

Dear Mum,

April 1st

Well it's been only 5 days since
my last letter and yet a great deal
has happened. We got off on schedule
and put to sea in about the roughest
weather you could hope to see. On
shakedown I was priding myself on
having such a seaworthy stomach,
but this almost was my undoing.
She pitched and rolled and rocked
and tossed till practically everyone
felt miserable. Poor Wykes & Waters
almost died. No sooner would they
be in the sack, than o.oops! and up
~~that~~ they'd leap. I was not actively sick
but oh what agony. All into the
tossed, but by the next aft. all
was serene. The last couple of
days have been really beautiful.
The sea is once more calm and
blue and the weather perfect.
In fact I'm regaining that sunburn
which you never actually saw.
The flying has been long, but

AIR MAIL

all has gone smoothly. Our hours are
really pretty lengthy. If you want to
eat you have to get up around 0510,
that is if you have to fly ^{or} standing on
the first leg. Usually get to bed
around 285 or 10. I have been
reading "Winter Wheat" and love
it. Reminds me of Petrov ~~Harmonz~~
and Sally Potter, except they
were neither Russian nor New Englanders.

Got a letter from Ben the
day we left telling about getting back
to Hange, etc. I was here
twice already.

The landings have been OK. So
far - it really is fun landing
aboard when you have your
confidence along.

There is very little that I
can tell you right now. Send
me Bill Trusdale's address please.
Ok yes got a letter from Freddy last
week - still in England. What news from
Pres? Much much love to you all -
your ever loving pop

smarter fellow than if do one, but his not as
interested in his work on anything like that.
He doesn't follow them when something is wrong
with the plane. His view, however, so will
probably work out O.K. eventually.

Still have the same 2 crewmen. Delaney the
rashman is really a prick. Nadeau is a
good gunner and nice boy, but I'm
not sure he wants to fly. I think, however,
that now he does - he had love problems
in the states.

Tomorrow we get to sleep late -
~~tomorrow~~ whether a nice thought. This
5 o'clock start is definitely not the

best deal.

It's getting late now, plus, 20 & 11 fresh

tomorrow.

April 3rd

Joy & joy - got a letter from Ben and
one from Dad today - how nice it is to get
mail. They were both 'new' letters, the 29th
& 30th of March. I hope this good
fortune continues wherever we go, but
unfortunately it is nigh or impossible. I
Today was interesting and very easy. As I
write some of the fellows are ashore.
Doug west & Jim went in, but Tom Waters

and I don't have liberty - Perhaps
will get it tomorrow. I am on watch
tomorrow from 4-8, so I couldn't
have gone over it our section rated it.

Thanks, Dad, for your letter. The
nite landings were ten sorts of. You say
you expect we'll have little occasion
for such operations - I fear you may be
wrong - no one knows yet for sure.
In any case it's good to know you can
land on one of these babies at nite.
We have another Air Group Commandr.

Ct. Comdr. Moore, an Annapolis man
He is also the Fighter's skipper. He is a very
foreful well cut and leader - and a
disciplinarian and organizer as well -
a person that we sorely needed for
~~something~~ skipper of the Air Group. Comdr. Bradley
was a marvelous fellow, very well-liked
by all, but he was too easy-going for
the job.

Tom Waters is organizing the ship's band.
He is very interested in music and this at

he gave me a little visit on the workhouse,
Bar has taken to typing her letters - she
is not too bad on it.

You probably are wondering where we
are etc. I wish I knew exactly how
much we can say. Perhaps I can tell some
thing I have - How do the Percis know where
Walt is etc.

One of the photographers aboard
snapped a picture of Bruce Righter
and I talking up on the flight deck.
I'll try to ~~find~~ ^{get} it and send it - then you
can make it over ~~to~~ ^{to} Mrs. Righter -
That's about all for now. Mum -
make love to you all -
Polly

Dear Mum,

Thursday April 6th 1944

Before I forget our new address is F.P.O. San Francisco - any letters which you may have mailed to N.Y. will be forwarded on to me ^{when} you get this case the new one.

