

U.S.S. Hornet CVA-12

Photographic Laboratory

20 June 1955

Hi Dad,

Here it is the 20th of June and underway for Okinawa. I don't know what for but we are going there for a while. Might hit Hong Kong, China in the month of September. I got all the dough in the safe, a total of \$380.00. I get paid on the 1st of July. Won't be in port at all. Might get in there at Iwakuni around July.

I'm going to start on your letter of the 28th of May. Yep, I'll forget the Nikon S-2. I'll get the Linhof before I get home. But I won't be shooting any pictures. Not too many, anyway. I'm glad that Tiny finally tongued a rabbit as I sort of thought he wouldn't even bark at one. Ha Ha. I received some transparencies and sent them back home already. I'm going to take the accessories to the post office tomorrow and mail them, then come back and wrap the fishing rod that I paid 480 Yen. Yep, I sure did shoot a lot of film. If you were where I had been, I bet that you would have shot 1000 pictures. I hope that you have a good day out fishing next time.

Nope, the lenses weren't any better than the ones you have on the Leica. I like the LEICA and no one will change my mind on it. Sure is one swell camera.

It's been raining all day long and nothing doing for most of the day. Not too many flights. Guess what? I built the wing of the "WILDCAT" last night and will work on it tomorrow night.

Tonight, I am going to hit the sack early and take it easy. Ha Ha. You'll have to try something else or the Hell Razor will be a flop. Maybe Willie built it wrong also. Ha Ha.

We are going to mix some Ektachrome chemicals up soon and I'll shoot it over again and see what comes of it. I'll get it this time for sure as I'll make damn sure that I take time and shoot it. Of course, I'll expect some arguments on Photo or I'll think something's wrong. You have your own ideas and I'll just prove to you IF you are wrong when and where at. Ha. Ha. You'll gradually see the light and understand it more clearly than you did before. I didn't know a damn

thing about photography before I went to school and I was considered pretty dopey in high school, but the hell with them.

Gee, I ate too much spaghetti tonight and drank too much coffee after chow and I have gas and my stomach is sore. Will have to cut down on eating or I'll look like uncle Howard if I'm not careful. Ha Ha.

Don't put the ice cubes in the chemicals. Just put them in a pan around the chemicals. Keep them cool and you'll have very good results.

I sold the Contax and Rollie. I told you in a couple of other letters, but I guess you haven't received them as of yet, but will receive them in a couple of weeks. No mail will leave the ship until we get in or around Okinawa.

Time out for coffee and smoke. Can't even spell camel anymore. When I go ashore, I'll take the Speed Graphic out of the lab and use my strobe with it if I decide to use it. It works perfectly with the Speed and I can put the film on a training job order and shoot lots of film. I was always kidding about the 800MM lens. I'm not full of \$\$\$\$\$\$. Ha Ha.

I hope that you and Mom liked the picture "CINEORAMA" as I heard that it was very good. I'm sure you did as they had something on the Navy in it I think. I'm glad that you had a nice time at the picnic with the kids. I sure miss all the loafing and fun. Ha Ha.

I changed my mind about the Linhof, it'll be 4x5 as I have said in one of my other letters. If you take both of them side by side or in a magazine or for making any dough out of it, I'll take the Linhof. No, I won't sell it in the states. The 4x5 doesn't take any more maneuvering to operate than the 2¼ x 3¼.

I bet that he was PO'd when you sprung the change in dollar bills. Ha Ha. Can't get ahead of the Richeys, can they? Ha Ha. I guess Tiny shook the rain all over everyone at Gladys' and they made a fuss over it.

I'll shoot a picture of the LINHOF gear with the 4x5 View Camera we have here in the lab. I'll do a good job too. Ha Ha. Maybe I'll have \$1,000.00 by the first of next May, who knows, not even me as I don't know what tomorrow will bring. Ha. Ha.

Well, that's the end of that letter and I'll shoot the bull for a while. I tried to sell Contax in Yoko, but had to go to Yokohama and ended up selling it in Yokosuka. I tried to sell in Yokosuka, but they wouldn't even come close to me, so I went to Yokohama and they wouldn't even come close there either. Returned to Yokosuka feeling low and then ran into shop by accident and sold for \$170.00 so I don't think I done too bad as they only wanted to give \$145.00. The hell with them as I know they will make \$\$\$ on it anyway so I sold it then.

Well I guess I didn't do 4.0 on the Contax or Rollie. Just about 3.5 I guess. But I think the Rollie had seen the course and the Contax also. I think I got some sand in the shutter at Waikiki on the Contax. Ha Ha. It's sold now and so much the better. I didn't get one bad bill either. They are passing ten dollar counterfeits over here in MPC and I had them checked before I left there as I inquired from a friend that knew what to look for and I looked at them before closing the deal. Sure had lots of nerve. Ha.

You should have seen Sam Spade and Nick Carter that night, not to mention the SHADOW. Closed deal, snatched cab, hit railroad station in about ten minutes, and flew out for Yokosuka when Rollie was sold. Snatched cab in Yokosuka, and headed for thieves alley. They wouldn't even think of me going there. Of course, you are wondering what in the hell is going on. Well, usually after they close a deal, they roll the guy with the money and have full profit. I didn't travel alone and with plenty of muscle. No, no guns or knives. Ha Ha. Just flesh and nerve. Ha Ha. I don't think we would have had any trouble even if they had put five guys after us. As this other fellow is taller and built about the same as I am. Of course, I'm ashamed to say that I had a roll of dimes in my neckerchief. But it's for one's own good. And I made my mind up that it's for my own good to sort of just have them along. Pretty good club if you know how to hit with and I KNOW. I'm not kidding either.

I guess you will wonder what's got into me but I want the Linhof. And no Jap, or N. Korean is going to snag my dough if I can help it. Well, enough of that now or you'll send the Kehaufer Committee after me to see what the Navy does on liberty. Next page.

(FINAL PAGE FOR TONIGHT)

Well, enough of my weird adventures for tonight. So long and take care of Mom and yourself for me. I'll write again tomorrow night to Mom and then the next night on another of your letters. Be sure to write when you can as I'll probably have piles of letters waiting for me when I get back to Japan. It will be one month from the time I left there. So long and take care of yourselves. So long and watch out for Tiny.

Your Pal,
Bobby