

HMAS Sydney
Mess 41
6/- S.P.O
13-10-'41

Dear Joyce,
I received your letter about a fortnight ago or maybe a little more. At present I have managed to make a start at catching up with the letters I have to answer but the trouble is that news is scarce on here owing to the fact that we cannot say when we have been. In this racket if we mention any place the ship has been at & it is censored one will find himself in the cooler for a week or more. Two letters I received from home were censored but yours was not.

It is about 4 weeks since I joined the ship & I have not become used to the ~~same~~ run of things yet. At present it seems as if it will be a long while. At sea I have been watch keeping. Stokers have 4 hours on and eight off which seems to be good enough but out of the time off "action stations" are on, divisions and evening quarters. Then they might decide to have a practice fire party or give us a bit

to make things more pleasant. I never did want to get on a cruiser but here I am so it will have to do.

Percy Johnstone came on here 3 days later than me. He is another stoker. The other day I got a letter from Pat Saunders. He seems to be rather pleased with himself because he is going back to his old battalion and probably will get into the same company again.

The weather here has been real good. Yesterday Percy Johnstone & I had our first swim for the season & it was not too bad at all. I have not worn my overcoat at night in port yet as there has been no need for it.

I received the piece of wedding cake alright when I was in depot & want to thank you for sending it. Well I will close now hoping you are all well as I am.

yours sincerely,
Bob.