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[August 23, 1943]



UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION
GLENVIEW, ILLINOIS

Monday.
430

Dear Mum,

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. Not 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.O.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.O. Fighters, Dive Bombers, TBF's and all come here to check out to get on with the narrative. Having nothing to do at

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

day I called Graft at Great Lakes, who was
at 430 and was shaking his hand at 530.
I took the North Shore up from Wilmette and
went thru Winnetka, Lake Forest etc. Graft
is tremendous and rather beautiful. Graft 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's sleep here.

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

This aft we (12) went over to Field
Carrier. I was one of the 4 to checkout
luckily so now all I have is the carrier.
With good weather I'll check there
tomorrow and leave here Wednesday. I'm
pushing for the weather. All we do is fly
out - land 8 times and then fly home
if you qualify. I'll miss 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 Paul 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 long
if it meant for my base, and seeing you
again. Well sweet Mama - much much love
from your almost home again son,

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

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 BOC 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.

~~WELL~~ 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 ~~VC 51~~ 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.

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

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. ~~Tom~~ 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 prowl 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 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,

*Over longly
Pop.*

Please excuse all errors - I had re-read.

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

SP64

NAS - Norfolk

[September 16, 1943]

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 Mr. Wick boarded, were whisked to the gate. I then turned around and came back in the gate and went to check in. I went to the OJ and he assigned me a room here in SP64, one of the BOA's. I then went to the Air Force Atlantic Fleet office and filled out various forms. I filled out a 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 matter, no nothing. Our orders will assign us to a squadron. I'm hoping for a new one which may be coming at Quonset, 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 Tim Ayler. He got in the same room so now the 2 of us are in here. The room is nice - 2 beds, 1 sink, closets etc. We eat ^{up} in this building

Myers put down the same chores I did and then asked for the same squadron I'm in, so perhaps with him together.

This morning we went down to the waterfront of the operating base - where 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 neighbors wrath of the walker. wear - kotolony crouch. 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.H. - 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'd 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. until I let you know how long I'll be with this outfit. I've run into a lot of old acquaintances from Chapin 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 kindly 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 fouled up ~~at~~ write anyway though can't

they'll always forward em on to me.

Already I feel like another 20 days at home. It was such fun. I'm not the ~~best~~ next to a relaxation sure did we good - mentally it not physically. I do just want to say that I really appreciate how much you and Dad were about Barbara.

If you see P. by tell her thanks for the letter. I have decided not to write so many letters. If I get to Chonset I'll be home on 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,
Much love
Peggy

[September 21, 1943]

SP 64 room 213



NAVAL AIR STATION
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

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 we 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 Boying" which is most distasteful I think - written about a firm sweeping New York. The wage 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 pressure chamber again. This time I felt no bad effects at all. I am lucky about this. Hany 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.

That's what it only I could have made the "Wasp". The Torpedo squadrons on he will be fellows I trained with for the rest 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 involuntarily 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 rain have been descending the last few days and right now its going and pouring. The suitcase arrived yesterday. Thank you! Still is letter from Barbara but she was waiting for my address so that was the reason. The reason wouldn't it be well if the good Penguin could get home for Xmas. ~~perhaps~~ there's a chance for him.

Thank all for now. Much love to all. Tell Betty I'm with her at this P. School. ~~That~~ team with John make in foot-balls, and does McCade Point allow one on two turns in a row on the swing? ~~Thank you~~ ~~1946~~

[September 26, 1943]

Dear Mum,

516 64 - room 213

Sunday.

That's 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 the
training. It in no way alters our combat status,
and 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 of 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-12 pilots we ~~are~~ 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 kinds - free to sleep as ~~that~~ 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 unbecome.

