

U.S.S. Hornet CVA-12
Photographic Laboratory
17 June 1955
Yokosuka, JAPAN

Dear Mom and Dad,

Hi there and how are you two getting along? I hope you won't be mad at me for not writing and answering all your letters. I just can't get them all done this time in port. I'll catch up while we are at sea this trip out. I'm fine and in good health.

Last night we had our division party and sure was a Lulu. Whew, sure glad that is over. No mail yesterday or today so far. Hope I get some more letters today. Well, time out for a minute Mom as I have an important discovery to tell to Dad. I looked at a set of MIKRON 8x35 glasses and only for \$22.00. The 7x35's for \$21.50. A Nikkor 85mm f1.5 lens for \$104.50. You ought to see that lens. Makes the 82 f2.0 look sick, but I don't need it and it's only another stop. But as impressive as all hell. No dope on the Hong Kong trip yet. I still have all the dough in the safe. I answered a couple of letters the other night. Wrote a letter to both of my Grandmas.

Well, I'll get the Linhof some way. I can write to Kung Bros. in Hong Kong and if I don't get there. Inquire as to how I could send the dough. I know that Chase National Bank has a branch and some of the fellows send it to Chase National to the account of Kung Brothers. It's legal and can be done as long as I have an F.P.O. for an address. I'll wait and see if we get there and if not I'll still get the Linhof. I'll send a list of what I want and a money order to Chase National to be put on Kung Brothers account. Then they notify Kung Bros. and they in turn send the camera, insured also. That's as long as I have a Fleet Post Office for an address. I'll probably get discharged from the ship when they have it in the yard.

Well, enough of that for now as I'm going over this evening try sell the Contax for as much as I can. I won't let it go for less than \$200.00. I got \$220.00 left out of 130 for rollie and 100 py. Had to spend a little for chow on the beach.

Oh, this will make you split your sides after I get to tell you how much I paid for a fly-rod, casting rod combination. I only paid 480 yen which is equivalent to \$1.25. Ha Ha. He asked 1400 Yen for it which is about \$4.00. Well, I let on that I only had 480 Yen, but I had about 2400 Yen. So I shot the bull with the fellow for a while and finally got it for 480 Yen. Well, I'll send it home and you can do what you like with it. It's nice and I got an extra tip for it. It may be pretty good. Give it a work out and if it's any good, you'll have to re wrap the guides and put better tips on it. It's darn nice considering for only 480. They have NFT and OFT rods over here and I understand that they are the better of the lot. Has plenty of whip and action to it. It sort of caught my eye. I had him convinced that I should get the fishing rod for 480 then I spied the black one and he said no, so I said OK and started to walk out. I also told him that I'd be back. Ha Ha Sucker. Oh well, you have to get up early in the morning to hang on to your dough over here. Ha Ha. I get up about noon I'd say. Ha Ha.

I have to stop writing at one o'clock as the work must go on and I don't get liberty until 4 PM or 1600. Some fellow offered me 85,000 Yen for the Contax sight unseen but I figured he was C.I.D. personnel so I said no. That's about \$237.00 in U.S. money. I'm not that stupid to sell it to a CID person. Well, I just hope that I can sell it and get 200 out of it. Well, enough of that for now.

How's all the folks back here? Hope everyone is well and taking good care of themselves. I almost bought a typewriter today but I didn't like the ones they had in ship's service. I don't think that I will get one anyway as it's too much dough right now and I have a few more important things to get right now. YOU MOM, and YOU TOO DAD, had better start saving for the trip out west. I have to close in a few minutes so be good and take good care of each other for me. I'll write lots this time at sea and will mail letters just about every day. Well so long and be good. So long for now. I'll answer all of your letters and then some by the time I get back in.

Your loving son,

Bobby