Well I am now in the Pacific for the first time in my life. We left Panama and are heading for the West Coast for a brief interlude. I will mail this thus, hence can be a bit more lenient with what I say. By the way did you guess what my various "hints" were. Peter Harmon's etc was, of course Pearl and thus So. Pacific. I am not sure if that's true, but it probably will be. In any case I wanted to try it out.

We never knew till we left Panama, if we were going to directly out on to the coast. We'll only be there a couple of days, ~~but~~ and by the time you get this will probably be on our way. Perhaps I'll be able to get you on the telephone.

We spent 2 1/2 days around Panama. I got off the boat day and had a good chance to look around. It is (Pan. City) much more colorful than Trinidad. ~~There~~

[1] 3 1/2 - 1 - 1000 - 1000 - 1000

Few speak English - its all Spanish, so you
can imagine how well I did. In the aft
Tom Waters and I shopped around and
walked miles. The merchants are a colorful
lot and have everything. Lots of things which are
hard to get and are rationed in the states are
in abundance here. Perfume, liquor of all kinds
etc. One thing I managed to pick up was a
cheap wrist watch for Bucky boy. It's a
sadly - regular wristlox - but it ticks and
you said he wanted it. Panama, aside
from Panama hats, doesn't seem to have any
products of its own - mostly imported goods.

I got some bag rum, that's about all.
Also an alligator bag for Bev. All stores
sell them and ~~the~~ you see natives begging
freshly skinned hides into the stores to sell.

During the canal we saw one big
lazy 'gator' lying in the sun, once in a
while snapping at insects, but for the
most part content to sun himself and
wait. We slide by. The canal was
fascinating and it was a real feat bringing
so there. Of course many larger ships go
there, but I'd be damned if I see how.
In the evening out our party, we took

in a couple of the last night clubs. You can
be pleased that Nancy nite-club is in N.Y.
and not in Panama. It was really a
laugh seeing the sailors and some of the
officers return from liberty.

The weather there was hot and
dramatic - constantly changing. It
still is very warm. Our room usually
remains fairly comfortable. At nite
I'm so dead tired that I could sleep in
the floor in the better room. I have been on
that first leg a good deal of the time -
that means getting up at 5 always it not
before.

Today I flew a 100 mile search.
It was interesting because on the way back
to the ship I ran into a black wet storm.
I tried to skirt the end but it was too
big and I had to go thru. A storm like that
can be very dangerous. The best thing to do is
go low and then fly thru on instruments. The
rain blasted down so I couldn't see, then
prop and the flashes of lightning kept me
concerned - The sun was a mighty nice
sight when I finally spied her.

The navigation is getting pretty of
practice lately as you can well imagine. There is

always ~~was~~ a question mark in my mind
until I actually see the ship on my final leg.

Lt. Newsome (now Lt. G.P.) has been
grounded and will be leaving the squadron.
The Sec. pronounced him unfit for combat.
His eyes bother him. He'll probably get off
at California.

(next day)
Am not scheduled to fly today and
it's a nice feeling to rest. Tonight I have
the midnight - 4 watch and with flight
quarters at 530 I won't get much
sleep. The sea is chopping up a bit
and a storm is predicted. I hope to
not a bad one, cause this baby rolls too
much.

Definitly of Jimmy but with none
No wonder
there likely see into him in the not too
distant future.

We have been having recognition
every night at general quarters. Its good
to know. The food has been O.K. aboard
nothing spectacular, however.

April 2nd

Am send ing you some pictures taken aboard here. With you please stick the squasheen picture in my book after you get thru with it. Also if you see Bev she might like to see it. The one in the plane is real sad, a nice one too.

Had a minute - 0400 watch
lost with and I'm dead. No news
for now - much love Pop.
Easter Sunday.

Dear Alvin,
The sunrise services this
AM were were really nice. We had them
up on the flight deck. The chaplain
gave a nice simple talk and we sang a
couple of hymns. Unfortunately the wind
was pretty strong and they had to cancel a
scheduled communion - we have it next
week however. I hope you had a fine Easter
day. I can picture you all in church -
Dad Nancy come home - I
I can't wait to get the mail at
Calif. and here all the news. Did the
pictures come out OK. - the family

group etc.

