

U.S.S. Hornet CVA-12
Photographic Laboratory
7 June 1955
Pacific Ocean

Dear Mom & Dad,

Here it is Tuesday and no Monday this week as we crossed the International Date Line and skipped Monday. Coming back across we will have two days the same. Should be in Japan about six more days I suppose. I'm fine and feeling swell. Holiday routine today as we had flight operations for the past three days including Saturday and Sunday. I sure am glad that we have holiday routine today as I am sort of tired and feel like the cat's dragged me around for the past three days.

How is everyone here at home and what kind of weather are you folks having now? Hope it's nice and you and Dad have been able to get out for drives once in a while. Nothing much to talk about as no mail in Midway as I said we might receive some, but I guess we don't rate everywhere we stop. No, we didn't stop but we sent mail off of the ship via high line transfer to a destroyer and they in turn will take it to the beach. I'll get a few more letters off to you and the folks if I can get up the energy as I must have spring fever or something like that. Ha Ha. Sure is hot as hell here on the ship and we are at sea.

Well, in about five months from now we ought to be heading back or getting ready to head for home. May be Brooklyn yet if the rumors hold up. HA HA. Sort of hate to cheat you and Dad out of the trip out west but if you two really want to go west we can take a vacation and go out anyway. That's if the dough holds out. When it runs out, we'll just have to stop and get some more. Ha Ha. Oh, I have a barrel of it stashed away up in the hills. Ha Ha. Well anyway money doesn't grow on trees. Sure wish it did and I'd go into business growing \$\$\$\$ TREES. Ha Ha.

How has Mabel and Grandma Caldwell been getting along? Hope both of them are well and taking good care of themselves. I ought to drop Grandma Caldwell a letter before she thinks that I have gone and forgotten about her. I haven't though, but just don't know what to say as I just

can't write and make anything interesting unless I have a letter to answer back. Well, I'll try and see how it comes out and if it's a failure I'll tear it up and start over until I get a good one in the mail.

Hey Ma, did Dad take any good pictures of you lately? I sure wished that he would take one of you with the flood lamps that he has and then send me the negative and I could see how nice a job he done. Well, you'll just have to get after him or he'll fool around and not get a good one. I'm sure he is capable and able to get some good poses of you and expose the film correct. I think he is as good as I am right now but I guess he lacks the confidence that I have. If I goof, I just shoot it over and keep trying. Of course, he didn't have the schooling in Photography like I have had and that makes one heck of a difference. I'm sure that when I get out, I can enlighten a lot of the deep questions and tricks of the trade. I'm quite sure of it.

How did you like the Trout that he caught? Did you ask him where he bought them at? I think that he wouldn't appreciate it in the least bit. Ha Ha. I'll wait patiently for the pictures of the trout and hope that he will send them as I would sure like the slide to arrive by the time I arrive in Japan. I'll make a duplicate negative and send it to him and surprise him with it. Ha Ha. He done a very nice hot job on the copying job that he sent to me. I'm quite satisfied with it except that a few professional words of advice would clear things a bit.

Well, it's just about time for noon chow and I want to get some sun this afternoon and maybe I'll get started on the plane that I brought with me from the States. I haven't done a thing on it for quite some time now and hope to finish it by the time I arrive in Japan. Or at least get a major portion of it completed by then.

Well Mom and Dad, I'm signing off for now, hoping that this letter will find you two in the best of health and taking good care of each other. So long for now and say hello to all and tell them to drop a line and write.

Take good care of Tiny.

Your loving son,

Bobby