

U.S.S. Hornet CVA-12
Photographic Laboratory
30 May 1955

Dear Dad,

Received your most welcome letter just as I came in the lab from being out to Waikiki Beach. I sure got burned like hell and it's not burning at all. I used cocoa butter like you used to use when you went fishing or swimming. This one was mailed the 25th and I got it the 30th. Pretty fast service even though it's slower than mine. I will try and answer your letter and then get one off to Mom before eight tonight. It's now ten minutes to seven in the evening. I have an hour to complete this letter and Mom's also.

Here goes on your letter. It was mailed or postmarked the 27th. My mistake as to the date of postmark. I went surf boarding today and nearly busted my, you know what. Wow, sure had a barrel of fun. Sure goes like hell. Travels about twenty miles an hour to thirty mph. Sure travels and then like an expert I try to stand up and you can guess the result. I spilled and had to swim after it and retrieve it. Tried again and finally succeeded and it wasn't as large a wave. Had loads of fun and I really enjoyed the time at Waikiki.

Well I'll process the 120 Ektachrome and two rolls of Ansco 120 color. Sure had beautiful full sun and plenty of light. I'll process it and send them home to you and Mom so you can see what it's like at Waikiki. I have two rolls of 120 Ektachrome and 6 rolls of Ansco 120 color and two rolls of B & W. I'll really have a bushel full of pictures to send home by the time we arrive in Japan or soon afterwards. I hope they turn out swell and will look 4.0 for you and Mom. Sure the adapters are all 2¼ x 3¼ but the cut film and sheet film in 4x5 are much larger. I'll have to decide darn soon as I hope to get the Linhof first trip to Hong Kong. I'll let you in on the news first chance that I have just as soon as I get the Linhof. I sure can't wait until I get the camera. I hope to get the slides back that I shot on the tour by the time I arrive in Japan. I'll send them right along in a couple of letters. I hope that you got some good pictures of Mom with the 85mm lens. You had better or I'll smack your butt. I'm glad that you have started to use the Leica as

much as you have been doing as you'll learn how to operate it better. You don't have to have sun to shoot good pictures. All you have to do is have confidence and a meter.

Guess what, I was pitching ball out on Waikiki beach today. Wilkins and myself took a ball and two gloves. And I still got the fast one and butterfly ball and a hot shot curve that's better than I ever had. I guess all this rest must have done good for the rubber band. Ha HA. Well it's 15 minutes to eight and I have to hurry or this one will miss the boat and not go off until Midway.

When did you decide that you were going to play softball? Hope you do have time to play. What position are you going to play? You will have to take it easy and not bull shit either.

I hope that you don't get discouraged in printing. It is not all that it's cracked up to be. Sort of hard to understand if you have any doubt. You did 4.0 on the Leica with the auto-up.

Yep the cold is gone and I don't intend on getting any more. Sort of mixed up a few letters on the last couple of words. Goodies. I sure got a damn good burn and I'll pay for it now. Just the back of the calf of my leg. Wow! It sure does burn like hell.

I guess Les will be pestering you to go flying and fishing. I'm glad you got that trout though as it's the one you catch like that that makes you go for more. It's just like playing a good game of golf and then returning to play again.

I'll have to stop for now and get hot on Mom's letter. So long for now and take good care of yourself. I'll write en route to Japan. So long for now and please excuse this short letter as I want to get one off to Mother. So long for now.

Your Pal & Shadow,
Bobby