

U.S.S. HORNET CVA 12  
PHOTOGRAPHIC  
LABORATORY  
16 April 1955 - 1100

Dear Mom and Dad,

Here it is the 16<sup>th</sup> of April and still not a single word on the camera. I know if you said to mail the camera, you'd do it and I can wait as the mail is slow after reaching the Coast here. If it's here before I go on Shore Patrol tonight, I'll re-wrap it and mail it right away. I don't want to be without my Rolleiflex as I have made some darn nice pictures with it and I only shoot color in the Contax.

Here is something that I wonder whether or not you will believe. You remember my saying the Ektachrome 35mm ASA 32 is swell. Well, it is up to an extent. Now if you want prints made from it, it's not as good as Kodachrome. There is more grain in the Ektachrome than Kodachrome. But, with the speed of Ektachrome, you can hardly blame a person for not changing over to it. I like it and find that it gives very close rendition of the original subject. That is, if you use a Light Meter and use it carefully. Of course, you have human error to contend with when you use a meter. Now, I don't say you should change back to Kodachrome 35MM. But for enlargements, you would be better off. I think that I'll still shoot Ektachrome 35MM ASA 32 Daylight film on this cruise and for general color work, but for informal portraits and subject of a story nature, I'd use KC 35mm Daylight Type. Be very considerate in shooting color to an extent, but don't hold off for fear of wasting it. Shoot it up or you won't be any nearer to a final decision on whether or not you are getting good results in color. I guess I shoot more color than two average people in an hour than some people do in a month. I sure like to expose it by the case if I had it. Ha Ha.

Well, I finally received the Easter Egg today in the mail, I think that it came last night when I went on the beach to mail you the \$20.00. You ought to have the \$20.00 by Wednesday or Tuesday afternoon at the latest. It will help out on the phone bill I'm sure. I typed a short letter in

the U.S.O. last night and enclosed the \$20.00 in with it. I'm sure you will have it soon. I'll send more next payday if it's not enough for the phone call.

I have your letter that you wrote on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. You certainly surprised me by asking if I was keeping anyone here. You didn't say it in those exact words, but I can read you two between the lines. And "DAMNIT TO HELL" I am certainly not gambling. You say you have trust in me, well just stop asking those damnable questions if I'm gambling or not. And you can tell Aunt Emm to keep her nose out of my personal life. It's mine and none of her business. I don't inquire into anyone's personal life except yours and Mom's and I have a right to.

I only have one year and 41 days left in the Navy and I have been awakened to many things which will count later on in life. Don't go getting T'D off at me for writing what I have, as I am not referring to you Pop, nor to Mother when I say, "Mind your own business." If everyone would mind his or her own business, they would have more than enough to do rather than sticking their two cents in. It certainly "PO's" me when I find out about it.

Yep, I received the lecture that you sent to me and read every bit of it. I don't think it was a lecture at all, just good sound advice from "Dad & Mom." I know you and Mother will wonder what's come over me since I have come into the Navy, but when I have something on my mind, I just don't sit and brood about it like I used to do. I usually get it off of my chest and don't worry about it anymore. I know you and Mom would be lots better off physically if you two would do the same thing. I know you do as I must have inherited some of it from you. Mother doesn't like to hurt anyone at all, sometimes you have to in order to get the point across which you are stressing. I'm not saying you like to hurt anyone either. No one at all wants to hurt anyone. It just happens as sort of an unconscious defense. I know you and Mom are really wondering about your little Robert now as I don't think that I have written any letter like this before. I just feel swell and no aches, pains, or foul thoughts about me.

Well Dad, that was the first page of your letter and now on to the second one. No, I'm not broke yet. I still have \$50.00 out of the \$70.00. I sent you \$20.00 in the mail last night. I went to the Post Office and they were closing just as I arrived. So on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, I'll mail shoes, and Rollei if yours is here. I'll have about one dozen or more letters ready to mail by

Friday of this coming week as I have plenty of envelopes and paper. I'm going to buy more stamped envelopes this week at sea. So, I'll have a short stack on supply. A storekeeper just can't be caught short.

I know the complete schedule of the next cruise and you will know in due time as to where I am at. I'm sorry about upsetting Mother about the \$\$\$\$ situation. I know you and Mom are having a tough time of making ends meet with the \$\$\$ problem. I'll send more home next payday the 1<sup>st</sup> of May or 30<sup>th</sup> of April. Well, in just 40 days from now I will have "THREE YEARS IN" with good conduct. Then I get a Good Conduct in my service records. Three years of keeping my nose clean and not getting caught as the saying goes. Ha Ha. The fellows in the lab and most of them say three years of "UN-DETECTED CRIME" Ha Ha.

I'm glad to hear that you have been shooting some of the Ansco color film. Shoot it up Pal and you'll have gained a lot of knowledge on color. Ansco is the more or most critical of all the color films. You have to be right on or else. Oh, on the CONTAX, well I'll keep my eyes open and be on the ball and be sharp.

Now look Pop, I said that I would get the glasses for you and you don't have to send me the dough. I can manage on what I get and how I do I'll never know and I don't gamble or borrow. That also goes for the lenses on the Contax. You just forget about the camera gear that I have to get and let me take care of it. I won't goof I promise you.

Well, as far as Easter was concerned, I had forgotten about it to a certain extent. I knew it was soon, but when I just didn't have it down pat. I slept most of the day as I wrote and told you and Mom in previous letters. You had better take care of yourself and Mom for me or I'll raise hell.

Nope, I haven't been out to the golf course lately as I just haven't been able to make it. I don't think that I will make it in the morning as I have SHORE PATROL from 1900-7:00 PM to 0300-3:00 Am in the morning. Sure will be good and tired after all that.

Hey now, don't go smashing reels. You load NIKKOR reels and don't have any trouble at all and then you blow a fuse and break a plastic one. My oh my, what will I have to do to you.

Patience is the best thing in Photography. Me, well I have learned to have a little patience instead of losing my temper. I'm glad to read that you are using the lenses that I gave to you. But don't lose your temper over a reel that's hard to load. Sure, I do the same thing I get sore and then just walk away from it a few steps and start over. See, by getting mad, you lost instead of gaining. Now you have to shoot another roll of film for the one you destroyed. There's an old English word that really is important and I've seen it everywhere in my travels. THINK, it really has an important part in everyone's life.

I'm glad to hear of the new formula reaching you. You know can do a few experiments and see for yourself the fine results if all instructions are perfectly or almost perfectly followed. Try it if you can purchase the chemicals and etc. You'll really be amazed as to the results you will receive. I certainly was amazed as to the final results. Wow!, real gone cat huh? Ha Ha.

Well Pop, and Mom, I'm going to close now as I have to change into blues and go on the Air Station on Official business for the lab. Don't question about it as I won't tell you anyway. I just have to go as a few things have to be done today and I just happen to have the duty. Well, so long and be good to each other and I should see you in the coming months. About six or seven I should think. Ha Ha.

Your loving son,  
Bobby