

Monday Jan.1st

Dear Mum and Dad,

Just returned from a vigorous volley ball and badminton workout over in one of the hangars to find what I have been waiting for all week. The mail came in at last-oh what a feeling. Here I am carrying on like I have been away for ages and yet this one week of no correspondence actually has seemed endless-I have been truly spoiled by my situation of the last five months.

There were letters from both of you there-Mum, I love your new paper. It is really stylish. I also got a letter from England-V mail-from Freddy. He has been sent over there with his medical outfit and seems to be enjoying himself a good deal. Also got one from Bar and one from Nance. None of the letters I received were postmarked later than Jan 23rd, so I know there are more somewhere. After any attempts and many fruitless three hour waits I finally got Barbara on the telephone Sunday. It was not a very scintillating conversation since it was at 10 and I had to rout her out of bed to come to the phone, but speaking to her is always a pleasure. Mum, I'm sure that not writing Tanta was just a slip, but I'll be darned if I can see how I am going to suggest such a thing to her-you can do it so sweetly. Speaking of Tanta I got a Xmas letter from her returned to me today. I'll send it right back in the same envelope so she can see I didn't forget her.

Yesterday the San J went up to Annapolis to receive some of the braid aboard so the skipper, Mort, gave some of us the day off. I was one and all I got out of it was a good long sleep. Sat evening after my watch I saw the Preflight team of two cadets and three officers get beaten by our Nas team here. NAS and NTS have perhaps the two hottest basketball teams around. NTS, naval training station is rated as the hottest in the whole country. I recognized some of the preflight muscle benders from when I was there. I had a good long sleep and then went to a noon movie. The life here has been as healthy one anyway. They feed us very well over at BOQ. Also I have gotten more exercise than usual with the swimming pool and this badminton.

Never did see Jimmy. I don't know whether he's left or not. Theirs certainly is a beautiful ship. They are lucky to have such a beauty, but I think we are pretty well off too.

From now on my address will be % the ship Fleet post office. New York NY. I will naturally be unable to tell you when we are expected back etc. but as soon as we hit port again I'll give you some notification. Already I am counting the days till my few days of heaven at home. So long for now and much much love to all--

Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Bush
Grove Lane
Greenwich, Connecticut

Mr. and Mrs. Prescott S. Bush
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Jan. 2 nd

Dear Mum,

I have been terrible about writing you lately and I have no excuse at all. Oh yes, I do I almost forgot. Those books you gave me for Xmas. I loved A Tree and am now almost through Saroyan which I also like. I think Tree was about the best book I have ever read.

We haven't been doing a great deal since I left home. There are only six of us here now as the rest are on leave, so we have gotten in quite a few flying hours. Today we had a real long hop which was good fun. The exact nature of it can't be disclosed but it was most interesting. Tomorrow we go back to our old schedule so once again I will be getting three meals a day but probably not as much sleep.

New Year's eve and day were just like any others. There was a party that night for the officers over in BOQ but none of us went. Mostly station personnel and wives attended. I would have gone if Bar could have been here but she wasn't so I stayed up and went to bed at 1030. The next day we were to be secured but we had to take our planes up to Quonset early in the morning and by the time we got back it was afternoon. It was a beautiful day though. I wish I could have gotten home again. We haven't been off the base since we've been back. We get no more daysoff but when the other people get back we will get evenings off so we can go into town and see a show at least. There has been no exact word given as to the day we depart but it should be in a couple of weeks. I guess I will ~~not~~ see you again till after the shakedown, but that time should fly by. When I get home next I'll have been 'overseas', as Bucky says, for the first time. It really will be exciting and now that I know I will not be able to see you or Bar for a long time I am most anxious to get to sea.

I have called Barbara up several times since I left and really feel badly cause I have to reverse the charges but I can't resist calling. I will send the Telephone Co. a check or something. Perhaps that leave wasn't too good cause now I miss Barbara so much more. After a while you get used to missing a person, but now I miss her terribly.

(No more machine - the groomer has some work to do.)

The captain just informed us that there will be no more flying tonight - music to our ears. That is such a nice touch. You prepare yourself for a couple of hours of ~~work~~ work - not unpleasant work at that - and then release. It's very fine!

