

Sunday

24 April 1955

Duty Night

Hi Dad,

Well here it is Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of April and I have four of your letters to answer starting from the eighteenth of April to the 21<sup>st</sup>. Here goes.

I got your Rolleiflex and have mine all boxed up and ready to go in the afternoon mail. I left the neck-strap of mine in town in my locker and will take mine in town and put it in it and then mail you the better Rollei before I leave the states. I'll send all of my clothes home C.O.D. and I'll send you the dough ahead of time so you can pick it up and it won't cost you a cent. Your shoes will be in it also. Two one-hundred foot rolls of film also. Here goes one of your letters.

Glad to hear that Grandma is home from the hospital. I'll insure the Rollei for \$250.00 & you should have it by the end of this coming week. I put it in the same box that you sent yours in and there isn't any film in it at all. I haven't taken any pictures lately myself. Well not too much in that letter. I'm going to tie the suitcase up and lock it and mail you the key so that you can open it up when you get home. I'll lock it but I still want to tie it with heavy line just so there isn't any rough treatment and it comes open.

It's been warm here in San Diego too. Really summer right around the corner. Really everything is getting green and growing like heck. Colorful as all heck but I don't have a set of wheels so I just can't go everywhere I would like to go.

It's five minutes to nine already and I'll probably stay up till I finish this letter and one to Mom before I turn in for the night. I have duty next Thursday and then again on the following Monday. Then to sea for me.

You'd better not leave the planes in the living room or Mom will raise heck. Be sure to use a light meter when you shoot the 35mm Ektachrome up fishing. As shadows are rough on pictures

especially up in some of the mountain streams that are surrounded by high hills. No, don't get Rock's enlarger or you will have Mother all in an uproar. Just be patient until I get out or home and we'll figure out something. Just shoot and process them. I shot the score board and it just wasn't exposed quite enough as I used flash bulbs and then got the damned film mixed up with black and white and it got processed in B & W developer. Oh well, I'll try once more and will be very careful of what I shoot.

I'm glad that you are reading the Photo Vol #1 as you will benefit out of reading it. I think you will understand a little more about Photography after you read it. You just have to figure it out for yourself at first but if you read and understand what you read it won't be as tough as it is right now. You'll really understand it a lot. I stripped one roll out Aerial Ektachrome 7½" wide by 18" long for the Rollei and I hope it turns out alright as I haven't processed it yet. I made a rig to use razor blades and two boards and stripped some of it. It has high contrast and an ASA of 40. So if it works with the filters I used I'll be in like Flynn. Ha Ha. I'll have to check to see if I rolled it tight enough so that I don't have light leaks around the edge of the paper backing I used from B & W film. Of course, I marked what kind of film it is so I don't think that I will process it in B & W developer.

Here goes on a 20 page letter written on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. That \$20.00 is for the phone call (the first one) I'll send twenty more to you for the second one and I'll pay for the next call myself. The ship was about four miles from the Western Union Office so I only had to take a few minutes to go over and pick the \$20.00 up. No trouble at all in getting it.

That daredevil sure is a darn good lure. I liked it a lot and enjoyed watching the trout make a stab at it and then turn their noses up at it and swim back in to their retreat. Ha Ha. More fun than a barrel of monkeys in a race. What, ha ha, if it isn't one thing it's another. Well I just hope and am glad no one was hurt when the jerk hit the car. Shoot a UR (unsatisfactory report shot) on it. Ha Ha.

I got the Rollei Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> and it works like a charm. I checked all of the speeds and it's in 4.0 shape. No damage at all. I didn't think there would be or I wouldn't send mine. The Rolleigrid is in the camera and you don't have to do nothing but load it and set cross coupling

and shoot with a METER. You may think that you can guess on exposures. You may, and come along fine, but there are improvements that a meter will show you tremendously. Hey it's really paid off so far as for the gasoline mileage.

I'll say the shore patrol fixed my week end but good. I wrote to you and told you all about my first stateside shore patrol. I don't fool around do I? Ha Ha. I won't go broke either. I didn't think you'd demand that I forget about a Linhof, but it is nice to dream isn't it. Ha Ha. I'll say you surprised me with the twenty dollars. I didn't expect that much as I know you two are having a rough time making the \$\$\$ stretch from pay to pay.

Nope, I haven't got caught up on my letter writing yet and still no word from Don or Kate. I think you had better remind Aunt Belle and Uncle Jack to answer my letter. OK. Haven't done a thing on my Wildcat as I am pretty busy getting squared away for PH2. You know how much it means to you, Mom, and to ME. Just think about \$180.00 per month and board and chow. WOW!, sure is tempting but I have to take a lot of shit in plain words. Please excuse the lingo.

