

San Diego, California  
Friday Night 2100 PM PCT  
01 April 1955

Hi Dad,

Just a short note to send your \$\$\$ for your birthday that's been almost three weeks late. I am going to mail the shoes in the morning after I come back into town. I hope you don't mind.

Well, I have some very good news for you and Mom as far as I'm concerned. We, that is the ship, is going to hit some of the most interesting ports this next cruise. First of all, we are to operate around Northern Japan most of the time in case anything happens. Then go to Hong Kong, China three times, Singapore, and the best of all, Siam or Thailand as sometimes it's called. That's right near Burma and I suppose the ship will continue on to the east coast. Sure looking forward to this cruise. Arrive Japan around the 6<sup>th</sup> of June. Leave San Diego May 6<sup>th</sup> enroute to Frisco and then Pearl Harbor. I'll call tomorrow night and once again before I shove off for the far east.

I hope that you and Mom will like the pictures I sent this afternoon. You should receive them about the same time that I think. This letter should arrive about the same time as both are AIR MAIL. I'll send the shoes and close up portra lens and filter in the morning. After I mail them, I'm going to play golf if I get off of the ship before 8 o'clock in the morning. If I don't, I'll at least mail the shoes and filter etc.

The strobe is fine and you ought to see the color balance that I get with the ektachrome daylight type film. I sure was surprised with the results of it. It nothing but amazed me with the results. I used the strobe as a fill in flash outside and it's wonderful as far as I can see. I'll get another battery just in case this one peters out before I complete the cruise. I can keep it in the reffer and have no trouble about worrying whether or not it will keep or not.

Well Dad, I just wanted to get this money order off so I thought that I would drop you a short letter. So long for now and take care of Mom and Tiny for me and you'd better take good care of yourself.

Your Pal & Shadow,  
Bobby