I flew $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours this AM - When I
took off I couldn't get my wheels up
and I really started to rattle - Must
have dropped down to about 20 feet off
the water. Also my fast approach was
terrible. I got warned off and did OK.
the next time. This was my first wave-off
this trip and I hated to get it. It
doesn't matter how really but it's so
wish never not to have to waste those
2 or 3 minutes taken to make another
approach.

Well, now, I think I'll sign
off this gambled letter and start a
new one soon again.
Much love to you all -
your ever loving
Peggy

Wed. April 12th



Dear Mum and Dad,

Received my first letters
from home today - one from each
of you. They were so welcome!
I don't even hope you've had any from
me so yet, ~~since~~ but perhaps by the
time you get this you will have gotten
one at least.

Dad's ^{letter} was April 4th - That's
not bad since at all. Please let
me know about the Yale Corporation
elections. I never having attended
the University I have not actually ^{corpo.}
~~the~~ been acquainted with ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~
functions, but I do remember having
read about it in the Bulletin etc.,
consequently do know about it means to
can be considered for the post. I
wonder if I'll ever stop being about
the proudest son of Mum and Dad ever had.

I wish I could tell you where
we are, what we're doing etc. I can't of

course mainly because we aren't allowed
to, secondly because I really can't be
sure I know.

I finished the 4 books you gave
me Mum and loved them all. I'm
going to pick up a couple of more. I am
trying to read a few on Russia, because
I have become pretty much interested
in that end of our diplomatic relations.
Then, too, I know so little about it
all that a couple of books wouldn't
hurt anyway.

You mentioned Pinehurst, N.C. - it
sounds wonderful. I hope this gets to
you before you leave. The Vassar
trip sounded wonderful and the
girls all pretty much tops.

As I wrote Bob, these last 2
weeks have seemed the longest yet.
We flew quite a bit and had some
interesting times on the way (Liberty one
day) etc., but still it seemed long.

Please note the new address.
It will ~~be~~ beater any letter I'm

sure.

Well so long for you and wish make
love to all —

Pop

U. S. S. San Jacinto
T. P. O.
San Francisco.

P.S. stick the "U" in on the
address. They always add it
at the Post office.

April 15th

Dear Mum,

Well how they got Pacific out of Pacific I don't know - So far the sea has been pretty rough and many have found the rails, however its not so bad as when we left home and tomorrow all will be serene I hope. I haven't been doing much since we left - getting a lot of sleep, reading, and security watches.

This last stop was certainly nice. The mailman certainly was good to me. The afternoon of the day I talked to you I got 2 from you and one from the Big One - also Bucky gave me a picture of Dad and a clipping, sent to him by his mother I guess. How I loved all the news and also the picture. All the pictures are now tucked away in my wallet and when I find myself haunting them out for a good stare. Bucky gave "Little Oavid" the picture of Dad, Tim, & his but I still like it. Yours and Dads were dated April 11th - That's pretty good service I'd say.

The reports of Johns stay in Hobe sound perfect. I loved all the details. Was sorry to hear the reports on Gampier - I have no fears, however, and hope by the time you get this that the 'old connoisseur' is back on his feet. Marvelous about Major Chickie, Tim and Louis, wish more than ever that I'd been home Easter, and still jealous of Bucky being stationed on L.I. sound.

AIR MAIL

I was interested to hear about Bunny
(Howard) - that's fine work alright.

ran into a bunch of marines in my
class at Corpus They are all 1st Lt's. and expect
to make Capt. in 8 months. It sure
takes us Navy fellows forever, but the marines
realize that ours is slower and are
wiser about not holding it over us.

I had our liberty this last stop
but didn't do too much. Had a good
dinner in town and went to a couple
of spots which were fairly dull. The
highlights of the layover were speaking
to you and Bob and getting those letters.