Bar said that you were sick - oh I hope
you're O.K. now. I have received no mail except
Bar's addressed to N.S.S. Charleston.
The Fleet mail has been lost, sent to the
ship or something. Maybe they're getting us
broken in for mail at sea.

Mum I'll send my stuff home in
a suitcase from Norfolk. Will you
please put it securely in a drawer
somewhere.

My pipe is marvelous I have used it
a good deal and I'm pleased to announce
that it's a howling success.

Bar goes back Tuesday. In a way
I'll be glad. Being at college with plenty to
do etc is a good thing I guess. She
sounded a bit depressed as going back
but maybe it's just vacation blues.

I hope you got the letter with Gampy's
check.

Please write me a letter to NARS
Charlestown - I should get it before we
go easily and RPO is most indefinite

Goodnite Mum dear, hope you
well now - love to all,
much
Bj



UNITED STATES NAVY

Wed.

Dear Mum,

The package and the
checkbook arrived today - Please
tell me what the watch
cost - I really insist on
paying for that. I like the
pictures and think I'll send
one to Garry -

We have finally gotten
the word on our sailings
etc. and it's about what I
told you, so sometime in early
March I ~~now~~ should get
a 5 or 6 day leave. So far
we don't know the exact day
we leave here but it should
be either 10 days at the most.
I'll phone you sometime from
Norfolk.

Your letter to Chalkston
arrives the day after you write

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UNITED STATES NAVY

and let's say time. Oh yes don't
put VT 51 on the envelope.
just NARS Charleston. You
see our location is restricted
information that's why we use
I.P.O. but just ENS. G.B. NARS
Charleston is all you need
Also once we sail to sea
and send air mail case I'll get
an at our post that way.
That's just for shakedown

It goes as far as I know.
I will send word of my
equipment home from here.
with you please have the blues
shaved.

The kehaul passed as
quickly as it ~~was~~ and today we
had flying as normal.
with ~~the~~ in sight off and everyone



UNITED STATES NAVY

about one hour and its 20
back.

I No Fleet Post Office mail
has come in since Dec. 15th
we all know we have letters but
so far they haven't sent it
along. No enlisted men's or
officers. I am well out of contact
with all but you and B.W.

This seems to be mostly
about mail -

Oh yes tell Dad I
am going to buy a
bond and have it sent to
his office so to be sure and
save it. It'll be my biggest
one yet. Counting my bonds
(he has - around \$400 worth
of them) I now have \$900.



UNITED STATES NAVY

in the bank - To settle my
problems I'll buy a \$750 bond
now and then just save the
rest of my dough as cash
till I come back. Ask him
to have Miss Cooke drop me a ^{card} ~~note~~
when it arrives cause I always
worry over things like that.
Here I am carrying on like
a great financier, but my
cut costs now - ~~my ^{stop} ~~stop~~~~
reason - obvious -
much love Mum,

Pops



UNITED STATES NAVY

Page 11

Dear Mum,
The night is hazy & uncomfortable
so here I am in my room settled down
for a nice quiet evening. Today
I went out on the bombing hops
and aside from that didn't do a
great deal. The cold weather
seems to make our engines temperamental
and they act peculiarly causing us
no end of consternation especially
when we are airborne and the thing
begins to bang and sputter. Flying
can make me awfully nervous
especially on long flying since its
winter all the way. We have
had few major accidents lately, so
its nothing too serious but this
ground always feels good. Perhaps
it is my own ^{in ground} ~~in ground~~ desire for
preservation - once aboard ship will



UNITED STATES NAVY

also and the plans will
be operating better so all will
be well. Don't get the idea that
I'm now working myself sick, cause
I'm not but every now and then
I have an uneasy moment or two.

Two days ago I went to
watch - oh I told you on the
phone.

Today VT-14 (Wasp's torpedo sqdrn.)
was here. Cochran, Cole, Shaver, Ross,
Kellogg, Cameron, (K Hoffman,
Lt. Hoffman, are all in there.
Cole was a real good friend of
mine as was Cole - Cochran. I wish
in a way to be with them, but this
is a good outfit too. I have grown
to like Mr. Nelson a great deal. He
is a smart capable leader. Lt. Hale
an exec. is also first rate.
The latest word is mine to



UNITED STATES NAVY

he has told the 21st that
means will be in Norfolk
one week less than I
expected. Perhaps I'll get
one more day-off up here now.

