



UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION
GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS

Monday.

430

Dear Mom,

Well since my last letter a great deal has happened. In fact so much that I have hardly had time to digest it. In the first place we finished flying at Ft. L. on Thursday. Our last week there we really got some hours. Nite flying made a real full day. We left Friday evening on the all-coach streamliner 12 of us in all - 8 from our flight, 4 from another. The coach was cool and comfortable but you know how these things are for sleeping. we were scheduled to get to Chic. at 1030 but we pulled in at 2 Sunday A.M. 3 of us phoned all around but not a room could we get. At 4 we finally located a room at the Knickerbocker so we did have a bed. Sunday noon we came out here (30 minutes by train) we got a Navy station wagon to meet us and they brought us out here. we checked in here at C. Q. T. (carrier qualification training) We live in barracks since our stay is so short. The base is big and beautiful. There is a primary flight base here as well as C. Q. Fighters, Dive Bombers, TBF's and all come here to check out to get on with the narrative. Having nothing to do at

day I called Guff at Great Lakes, left here
at 430 and was shaking his hand at 530.
I took the North Shore up from Wilmette and
went thru Winnetka, Lake Forest etc. Gr Lakes
is tremendous and rather beautiful. Guff was
fine and did his eyes look far away when I
said I was going to Maine. I left at 8
and got a good night sleep here.

The procedure here is this - you have
to pass another Field Carrier landing
check and then you go out to one of
the 2 carriers. You make 8 landings and
then on all three. The main obstacle is weather.
The TBC needs quite a bit of wind.

This aft we (12) went over to Field
Carrier. I was one of the 4 to check out
luckily so now all I have is the carrier.
With good weather I'll check there
tomorrow and leave here Wednesday. I'm
praying for the weather. All we do is fly
out - land 8 times and then fly home
if you qualify. I'll wire you when to
expect me. I could go to Boston, but
I think I better go via N.Y. and get
Barkava - also I'll be with Big Bad on
nite. I may try to fly from Chicago but
reservations are tough.

The food & officers quarters here are
amazing. Big pool, gym, too. Quite
a base - I wouldn't mind being here forever.
If it weren't for my home, and seeing you
again. Well sweet Mama - much much love
from your almost home again son,
loving loving Pop,

Dear Mum,

Well here I am sitting down at one of the many hangars. I am now, just for a few hours, squadron duty officer. I have under my command the whole squadron filled with various types of aircraft including giant liberators, fighters, p-boats and many others. This is supposed to sound terribly impressive but in reality it isn't. Being an officer there are certain duties you have to have and this is one of them. The fact remains that here I sit next to type-writer with nothing to do so it is an excellent chance to get caught up on all the news.

Yesterday I was lying in bed up at BOQ taking a nap when the terrific blast occurred. It was down at the seaplane hangars about five miles (two miles really) away. The whole building shook violently. Later various reports came in from witnesses. It is a terrifying tale of a disaster which took a mean toll in human life. A friend of mine was fairly close by and he got knocked out flat just by the pressure. Unfortunately this was the slightest of all the casualties. The actual cause was the explosion of twenty four depth charges. They were being carried along on a truck and one rolled off and started to burn. The driver ran for help and arrived back just to have it explode in his face, setting off the others. Twenty four so far have been killed but many others are critically injured. Mum, it was really so thoughtless of me not to have wired you right away. I am terribly sorry to have caused you any concern.

~~WXXX~~ Today I got my orders. Jack Cochran, Jim Wykes, and I all went down to get them together. Jack got his and they read Quonset point-the new Hornet or Wasp most likely, so you can imagine how excited I was. The luck didn't hold however and both Wykes and I got assigned to squadron ~~VXXX~~ VC 51 which is being formed here. How I would have loved the other and how I hated the idea of staying here but now after surveying the problem thoroughly, things may not be too bad. True the others go to a real CV, big carrier, and they also get up Quonset where I would love to be, But this VC 51 may turn out to be O.K. Let me explain it to you. VC means "composite squadron". i.e. we are not just a torpedo squadron but a combination of TBF's and divebombers. When we go aboard ship our mission is apt to be the same as the others, but we will not be just a VT squadron. Right now we have twenty pilots, half TBF, half SBD. We will soon get a commanding officer who will be in charge of the squadron as a whole. We will also have all the officers in a regular squadron. VC 51 is brand new. In fact she will be commissioned the 22nd of this month. We are to go aboard a carrier but it probably won't be for quite a while. We are to get a brand new converted cruiser. This isn't the biggest class, but it is the next biggest and one of the fastest types. Our duty will most probably take us to the Pacific and we won't just be looking for subs. (no need to tell Mrs. Meek that I will be aboard a new converted cruiser) I know the name of our ship and will tell you as soon as possible. As well as VC 51 there will be a regular fighter squadron aboard the ship. I will be able to tell you more of what we do later. The thing is so brand new. We haven't gotten our own planes or enlisted personnel as yet. All this should follow shortly. After we get all squared away we will probably move away from here to train until our ship is ready. I don't think I will get anywhere near home unfortunately.

I still wish that I could have gotten Quonset, but I'm sure this will turn out O.K. Most of the TBF pilots were at Ft. Lauderdale when I was. Wykes I know well, the others not so well yet, but they are all good fellows. It will be fun being a part of an outfit. Norfolk is a terrible spot to be, but there's always the consolation that things can't get worse. Tomorrow I get a 2 hour hop which will be nice. I hope I can still fly old jumbo after the rest I've had. ~~Tex~~ You can tell any interested inquirers everything I've told you except details about the carrier. Just say he is in the squadron waiting for a ship.

My suitcase has not arrived as yet but I have hopes that it will drift in in the next couple of days. Also any mail that you or the good B. Pierce may have written. Today I walked miles around this tremendous place taking physicals, shots, getting pay accounts settled etc. I am exhausted around the dogs, but after this watch I am going to go to ship's service for supper and then go to MY FAVORITE BLONDE. I have never seen it and after your description I can't wait. I am going to eat at ship's service cause if I were to go back to the O club or to BOQ it would mean two long busrides, and several man sized jaunts. "Vassar was never like this", no, mother, I don't want a bike thanks. They say we will have a chance to check out here in the various types of ships. I sure would like that. They have a lot of those Hellcats here also every other type in the world it seems. Our room at BOQ is really a little dreary, but Wykes is now on the prow for a radio so maybe it will be better. The food is pretty good. BOQ here is not as modernistic as at Fla, but it is comfortable enough.

This morning was really a blue one. This VC 51 looked so poor but now after having talked around it may turn out to be O.K. As soon as we really get organized I can tell you better about it. This may mean that I will be in the states to at least telephone you a merry Xmas. In a way I hope so, but really I guess I would rather shove off since being here is just like being over as far as seeing you ~~xx~~ goes.

I finally drew all my winter flight gear and some accessories including a good serviceable watch. I may use that one when we leave as it is waterproof and I'd hate to have anything happen to my good one that you gave me. Mine is far superior to the new one.

Well, Mummy dear, so ~~xx~~ long for now. Once more let me say how badly I feel about the accident - I mean not letting you know they missed me. Much love to all,

Carol Longley
Pop.
Please excuse all errors - I don't re-read

SP 64
NAS Norfolk.

Thursday

Dear Mum,

Well here I am back in the Navy after the 3 most delightful weeks of my life. I can't possibly tell you how I loved this leave. My expectations were high, but they were ^{far} surpassed by my reaction itself. I hated to go, and only pray that soon I'll be back again.

