

29 March 1955

Photo Lab.

1100PM PCT

Dear Dad,

I received your most welcome letters today. Two of them came last night when I was on the beach and one this afternoon after chow time. I was sleeping when mail call sounded and missed it until about 6:30 PM.

Here goes, you sure did surprise me when you said Scarry's gun exploded. I damn near jumped out of the store room. You'd better be more careful about shooting handloads. They can be just as bad as a stopped up gun barrel. I've shot 12 gauge here on the ship and they kick like an elephant. I mean it too. I also got a letter from Don and Kate. I'll send it along with this one as you and Mom will probably want to read what Kate told me. Finally after three years Kate thinks she is pregnant. I guess she and Don are very happy. They are looking forward to seeing me in June or July this year.

We will be in Hawaii for about twenty days and then on to Japan. Then probably operate for a while and then back to Philippines and Subic. Oh yes, you might as well start saving for the trip to California as I got some dope today that came from a very reliable source. Frisco bound after this cruise. Ha Ha. If we do, I don't think I'll make it for Christmas. That is unless I can catch a Navy plane home, as far as Philadelphia. I'll call Saturday night about 8:15 PCT and 11:15 EST.

I processed three rolls of Ektachrome 120 and used Strobe for fill-in flash on a few. I'll send them home after I decide whether or not I'm going to have prints made on them. Just you wait till you see the 11x14 and the 8x10s that I'll send this week. YOUR eyes will just about pop out. Ha Ha.

Nope, I'll send my Rolleiflex on the second payday in April. That is the first weekend, or I can mail it from the ship. We will be out operating during the week from now on until time to leave, but will be in on the weekend. I'll also send the clothes the 1<sup>st</sup> payday of May. I won't goof even

if I have to mail them from Pearl Harbor. But the camera will be mailed prior to departure from States. I'd bet a couple of hundred on that. More on next page. Paper slipped.

I was out driving some golf balls this evening for about two hours on the Navy base and a golf pro was giving lessons and I got in on it. Don't worry, he has charge of the driving range and gives instructions free. I really began to connect with his added instructions and lots better control of the ball.

Yep, I received the notes and etc. Goodies all gone now. I'm not selfish anyway except with chocolate brownies. Ha Ha. I just cut the schedule out of the letter and will paste it in the storeroom. I'll print all the negatives you sent tomorrow night. I'll make contact and enlargements on all of them. Heck yea, I could beat anyone at all if I really wanted to. You know that don't you. And I can outshoot you, too. Hey, what in the hell does Mom mean? I always was human!

You will find 200 feet of 35mm film in the box. One 100' roll will be SPEED GROUP 25 and the other will be SPEED GROUP 50. I'm sure that you will be shooting like hell with no expense of buying film. You ought to try cutting down a couple of minutes on the 35mm and 120. It's too dark. You get contrasty negs that way and the Photo stores just don't print them like you or I would.

Beginning of second letter. Hey, don't try to take film out of Rolleiflex as they can be fouled up quicker than you can say "JACK ROBINSON". Just shoot it up and then take it out. I did it once and result was that I got rid of Rollei. You know where I got rid of it too. Make sure your lighting is good enough to give even illumination over all. I'll get a pair of MIKRON 8x35 binoculars over in Japan for \$22.00. Really good ones too. I won't get the ones with crown glass, as the flint glass is supposed to be a heck of a lot better. You should have used the flood lamps you have and you would have been able to know exactly where to place the lights to illuminate the objectional shadows.

I wrote a letter to Grandma the other day, she ought to have received it by now. I also wrote one to Grandma Caldwell and will mail it in the morning as I forgot to mail it.

I think a shell allotment would be a lot safer than handloading. As just one tiny mistake like loading too much powder in a shell can raise hell. We've had 5" inchers do the same thing. Only went out through the muzzle. End of letter #3. Not too many questions in it. I'm tired also. More on the next page as this one is slipping.

The portrait on silk paper wasn't any good. The paper had been fogged some way or another and all the whites in it turned a dull grey. Will do them over. I made a dozen and all at the same time. I mean souped them at the same time. It wasn't my fault as I had one of the fellows check on the paper for me and he turned up with the same results.

So, you and Mom will have to wait on the Nope, I won't get in any trouble over the shoes. I got them in my locker in town already and will mail them on Friday. Gee, I got to mail the shoes, 11x14 print, and 8x10s and a few other things to do. And on Sunday in the morning I'm taking the Kodak Master 4x5 View camera out to an old Spanish village and shooting 4x5 sheet film. Ektachrome that is and I'll probably have a couple shot of myself by Burwell. Yes, the Strobe "does" good pictures. Ha Ha. It's the man behind the trigger that make it "does". Ha Ha. Doo's duz everything. Ha Ha. The new Ektachrome is still critical but you have to use a meter like I did. Be very careful in shooting it and take all errors into consideration before shooting it. It takes time, but it's worth it if you can get good results.

Don't worry, I'll stock up on all that I can before getting out. I'll get plenty, that you can be sure of. Ha Ha. Also 120 and 35mm. Cripes, it will only cost about five bucks to insure the Leica and the Rollei. Wait until you receive my Rolleiflex and then insure it.

So, you and Mom had better be home by 1115 Saturday night. I'll call exactly 1115 and I'll pay for it. It won't be a long talk, but I'll hear your voices. And before I leave, I'll make a long one, not too long, about ten minutes at the least. Ha Ha.

Nope, I'm not worried about the booy being cut off, just so your foot is alright. I hope it will be alright though. I'd hate to see you have to go to the hospital with it.

The price list I sent was buying from regular stores on the beach. On the navy base, it's cheaper, and on the ship, cheaper yet. Ha Ha. I'll make out when I sell the Rolleiflex. You don't have to worry about me getting hooked on it at all.

Well Dad, I guess this is about all that I have to say for the present time, so I'll close hoping this letter finds you and Mom in the best of health. I'll write a letter during noon hour tomorrow, if I don't forget to do it. Oops. Paper slipping. Next page.

I'll go up and take a shower and hit the sack as it's 1220 already and reveille comes at six in the morning. I hate to get up like I always do. Ha Ha. Oh well, life is expected to have bumps now and then. So long for now and look for the shoes, prints and filter, and portra lens in shoes. The other prints will come separately. So long as I'm (please excuse the expression) DOG ASSED TIRED. So long for now, I'm getting droopy eyed. Take good care of Mom and better care of yourself.

Your Pal & Shadow,  
Bobby  
or  
ROBERTA

P. S. I answer to all sorts of names with the exception of "Hey you." So long and good night. Read the kodak book I gave you, it has all dope on shooting damaged things, etc.

Love,  
Bobby

2<sup>nd</sup> P. S. Some are with strobe. Look for shadow. The small one of a ship is USS BOXER CVA-21.