the whole family every nite. Give her all my love. Glad to hear that she's taking everything like a wonderful mom. Have to write to Frank and Swannie now.</p> <p>Love to all Bro Ralph R.J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>
44 07 27	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Thursday, July 27</p> <p>Dear Jo,</p> <p>I wrote a letter to Al last nite. That's why I skipped you.</p> <p>I'm going to see what should be a very god game Sunday afternoon. The Navy is playing the Army and they're both tied for the league lead. There ought to be at least 35,000 people jammed into the stadium.</p> <p>Enclosed I am sending the first of my money orders for \$85. I'm hoping that you will put this in the bank for me and continue to do so with the rest I send home. I'll probably need it later. Please let me know as soon as you receive it. Say hello to all. Give my love to mom.</p> <p>Love, Bro Ralph</p>

			R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN
44 07 31	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Monday nite, July 31</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>In case you have been wondering, I've been receiving all of your letters. I was certainly surprised Sat. Morning when I received a letter from you addressed to this squadron. I never expected on so soon. I thought it would take at least another week. Your letter took only three or four days to get here. I hope you are receiving mine as quick as that.</p> <p>I received a honey of a baseball hat from a player I know on the N.Y. Giants team. Glad to hear that mom and you are going out a little.</p> <p>I went to early mass and communion yesterday and then saw a ball game. Guess who I met at mass? Ray Casey from Waldwick.</p> <p>I wrote Al a letter yesterday. Got another letter from you today. I'm allowed to write all I want to now.</p> <p>Give my love to mom and all.</p> <p>Love, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>
44 08 01	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Tuesday nite Aug. 1, 1944</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>Received another letter from you this afternoon. Glad to see that mom and you are both going out. Keep it up for my morale.</p> <p>If Frank is still there, tell him the reason I haven't been writing him is because there isn't any news that I can write him. Give Fil, MaryFil and Frank my regards though. I almost got into some serious trouble for writing something I shouldn't have in a letter. But it's O.K. now.</p> <p>Have you received the \$45 I sent you? Let me know. I may also send home some clothes in a couple days. I'll send some winter underwear, my pea coat, blues, etc. You can wear the underwear. (Ha-Ha)</p> <p>Glad you're hearing from Al. Give my love to mom</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>
44 08 03	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Thursday Aug 3</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>Received another letter from you today. In answer to your question, I don't need</p>

			<p>anything so thanks. There's nothing you can send, except some newspapers. There's one other thing you can send me. How about a nice blonde?</p> <p>Well another week is practically gone which means we're that much closer to victory. The time moves by pretty fast here and before you know I might be home some day.</p> <p>Wish I could write more but there isn't very much more I can say. Give my love to mom.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>
44 08 09	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Wednesday nite Aug 9, 1944</p> <p>Dear Jo,</p> <p>It is getting dark out right now so I'm going to hurry this letter to you.</p> <p>Things happened fast since I last wrote you. For one thing I am aboard a ship now and that's where I'm writing you from. And I'm no longer with Torpedo Squadron 100 as of last nite. Instead I'm with Composite Squadron 76 now and there isn't very much difference.</p> <p>The only other guy that was transferred with me is my radio-gunner. So everything is still okay.</p> <p>I'll write to you again tomorrow so good nite for now. Give my love to mom. Tell Frank I said I'm sorry he has to change the address every week but I can't help it. I think this one here will stick with me for quite awhile. This squadron is about the same as the one I was in before – VC84.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>
44 08 11	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Friday morning Aug 11, 1944</p> <p>Dear Jo</p> <p>Haven't heard from you in a couple of days, but I expected that. I guess I won't receive any mail for about a week.</p> <p>I hope you haven't told the newspapers to change my address yet. Because if you have you'll have to tell them to change it again to Composite Squadron 76.</p> <p>I haven't yet met the other aircrewmen in this squadron but I hope to soon. But from what I hear, the pilots of this squadron and their aircrewmen are all pretty good fellas.</p> <p>I'll bet you couldn't ever guess what I'm doing while I'm writing to you. I'm smoking a cigar of all things! Oh, I don't smoke them often – only in between cigarettes sometimes. Right now it's getting in my way and I can't see where I'm writing.</p> <p>By the way, Mary Lou's address right now is "1362 Mississippi Blvd., Memphis,</p>

