

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

Hi Pop,

I THINK THIS WILL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO WORK ON FOR A WHILE TILL I GET
MOM'S LETTER ANSWERED. HAHAHAHAAAA.

Your Pal & Shadow,

Bobby

U.S.S. Hornet CVA-12
Photographic Laboratory
Sunday 22 May 1955
Pearl Harbor
Hawaii
0905 AM

Hi Pal,

Hi there!, How are you this morning? Hope you and Mom wake up to a nice sun shiny morning. I did and it's great. I received your letter yesterday a little late in the day as I had taken a tour of the Island of Oahu, one of the islands that makes up the Hawaiian Islands. It took the group from about nine in the morning until six or after last night to complete the tour. The tour of the island covered one-hundred and ten miles of beautiful scenery. Lots of interesting sights to see and I captured all that on color film. I started out shooting Kodachrome and Ektachrome in the Rollieflex. Then switched to 35mm Ektachrome in the Contax. There were many times that I wished that I had the Leica and all of the lenses I have with it, but I was fortunate enough to meet one of the 1st Class Stewards Mates who also had a Contax IIa. He had the lenses that would not only make your mouth water but I just drooled over them. I also was using them now and then at his suggestive ideas.

Of course I didn't wear out my welcome with use of the lenses. I didn't have to ask once to use them as he sort of looked for me for advice and composition on some shots here and there. I shot a beautiful slide of Diamond Head and used his 135mm Lens. I used the "vet" once again to a great amount of consideration also. The "vet" is a G.E. PR-1, light meter. I hope you use yours and have as much confidence in GE as I have gained.

You know they say that the "Hulu" originated in the Hawaiian Islands? Well, it didn't as I had to find out about it on the tour. It, the Hulu came from "Ti-Haiti". Some prince of Ti-Haiti brought it with him when he first came to these islands and it's been here ever since. Of course, some of the songs and war chants they sing here are original. I shot a few pictures of a KaKnaka (Hawaiian) WaHeni (girl) yesterday. She was about Audrey Jeans' age and cute as a picture. She was doing the Hulu for us and posed like a movie star. Sure was very cooperative with everyone

on the tour. I gave her a half-a-dollar for posing as some of the damn cheapskates wouldn't give any of the little kids a dime for posing. The kids over here expect it and I don't blame them.

Well, I had a nice time and I did see lots of interesting places that was of interest to the Japanese during December 7th. Sure had it well planned. Cripes, you'd think they mapped the darn place and surveyed it every day of the week. Sure were smart on coming in the way they did. They came in from the East and in the direction from the States. Sure had all of the advantages with clouds, fog, sun, and early morning attack. I sure hope it never happens in the States. Nothing but panic and mass confusion would be the outcome of it if it had happened there.

Well, enough of the war stories as I don't like it and I'm getting ready to start out to the Police action area in about ten or twelve days from now. Going out again this week and operate for a few days and then back in to take on some supplies for the trip over to Yokosuka, Japan. I will send some post cards before we leave for Japan. I'll try and pick out some nice colorful ones with plenty of color. I shot a few pictures of the Blow Hole that's world famous. I also have a slide of Ernie Pyle's grave in the cemetery in Hawaii. He was buried between two unknown soldiers. Sure are a lot of graves from Pennsylvania over there. I saw and looked at a lot of names, but none of them registered. A couple of them sound familiar but I'm not really sure of them. Saw Hickham Field, Schoefield Barracks and field that they hit here. Sure was very well planned attack. Well enough of that for now.

I will start on answering your letter that I received yesterday. It was written on the 18th of May, mailed the 19th. Wow!, a twenty-two page letter and me with a million questions to ask. Oh well, here goes. I'm glad that the pictures are sharp as I know the lenses are very good. You mean that you didn't shoot any in color of the fish laid out on the creel up fishing? I'm surprised at you as it really makes a darn nice shot with the creel and fish and part of a fishing rod and reel in some corner of the slide. I guess I'll have to start to communicate on instructions on how what when where and why of Photography. I know you have the brains to learn and put it to use, so I am not going to accept any lame brain excuses. Ha Ha. Now, who's the one doing the lecturing? Ha. Ha. Just you wait until I get home, I'll show you a thousand and one different ways to use light. I have studied a lot and I use every possible solution that I have read if it pertains to a

single condition. So you see, if you really want to be sharp, you have to eat, sleep, drink, and cry “Photography”. I like it and it’s interesting as hell. Sort of like a new toy with an everlasting spring that never winds down.

