

On board Collier Ajax, at sea,
Off the Cuban Coast,
Sept. 7th 1905

My dear girls,

Your letter reached me several days ago and should have been answered sooner. I have no apology to make except that I am an old procrastinator when it comes to corresponding and don't desire to have such nice letters written me at all. Well, here I am on this fine ship on my way home at last and what a joyous thought it is too. I know you will all be glad too for many reasons. Your "sissy" won't have to come away off to this outlandish place for one thing and my home in Beacon Park will not be broken up either. This is certainly a fine big ship, 5500 tons of coal is her cargo when loaded, of course we have no cargo now, the ship being on her way to Norfolk for a load. I have a lovely room all to myself, beautifully furnished, and sitting at my own desk writing this, also a Chinese boy to wait on me, fine eh? All the officers from the Capt. down are lovely to me and try to do all they can to make me feel comfortable and at home so there seems to be no reason why I should not have a very pleasant voyage. We left Guantanamo Bay at 7.00 a.m. and are now on our way to Santiago with the tug Peacock in tow, the Peacock is going

to Santiago for repairs to her boilers and
is in such a bad shape she has to have as-
sistance. We are not going into the harbor of
Santiago however but will turn her loose
just outside and then proceed on our way
rejoicing. We expect to arrive at Norfolk
next Tuesday the 12th inst and I will start
for home with as little delay as possible so
should arrive in Beaufort about the 15th or 16th
of the month. I wrote Lill a letter this morning
too and have directed it to Beaufort as I do
not know whether she has gone to your home or
not, if she is with you, ask her to meet me at
home about the 17th or 18th can't tell exactly
what day I will arrive. I am going to send
this letter ashore by the tug when we let her go
and it will be mailed in Santiago. Hope you
will get it without delay. He will be off San-
tiago in an hour or so now and I will see
the place where the famous sea fight with
the Spaniards took place in 1898 and where
Hobson sank the "Mormac," fine eh? Don't
you wish you were with me this morning girls?
Well I must run off for this time and go on
deck and admire the scenery along the coast, we
are not over 1/4 mile from the shore. Give love to
Mother and Aquin for me and tell them I hope to
see them soon. With lots of love,

I remain, your fond brother
James.