

20 April 1955

1105 PM OR 2300 PCT

Howdy Pal,

How are you today? Hope you are feeling well and just about ready to snare some trout and I don't mean with a treble hook or net. Ha Ha. I'm fine and feeling great. I think that I have gained a little weight or something as all of my shirts are getting tight on me. It must be the laundry as I don't think that I have gained too much since I have been back in the states. Ha Ha. Good eats and plenty of sleep.

No letters this week at all so far and still no camera. It's probably waiting for me when we get in on Thursday afternoon. Sure will be nice going in early this week. We will be in now from Thursday till we leave the states in May. Be back in November though. So you had better get the deer and rabbits spotted. Ha Ha. I'll be home for hunting season if we are back in time. I sure am looking forward to it this year as I'll get a little more practice as you will have had three years more on me and it's hard to catch up especially when you are obligated like I am. Ha Ha. Sure is a nice vacation so far. Ha Ha. Time for coffee and one quick run to the "john". Be back in a near second.

Well, I'm back in only four minutes ten seconds and a big break. Wow!, what a relief for sure. Ha Ha. How's the Mercury holding up since you have had it fixed? Hope there isn't any more trouble from it. I sure like a Merc though. Although they can be headaches when they have to be fixed. Sure run smooth and dependable when they are in good shape. I can say that and I'll probably get one or we will get a new one and maybe keep this one.

Beethoven's 5TH SYMPHONY is next of the records and then the graduation march they play at school. Oh yes, you never mentioned it to me but I asked you to inquire for me at school whether or not the High School recognizes USAFI courses towards a High School Diploma. I think Munhall does so please inquire for me and let me know. And if they do, what courses I have to have in order to receive my diploma even though it is four years ago. I sure wished that I had it. Wishing just doesn't make things materialize. I know that. Will you do that for me before I leave on this next cruise? PLEASE. DON'T FORGET TO INQUIRE. PLEASE INQUIRE. I'm sure

you can find out for me and what courses I have to have. If I have to I'll work all the spare time that I have to myself. I realize now that I was damned foolish for not finishing school. Well now that I have that buzzing around inside of your brain, I'll change to something else. Or do I? Ha Ha. I mean it, please inquire for me. You don't realize how much I want that diploma now that I'm without one. It sure does mean a lot to me. They say "it's never too late". I wonder if it's true.

Well, how is the flying coming along? I haven't done a thing on my model since around the 7th of March. Sure busy and trying to get a little studying in in the evenings. I just have to make PH2 this time and I really and honestly mean it. It'll be a decisive point in my Navy career so until August I fret and wonder and study. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't have it on my mind at some time or another. I guess I'm hoping too much.

Well how's my Photographer washing negs these days. Not over 30 minutes and not under 20. I hope!????? I hope you got better negatives by cutting your development time. You don't have to cut your time just your exposure when you shoot them. You can do it without my leaning over your shoulder too. Ha Ha.

I got my shoes off and no stinky feet either. My shirt off and cigarette burning out of corner of lip and coffee in reaching distance. Ha Ha. Sure sound like a writer don't I? Ha Ha. I guess I should have studied like I am now in school and I wouldn't have had to sweat it out whether or not I get my high school diploma or not. Sure is or was foolish of me wasn't it? I'm sure of your answer. "YOUR DAMN RIGHT IT WAS." I know I was right. Well, it's over and done with and now I have to sweat it out to see if the school accepts USAFI Courses for a high school diploma.

Well, how is Willie getting along since he is back to work now? Sure hope you and he can catch a groundhog out in the open and get some shooting at one with your bow and arrow. I'd sure like to be there to take some pictures. I guess you and Mom will think I have gone buggy as to the number of pictures I shoot and probably will shoot. Ha Ha. Just wait until this cruise is over with, you'll really see an album of colossal superb prints. Ha Ha. I think that I spelled the word right. Ha Ha.