Well, I see where you made a Boo Boo when you built the wing on the All Am Sr. Ha Ha. How come the wing has to be shortened 4”? I’m going to start on the “WILD_CAT” just before we leave for Japan. It’s going to take about 12-14 days this time as we are taking Tin Cans with us. They can’t maintain a high speed like we can so we have to refuel them along the way as if a storm comes up they have to have at least 80% fuel on the cans. Cripes, even with full load of fuel they roll like hell. I wouldn’t want any duty on them and I’m damn glad no Photo-Bugs have duty on them. The only other ship I could get duty on is a Cruiser. Or battleship. There are only three classes of ships that I can pull duty aboard and I have the best one of the classes. I guess you won’t fly the Hell Razor as I’m the only one who can get it in the air. I got the gimmick to make it work and that’s ingenuity and patience. Ha Ha. You might be using too small a prop, by that I mean one with too much pitch in it...

The pictures you sent in the last letter were swell and I could have printed them a heck of a lot better. I don’t imagine Ernie would have made a print like I did as there was a heck of a lot of print control. I took lots of pains with it and I like it. Guess what? I know a fellow who has the formula for Kodachrome 35mm Color. What do you think of that??????? Now all I have to do is get it and the right dope on processing it. I sure hope that he stays on the ship. He is none other than the Photo Officer. Where he ever got hold of it I’ll never know. I’m not going to answer or I should say ask him where he got it from.

The scoreboard pictures were a flop. The confounded chemicals were bad and the color film was just a waste of time to process it. Besides, I don’t have a darn thing to show for it now. I’ll have to start over again. Sure is one hell of an assignment as it’s hard to get the hangar bay empty with planes all over it most of the time and the ship sitting still at the same time. Even if I did use flash, I’d have to climb up in something and then I don’t have flash extensions long enough and then the damn electric charge might fail or something like that, so you can see I have a darn hard

assignment and I want to shoot it so I have even illumination overall and no washed out areas in the transparency. I'll get done one of these days and you'll receive it in the mail.

Oh by the way, the colored shot of me in civies at Balboa Park was shot with a Speed Graphic and Wilkins shot it for me one Sunday afternoon at the Zoo. I like it and the light is about right, but the darn smile is not there so I have to get a darn good one to replace that one as it's not the best that can be had for the time we use cameras and all the sly film we have around the lab.

I hope that you don't think that I am putting it off as I'm not doing that you know. I have a full time job in the lab and it takes part of my liberty time and I don't crowd the liberty time with the work. I say Liberty comes first but the damned first class say work, so I'll do as I see fit and then consult the PhotoOff. He's on the ball and can see through all of the petty shit that goes on in the lab and doesn't stand for it in the least bit. I'm sure glad of it as it sure does help the morale for the men. Oh well, you and I used to get into arguments and we will have difference of opinion when I get home even then. It's just the difference between two individuals as you know. Right.

Take care of the dog for me and don't shoot him in mistake of a rabbit. I know you won't so I won't worry about it in the least bit. I'll have to start lifting weights if I am to pull a 65 pound bow, I can do it I know but I like to be able to do it like it was routine. Ha Ha. Well, I sort of jumped off your letter so back to the questions and answers. Sort of put an extra letter in here and there don't I? HA. It just goes to show you that Leslie likes you a hell of a lot. But doesn't let on it shows. Ha Ha. You really are easy to see through. You can't fool me at all. I know you like a book I've read over and over.

You know it pays to know your boss from head to toe. You even begin to think as one until it becomes routine. I mean about reading you like a book. I always say "TWO-HEADS" are twice as good as one big stuffed one. You know who I am referring too also. I guess Leslie is constantly thinking of things to say. He'll get along all right in this cruel world as some people call it. I don't think so as it's done all right by me. I couldn't want any better parents than I have and any thousands of luxuries that I don't have. I got it made and I know it. But I'll be out soon and still have it made to have parents like you and Mom. Mostly people today don't realize how

much they have and some of them will always want the extra buck or extra day off. It's things that are with you every day that are the most treasured things. If some of the people could get out away from Freedom of Speech and all the rights and privileges we have in the States they would be lots better off than they are today. They think they got a raw deal. Huh, they haven't even had their taste of it.