The plane trip was nice - I called Junior up in Washington and he came over, arriving unfortunately just as I shoved off, but we did get a few words in. We landed right here at NAS. and, just as Mrs. Week descended, were whisked to the gate. I then turned around and came back in the gate and went to check in. I went to the OB and he assigned me a room here in SP 64, one of the BOA's. I then went to the Air Force Atlantic Fleet office and filled out various forms I filled out as preference of duty form which, I understand, means nothing whatever. We are here for only 3 or 4 days, perhaps a week. Every morning we go down and check in and then if there are no orders for us we are free till the next AM. Nothing, no musters, no nothing. Our orders will assign us to a squadron. I'm hoping for a new one which may be forming at Anson's, but I don't know what I will get. We may go right to the Fleet. I'll let you know as quickly as possible. I guess I'll just sleep around here for the next week, since the town is so frightful that no one ever goes there. We can use a pool nearby & the Officers club of course. On the bus to this room I met Jim Wyke. He got in the same room so now the 2 of us are in here. The room is nice - 2 beds, sink, closets etc. We eat right in the building.

Myself put down the same choices I did and
then asked for the same squadron I'm in, so
perhaps will be together.

This morning we went down to the waterfront
of the operating base - above all the ships come
in. I hate to admit it but I did see some
destroyers with small numbers on the bow so
dear Barbara is right and poor Pop is searching
for a tall building to jump from before facing the
nightmare wrath of the walker. wear - kotolony
crouches. Some did not have numbers however
so I sub a little better.

This base is tremendous - way too big and
I'm glad my duty is temporary. I may have to
stay here however in C.A.S.U. - a fairly good
unit, but I wouldn't like this base. This (NAS)
and NOB (Naval operating base) are right
together and are mammoth. Never have
I seen such a layout - Great Lakes is tiny
compared to it. You go everywhere by bus
and still wear yourself out walking. I'll be
glad when my orders come in.

It is really interesting talking with
others here - just in from all theaters.

You better not send those babies etc.
You better not send those babies etc.
until I let you know how long I'll be with this
unit. I'm now into a lot of old acquaintances
outlets. I'm now into a lot of old acquaintances
from Chapel Hill and all our Ft. Lauderdale
crowd is nearby. More than likely I'll be with at
least 2 or 3 of them.

Be sure and let me know all about
turning and also be sure to give party.

I'm afraid I can't see the Benzie
so we can't go over 50 miles from here.
The mail system will probably be all
rouled up at ~~the~~ write anyway though can't

they'll always come and run on to me.

Sincerely I feel like another 20 days at home. It was such fun. Mum and the rest & relaxation sure did me good - mentally & not physically. I do just want to say that I really appreciate how well you and Dad were about Barbara.

If you see Pity tell her thanks for the letter. I have decided not to write so many letters. If I get to Ansonet I'll be home in at Smith quite a bit I hope. I'd sure like to be around till Xmas.

Well Mum I'll let you know any developments - Thanks again to you both for that heavenly leave,

Mum & Dad
Pity

SP 64 room 213



Tuesday.

Dear Mum,
I got your letter today and was so pleased to hear from you - delighted to know you heard from Penguin. I was touched to think people "remembered me" enough to call up about the blast.

Tomorrow our squadron gets commissioned. We have heard rumors about our shipper arriving then, but we know nothing except we are to show up in clean uniforms at 0900. I have been doing some flying - nothing exciting just section tactics with some of the others. I've gotten my Flight Time so I'll get my flight pay this month anyway. Our life here is not hard. We have to muster at 0800 and then we fly for some part of the morning and afternoon. The rest of the time is ours and we can use it as will. I have taken up reading again. I do it sporadically - now I am on Galsworthy's *Man of Property* also read "I am Thinking of My Darling" which is most delightful I think - written about a town sweeping New York. The page will pass off in a few days so don't do anything drastic like sending me some good books to curl up with.

Speaking of curling up, my style for the last few days has been considerably

cramped by a booster shot in my right
arm. Night before last I felt ill in fact.
Today my arm is well so I am anticipating
some good sack time tonight.

Today we went up in the measles
chamber again. This time I felt no bad
effects at all. I am lucky about this.
Hamp is fat on me is a great asset
in keeping the "bends" away. Something to
do with nitrogen in the blood which I'll
explain later.

Just think it only I could have
made the "Wasp". The Torpedo squad was on
he will be fellows I trained with for the
most part. Most of the fellows I
reported here with, went there.

Our squadron will be about the
greenest thing that we hit the fleet.
None so far have been out before. Our
ships undoubtedly will have, however,
been to Norfolk and don't

Still haven't been to Norfolk and don't
intend to go. Today I took another swim
at the pool here, my only exercise.
The rains have been descending the
last few days and right now its gung
and pouring. The suitcase arrived
yesterday, thank you! Still no letter from
Barbara but she was waiting for my
address so that next be. The reason
wouldn't it be swell if the good Penguin
could get home for Xmas. ~~maybe~~ there's
a chance for him.

That's all for now. Much love
to all. Tell Betsy I'm with her at
Miss P. School. ~~What~~ team will John make
in foot ball, and does McCade Point allow one
on two turns in a row on the swing? Much love
1/10/26

Dear Mum

51-64 - room 213

Sunday.

Just back from Richmond after a lovely time with B & Mrs. B. I will start from the beginning.

In the first place have you gotten my letters. I hope so, but on the 1st I wasn't sure whether you had. I got yours of Thursday today mentioning VC-51 so I guess you did get mine. Well anyway.

Jim and I volunteered for this photography. Every squadron needs a couple of men with this training. It in no way alters our combat status, just gives us an ~~and~~ extra duty. If they need pictures of installations they will send one of us in. Then we will come back, report and go out. In other words we don't get gypped out of the main show. To take pictures accurately in this "remote control photography", as it is called, you have to understand the workings & the technique of using the TBF camera - so here we are. The rest of the squadron leaves for Chicoteague tomorrow. We will join them in a week or two. Our work is mostly flying. We are the only 2 TBF pilots we ~~in~~ at the present (that is taking the course) You won't have to worry about weather this week cause we don't fly unless we have 4,000 feet. Since our work is in the air, we get secured on all bad days - Live as birds - free to sleep or talk to all any intelligent person does here. We lead a very independent life, responsible to ourselves it seems, also we make \$3 a day extra while here. So a few rainy days won't be too much longer. To get on with the story - the blast arrived VP-2 (photo squadron) so they didn't fly today. We were secured yesterday noon. I called the Benie and Mor.

answered and promptly invited Jim & I over. They
were going to Brandon for dinner. I wasn't sure
another maid got there, however we did make
good connections and hit Richmond 3 hours after
departure (ferry to Newport News, and train.) I called
chez Benito and the maid said to come out.
Senaton had left the key to house & car with
instruction to be sure to use the latter. I did so
since we had eaten. We took in an early fish
and then came back. We were making ready for bed
when they came home. Today we had a marvelous
9:30 breakfast (Telephoned you from the table)
Then Mr & Mrs drove us around Richmond. I
lost my heart to the beauty of the town. The day
was clear with a fall crispness in the air
which made me feel like a million. Such beautiful
towns as we saw. This I liked better than any.
We listened to their records and then the Fitzgeralds
came for a roast beef dinner. We had to catch a
2 o'clock back, so we rushed thru dinner.
Senaton drove us down to the depot. The ride
back aside from a 1 hour delay at Newport News
was O.K. Mr. B. can't wait to get Dad in the
field for some shooting. He has a lovely new
setter who is supposedly a "butty" dog. I wonder
now why you never so over Richmond. We hit
it just right for today was heavenly - just
"smell that air". I'm afraid I won't get
back there, because I won't get that much time off
in a row again. I don't think besides Chicoteage
is inaccessible.

How I loved talking on the phone to you. It
made me think how wonderful it would be if Mrs
could do the same. Here I've been away who than
2 weeks (it seems like ages) and ~~just~~ just that having

your voice made me feel so near.

