

Dear Mum & Dad -

June 1st 1944.

The word certainly can get garbled! I have not transferred ships - there was never any talk of it and I feel quite certain Fricky never said anything of the kind. He may have said we were with them or something like I have said about Jim, but we haven't transferred at all. My guess is Mrs. Byers hastily read the letter, rushed into her motor and told Ganny, without reading what Frick actually said.

I have not seen Fricky yet though he is nearby - so is Jim - John Peacock is aboard Frick's ship. I might put in here that being aboard an admiral's staff, Byers changes ships sometimes. For certain things the admirals go on certain ships.

Before I forget to mention it

will you please send me about
\$5 worth of Air-mail stamps -
plain 6 cent stamps will do.

There is quite a shortage of them
here. Also never write anything ^{but}
air mail or possibly V-mail.

The other takes ages.

I got yours of the 22nd today,
Dad, which seems to me pretty
damn good. I was interested in
the one to me and the envelope of
Pres: Capt. Pate is as I may
have told you the Sr. marine
aboard. Most large ships have
a marine detachment - they man some
gunnery posts, act as ordnance
for the exec. & captain etc. I
know Pate but slightly - however I
can say he is very well liked by
all. So is Bruce Righter - while
speaking of the home boys.

Today was a gale one for
us as far as mail - 2 from
Bar and several others. Mum, Ben

said she was so anxious to call
you Mum and yet was ~~sort~~
& embarrassed I guess. She said
she tried and hoped to succeed soon.

Did you get my letter telling
you about my feelings upon being
potted at by the yellow sons of
heaven. I hope you did.

I hope you always keep things
like that about the Ives girls to
yourselves. It is imperative that
you do even if they way seem
harmless to you. Might win her
reputation.

The Food hasn't been bad
 lately. especially when we eat a
part it picks up and ^{fresh} vegetables,
fruit, and the like reappear for
awhile. I haven't had any with
for over a month - it's painful
not to be able to better 'move with'
One thing sure is I am saving
all my money. Haven't spent a nickel
hardly in the last 2 months - ^{month} Our
mass hall now \$30 per ^{month}, and
then a few dollars a month for
ice cream, etc and that's the worst

Had a few troubles with Bar II
lately but it should be perfect
very shortly. My new plane captain,
Frank Paolletti is a 2nd class
wreck which is a pretty high
rate (equivalent to $\hat{=}$ the sergeant
in the army - Verrachi used to only
be a Seaman 2nd class. He
developed bad eyes and was
transferred.

Last nite we had a big
amateur show aboard. Surprise
feature was 2 Navy Nurses - the
first women we've seen in a long time.
They weren't too hot, but any thing
would go our big out here. Hey
Mum, there's a solution for Helen
Dayton and the like - slip em
out here and instead of being
lead balloons they'd be kites.
Very simple!

Phone told Gary Mrs. Byers
is wrong. I am glad she is, too.
I really wouldn't like to transfer
now. We have a good outfit and
the ship is ok. we do all the
stuff the big boys do and can

wore in the way of flying.

The other day I attended
Captains mast and came away
with even more respect for our
captain - Capt. Martin. He is a very
understanding and just man.

The war was carried right to him
on Dec. 7th and then later and he
is a real fighter. He is the only
capt. I have served under at
sea, but I don't believe we
could have a finer one.

Naturally we are interested in
the political situation at home.

The news we get in our ship's paper
is brief, but it does cover the
headlines.

Not much else to write from now.

Your letters mean so much to me
so do keep 'em flowing - also please
don't forget the stamps. Whenever
long spaces of time go by and no
mail arrives never never fear -
if ^{only} ~~then~~ we haven't had access to
post ~~boxes~~ ^{offices}, that's all - when we hit port
off goes the mail - I hope you all so well
your devoted
Bill

I fear the censor cut parts
of my last letter so I don't know
if you know all I wrote. They are
quite strict and we can't tell
a thing - it has been exciting
at times, however. I hope this get
thru.

I received so many
letters
from you the last time we left
port that I hardly dare hope
for any more at this next rail
call. Enclosed to my license
they all filled out. Just keep it
when they send it to you.

Tomorrow night is the 5 hrs "happy
hour" on smoke. The band plays
and there will be amateur acts and
the like.

Our athletic consist solely
of volley ball and that only when
in port. I see miss all the
contests we used to get.

Tell Bunt's hello - in your letter you
^{I visited}
~~forgot~~ him. Oh yes also the young Meade
girl - she should be on a "hot"
number shortly. Greenwich sounds
beautiful at this time of year.

