

MINNEAPOLIS
RADISSON HOTEL
NEW YORK
17 E. 42ND ST.
SAN FRANCISCO
111 SUTTER ST.
ST. LOUIS
SHELL BLDG.



ST. PAUL, MINN.

ST. PAUL
ST. PAUL HOTEL
CHICAGO
WRIGLEY BLDG.
DETROIT
GENERAL MOTORS BLDG.
LOS ANGELES
601 WEST FIFTH STREET

STANLEY E. HUBBARD
PRESIDENT-GENERAL MANAGER

April 20, 1944.

Lt. Com. Harold E. Stassen,
U.S.N.R.,
Staff Commander South Pacific,
Fleet P. O.,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Harold:

In checking our mail today, I find that we are getting more response than ever from the South Pacific area.

As you know, we broadcast what we call THE OVERSEAS SPECIAL starting at 11:30 each night and running until 2:00 A. M. This broadcast is especially for the benefit of soldiers, sailors, and marines in the Pacific. We also carry news on this program -- general news at midnight and 1:00 A. M., and a complete summary of all local news at 1:45 A. M. Do you hear these broadcasts? If not, it might be worth while for you to get hold of a good broadcast receiver and to tune in to 1500 key. After you have done this, if you will let me know I shall see that each night we put on any particular news which might be of interest to you.

I hope we will be seeing you again soon.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley E. Hubbard
Stanley E. Hubbard

SEH:R

No.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To LT. Comdr H. E. STASSEN - USNR

c/o Commander South Pacific Force

c/o Fleet Post Office

San Francisco

Calif.

From

Sp/pt. W. C. P. Office - 3771 4976
(Sender's name)237-Bombard-259 Bomb Sq
(Sender's address)

A.P.O. 520

c/o Postmaster H. G. Y.

(Date) May 4

Dear Harold: just a line of greeting from the other side of the world. I have been keeping in as close contact with your progress as is possible under the circumstances and really believe that things are moving along very good in your behalf. Only wish that there was something I could do to help.

My life here is not very exciting but I have the satisfaction of doing a lot of hard work and knowing that we are making a lot of progress. The weather has been bad all winter but we are in for summer at last. I hope we are waiting for the big shove and only hope that it goes well. The political situation in Europe looks bad and I'm afraid that the boys in Washington are playing the same game they did in 1940 only this time in foreign relations. If they are we are going to end up back of the eighth ball as we did in 41.

I wanted to wish you the best for June 26th. and if I can be of any help let me know as I can get out of the Army anytime.

Best of Luck
Walt

AIR MAIL



Dear Stassen:

All honest Minnesotans are proud of the record you have made in government and all of us Navy men are happy that you chose to join us at least for the duration. (I forget that time flies and that I need identifying. I am the Vernon Williams who was Assistant Dean of Student Affairs under Dean Nick. My home was originally in Mora where you made a big hit with the home folks by asking about me when you shook hands with them a couple of years ago.)

Since I was a Naval Aviator in World War I some of the powers that be indicated they would like to have me return for a few chores in this mess. I have now been a Lieutenant Commander for two years spending most of the time at the Station at Norman Oklahoma under Captain Updegraff—one of the Navy's brilliant and colorful characters. I have had the CASU since October and have never been happier in getting things done. Before leaving the mainland I had looked forward to the possibility of seeing you, your wonderful boss who seems to be every aviators ideal and possibly Hanford McNider whose wife was my wife's college room mate. But it seems that fate and the bureau decided that I should not get as far south as the press indicates your location. In this war I have seen the colossal grandeur of great naval bombardments and a campaign boldly conceived, magnificently planned and superbly executed. It supports one's pride in the Navy. But I have also seen the inevitable aftermath—destruction, fire, ruins, ashes and finally torn and mangled bodies. That is why I can say amen so fervidly to Joe Ball when in a nationalistic country he dares to fight for longer lasting peace.

It is good to have you in the Navy. If you ever get to that part of the ocean inhabited by this unit please let me know about it as I should like to see you. Nothing would suit me better than to have my unit assigned to your boss some time unless it would be a chance to be on an action front where he was running the show. We have a number of Minnesotans on our station and they join me in greetings and hope that you will be back after the duration for bigger jobs to fit that frame and mind and character of yours—

Sincerely,

Vernon M. Williams
Vernon M. Williams

Refer To
File No.:

COMMANDER SERVICE FORCE

SEVENTH FLEET

Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif.

7 May 1944

Lieutenant Commander Harold Stassen, USNR,
Staff, THIRD Fleet,
c/o Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, California.