			<p>6, Tenn.</p> <p>Well how is everyone at home? Heard from Al lately? Sister Al. wrote to me. Just before I left the last squadron so I'll try to answer her letter. Hope mom is feeling fine. Tell her not to worry about me. We even have a chapel and chaplain aboard</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>
44 08 12	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Sunday evening Aug 12, 1944</p> <p>Dear Jo,</p> <p>Just a short letter to let you know that I am well as I hope everyone at home is also.</p> <p>Today is Sunday (but I lost track of the date) and I attended mass in our new little chapel aboard ship. I also went to communion. And That is one thing That I want mom and you to understand. Just in case something should ever happen, always remember that I'm keeping my peace with God and that [my] soul is clear. Church services are held every day aboard ship.</p> <p>I slept out on the fan tail (aft end of ship) last nite. It was nice and cool with the moon and stars overhead and nothing but ocean surrounding.</p> <p>I think [of] you all often. Remember that in case you don't hear from me for some time, not to worry. I'm going to write as often as I can. Give my love to mom and tell her I'm fine.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>
44 08 17	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Thursday Aug 17, 1944</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>I've been wanting to write you the last coupla days but I couldn't find a place to sit down and write. I hope you'll be able to read this.</p> <p>I've been going to mass and communion pretty near every day. The chapel is only a few steps away.</p> <p>You'll probably laugh when you hear the title of a book I've been reading: "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"! I just had a feeling that I should read it so I did. And it was swell too. Brought back old memories of childhood days.</p> <p>I told you that it would probably be a week before I hear from you again. Well I wish that were true. It'll be at least six or seven weeks – at least.</p> <p>Don't worry if you don't hear from me. It's just that I can't write. But I'm feeling just well as ever and I hope everyone at home is too. Give my special love to mom.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph</p>

			R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN
44 08 25	Ralph	Frank	<p style="text-align: right;">August 25, 1944</p> <p>Dear Frank,</p> <p>It's been quite a long time since I last wrote to you. I'm writing you this while I am on my back here in the sick bay on this ship. So I hope you will excuse the writing considering the circumstances.</p> <p>I guess that Jo hasn't heard from me in quite awhile. Well we're out at sea and I wrote her up until the last day. Since then we [portion excised – by censors?] ...because I'm laid up.</p> <p>You remember what happened to me while in Florida, don't you? Well, something similar to it happened to me about a week ago. Well I've been in here ever since. I'm feeling OK now though I should be getting out in a coupla days. My radioman is here beside me. I'll tell you about it someday. Right now I wish I could get off and get (no beautiful nurses to look after me like I had in Florida. I could use some of their touch) a glass of beer before the ship leaves here. Tell mom I'm feeling fine. We get good music over our radios.</p> <p>Here's a surprise for you. You know how very good I am at meeting people from back home. Well the first day I was down here in the Sick bay the Chaplain came down to see us. He said a mass for us that afternoon. When he came back the next day I asked him where he was from. He told me from Paterson, N.J. His name is Father David McCarthy and he knows mostly all the kids that I went to High School with, also all the nuns and priests that I know. When he enlisted, the villa in Saddle River gave him a farewell party. He has spoken to Sister Alaque and Sis. Pat many times. Went to Darlington Seminary with Father Manz. And I was attending his services every day and didn't know it. It would be nice if someone phoned the nuns and told them I met him.</p> <p>I haven't received any mail in quite a long time but I think we're supposed to pick it up here. That's all for now. Give my love to all and especially mom.</p> <p>Love, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>
44 08 26	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Aug 26, 1944</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>I received a letter from you today. There were only two – one from you and one from my girl. I expected more. But I'll probably get more on my next stop. As you have probably heard from Frank, we're in a port right now. I wish I could tell you which one but that's impossible. Doesn't make much difference anyway. You certainly don't know anyone here.</p> <p>All I know is that we're here in this port but I haven't seen any land since I left the last Squadron. I guess you must have heard I'm in the Sick Bay and that is where I'm writing you from. So you'll have to excuse the writing because I am writing in a difficult position. I wish you'd do me a favor and not tell mom I'm in here. I'm almost all better now. I might tell you what happened if you will ask me when I get</p>

