ARMED GUARD UNIT

S. S. SAM JACKSON

Armed Guard center (Pacific)

Traesure Island

San Francisco, Calif.

25 June, 1945

Dear "Phog",

I have just finished reading another one of your Jayhawk Rebounds. I cant express how much enjoyment I receive from them. I look forward to receiving each new issue. I wish to express my grayitude and appreciation to you for placing my name on the mailing list.

It has been better than fifteen years since I graduated from good old Lawrence High and enrolled "on the Hill! However, it seems only a few years since I was playing football on that school's teams, first under Severt Higgins and then under Melvin Griffin, Two of the finest men and coaches I ever knew. I was indeed fortunate to have had them for coaches. They stood as powerful examples of the success of the athletic department of Kansas University.

As you know, due to some unfortunate circumstances, I did not finish my athletic career at the University, but completed it at Pittsburg Teachers. Yet Lawrence has allways seemed my home town and K.U. my Alma Mater. By that I mean no disloyalty to Pitt. as she is my second love, so to speak.

I was interested to hear about my former coach, Mel Griffin.

I had talked to Mrs. Griffin over the phone last Fall while in Long Beach so knew he was an officer in the Marine Corps. There is no question but that he is doing a lot to make that the splendid fighting outfit that it is.

I am well pleased with my billet in the Navy. It is very similar to a coaching job. I have a crew of 27 enlisted men which I must train, inspire, and weld into a machine-like fighting team for the defense of this vessel in order to keep the supplies moving up. I find that the psychology and the fundamental principles are very much the same as coaching, with a few reservations.

I am getting to see a great deal of the Pacific. Have visited a great many ports both in New Guinea and the Philippines. As a commanding officer I have the good fortune to be allowed ashore in many places where it would be impossible otherwise. I have not run across many of the fellows I knew at K.U. but hope to do so. I went through Indoctrination at the University of Arizona with Carney Smith and Bus Burchamm. Ralph Graham of K. State was one of my buddies there also. I was surprised and pleased the other day to bump into him on the street in a port in the Philippines. Ralph is doing an All American job as recreational officer at the Navy Base there. I need not tell you, I guess, that he is a splendid athlete, a fine sportsman, and an allround swell guy. We had a good visit and I hope to see him again while out this way.