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Dear Maurice:

I was pleasantly surprised and certainly honored to receive "Point of Honor" accompanied by your gracious letter of reminiscence as a former shipmate, in yesterday's mail. Here I am at the age of 87, to be 88 on the 4th of July, with time running out on the prospect of accomplishing the myriad of tasks requiring attention. One of these has been perusal of an accumulation of mail and records with decisions as to retention or destruction. The "SALLY MARU" experience has loomed large in this review...I even ran across my exchange of poems with Captain Portlock! You hit that nail right on the head.

When our deployment was winding down, Admiral Anderson asked me what I wanted to do next. I told him I wanted to be the Commandant of Midshipmen at the Naval Academy if shore-bound, or skipper of a carrier if going to sea. That resulted in command of the SHANGRI-LA. She also won the Battle Efficiency Pennant among ten large carriers in the Pacific Fleet, so that gave me two in a row. That brought me two-stars a year ahead of my Classmates. Anderson, then C/S to CINCPAC, got me to that Command as Plans Officer. I had an interesting tour as Programs Manager for the Bureau of Naval Weapons, with 110 major programs to worry over (including Adm. Rickover!). Adm. Anderson, then CNO, sent me to SHAPE, then just outside Paris, where I was the Deputy Plans Officer for Gen. Lemnitzer for three years. Back to OPNAV in 1965 in Fleet Operations and Readiness plus senior member of military advisers to the Atomic Energy Commission. In late 1967 I began a three year tour as Commandant 3rd Naval District, coping with postal, teachers, and long-shoremen's strikes, as well as turning over the industrial area of the Navy Yard to the City! My final tour was in Korea where I helicoptered to Panmunjon and argued with the Communists as Senior Member of the U.N. Military Armistice Commission, a weekly routine.

You might be amused to know that Tommy Moorer, who took over the SALLY MARU from me, also relieved me again upon my retirement as the Gray Eagle of Naval Aviators. I had been flying for 37½ yrs and believed I was the only officer ever relieved twice by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff!

Steve's graduation from the Merchant Marine Academy interests me as the former distinguished Superintendent, Adm. Gordon McLintock, wanted me to relieve him in 1971. However, the Dept. of Transportation was luke-warm. They preferred a Coast Guard candidate. Thanks again for the book.

Warm regards

Francis Foley

*Please forgive my
typing.*