			<p>home. Anyway all that matters now is that I'm in pretty good health and ought to be up and around soon.</p> <p>While I was down here, the Chaplain on this ship came down to see my radioman and I. He said a mass for us that afternoon. When he came to see us the next day I found out he was from Paterson, N.J. He knows all the kids that I went to High School with, also, the nuns, and priests. But Frank has probably told you this so there is no use repeating.</p> <p>It's very warm here but I'm very lucky because I have a fan going just above my bed. I had a little mustache and beard but they had to shave them off.</p> <p>It was swell to read your letter again. Keep writing. Tell mom I'm feeling fine as ever. Must stop now. Give my special love to Mom.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>
44 08 28	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Monday, Aug 28, 1944</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>Still here in the same port and still her in the sick bay. But as I told you before I don't mind it at all as long as I have something to read and a fan over my bed. I'm feeling a lot better and my leg is the only thing that pains me.</p> <p>I still haven't gotten a look at the Island we're at. That isn't all. I haven't seen any daylight or sunshine in over a week.</p> <p>In the news this morning I heard that we had freed Paris again. Well that was good news because Al is there. Maybe he'll get a little rest.</p> <p>Tell mom that I am feeling fine and that I remember her and all the family in my prayers. Give my love to all.</p> <p>Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>
44 09 02	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Saturday, Sept 2, 1944</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>It was a happy day for me today. I received five (5) letters today! Two from you, two from "Swannie" and one from Sister Al.</p> <p>Father McCarthy came in while I was reading them. I let him read Sister Al's letter because he knows her. He was kidding me about getting so much mail. Remember Jo, that even if you don't receive mail from me in weeks it means that we're out where we can't mail any letters. But you'll get them all at once. I want you to tell mom that right now. I know how mom worries and I don't want her to. I was up and around this afternoon and went to mass and communion.</p> <p>Jo, I didn't know anything about renting the house until I just read the letters. Bit tell mom not to worry about us wanting to come back to the same house. I guess maybe when we first come back we will want to see the old place but after awhile we'll</p>



			<p>be wishing we lived some other place like we always did when we were home. But I hope you find a nice place to stay especially where there isn't much work for mom.</p> <p>Well, Jo, don't worry about me. I'm getting along fine. I'm getting out this Monday or Tuesday.</p> <p>Give my special love to mom and tell her that [I] think of her every night and day. And always in my prayers.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>
44 09 22	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Sept. 22, 1944 Thursday, Sept 14</p> <p>Dear Jo,</p> <p>Just a short note to let you all know that I am well and hope that everyone at home is the same.</p> <p>I hope mom isn't worried because [of] your not hearing from me. But Jo even if I did writ you every day it wouldn't make any difference because our letters are held back for a little while.</p> <p>I go to mass and communion daily so you can see I'm a very good guy.</p> <p>I hope you have found another place to live. Tell mom that I don't mind coming home to a different place. Give her all my love and tell her I remember her in my prayers.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>
44 09 22	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Sept 22, 1944</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>How is everything? I hope everything is fine at home. I'll bet it's beautiful back in Jersey now. Autumn has always been my favorite season. Maybe it's because its football season but I've always loved it. Out here a guy can't tell the difference between August and January.</p> <p>Well it's been over nine months since I was home, but the time has certainly gone by fast. I guess it's because I've been moving so fast.</p> <p>I was just thinking of something today. Lindy is getting close to seventeen. I hope he doesn't get any idea about quitting High School and enlisting. Tell mom I said not to let him quit High School.</p> <p>Tell mom I'm feeling fine and think of her and all of you a lot. Nearly every day Father McCarthy and I talk a little while about back home in Jersey. I think he knows Lindy or Ange. Give my regards to Frank, Fil, Tony, Larry, Jo, Little Ralphie, Lindy, etc. Love to mom.</p> <p>Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro aom 3/c USN</p>