To get on with the story - the blast moved VP-2
(photo squadron) ~~so~~ they didn't fly today. We were

secured yesterday noon. I called ^{the} Benie and Mrs.

answered and promptly invited Jim & I over. They
were going to Brandon for dinner. I wasn't sure
whether we'd get there, however we did make
good connections and hit Richmond 3 hours after
departure. (Ferry to Newport News, and train.) I called

Shirley Bennis and the maid said to come out.
Senator had left the key to house & car with
instructions to be sure to use the latter. I did so
since we had eaten. We took in an early flick
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
town 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 bus, so we rushed thru dinner.
Senator drove us down to the depot. The ride
back aside from a 1 hour delay at Newport News
was OK. Mr. B. can't wait to get Dad in the
field for some shooting. He has a lovely new
setter who is supposedly a "bully" dog. I won
know 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 Chicoteague
is inaccessible.

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

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

your voice made me feel so near.

Don't count on seeing me before I depart
for Paquereau, but I think there may be a chance
I told you the possibility. That hope on the shoulder
course ~~is probably~~ can easily be wrong. That'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
got the M. Ferry on R.I. I could have been
home on at Northampton all that time.

Barbara's letter 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 ~~more~~ contented. I miss her
awfully, when, and sometimes I find myself wondering how I'm
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 Chicoutague and I'll let you
know my relations there.

~~My~~ named to Roy Henry.
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 so the car takes about an
hour. Will try to be better about visiting with the hot
spice. Goodnight. Kiss - and I'll be crawling
into my own mind soon. And tonight my back itches too and you've 1000
all Mrs. Pop.

[September 30, 1943] ^{The}

Dear Mum, Today is cold and rainy and dreary. We've have
I seen such a sadly. Luckily the last 3 ~~have~~ were
clear so we had some good weather for our photography.
The course is interesting and a lot more difficult
than it would seem. The work is entirely flying 'as 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 the
weather but I'll probably be here for a week now,
before going up to Christchurch 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 challenge
if they give me a chance. Barbara is coming home
this week-end. 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 - what
a terrible thing. I was coming in on the correct
course for a landing when a "Hellcat" shot in
front of me and bashed me the wrong way. I
got in his splat 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 it
straightened up. It's a hellacious thing cause
neither strength or throttle will check it.

Altho the other plane ~~was~~ broke the miles, it was my
one fault and I've felt terribly ever since. Perhaps it's
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 Chisotaque now.
It's a pretty breakable spot. like 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.R. 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. How 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 Adams on the 1st July
& didn't he make it?

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

awful lot; ^{also} ~~that~~ also I have missed my real friends -
Maddox, Ed, Vinny, Bruce, Guff, Freddy, ^{etc.} much more than any
good old Penguin - You see when I joined this, 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
saw 22, 21 on there about the fellows who had been to
high school and then went to some Junior college,
or gone to work. I ~~the~~ saw maybe one or 2 (say Ed & Vinny)
were a little further along - or perhaps were still here.
Don't think I'm homesick, Alvin - I'm just thinking.

Not much news left -

Come to all -
Pop

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

ply over" slogan.
"Remember P. Bush"! or "Lest we forget!" All
mother's friends are saying it. Did I tell you that I
went to G.C.D.S. and ~~was~~ ^{was} roundly remembered by
all. It brought ~~me~~ ^{me} tears to my eyes —
most lacrimose!!

UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

[October 10, 1943]

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 note Hooker and should have a letter
waiting when I reach Chicoteague 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. I've 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
on 3 months before we set sail.

My address now is SP 64
N.A.S.

change - ~~through~~ ^{Norfolk} If you write me 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.

Haven't been able to send you any
centime 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!!)

Stu Chumt 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 home, what have
you got to offer? My love to Mary -
no chance of my getting home for ages
I'm afraid - lots of love,
Bob

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

[October 15, 1943]

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 better 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 AM 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 10:15 bus so I
couldn't stay long. I did run into Bill
Stack, Pale about '40 - he was up at
Sibby Lamb's wedding, remember.

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

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

I got a swell letter from Nance
telling me all the latest news.

Barkara 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,

Pops

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING



UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

[October 17, 1943]

Sunday.

