

Doc, it has taken quite some time for the Navy to train me but I have enjoyed a nice long stretch of shore duty in the states. Marge and I have been most fortunate to have been together for such a long time. We only hope the training hasn't been for nil.

On the 16 Oct. 1944, I leave for Norfolk, Va., for five weeks training with the nucleus crew. Upon the completion of said task I report to Fore Rivers, Mass., to pick up the rest of the men at the commissioning detail and for permanent duty aboard the U.S.S. ALEX DIACHENKO, APD 123. Hence, I should be at sea before the first of the year.

I can't elaborate to great detail concerning APD duty, but I know the units have a remarkable reputation. I can assure you we will see plenty of action. It should be most interesting and exciting.