

13 April 1955
USS HORNET CVA12
PACIFIC OCEAN
1845 PM PCT

Hi Dad,

I started a letter to you the other night but I never did get around to finishing it in time to mail in the midnight mail. I'll get this one in the mail so that you will receive it this week end sometime. I also got some envelopes and stamps right on them. I got some crackers from the galley and right now, I am eating the cheese that Mom sent to me in the package. The darned tabulation set on the typewriter won't work so I just run over the edge most of the time. I'll just stick it in with this letter.

I received a letter from you today. The Mail Plane came out early this afternoon and brought us some mail. I'm not sure whether or not it will be out in the morning. But I do know that it will leave the ship in the morning via Helicopter to the guard mail destroyer. They go in at night some time and their relief brings mail out when they come out. I'll print the ones of the gun tomorrow night if I can find time. I just haven't found any time as of yet as I like to sleep. Last night I had duty and we had a fire on the flight deck and I had to go like blazes to get up there. I got up there and a jet was on fire. There was a leak in the tail-pipe and the excess fuel caught on fire and only lasted a couple of minutes. No damage done at all.

Well, what's new with you since you talked to me last? I only got two pages done on your letter and I'll just enclose them in with this one and you can enjoy one and a ½ letters. Ha Ha. I left the phone booth and smoked a Camel and then went back in and called Aunt Belle. She sounded like she was crying. I think that she was. I talked to Uncle Jack for a while and he seemed to enjoy talking to me. I thought they would talk longer as I expected them too, but I guess they were tired and wanted to watch T.V.

I am going to start on my model once I get caught up on my letter writing. I've sure got a heck of a lot of writing to do. I owe a couple of letters. I think I ought to get one from Don and Kate sometime in the next six months. Tell them if you write to them. I got my shirt off and my shoes and have the type writer held onto the shelf by two "C" clamps and typing like heck. Almost afraid that the y typewriter machine will fall off of the board. But I have a good brace against it and don't think so.

I made a couple of prints that I shot one day in town. In fact, it was Friday night that I shot them before the call home. I'm glad you and Mom feel well as I worry a lot about you two. I'll send you dough this pay as I won't need it as I will be at sea another week and then the rest of the time in the states until we leave. I'll call before I leave from San Francisco and pay for it myself. I want you to send me the cost of the phone call so I can pay for it. I'll pay just as soon as I hear how much it was for the two calls. I mean it too.

I haven't even started your letter yet but will in a few minutes. I'm just writing what I'm thinking about. I went up on deck for a little while today and it sure felt good to be back out in the fresh air. I really stayed up there for about two hours this afternoon. Ate the sun right up and shot some Ansco 620 re-rolled to 120 spool and hope it comes out. It went out of date in October 1954 and I increased the exposure 1 full stop. I'M XXXXX my fingers I can too. Ha Ha. The smashed fingers are ok except that the nails haven't come off yet. The left hand is completely healed and good as new. I got the last piece of steel out of it today. It was right on the surface under some dry skin. I picked it out with a knife. Sure was larger than I thought that it was.

You know, I really enjoy typing letters as I feel it's really nice to be able to type letters and not fool around with pen and pencil. I take too long then and can't think of what to say half of the time. Maybe I was worried, or maybe it was because I didn't have any dough. Ha Ha. I guess everyone gets down when the pennies run low. Ha Ha. Ain't I right? I think so. Ha. Ha.

I still have ten of the twenty that you sent to me on Sunday morning. I didn't go into the town until late in the evening. I got in about seven thirty. I went to the show and had a bit to eat and back to the ship. I sure as hell wished I could figure out where all my dough goes to. I got at least \$70.00 coming Friday and I'll not be broke on the 1st pay day in May. You can be sure of it.

Everything in San Diego is so damned expensive and with all the sailors here you don't have a chance to try and keep some of your money except if you want to stay on the ship all of the time. Golfing is the cheapest for me. Here's what is total cost for one day of golfing:

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|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| BUS FARE ----- | .34 | Round trip |
| GREEN FEES ----- | 1.20 | |
| Tees (one dozen) | | .10 |
| Bite to eat at golf course | | 1.20 (about) |
| TOTAL | <u>\$2.84</u> | |

So you can see that's cheaper than just taking in two movies. Movies run from 1.25 to 1.50 and sometimes I hit two movies in a night. I got the clubs and balls that I bought some time ago. Nope, the clubs are the ship's, I haven't bought mine yet. I'll get them later on if I still have the interest which I think I will. It's a relaxing sport and loads of fun if you're with the right people. You get to meet nice people also. I like it so I keep on playing more and more of it.

