

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

Howdy Pop,

Nice catch you made on the trout. I had better see those Kodachromes in good shape as I am looking forward to seeing them. Hope that I don't sound worried but I was beginning to wonder about the \$40.00 that I sent in an envelope. I thought for sure that someone had picked it out of the mail box at home and I would be out the forty bucks and so you would be too as to the phone bill. I thought that it would cover the COD and phone bill so I sent that much.

I get paid on the 1st of the month at sea enroute to Japan. We finally lose the green stuff again and back to the MPC Military Payment Certificate. I don't mind those as they are just as good as the green just as long as you are on a naval reservation and can spend it just as fast. But when we go to Hong Kong, we get the green stuff back. As that is what they use for exchange in Hong Kong, China.

Well what took you so darn long to answer my letters? Cripes I had begun to think that you and Mom had forgotten all about me again. You had better keep the mail man busy as I won't get too much mail now and the next time will be in Japan after we leave here. I sure hope that I can get a dozen or so letters by the time we reach there.

I'm going to build the plane enroute to Japan. And I'll still have a darn good idea figured out to hornswoggle the Japanese. Ha Ha. I have a letter here that I started on the 26th and I'll finish it after I get this one done and mail it to you also. I sent some Kodachrome 35mm 36 exposure roll into Kodak, Hawaii today and will have them by the time I reach Japan. I'll look at them and send them on home to you and you can file them with the rest of the shots we have to file.

You had better take good care of yourself and Mom or I'll be mighty PO'd. You know that don't you? I'm sure that you do and you do a good job of it at present. But I know how you feel with

the small check that you get each month. Cripes. If I thought that I could stand it I'd ship over, but I don't think I could last twenty years and not go APE SHIT. Please excuse the language. That's just what I mean too. I'm not kidding you Pop, it's no wonder why the fellows leave the service. Too much petty stuff to contend with and nothing that really counts. Always something like petty horse - - - that starts the friction and confusion among the fellows and men of any organization. It's the little things that count, the big things will take care of themselves if everything is done according to order. But you know how it is when you have too many chiefs and not enough Indians to do the work. I'll be out in less than a year and you and I can get together for a long time and take things easy. Of course I may have to work a little now and then for Cigarette money. Ha Ha.

I know you have read or possibly heard of the Blow-Hole in Hawaii. Well, here is a slide of it in action and I'll develop mine and you'll receive a batch of them in the mail someday. Also one of two young girls doing the Hawaiian dance of some kind. The other one is up in the mountains on the tour of Oahu and I'll have to think of what it is as I shot some in Kodachrome. This was shot by Burwell and I asked him to shoot a couple for me that I couldn't get with 50mm. He used 28mm Nikkor lens and it's nice also. Ha Ha.

I still have the B & W pictures that you sent and I'll comment and send them back. Good exposure on the outdoors ones and the copy of the tickets and one of me. Too much grain in that one as I don't know what Burwell processed it in. You have to use very slow film to copy as the definition has to be really darn good as far as the reproduction goes. I think you know what I mean don't you. I'm glad to read that you have decided to use the meter and not try to guess and possibly hit it within ½ a stop and still not be right on the button. But you can get nice negatives even though you aren't correct as to the exposure. You can miss by as much as 1 full stop and still not be able to tell the difference. You have to be really careful in making the exposure.

I sort of felt down in the dumps when I saw the copy of your check. Gee, I just can't imagine how rough you and Mother have it trying to make ends meet from pay to pay. I guess you and Mom don't have too much for yourselves after you two are working all of the time. Well, it'll be lots different when I get out in May 56. Hot Dog, I just can't wait and I'd go tomorrow if they

would let me. Tired of this old bull ____ that goes on in the Navy, but I joined and I got just what I asked for. Serve my time in the Navy and come home again.

Well, you have a good time next fishing trip and catch a couple like the 23" incher and get a tape measure or ruler to compare the size to something. I hope that you shot a couple of pictures in Kodachrome. Heck if I was home, I'd of made a couple of shots of you and the fish and sent them into the magazines. I'd use Kodachrome and get darn good pictures too. Ha Ha. I almost always get good results.

Well, I haven't even started to look at your letter and I've pressed a pair of whites tonight, played two games of pinochle and washed out a pair of whites. Not bad for an evening's work. And I fooled around with one of the fellows' trumpet and saxophone. Don't worry I won't go musical on you and Mom just like to fool around. I can pick out a few tunes but they don't sound too good. I'll have to take lessons from Audrey Jean when I come home. Ha Ha. How is Leslie getting along now that school is out and the kids are ranting and raving all over the streets? Ha Ha. I can expect that he will be wanting to go hunting and flying. I meant fishing instead of hunting. Cripes, it won't be too long before he will get the bug for a BB gun or .22.

Well, here goes on your letters. WOW!, it's 1115 PM already. I hope to go swimming for the first time at Waikiki tomorrow if I can still get into my bathing suit. I hope so and I hope it's nice out. If I do go I'll have a few pictures to send home. The pictures of the Trout are swell and I see that you or Mom must still punch a hole in the milk can upside down. Ha Ha. I also see the close up attachments that you used on the copy job. Ha Ha. The picture of the Super Stunt Runt is good and that's the right view to show on the models. Who shot the picture of you and Tiny? Did you set the timer on the Rollie? I think so as the lines (vertical lines in pictures are straight). I see that you and Mom found a use for the scarf that I got in Naples, Italy last cruise. See I'm very much on the ball as to seeing what's in a picture. Ha Ha. Where's the Boots Pal? You got the Uncle Sam pipe in your mouth. See I can see all that's in the picture and more????