Don't count on seeing me before I depart for Taguere, but I think there may be a chance I told you the possibility. That alone on the shaded course ~~is probably~~ can easily be wrong. There's just what has been happening. Anyway I have something wonderful to set my sights on - there's no harm hoping. As we pulled into Richmond I couldn't help but smile - here was George coming to us and I going to them. If only I had gotten W. Jersey on R.I. I could have been home on at Northampton all that time.

Barbara's letters have been coming regularly and along with yours, make for the highlights of every day - and that is no lie. She loves Smith which makes me most happy - not that I expect her to "browse around the library" on weekends or anything, but it will keep her ~~away~~ contented. I was her as fully, when, and sometimes I find myself wondering how I am going to stand it. I guess 'I've got it bad' - and that ain't good at times like these. I wish we were each 3 years older.

I + my stuff is back from the laundry perhaps you can send it down. I should be here for a while anyway. If you don't think it'll arrive before I leave, hold it till I get to Chicoutagen and I'll let you know my address there. I read that Connie got ~~engaged~~ married to Roy Wang.

Norfolk is terrible. Went in one night to a movie and about died. The streets are tiny and so crowded with cars you can't move.

It is about 12 miles from here I think. A street car goes in. We took a cab home on the car takes about a hour. Will try to do better about visiting with the not much. Goodnight. Mum - Now I'd love to be crawling into my own nice soft bed tonight; my back itched too and you're 1000 miles away - all love, Pop.

Dear Mum, Today is cold and rainy and dreary. Never have
I seen such a sad day. Luckily the last 3 ~~have~~ days
clear so we had some good weather for our photographs.
The cause is interesting and a lot more difficult
than it would seem. The work is entirely flying so it is
good fun. The object is to fly smack over the target
at 5 or 10,000 feet - pretty hard to do - you have
to take a certain number of pictures at the correct
intervals. You have the controls all up in the cockpit
but the camera is in the back. It all depends on
weather but I'll probably be here for a week now
before going up to Christyburg with the squadron.
We have a lot of free time now, but not enough
to even get home or anything - wish I did, however,
cause I'd come flying home in a jiffy. They say to
take every minute off you can get, so I'll oblige
if they give me a chance. Barbara is coming home
this weekend from Smith - she is crazy about
Smith, sits next to Ruth Phelps from Minn. in
Psychology, and is looking up Betty Fowler
just for the laughs.

Yesterday I scraped a wing on a plane -
a terrible feeling. I was coming in on the wrong
course for a landing when a "Hellcat" shot in
front of me and banded me the wrong runway.
I got in too late and couldn't control the
plane at all. She went over on one wing. I
was scared we'd go on our back but luckily
straightened up. It's a helpless feeling and
neither strength or throttle will check it.

Altho the other plane ~~was~~ broke the rules, it was my
own fault and I've felt terribly since. Perhaps
better, for now I'll be an awful lot more careful.
No flying today and probably none tomorrow if the
weather continues.

The boys are all up at Chisago Lake now.
It's a pretty breakable spot - little in huts, poor
food, no town nearby, etc. I'll tell you about it
when I get up there.

I ran into a fellow named Conant here.
He's an old P.A. boy, has been out ⁱⁿ the Pacific
for 9 months. He's now here for a new assignment.
He'll probably be going back soon.

I got a letter from Tim & Bill Hone washed
out as an army cadet, tough luck. I was so glad
to hear that Vance got down for the weekend,
I knew that really one Vassar; couldn't help but
like it.

Tell John I'm delighted his 1st string center
that is really grand - 12 Adair on the 1st sub
& didn't he make it?

Frank Deane blew in here from leave.
He'd been at Jacksonville, then Glenview. I wish he'd get
in our squadron, but I doubt if he will. Yesterday he
I checked out a little sniper sail boat and took a
small sail - pretty good fun. He's got a gal who has
unofficially engaged to in Philly. He's a first rate
fellow. Wykes is swell too, but his note, well of
our class (that word). I like him a lot though and
we have swell times. Of all the fellows I met in this
outfit you the Hill knuck, Anthony, Hamblers, and
white are the best. They really were swell. In the
last year I have made you all, and Barbara and

awful lot; ^{also} ~~that~~ also I have missed my real friends -
Maddox, Ed, Vinny, Alice, Grett, Freddy ^{etc.}, much more than any,
good old Penguin - You see when I joined the fellows
with my background around my age mostly were in
college. The younger fellows that did join were the
high school group for the most part. - The youngest I
was 22, 21 on the average. Fellows who had been to
high school and then went to some Junior college
or gone to work. I ~~the~~ sure recall one or 2 (say Ed & V)
were a little farther along - on both were still in
don't think I'm homesick, along - I'm just thinking

Not much news left -

Come to all -
Pp

fly over" slogan.

Remember P. Bush "I or "Lest we forget!" All mothers friends are saying it. Kid I tell you that I went to G.C.D.S. and was ~~very~~ ^{very} remembered by all. It brought ~~tears~~ ^{tears} to my eyes — most lacrimose !!

UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Sincerely

Dear Nance,

well how's Vasov treating you. I then wrote that you were down last weekend to a Yale party. That is great and I know it must have been fun. Good old Redwood how is he? and how is Doty? She is such a grand girl.

NORFOLK - This is the kind end of the nation. What a miserable over crowded excuse for a city. I have been in town (10 miles) several times and each time I come home more disgusted. It is really wretched as Hooker would

say. I wrote Hooker and should have a letter waiting when I reach Chicotague where the squadron is. I am in VC-51, but right now I am on detached duty at a remote control photography squadron here on N.A.S. I'll be leaving in a week to rejoin VC-51 I think. Mom probably told you that I know which carrier we've headed for etc. It's all pretty good except we have to wait a couple or 3 months before we set sail.

My address now is SP 64 W.A.S. Norfolk but will soon change - ~~maybe~~ It you write in this week that'll be fine but after that perhaps ^{VC-51} F. P. O. New York City would be best. That looks awful "hot-boy"

too. I am now drawing over seas pay
too - also while in photog. #3 a day besides,
not bad.

Haunt's been able to send you any
Antique as yet but I'll keep fighting.

Regney said she was coming down here
so I'll keep on the lookout and perhaps will be
able to buy her a dinner, on else sponge
one off her (Terrible!!)

Ste Clement is here awaiting
transportation to Africa. He's really a
peach and a lot of fun - He's coming over
this afternoon

I've been to so many boring movies
I'm about to drop.

Talked to B. Pierce, a girl I am
fond of, on the phone today. She was
home for the weekend.

Did Sandy get his leave yet?

What do you want for Xmas?
No news at all from here, what have
you got to offer? My love to Mary -
No chance of my getting home for ages
I'm advised - Lots of love,
Bob

FRIDAY.

Dear Mum,

Well I'm just about there this
photography course. I think I finish this
afternoon and then tomorrow we probably
go up to Chincoteague. My address there
will be VC-51, N.A.S., Chincoteague, Va.
I'll let you know if there is a better one.

Last night I was writing a letter when
Mr. Lynch walked in. I put on my blues
and went over on the ferry with him to
Hampton Roads. They are staying at the
Chamberlain, a large hotel operated by the
Navy. Mrs. Lynch was looking lovelier than ever -
she is such a sweet person. We ate dinner
and then I took the 9 o'clock boat back,
as there wasn't another one till midnight.

This PM I met Mr. Lynch at the
administration building and he took me in
to meet the Admiral. Comdr. Slater was
around, but I had a 1015 hop so I
couldn't stay long. I did run into Bill
Stack, Yale about '40 - he was up at
Sibby Lamb's wedding, remember.

NAUAT
Aside from this not much has happened.
I did hear an encouraging word about
our ship today, however.

I got a small letter from Naveh
telling me all the vessel news.

