

U.S.S. Hornet CVA-12

Photographic Laboratory

25 May 1955

Dear Mom and Dad,

Hi there. Here we are again once again back in Pearl Harbor. Only one more day in Hawaii for operating and then six days until the end of the month and we will shove off for the Far East. I hope that you and Dad will continue to write to me often. I didn't get any mail at all this week as I have been out all week. Going back out in the morning and then in for six days. Hoorah. I hope I receive some mail from you and Dad tomorrow afternoon in the mail. I wrote some letters to you and Dad last week. I sent forty bucks a day or so after payday on the first of the month. You ought to have it by now and I mean it. You also should have the cruise book. I sure hope so as we had them a few days after we left the States and you ought to have them by now. I sure hope you and Dad are taking it easy as far as the weather is concerned. Well, I haven't had any chance to get any sun tan for some time. I'll get some sun before I get to Japan. I hope so anyway or I'll look like a pale face. Ha Ha.

I'm getting a little tan by and by, but I sure have to get some more before I get over there as I'm afraid that I'll get burnt up when I do go on the beach. I'll go swimming at Yokosuka, Japan. I'll on the base and take it easy. I intend on shooting a little trap. Hey Pop, you will have to get sharp as hell as I am going to get hot on the clay birds. I'll really be hot to go. Ha Ha. I bet that I get my limit of Pheasant the first time. I'm going to get you a pair of binoculars. I won't forget your dishes either Mom. I'll get them the first time in Japan and keep in the lab. Of course they will be in the storeroom. I'll make darn sure of it as I will take good care of it.

Well, what's new with you folks at home. I sure miss your letters. Sure hope that I get some in the morning. Oh yes, by the way, my fingers are beginning to come around to top shape. In about three or four more weeks both fingers ought to be fully grown out. I sure hope so. One of them is fine. The little finger is just about out but the other one has a little more to go. Both of them have grown out all except about 1 inch. Hope they hurry up as they sure are a silly lot. Sort of

discomfort. I'll get over it eventually and then they will be up to standard and feeling fine once again.

How is Grandma Richey and Caldwell getting along? I hope they are well and taking good care of themselves. I owe Grandma Caldwell and Grandma Richey each a letter and I ought to be able to get them both out this week end. I hope that I can as they will have them before I arrive in Japan.

Will start on the model soon as we leave Hawaii. Hope that I can get interested enough again to finish this one so I have it when I get back to the West Coast. No mail so I don't know what to say or how to ask any questions. I read your letter about getting the salt and pepper shaker for you and Gail. I'll try and I'll get you a very nice gift from Pearl Harbor. I won't promise it while we are here this time, but I'll have you and Dad a very good gift. I won't promise it this trip. I mean this trip to Hawaii. I don't get paid until enroute to Japan and I don't think that I will draw any off of the books on the 1st. I'll wait till the 15th of May. I will get a very nice set of dishes. I saw something for you Mom when I went on a tour of the island of Oahu. I didn't have enough dough with me so I didn't get it. Still haven't seen anything for Dad so far. Sure wish I could run into something. I've looked and still nothing for Dad. The only thing for him is for me to be home this hunting season I guess. I'll get him something. Don't know what to get him but I'LL sure try.

I have the duty tonight once again. I have it every third night and have to sleep in the lab every other night when I have to be duty photo. I hope you have the dough for the telephone call by now. Let me know if you have received it. If you have it by now, I mean by the time this letter arrives. I'll no doubt know about it by the time we leave for Japan. The photo lab had a 92 on the ORI (Operations Readiness Inspection) prior to going over to the forward area. Sort of nice here in Hawaii and I like it here.

Have you heard anything from Don or Kate in Subic Bay? I sure haven't as I dropped them a letter before leaving San Diego. Maybe they don't have too much time to write as they were away from each other for about a year or so. Sure looking forward to seeing those two. I guess

they won't recognize me as I don't have much hair. How did you like the picture of me in civies at the Park in San Diego? Hope you like it but no smile. I'm sorry, Wilkins snapped the shutter at the wrong moment. But I'll get another chance to shoot myself with Wilkins along. I'm not tired at all but I may stay after taps if Wilkins doesn't mind and type a few more letters. I have made up my mind as to whether or not I will get a Remington Royal in Japan. I get them for half the price in the States. I have to sign the taps report in a few seconds and I may be able to stay and type some more as I'm not sleepy. But my oh my by morning I get darned tired.

Hope you and Dad aren't having too bad a time with the heat. It's starting to get hot over here and I mean hot. The compartment is like an oven and nothing to cool it off. Sure wish that it would rain once in a while to cool things off.

Well, how is Leslie and Audry Jean getting along with school? They ought to be out of school by the time you receive this letter.

I'm going to close for now and hope that I will have some mail in the morning mail call. So long for now and take care of yourself and Dad. Also say hello to all the folks at home. Please run Tiny when you can. So long for now.

Your loving son,
Bobbie