Well, looks like I'm beginning on one of those lectures again. Ha Ha. Just call me "Professor" Ha Ha. I just think out loud at times and I don't hide a damn thing. I say what I think and think about what I will say. Cripes, who in the heck you think you are kidding, you never slowed down one bit you just go about it in a different way. You can't sit still one single minute. You and I are like two peas in the pod with a pack of crabs on motorcycles. Ha Ha. I don't have any so don't worry. Ha Ha. Had you thinking didn't I? Damn right I did. You can't fool all the time. But sometimes you can for a while but not long.

Yes, I got the colored slide of Burwell. Didn't you get the one of me I sent after I received that one. Maybe you asked me about it and haven't received my latest letters as I thought you asked about the colored one of the 4x5 size. Maybe you are talking about the 35mm. The 35mm was shot with Canon and 85MM lens. Nice perspective isn't it. YOU OUGHT TO USE THE 85MM more often. It gives very nice perspective. Very good for informal and formal portraits if you are sharp. Not saying that you aren't sharp, but you have to watch your light angles and camera angles and lots etc.

I'll send the excess Rollie gear when I complete the transaction of the Linhof. You will get it in the mail about the first letter after I hit Hong Kong, China. It ought to be about ten days or so after I hit Hong Kong, China. You'll get Rollinar Rolliepar, filters, lens shade, cable release, field lens for ground glass, and all the rest of Rollie gear. It'll come and I don't like that "if". I'll get you and me binoculars. Only one pair. The cruise book ought to be there by now or soon. Cripes, I'll have to ask the cruise book officer about it as I paid for it a long time ago. Going to the head and will return in a few minutes.

Well, I'm back from the head and it is just about 1215 noon time Hawaii. What do you mean a little late? I don't understand. Did you go ahead and buy a pair of shoes? Well, if you did, you have another pair for the next time.

Wow, if you get the Switch and Signal shot clear you'll really be hot to trot. Cripes it's a few miles away for 35mm don't you think. But if you succeed, more power to you and you will have to show me how. You could get 800MM lens for Leica and then you could use reflex housing on it and read the whole sign. Just figure it out 25.4 into 800. 25.4 equals one inch. Lots of lens there isn't there. You would have about a 30 inch lens. Wow!, some lens huh. Ha Ha. Don't go buying one or you will be paying for it for the rest of your life. Ha Ha. They are as expensive as a down payment on a new car and I'd much rather get a new car this coming April or next May.

Hot Dog, got some cheese and coffee. Pretty good just added a slice of ham to the cheese and then added a couple slices of bread. So I have a nice tasty sandwich. Ha Ha. I guess you'll have to use photofloods on copying. That's the best there is to use copying. You have more even and matched lighting using photofloods and you can arrange them before you expose. You can arrange flash, but you don't see where the shadows are at and how they fall around the subject. Understand what I am talking about. I got some coffee also and a sandwich. You have to remember the exposure when you shoot outdoors and you have to process accordingly.

I'm glad that you liked "On the Waterfront" and Caine Mutiny. Sure was good pictures to see if you had time. I'm glad you liked "ON THE WATERFRONT", I didn't see "THE CAINE MUTINY". Sort of missed it and really wanted to see it.

You'd better take it easy speeding. I hate to send \$\$\$\$ for bail. Ha Ha. Nope, there's nothing wrong with Pittsburgh. They just need someone like me that gives them the lift they need. I could pitch like hell. Ha Ha. I'd probably get batted out of the box in the first inning. Ha Ha.

I'm glad you feel that way about the Linhof. The "2¼ x 3¼" is just as good as the "4x5" but the film is cheaper on 2¼ x 3¼ but the negative is lot easier to retouch on 4x5. I'll have to see when I go over to look and buy one. I'll have to pay more if I get the 4x5 as some of the things don't

come on the camera like they do on the 2¼x3¼. That's probably what I'll get. Yep, I sure can get under peoples skin can't I? Cold is gone and the sun is shining. I hope that you have good luck with the 10x Photography work.

Well, so long for now and I'll write Mom a letter this evening and get it in the mail in the morning. So long for now and I'll start on Mom's letter. So long and take good care of Mom and yourself.

Your Pal,
Bobby