

Photographic Lab

U.S.S. Hornet

16 December 1953

Dear Kate,

I haven't heard from you in a long while and wondered if I owed you a letter or not. I still haven't had any letters from Don as of yet. What's the matter with him? Why in the hell doesn't he write? I can't imagine him not writing unless he has forgotten me completely. Maybe he doesn't have the time or doesn't want to. It's something that is bothering him. I know that he isn't the happiest guy about having sea duty. I'm sort of disgusted with it already and I've only had a couple of months of it. I would get out now if I could. But, I still write to all of my friends. Maybe he hasn't received any of the letters that I wrote to him. He ought to have received them by now as it's been over a month since I last worked up enough energy to write him a line.

I'm still in Norfolk and going to be in New York over the holidays. We just came back in from a couple of weeks of carrier qualifications. Weren't too bad to go so dam far out. Going home tomorrow the 18<sup>th</sup>. I intend on flying if I can get a ticket to Pittsburgh.

How have you been since you were ill? I hope that you didn't have any bad effects after you came home. I hope that I can see you and Don before long as I miss seeing your happy faces like I used to in Washington. I sure wished that I could get duty up there and stay there. I liked it so much that I have been thinking of getting a job out there when I get out and take life easy. I have never in my life been to such a nice place and become so attached to it.

I get mail from home all of the time and Mom and Dad say they hear from you once in a while. How is your dog? Is she getting along fine? Our dog, Tiny, was ill from horsing around at night I guess. Ha Ha. Dad took him to the veterinary a couple of times and he is getting along pretty good now.

I expect to be on the West Coast this coming fall, I mean next year this time. Going to tour the Med, Indian Ocean, and on to Hong Kong, China. Also going to Japan and then Pearl Harbor and

San Diego. After that's over with, all the way back around again. It should take some time. I hope to get home sometime in 1955. I got nine days leave for Christmas and have to report back to the Hornet on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December. So you see, there's not much time to be at home. I wouldn't go home, but I missed last Christmas with the family and decided that I ought to go home as my grandparents are getting up in age and I would like to see them again. They're not in the best of health and Mom says they are failing fast. I wouldn't have taken any leave if I had known the Hornet was going to be in New York over the holidays. I might not get it yet as I haven't seen the leave papers for a couple of weeks now and I just hope they went through.

When you write to Don the next time, ask him to drop me a line to let me know where he is. I'm not going to write unless I get an answer. Well Kate, it's after chow time and I have to shine shoes and take a shower and sort the laundry I got back today. Write soon and let me know how Don is. Say hello to him for me if you or he calls one another. So long for now and take care of yourself.

As always a friend,

Rich