Barkwa has been sweet about
writing - almost every day and believe me
it's quite a pleasure for me, since this
place gives me the blues. It's going to be
terrible at sea not getting mail -

Today we go up to 20,000
feet again. Yesterday I was up there
twice. Of course we have to wear Oxygen
masks. The days have been cool and
~~was~~ clear here - far different from a week
ago.

Well, Mum, I have to fly in a
few minutes - so much love to all,

Pop



UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Sunday.

Dear Mom,

Today was a horrible cold dreary Sunday. The only bright spot was the movie "Victory Through Airpower" - a Walt Disney production. It is marvelous. Scurry himself gives the central theme of his book in a few words. Be sure not to miss it.

Yesterday I went up on a high altitude hop and I had a slight cold - this proved to be a terrible mistake, because when it came time to come down I couldn't neutralize the pressure in my ears. I flew around for a while and finally, after inching down, I got on the ground, my ear throbbing out in protest. Last night I had the worst head cold but it doesn't seem nearly as bad tonight. Yesterday I went to another High school Football game and then to see Bob Hope in Let's Face it. I think I've seen 20 movies in the last 21 days - quite a record but there is nothing else to do.

We have finished up and tomorrow we get our orders to go to Cincinnati. I'll write you all about it once there.

I received your letter today about John's game. The letter sounded like you thought you had sent one the noon before - maybe so but I didn't get it yet - nevertheless I was thrilled to get this one.

I got a letter from Ed. He hadn't had his check - Viny a several others had gotten down so Ed was kind of worried. Where does Bill Gray go?

I saw a War Fund show in the movies today - not bad at all!

The hop yesterday was good fun. We had to fly up to a town called Mollusk and take some pictures. Never having been there we had to use a chart, fly the beam etc. This is such fun in contrast to the actual work of photography. How I'd love to jump right in and fly to N.Y. It would be so very simple in a T.B.F.

Goodnight, Mum dear. I do miss all the family so - I too am fostering hopes of a Xmas at home - but I fear ~~the time~~ it will be impossible.

Much love,
Pop

N.A.A.S
Chincoteague, Va.

Friday.

Dear Mum,

Today I am Squadron Duty Officer and besides it is raining out so noone is flying so it's a fine chance for a letter.

Yesterday & the day before we started flying here. We got about 8 hours in 2 days - quite a bit of flying. I certainly like this place much better than Norfolk. When you aren't scheduled to fly you can check out a "cab" or an SNT and just go up and fool around. At Norfolk you always had to call up for clearance - so much formality and traffic that flying was no fun at all. Here there are very few planes - in fact now VC-51 is the only squadron but others will be here I'm afraid.

The food here continues to be miserable. It is mainly that they serve it cold - Nothing is worse than cold vegetables - However the Dr. is working on it and he'll probably see that the mess boys serve it up better. Last nite and the nite before I went up to Pocomoke Md. for dinner. It is about 11 miles away and usually some of the fellows are going up. They do run a bus, but several of the guys have cars.

I think I will try to come up next weekend, at least I'll plan on it tentatively - I probably won't be sure till the last minute. Barb said she would come home next weekend. I worry

2.9.46
be able to fly up to Cape May on even Philly
and then take the train. They won't let you
fly to N.Y. but perhaps I can go to Philly and take
the train from there. If I can't get a
plane I'll arrive N.Y. about 9.30. Perhaps
I can meet Barkman at Aunt Nancy's or somewhere
in town and then come out late. The Sunday train
comes at 8.30 and gets here at 2.30 on 20.
I'll let you know what the prospects, but right now
I think I will be home.

I was thrilled to read about John's center
play. Apparently Andy's strategy hasn't changed since
we left since even in those days he had the center
in the line.

I got a cute letter from Belahy girl at
Farmington - also a letter from Nancy, eagerly
anticipating the arrival of Sandy &.

Such oyster stew as you can buy at
Baconham - really delicious. Oysters are like hamburgers
here.

Yesterday we made some bombing runs.
We couldn't find the target so we used
some sticks in the water - only to discover
that they made up some oyster bed. I
scored a hit demolishing one whole side of it.
The hit was rather pretty gruesome as I started
from way down low.

41- Personal - 13462 [27]

That back from lunch which was served nice and warm. Apparently the good Doc, got results in his plea to the Capt.

That certainly was nice of Jimmy to ask - That would be such a wonderful deal, but this is good too. I guess it would be better to stick here if I had a choice though. I am photographic officer for the squadron which means I may get some special missions at sea etc. Photography is really important work. Once we get to sea, it'll be such. This here at Chirico is nice alright but I hope they speed up work on our ship and get us out.

Everyone's now talking about getting to work on the shipper for a couple of days apiece around Kinas on New Year's.

Well, Alums I hope I see you very soon - a week from tomorrow with - lots probably if Barbara shows up in town. I'd let you know what happens.

Stick love to all,
Pop

Dear Flash, I'm afraid this isn't very flashy paper, but I am now down at the squadron at Chincoteague. I left Norfolk Monday.

Chincoteague is a very quaint little oyster town - very small and populated by colorful characters. It is great sport to go spearing down at about 20' and scare the fisherman who are out a-diggin' for 'oysters' (they really pronounce 'em like that!) Last nite, since the food here is so unbelievably poor, 3 of us drove up to Pocomoke Rd. which is 11 miles away. We had an all oyster dinner. Our main liberty towns are Pocomoke and Salisbury, however some fellows get to N.Y. & Philly. I am going to make every effort to get up to N.Y. some weekend soon. It seems now that we'll be in this country for quite a while yet, before we go aboard our carrier.

This base is small and very informal. No ties, caps, or salutes. Just fly and sleep. It is a real healthy life except for the miserable food.

Comdr. Lynch introduced me to the

Admiral. It seems Mrs. Bellinger knows
you, Flash - also I was going to
meet ^{Camp} ~~the~~ Slater, but I had to fly.
Mr. Lynch told me they were always
speaking of you - sorry to have
missed. If you know anyone
Admirals, Flash, just give me
the word.

I have my own plane with
"BAR" painted on the side in
white letters - named after that horse
in Maine, of course, or the horse
I brought up to Maine, can't remember
which.

Must fly now, Flash,

admiral.

N.A.A.-5

Chincoteague, Va.

Much love

your ever loving

#3 Speedink.

up at Rye sat. and tell
her what the story is.

Maybe I could meet her at
Garry's if I arrive late; or
would it be a good idea to
meet her there anyway,
early or late. The only
complicated part is the theater.

As is ^{always} the case, I'll never
know till the very last minute.

It's late Bar and I could
meet them after the theater.

If that is to happen, ask
Nancy to call Bar and tell
her where we can meet
them. I think probably
it would be better to plan
to meet them at so they
can go ahead and make plans.

Tell me what you think
we should plan. I'd love the
chance and will make every
effort to get a plane up.
Incidentally I am working
on an upper back Sunday note
so the ribs won't be so bad.

I can't wait to see
you all again and to
meet Sandy.

Oh yes will you call
Mrs. Moore sometime and
explain to her the plans.
She probably would like an
official word, not that B's
isn't good enough.

Today was supposedly my

days off, but having nothing
to do I came back and
flew. We did some skip-
bouncing. After the "official"
flying I went up in a cub.
It was my first cub
ride. They are really funny
and it's not at all like
flying a real plane.
They bounce around like
mad.

Tomorrow I have to fly
down to Norfolk to get
some equipment for the
skippers. Oh hope like that
we always fly SNT's. Have
to telephone Air Plot to get
clearance. Otherwise would be

snagged by spotters on
the lake and reported.

I sure wish I could
get up Friday to see Big
John in action with the
GCBS club.

Write me what you want
me to do about meeting Nance
& Sandy. I wrote Gary asking
her if I could meet her there.
It's Oct. all I'll have to do will
be to phone and tell her when
I expect to arrive.

