

8 May 1955

Enroute to Hawaii

1800 PM

ETA 0900 Tuesday

Hi Dad,

Hi there and how are you and Mom getting along since I last called? Hope that you two aren't sore at me or something like that. I have some colored slides that you will like I think. I want you to save these as they are of the crew of the Photo Lab on this cruise. I shot them with Ektachrome ASA 32 with the Strobe unit. What do you think of the strobe now? I hope you can tell me what you think of them.

I'm sorry that I didn't send Mom a Mother's Day card as I just plain forgot. Sure hated to start on this cruise but after I talked to you and Mom I felt lots better. Hope you and Mom are in good health and taking good care of yourselves. I am and I'm just about over being sick from the shots we had yesterday. I got five of them in all. A Tetanus, typhoid, cholera, and influenza and a vaccination to boot. All in one afternoon, in fact inside of five minutes I had them all and sure hurt like heck. The damn tetanus sure gives out with a hell of a kick. WOW!, kicks like a mule with jet assist. Ha Ha.

Well only two more days and I'll be in Pearl Harbor living it up. Ha Ha. Only joking although I sure wish that I was home enjoying the life of a civilian. Well only 11 months and 19 days to go. Ha Ha. Well I've thought it over many times about the camera deal and I think I will have Nikon S-2 and Rollei with 2.8 lens on it. How's that for a finish on the tours. Ha Ha. I'll get you a NIKON with three lenses and a Rolleiflex and no more camera gear. OK. I'm quite sure of it as I'll be just about out of the service and still thinking about going to school for more knowledge of Photography. Ha Ha. I hope that I can make good as I am sort of depending on it for a living if I am any good in it at all. More on the next page as this one is running out of space.

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Well, here I am once again with nothing much more to say but shoot the bull. Ha Ha. Have you had any luck with the trout this season so far? I hope that you save a few for me but you don't have to save all of them as I know that you deserve a few now and then just to keep the interest in fishing. Same in golf or anything you do in this day and age.

Boy you sure ought to have been here in my place to take the shots for me, I would have changed places with you. I sure don't like the needle.

I understand that I'll hit Hong Kong by August 5th or around that time. I'm going to start on the plane one of these days. I'll have to get those prints made. I developed four rolls of Ektachrome 35 ASA today and have five rolls of B&W to process. And five rolls of Ansco 120 color. The five rolls of B&W are 120 also. Then I have two sheets of Ektachrome 4x5 that I shot of refueling yesterday to process. And so you see, I have lots of film to work on and I hope to clean up on the B&W tonight. I'll get the Ektachrome ASA 40 Aerial High Contrast that I stripped from a large roll of aerial Ektachrome about two weeks ago. I shot it but haven't processed it as of yet. So you see Pop, I'm pretty full of work. I'll get the prints made of the gun eruption one of these days. I sure hope I can get them done before I get back to the States. You can look for them but I'm not saying anything definite. Nope, I'm not lazy or anything but I take it easy and don't worry too much like I used to do. Get too much grey hair from worrying. Hope you and Mom will take my advice. I'm not lecturer but I know what's what? I started a letter the other day but never finished it so I'll enclose it with this letter so that you and Mom will be able to see that I am at least trying to get some letters off to you two.....

Get some pictures of some trout and not someone's else. Well, take it easy and catch some nice ones with worms.

Page Three

Here I am once again. Hope that you two aren't ill or anything like that. Gee it sure got hot quick like. In fact, the lab is air conditioned to 68 degrees. Sure is a change from outside. I'll get Burwell to shoot my portrait in blues and send you and Mom a couple of 8x10's. I'll send all the color stuff that I shoot home just as soon as I get it shot and processed. Hope you like what I send.

How is Grandma and Grandpop getting along. Hope Grandma Caldwell is well and taking care of herself. Say hello to Mabel and the rest of the relations. I'll write when I get time but right now I just relax and take things easy as the next week or so will be quite strenuous for the crew as we have to go through the training command to pass a test for qualifying for the line. I think we will come out all right as I think the crew is ready for the line. But we do have a few inexperienced lads aboard.

Well not much more to say for now as I want to process the film and mount the color slides to send to you. Well you two take care of yourselves. I'll write just so you answer all the letters that I send. I will have mail waiting for me when I get in Tuesday morning, but we are going right back out in the afternoon to operate to the end of the week and then back in. In and out like that for the three weeks we will be there. So long for now and take care of yourselves. Be good, write and quit worrying about me.

Your loving son,

Bobby