Tomorrow I am going
to Cronset and then up to the
Cape on a photo mission preceding
a shore attack up there. We fly
up there in Cape Cod Bay every
day. Our leave after shore down
is to be 5 days - not bad at
all. Tomorrow I may have to
go to Philly to pick up the
shipment. The type of trip is
always good fun and well deserved.

I miss Bar something
terrible but I suppose it's only
natural. It's really agony - so
close and yet so far away. ~~but~~ I
think of her every minute and
am sure that I will ~~be~~ be



UNITED STATES NAVY

completely happy only when
I am with her again.

I will be so pleased
when she is mine for keeps. When
that will be it is hard to guess.
I certainly hope we can get
~~that~~ ~~the~~ before she finishes Smith.
as for as her wanting to, that's
settled. We both want to be
married, but it's so dear to see
that our wants are not the
determining factor in this
case. ~~What~~ What do you
both think I should have to
offer her before we can get
married? She does not expect
us to have a thing, but I
~~as that~~ wonder if it would be fair to
her to get married with what
I have saved, say in a year
when I get back. I will
have well over \$2,000^{by} then.
~~so~~ Perhaps I'd be sent

back out again a few months
either we were married. There
are so many considerations.

The one thing I really want is
to have Barbara for my wife and
naturally I want that as soon
as possible. Getting married right

now would not give us an
moment's worry, it is uncertain for
the future - my being away and
the post-war situation.

We have been advised by
so many people - lots of your
friends. Some are opposed and
some are pro. ~~and~~ I
have talked to Bob a good
deal about it and we both
want to get married when I can
leave from the Fleet next year.
Please tell us what you think.
Mr. Pinner would like Barbara

to Luriah Smith, but I don't
think he'd disapprove of our
getting married next year - I
don't know for sure. Mrs. Pierce

probably would hate to lose
her daughter but she does
want her to be happy so that's
the way that stands.
Perhaps I should have a talk
with Mr. D. after Shakespeare.

Well to late and I must
go some shut-eye.

Love to all,

MR

P.S. in reading this it looks
like a Mr. Anthony problem!!
Send me your advice to the
'fox-lorn'!!

Jan 14th

Dear Mum,

Wed noon I flew over the house but saw no cars on anything so I assumed you were out. I was in a TBF enroute to Philly to pick up Comdr. Bradbury & Melvin who were on business at the ship. When I got there they checked to R.O.N. (remain overnight) so I got a room on the ship for the night. Went into Philly for dinner, saw a show and then went back to the ship. On the way in I met Mrs. Etkin (a Righter) on the way to see Bruce. They were coming aboard as I was leaving the ship. Next morning I had breakfast aboard and then went over to the Field, got the plane out & ran and soon the Comdr. came.

It was quite nice aboard ship and I'm anxious to go now. I was in a 4 man room (by myself) for the night. Flying my way would be a relatively easy. so now when we come back from shakedown

perhaps you and Noel will come for
lunch aboard some date and I'll
be a little more at home. My
plane #2 is down there now being
pushed around by plane crew's for
practice.

We got back here around noon
and then I had to go back again
I left at 220 and was back at
~~520~~ 520 - 3 hrs. round trip and that
included my short time at Philly
and my way home via Greenwich
which is a little longer. I came
home and circled Rye & Greenwich.
I changed my prop pitch hoping
you'd hear me, but I guess
you didn't. There were some cars at
Bai's house -

We don't leave till a week from today.
Monday some of us have to go up
to Bar Harbor for some torpedo
work -

So long for now, Mum -
mick bay
PJP

P.S. Still no Fleet mail has arrived.



Tues.
Jan. 18

Dear Mom,

Well yesterday we didn't go to
Port Harbor as planned. We stayed here
and made a torpedo attack with the
whole air group. It is a comforting feeling
having those fighters for cover. On the
actual run-in I had considerable
difficulty. My gunner's escape hatch
blew off and knocked a big hole in
the tail. We were going real fast
and I was a bit anxious as I
didn't know how much strain the
tail could take. Not only that
but the middle cockpit hatch also
blew open and my own was almost
forced out. All in all it was a very
confused deal and I was glad to
get home. Today we did very little

Flying. Our training syllabus is over
and we are lucky to have had all
the hours we did. Some army
guys go into combat with 250
hours, whereas right now we have 550.
I think the army tries to give more
than 250 now.

