

8 March 1955

Photo Lab.

USS HORNET CV12

Duty Night

Sect. 4

Hi Dad,

I received your letters and the negatives today. Also received the box and all the goodies that were inside. Also the two tubes of tooth paste and brush. The hairbrush is nice and I really didn't need one but now I can have one for weekends. Ha Ha.

Well what do you think of the 11x14 Print? Is it or isn't it any good? I thought that I had done a good job on enlarging the 35mm negative. Cripes, what do you expect? I still think that I could possibly do better if I only shot 35mm stuff and no 120 or 35 color. Then if I shot 35mm B&W I would have to choose existing light or strobe (high-speed) or picture telling. Well, I see you done pretty good. Although you should have used a plain background when you was shooting the broken parts of the Masterpiece. The material on the furniture is distracting and it absorbs light which would have helped put more snap into the picture. A white pillow case or towel would have been better. Anything white will reflect a little light. It helps to put a definition between the defect and good part that you are trying to point out.

I think you will improve very fast if I can help you out a lot more. I'm all ears for questions. I'll say you overexposed on the 35mm triu-x. You must have pointed the meter at too much sky. Keep in mind that your subject is the most important part of the picture and you should expose for it and nothing else unless you are trying for some certain effect. Especially in color photography. The subject is what really counts then. Over.

Here goes on your letters as in the order I received them. Three of them in all. Here goes. Hey? What's this Ph2 stuff? Not yet, wait until I take the exam. Then maybe I'll be a PH2. I sure hope so. The pay raise is in effect starting 4-1-55. YIPPEE.

I see that you received the color stuff I shot. Glad to hear of it. Maybe I'll get a darn good portrait in color shot of me and send you the 4x5 transparency home for you to get a color print off of. I'll print them this week at sea and send them home next Saturday. I'll make as large as prints that I can and send them to you. I'm sure you'll agree to use something that will reflect a little light. Not something glossy now. I'll be sure to return the negatives.

I'm glad to hear you got the \$\$\$ for your birthday at last. Nope I won't pull anything like Buzzy Jackson. You ought to know that I value my name than to do a thing like that. If they can get a decent print off of the transparency you ought to have one, but I think the sun was too low and too high in red. Of course, they can filter it out a little, but not quite all of it.

What do you mean someone's jet-propelled? The ESSEX was back in the states since early July or later. That was 1954 I mean. Ha Ha. What's all this Ho Ho Ho stuff and !!!!!!! ? Huh? If I want to come home next Xmas I'll do it. Cripes, just think hunting season for the first time in three years. YIPEE. BANG BANG BANG. A RABBIT, PHEASANT, AND GROUSE. HA HA.

Nope, I didn't go out and use the 4x5 View camera. Hope to this Sunday. I just loafed around the ship and slept. I played golf in the morning and called home in the evening. I'm going to send you 1-100' RL of Superior #2 SG-50. Of course, the shoes will arrive also. Pay next Friday in the morning and Robert will mail shoes, Rollei, Prints, and clothes (maybe) if I can Friday.

I lost the damn schedule somehow. I'll be expecting better negative quality the next batch if you can get the chemicals to make up the formulas I enclosed in this letter. Mail the Rolleiflex as soon as you can as I don't like to be without mine. Please mail it so I can receive it when we arrive in port on Friday, insure for \$250.00. Then if it's smashed or broken I can collect. I'll do the same.

I'm going to mark some of the negatives that are fuzzy with grease pencil. I won't spoil them though. Changed my mind I'll use ink, like we use to mark negs. I looked at the best one through the enlarger and I'll make some 8x10's for you and mail them.

I wish that you could step down to f22 or at least f16. A long exposure isn't bad if you get what you want. No. 1 of the cut film is really good. So is 2 3 and 4. The roll film isn't as good as this one is. I just looked at the four sheet film ones. I'm going to make 6 8x10 each and 6 8x10 each off of # 16 of the 35mm. I think you will be amazed at the results you got. I'm certainly proud of the way you shot those. Really good except that if you had used plain background. Even if it was white and would have lots of contrast compared to the subject. It would have helped to eliminate some of the shadows. Real good work Pop. I'll have them in the mail by next Saturday night. There seems to be a lot of scratches on the #16 35mm. Be more careful. The two of yourself should have been vertical. Nice exposure though. Good exposure on the sheet film also. But be careful of the angles as they lead to distorted shapes. They have to be really similar as hell. Of course if you have view camera & etc you can do better yet. Don't think that I mean yours aren't any good, they're as good as I could have done.

