

U.S.S. Hornet CVA-12
Photographic Laboratory
15 June 1955
Yokosuka, Japan

Dear Mom,

Thanks for the five letters that I received upon arriving in Japan. Arrived the 13th of June around seven in the morning. Really nice here this time of the year but it rained today for the first time. Leaving Saturday for operating and patrol. I'm not even going to try and answer all your letters in this one letter. But I will answer them when I am a little more wide-awake. It's almost twelve o'clock and I just finished a letter to Grandma Caldwell and one to Grandma Richey. I'll make this one brief say about eight or nine pages if I can last that long. Here goes one written 23rd and mailed the 31st.

You sure did surprise me when I had five letters from you for me when we arrived here. No mail between Hawaii and here. We stopped off of Midway for three days and fooled around. Getting hotter by the day and air conditioning went out in the lab so it's really hot. Other than that, I'm fine and feel swell. But only one thing wrong. A distance of about 10,000 miles. That's all that's wrong. Ha Ha.

We are having our division party tomorrow night and I'm going. I sold the Rollieflex that I brought with me Monday night. I went on liberty and in about two hours I had sold it at the same place that I sold one last cruise. Got \$130.00 for this one towards my new camera.

My cold had gone after I went surf-board riding in Hawaii. Sure had fun and enjoyed myself tremendously. Really looking forward to stopping there on the way back to Bremerton, Washington. Surprise huh? Ha Ha. So am I so far. May change later on anyway and probably will. Sure wish that it was Brooklyn. Oh well, you can't have your cake and eat it too.

I have a few tablets that you sent in a little plastic box and they done the trick along with sunshine and salt water. Really good for one when you are ill. Yep, the weather is hot in the

daytime and cool in the night. That is here in Japan it is. I don't think I will get to see Don or Kate in Subic Bay at all as I don't think we will be going there this cruise.

No, I'm not complaining about your letter writing. In fact, I'm rather happy to see you writing as much as you have written to me in these past three weeks. Really peeps up a fellow when the mail comes rolling in. Only about five days from the time you mail it until I get it here in Japan. Heck, you're as spry and as lively as a grasshopper on the fourth of July. What makes you think you're getting old. Just don't let the grey worry you too much. I'm loaded with it and I don't worry. Not too much that is.

Ha, you cooked six big trout and then write and tell me all about it. I ought to spank your butt, but I won't though. I'm glad that you got to go fishing with Dad. I'm taking this from one of the latest letters of yours that I read. Ha Ha. Good for you and Dad, glad to hear that you two are getting out more together. What do you mean you outcook yourself? You always could cook damn good and don't let anyone tell me different. I'll kick the _____ out of them. You're darn right it's up to me and I'll tell Mr. Wain I like it better on the outside than being in the Navy. Too much petty stuff going on in the Navy for anyone to sit and take it when you are in my position. It starts where it ends at, the top.

Thank Mrs. Martin for the fudge for me and it's real good. I still have half a box in the ice box left. Cripes, I opened it up and the moths (fellows) took to it like wool. Ha Ha. Really can't be selfish and eat it all myself. Anyway I'd get sick as it's very rich and sweet. In fact too rich for me. Wow!, sure was good. Almost gone now. Ha Ha. The fudge was in good shape and a bit sticky but other than that it was fine. I put the rest in the ice box under padlock. Ha Ha. I'm the only one who has a key for it. Being as I'm the storekeeper. Ha Ha. It only took ten days for the fudge to get to me. Of course it waited in Japan for me. I was not in when the fudge called for me. Ha Ha.

Cripes I'll have to start off with a vacation when I come home or I won't even be fit to get along with if I was nervous at Christmas time. I'm sorry but I just get all shook up pretty easy at times. Then again it takes quite a bit to shake me up.

Well enough of that for now. How have your legs been treating you lately? Hope they haven't been raising hell with you and letting you take it easy. Please try not to work so darn hard. Practice what you preach, hurrying gets you nowhere fast. Ha Ha. Take your good old time.

Well, I finished one of your letters. Here goes on another one. It's ten after twelve already so I may as well try on another one. Written 31 May, mailed 4th of June. I received the clipping you cut out of Kaufmann's ad and will look for you and get you one nice set of China.

Well, about those five letters, I felt down in the dumps as usual when I don't get any mail and I sure can't wait until this cruise is over with. Oh, the wallet is finished and I'm going to send it home with the accessories for the Rollieflex. Heck I just learned how to tool leather and decided that I might make Dad a wallet. Not too bad considering the first time I tried. Well, I thought this would come up about a hand tooled purse. Well, I tell you what, I'll think about it. Ha Ha. I'll make one for you but no dates mentioned as I don't know what tomorrow will bring. Maybe busy as heck and again then

nothing to go at all.

Please excuse paper slipped.

I guess Dad and the kids had loads of fun. I'm sort of glad you didn't ride anything as I know you get sick or ill after riding them weird contraptions they acclaim to be fun. I wouldn't ride them as they are sort of dangerous also. Nope, it's the centrifugal force that keeps you hung up on the wall of the barrel. You can't go through it so you stick there and hope it doesn't drop you out.

I guess everyone had a good time at the picnic, even you and Dad. I know Les and if I know him as I think I do, he and Dad had one hell of a good time. Please excuse the French. Ha Ha. Maybe he didn't feel well and didn't want to spoil your day. I think he can take a picture. I'll have to write and tell him how to do it before the park closes. It might be pretty hard to do but I think it could be done in color. But he would have to be very careful as to give it plenty of exposure, but every light that moved would look sort of funny and confusing.

I don't think that it would be wise to send any more fudge as it's getting hotter by the day and it would probably be ruined by the time it arrived here in Japan or where ever I was at.

Well, Mom, I'm beginning to close one eye and then the other and I know it's a couple of hours past my bed time and I ought to be sleeping but I just had to get one letter off to you and Dad before hitting the sack tonight. I might not be able to get any more off until we get to sea, and then it's supposed to leave the ship about every fifth day or so. We will get mail at least once a week while operating. I'll get back in Japan about end of July.

Well Mom, so long and take care of yourself and Dad, also TINY. So long for now and write when you feel well and have a bunch of my letters to answer. Good night Mom.

Your loving son,
Bobby