44 09 31	Ralph	Frank	<p style="text-align: right;">September 31, 1944</p> <p>Dear Frank,</p> <p>I hope this letter finds you and all the folks at home in the best of health these days. I've been meaning to write you the past few days but found it next to impossible. No doubt you're wondering why I'm writing. Ralph wrote ma and asked if I'd get a letter off to you at home. However, his letter was delayed somewhere en-route and I didn't receive it till a week ago. I don't know if Ralph has written home since he wrote me. In the event he has, there's really no need in answering this, as I know you must be very busy.</p> <p>If I'm the first to tell you of this, I hope you all won't take it as too much of a shock. Ralph was injured after he left here. How bad I don't know for sure but do know at the time he managed to get the letter off to me, he was feeling much better. I do have a pretty good idea of what happened even though Ralph didn't, or I should say, couldn't say. He did say that I should know and I think I do.</p> <p>I answered his letter immediately but as yet have received no answer. This mail system really takes a long time in getting around.</p> <p>I wouldn't worry about this too much as I know you're all inclined to do because from Ralph's letter he sounded just like the fellow I spent many evenings with here in the barracks just discussing things in general.</p> <p>If I am the first to inform you of this, I'm sorry it had to be news of this type. If you haven't heard from Ralph and, he might be able to get a letter through to me, I'll be more than glad to keep you posted on happenings.</p> <p>As I mentioned before, if you have heard from Ralph, just disregard this letter. I will write more just as soon as I hear of it.</p> <p>I guess that's just about all for now as I am very much pressed for time. Please give my regards to the rest of the family.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sincerely yours, Ken</p> <p>Kenneth L. Unser AMM 3/c</p>
44 10 04	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Oct. 4, 1944</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>We finally reached a place where we could receive our mail. I've never seen the guys on this ship so happy before. And me – I think I'm happier than any one of them. I've so much mail that it's taking me all day to read it. I've received letters from Frank, Lindy, Al, Larry, my girl, Bob Curley and 12 from you. And the best part about it is that there is still plenty more to be assorted. Boy this is better than Christmas. I never thought that letters could mean so much to me. I'm going to try and answer as many as I can from here so they'll go right out.</p> <p>Well I don't know where to start. I'm glad that mom has found a place close to town. It's better all away around. Charley is pretty lucky on getting leaves. Give him my regards.</p> <p>If I don't get a chance to write to Frank, tell him that I received his letter of Sept</p>

			<p>3<sup>rd</sup>. It's the biggest letter I've received from him. Also, if I don't get a chance to write to Jo Muti's husband, tell him that I've met and spoken to Larry several times. I'll write them both as soon as I get a chance.</p> <p>That \$45 that I mailed you was all that I sent you.</p> <p>Next time I write you I'll let you know what parish Father McCarthy was from. I see him about three or four times a day. He's always kidding me about something or other, and I do the same. He told me that he wrote a report of me to Father Path yesterday.</p> <p>The world series begins today and honest Jo I'd give the next five years pay to be there to see it.</p> <p>Tell mom that I said if anyone can use the close that I sent home to go ahead and use them because I probably won't.</p> <p>How is Charlie and also the baby? I hope they're both okay.</p> <p>I've been trying to grow a mustache to hide that little scar over my lip. It was Father McCarthy's idea and now he says he doesn't like it. What a guy!</p> <p>I hope I get a chance to go ashore this time. You know I haven't set foot on the good earth for over two months.</p> <p>Well bye for a little while. I'll try writing a short letter to Frank. Tell mom that I am feeling fine. All my love to her.</p> <p>Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR</p>
44 10 04	Ralph	Frank	<p style="text-align: right;">Oct 4, 1944</p> <p>Hi Frank,</p> <p>Received your letter of Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>. It sure is a long letter. So thanks a lot. I never saw the guys on this ship as happy as this before. It's wonderful what mail can do.</p> <p>Jo tells me that you have been pretty busy. I guess you're doing more than you share on the home front. Jo Mutie's husband might like to know that I've seen and spoken to Larry several times.</p> <p>Well our job at where we were is completed but now I don't know what is next. In your letter of Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, you were right about being pretty near to town. It's really convenient for them.</p> <p>I see and speak with Father McCarthy about three or four times a day. He's always kidding me about something or other – maybe because I'm always doing the same to him. [We're] really pretty good pays. I'm sure Lindy should know him. If we get to the states together, we're going to fly home together.</p> <p>Something that has been on my mind is what I'm going to do after the war. Well the other nite it came to me all of a sudden about the only thing I think that I am capable of doing is being a physical educational instructor. The salary is pretty good and I'm more than positive I would enjoy the work.</p> <p>Well I hope you had a good time at Point Pleasant. There is still plenty mail to be assorted and I'm sure there should be another letter from you. So I'll sign off now. I'm feeling fine. Give my love to Fil, MaryFil and all.</p> <p>Love, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR</p>

