

U.S.S. Hornet CVA-12
Photographic Laboratory
10 MAY 1955 Pearl Harbor
Operating out of Pearl

Dear Mom,

Received a couple of letters from you today. I got the letters about one this afternoon out at sea after we arrive in Pearl. I got over the shots and my neck is better. But I got a heck of a cold from the terrific change in climates or atmosphere. My nose and head are both tied up in knots. Sure wish the heck that I'd get a few days rest in between.

Well, it sure is warm here in Pearl Harbor. Saw Diamond Head this afternoon and it was too far away to shoot any pictures. I'm going out there this coming Saturday or Sunday. One of those days I'll be lounging on the beach in Hawaii. At the world famous "WAIKIKI". Ha Ha. Hey that wasn't shore duty. That was SHORE PATROL. What do you think shore patrol is? It isn't a good deal at all. I guess everyone has their fling first off after they are married. You just wait until I get hitched, Wow!, a dozen quick like. Ha Ha.

I'm glad that Uncle Jack and Aunt Belle were happy about the letter that they received from me. I'll try and keep all of the folks happy with mail from me. I'm glad that she didn't cry when I called her and Uncle Jack the night before I left. Sure made me feel good that she didn't cry.

It's hotter than heck here but I don't mind it so far. I guess it's a little different than the last time. We left from the West Coast last year and already it getting hot over here and I don't mean in Pearl. I'll be looking for the picture of you out front. I received the package today also. The second mail call had the package in it and I have it in the storeroom. I'll have to get plenty of it. I won't play hog or anything like that but I'll get some of the goodies.

Here goes on the second letter. Here is your second letter written on the second of May. Horaaah. You got two of them done inside of a week. You really must be on the ball now. You tell Dad that I will get the shot of the scoreboard while I am in Pearl Harbor. I'll mail it to him first

chance after I take it. Going to play a game of checkers and then I'll finish this letter later on.
Have to break the [end of paragraph]

13 May 1955

Sorry that I had to break off like I did, but I didn't have any choice. I got three more letters today in the mail after we came back to Pearl. Been out this past week operating. I'll answer the letters that I have before. Then I'll start on the last ones.

Been very nice out here so far and the weather is fine. Let's see where I was on the last letter. Well the box is all gone and I'll be looking for some fudge before I arrive in Japan. I'll be here on Memorial Day. I'll send some dough for the phone calls. The twenty that I sent would have just about covered the one call, but I'll send more than twenty this pay as I won't be needing it. I've still got about ten left from the last pay on the 1st of May.

I sure was surprised to hear that Tiny had bitten a little boy playing with Leslie. Sure hope that nothing comes of it as I'd sure hate to have to lose the dog if anything came of it. I'll send Grandma Richey a get well card from Honolulu. I'm going in tomorrow afternoon or in the morning which depends on what time liberty commences. I'll go out to Waikiki on Sunday for a little swimming and sun tan if it's nice. I'll be sure to shoot a few pictures if it's nice. I'll probably take some even if it isn't nice.

Well, here goes on your third letter. That's where I always write my letters when I'm in town and decide to write as the paper is free and so are the envelopes. Of course I have to buy the stamps. Well, I can't get the stamps free, so I buy them out of a machine. Nope, I didn't get to do any swimming at all in San Diego. Just was too cold and not enough warm weather for an old salt like me. Coronado was west of San Diego out toward the ocean. That's where the ship tied up all the time she was in San Diego. I thought that you knew that by now. Well, anyway I thought that you knew where the ship tied. How in the heck would you and Dad find it next summer if you

came out to the West Coast? I used to walk through Coronado on the way to the ferry or back to the ship.

I had SP duty in Hawaii last December when we were on the way back to the States. I'm sorry to hear that grandma fell down the steps. Did she hurt herself very bad? I hope not as she is up in years. Well, how are you getting along since I last heard from you? Hope you are well and taking good care of yourself. I'm feeling a little better as I must have caught the flu after I had the flu shot as I felt lousy for the past three days. Coughed my head silly and headaches day in and day out. I have a slight cough now and no more headaches. I'm feeling much better today and I think I'll be over it by Monday.

I haven't had any time to get up on the flight deck as I've been pretty busy doing my hot job that I have. The new Photo Officer likes me as he is getting me a desk and a chair in the storeroom. He said the chair I have is too damn hard to sit on. He was in there one evening and said it was like a pile of rocks to sit on. He is very good for morale of the lab. Quite put out when someone says anything about any one of the fellows in the lab. Really a darn good officer. He is a W-5 Warrant Officer. The highest you can go in Photo Rate without becoming a line officer. Really for my money, he is tops. He's a heck of a lot like Dad. He doesn't cower down like the last Photo Officer when another officer starts to holler. He hollers louder. Seems to be a very nice man. I hope and I have found out that he is or has seen through some of the 1st Classes ideas and doesn't go for half of the petty stuff that goes on in the lab.

