

U.S.S.Hornet CVA-12
Photographic Laboratory
22 May 1955
Pearl Harbor Hawaii
2115

Dear Mom,

I got your letters to answer this evening and I will answer them before I turn in for the night. I wrote to Dad and answered all of his letters. I'll start on your letter of the 11th of April. No, I don't think so as I have answered it. I'll start on the one of the 15th.

I'm fine and my cold had gone for a couple of days now. I took a tour of the island of Oahu here. Took from about nine yesterday morning until six last evening. Really had a swell time. I shot loads of color pictures and the tour was certainly something to remember. I don't think I will forget this tour for some time to come and I'LL remember it for a long time. Had fresh Pineapple juice and coconut. Good deal huh. Had lunch at an Air Force base for free. Also beer. Ha Ha. Didn't go swimming as I didn't take my swimming suit along. I had both cameras and didn't want to go swimming after just getting over from a cold. I have duty tonight so I'll get hot and this will go out in the mail in the morning. I'll be back in on Thursday.

Oh, by the way, I sent \$40.00 in the mail to Dad for the telephone bill, and C.O.D. on my package I sent home. So that ought to take care of the phone bill I think and the package. Maybe there will be enough for a movie for you and Dad left over from what's left of the \$40.00. By now you have the money and are wondering how I did it, but I don't need it when I'm at sea so much of the time. I only have had three days of liberty here in Hawaii so far and we have been here since the 11th of May. By the time you receive this letter you and Dad can celebrate three years for me with the leftover if there is any at all.

Don't tell Dad but I have a very nice wallet design that I have cut and tooled. I have it stained and will finish it by the time I get back in this week. I'm going to surprise him and send it to him when I finish it. I just hope that he will like it and not think me cheap as I don't have the dough

to buy him a good one. It cost me about three dollars for the leather and I like to fool around. It helps pass the time and the more I keep busy, the quicker it will pass.

I'll have to get hot on your letter and answer all the questions that you have asked and then I will have a good bit written. Ok, here goes. Well I'm fine and no suntan yet only a little on the face and hands. Going out to Waikiki this coming Sunday and do nothing but swim and lay in the sun. No cameras on this tour at all. Well, maybe my Rollieflex. At least something to shoot pictures of me and some of Wilkins and Burwell. You sure are counting on coming out to the West Coast aren't you? I don't blame you in the least bit. I sure hope that you and Dad will be able to make the trip. And if you don't have enough \$\$\$\$, I'LL kick in so you two can make the trip. It's worth more to me to see you and Dad happy than all the dough you stuff in Forbes Field in Pittsburgh.

You let Dad wear my clothes as they will be lot smaller when I get home, I'm still a growing boy. I think that the car will hold up as Dad said it's was in fine shape and running like a top. You better take it easy and lay off of the TV and get some sleep as this is the time of year that you catch cold and it easy as folding a newspaper.

Nope, I didn't have the key to lock the suit-case as I lost it. I explained it to Dad in one of my last letters. If you can send a box send it before the first of June as I'll probably get it by the time I arrive in Japan. Should take a couple of weeks this time as we will go along with some other ships. I hope that it's nice this time of the year and I can get to cover more of Japan with the cameras. I'll get lots of pictures as I'm sure taking it slow and easy this trip, no night life for me as I'm a short timer sort of speaking. Only 1 year and 5 more days left in Uncle Sam's Navy and I don't intend on fouling up my record.

Well, it's almost three in the morning and I have just about run out of pep. I'll write this and then mail it even though it won't be a very long but you will have mail from me at least. I'll write every chance I can this week as we will be during the end of the week early. Then a week of rest and relaxation and nothing but swimming and getting a good tan. What picture are you talking about being rugged? It must be the one with the camera on the side of the ship during refueling.

I had to stand by in case any thing might happen and would have to have on the spot pictures of the damage or anything of that nature. Yep, everything is going fine for me and I have a striker working for me and he sure hops like an egg in the frying pan when I tell him to do something. I hope that I make PH2 also. More dough less work and greater responsibility. I like the work I'm doing and enjoy learning all that I can about it. I can type like all get out and I could end up as a story writer or newspaperman with bundles of phone numbers and no dough. Ha Ha.

Yep, I sure did buy a lot shirts in San Diego. Now you let Dad wear them as I bought one just particularly for him. It's the pink one and I think he ought to give it a try. Also the tan, white, and blue combination one. Please let him wear the blue coat. And the grey pants if he wants too. I'll have to get you an old spud sack to wear when you and Dad go out for the evening. Ha Ha. I'm glad that some of them will turn too when they have to and they ought to be turning too more often and let Grandma take it easy.

Cripes Mom I sent the money order. Don't get sore at me as I sent it and you don't acknowledge as of having receiving it. Cripes you ought to have it by now. That's the first time you asked for the dough and I didn't think you had lost your faith in me, but you must have as you know I would send it right away. When there's dough concerned and you need it just ask for it and I'll be more than glad to send it. But I don't like to be reminded about dough. I don't have too much and I can hardly hold onto what I get each pay. I guess I'll never get used to saving any dough at all. There's no use trying to save and cry in your beer and wish you had your cake and eat it too. So I have one or the other but not both.

Nope, I don't think \$600.00 would be enough for your trip west this coming May. Cripes you'd need at least a \$1,000.00 for the trip. It'd cost like heck to enjoy yourself. You can't try to scrimp by and still have a good time if you want too. Don't worry about my coming home for Xmas, as if I want to come home I'll be there and money with or without I'll be home if I want to.

Well Mom, it's after three AM and I have to rise at six, so you see only three hours sleep tonight and none at all tomorrow night. We are going to have a General Quarters drill that will last for 24 hours and might run into 48 hours if they decide on it. It's part of our training while here in Pearl so we have to do it. No, there is no sleep during General Quarters. If you are caught sleeping

during GQ, you can be court-martialed. And I'm not going to get a court martial for that. You will get the cruise book when it arrives, when, I don't know. The fellows that had them mailed to the ship have them and the others I don't know about. It's not as good as I expected but I guess you don't get too much for \$2.75 these days. Hardly enough for coffee and a hamburger anywhere.

What school are you talking about? I sure got peped up now and give out with the details. I spelt 'the' backwards in the sentence before this one. So you see I'm getting tired. I didn't even notice it. Ha Ha. I'd sure like to work with Uncle Jack but I don't know what you are referring to at the moment. I'll write you at least five letters while at sea this week. So long for now and take good care of yourself. I may sound a little PO'd once in a while but it's just this damnable training they have here before going over to Japan and that area.

I can hardly wait until this cruise is over with and I can come home. Please excuse the typing as I really must be getting tired when I forget to skip a space between words. You'll have to read the first line of this page carefully to get anything out of it. Well Ma, I'm turning in for the night and you take care of yourself and Dad for me and that's all I'll ask except for some more mail from you and Dad. P. S. Say hello to the pooch for me. Don't let Tiny out in the cold and rain. Sure is a cute pooch. Ha Ha.

So long for now. I'll write again. See I'm darned tired as I forget and single space and all sorts of things. Well, say hello to Grandma Richey and Grandma Caldwell and I'll drop both of them a letter while at sea this week. The next mail I'll get from you and Dad after this week will be in Yokosuka. So long for now.

Your loving son,

Bobby