Dear Mum,

Today was a horrible cold dreary
Sunday. The only bright spot was the
movie "Victory Through Airpower" - a Walt Disney
production. It is marvellous. Sunday 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 Cincinotrague.
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 me 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 - Vinny & several others had gotten down so Ed was kind of worried. Where does Bill Gray go?

I saw a War Fund short 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 ~~that~~ it will be impossible.

Much love,
Pop

N.A.A.S
Chincoteague, Va.

Friday.

Dear Alvin,

Today I our 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 night and the night 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

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

be able to fly up to Cape May on sun 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 Barbara at Aunt Nanny's on somewhere
in town and then come out late. The Sunday train
comes at 8.30 and gets here at 3.30 on 20.
I'll let you know about the mushrooms, but right now
I think I will be home.

I was thrilled to read about John's center
play. Apparently Herb'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 Betsy girl at
Fawcington - also a letter from Nance, 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 nos.

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 ~~low~~ prominent as I started
from way down low.

That back from back which was several miles and
warm. Apparently the good Doc, got results in his
idea to the Capt.

That certainly was mine & 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 see each.
This here at Chino 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 ships for a couple of days apiece around
Kanas on New Year's.

Well, Mum, I hope to see you very
soon - a week from tomorrow night - later
probably if Barbara shows up in town.
I'd let you know what happens.

Love to all,
Pop

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

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 spending down at about 20' and scare the fishermen as are out o-diggin' for 'oysters' (they really pronounce 'em like that) 'last nite, since the food here is so unbelievably poor, 2 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

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

Admiral. It seems Mrs. Bellinger knows
you, Flash - also I was going to
meet ^{Compl} ~~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 words.

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

Must fly now, Flash,
adelines.

N.A. A-5
Chincoteague, Va.

Much love
your ever loving
#3 Speedunk.

~~Flash~~ ~~Flash~~

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

Sunday

Dear Mum,

Sorry but it was fun talking
to you on the phone last nite. I
only had a second to get the
call then and you sounded so
close.

I just can't wait for next
weekend. I'll be sure if it
works out.

Here's the story in blue &
white. Barb will get home
around Sat noon or early
afternoon. I will try to fly to
Philly in which case I could
get to N.Y. easily in time
for dinner. If I can't get a
ride I'll get in to N.Y. at
8:15 - I'll phone Barbara

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

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

Maybe I could meet her at
Gang'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 after 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 note won't be so bad.

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

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

Today was supposedly my

day 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

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

snagged by spotters on
the lake and reported.

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

Write me what you want
me to do about meeting Anne
• Sandy I wrote Gary asking
her if I could meet her there.
It's Ok. 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,
Pj

[October 20, 1943]

Dear Mum,

(Wednesday)

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

} just use
this for
an address

Well here I am at

no VC-51

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 tannular, beautiful white
runways longer than a B24 would need.

The other picture is ~~the~~ the ~~the~~ plants 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 has surpassed Norfolk.

The nearest town is Chincoteague - 41 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 Clinico on up to Pocomoke for dinner, when there's no mite flying.

we get everything 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 very much. 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 mite. Then take an 8:30 from N.Y. Sun mite - 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's 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 a
but just now some warrant officer a-
that she would be commissioned before Xmas
but then it would take a few more weeks to
put the stars aboard etc. (Don't tell this
info.) May not get out till February I'll
have to stop worrying. I will be able to get
home though if only for a few hours so if
my special weekend comes up I'll try to
make it home. Perhaps if you go to Mr.
Bennett in Rec. I could get over there or
could at least see you somewhere.