44 10 13	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Sunday Oct 8</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>Received quite a few more letters from you since I last wrote. About twenty or twenty-five from you all together. The last one I received from you was dated Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> which wasn't bad at all.</p> <p>I hope you like the new home by now. AT least you don't have to walk very far to get to town.</p> <p>Last nite I listened to the third world series game in which the Browns beat the Cards 6-2. Boy it was swell to hear a ball game. I'm pulling for the Browns.</p> <p>Altogether I must have received over 50 letters. A couple from Larry, Ange, Vic, Frank; three from Sister Al and about 15 from my girl. I hope we'll still be around to get more. I hope every one is fine. Give my love to mom.</p> <p>Love to all, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR</p>
44 10 13	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Friday, Oct 13, 1944</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>Received another letter from you last nite. It was dated Oct 4<sup>th</sup>. So you can see it didn't take very long to reach me. Oh yes, it was the same letter in which you included a letter of my mine – or I should have said a half a letter. [Ed. See * below] Boy they really did a job on it. Thanks for sending it. I'll have to be more careful from now on.</p> <p>This will be the last letter you will receive from me for quite awhile. So tell mom to please not to worry. By the way how is mom? I hope she is happy. Tell her to take care of herself for me.</p> <p>In regards to Frank's letter of Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, tell Frank I had it for a little while but threw it away. But since we've been here I've received another from him dated Sept 7<sup>th</sup>. I'm sure this is the one that has everything in it.</p> <p>Well it's now 4:15 and time for mass. So I'll be thinking of you and all. By for a little while. Lots of love to mom.</p> <p>Love to all Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR</p> <p>* I hope that by this time you are pretty well settled in your new home. How do you like it? I hope mom finds it more convenient than the other house.</p> <p>I haven't sent you anymore money since the first \$45 I sent you. But I may send you \$100 next payday. I'm not sure.</p> <p>Well Jo that's all for today. Try and send me some newspapers if you can. Lots of love to mom.</p>