I just can't get over how well you done on the damage reports. Of course, we RICHEY'S always shoot good on damages no matter if it's a gun or an airplane. Ha Ha.

Well here goes on your second letter. Wow! What negs. Hot damn! Really good Pal. I still can't get over them I'll really know after I make some prints. Here goes on second letter. Sorry I missed you last night by a half hour. I'll make connections tomorrow night I'm sure. Ha. I'm glad that the call made her feel better, I would have called many times if I thought she would feel better. I'll send the dough for the two calls. PLEASE write to me and tell me how much as I know you are having tough time for car.

Oh yes, the VARIGAM DL paper is very nice and if you can use filters in printing you can print any contrast of negative on the one type of paper. Good huh. We have VARIGAM on the ship and I'm going to use it and find out how to use it properly. Hey, with the Leica I can shoot at a 1/5th and 1/2 sec and get sharp pictures. You just have to have a little timing on the release of the shutter. I'll contact the bad ones, as if I blew them up to a larger size they would look like hell.

What flash shot of Mother? I don't have any shot of Mom. If you mean the one of her with her hair all over the place. I must have lost it or something. Ha Ha. If you run out of the Positive developed, you can use regular and get negative instead of positive. Use your noodle Pal. Read my photo book and read it. Yep, I shot the pictures of the pink flowers with it and it's real sharp. Of course, it gets fuzzy in the front and rear as I was shooting wide open. And then again, you can't figure on depth of field when you use it. It's strictly critical focus and that's all. Well it's only for my benefit that I went to the school and it won't help in the photo stores. But both will help for ph"2". See what I mean.

I have all the inventory completed and it'll be pretty easy from here on out. I shouldn't have any more fuss and fuming over it at all. Yes, Burwell is going to stay on the ship. He's like a little kid at times and when he doesn't get his own way, oh Brother a real S.O.B. Of course, I just laugh as he hates to see any one laugh at him. He knows he doesn't scare me at all and don't know how to figure me out. Ha Ha. I got him going and I'll keep him guessing. Ha Ha.

I haven't done much on the plane as I have been busy as a beaver working the inventory. Now that it's over I can relax in the evening instead of sleeping and study for a while and build the plane. I won't let the plane come first in place of the PH2 rating. Don't worry about that. I'll be ready for the second class test come hell or high water.

Well that's the end of your letter and I don't know what to say except for start on your third one. Ha Ha. Time out for a cup of coffee. I started on this letter about 2200. It's now 0100 AM. I had a few things to do in between. Here goes for coffee. Zowie, Aah the coffee's hot but good. I think that I may have to get glasses also as my eyes get tired and sore if I read a little too long. But my vision is still 20-20 as far as I know. I hope it's alright.

Hey try this and see what happens. Develop the allotted amount of film and then shoot one other roll just for the heck of it. Then increase your developing time by 50%. Say 12 minutes instead of maybe 8 minutes. Have to change record. Try it and see what happens you may be in for a surprise if I think what will happen will. Nope, I'm not just an ordinary sailor in the Navy, I'm a sailor alright, but my name is R. E. Richey. Ha Ha. Cripes, if I had a million \$\$\$ I could do

everything I said I would. I have the shoes in my locker on the beach and will mail them the 15th for sure. If I don't get them mailed then. I'll the shoes in a shit can.

I've been so damn mad at times this past two months I don't know whether or not I'm coming or going with the condition the other two fellows left the confounded store room. One hell of a mess you can bet on that.

Yep, if the battery I have gives out, I'll have one to put right in and the capacitors won't need reforming. No, it's marked 36, the Antietam, with canted deck alongside the Hornet. Oh, the one of the Hornet in Hawaii is out of our lab files. Cripes don't even think of entering it in any contest or I'd go to Portsmouth or Leavenworth. I had permission to make some, but not to enter in any contest with it. Sure is a nice shot though. Don Crain shot it in Pearl Harbor the day we arrived, 5 December 1954.

Well Dad, that's the end of your letter and it's one fifteen already and I want to play golf tomorrow in the morning. And I don't have to get up until 7. So, so long and start looking for all sorts of packages. I'll write and on what I send and how. Well, Pal, so long and take good care of yourself and Mom, and Tiny. Be good and write often. Hey Ma, Pop's 3 letters to your one isn't up to par. Ha Ha.

Your Pal & Shadow

P.S. THANKS FOR THE EASTER CARD. I missed out on sending one. Please forgive. Bobby. I forgot when it was.

Love,

Bobby