I guess Leslie is sure growing like a bad weed. I'm glad to hear that Uncle Dutch is putting on some weight. On him it'd look good. The cruise arrived at the ship. I mean the ship has received them. Mine ought to be home by now. I'm sure that you will have it by now and will tell me about it in the next letter from you. We received the cruise books two days after we left the States. You ought to have mine by now. I think my picture is in it. Look under Operations Department. I'm busy logging in negatives in the picture. That was my old job that I had in the lab besides having to work on the flight deck. Here goes on letter dated April 26 1955.

13 May 1955 1855 PM

Here goes, timeout for a trip to the head. I'm back in about five minutes later. I talked to Aunt Belle on the Phone and she said that I must have them. I'll look in my locker to see if they are there. They probably are. I'll look for sure. I'll not forget the China ware in Japan. YOU'LL be very happy with it I know. I liked it when I saw it. I'll pick a design with real fine class. Ha Ha. It doesn't cost a thing until the package reaches the States. Then it does. I got all of the goodies that you mentioned in the letter and was very good ge-dunk. Ha Ha. I enjoyed it very much except that I was sick when it came. I'm alright now except for a slight cough. I've sent the suitcase long ago. About three days ago. I mean a day before we left the States. I'll send about thirty dollars or more if I can spare it this pay and if not, I'll send more the next pay. I haven't been on the beach since the 3rd of May. Ten days on the darn ship and I'm beginning to get restless. Here goes on letter written 5 May 1955.

I sure hope that they soon decide that they aren't settling the nerves of the people by setting off those weapons. Sure makes a guy upset and nervous hearing all sorts of things. Well, I guess you can expect that in everyday life. Yep, Les, sure is like me and sure a corker if a little stinker at times. Oh well, kids will be kids you know. HA HA. Me too.

I'm glad that you had a nice time at the wedding. I hope the weather is nice at the present time. I'm having nice weather out here at present time. A few showers now and then but nothing to worry about as they on and off throughout the day.

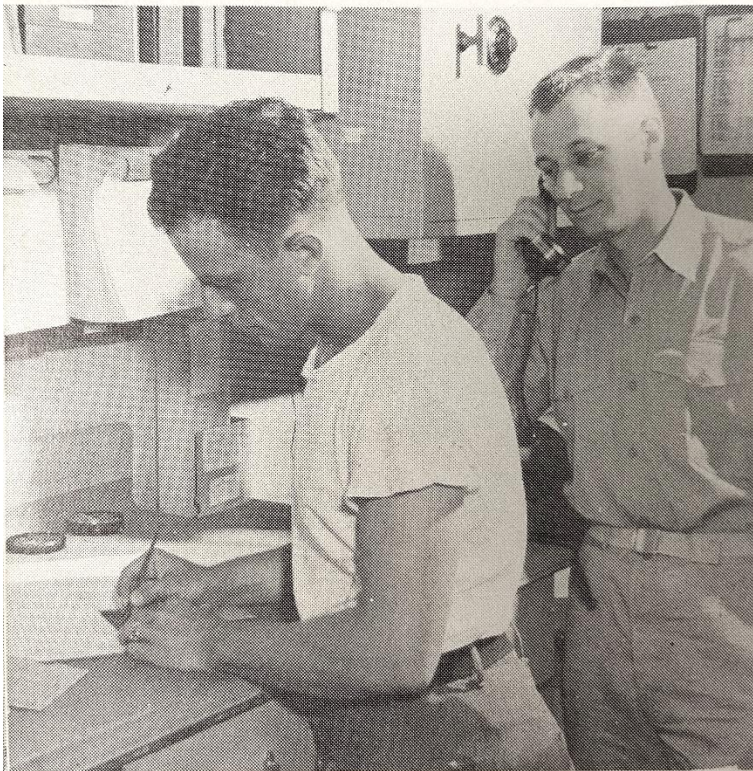
Hope you have nice summer here in Munhall this year. I'll have nice weather all the time and it'll be hotter'n all heck at times. I'm looking forward to the pictures of the trout that dad caught. I'll have to keep an eye peeled for them. I'll give my opinion on the pictures. Tell Dad to send the negatives if he dares too. Ha Ha.

Well Mom, you didn't ask any questions in this last letter so I don't know what to ask you? Well I can't think of too much to say for now so I think that I will quietly close and see if I can answer

Dad's letters that I received since I've been here. Well, take care of yourself and Dad. Be sure to write when you can. I'll answer all the time. Say hello to Mabel and Grandma Caldwell and I'll write. So long for now and I'll write later on.

Your loving son,

Bobby



The photo lab and more prints.

[Photograph of Photo Lab in 1954-1955 Hornet cruise book]