My dear Harold:

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to McKnight and the clipping of the LIFE story on his ship, in case you have not seen it.

If there is such a thing as a secret weapon, it is the character, integrity, and native intelligence of American boys like Henry. There are three young officers of his type here with me, an architect, an advertising man, and a department store executive. I know I can trust and depend upon them. The man writing this letter was an accountant in a bank in your home State. There are thousands and thousands more, some wearing jumpers and some with gold lace on their sleeves.

Those of us who have made it our profession to go to sea in fighting ships could never get this job done without these civilians in uniform. We acknowledge our responsibility to them and the cooperation we get. We are proud to serve with them.

It looks as if the big push in this end of the world is gathering momentum. I hope nothing will interfere with it. Lost days cannot be replaced. There is only one way to lick the Japs. Indecision has no place in the plan, and must be ruthlessly eliminated.

Best wishes and all good luck to you. I hope to see you again soon.

Sincerely,

T. DeWitt Carr
T. DeWITT CARR,
Captain, U. S. Navy.

Enc. (2)



FROM

H.(J.G.) M.O. SCHWARTZ USNR
USS MOBIACK, FLEET P.O.
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

VIA AIR MAIL

Lt. Comdr. H. E. Stassen
Flag Secretary, COMSOPAC Staff

By Courtesy Lt. Dokie

UNITED STATES NAVY

10 May 1944

Dear Mr. Stassen -

The opportunity to send you greetings through Mr. Dokie as officer courier was too good to miss. He came aboard today to deliver ECM's, and in a chat this evening answered my inquiries concerning the many members of the staff about whom I have frequently wondered. He tells me he met you at dinner one evening at the Admiral's house. The Admiral is his cousin by marriage, Mrs. Halsey being his cousin.

There are no signs so far that we are as near the much vaunted yellow Gibraltar as we are. For a time we were the center of activity, and the days were rather hectic.

We were not sure from hour to hour what service to perform would be next expected. Each day we were servicing boats, gassing PB4's, and serving as Communication Center. Now that there are establishments ashore, we are reduced to irregular maintenance work on the boats.

The news from the POA in general is extremely heartening. There is no question of the magnificent work the fleet and air arms are doing.

I've noted the shift in Deputy Commanders, and am rather inquisitive to know where Admiral Shappoth went and whether his immediate staff members accompanied him.

There has been considerable scuttlebutt about the impending changes in the SOPAC

force and area. I suppose some decisions as to them will be reached at P.H. during the Admiral's visit. There are many and extremely contradictory rumors and speculations. However, it seems reasonable to assume that SOPAC as an operating area will cease, though remaining as an administrative area. Naturally, we wonder whether we shall be transferred to SOWEPAC or CENTPAC, as we are on the dividing line in either direction.

If your office in the near future should have a vacancy, or you should be aware of a vacancy elsewhere (preferably the former), I would be happy to be considered as a candidate for it. My opinion is that I could be relieved at any time without disadvantage to the Naval Service or to me.

Cordially and respectfully,
M. C. Schwartz
Lt.(j.g.) USNR

SOUTH PACIFIC FORCE
OF THE UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER

16 May 44

Honorable Thomas E. Dewey,
Governor of New York,
Albany, New York

Personal and Confidential

Dear Tom:-

I have made a decision as to the question raised by the press regarding the Vice-Presidential nomination and feel that under all the circumstances you are entitled to be informed. Hence I am writing directly and personally to you.

I have concluded that to accept this nomination would be to abandon in an unjustified manner my chosen service during the war. Since this is my personal view, I firmly believe that the public and the armed forces would feel the same way, and consequently I would not be an asset to a ticket but would rather be a liability.

Therefore I do not wish and would not accept a Vice-Presidential nomination.

I know you recognize that my stand is not a "top spot or none" attitude, as I am perfectly willing to be in a subordinate position when it is indicated. I have, of course, demonstrated this over and over again in the past year.

As the press reports indicate, the news from out here in the Pacific is excellent in recent months, and only the great distances prevent us from closing in on Japan with great rapidity.

This letter is obviously personal and confidential and I will make no announcement of having written it. No reply is required. I will advise my friends independently of my decision.

Am well and busy. Will look forward to seeing you again personally at some future date. My best regards to you.

Sincerely,

PIEDMONT HIGH SCHOOL

800 MAGNOLIA AVENUE

PIEDMONT, CALIFORNIA

May 25, 1944

Lieutenant-Commander Stassen
Flag-Secretary Admiral Halsey
c/o Fleet Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Commander Stassen:

During the present high-tension times, a great deal of emphasis has been laid on the importance of my generation's ability and desire to build a new and better world. Although through repetition, it has become rather a trite expression, we honestly feel that a great deal of the future rests on us, tomorrow's citizens.

