

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

Dear Dad,

I have in front of me at the present time about sixteen letters. Wow!, you and Mom must have been really busy. I got the fudge and \$5.00 from Grandma Richey, all in all I have a lot of letter writing.

Well, I sold the Rollieflex for \$130.00. Not bad considering that I sold a model 4. They have two other models out now. I drew \$100.00 off of the books today as it was payday and I think we are going to be in Hong Kong this operating period. Well, I paid for the ticket for the Division party and that left me with \$225.00 for Hong Kong. I can imagine that I will get paid before arriving there. I'm hot on the Contax as I have a fellow on the beach working for me and he will see around for at least \$250.00 for it. So you see, I'll have enough for the 4x5 Linhof. I have made up my mind on the 4x5 Linhof and I'll tell you all about it after I get all of these letters answered.

I haven't sent the accessories for the Rollie yet, but will do so before going out to sea this time. We leave Friday and will be back around the end of July. A nice long cruise won't it be. Ha Ha. I'll write as mail is supposed to leave the ship every week or so.

WELL, here goes on the letter written on the 2nd of June. I can imagine that you, Les, and Audrey Jean had a good time at Kennywood. How did Les react to the first ride on the Pippin? I guess he would let out a yell that could be heard clear over the park. Ha Ha. I can imagine that you had your hands full with the two of them up there. It must have been a barrel of fun as I know Leslie is full of fire and energy.

I just changed ribbons on the typewriter. Here goes once again. The fudge is very good and I have sent some color pictures home already and I'll send some more by the time I get back in to the base here. Nothing new with me except I feel good and doing alright. Cold is all gone. The

fingers are doing fine. Have about ¼” to go and they will be back to normal. Haven’t found your negs yet. Haven’t done any printing yet either. Nope haven’t done a thing about diploma either.

Yep, I finally made up my mind about the Linhof, if I get there it’ll be a 4x5. I’ll send you a list of the stuff that I buy with it when I get it in my hands.

It sure is hot as hell here in the lab as the air conditioning has been off for the past three days and they are turning the electricity off at 12 tonight. No cold water, no air conditioning, and no lights, so I guess we won’t be working for a couple of days. Ha Ha. I haven’t done a thing on the WILDCAT as of lately. I’m working on it when we are at sea.

Well, the slides of Mom were real swell but you didn’t use flash fill did you. Ha Ha. See, you have to think all the time when you shoot color outside. A fill in flash makes lots better pictures. The shot of Tiny was very sharp and so were the other ones. Too bad though, he didn’t have his ears perked up. You really are learning on color fast and you’ll just have to remember to change the numbers on the synch dial or you won’t get good results. Well, you’re learning as time goes by. I’ll get home in about six months or so after we finish this cruise.

Well, maybe Tiny will eventually get used to a camera and not be afraid of it when I get home as I’ll drive him crazy with one. Ha Ha. You have to set it on #12 and shoot at a 1/25th I think. I think that’s what it was. I don’t remember as I haven’t shot with the Leica in a long time. You just forget about turning the dial back to try and expose it again. You aren’t supposed to do it. I know I showed you how it could be done, but it is not a good practice. It will in time wear out the shutter speed dial. Once in a great while won’t hurt it, but you have to be very careful in doing it.

I’m glad you are getting out and getting some exercise as I’ll be in top shape when I come home. You’ll have to get a day’s start on me when we go hunting as I’ll run you all over the hills. Ha Ha. I won’t take it out on you too hard at first but you had better get hot. Might go over on Friday and shoot some trap. I’m going over with the CONTAX IN THE AFTERNOON of the

16th. Hope to snag off \$250 for it or more. Will try and argue like hell for all I can get. They like it if you argue.

Gee Pal, I'm only on your sixth page and still have about 15 more letters to answer. I'm glad that you had a nice time at the picnic. I threw the bad ones away. I still haven't done the color that I shot at Waikiki Beach. I shot eight rolls of color in Hawaii. That was 120 color. About four rolls of 35mm color. Still shoot like hell when the opportunity comes. No more 120 B&W or Color for me until I get home. No more Rollie. I'll pack the accessories up and send them off to you. I'm sure you will find some use for them. Also the Close up attachments, pan head, polarizing filter sunshade, and one series seven filter for the Leica. I got it to use on the Contax in Hawaii and Wilkins got the wrong size, so I'll still keep it. It's for shooting indoor type film outdoors.