When after we leave here -
probably Sat. you better use VT 51
RPO NYC again. When I'll get it
I don't know. Apparently they're sent
on rail to Charleston S. Car. - really
no letter then FPO since Dec. 15th
Once aboard this way straighter out.

Oh yes while we're on shake-down
if you write an airmail will get it
at our ports. If not it goes by
convoys and chances us would.

You are allowed $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce for 6 cent.
If you send more it'll be returned,
so if you see some onion skin or
tissue paper use that. They have



it at most ^{five} ~~diem~~ stores. I suppose

V-mail is ok. to - I don't
know much about that. It'll be
so short a time that I'll be lucky to
get any letters but I do love all
the news so that I will hope
for perhaps one!

I waited 4 1/2 hours to read
and hope he got it. I am
nervous over it as I do over
all things like that - not worrying
too much but a little anxious as it
may mean that Bar and I will
have 3 weeks a day for a month or
so ~~at best~~ instead of starting right
out on 2 a day.

I'm so pleased you heard
from Penguin, 6 months now seems like

ago. Sure has been a long spell

The excitement of showing off
is upon us now. We seem to have

A-1 priority as far as the Flag Office
(achewat's)

is concerned now. Wouldn't it be fun
to see some who on shakedown.

It is highly possible and all
conditions are exactly as in battle
waters.

Well. Now goodbye and with
love. I was pleased to hear your
advice - it's about the same as I
thought. Well have to wait to see
what happens.

with love to all

Bob

write me to VT 51, RPO, NYC. Don't
write to Norfolk as we may not even get in.

UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION



NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Jan 23rd

Dear Mum,

Arrived here yesterday to find
it surprisingly warmer and not too
bad. Last night, due to the crowded state
of all B.O.Q's, we had to sleep in a dorm,
but now we all are in 2 man rooms.
Norfolk is the same old joint, ^{but} our
set-up is O.K. since we will only be here
a while before shoving off. Probably
2 weeks here! I'd like to plan to
phone you a day or 2 before shoving
off but in case you don't hear from
me by phone it will be because of
congested wires - something this mad
house is famous for.

Tomorrow we begin operating
with the ship - various attacks, shooting
landings etc. From then on most of our
work will be with the ship. Today we
had a little Field Carrier ^{landing} practice
to get ready for tomorrow.

All the Timmy's flyers are
here now and it's fun seeing them.
Haven't seen Tim, since they stay out
for a few days at a time. Will
try to see him before he leaves. He
should be going a few days before us.

Don't ~~send~~ these things with any one
else.

Oh yes - here's another headache for
you. I am sending one ~~more~~ ^{more} bag
home. Sorry it has to be OK but
that's the only way they'll take care and
I can't get in town. Please put goggles, gloves
etc with the rest of my ^{flight} gear.

Also sending a white coat - I'm keeping
one suit of whites for ship - the other
set is already home. Also could you
please have my tropical worsted khakis
cleaned. I'll be taking them with me
after the cruise - also'll be taking most
of the other stuff.

The food here is as good as ever.
I'm in a room
really fine and now that I'll be so fat
I'll be getting enough sleep. I'll be so fat
you won't know me, Mum.

I got yours - Buck's letter
yesterday. Baby is really hot on the
typewriter now. Also got a letter from
Betty. We ought to get our F.P.O.
mail OK. from now on. Dad's letter
is a down & I'm afraid.

I seem to have worn them
all my khaki shirts so tomorrow
I have to replenish my supply.

Well, Mum so long for now.
I will write you from here enough so that
when you don't hear from a long time you'll
know we're left. Much love, Poppy

Dear Mum,

Tan 25.

