

Captain Kenneth Dodson  
Route 5, Box 565  
Everett, Washington  
May 23, 1957

Mr. Gerald White  
The Yakima Daily Republic  
Yakima, Washington

Dear Mr. White:

Thank you for your letter of May 17. Enclosed please find an 8 x 10 glossy, which I hope will do. Please return it to me when you have finished with it.

Your letter suggests that it would be helpful to have an advance copy of my talk to the graduating class at Yakima High School, June 7th. I have never in my life written out a speech; it doesn't work that way for me. My subject will be: The Challenge of Life. It is also a challenge to me to have the opportunity of speaking to the graduating class of Yakima High. I hope to have a few useful thoughts for their consideration.

You have asked for a brief biographical sketch.

Captain Kenneth Dodson was born in Portuguese West Africa, of American missionary parents. His early schooling was in England, then Pasadena High School, Taylor Nautical Academy, Washington Technical Institute, and the University of Washington. He has had over twenty-five years at sea in the Merchant Marine, and on active duty in the United States Navy. He holds an unlimited license as Master and Pilot of ocean going ships and is officially qualified to command Navy oil tankers, supply ships and attack transports. After Pearl Harbor, Dodson sailed in the first convoys to Australia and the Coral Sea. Later he participated in nine major Navy amphibious assault landings in the South Pacific. Out of some of these experiences have come his books, AWAY ALL BOATS and STRANGER TO THE SHORE. At present he is busy on a sea story for children and also the planning of two other books. In 1935 he married Oletha McCorkle, of Seattle. They have two children, Dick, 16, and Jeanie, 9. Recreational favorites: boats (any size) fishing, the outdoors, books, classical recordings, and talking with interesting people of all ages and nationalities.

That's about enough of the big talk. I'm looking forward to our visit over the mountains.

Sincerely,

*Kenneth Dodson*