Accordingly, in the latter part of April, Piedmont High School held its now traditional mock Republican and Democratic Nominating Conventions, to be followed by corresponding elections in the fall. The procedure was modeled closely after that of the national ones held in the summer, our school band, flags, state standards, and oratory creating suitable atmosphere.

The entire studentbody participated in this civics event under the direction of our social science teachers, Miss Anna Lee Guest and Mr. Franklin J. Banker. A local radio station broadcast it, and photographers from prominent Bay Area newspapers were present. We feel, therefore, that our project is past the experimental stage and that we are actually proving its value by eventually becoming more adequately prepared citizens.

I was given the singular honor of nominating you as a Republican presidential candidate. I deemed it a great opportunity not only because I was chosen to give a major speech, but because I was nominating a man who I honestly believe can shoulder the tremendous responsibilities of a wartime administration.

Enclosed is a copy of my speech. May I say now that each thought is one that I actually support and that none are composed merely to sway an audience. Although you did not win our nomination, I know that you gained many staunch followers and much recognition, and I wish you the best of luck in the ensuing campaign.

Sincerely yours,

Peggy Onstead

By Peggy Onstead

HAROLD EDWARD STASSEN

America needs today, not only an administrator, a man of high intellect, of far-sighted ideals, but moreover, and surely, America needs a leader, a pathfinder, a blazer of the trail to the high road that will avoid the bottomless pitfalls now engulfing the world.

Manhood in its highest is the call of the hour; above the clash of contending personal ambitions, and above the bustle of the political huckster comes the voice of an awakened people who are relying on this convention to find a man possessing the heroic leadership and vision to see beyond our present problems. That man is Harold Edward Stassen of Minnesota.

As governor of Minnesota, Stassen easily qualified as an essential civilian; but as a strapping, active man of 35, he felt otherwise. In April, 1942, the silo-sized governor shocked Minnesota politics by announcing his intention to enlist in the navy the following April, regardless of his re-election. Now, as flag-secretary to Admiral William Halsey, Stassen has relinquished all political aspirations. In selecting him, we the people of the U.S. are taking it upon ourselves to order his promotion from lieutenant-commander to commander-in-chief.

If proof of the value of a free society were needed, the story of the rising career of Stassen would be conclusive evidence. Born on a small Minnesota farm, Stassen comes from Norwegian and German stock. During his early youth, he worked hard on the farm and showed his high degree of intelligence by entering high school at the age of 11. Determined to acquire an extensive education, this aggressive young man entered the University of Minnesota and financed it the good old American way-by hard work as a store clerk and pullman conductor.

It was in 1929 that Stassen, fresh out of law school, started to practice in a small and obscure St. Paul office. Within a year, the voters began to realize and appreciate his possibilities, for they elected him to the office of county attorney. So great were the people's admiration and respect for his sterling qualities of integrity and service that they elected him to the governorship in 1938 with the greatest landslide in Minnesota's history. Thus began the already famous initial term of one of the youngest governors in the history of the U.S.

My candidate is wise beyond his years; he lives up to the heritage passed down by his forefathers and perpetuates it by having the foresight to prepare for the future. He has managed to put teeth into Minnesota's laws that really protect the poor man and obscure man, whether he be farmer, small business owner, or city apartment dweller.

With the exigencies of a wartime administration seemingly hampering many statesmen's ability to think, Stassen has discerned, beyond the broad scope of domestic affairs, the crying need of concrete, realistic, and detailed planning for our post war life. With his vigorous mind he has mapped out a plan so well organized that it may seem too exact for those stragglers in international trends. I should like to outline briefly his seven very simple but very far-reaching points: 1. temporary governments over each of the Axis nations. 2. an airways commission to control the international airports of the future. 3. an administrative body to control the gateways of the seven seas. 4. an educational commission whose prime job would be to increase the literacy and understanding of all peoples. 5. an international code of justice. 6. a world legion, or supreme world police force, which would make unnecessary the balance of power system.

7. a world parliament requiring of its members religious freedom, fair internal justice, elective governments.

Such has been the political experience of this man, training him for the work he is now ready to carry on for us all. His achievements show tremendous resources as an organizer and builder, which are the two main points of a successful executive. We need just such an organizer and builder today to bring the U.S. to a period of flourishing prestige.