I can picture everything so plainly,
tennis, dinner at the porch, the
summer evenings etc.

I told you I got several letters
from Bar, too, which cheered me all
up.

So long for now and with love to all
Pops

P.S. I am afraid I will not quite
have the nerve to look up Edmund
Kaufmann if I run into him out here.

U.S.S. Lt. Ross Allen has been transferred.
He was the one you met at R.I. - nice
looking and swell guy.

Dear Mum & Dad, Sun. June 4th

Well another Sunday is about to come to an end. Today was one of rest and quiet for the most part. I had a security watch on the flight deck all morning - played volleyball this aft. and went to see Happy Go Lucky, an old but amusing movie, tonight.

Yesterday the ship sponsored a beer party - rather yesterday I went. The party spread over 4 days so everyone could get to go. We each had only 4 cans of beer, but it tasted awfully good. Chinked around trees, chased cameleons thru the undergrowth, went swimming and had an absolute good time and a most welcome change from shipboard life. Were I to choose between shipboard & land based on a place like we were at yesterday - I'd choose the ship - always clean, food comparably good etc.

I hope you got my letter saying I
had not changed ships or squadrons
or anything at all. Yesterday was
the only time I have been
able to get off; consequently I
haven't seen Jimmy at all.

I wrote Tim Wyles' mother a
letter today and it wasn't too
easy. He was really devoted to his
mother.

Well, I will sign off for
now - Never worry if letters are
spaced far apart. I miss you
all an awfully lot -

Thank love to you
devoted son
Boyer

I would really love them. Ben looked
so cute, the boys so "clean and nice"
and the "estate" lady. Old shaggy
pluck did himself proud too. I now
have the snapshots inside my large
picture of Ben and the upper
is still more inviting. Incidentally
we have been having long, long howls.
This AM up at 3 and in the air
well before dawn. That is just
a sample.

The best news was that
Pma was coming home - how happy
that made me - and ~~the~~ how
I long to be there with him. I
wonder if he is with you now -
certainly will be when this arrives.
Give him my love - of course. How
happy you both must be having
the Penguin in the fold. It's
been ages since we've all been
together hasn't it? I really get
so happy thinking of how good that
news is that it makes me feel right
there with you all.

We have received flashes on the invasion of Europe and eagerly await any further news. Every day our ship puts out a sort of newspaper.

The news in it is gathered from the most parts from aboard ship, but there are a few short ^{wave} radioed messages. I am eager to receive your letters telling about how the news was received at home, but I will have to wait a while now for any letters I'm afraid.

What are your plans for the summer etc. I hope you get to K Post for a while anyway. Gosh I had a number two there there those 2 weeks last summer - but there why I wouldn't I have - with most of the family there, that 'salt air', that food, and oh yes hairy Bar there may have had something to do with it.

The weather & aaval here now seems to change - it has been hot every single day and

usually old 301 "claims more than
his fair share" - Results - sleeping
at times is a very "sweaty" (pardon!)
operation; I have a real ear ball
haircut which would cause you
to disown me -; and we all have
glamour boy tan. Still they can
send me home any time. Speaking
of that I am sort of hoping to
be home for Xmas. I depend
on so many things but most
squadrons get relieved by them.
their length of time.

Our Air Group Commander -
Comdr. Moore was a classmate
of Betty Lou's brother at the
Academy. He is a full commander
now - i.e. Moore is Incidentally
Adm. Kaufmann is around these
parts - also the brother.

What is Vinny McClelland
on - a Destroyer or a bat? What's
his ship's name.

Undoubtedly you will have read
about us by now - Yes when
we all have interesting and exciting
(often too exciting) tales to tell.

Our hours have been such that
I haven't had a great deal
this trip. Sleep whenever we can and
fly a good deal.

So much so I hate to admit
it, and though I'd never tell Bob
for fear she'd misconstrue what I said,
I ~~am~~ really think we did the
right thing in not getting married.
A couple of fellows, ^{wives} in an outfit
are having babies now. The
guys worry a lot and I imagine
it won't be hell on the poor girls.
No it wouldn't have been fair to
Bob to have gotten married. When
I return I ~~will~~ certainly have my
car, however. I will have saved
\$3,000 by next fall. ~~and~~ ~~my~~
I have learned a good deal out
here - lots that's not practical
by a long shot. but it all goes to
making a man out of me. So
far as depressed time making a
disturbance in my feelings towards

But ~~then~~ I was sure when I
left I'd never change, and now
as each day passes I am more
more sure. I love her so
deeply that nothing could ever
change my feelings - & that I'm
convinced.