Wish I had Gault's address for
sure, but I may be able to dig him up.
The porpoises Jim spoke of are really
interesting. They had a manlove twice
playing around the ship. As we stoned
off they came within a few feet and
jumped all around - a good sign they
say.

Haven't been getting any athletics
recently, and I feel awfully lethargic. Once
we hit port again we ought to get some
good swimming etc.

Oh yes ran into Potter Harvey - or
did I tell you that on the phone.

Tom Waters' band gave its initial
performance the other nite. They were
pretty good. "Clark" is a pretty good
musician and the band should be

really hot after a little practice.

Don Walker is now stationed in Wash. D.C.

From your reports the oysters were tasted
a long time - I bet Lizzy was really grumbling
after 3 or 4 days of oysters. I took the
descriptions of Bush in N.Y.

I do think Mrs. Parker is ~~making a~~
~~bit~~ bit of a mistake, thinking of the family,
but if her mind made up I guess
that's that - you do have to give her credit
a way. She will be good in the job - of
that I'm sure.

Chuck Tim Bush certainly is way
out there isn't he.

Well, then, I'll sign off for now.
This should be mailed before very long -

Love to all,

Ray

Dearest Mum,

April 21st

Well here I sit in the beauty spot of the earth - in my estimation it is the beauty spot of the earth anyway.

I can't tell you yet where we are on anything definite. We will be here but a short while however - what I mean by short will have to go unqualified since the old man would get his successors out otherwise.

~~Today~~ Yesterday and today both have been beautiful. In the first place the natural beauty of this spot is truly something. The water is beautiful - different shades of blues and greens. From the air its unbelievable its so clean and pretty. The beaches are all soft and sandy.

Yesterday I took out in a flashy pair of red tunics with white flowers on them and took in the sun bathing. I have had little or no exercise of late, and yesterday ~~we~~ ^{we} was a beating. The waves made K. Port's boat have to step out. They were real powerful and tremendous. The

AIR MAIL

water was a perfect ~~try~~ - around
75 I'd guess ~~and~~ I'd all
have tried it - After that we
came up here to the O'Club pool
and swam and exercised there.
The O'Club is just across the
street from here and the beach is
but 5 minutes away by boat.

The BOA is very nice the best
I've seen. The rooms are swell,
meals good. ^{"be-meraled"} ← (was word)
The dining room ^{overlooks} the sea - Tonight we
had some native musicians play
for a dinner - Dancers did the
traditional dances and a couple
of singers rounded out the
program.

From this report you
probably imagine we first
setting on the sands and playing -
would that that were the case -
no! we have been flying and working
on the aircraft. My plane is
working O.K. but I hope to get a new
engine in her before we go.

I haven't seen Gmth or Ting
but have seen other fellows from
the states. I'll try to see Tim tomorrow!
May be seeing a great deal of

AIR MAIL

Jim

~~of~~
Note the address on the envelope.

These use it from now on -

show it to Dad, too.

VT 51 instead of the other.

The reason is if we get separated from the other this will always reach so. Chances are we won't be separated & even for any long stretch but then again you never know, so use this address.

~~the~~ Sleeping on a steady bed is nice and I'm not too anxious to get back to my rocking apparatus although I must admit I never had trouble sleeping in it.

Tomorrow I get 1/2 day liberty - Hope to get in some swimming and perhaps a little spear-fishing. We have the equipment (goggles - and metal spear)

Today at lunch time I had a dip, and then tonight after work we had volley ball and a pool swim.

The O club is a lovely spot

AIR MAIL

all modern with 3 beautiful bars,
game rooms, barber shop etc. Some of
the officers who are here for a good
while have little houses which are really
nice.

Did you finally get my letter from
Parama. I am now allowed to say we
never there. For a while we can
tell plans etc, so eventually, late
though it may be, you'll know where
I've been.

Please tell Gary my new address.
I'll try to get off a letter to her soon.

