

26 March 1955

Saturday Afternoon

2:00 PM CT

Photo Lab Storeroom

Dear Mom,

I received your letter today and was very happy to hear from you. You had better quit your dreaming about me as I'll become upset and worry too much. No, I won't be up on the hot flight deck unless I want to go up there. This may be the reason, I'm not sure. We have had many bad accidents on the flight deck and not a single person has been injured and the last accident was the worst of all. It's not that I'm afraid to be up there, it's just that too many things can happen at the same time.

No, I haven't lost any courage, but I have had a world of experience on Flight Deck Hazards. I've seen and been involved in lots of things that goes on up there and I'll probably go up there once in a while, but if you stay up there for eighteen months like I have done in the past, well you might become careless and get hurt through no fault but your own. Usually when they have a very bad accident and someone gets hurt it's real bad and the person usually is all crippled up or gets himself killed. I don't want that. Of course, we all must go at some time or another and I'm not going to rush it. I don't know what you will think after you finish reading this letter but you will see my point of view on the situation.

I sent a letter to Aunt Belle & Uncle Jack. I'm waiting on the answer from Uncle Jack right now. I asked him about the make and type of golf club that would best be suited for me and the approximate cost of a set in the states. That way, I can figure out something how the price will be on the cruise this time.

Well, I got the color pictures of Uncle Jack and I only like one of them as they didn't print the one the correct way. Instead of the proper color of his hair, they used the wrong type of filter and

made his hair a very light shade of red. I'm going to send Aunt Belle the best one as I had it made up into a wallet size print and I'll have to print them over myself and not send them out.

We aren't set up with the color chemicals at present for printing. Of course, we can process the film, but can't print color for a little while. You have to have lots of work to do in order to expend a complete color kit. Really expensive and I won't do it for just one or two prints. The reason I won't is that I'm the new storekeeper and I have to make account for all the stuff that is used and I wouldn't want to get hell for using a whole kit for just two prints. We will start it soon though. Don't say anything to Aunt Belle about my sending the pictures. In printing color prints, you have to have precise color control at all times and I've never done any color printing, but I'm going to learn this cruise.

I'm also learning all the view camera and copy cameras that we use on the ship. So you see Mom, after this cruise is over with, I'll have a well-rounded knowledge of Photography speaking for Navy Photography. Now on the outside, photography is a heck of a lot different, you have very tough competition in selling and maintaining a selling program or so to speak. I think you know what I mean don't you? I'm sure you do as you're a good saleswoman yourself.

I got three Dagwood sandwiches here and two pints of chocolate milk and they hit the soft spot as I slept through breakfast and dinner today. I wrote a letter to Dad last night and mailed it after I got through. I'll mail this one this afternoon later on. More on next page.

Here I am again, on the third page of this letter already. Hey, you didn't say too much about the long letter that I wrote to you a week or so ago. I thought that it was a fairly long letter. I'm tired from sitting already. Too much sleep and not enough exercise. I guess I'm getting old huh? Ha Ha.

Well, I'm back, I was out on the hangar deck watching a basketball game between the HORNET and a high school team from San Diego. Hornet is away ahead, the other team doesn't stand a chance.

Well, how have you been since I last wrote to you? I know that your back has been acting up again. I'm sorry to hear that and it has me worried a little bit. You'll have to take it easy for me. And for yourself also. You only make it harder on yourself by working so damn hard. You'd better be in tip top shape by the time I come home. I'm only kidding I won't snap at you like I used too. I guess I pulled some mean tricks when I was home on leave but I just didn't feel like visiting all the relations and then rush back home. I feel bad that I was not able to send Dad a card or anything. I think I explained why I wasn't there. We were loading ammo off of Long Beach, California.

Well Ma, I just can't think of what to write about, so I'm closing hoping this letter finds you in much better health and spirits. Just slow down on the fairy tale dreams you've been having. So long and take care of yourself and Dad. That's all I want.

Your loving son,
Bobbie