Don't worry about me calling as I'll be sure to call. I'll get up in the fresh air once in a while you can be sure. I have a job to do in the lab and I'll do it but I'll just have to get some fresh air once in a while. You can bet I will as I like the sun and fresh air. You can bet that I will get plenty of sunshine and tan. My fingers are coming along fine and one nail is off and the new one is through and on the way. Be back in a few minutes as I have to get my blankets and pillow as I have to sleep in the lab tonight. Time out for a few minutes. Hey Pop, you remember the picture of Burwell I shot in 35mm Ektachrome, send it back mounted as I am going to trade Burwell one of me for the one of himself. Send it in the next letter.

OK. I'm back and I have the blamed blankets and pillow. It's five to ten and still not finished. I still think that I may get a typewriter as I know you want one and now that I use it so darn often I thought that it might be a good investment.

Yep, I'm sure that I would enjoy the golf game as I like to golf a heck of a lot and it's good exercise and it's cheaper. Besides I don't have as much interest in baseball and basketball like I used to have. I have to think about the future and making a living. Not just all play all the time.

I bought two cartons of Ansco Supreme ASA 50 24 rolls, for \$8.00. Normally it would have cost me \$14.00 but I got to know one of the fellows in town in one of the Photo shops and he seemed to think I was a professional photo and then when he found out I was Navy Photo he gave me a discount. Some deal huh? On all film and paper or anything I want to buy. Sure was nice of him. I'll see how the dough holds out and maybe I'll get color film in the same place. But I'm still in and out other shops to see who gives the most off. See I'm just like you are. Ha Ha. Only a little more scotch in me I think. Ha Ha. I'm not depriving myself of any of my pleasures I just know when and not to spend the dough. You'll receive the clothes and you can wear them as I'll probably not be able to wear them by the time I get out of the Navy. Ha Ha.

If I do get rid of the Noctax Contax I'll probably get another Leica, M-3. I'm going to try and sell it for at least \$200.00 and the Rolleiflex for \$150.00. Yep I have the darned camera and I'll nail yours to the postman's back in the morning and he can deliver it to you first thing. Ektachrome is alright for projecting but if you decide that you want prints made, it's better to use Kodachrome. Don't worry about my getting hitched and I'll be sure to invite you and Mom. I hope that you try the T-X formula and you will see what I have been talking about in my recent letters. I know that you will like it as I have very much so. I know you don't know the actual conditions of the film and chemicals but you just mix them like I have them and you won't go wrong.

Well one more letter of yours and then to start on Mom's. I got the schedules and I'll probably call on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. So you and Mom can be home watching T.V. and be ready for the call. I'll call from the ship and if not on the second definitely on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. I have duty on 2<sup>nd</sup> and its payday and I have off the 3<sup>rd</sup> for sure.

Well, here goes on the last of your letters written on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month. I bet that he raises a few dollars selling the worms. He sure is a corker. I sure wished that I had had ideas like he has at his age. I'd of made a million by now. Ha Ha. I guess, whoops, I had to run to the head and go. I'm already back I guess I must of ate something that didn't agree with me. Sure is working overtime if I must say so. Well I feel much better and you'd never guess what time it is now. It's

1130 and I haven't even started on Mom's letter yet. But she did not write as many letters as you have. Get on her and tell her to get busy. Ha Ha.

You're not supposed to call Rock's of Ernie, let them call you and you won't have to keep after them to process it. After all, not everyone can do color and do it till the color is correct. Yep, I used the close ups of the Rollei and Pan head they work good. You want the strobe too. Ha Ha. Try and get it. Hot dog, real live ammo huh? The population will be damned surprised when they start to fire the AA batteries. Ha Ha. I only hope they are drills and no more than that. I sure would hate to live around there if I thought it was going to happen as there wouldn't be anything left. It's so damned destructive than many people realize. If you knew what it could do, you'd sweat it out all the time. Well I just don't talk about it so onto something else.

How is the Auto holding up since you had the new carb, and other adjustments done to it? Fifteen and ¼ miles to the gallon isn't too bad considering 4 years old. You and Mom just keep writing like you have been and I'll be satisfied. I'll get lotso mail until I leave Hawaii for Japan and then it'll be a long period between letters until I reach Japan. Don't get upset as you'll receive the packages in time. I know I'm slow but I always pay off in the end.

That's the end of the letter and I have one to do for Mom before I hit the sack. Here are a few things to keep for me. So long for now.

Your Pal,

Bob

[Letter includes 5 B&W print negatives]

[Print negative with a single image: man in a bowtie]

[Print negative with two images: a rooftop, and a street with three houses and a car]

[Print negative with two images: a building (angled view), and a man holding a shovel in front of a tree and a car]

[Print negative with two images of a building (straight view)]

[Print negative with three images of street views: a house and a telephone pole, two houses and a car, and the corner of a wall and a car]