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

I saw Mr. Lynch again the day I
left Norfolk - ran into him at ship's service
~~there~~ were going to shoot some more
langhams on a cannon 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,
/s/

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 then might be 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 showed on full throttle to go around again - by that time, however, the slipstream had one wing down on the runway. I swerved to that (the left side) going off the runway. As I went off - my wheels, tail 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 with 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 of the 3 of us was injured at all. The plane is a total loss. Both wings smashed, fuselage slightly

buckled etc - etc gave me quite a
feeling. While coming speeding 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 at~~

The shipper was very understanding
& nice about the whole thing. Nothing
will happen to me, I'll just sign a
report. ~~This is the~~ It really was
something - one of the things that make
flying dangerous is the shipman, 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 ~~not~~ really great seeing
you all again this weekend, and I'm
now looking forward to the next one -

ever devotedly,
Bob

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 George Bush Personal Papers World War II Correspondence				
FILE LOCATION Chincoteague, Norfolk, Hyannis - August-December 1943 OA/ID Number Date Closed 10/12/99				

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.

Dear Mum,

The ride down last night, thanks to no available berths, was most miserable. The dirty, old coach was 100° and at first not then 20° - that's what it seemed like anyway. I slept a little but not too much. Today I had 4 hops, but no nite flying thank heavens. The weekend was such fun. You & Dad really should have gone to the Stearns though. I sort of threw things off them.

I'm glad I told you all about Bon & me. You probably saw already; but do tell Dad!

I found two letters from Barbara here today. I think she has told me fairly. She said she was going to and she

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 or Flash sometimes
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 answer 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 her heart feels that way
until I see her. As for
me, the present would be
fine, but somehow the other
seems wiser, considering

Barbara's position etc. ~~but~~ I
told you ~~the~~ all that. Perhaps
she will charge him 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 & Flo 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
then at that R. Hill house
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 can
going to tell anyone ~~about~~ ^{and}
whether you think I should
tell all or some of the aunts
etc. etc.

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

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING



NAVAL AIR STATION
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

[November 8, 1943]

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. It was supposed to shove off today. I will be so glad when we get underway. 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 10 or 2 years and now are going to the Fleet. However, we have the advantage over them because they're never closer 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 mustache like Guff's ???

Pop

Dear Mom,

Nov. 11

Yesterday Tim & I didn't fly
(8BF'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
Lois, Bubs, & Biddle and saw some
body rings - Just "saw" them -
We had a soda at Chumatto
and that was all. We looked at
Muster Field - there at the Navy
Park - I flew up and was wondering
which was the correct field - when
I spotted all the Navy planes at
Muster - 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
keep a test box on one of the new
planes. Took us up, fine all the guns,
box bombs etc.

About visiting Bar -
as yet. She has not told me what
her family think 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 my engagement ~~perhaps~~ it
would be a ticklish situation in a
sense. However, I doubt if that
will be the case, so please to
write to him -

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 come off. I'd love that -

Goodnight. Please leave
(P.S. a really letter this is) Love
10/11

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 co-fidence 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. Gursi is 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 s ot 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 hame.

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 getting 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.

Nov 13, 43

[November 19, 1943]
P.M.

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 Chino
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 clearly)
Fishers - Cedarhurst, Conney
Island & Atlantic City.

It was such fun seeing all
those places. I used a
detailed Air chart along.
Coming back the shipper
swung towards our side of
the sound & the crewmen
Floyd Brunette 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 hangars 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 check & uncheck 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
ladder rungs. We are here
to drop Torpedoes -- I don't
know how long will be here,
but I don't think will get
beyond. I am hoping to
tomorrow into a Sunday but
it looks doubtful -- since
we probably will all fly.
I called Bar -- to 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 this
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's Atlantic 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 shipping
comes there with some

body.

It seems like ago since
I've seen you -

Goodnight Mum dear -

much love,
Pop

P.S. Got your letter today

[November 20, 1943] 5th mite.

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) with a good book.

~~to be curled up~~ I have been in said position with "Between the Thunder & Sea" - "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 ~~out~~ 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 now about these things

than I do. Will your invitation get
more than you & Dad in - I + should
I think - I'll 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
some has 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 an engagement. I
wrote her about it. They apparently
approve of announcing it now, and
Bar exaves me she is pro: And I
sure am!!!! Please tell me what
the story is if you can find out.

