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Folder Title:
January 1944

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PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

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 rouse 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 a 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--

PJ

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

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

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

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

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 machines - the powder has some work to do.)

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

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

Bar said that you were sick - Mum I hope
you're o.k. now. I have received no mail except
two addressed to N.S.S Cranlestown.
The Fleet mail has been lost, sent to the
ship on something. Maybe they're getting us
broken up for mails 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 making 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 on going back
but maybe it's just vacation blues.

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

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

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

Godwits thin down, hope you're
well now - love to all,
much
Bob



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 ~~was~~ should get
a 9 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.

Have letters to Chalkdona
again the day after you write



UNITED STATES NAVY

and it's very fine. Ok you don't
put UT 51 on the envelope.
just NARA Charleston. You
see our location is restricted
information that's why we use
I.P.O. but just ENS. GB NARA
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
to go as far as I know.
I will send some of my
equipment home from here.
with you please see the letters
shaded.

The kerosene passed as
enough so it wasn't today we
had flying as normal.
with us by off with everyone



UNITED STATES NAVY

aboard our home and it is so
back. 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 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~~
reason - obvious -
that's all Mum,

Pop



UNITED STATES NAVY

June 11

Dear Mum,
The night is hazy & unlightful
so here I am in my room settled down
for a nice quiet evening. Today
I went out on two 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 one awfully nervous
especially on long flying since its
water all the way. We have
had few major accidents lately, so
its nothing too serious but the
good always feels good. Perhaps
it is my own ^{in group} ~~in group~~ desire for
preservation - once aboard ship will



UNITED STATES NAVY

use and the plans will
be operating better so all will
be well. Don't get the idea that
I'm over 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 (was in torpedo sqdrn.)
was here. Cochran, Cole, Shaver,
Kellogg, Cameron, CK Hoffman,
E. Hoffman, are all in there.
CK was a real good friend of
mine so we 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 Holt
our exec. is also first rate.
The latest word is mine to



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



UNITED STATES NAVY

be here till 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 counsel 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 supplies. The type of trip is always good fun and well deserved.

I miss Base something terrific 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 can't know that I will ~~only~~ be

back out again a few months
later as we were named. 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 named right
now would not give us as
much money ^{it is uncertain for}
the future - by being away and
the ^{the} post-war situation.
We have been advised by
so many people - lots of good
minds. Some are opposed and
some are pro. ~~in fact~~ I
have talked to Bob a good
deal about it and we both
want to get named when I come
back from the fleet next year.
Please tell us what you think.
Mr. Pierce would like Barbara

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 decided to R.O.N. (remain
overnite) so I got a room on the
ship for the nite. Went into Philly
for dinner, saw a show and then
went back to the ship on the way
in I met Miss Eganon (a flighter
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 & warm
and soon the Condo 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 nite. Feeding up way around
because relatively easy, so now
when we come back from shakedown

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

perhaps you and Dad will come down
summer aboard some water and I'll
be a little more at home my
plane #2 is down there now being
pushed around by plane crews for
practice

We got back here around noon
and then I had to go back again
I left at 2:20 and was back at
~~5:20~~ 5:20 - 3 hrs round trip and that
included my short turn at Philly
and my way home via Greenwich
which is a little longer I came
home and worked by a Greenwich
I changed my prop pitch hoping
you'd hear me, but I guess
you didn't. There were some cars at

Car's house -
We don't leave till a week from today
Monday some of us have to go up
to Co. Harbor for some torpedos
work -

So long for now, Mum -
with love
P.P.

P.S. Still no Fleet mail has arrived



Tues.
Jan. 18

Dear Mum,
Well yesterday we didn't go to
Tom 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 cockpit hatch
blew off and hooked 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

fly. Our training syllabus to 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 I 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
our mail to Charleston S. Car. - really
no letter than FPO since Dec. 15th
once aboard this way straighter out.
Oh yes while we're on shake-down
if you write air-mail 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 cents.
If you send more it'll be returned,
so if you fill some onion skin or
+ issue paper use that. They have

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING



it at most dime 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 worked up \$750 hard to cash
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 nervous as it
may mean that Bar and I will
have 3 weeks a day for a month or
so ~~at least~~ 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 knowing sth
is upon us now. we seem to have
(admiral's)
A-1 priority as far as the Flag office
is concerned now. Wouldn't it be fun
to see some news on shakelona.
It is highly possible and all
conditions are exactly as in battle
waters.