Yesterday we went and
launched aboard to Sam for
the first time. I was in the
very front group to go out
3 TBF's and 4 F6F's. We, the
TBF's, launched first. The ship looked
really swell steaming along in
her battle camouflage. We made
a few practice passes down
wind and then she swung
around into the wind and we
came aboard. She was moving
at a good clip and the air was
nice and smooth, facilitating
landings. We each made
3 landings and then cut our
motors on the deck. ~~They~~ ^{we} taxied
into position before cutting the
motors. On carriers it is necessary
to utilize every inch of deck
space. The result is that the
line-men taxi you right up

to the very edge of the deck. They
put me right on the starboard
bow and I thought I was going
to fall over any minute. With the
water rushing by over the side etc.
it is quite scary. This putting the
planes where they want them is
called spotting and its very important.
The loud speaker announced
that 'the pilots had 7 minutes'
so the 3 of us went below
for coffee. Everyone aboard
welcomed us and was swell to
us. These were the first landings
a lot of the crew had seen
so they were quite excited.
Soon the loudspeaker boomed and
we examined our planes, started
the engines etc. We were catapulted
off. In fact I was the first
catapulted shot even
nearly from the USS San
Jacinto - I was mighty glad
the machine worked. I think
I'd rather be catapulted than
take a tub deck take off
You are comfortably airborne so

quickly. ~~Afterwards~~

Afterwards we walked the
ship and then went back. I
saw Righter for a second.

Have it seen Tim yet. They
haven't been in at all.

Today I didn't fly, but
tomorrow we probably will
use squadron tactics with
the ship - landing aboard, then
spotting the plane, striking
them below etc.

It is nice to be with
your own ship and I am
now real anxious to go
aboard. ~~It~~ we have about
10 or 12 days now here I
guess. Noon now is over.

The Wasp follows us
all full of rumors as to
where they go, what they do
etc. It's sort of funny.

These last few days I have
missed Barbara something
frightful. I am so nearly
in love with her, Mum, that I
don't quite see how I can
live without her for a whole
year. The days go by quickly
and all, yet in the evenings I
go to thinking and it seems
as ages since I've been with
her. It is painful right now
the old heart, and perhaps it
is good for me, I don't
know. Every day it realises

more and more how much
we love news to me. I cannot
picture my future without her,
and I find myself wishing
that these ^{next} ~~few~~ months
were already history.

Mum, she is such a
wonderful girl. Her love
for you practically makes
me cry - whenever I am with
her she always talks about
you - the things you do, the

may you treat us and mother etc.
She is so understanding, so kind &
considerate and just so much
in love with her that I can
only thank my lucky stars
and at the same time
feel blue because I'm not with
her. It could be worse now
I guess - I'll march it with
in such enough being you & Dad
& Buck & Tom & Mamma for ^{what} ~~for~~
with probably in a year, but
not with Ben it will be
very true as bad.
I'm all of this you
probably have gathered that
I was Ben a good deal!

Well, Mamma, I'll say
goodnight for now. My loves
to all the family -
always with much and love,
P.P.

10.5 Hattie had my note since
A.I. I hope I'll get them. Better
address mine now ~~to the S.S. Sam~~ (over)

To The U.S.S. San Jacinto
Fleet Post Office
N. Y. City

Bois with VT 51 & San
=

Tamara on the same
envelope over.

Just U.S.S. S. Tab. is the
best. If you write within
7 or 3 days after getting
this VT 51, FPO'd get
in quicker but any time
after that use the other.

WMB

1/28/41

Dear Mum,

Just got some pretty tough news.
Deane Phinney, one of my closest Hill roommates,
was killed a few weeks ago in a crash at
Campus. He was interesting in instruments. He
was a real nice fellow, and so full of life
and fun.

Since the last letter I have made 2 more
landings aboard. One day we went out and
took on crews along. They had never landed aboard
and they got a big kick out of it. We were
supposed to remain overnight but they got us
in the air and for some reason wouldn't
bring us back again. We were sent home.
While aboard we had conditions exactly as at
sea. They told us, to our the speaker system,
to man the forward ready room, etc.
When they called was the place we really were
cause a few ~~seconds~~ ^{moments} later they say "Stand by to
start engines". You have to be ready.
So far the TBF's have been lucky, but we

been had 5 flight crashes. Yesterday they had
a real serious one and we are now waiting
for word from the ship as to what happened
to the pilot. I have the duty today, have
no not flying - most of the people are
aboard at present.

I now have 17 landings aboard.

Still no mail at all from anyone -

It is a poor situation !!

The weather here has been warm actually.
Almost didn't need a jacket yesterday.

We a, huh, so by - with us

Mr