The crisp fall mornings
here are really invigorating
and you can smell that
air so easily.

Love,
P/B

Dear Mum,

(Wednesday)

G.H.W.B.
N.A.A.S.
Chincoteague
Va.

} just use
+ his for
an address
no VC-51

Well here I am at

Chincoteague, as it is

called by all the boys. I arrived yesterday.
It takes 5 hours by truck up here - Luckily
we got a plane and made it in 40 minutes.

From the air you get 2 different impressions.

The field is tremendous, beautiful white
runways longer than a B24 would need.

The other picture is ~~the~~ the ~~the~~ plant stock.

The buildings are all low huts, green like some
advanced base. We live (the officers of VC-51)

in one building - all in one room. We have
beds, a big stove in the middle, and
toilet facilities about 10 yards outdoors in another
little building. There is hot water and all in all it
is O.K.

The life is very informal. No ties, no hats -
you just wear a shirt and pants and that's all.

No one cares what you do as long as you
appear for flights. The spirit is really friendly
and cordial. VC 51 comprises most of the station's
personnel. All in all it far surpasses Norfolk.

The nearest town is Chincoteague - 15 points
equal in size. Famous for oysters - the best
in the world. The food we eat here is the
worst I have ever seen anywhere. It is
unbelievably bad. Cold lima greasy beans. We
pay \$2.20 a meal, but it's not even worth that.
It's just terrible and always has been here.

Results - quite a few guys go into China on
up to Pocomoke for dinner, when there's no wife
flying.

we get every into off - one overnight a
week. I get off Sat. afto. and have to be
back ~~Sun~~ Mon. to fly. Luckily I got in
that liberty section - weekend liberty every
week. I may try to come home. A lot of
fellows go to Philly - some have made N.Y. We
catch a 3:15 Sat. get to N.Y. at 9:30 on
1000 Sat. nite. Then take an 8:30 from
N.Y. Sun nite - get home at 4:00 in the
morning. If Bar comes home on even if not I
may try it.

He's some good news. The TBF pilots in
our outfit are scheduled to go to Ansonia
for a few days - when I don't know, but we
are scheduled. I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

We have 9 TBF's here - There are
about 14 pilots (TBF). I have been assigned
#8. It's my plane - but just for now, as
we probably get new ones for the fleet.
Anyway "Bar" is painted on the side

Just back from Pocomoke. It is 11 miles
north of here, just in Maryland. We went to
a tiny little oyster place there and had an all
oyster dinner. It really was delicious.

All spare time here is spent in the
barracks or outdoors shooting pistols or relaxing.
It is really a healthy life except for the
food. I am eating vitamin pills to counteract
any lack of vitamins.

I don't know what it
is. I had an encouraging word or
but just now some warrant officer
that she would be commissioned before Xmas
but then it would take a few more weeks to
put the stones aboard etc. (don't tell this
into.) May not get out till February I'll
have to stop worrying. I will be able to get
home though it only for a few hours so if
any special weekend comes up I'll try to
make it home. Perhaps if you go to Mr.
Bennett in Dec. I could get over there or
could at least see you somewhere.

Don't forget - don't put VC-51 on the
envelope.

I saw Mr. Lynch again the day I
left Norfolk - ran into him at ship's service
~~there~~ mine going to shoot some more
langhams on a carrier soon - always
good practice

It seems that Vice Admiral Bellinger's
wife knows Aunt Mary well.

Well, Ma, I better get some sleep. I'll
keep you posted on all plans -

ever lovingly,
Pop

Dear Dad,

I've thought this over and I wasn't quite sure whether I should write or not, but I wanted to tell someone about it, and I think it wiser to tell you, cause you might do some unnecessary worrying. I hope you won't worry about me after hearing it. I wanted to tell you all about it though.

Today on my last flight I was coming in for my final landing when I hit a vicious slipstream from 2 recently landed TBF's. I was ready to land but I slowed on full throttle to go around again - by that time, however, the slipstream had one wing down on the runway. I turned to that (the left side) going off the runway. As I went off - my wheels hit and one gave way - This sent me careening sort of half sideways on one wing and the belly over the ground. Everything happened so quickly that I can't exactly remember it all. The prop hit and stopped - I was scared and tip over, but luckily we didn't. As soon as she stopped - I swapped off the switch, gas, and battery and kept out and to the stern. My crewman were scurrying out as I opened the back door. Luckily ~~none~~ none of the 3 of us was injured at all. The plane is a total loss. Both wings smashed, fuselage slightly

buckled etc - ~~the~~ gave me quite a
feeling. While descending suddenly and
recklessly across the runway a feeling
of helplessness not fear seized me.
Then there flashed thru my mind the question
"will we go over?" then she stopped and I
leapt. Funny I never really was scared.
After it was over I had that excited
feeling in the pit of my stomach. We were
terribly lucky that the ship didn't burn.
~~nothing so~~

The shipper was very understanding
& nice about the whole thing. Nothing
will happen to me, I'll just sign a
report. ~~This type~~ It really was
something - one of the things that were
flying dangerous is the shipstream, and I
really got hit bad.

I feel perfectly now and am
anxious to get back in the air tomorrow,
so don't give it another thought. I just
wanted to let you know about it.

It was ~~such~~ really great seeing
you all again this weekend, and I'm
now looking forward to the next one -

even devotedly,
Jop

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION	CLASS.
01. Letter	From George Bush to his mother. (2 pp.)	n.d.	C	
COLLECTION <div style="margin-left: 40px;">George Bush Personal Papers World War II Correspondence</div>				
FILE LOCATION <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;">Chincoteague, Norfolk, Hyannis - August-December 1943</div> <div style="width: 40%;">OA/ID Number</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; margin-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 60%;">Date Closed</div> <div style="width: 40%;">10/12/99</div> </div>				

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- F-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Mon.

Dec 20 1891

Dear Mum,
The ride down last night,
thanks to no available berths, was
most miserable. The dirty, old
coach was £100⁰ and at first
not then 20⁰ - that's what it
seemed like anyway. I slept
a little but not too much. Today
I had 4 hops, but no nits
Lying thank heavens. The weekend
was such fun. You & Dad really
should have gone to the Stearns
though. I sort of threw
things off there. I told you all

things off them -
I'm glad I told you all
about Ben & me. You probably
have already; but do tell Dad!
17. From

home already.
I found two letters from
Barbara here today. I think
she has told us fairly. She
said she was going to aid the

told me to tell all my family -
Poor child doesn't quite know
what "all" means in this case.
I'm afraid. I do think I'll
write Garry & Floss something
soon about it. I don't quite
know ~~the~~ how to go about
it all. As things stand now
will probably wait about a
year to announce it, but
things do so change - I
think Barbara is partial to
the present - I'll have to
see her soon again and
talk it all over. She agreed
to my suggestion of waiting till
after the fleet, but I can't be
sure we heart feel that way
until I see her. As far
as the present would be
fine, but somehow the other
seems wiser, considering

Barkawa's position etc. ~~but~~ I
told you ~~the~~ all that. Perhaps
she will charge her maid and
want ~~to~~ to announce it now.
That would be fine by me.

Incidentally if you see
any shiny rocks on our
driveway collect them -
seriously though, Mum, just
for interests sake what
does a fairly decent
looking ring cost? ~~again~~

You can tell whoever you
want in the family, but
sort of pretend it's a secret.

I'll tell Gary & Flosh by
mail, but if you see them
you can tell. ~~But~~ I'll write
Mum, too. Bar says she wants
everyone to know - I feel the
same way, so maybe our

strategy will give way to
our feelings. I do so love her,
but I guess I needn't tell
you that after all the time.

Something clipped me back
there at that R. Hill dance
2 years ago - nothing like love
at first sight exactly, but
I sure was hot on the
trail from that day on.