At a time when the world is being changed constantly by earth-rocking events and ideas, the keen and astute statesman who believes in new trends will be the one to successfully lead our country at the world's round table. The energy, vitality, and penetrating interest of a younger man will be essential in the leader of a living and vibrant democracy such as ours. A 37 year old president, skilled in the mechanics of government, but more importantly, having initiative, sane common-sense, and fortitude could guide us to the actuality of that world for which we are now engaged in mortal struggle. The North, South, East, and West can unite on Stassen and depend upon him to be such a leader. The people of the U.S. want a man who they know has the cause of the common people at heart. My candidate voices the hope, the aspiration, the unconquerable determination of the common people of the world to restore to them Peace!

In selecting our candidate, we must remember that our deliberations here will be reviewed in the great and solemn referendum in November. With the people rests the final decision of acceptance or rejection. Those people will want to know whether or not the candidate represents our declarations of Republican faith. There is no man in the U.S. today who can better do that than Stassen!

Harold Edward Stassen, Page 4

Name him your candidate and November next, the American people will acclaim him theirs by the mightiest majority in history, and the 32nd president of the U.S. will be Harold Edward Stassen of Minnesota!

339th Fighter Squadron
APO 706-1
San Francisco
29th May 44

Dear Harold:

I have intended to write before this but have been a sort of state of flux, so to speak and have not had a chance. After being assigned to the 68th, I found that we had too many officers as I suspected, and so they sent me down to this organization as executive officer. I know that you know where it is so there is no point in trying to elaborate on that.

The officers seem to be a very nice gang and the outfit generally is in good condition. They need a lot of touching up administratively but otherwise they are a good outfit. The worst part about it here is the mess. I understand that your navy makes distribution on the vittles so we get what they don't want and it is as bad a mess as I have encountered--even rivaling the 6th Replacement down your way. Am going to try pounding a few tables after I get better acquainted around here and see if that will do any good. Even a dog should not have to eat this food.

This is a very nice place to live--very similar to where I was as far as moisture and heat are concerned, but of course coral instead of sand. Your boss was up our way the other night but I assume that you were not with him inasmuch as I did not hear from you. At least you know where I am at the present time so if you tour around you might stop in here.

Not much other news. I would be glad to hear of any developments that may occur which can be written--otherwise I shall wait to hear from you. They had a bitter contest in Colorado over Nat. Committeeman, but Col. Leonard won with a vote of almost two to one so that it really was not so bitter after all. No other news. See you later.

As ever,

London



AMERICAN RED CROSS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

May 30, 1944

Lt. Commander H. E. Stassen, USNR.
Staff, Commander South Pacific
C/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Dear Commander Stassen:

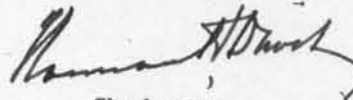
Your letter of May 4 bringing us the good news that the men in the command of Admiral Halsey have contributed \$57,000 to the Red Cross is most welcome, and this splendid response to our appeal, which Admiral Halsey so kindly called to the attention of the men in his command, is particularly pleasing because it indicates that the services which the American Red Cross is rendering has been appreciated. Some days ago I wrote Admiral Halsey expressing appreciation for his fine cooperation. At that time the report of subscriptions to our War Fund was less than \$10,000.

Your comments concerning the conscientious, cheerful and efficient efforts of Collette Ryan, Rene Guthman, and Isobel Lee, is greatly appreciated. We have recently had the opportunity to talk with Collette Ryan and Isobel Lee with reference to our services in the South Pacific and they were just as enthusiastic about their opportunity to render service to the men in Admiral Halsey's command as Admiral Halsey has been over their part in the total Red Cross job.

I assure you, the American Red Cross is anxious to render a maximum of service and I believe that recent changes which were made in our Organization will result in improved services. Mr. J. Harrison Heckman, our new Commissioner to the Pacific Ocean Areas, is one of our most able Red Cross executives and it will surprise us very much if, under his direction, some of the difficulties which have prevailed will not soon be corrected. I hope you will find it possible to talk with Mr. Heckman and that you will be perfectly frank with him in analyzing our program. Your interest, which has been reported to us by all of our people returning from the South Pacific, is greatly appreciated.

I hope you are deriving a large measure of satisfaction from the valuable services which you are rendering in the South Pacific and I will look forward to the pleasure of seeing you at any time you are in Washington.

