

Letter from William Howard Houston: sent to my Aunt, Vertie Johnson Caswell, retired Lt. Commander, NNC, in June 1945, by William H Houston. He was writing from *Indianapolis*. They were friends and he had lost track of her but saw her photo in a naval publication and reached out to her at the last address he had for her. The letter is dated 6/12/45. It's chatty and newsy and refers to his time aboard the Indianapolis.



William H. Huston
U. S. N. R.

Sunday June 10

Hello there,

One of us is about to be surprised. Either you are because I'm writing, or I am because I could be mistaken.

In the March issue of Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin, I just happened to see a picture on page 24, which I am positive is you. Funny that I've lost track of you all this time! Looks from the picture as if you've made Lt. I'm still $\frac{1}{2}$. Hasn't been an opening for $\frac{1}{2}$ in over a year.

I've been aboard the Indianapolis for over a year. Hell no, I'm repeating that last sentence. I mean since October. We took part in the first two air strikes on Tokio with carrier planes and

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the Iwo Jima operations. The
censor may cut this out because
I'm not sure it's released yet,
but we were also at Okinawa.
I really like it aboard ship.
This is the heavy cruiser that
used to take F. D. R. on his tours!

The picture just took me
back for a quick glimpse into
the days before we both joined
the service. Still think they
were pretty swell days.

Try to forget enough of the
old quarrels to send me an
account of yourself. If you will,
I'll promise to make them longer
and much more frequent.

Sincerely,

W. H. Houston
Phm $\frac{7}{2}$ USNR
U. S. S. Indianapolis
 $\frac{7}{2}$ Fleet P. O.
San Francisco