How I wish Ben were right
here with us - see whether they'll call the
car off with you Mum

Today Dick Plaisted brought us
one our mail but I had none.
I guess the postman was too good
to me before I left. Maybe some'll come
in soon. The mail has been very
good on the whole.

well, Mum, I'll write soon again -
Much love to all the family. I wish
you all very much and think of
you often. Government must be getting
springy and nice by now -
with much love from
your ever devoted
Mum

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To
Mrs. P. S. Bush
Grove Lane
Greenwich,
Conn.

From

Ens. G H W Bush
(Sender's name)

VT 51 - F. P. O.
(Sender's address)

San Francisco, Cal.

April 22nd.
(Date)

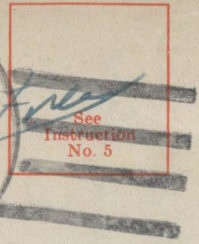
Dear Ma - I imagine the air-mail letter I wrote you yesterday beat this one, but it didn't ya'll know in detail what I've been doing when you get it.

Today was my liberty but I did nothing except sleep and then go down to the beach and let the waves beat me up a bit. Shortly after I left they stopped all swimming there because of ^{too} rough weather.

While I think of it, Mom - will you please do me a couple of favors - from my next check take out some money and buy J.J. and Dad birthday presents - also on June 8th have some flowers sent to Bar at Tyler House (quite a few real pretty ones). Just take the cash out of that check - I hope it won't be too much trouble - If this nothing John wants just give him a \$10 - in the meantime I'll try to pick him up a pickled Taper.
S. (are some weeks from much love, Mom dear
your ever loving

V...-MAIL

Ens. G H W Bush
VT 51, F. P. O.
San Francisco, Cal.



V...— MAIL

DO NOT WRITE HERE

Mrs. P. S. Bush
6 Now Lane
Greenwich
Conn.

DO NOT WRITE HERE

FOLD HERE

FOLD HERE

10-28143-3 GPO

- (1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
- (2) PRINT the name and address in the two panels provided. Addresses to members of the Armed Forces should include rank or rating of the addressee, unit to which attached, and APO or Naval address.
- (3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
- (4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope and a separate V-Mail letter must be sent if you desire to write more than one sheet.
- (5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary mail, 6c if air mail is desired).

INSTRUCTIONS

V-Mail Service provides the most expeditious dispatch and reduces the weight of mail to and from personnel of our Armed Forces outside the continental United States. When addressed to points where micro-film equipment is operated, a miniature photographic negative of the message will be made and sent by the most expeditious transportation available for reproduction and delivery. The original message will be destroyed after the reproduction has been delivered. Messages addressed to or from points where micro-film equipment is not operated will be transmitted in their original form by the most expeditious means available.

DO NOT WRITE HERE

DO NOT WRITE HERE



April 27th 1944

Dearest Mum and Dad,

I haven't written for several days but still there is little to write about - at least little which I am allowed to write. I wish I could tell all because it is interesting and will be plenty exciting no doubt.

Have picked up quite a few hours lately and have boosted my total landings up aboard up to about 47. One of them (my second to last to be exact) really was a scary devil. I came in high and a little fast - I got the out + nosed over but not enough - I then hauled back and made a real hard landing, blowing out my ~~the~~ right tire and placing myself precariously near the catwalk. How I hate to make a terrible landing - I get to worrying about it and ^{also} it's not good for the crewmen. Every day someone at least gets a tire on 2,500 it's not serious, but I don't like it. Am writing this back in my BOA room on the ~~shore~~ ^{shore}. Today we had our first excursion again in several days. It is always

wie to exercise, then sleep in a steady, non-rolling sack.

Have but very little time in which to see Jim
it his around these parts still. I'll make every
effort to look him up but I doubt if I
see him.

Haven't had any mail for a while but
perhaps I'll get a letter tomorrow. You just can't
imagine how much your letters and Pais man
to me. So far we've been lucky, very very lucky
and I'm probably getting spoiled by it -
will start suffering from it very soon.

Just hearing from you at home, knowing
what your doing is such a treat for me.

I loved the story of Buck and the initial game
man. He's so damn cute - that family picture
to me is a treasure. Dad in the front row
there, big ~~and impressive~~ and the little Buck
sitting up so proudly with that cute look.

