

U.S.S. Hornet CVA-12
Photographic Laboratory
EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA

DEAR MAMSAN AND PAPASAN,

HERE IS NUMBER ONE ICHIBON BOYSAN SAYING HELLO TO FOLKS FIRST TIME IN LONG TIME. WRITE WHEN YOU CAN. I'M FINE AND HOPE YOU ARE TOO. WILL MAKE TYPING MACHINE BURN LIKE FIRE IN FUTURE. HOPE NO ONE STEALS RIBBON FROM OIL BURNER. HA HA VERY FUNNY NE????? Ha Ha. Well, only thought I could maybe get a laugh out of you and Dad by hitting it off in Broken Japanese English.

So long for now.

Love,

Bobby

P.S. PEEK BEHIND NEXT COUPLE PAGES AND YOU MAY FIND A FEW MORE NOTES OF INTEREST. SO LONG FOR NOW MAMASAN AND PAPSAN.

LOVE,

Number 1 ICHIBON

BOBBY

U.S.S. Hornet CVA-12

Photographic Laboratory

10 June 1955

Dear Mom and Dad,

Hi there, just two more days in the open sea and then into Yokosuka. I'll mail this letter in town there and you will receive it shortly thereafter. I don't like this red print so I'll swing along to the black. Here I go. I'm fine and no colds at all or anything like that to bother me with. I'm fine and in good health. I'm peeling like a banana in July. Ha Ha. From my waist up to and including my ears. Ha Ha. But I'm still brown underneath all the skin that's coming off. Ha Ha.

Gee, it'll seem funny getting letters after all this time. I'm only going to be in Yoko for a few days and then out for a month or so. Don't know where but I won't get to see Don or Kate this cruise after all. Sorry but there's nothing I can do or squawk about it. I'll drop them a line if I can find his address. How is everyone here at home? I hope everyone is well and taking care of themselves as well as I am. I am wondering whether or not you received my last letter telling of my measurements?? I had to laugh when I wrote it as you and Dad would think that I have gone nuts or something like that. Ha Ha.

Been working on the Photographic report that has to be sent by the 31st of June. I've got to itemize all the supplies we have used in the last six months and cost of each item and total it all up and well you know what there is to an inventory. I won't have to take another one until December, but I think that I will ask to get out of the storeroom by then as I'll only have five or six months to go and would like to loaf for the rest of the time. Ha Ha. Besides I can learn more in the darkrooms by printing and I shouldn't get too dull on it after all if I intend on making some dough in it on the outside.

I don't think we are going to hit Hong Kong, but if I do, I'll get the camera that I mentioned and if not, I'll just save the dough. Well, anyway I'll get you your dishes and bring them back with me. I won't forget either. Also the glasses for Dad. Only two more days and I'll be on the coast of Japan. Once again in Japan inside of six months. Sure can't get over how time does fly.

Gee in only 350 more days, your little Robert will be out and a civilian once again. Ha Ha. I'll have to get a job and turn to make some loot and get hitched, getting old and grey and no gal today wants an old man. Ha Ha. Oh well, just so they don't take my cigarette dough away. Ha Ha. Don't need beer money as I can get Dad to buy me a beer if I want any. Ha Ha. Nope, I won't be out spending all of the dough drinking. Like I said I'm 3x7 and plus and don't drink.

I hope the hell there's plenty of mail waiting for me as I sure miss yours and Dad's letters. Nothing to do in the evenings and I don't feel like writing when I don't have any mail to answer. I'm going to make a flock of pictures that I shot in Hawaii and send them home in the first chance I get this coming week. I'll be in port all week long and should have plenty of mail to keep me busy. I left \$30.00 on the books this past pay. I'll only draw about twenty this pay. So the next pay I'll have about \$150.00 or more the following pay. Then I'll only draw a little as I've seen all I care to in Japan. Of course I'll take in all the tours that I missed last time over here. I hope that I get another chance to go to the show in Tokyo of "300" GALS. Ha Ha. Sort of enjoyed the show. Ha Ha. WOW! Ha ha.

Well, how is Tiny getting along now that he bit a little kid and was there anything come of it. I hope not as I'd just about shit if anything happened to him. Please excuse the French. I'll write some more Sunday as I have the duty again and Duty Photographer and will be up quite late pressing whites and writing letters. Ha Ha. I'll have more letters by then to write. Tomorrow night they are going to have a Boxing Smoker on the hangar deck and I hope to shoot some pictures of it. I have a fist-full of rolls of color film to develop and send home. I'll send them if they are any good. I'll type out little sheet with information on them and send them along with the film if it's any good at all and I hope you like the Rollieflex and Leica. You ought to be doing good now that you have all the dope and information.

Well, I'll have to send some postcards to all of the relations to let them know that I have arrived in Japan for the second time. I'll have to send post cards to all the relatives as I don't write to everyone I can think of. They don't write to me so I don't write. Ha Ha. Ain't I ornery. Ha Ha?????? Don't answer that.

I still haven't done anything on the model for over a month or so. Guess I'll get hot on it one of these days after the Semi-Annual Report is sent in and a little time to myself. But when I get time off I sleep or get some sunshine. Well, enough of that for now or I'll never get this letter finished.

I got my hair cut today and for the first time since I've been on the Hornet, it was cut right. I finally got to know someone in the barber shop and we scratch each other's back. I make photos and he makes with the clippers and shears. Ha Ha. No trouble at all just make a couple extra every time I print and no noise at all. Ha Ha.

Well I'm going to sign off for now and turn in for the night in a little while as tomorrow is still a work day for me. Ha Ha. The new Chief is an S.O.B. and isn't worth two hoots in hell. Just creates confusion and friction. The new Photo Officer is going to bounce him right out of the lab in short order. I hope it's soon. He seems to confide in me as I'm one of the few in the lab that has been on the ship longest. He asks me heck of a lot of questions about how the lab was run and any ideas about how it could possibly run better. I don't mind talking to him as he reminds me a little of Dad. Even got the grey hair to go with it and he speaks what's on his mind. No one pulls any wool over his eyes. Sure is a sharp cookie. Hot Dog. A Real Gone Photo Officer. Ha Ha. Really intelligent as hell and smarter than a whip. Ha Ha.

Well, enough of that for now and you two had better take good care of yourselves or I'll kick your butts. Ha Ha. So long for now and don't worry about little Roberta as he'll look out for Roberta and me too. Take care of each other for me and Keep an extra eye on Tiny. BE good and WRITE OFTEN AND SOON. So long for now and write when you can and I'll answer them as soon as I can get them in the mail. So long for now.

WRITE WHEN YOU CAN THEN SOME.

Your loving son,

Bobby