Well it's now 8:25 PM.
and I'm dead tired so I'll close
with love to all the family
your ever devoted son,
Ray

like ago.

As you probably have guessed
these past days have been
full of many great experiences
for me. I have seen more
than I ever dreamed I would.
Some more than I ever dreamed
I would be doing, too. It is
exciting and also gratifying
and satisfying - I wish I
could give you details of the
incidents but I can't.

Pro Aunt's wedding should
be shortly - I wonder if Pro
is home yet., John out of
BCPS and Bush finished his
tour at Meads Pt. Play. Oh
how I wish we were all together
as in the old days - Peace
and quiet and ~~the~~ love
laughter instead of the grind.

never before have I appreciated
things at home so much. Perhaps this
very appreciation makes it easier to
be here, however.

I love you all and miss
you so. Have you seen Ben
lately - I guess not. Oh Mum, I
was here so much. It's going to
be unbearable to have to leave
here next time knowing what it's like
now. Perhaps, however, there will be
no next time -

So long for now - love to
all - you ever loving,

1973

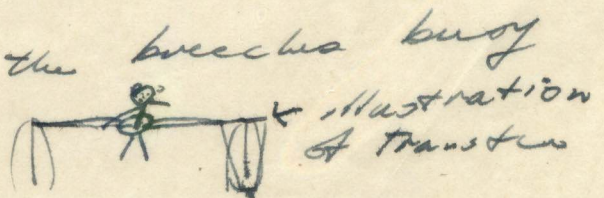
Dear Mum and Dad,

June 22nd

Things have been happening so fast that I have forgotten when I wrote you last. 3 days ago I had to make a forced landing in the water. It was my first water landing and when my engine acted up I was a bit nervous. It went off OK, however. All three of us got out safely and into our raft. We were rescued by a destroyer. I'm afraid I can tell you no more details than that.

As I write this I have not ^{gotten} back to ~~the~~ my own ship. ~~My~~ ~~ship~~. Yesterday I was transferred from the Destroyer ^{by} "breches buoy" to this ship. When I will get back I do not know. I am getting a rest here so I don't care too much, though I would rather be back with my own squadron.

The transfer on was quite a thrill.



I really enjoyed my stay aboard the destroyer. They all treated me and my crewmen like kings. I slept a good deal and generally enjoyed myself. When they picked us out of the water the Doc administered us some brandy. The crewmen were always surrounded by an attentive group of listeners and they would have liked to stay there.

Ben Grosscup is aboard this ship and so is Ross Allen who used to be with our squadron. Grosscup is a Yale fellow, knows all the Walkers and also you,

Dad, and uncle Jim Bush.

P.S. Grosscup just dropped in here to the not see which - He

is a cousin of Mr. Dick Kimball's - knows you well, Dad and was really swell - Do you remember when we had no mail in ages on this ship?

We have had no mail in ages and it sure will be a happy day when the mail ship arrives or when we hit port to collect the sacks.

Andoubtedly the papers have given you adequate info on what we've been doing. As I told Ben, it would be so much worse

Fun if I could share all the experiences
I've had with her and with you - at
least by writing about them.

Still haven't seen Jim though even
now he isn't far away.

I wonder if Pro is home now.
How I'd love to be heading back to
the States soon -

Guess I'll be getting a new plane
now since it was Bar II which I plunked
in the water. I still have the same
clothes I went in in and they do need
a change - unattractive but true.

Some of the experimenters, ^{not} fellows out
here have had lately would really amaze
you. The "kraid" will go thru almost
anything to rescue pilots and crews, and
believe me, it's a real comforting feeling.
Well that's about all for now - with love
to all - ~~Bob~~

Dear Mum & Dad,

Mon. June 26th

Once more back aboard ~~of~~
our ship and really glad to be back.
Before actually getting back I was
transferred from 3 different ships, 2
destroyers and one carrier. (I am
assuming you got my letter telling you
about ~~my~~ crash landing in the
water.) It was certainly nice to get
the clean clothes back on and get
in my own sack. Two new pilots
joined our squadron and came aboard
with me. By then I was an old
hand at being transferred by breeches
knob.