Hot damn, I'm just dying to see the pictures of the 23 ½" 5lb Trout. Hot Dog. How in the hell did you net this one? I believe you used a bow and arrow and shot this one. Ha Ha. Send the

pictures and I'll see what you have been doing on your days off. Hope you get many more like it as I know where the grouse hide out and I'll show you in the fall of 56. Cripes, I just can't get over the size of the trout in the pictures that I already have. And six of them to boot. Hot dog. You really must have something or they wouldn't even make a strike at the lure. Just experience and the know how that counts. Ain't I right? Of course I am. No arguments from you and no buts or ifs. Ha Ha.

Well here goes on the letter that I received today. Written the 22nd of May mailed the 25th and I got it on the 28th. Pretty good for being out here in Hawaii. The cold is over and gone and I feel good. I've been pretty busy and haven't had too much time to study, but I try to get as much as I can in. The weather is hot as hell in the daytime and nice and cool at night. Just a lazy man's paradise. Ha Ha. Lots of good looking dishes here too. Ha Ha.

OH OH, quit on me and started again on the 24th. Here we go again. I sure would have busted a gut if I could have been there and telling you to hold him and see your expression as I would be taking pictures instead of getting the net. Ha Ha. I can just picture Uncle Bob trying to net the damned fish as it zigged and zagged passed him now and then. His eyes would just pop out of his head. Tell him to drop me a line when he can find time. I'm going to write Duane and Daryl a letter enroute to Japan. DID YOU GET A PICTURE OF THE TROUT BEFORE YOU STEAKED HIM OUT? YOU ought to have a picture of you holding him and the 16" incher up, one in each hand. Only one of the 23 incher, cripes, I'd of shot a dozen just to make sure I had a picture of him.

I would have sent more dough, but I thought I might need it until payday. I have \$10.00 left and payday is on the 1st so I won't be short at all and I'll be at sea for 14 days after we get paid. I have to buy two pairs of whites and it will run about \$9.00 and a dozen pairs of black socks, and one pair of shoes. So I think that it'll run about 16 or 17 bucks this pay. I'll have the rest saved for when I can get the dishes for Mom. Nope it didn't run me short. I just didn't go anywhere except out to sea most of the time we have been in Hawaii.

That's what I thought about the 4x5 Linhof. I probably will come home with 2 ¼ 3 ¼ LINHOF. I think you'll forget about Rollie and Leica when you feast your eyes on the LINHOF "23". That's what it's called for short. Don't worry if I have to make some up I'll not holler and I'll get it. You don't have to worry, I'll get the Linhof and some things for you and Mom, maybe a few clothes for myself if I make PH2. Sure hope that I can make the grade. If I do you'll notice how much more dough I spend. Ha Ha.

How do you like the haircut? I thought that you would say something about the haircut. I like it and it's cooler as it is. I'm letting it grow at present but it's not making any headway at all. Except around the sides and not on the top. Got a few more grey hairs on top already and I'm not even near Japan or the Far East. Ha Ha.

I'm glad you are all squared away on the viewfinder on the 35mm. Yep, you'd better learn to hide the shadows. The extension is the regular one that goes on the Rollie flash that you have. It's just another reflector and unit like you have except that there isn't any way to attach it to the camera like the one you have. And there is a longer cord and you can shoot multiple flash. Cripes Mom sort of PO'd me off as she said something about the dough. I know that she didn't know I had sent it and I got sort of PO'D. I know I should have realized that she didn't know I had sent the dough and was only reminding me about it as I said that I would send it. Well, I hope she doesn't get PO'd at me for writing her a sarcastic letter like I did.

Some Chief on the ship tightened the little screw inside that came loose and I wasn't going to take this watch apart. Like I did the last one. I've had this one for quite a few years now and I like it as it's good and keeps perfect time. I guess you will have to wait on the pic of me in blues as I will have to have it shot one of these days when I feel swell and have more hair. Ha Ha. Hair is sort of short at present.

How do you like that shrimp dinner I had? I sort of thought that you would have some comment on it and the amount of shrimp that I ate. Yep, I sent the cold pills home and damned if I didn't catch a heck of a cold. See, it just doesn't pay to try and think too far ahead. Ha Ha. I don't know when I will arrive in Hong Kong, and for how long is still another one I can't answer. I'm sorry

that you and Mom haven't received the cruise book as of yet. I'll inquire about it Monday and see what's holding them up or if I can give any specific date on the arrival of the book.

Well Dad, so long for now as it's ten minutes to two in the morning. It's Sunday already and I have to get up at seven this morning. Sort of lucky getting to sleep to seven on Sunday. Ha Ha. I'm enclosing three slides that Burwell shot for me with his 28mm lens. I'll return your pictures in next letter as I think this one is overweight. So long for now and take care of yourself and Mother. Also Tiny and say hello to all for me.

Your Pal & Shadow,
Bobby

[handwritten note]

P. S. Fingers are coming along fine. About 4 more weeks & they'll be 4.0.

Love,
Bobby