I went in to meeting with 3
fellows yesterday and it wasn't 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 the
roller but it was fun.
we have to use VT 51 so the
mail will take longer -

How are John & Buck - It
seems like a lifetime ago since I've
been home and since I've seen you
all. What do the boys want for Xmas
and 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 Mamma -

much love
P.M.

P.S. it ain't gotten any wait in 2 weeks -
it's all souvenirs between N.Y., Va.,
Mass, & here -

Dear Anne, 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 it I
wasn't sure I wouldn't entrust
such a thing to your tender care.
My choice of gold ~~was~~ was guided
by what you thought ^{as white} ~~as white~~ I know
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 of us - she has been so
wonderful to us always.

Honest, now, every time I
talk to you I always go to
bed feeling so terribly 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
convention when I find out.
I'll be junior Eng. present, but
I'll be just as proud as any of
the admirals if you can come.

Thanksgiving.

Dear Mom,

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 start
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 Torquato 13 came
in to Hyannis. Frank Belone was
among them and we had a real
time talking and catching up.
3 weeks ago he had a letter from Tim
Father 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.

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
liberty, catch that Boston - N.Y. train.
It is a small town and everyone
goes to Westerly instead. We live in

a nice B.O.Q. 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 top- 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
and at B.O.Q. if you needed to
but calling outside is a problem.

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

They were all going to be there -
Cole, Cochran, Morris, Kellogg, Hoffman,
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.

Jack Adams isn't head of our
Air Group any more - I think he's
now in 13 - the U.S.S. Franklin.
We have some new guys - our fighters
are up here now, most of 'em - some
more will come soon.

Have to go to Chino Sat to
get our stuff I think. Maybe I
won't have to go down. The
skipper has been in a ~~little~~ rather
quicker 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
isn't sick in bed, but one of the (J.G.)
was sent off kicked - He hasn't
told us what will get in the way

of liberty from here. The big Charity
Ball is at Smith next weekend.
We may go if I get liberty though.
Bar said what 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 Bessie 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 happy christening ring. I know I'll
spend more than I can afford, but
I really want to for this. ~~It~~ I
saw a beauty at one place - not
too big a stone naturally but its quite
really. You said we'd take it over.
If you see any objections to this
please let me know soon what
they may be.

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 first
turn to George - I'm it - more so
now than ever before - I love you all
so much and can only thank God
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 - ~~just~~
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 me
realize ~~that~~ how thankful I should
be for my wonderful family and
my prospective wife.

Much love Mom,
P.P.

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

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

Sat AM.

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 must 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

PHOTOCOPY
OR HANDWRITING

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

do some cannon landings yesterday -

Must be off now

Will write from next base

Much love,

Pop



UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Monday.

Dear Mom,

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 Philly 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 flying 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 have the planes in
and they must to Philly with this ship.

I called Ben today and she
sounded so cute. I find it hard to
say what I want to be on the
plane, 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 campbed but friendly upon and
let my thoughts run freely around, thinking
of you all, and dreaming of Mrs.
George H W Bush.

The next few days will do some
flying - with 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 bridge as we moved our planes
today.

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

Well, Mum, I'll say goodbye to
you - much love to you all -
Have thought I'll be to see you

all love,
Dad

Sat.

Dear Mum,

After speaking to you last night I caught the 830 when I met the 2 fellows I drove to Wilmington with. ~~For~~ 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 boring - no site flying that means. 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 Ltj the shipper, a J.F., and several senior ensigns flying TBF's - I don't know how they will work it.

Tonight 3 of us went over and had dinner at the Canal Basso hotel in Chincoteague. It is very small and

surprisingly nice with excellent food.