Well here goes once again. I stopped about a half hour ago and now I'm back at the letter. I hope you aren't mad at me. I'm sorry if you and Mom haven't been receiving much mail as I don't feel like writing much anymore. Can't think of anything to say when I don't get any mail. I'll be sure busy now that I have at least a dozen letters to answer.

Now don't go buying an enlarger or I'll kick your you know what. I'll get one when I come home this fall. I still got a sneaking suspicion that I'll be in Hong Kong sometime this month. If I do, I'll check on Wee Hong Yee at the immigration office in Hong Kong. I guess you told him that I was on the Hornet. If he is in Hong Kong, I'll find him and shoot the bull with him.

I'm sorry that I forgot about the 19th being Father's Day, or I would have sent you something. Cripes, I can't keep track of the time any more at all. But one thing I do know is that I have 330 days left starting July.

Are you referring to the transparencies that I shot at the Aquarium in Hawaii? I got a box of 36 back the other day and I'll send them home also. I was thinking of sending my strobe home, but I might and may not. I'll have to decide when the time comes to get the Linhof. I'll say it would be something to see Mother catching for you. Ha Ha. See you give me heck about spending my dough and now I have \$225.00 saved from the sale of the Rollie and \$100.00 on the pay. Wow!,

sort of saved it in a hurry didn't I? If I can get \$250 for Contax, I won't have to put too much of my own dough into it, by that I mean I won't have to use any of the dough that I draw while I'm out here. Just tell Mom to take up an extra hitch in her belt and I'll be home before she has time to count the days.

We are having our Division party tomorrow night and we invited the Admiral, Chief of Staff, Captain and Executive officer of the ship to come. I think that they might come to the party. I may have to shoot pictures for the party tomorrow night as I don't think I'll stay too long. We leave the next morning and I'd like to get some rest as we will be flying and have lots of photo work going on.

I'll get the plane built in due time and it'll be a damn good looking one now that I have the hinges from you. I didn't have any and didn't want to get some old Jap cloth for them.

I won't get bulgy either. Getting in good shape as I work out a couple times a week to break the monotony of ship board life at sea. Sure is dull and since I have the job in the store room is quite a job. Have to have fifty hands all at once at times.

What I mean on the view of the model was the angle that it was taken from. Just a little imagination is all it takes to shoot some pictures. HA HA. I just must be loaded with imagination.

I'm going to write tonight until I get too darned tired to punch the keys. I have liberty at one o'clock in the afternoon tomorrow so I'll see if I can hustle the CONTAX tomorrow.

Fairly well!, hell's bells, I don't think anyone could have reproduced the color the way you did. It was perfect and with flash it makes it tougher to shoot and still maintain good color saturation and proper color tones. You've done very well and just keep it up. You ought to try fill in flash on the camera when you shoot, but don't allow too much when out doors or you'll overexpose the film. Just to knock out the shadows. That's all especially with back lighting. Just you wait

until I get home. Of course, you have to watch that the sun doesn't get on the lens. I'll teach you a million tricks of the profession. Ha Ha.

Cripes I started to peel for the third time and I'm still brown underneath all the skin that has come off of me. Must have a good tan or I'd be white now. Ha Ha. Hey, I shot those pictures of the Hawaiian gals. What do you think I am? I don't send other guys' pictures home for you and Mom to look at. Ha. You get me PO'd Joe. Ha Ha. Well I won't get PO'd at Mom for asking about the dough. I know she has a lot on her mind and worries too much about me and the rest of the tribe. I only wish that she'd let them worry about themselves.

The cursed Cruise Book was mailed from Hawaii as they lost all the addresses and sent them to the ship and the ship in turn sent them back to the states to the proper addresses. I'll be sure that you have them by the end of the month or probably have them by now.

Well, that's the end of the 24 page letter. I'm going to close for now and start on the rest of the letters. I'll write when I can and as often as I can. I hope you and Mom will not think I have been neglecting writing to you. So long for now. I'll write later.

Your Pal & Shadow,

Bobby