This week I get Thurs. & Fri.
off so I doubt if I'll
be home for a while.

Let me know if you are
going to tell anyone ~~about~~ ^{and}
whether you think I should
tell all or some of the aunts
etc. etc.

Must stop now, Maud.
This certainly has been a self-
centered episode...
much love, pop



NAVAL AIR STATION
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

MONDAY.

Dear Dad,

Saturday I purchased a few more bonds, so I imagine they will be descending upon your office before long. The pay seems to mount up nicely, for when I got back here I found I had \$240 coming to me not counting my \$143 allotment for this month.

Not much has happened since I have been here. I've been getting in a few hours with the photographic work. The days are dragging a bit, since we only fly 2 hours a day at the most, but I feel certain the time is well spent since reconnaissance photography can be of great value to a combat squadron.

I think my accident the other day was a good thing for me, because I'm afraid it was due a great deal to my own carelessness. They say "The more you fly, the more careless you get", so perhaps this will be my last calamity. The

damage to the plane was slight but the incident scared me enough so I will stay awake a bit more.

I have read as much as possible about Mr. Harriman's appointment. certainly a vital position right now.

I spent the afternoon yesterday with Stu as Mum probably told you. He was supposed to leave off today. I will be so glad when we get under way. Between now and then I'll get some valuable hours up at Chicoteague. Our skipper is a friend on navigation so that's what will get most of.

Down here I have run into a lot of fellows who instructed me at Minn. & Texas. They have instructed for 1 or 2 years and now are going to the fleet. However, we have the advantage over them because they've never flown the fleet type ships at all.

So long for now. I sure hope that I can sneak in a few days at home, perhaps around Christmas time. This last leave was so much fun, that now more than ever I long for a quick victory; though the possibilities of such, considering the Pacific situation seem remote.

I hope the big drive goes smoothly.

With much love, ever devotedly,

P.S. My problem is should I grow a large stringy moustache like Gneff's ???

Pop

Dear Mom,

Nov. 11

Yesterday Tim & I didn't fly
(L & B's) so we got an SNT
and went to Philly - Tim had to
get a pipe so I went up to
we went down town and
window shopped. Went into
Barry, Bubs, & Biddle and saw some
really nice - Just "saw" them -
we had a soda at Chomatto
and that was all. We looked at
theater tickets - there at the Navy
Park - I flew up and was wondering
which was the correct field when
I spotted all the Navy planes at
dusk - It is fun flying cross
country - You take a chart and
pick out all the towns. I also
used the radio beam going in to
Philly - It took 1 hour from
chock to chock. Unfortunately Cass
21 has taken some of their T's
away so now we won't do as much
cross country.

Today we were supposed to make
was on a ketchikan, but the
weather closed in. I did have one
top - a test top on one of the new
planes. Got Co. up, fire all the guns,
top bunkers etc.

About visiting Bar -
as yet she has not told me what
he really thinks of the idea -
She has heard by now and I
should hear from her tomorrow,
but I don't think that should
make any difference. Of course,
if they are unalterably opposed
to any engagement ~~with~~ it
would be a ticklish situation in a
sense. However, I doubt if that
will be the case, so please she
write to her -

Sat. is my day off but I
don't think I'll be up this time.
Next weekend I will.

New rumor - we may be
stationed at Atlantic City till
we move off. I'd love that -

Goodnight Mum Love
(P. S. & sadly letter this is)

Saturday

UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET
AIR FORCE
COMPOSITE SQUADRON FIFTY-ONE
Fleet Post Office, New York, N. Y.

~~Dear~~ Dear Mum,

Well today was supposed to be my dayoff but this A.M. about 10 o'clock one of the guys came over and got me and down to Norfolk I had to go with all the boys. We were supposed to go out and make soke carrier landings on the Charger. It was not quite as scary as the firts time. In the first place by now I have a bit more comfidence in the TBF. I didn't do too good a job, but I got in my landings. The Charger is another on of the small CVE type carrier. Oursiis the next biggest size. These landings are really pretty good fun, but you do have to bezawfully careful. We operated out of Norfolk so we had to report there both berfore and after our landings. We snot the landin s out in the Chesapeake Bay.

I certainly was glad to get Mr. Pierce's letter. It was just a short one saying that he and Mrs. Pierce both heartily approved of our engagement. When we shall announce it is entirely up to Barbara now for reasons that I have told you before..

Now here's some more dopp. Today a dispatch came in saying that all the pilots and crews were to go up to Hyannis Mass. on the 18th-that is Thursday I think. We will probabl y be up there for two weeks, depending on weather. That will probably mean that I will not be able to get my regular dayoff and hence will not be able to come home but I'll let you know as soon as we find out for sure. Hyannis is a small auxiliary station and we are going up there for torpedo work. This Atlantia City thing is indefinite but we may go there permanantly after Hyannis until the ship is ready. I don't know if we will get any liberty up there but It should be pretty convenient for Smith. Since I flew today on my dayoff I may be able to work a little deal whereby I can get home.

I'm glad the oysters turned out O.K. I was worried about them but the man claimed that was far the easiest and the freshest ways of gettäng them. I was most interested to hear of John's game-too bad they couldn't have downed Buckley.

Well ,Mum, goodnight and much much love,

POP

P.S. Don't bother to write me to here after say Tuesday.
P.S.S. Oh yes, we are now VT 51 instead of VC 51. Our divebombers have been removed and now we just have the nine torpedo planes. Why we don't have the bombers anymore I don't know. We'll probably carry many more Hellcats. instead.


F.H.

Dear Mum,

Well yesterday we came up
here. It took us about $2\frac{3}{4}$ hours.
Today they needed 5 planes to go
pick up some crewmen at Chinco
so 5 of us went back. It only
took us 1 hr 55 min on the way
back. Going down we went
directly over: Woods Hole, Cuttyhunk,
Newport (saw St. George's heavily)
Fishers - Cedarhurst, Coney
Island & Atlantic City.

It was such fun seeing all
those places. I had a
detailed Air chart along.
Coming back the ship was
swung towards our side of
the sound after crossing
Floyd Bennett and I
was straining into the hazy
distance trying to catch sight
of familiar ground, but we
turned again and went down
the Island - It really was fun

seeing all the spots. Could see
all the houses on Cuttyhunk, Fishers
and those bungalows at Newport
clearly. The only thing is you
get a little tired of sitting
in the same spot. Just turn
on the auto pivot - and then
of course chuck & rechunk all
the way.

N.A.A.F. Hyannis consists
of a fairly good landing field
and about 18 Quonset
Huts - A quonset hut
is a low  Tin

building like this - a big stone
in the middle and double
becker beams. We are here
to drop Tongadoro - I don't
know how long will be here,
but I don't think will get
liberty. I am hoping for
tomorrow mite & Sunday but
it looks doubtful - since
we probably will all fly.
I called Bar - its tough not

getting off when so near by but
perhaps I can work something -

It is hard to get anywhere
from here - 2 hours & a half
to Boston on the Train. Hyannis
is a pretty good little town.
There a couple of good eating
places around -

I hope when we get there
up here that we go to Atlantic
City - We'll have to go back to
Chicago for a few days but they
say we are going somewhere from
there. Oceana or Atlantic City.
Oceana is down by Norfolk.
That would end all decent
days off to home. I just
hope it to A.H. City

June sent me some
pictures of Dad from the
Boston papers - they were
really good. I may get into

Boston Wed. morn There is
at 8.45 train from here
getting there at 8 or 8.30 and
I could take the 3.30 with
train back sort of a beating
but I don't fly till the
P.M. There it'll sure be
worth it to see you all.

I just hope the shipper
come there with some

body -

It seems like ages since
I've seen you -

Goodnight Mum dear -

Much love,
Pop

P.S. Got your letter today

5th note.

