

On June 19th I received a letter from Ens. H. D. "Sparky" McSpadden, USS Roche, c/o Fleet Postoffice, New York, whose brother, Ens. Larry McSpadden, has been on duty somewhere in the Pacific. Sparky writes: "Received the Rebounds the other day and as always that adds something to the day. Since I last wrote you, I've really been doing a little traveling. I received my orders on the 3rd of June to report to N. Y. on the 6th -- needless to say I was pretty disappointed that I didn't get some leave because I was really counting on seeing dear old K.U. in the spring before leaving, but somehow the Navy didn't want it that way, so I guess that will have to wait. . . . When I got to N.Y. I found that my ship was over in Brooklyn, so I breezed right over - they informed me that we were leaving the States the next day and don't be fooled by the return address. . . . One thing I'm looking forward to is the possibility of seeing Larry before long. I really surprised myself as I didn't get a bit sick and this cooky (known as the Cock-Roche) rides pretty rough. There's one thing you absolutely have to do and that is 'Keep your knees bent' - if you don't, it's too bad. I'm getting to be quite the salt now - think I could walk the weather deck in a 90 mile gale and a 60° list (slight exaggeration maybe).

"I imagine that things are moving pretty fast now at the University with graduation coming up. This would be my turn to walk the Hill if things were normal, so my heart will be there in a few days. In certain ways, though, I'm glad that I have to come back, because I'm really looking forward to it. Just in the short time I've been away I've had ample opportunity to do quite a bit of thinking and I believe I'll get a lot more out of my studies when I come back. . . . I have a little work to do so I had better close. Give my best to Mrs. Hulteen, Elmer, George and the gang around the office. I'm going to try to look up T. P. when I get out there -- I'll tell him hello, because I know he will want to hear from you."

Sparky, Alan Fisher sent me a photograph of the cemetery at Guam which was reproduced in one of the newspapers. He thought it was a Wisconsin paper but we looked it up and found it was the Des Moines Tribune. I wrote Sec Taylor to see if he couldn't find it in their feature section, but I have not heard from him. Doubtless they could not locate it in their many files. I wanted to send it to Mrs. Hunter. She and all of us will be thankful for your thoughtfulness. Good luck to you, you fighting Irishman.

Cpl. Hoyt Baker (APO 920, San Francisco) wrote us on June 20 from Biak Island, and he says he sometimes wonders how their mail ever reaches them out there on a small island. Hoyt continues, "The days are very hot out this way and a fellow sure does plenty of sweating. Between the mosquitoes and jungle rot a fellow is kept quite busy. Here on the island we are quite lucky in having such good recreation facilities. There are quite a few basketball courts spread around over the island and it is about our main sport. We even have flood lights so we can play at night. The days are so hot you can hardly stand to exercise much. . . . Our whole family has pulled through this mess all right so far. Ross, my next to the youngest brother, had a pretty tough time with the infantry in Germany, along with many others. I'm just hoping all four of us can make it back home some day, but there is still a job to do. . . . It was too bad about Harlan Altman, wasn't it? Those Germans and Japs will never get all that is coming to them. There will be quite a few boys from K.U. that won't be coming back to the hill again and it looks as though one of our toughest battles is still ahead. . . ."

Hoyt, I saw Roger Allen Sr., the proprietor of Fritz Company, at his station and he mentioned to me on Saturday, June 2, that Harlan Altman was coming back and would be in Leavenworth the next day and his father was going to get him. Harlan had a 60 day furlough and is now at his home in Wellington, but we don't know where