			<p>Love to all, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR</p>
44 10 31	Ralph	Jo	<p>Oct. 31, 1944</p> <p>Hi Jo,</p> <p>How is everything at home? I hope you are all well as I am I started this letter about a week ago but never had a chance to finish it in between. But I'm pretty sure that we'll be receiving mail soon so I thought I'd better write so that you will get this.</p> <p>Everything is going along okay right now. I have a lot of things to tell you when I get home. But I guess all that mom is interested in now is my health. Well you can tell her not to worry because I'm fine as ever.</p> <p>I sure will be glad to get back home as I'm sure everyone else will also. You never realize how much it means until you're away from it for so long – especially out here.</p> <p>How is Frank's wife? Ya know I'm ashamed to admit it but I've forgotten her name. What is her first name anyway? Give them both my regards but don't let Frank know I've forgotten her name already. Lots of love to mom.</p> <p>Love,</p> <p>Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR</p>
44 11 04	Ralph	Frank	<p style="text-align: right;">Nov 4, 1944</p> <p>Dear Frank,</p> <p>We're back in port again and I'm glad I can say that. We haven't received any mail yet but last time I was here I received two letters from you dated Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>I'll make this letter short then I'll answer your letter when I receive it. I sure would like to be back there to read some of the New York papers. Say Frank how about doing me a favor and see if you can set some of the N.Y. papers from the week beginning Oct. 24 and ending Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> and saving it for me? I'd like to see it.</p> <p>I may be lucky enough to go ashore here for a few weeks. I haven't had my foot off of this ship since the first day I came aboard.</p> <p>I hope everything is OK back there. How's Al making out? Give my regards to your wife. I wrote to Jo and told her to give my regards to both of you. I also told her that I had forgotten your wife's name. I think you forgot to mention it in your letter. What is it anyway? Boy it was a helluva line!</p> <p>Well Frank I'll write soon again. I am fine as ever.</p> <p>Love, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c</p>
44	Ralph	Fran	Nov 5, 1944

11 05		k	<p>Dear Frank,</p> <p>Last night the censor gave us permission to mention certain things in our letter. I guess they knew that we would like to write about it awful bad. Of course there is plenty that we are not able to say but anyway I'm glad we can say where we were, which of course you probably already know.</p> <p>We were one of the first ships to invade Leyte Island in the Philippines. Frank it was the biggest show on earth. Things were rather quiet and peaceful the first three or four days there but after that everything began to happen. You already know that it was the first time in two and a half years that the Jap fleet came out. Well we took care of them. Our planes were about the first ones to hit them. Boy they really did a wonderful job. I can't tell you some of the things that I would like to tell you. I don't know if I've said too much now. I hope not. The natives on the Island hate the Japs very much. When our soldiers and marines landed on the island they were very glad to see them. They helped in every way possible. They can speak well enough English to understand them.</p> <p>When I was back in the States Frank, I read a lot about erasing the Jap race off the earth. I thought it foolish then. But I've changed my mind since. They just aren't human. Any people that would use the tactics they did against us must be insane or injected with some kind of a dope. That's why we have to knock off every one.</p> <p>Yesterday I received five letters. I ought to be getting yours soon. Oh I almost forgot. I received your package last nite. Thanks a lot. I'm glad you sent me the canned food. Just what I wanted. I read that part in the paper about Palau. Say hello to Fil, Mary Fil, and all</p> <p>Love, Bro Ralph R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR</p>
44 11 06	Ralph	Jo	<p style="text-align: right;">Nov. 6, 1944</p> <p>Dear Jo,</p> <p>Received two letters from you yesterday which made me very happy of course. Also received a nice long one from Curley. Glad to hear that everything is the same around home. Hope it remains that way.</p> <p>The censor gave us permission to [?] about the battle we were in. Just a few things though. I already wrote to Frank and told him about it so you can ask him if you want to. We were one of the first ones in on the invasion of the Philippines. The Jap fleet finally came out after so long. It was one of the greatest battles in Naval history. But as usual we came out on top. We were in around Leyte Island.</p> <p>The natives on the Island hate the Japs. They were glad to see our Yanks. They speak a little English. After seeing some of the tactics the Japs use I'm convinced that they are not human. Right now we're sort of [taking] it easy.</p> <p>Jo, I was going to send you the hundred dollars but I changed my mind. I thought that I'd better keep it because as soon as we hit the States again I'm going to need all the money I can get in case we get a leave.</p> <p>By the way I received a package from Frank. The canned food tasted good. Father McCarthy is still with me. I guess we should be together till we reach the</p>

			<p>States again.</p>
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Tell mom not to worry one bit about me as I am very well. Tell her that I want her to be happy. I go to mass and communion a lot for her and Al too.

Well I hope I hear from you again before we leave. :Lots of love to mom

Love to all

Bro Ralph

R. J. Scafuro AOM 3/c USNR