He's sure a good boy and I hope his
ship has smooth sailing. How he qualified
on with landings or take-offs yet? Speaking of
with operations I have been catapulted at
with - quite a thing. This with flying off
carriers can be very important and very useful.
Our flying lately has been mostly like that
etc. Little final details - also necessary precautions, may
flights. Getting up at 330 for a pre dawn

Wop is a bit thing, however -

My time estimate may have been long -
No one actually knows when we're supposed to
return so it's alright to talk about it.
Whenever it is it can't be too soon for
me. One thing is sure and that is when they
do send us home will have seen plenty of red
hot actions from now on it's going to be plenty
ugged duty - in a way I'm glad, cause I
probably need the experience. Maybe
you should have been a little bit mean to us
so I could relish the thoughts of killing etc.
When my time is up all I ask for is to be
get married and be able to be with my wife
for some sort of a decent length of time.
I'm sure of Barbara. It's such fun to inter-
state the hectic turmoil of flight operations is
over to be in my upper and lot of mind relax-
think of you both, all at home, and of Ben - our wedding etc.

~~Can't get it~~
Can't get it in some navigation
ships are hot as it is and it is a new class
feeling when you're a couple of hundred miles away
from your ship to know that hell usually
lets it right on the nose. Of course we have to
navigate too, regardless of who's leading, cause
you never know when some unforeseen
circumstances of any crisis
Am enclosing of old license form -
will you get me another and keep it. They're free
to surrender all you have to do is fill it out
and send in for the new one in my name.

Remember Maude Ingalls, Madge's sister -
I've never forgotten her poem on at least the
last part of it - "From thence only heaven knows"
on something like that - always seemed so
appropriate ever since I've been in the
way.

Goodnight and much love to you both and
all the family - I miss you all a great
deal - Tell kindly boy John I'll drop
him a line of congratulations and give
my love to that hot parachute artist, Willy,
Hope pinchurst lived up to all
expectations for all I & you -

with love
M



April 29th

Dear Mum and Dad,

Not much news to report,
but night so well has off this quick
letter.

Bruce Righter is now a Lt. Comdr.
a promotion which he well deserves.

Everyone is crazy about "Bill" as
they call him. His funny as ^{they think}
and has been such to me - call
me 'George' as do they all.

I have a very strong feeling
that Jimmy made Lt. Comdr., too.
I haven't seen him, but the
list came out and the man on our
ship who made it were all in that

Quonset class of Jim's etc.
Lt. Comdr. is made, not by All-Nav's
as are the junior promotions, but
by recommendation etc.

Henry Fonda, the actor is
a Lt. (j.g.) out here now where we are.

Ran into John Lebowitz - a great
friend of Stu's at Yale. I had to see
him so I looked him up and had a
chat with him. You might tell Aunt
Marge that as Stu would love to
hear it. He

He made Lt. j.g. a

month ago:

Also right in our own squadron
are 2 Yale fellows - one is
Forrest Daniels ^{from St. Paul} and Dad, he is
Tom Daniels bo-ah (boy!) Tom
was '14 at Yale and know you.
He wrote Bush (that's Forrest's
nickname) a letter and mentioned
having seen Mr. Osborne who said
to say hello to me. Mrs. Daniels
(Francis Hancock) was one of Mrs.
Katherine Shepard's bridesmaids
when you were best man for
shepherd's ~~best man~~.

Bush went to Yale (~~the~~ class of '41)
but didn't graduate. He is a
Full Lt. and is our administrative
officer.

The other fellow is Ted White, also
from St. Paul. - He was Yale '42
He is our gunnery officer. Having
joined the squadron after our
shakedown - not a pilot either.
He was in Zeta Psi and also is
in your senior society. Both
are damn nice guys and it is
indeed a pleasure to be associated
with fellows like that.

Harry's been sleeping well & late -
too many kgs. My plane has a
new engine on it. Have been
& flying a good deal - swarming etc.
still fine - no mail for a
long time - leave my 5000 - plus
you all - and that's all for now
with love to all. Devotedly,
over
18