Well. After goodnight and wish
love. I was pleased to hear your
advice - it's about the same as I
thought - will have to wait to see
what happens.

wish love to all
Pop

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

write me to VTSI, FPO, NYC. Don't
write to Norfolk as we may not even get it.

UNITED STATES NAVAL AIR STATION



NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Jan 23rd

Dear Mum,

Arrived here yesterday to find
it surprisingly warm and not too
bad. Last night, due to the crowded state
of all B.O.'s, we had to sleep in a dorm, ^{but}
but now we all are in 2 main rooms.
Norfolk is the same old joint, ^{but} our
set-up is O.K. since we will only be here
a while before showing off. Probably
2 weeks here! I'd like to plan to
phone you or Jay on 2 before showing
off but in case you don't hear from
us by phone it will be because of
congested wires - something this wash
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 Practice
to get ready for tomorrow.

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

Don't ~~do~~ 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 COB but
that's the only way they'll take care and
I can't go 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,
really fine and now that I'm in a room
I'll be getting enough sleep. I'll be so fat
you won't know me, Alvin.

I got yours & Buck's letters
yesterday. Bucky 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 downer & I'm afraid.

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

Well, that's 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 where I'm at. Much love,
POB

Dear Mum, Jan 25.
Yesterday we went and
landed 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, landed first. The ship looked
really swell stemming 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 washing by over the side etc.
it is quite scary. This putting the
plans when they want there 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 roared and
we manned our planes, started
the engines etc. We were catapulted
off. In fact I was the first
catapulted shot. even
was from the USS Sea
Turtle - I was mighty glad
the machine worked. I think
I'd rather be catapulted than
take a full deck take off
You are comfortably air borne so

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

Haven't 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. ~~as~~ we have about
10 or 12 boys now here to
guess. No one else is sure.

The wasp fellows are
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
dreadful. I am so lonely
in love with her, then, that I
don't quite see how I can
live without her for a whole
year. The days go by quickly
not all, yet in the evenings I
go to thinking and it seems
like ages since I've been with
her. It is painful right across
the old heart. Perhaps it
is good for me, I don't
know. Every day it realises

me and how much
her love means to me. I cannot
picture my future without her,
and I find myself wishing
that the ~~next~~ few months
were already history.

Then, should such a
wonderful gift - Her love
- be yours - whenever I am with
you - she always talks about
you - the things you do, the

way you trust in me and mother etc.
 she is so understanding, so kind &
 considerate ^{I'm} not just so much
 in love with her that I can
 say thanks of which stars
 and at the same time
 feel blue because I'm not with
 her. It could be worse now
 I guess - I'm sure it will
 be sad enough leaving you & Dad
 & Bob & Tom & Helen for ^{what} ~~for~~
 with probably in a year, but
 not with Bob it will be
 very true as bad.
 From all of this you
 probably were gathered that
 I was Bob a good deal!

Well, Mum, I'll say
 goodbye to you now. My love
 to all the family -
 always with me and love,
 P.P.
 P.S. Haven't had any mail since
 N.I. I hope I'll get them. Better
 address mine now ~~to the same~~ (over)

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

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

Bois mail VT 51 & San

Jacinto on the same
envelopes.

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

WAB

1/28/44

Dear Mum,

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

Since the last time I have been back 2 more
landings aboard. One day we went out and
took on crew 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 bent home
while aboard in bad conditions exactly as at
sea. They told us, to own the speaker system,
to man the forward ready room, etc.
When they hotted up the plane we really were
cause a few ~~seconds~~ ^{minutes} 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 flights crashes. Yesterday they had
a real serious one and we are now waiting
to word from the ship as to what happened
to the pilot. I have the duty today, have
am 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.

Must have used a jacket yesterday.

We'll, huh, so by - wish the

Mr.