We are finally getting our new Photo Officer. From what I have heard, he is certainly one heck of a nice fellow. Chief Arsenault told us all about him and Arsenault was one damned good Chief. So if you ever get a ticket on O.W. Arsenault, tear it up to many little pieces. That one is for me. And if it ever happens and anyone says anything like padding my way. You tell them I'll personally kick the dog _ _ _ _ out of them.

The records are still playing and it's twelve midnight. Ha Ha. I started the records at ten thirty or somewhere's along the way. Ha Ha. I think there is only one more to go. What do you want from Hawaii? Please answer this question and no wise cracks either. Ha Ha.

How is Uncle Howard getting along? Don't you think that it's about time for him to do a little exercise and drop me a line one of these days. Tell Aunt Gladys she owes me a letter. Also, Aunt Ruth and Uncle Bob. Oh heck, tell all to write me a letter and that way I'll have to write back to them all. I'm going to the galley and get something to eat before turning in. I'll still finish this letter if it takes me all night long.

I just came back from the galley. It's now two o'clock in the morning. Still at sea. I had two nice juicy pieces of fried ham, and three eggs fried. Sure is nice to know someone in the supply department. Of course, he scratches my back and I scratch his and we are both getting along fine. Good chow and he likes pictures. Ha Ha. Also, about a pint of milk was consumed and three slices of toast, jelly, and last but not least coffee and a CAMEL for a full course. Just think, on the outside you don't eat like that any time you want to. Don't worry I am not SHIPPING OVER. Ha Ha.

I got four more records on the record player and they are going strong like me at least till the coffee and Camels run out. Sure is the life. Ha Ha. I'll have liberty Thursday night, Friday night and Saturday. Duty on Sunday. I have the last long week end in the states. Sure will be nice to come home once again. Can't wait until 5-27-56 WOW!, really have a ball, shooting portraits that is. Ha Ha. If the Rollei is here before Friday or on Friday you can expect it back (mine) by next Friday. I probably missed it by one day or so. Just one more cup of coffee and I'll hit the sack. That's for sure as I have to work in the morning. Time out for coffee. 0205 AM PCT. Back in a flash and I don't mean "bulb".

Got a couple more records on and gee how the time flies. You ought to see how fast this typewriter goes when there's music to type too. Really hot and cool Kat. Ha Ha. You and Mom better get busy these next weeks as I'll be going overseas and I won't be getting mail all the time. You can write like heck once I leave the states as I'll probably get mail in Hawaii. I expect to be there three weeks, so you had better write. I don't have any letters of yours to answer so I'm writing on my own tonight.

The ham and eggs were cooked by me and they really hit the spot. Maybe that's why I'm gaining a little weight. I only eat like this a couple of times during the week. Mostly when I have to sleep in the lab. We are going to paint the lab this coming week and then it won't be painted again until we are about ready to come home. I think it will be the last time that the lab will be painted by any of this crew. The next crew will see how well it was kept up. Really you and Mom ought to see how nice a place I work in. If you come to the West Coast I'll be sure that you see all of the ship that I can show you.

I'm just reading over the letter that I typed to see if I left anything out and can't find anything more to say for the present time. Cripes, I thought that I would finish in one more page and here it is near the end of this one. Next 1.

Oh hell, I almost forgot. The 35mm ID's you shot. Here they are and I can see you will shoot better ones the next time I'm sure. Try to get all of them in one uniform pose, no cocked hats or smiles. Just plain and be careful of parallax compensation. You have to center them just right or they will be like some of these.

Well Dad it's just about time for me to turn in as I'm beginning to hear Mr. Sandman for the 20th time. Ha Ha. This one must be real as my eyes are getting tired. So long for now and don't forget to write and ask Mom what is the name of the brand of dishes she wants from Japan. Is it Nartaki or Narumi? So long and take care of yourself and Mom for me. Also TINY.

Your Pal and Shadow,
Bobbie