The high point of my return was
4 letters - 2 Bar, 1 Mum, 1 Aunt Nancy.
They were all May 31 or June 1, but
they constituted the first mail we've
had since we've been at sea this time
and I was so thrilled to get them.
Today a destroyer brought some more
mail alongside. I got one from

^{dated} June 7th - I was pleased to
Garry - learn that she now knows I'm still
on this ship and that probably you
know it too by now.

Which anyway I had heard that
Lt. Condr. Melvin was missing - It certainly
was a relief to return and find him
aboard Ok. He had ~~an~~ quite an
experience which I'll someday be able
to tell you about.

Garry also mentioned that some of
my letters had been quite heavily
"cut-up" by the censor. I hope the
ones to you have not. I'm glad you
understand the long mail-less
stretches, them. You get them and
so do we. I hate these long periods
of no mail, but as you say we're
lucky to get any mail so far out
here.

So much has been happening that
the time has gone by quite rapidly.
The days themselves seem long since
we're up so early, and also the same

Ad hot sweaty weather is always present.

Bob's ^{two} letters (and yours of course) were a Godsend. I miss her so desperately and ~~can~~ love to think of getting her to her. She is so nervous to me, and now ~~the~~ she is the object ~~of~~ ^{of} prime ~~importance~~ ^{importance} in my life. After those hectic, often frightening days, it is indeed a content to lie in my upper and think of those marvellous days ahead with Barbara. If only I could see her - look into those lovely eyes, hear her laugh, or watch her playing with Buck. Enough of that for now.

I was thrilled to hear all about JT's ball season, the ^{first} day at GDS etc. Now I am wondering when you are going to Maine.

Garry said you were taking Mrs Admiral to tea - I haven't heard from you since then, but perhaps soon they'll bring some news to us.

It will be nice to get back to
port - just to sleep.

Ran into a Bob something-or-other
From Biddeford ^{on the destroyer} Pod who knows
"Be-wave" - I had seen him with
that hot-boy Pool crowd at the
River club dances, but he was awfully
nice and my Fairhar fare is a
welcome sight. Oh yes I ran into
Sid Overall on another ship. He is
a torpedo pilot graduated last
Fall some time. We had such fun
talking over P.A. He was in my first
class there - grounded with Moorhead
and then ~~and then~~ with Moorhead
and Jack Ed at Yale. Those are
Ed & Vin - also I feel for
poor Brother - 18C is a slow
squadron if I remember
correctly. Anyway his wife to
be there, tho I imagine his
anxious to get out somewhere.
When I get home I'm going to put in
for a spell of shore duty, but I
have my doubts as to whether I'll

get it. Probably will come back out
in another outfit - should get some
time worth in the states anyhow. Plenty
of time to work myself to Bar. Have
you read this Gov't education
Bill. looks to me like it might
be a nice 2 or 3 year rest at
college. I'll have saved some money
and then they pay you, too, to run.

It's just a passing fancy - probably
because right now the lay waste
of college would appeal to me. We
could live in some small apartment
and I could study - Bar too if she
wanted - Well, it's just something to
think about. My mind grasps onto
any and every possibility since it's so
much fun planning and wondering.

Barbara's letters are so wonderful. I
do hope she is happy at Smith. I'm
afraid she misses out on some fun
by being engaged, but this always been so
cute about it.

I wish I could see you all right

now. There is so much to tell - so many little things which I'm afraid I'll forget which I know you'd enjoy, and yet which I cannot write.

We've been flying a good deal without lots of excitement. The initial shakiness has left us before the battle, but the intensity of fun over the objective will always scare me - of that I'm sure. Keeps you a good Christian anyway.

At times I get feeling awfully "miss-Baw" and "miss Mum, Dad and all" but for the most part I am relatively happy. The time has seemed endless since we parted. However when all's said, I'll have to admit I'm glad I am here - though I do wish this phase of it were behind me and I was home again, having been there it. At last I feel that I am at least doing my part and when I get back I'll have no feeling of guilt about being in the States. Oh Mum I hope John and Bunk and

by our children never have to fight a war.
Friends disappearing, lives being extinguished -
it's just not right. The glory of being
a carrier pilot ~~the~~ has certainly worn
off. True it's always a thrill to land
successfully aboard, to return and see
your ship steaming along, there's lots
of thrills; but I mean it's mostly
work.

I have rambled on for pages and
said little I'm afraid - I love
you all so very well -

your ever devoted son,

Bob

P.S. While I remember, don't ever
send me any packages. They take
ages and always get crushed.

P.S.S. I hope you got up ^{letter asking}
for air mail stamps.