Dear Mum,

Another foggy day has drifted by. No flying - just a little touch football and oh yes Mum reading - I have suddenly received another urge to be curled up (my bed is literally so small I have no alternative) ~~to curl up~~ with a good book.

I have been in said position with "Between the Thunder & Sun" - "Paris Underground" - "Undercover" - and now Survival - all pretty good books.

The new liberty schedule is out and I have Monday with a Tuesday off. I am dying to see Barbara so I think I'll go up to Smith, if I can get a train to get me up there. Barbara gets out the

15th till the 5th which is pretty fine. Our ship gets commissioned on the 15th of Dec. Wednesday to be exact. You will receive an invitation to it. I hope you'll be able to come and bring Barbara and Nancy. You know none about these things

than I do. Will your invitation get
more than you & bad in - I & should
I think - I'd try to get more if I
can - There is a dance for the
officers after the commissioning
wed. nite. Will probably all fly
down to Philly the day before
and return the day after. The train
can be flown by. Perhaps John
would like it to - I'll see if I
can find some more invitations if
we need them - I just put you and
Dad on the list. That's all they let us
do.

Then please call Mrs. Price and
ask her what they want to ~~to~~ do
about announcing our engagement. I
wrote her about it. They apparently
approve of announcing it now, and
Bar exclaims we she is pro: And I
sure am!!!! Please tell us what
the story is if you can find out.

I went into Westbury with 3
fellows yesterday and it was it a bad
little town - nothing to be except roller
skate however. They have a Naval

Air station at Webster and across
from it is a big roller skating
rink. I am a =addy on these
rollers but it was fun.
we have to use VT 51 so the
mail will take longer -

How are John & Buck - It
seems like absolute ages since I've
been home and since I've seen you
all. What do the boys want for Xmas
that I could get them.
Comdr. Jack Adams is no longer connected
to our ship - he has been transferred,
why, I do not know -
I'll call tomorrow - hope you're
there -

Goodnight sweet Maria -

much love
JW

P.S. Haven't gotten away yet in 2 weeks -
it's all somewhere between N.Y., Va.,
Mass, & here -

Dear Mum, Thanks for calling -

This is just a note to tell you
that anything you decide about
the setting of the stone will be fine
with me. ~~I~~ I know I will
like what you choose, for if I
wasn't sure I wouldn't entrust
such a thing to your tender care.
My choice of gold ~~I~~ was guided
by what you thought ^{as white}
growing up ~~so~~ and ~~so~~ I know
our tastes in ~~the~~ other matters will be
the same. I am thrilled beyond
words and only hope I can keep
soon telling you until I actually
give it to her. Let me know as
soon as you find out about -
when I can get it etc. Also
even before we get it let me
know the price so I can send you
a check tout de suite. I'll find
out what size ring Barbara
wears and let you know.
I wrote Flash - It sure was

meet & we - she has been so
wonderful to us always.
Honestly, now, every time I
talk to you I always go to
bed feeling so truly happy -
see you next week for sure -
much love,

Pop

P.S. I'll see you Tuesday probably
as that is my next day off.
I'll let you know ^{more} about the
commissioning when I find out.
I'll be junior Ensign present, but
I'll be just as proud as any of
the admirals if you can come.

Thanksgiving.

Dear Mum,

Thanksgiving day is over and
aside from trying to be with you all,
it has not been a bad day. The
morning, contrary to the foggy dark mornings
of the past, was sparkling & clear and
we made up a lot of flying time that
we had missed. Our lunch was
a banquet, no less and I guess we
are the reason why you could snag
no turkey. It was wonderful and
I even felt a little guilty that we
should be having so much and you
none at all. We paid our regular
30¢ and such a meal as we got.

This afternoon Torpedo 13 came
in to Hyannis. Frank Deane was
among them and we had a real
time talking and catching up.
3 weeks ago he had a letter from Tim
Arthur who is now an Army flying
cadet - He is all the way thru
instruments in the Army. Frank is
getting married the 27th of Dec. and
asked me to be an usher. I don't know
if I can get down or not - it is at Philly.

They were all going to be there -
Cole, Cochran, Morris, Kellogg, Hoffmann,
Shawcross, Nisi - and others. It really
is fun bumping into fellows you haven't
seen for a long time - all of a
sudden they turn up - I've run into
them all over the way home.
I can't wait to hear all about Wed.
and how you liked it etc.

Tack Adams isn't had of our
Air Group any more - I think he's
now in 13 - The 4.S.S. Franklin.
We have some new guy - our fighters
are up here now, most of 'em - some
more will come soon.

Have to go to Chico Sat to
get our stuff I think. Maybe I
won't have to go down - The
shipper has been in a ~~little~~ rather
queer mood lately. 2 fellows have
left the squadron - one Lt. is
going to fighters and one (J.G.) is
back at Norfolk. ~~They~~ The captain
didn't kick 'em out, but one (the J.G.)
was sent off kicked - He hasn't
told us what will get in the way

at liberty from here. The big Charity
Ball is at Smiths next week-end.
We may go if I get liberty though
Bar said she'd rather come home.
She ought to go and I feel she
really wants to but was thinking
of me. You won't be home, will
you? I may not even get
liberty then - Don't know when I'll
see you next.

About that ring Mat - I
think I'll get Brehaver one pretty
soon. It'll cost me a goodly
sum but in this case it's worth
it - I'll be saving in the next
year and I do want to get her
a half decent ring - I know I'll
spend more than I can afford, but
I really want to for this. ~~and~~ I
saw a beauty at one place - not
too big a stone naturally but its quite
pretty. You said we'd take it over -
If you see any objections to this
please let me know soon what
they may be.

late this a.m. we left Hyannis
and now we are at Charlestown R.I.
I hope you didn't write me about the
commissioning to Hyannis ~~cause~~ altho
I probably will get the letter some
day even if you did.

Charlestown is about 12 miles from
Westerly - where I am, if we get
thirty, catch that Boston - N.Y. train.
It is a small town and everyone
goes to Westerly instead. We live in
a nice B. O. D. with 2 new rooms,
furnished with comfortable furniture -
far and away from the crude
accommodations at Chino & Hyannis.
The base is quite small but the
field, in keeping with Navy traditions
is typic - lovely long runways and
other excellent facilities. No phones on
the base except one which we
can use C. O. D. You could call me
in at B. O. D. if you needed to
but calling outside is a problem.

Did I tell you that I was
at Ansonet Wed. - P. M. and
saw all VT-14 as they were
ready to leave for the commissioning.

Goodnight, Mom dear - I didn't
get near a church during this
Thanksgiving period and I do feel
guilty over it, but Mom when it
comes to being thankful just
turn to George - I'm it - more so
now than ever before - I love you all
so much and can only thank God^{tho}
I do have so much - as I sat at
that wonderful dinner my stomach
told me that ~~this~~ this country was
something to be thankful for - ~~and~~
I say my stomach ^{told me} a case I had just
finished reading a story of starvation
in the conquered countries; and it
doesn't take Thanksgiving day to make us
realize ~~that~~ how thankful I should
be for my wonderful family and
my prospective wife.

Much with love,
P.R.

UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET
AIR FORCE
COMPOSITE SQUADRON FIFTY-ONE
Fleet Post Office, New York, N. Y.

Sat A.M.

Dear Mom,
Well we have any minute
now but I may have time to
finish this.

I remember

First while
till Dad I never got his letter
he said he mailed Monday.

Last nite I went into
town and when I got back they
said I would have a call. If it
was from you I'm sorry to have
missed it.

The last few days have
been very foggy and flying has
been cut to a minimum. We did

UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET
AIR FORCE
COMPOSITE SQUADRON FIFTY-ONE
Fleet Post Office, New York, N. Y.

do some carrier landings yesterday

Must be off now

Will write from next base

Much love,

Pop



SP 64
UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Monday.