Very sincerely yours,


Chairman



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

P. O. Box 18, HONOLULU 10

TERRITORY OF HAWAII

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 2, 1944

Lt. Commander Harold E. Stassen, U.S.N.R.
Staff, South Pacific Forces
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

Dear Commander Stassen:

I am sorry, indeed, that I was not in when you were kind enough to call on me several weeks ago, but I trust that I shall have better luck when you are in Honolulu again. Please be assured that your best time will be my best time, if only you will give me telephonic notice in advance.

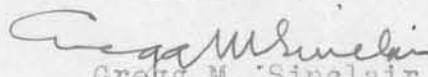
I wish that you might be here for our Commencement on June 9. Admiral Nimitz has promised to be present, but we should like to have you here also.

I expect to leave for the mainland about the middle of August and will undoubtedly go to Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota, where I shall be for a very short time on my way to Washington and New York.

I hope somebody is sending you the Minnesota Alumni Weekly and that you saw the April issue. Your picture was in it.

Aloha Nui Loa

Sincerely yours,


Gregg M. Sinclair
President

GMS:at

June 27, 1944.

Dear Sir:

I am a soldier stationed in the CPA, and have a problem that has been giving me a great deal of trouble.

Last November I met with an accident while making a beach landing, and was hospitalized for four months and open reductions were necessary. I left the hospital in March, and was then given Special assignment to do office work. All this time, and up to now my foot continued to give me constant trouble. I have gone on sick call quite a few times; have seen several doctors, but there is nothing more they can do to help me. All they tell me, is to stay off of it, and that the climate here will never heal my bones that have been broken, nor build back the muscles in my leg.

Recently I went to the Red Cross and asked them for advice on my case. They asked me if I would be willing to go before my Medical Major, which I more than gladly consented to do. Having talked with my Medical Major, I was again informed as before, namely, that their hands are tied, and there is nothing more that they can do to help me.

As a result of my accident, I have not gained back the strength in my leg, cannot run as yet, or lift anything that is heavy. They have ordered specially built shoes for me just after I left the hospital last March, that is four months ago, but I have not received them as yet.

Since I have left the hospital, I have been transferred to several different outfits. These outfits keep me for awhile, and seeing that I cannot do the work, transfer me to another outfit. Recently, I was given an examination to again classify me in my present outfit. After the doctor looked at my eyes, which are very weak, then at my foot, he stopped, and I was again told that I am a 4-F.

Having seen many other men going back to the States with the same trouble, and being given a chance to have their injuries healed to normal again, I cannot see why I cannot have the same chance to overcome my handicap, having been injured in the line of duty, and always doing my work when duty called.

Hoping that I have given you all the information necessary, I will be waiting for your immediate action. If there is any doubt as to my condition, my medical and service records will speak for me.

Thanking you for your time and co-operation, I am

Yours very truly,

Cpl. John B. Exley

ASN. 37548281

Cpl. John B. Exley-37548281
Co. C. 1399th Engrs. Const. Bn.
APO 957 c/o P.M.
San Francisco, Cal.

C*O*P*Y

[1944]

Dear Harold,

I just have mailed to you another Fruit Cake. I hope it will arrive before the last one did. That is, I hope it doesn't take 5 mo! I can hardly believe it was still edible.

Elmer is well and seems to be getting along fine but he would like to go overseas. I, also, would like to see him go if that is what he wants.

I'm taking a lot of heat because I'm a Republican - especially from Elmer's Democratic friends. It seems that I expressed myself too loudly & longly about the 1940 Demo convention and the lack of any interest and vitality which seemed prevalent in the delegates. I now find I haven't a leg to stand on.

As you no doubt know, Joe is doing very well after his Hernia operation. He seemed to respond much more quickly than Warren or Sydney.

Helen & Julian are quite well and they are certainly two grand people. I have become very close to Helen and I like her so well. I call Esther occasionally and while she misses you deeply, she is a little strict.

No doubt you have had letters from
someone more qualified giving you a
word picture of the primary. I was
sorry to hear Tam Strenguth had
been eliminated and I presume the
name and the difficult spelling may
have had something to do with it.
It's a hard name to remember.

I have been following Gerald Myers
luck in N. D. I guess I shall have
to wait for the 8000 Soldier's votes
to see what he does. The dope stories
have it, I guess, that Moses will get
him in the end, anyway. I can't see
how they can get it. It surprised
my husband that Burdick didn't do
better.

Kathleen is as cute as can be & Glen
is huge. He is certainly going to be like
you. For that matter, what child by the
name of Stassen isn't like the Stassens!
Walter Severson has a new stripe & is
still aboard the Memphis.

I sent as much cake as I was allowed
to. I hope you and your friends will
enjoy it.

Sincerely
Marjorie Teyler



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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