Well, how is the automobile keeping up with you there since it's been fixed? I sure hope that it hasn't been giving you any trouble. Sure hope that when I get out, we can have two cars. I'll keep the Merc and you can get a new one, but you have to loan me the new one on Saturday nights. Ha Ha.

OK Pop, I'll get the MIKKRON glasses first chance I get. You don't have to send any money for them anyway as I was going to buy them anyway. More on following page. I may be broke all the time in the states but not overseas. You can depend on that. I don't think that I had to send for any dough at all on this last cruise did I. I haven't forgotten about the \$100.00 that you and Mom sent to me in Cuba either. I'll get it back to you two one of these days and you'll be surprised as all hell and will wonder what and where I got the dough. Ha ha. Damn it to hell I'M NOT GAMBLING EITHER. Not a chance of it. I'm sort of against those vices. I've been thinking of some way that I could surprise you two and send the \$100.00 that I borrowed but I'll come up with something before tooooooo loong. Ha Ha. I'm serious, I'll get it back somehow. How?, well that remains to be seen.

Cripes I was at sea on Wednesday and didn't need the dough. I just decided to go over on the beach. NOPE, I'M NOT IN ANY TROUBLE ANYWAY SHAPE OR FORM. I only buy CAMELS by the cartons. I bought five cartons the last time out and will buy about five more this time out. I'll send five home if I can. I mean cartoons of CAMELS. Just wait until you set your eyes on the shoes I bought when we came back to the states. I'm hoping that the Rollei arrives on time as I'll not put any more film in it till I get the other one from you. I just got a Hot Chocolate Fudge Sundae in front of me now. Nope, I don't think I will get a New CONTAX. I hardly went anyplace on the last cruise, so that's how I got all the gear that I did. I used to go swimming in Manila and it was about .15 cents there. Cheap liberty if I do say so.

Wow, that Sundae sure was good. Only a measly .15 too. Ha Ha. A pint and hot fudge all over it. Ha Ha. It's eight o'clock now and I have to take a shower. One more day of flight ops and back in for the week end. I'll send part of the clothes Friday night and if I can't, I'll send them during the time we are in port for the last 12 days. Leave May 4th for Frisco.

Hey Pop, you didn't spoil my Saturday night. I went to the show and had a bite to eat and back to the ship. I don't get drunk or even drink. So you see, I don't have any complaints at all except that I'm not out yet. Ha Ha. Going to the head and will be back later on. Well, I just came back from the head and when I go I go. You ought to be here and see the new planes they have. We now have the complete air group on the ship as I've heard. Really nice looking aircraft. Nothing to talk about though.

Well here goes once again on your letter. What kind of film is Ilford? Is it fine grain or what is it? Just you wait till I get out. I'll have enough dough. I get \$300.00 mustering out and about \$200.00 for travel from West coast to East coast. Nope we aren't coming to East coast and that's final. Sorry. I guess you and Mom can come out after all and we can drive back together the northern route. One whole month of nothing to do but look and travel. What do you say to that? I'm willing to throw my \$\$\$\$ in for it. Then we could stop and see Rex and family and then down to Springfield, Ohio.

Oh, XXX is pretty good but I like ANSCO Supreme better. Heck of a lot more latitude than the rest of them and nice scale graduation. I think you know what I mean. And it's a medium grain film. I sent you the formula for TEN X film and developer and you try it if you can. But by all means use a meter. It really requires a METER for 10X work.

I'll send Grandma Richey a get well card this Friday night. Oh, Burwell likes to drink like hell and I can't see anything but a headache and loss of \$\$\$\$ in it. So I get PO'd at him as he always wants me to go out on liberty with him. The new fellows are fresh out of BOOT CAMP and slow as hell. They don't want to learn or just haven't seen the dawn. Must be that way with all of the fellows right out of Boot camp. I'm sure glad that I never went to a ship right out of boot camp as I'd of probably still be AA. Ha Ha. Shooting for PH2 right now. Nope, I slept till five in the afternoon or somewhere's near there. No one bothered by me at all Sunday.

Well that's the end of your letter so I'll just have to think of something else to say for the rest of the letter. Oops, found about two more letters that I haven't answered. Here goes one of them. It was written 3-30-55. Mailed 4-1-55. Has one neg in it of pistol on police report. Will also print it. Looks fuzzy but I'll give it a whirl. I have already answered this letter so I think that I will close now hoping this letter finds you and Mom in the best of health. So long and take good care of each other. Australia is in the bag. So long for now.

Your pal and shadow,
Bobby