Now for the weekend. I left
on Thursday at 1030 a.m. We got
to Wilbur and took a 245 a.m.
N.Y. at 450. I woke up and called
Barbara. She just had time to say
ok. when I hung up and waited for
the train - I just made it.
Got to campus at 911. Barbara was at
the station looking so cute in her
hot rock robe 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
be in 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 diner.
We then saw Smith. The boxes 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
these than Timis came she wasn't
to sharp at that, but she did try.
She had a Spanish hat at
11. During this time I stayed with her
roommate, Margie Munnick a cute ^{clucky} little
girl who is a lot of fun.

Barbara and I then caught
the 1204. Oh yes I saw May Hoyt,
Barbara Peabody & Hattie Carter
(Tim's girl) - missed Kathy
Shelpe & Betty Fowler.

We got to Hartford and
went 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 turn &
smile was such fun - just having
a lot of laughter, seeing people
having such fine clean fun -
walking around those beautiful

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

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

Ken Jacob - She was so cute &
friendly and came up and spoke
to me. She said "I bet you
don't know who I am!"

I remembered her and
it wasn't even a "near-prosy"

I placed her by both names
and watched as that ^{unmistakable} feeling of

having been recognized reflected
itself in her face. I thought it
was truly sweet of her to
come up and speak. Hopie

Wigham was there and we spoke to
her. Didn't meet Betty's roommate
whom she adores.

After the visit to MHS. Bobba
caught a 507 to Springfield & I

PHOTOCOPY
OF HANDWRITING

snagged the S.I. 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 your marvelous understanding letter arrived today. You don't know what it means to me to have you like Barbara as you do. I have always hoped that the girl I really would appeal to you. It has been ^{on of} ~~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 21st for Sat night or Sunday.

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

My eyelids are drooping so
I better quit -

Shun dear ^{love for} My
Bakara is paramount in my
life but no love, however
deep, ~~can~~ could replace
that which I hold in my heart
for you - Dad.

Goodnight and much love
Mg

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

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

December 9, 1943

Thursday

~~Noting~~

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 Ansonia 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.

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

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

Dec. 29 th ~~1943~~

43

Dear Mum,

Well here I am back to the old familiar grind ,and missing you all very much.This last leave was such marvelous fun.The time went by so fast that now it seems barely possible that I was home at all.

I finally found my capcover in the suitcase.Could you please send me those two books Nancy gave me for Xmas-I forgot them.Also I left my little tan address book there somewhere and I am lost without it.Could you send that along too.If you can't find it I am going to have to have the addresses of the group-Tanta,Aunt Margie,-etc.etc.I wrote most of them but put addresses without numbers.Also I left some pictures to be enlarged at Finch's on Greenwich Ave. Could you please get them and send them to me at NAAF Charlestown R.I.They will get here much quicker that way.I will send you the money when I get them.I want to send one to Bar and maybe to Ganny etc.Also(more Business)I forgot to stop in at Webb's for my good watch.It should be finished 'y now.

I changed my ~~alotment~~ allotment check ,so startin either at the end of January or the end of February the check for 143 dollah will come to you evry month(pardon spelling) The reason for this is because if I left it made out to the bank and I should become lost the payments would immediately be stopped.If it is made out to you and I am lost the checks will continue to come i' until it is definitely established that I am safely in heaven.I now have enough money in my checking account so when you get the first check perhaps you could put it in MY SAVINGS ACCOUNT ~~xxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~
When I come bak in March you can te l me what you are going to do with them.

We are now operating on a noon to noon schedule and the only thing we do get is a good long sleep.We live on a two meal and sometime one meal day but the sleep will make up for it..e get so little time that I hesitate to have Bar come all the way up here.I would love to have her,but don't quite know wheether to ask her.She says she would love to come but I just don t know.It was such fun being with her for all that time,but awful hard to have to leave.Oh how I wish we were married.Perhaps in a year we will be able to get married.That's a long wa off and a lot can ahppen though..

Well Mum I have to stop now.I didn fly last nite and at first felt most miserable up there cause I wa so tired but it got better as time went on and the evening was uneventful.So long Mum and much love and many thanks to you and Dad for a perfec vacation--

All love