Dear Mum,

How happy I was talking to you on the phone tonight - I can hardly wait to get home now even though it is going to be for such a short time. I'm so glad you called Ben - that will make everything even that much more perfect.

I called earlier today. Poor Lizzy was all confused. I tried to tell her where I was, when I'd be home, etc but she heard not a word. I wish I were going to be there for Beth.

We left the ship at 730 this morning. It was a nice calm day and all takeoffs were uneventful. The ship is in pretty and will be ~~there~~ for a while yet.

I will let you know as soon as I find out when I will be home definitely. I hope the trip to N.Y. works out O.K.

I was distressed over the news of
Harry Seymour. Before this trip I didn't
quite see how all the accidents occur
but now I know full well. We had one
which sounds very much similar to his -
I'll tell you about all that later -

6 of us are here now - the others
are on leave. When they come back we
go on our leave. We then the planes in
and they went to Philly with the ship.

I called Ben today and she
sounded so cute. I find it hard to
say what I want to be on the
phone, always have. I have missed
her so terribly - It seems like ages and
it's only been a few weeks. I suppose
all the excitement made it seem
longer. When we did relax I just lay
in my cot and but lazily up and
at my thoughts run freely around, thinking
of you all, and dreaming of Mrs.
George H W Bush.

The next few days will be some
flying - into carrier landings - but
mostly just ground work in connection
with reconditioning our planes.

The weather here is so much colder than
what we've been having - couldn't get over
the change as we moved our planes
Today.

Norfolk is the same old place - I don't
like it so well to say the best.

Well, Mum, I'll say goodbye to you
now - Much love to you all -
Have thanked I'll be to see you

all love
Pip

Sat.

Dear Mum,

After speaking to you last night

I caught the 830 when I met the

2 fellows I drove to Wilmington with.

~~Then~~ We went there to Wilmington, but

found that the other co-owner

had taken the car so we caught

the train. Fortunately we got 1 lower

and 2 of us slept in it. I was one

of the lucky ones. Nevertheless I

welcomed the fog this A. M. This afternoon

we have a 3 1/2 hour navigation

flight out to sea - Most boring, and

tiring - no nice flying thank heavens.

Next week we start with Navigation

Tomorrow we go to Norfolk to

pick up the planes we are going

to fly aboard ship. They are brand new

TBF-1C's - the latest word. Whether I

will have my own I don't know. I

sort of doubt it as there are

now 2 full by the shipper, a J.F.,

and several senior cadets flying

TBF's - I don't know how they will

work it.

Tonite 3 of us went out and

had dinner at the Channel Base hotel

in Chincoteague. It is very small and

surprisingly nice with excellent food.

Now for the weekend. I left
here Thursday at 1030 a.m. We got
to Wilkes. and took a 245 arriving
N.Y. at 450. I packed up and called
Barbara. She just had time to say
ok. when I hung up and rushed for
the train - I just made it.
Got to Grand at 911. Barbara was at
the station looking so cute in her
hot rock polo coat and sporty
big shoes. we walked up to Tyler
and I met the house mother and
a couple of the girls. Barbara had to
leave at 1015. I slept at sort of
a boarding house across the road
from Tyler.

Next a.m. we, Barbara, her
roommate & I ate at a luncheonette.

We then saw Smith. The house are
not very pretty. The countryside is
lovely and some buildings are very
nice. The ^{athletic} fields are lovely.

Apparently Barbara is quite the
star athlete of the class. She is capt.
of the freshman soccer team and
is good in hockey. Never played either

before. I guess she's better at
those than tennis even. She wasn't
to sharp at that, but she did try.
She had a Spanish treat at
it. During this time I stayed with her
roommate, Margie Munro a cute ^{clucky} little
girl who is a lot of fun.

Bahara and I then caught
the 1204. Oh yes I saw May Hay,
Barbara Peabody & Hattie Carver
(Iris's girl) - missed Ruthy
Shelpe & Betty Fowler.

We got to Hartford and
met out ^{to the} M.P.S. All the
girls were in sports gear. The
day was gorgeous. Baker Orr
told us where we could find
Betty & May Ann. We met them
on the field. Betty was so cute
& enthusiastic. They all ~~looked~~
so nice - I was going to there &
Smith was such fun just having
a lot of laughter, seeing people
having such fine clean fun -
walking around those beautiful

streets - Everything was so peaceful
made me long for an end to this
horrible war. ~~But~~

Anyway Betty got dressed and
after watching practice, we went
to the Gully. May Ann Harrison
couldn't come with us. Saw

Ben Jacob - She was so extra o
friendly and came up and spoke
to us. She said "I bet you
don't know who I am!"

I remembered her and
it wasn't even a "near. Presoy"
I placed her by both names
and watched as that ^{unshakable} feeling of
having been recognized reflected
itself in her face. I thought it
was truly sweet of her to
come up and speak. Hopie
Wouham was there and we spoke to
her. Didn't meet Betty's roommate
whom she adores.

After the visit to Mrs. Babson
caught a 507 to Springfield & I

snagged the S.F. to N.Y.

It was fun. Barbara introduced me to just thousands of girls. I was just so happy to be there and hated to head back.

When you marubus understand what it means to me to have you like Barbara as you do. I have always hoped that the girl I many would appeal to you. It has been my main desire really.

I can't believe that Barbara really loves me as I love her. It seems too good to be true. Oh if the war only could end soon. ~~Then~~ One good thing is I have so much to look forward to, so much to live for that perhaps the next year will fly by.

I may be home the weekend of Dec 21, 26 for Sat night or Sunday.

If we don't go to Bavaria I will
be home - Bakura will come down
but she may stay at Pye. I don't
know yet.

My eyelids are drooping so
I better quit -

My love for
them dear

Bakura is paramount in my
life but no love, however
deep. ~~she~~ could replace
that which I hold in my heart
for you - Dad.

Goodnight and much much love

Mrs

P.S. Thanks, Dad, for the wire!

Thursday

~~Notice~~

Dear Mum and Dad,

These last two days were certainly a lot of fun. It is always such fun to get home and this time was just fine. I am so glad the Pierce's came up for dinner, and also that Gans could be out with us. The taxi man arrived late and I was all excited per usual but we made the train in plenty of time.

Quite a bit happened while I was away. John Peacock got transferred from the squadron, which was too bad. Every one liked him and we ~~were~~ all sorry to see him go. It was just one of those sudden Navy moves. His new assignment is secret and will probably be very interesting, but he did want to stay in this outfit. That is a perfect example of how things go. That is ~~also~~ why I can never be sure of what will happen to me. I have been assigned the plane by the captain that John used to have so now again I have my own plane. I will fly others but this will be mine as the other was. It doesn't mean too much but it is gratifying because I was assigned to it by the captain, before he just had the f.o. assign them. Probably this plane #2 will have a camera installed in it. That means I will have to get along without the automatic pilot probably. Also Lt. Houle may be transferred, and I was told today that I may have to be gunnery officer of the squadron. That is a very important job, and one about which I know nothing, but I would love to get it. It is really about the biggest department. If I do get it, that is if Houle is transferred, I will have to do a lot of studying and reading of technical material but that will be good for me. Except for John's leaving, everything seems to be fine about these new changes as far as I am concerned.

Today we had a good deal of flying and two hours worth tonite. The nite was beautiful and I really enjoyed it.

I am looking forward to next week. I hope that all works out and you can come to the ship and all. The thing starts at three I think so we will have plenty of time to get home.

Will write soon again - much love, Pop

P.S. I was right about the camera tomorrow. I have to go to Quonset with #2 and have the camera installed.

John was pleased to hear Mrs. Clark was interested. I hope she writes and asks him soon. This address by forwarding will reach him I think.

Fleet Post Office, New York, N. Y.

Dec. 29th ~~1911~~

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all love