

Monday
2 May 1955
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mom and Dad,

Hi there, how are you two today? Hope that you two are feeling well and taking good care of yourselves. I'm fine and feel good. Not too bad this weekend as I stayed on the ship today and slept nice and peaceful. I haven't sent my clothes as of yet, but will do so early Tuesday when I go ashore to pick up a few things. I'll enclose some money in another letter that I will write on the beach at the USO Club. It will be for the telephone call. I hope you have received the camera by now as you ought to have received it.

Well, this time next week, I'll be on my way to Pearl Harbor. Then after that, Japan will be next on the list. I hope that you will write to me regularly as you can, as I only got one letter this weekend. Sure did disappoint me a little bit.

How has the weather been these past few weeks? Sure hope that it has been real nice as the weather here has been fine and I have enjoyed every bit of it. It rained these past two days and it's been the first rain that we have had since I have come back from school at Miramar Naval Air Station. I just wished the heck this cruise was over with and I was on my way back to the States. I'll be sure to get your dishes for you, Mom, and I'll have to get Dad something as I think he would like something from Hawaii or Japan. Maybe you will send the color slide that I mentioned to you of Burwell and I'll send the one of the PH3 just as soon as I get the one of him here with me.

This typewriter is better than the electric one that I was using, as I tried to use one and had to start the letter over again. Sure is a little tough as it's just back from repairs and hard to keep constant stroke on it.

Wow, it sure is early in the morning. I slept from about midnight Saturday night until nine o'clock this evening and now I can't sleep at all. It's now 0400 AM in the morning. Reveille goes in an hour and a half so I might as well stay up for it and take a shower and get something to eat. Don't worry as I'm not wearing myself out.

Well, how is everyone here at home? Hope that no one is ill or sick at the present time and you two are taking good care of yourselves for me. I'm hoping that you and Dad will be able to come out to the west coast this next May as I'd sure like to drive home and show you two some of the country that I have seen.

I'll make some 8x10s tonight as I have the duty and I found the 35mm negative that I said I had lost and asked you and Dad to see if you could locate it for me at home. I'll make them and send them in the mail Tuesday along with the clothes. I won't send them in the same package as the clothes, but I will send them in an envelope like the last ones. I won't send them Air Mail like the last ones as it costs dough to send them like that.

Say hello to all and tell them to drop a line once in a while to let me know what's going on in the district. Cripes, I only get letters from you and Dad and that's about all that write to me. I thought that I knew more people than that when I was at home. I guess after you leave you get lost in the thoughts of your friends. Huh? I think so.

Oh yes, my fingers are getting better every day. They have started to grow out and look fine except for a spot here and there. Nothing will be wrong with them by the time they grow out completely.

I am hungry as heck and will eat like a cow at breakfast this morning. Hope everything is good as I'm hungry as heck.

Well, what's new with you two? Any more pictures taken? Hey Pop, you had better get Mom checked out on the operation of the Rolleiflex as I want her to shoot some pictures of you and no fuzzy ones, either. It's bigger and heavier than the Leica and easy as heck to shoot good pictures. You just have to explain the "sharp" image and "fuzzy image" to Mom. Then, when you and Mom meet me, you can take a picture of our first expressions and meeting after this cruise. You with the LEICA DAD, and Mom with the ROLLEI. And then me with a new Linhof. Ha Ha. Really a sweet and inseparable combination. Huh? Sure is and I know it. Well, if you teach Mom how to operate the Rollei and then a little about exposure and composition, you will have done a

good job. And with the books you have, well, I think you can do it. Using the Rollei is easier than the Leica. With the Rollei, you only get what you see on the ground glass. I'm quite sure you know exactly what I mean.

I hope that the ROLLIEFLEX arrived in tip top condition. I'm sure glad to see yours arrive here. I've already shot five rolls of film through it. I bought 24 rolls of Ansco Supreme for the cruise and it only cost me \$8.00. Normally, it would have cost me about \$12.00 for the film. But not being a Pro, well it still helped that I was in the Navy. I'm still not decided on what type of color film to buy as of yet. So if you receive a letter from me asking for film, you'll know what happened and why I didn't get any before I left for overseas. All of this B & W film that I bought lasts until February 1956. The date doesn't run out till then. Sure won't have to worry about using outdated film on this far east cruise.

Well, it's getting almost time for me to go up to the compartment and take a shower and put some of the laundry away and come down to the galley and eat. I'm in the Disbursing Office with one of my friends and we killed two turkey sandwiches about two hours ago. Ha Ha. Sure is good to eat a little now and then. I have the duty tomorrow night so I'll run all of the fellows out of the lab about nine o'clock and start printing so no one will bother me once I get started. Hope you like the prints.

So long for now and I'll write some more later today. Maybe I'll get a couple of letters at mail call this afternoon or this morning sometime. Well, I'll call you and Mom before I leave for overseas and I won't forget the schedule that you sent to me. Well Mom and Dad, take care of yourselves, and write when you can. So long for now and say hello to all the folks for me. Take care of Tiny and yourselves.

Your loving son,

Bobby