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OA/ID Number: 25832
Folder ID Number: 25832-010

Folder Title:
April 1944

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	35	1	1	1

Dear Mum,

April 1st

Well it's been only 5 days since
my last letter and yet a great deal
has happened. We got off on schedule
and put to sea in about the roughest
weather you could hope to see. On
shakedown I was piling myself on
having such a sea-sickness stomach,
but this almost was my undoing.
She pitched and rolled and rocked
and tossed till practically everyone
felt miserable. Poor Wykes & Waters
almost died. No sooner would they
be in the sack, than o.o.p.s! and up
~~they'd~~ they'd leap. I was not actively sick
but oh what agony. All into the
tossed, but by the next aft. all
was reverse. The last couple of
days have been really beautiful.
The sea is once more calm and
blue and the weather perfect.
In fact I'm regaining that sunburn
which you never actually saw.
The flying has been long, but

AIR³⁰
MAIL

all has gone smoothly. Our hours are
really pretty lengthy. If you want to
eat you have to get up around 0510,
that is if you have to fly ^{or} stand by on
the first leg. Usually get to bed
around 985 or 10. I have been
reading "Winter Wheat" and love
it. Reminds me of Petrov ~~Harmonz~~
and Sally Potter, except they
were neither Russian nor New Englanders.

Got a letter from Ben the
day we left telling about getting back
to Hange, etc. I was here
turning already.

The landings have been OK. So
far - it really is fun landing
around when you have to your
confidence along.

There is ~~very~~ little that I
can tell you right now. Send
me Bill Treadwell's address please.
Ok yes got a letter from Freddy last
week - still in England. What news from
Pete? Much much love to you all -
can even bring you

Dear Mom,

April 2nd 1944

Well do I remember about 10 or 12 years ago from today - remember how we used to come home carrying our palms or reeds or whatever they were.

Went to divine services on the flight deck tonight - plan Sunday but no palms. It was a nice evening, warm and clear. The chaplain is a nice fellow and his service was back and to the point. I have felt awfully

happy all evening - This balcony with most have a contagious effect on me - we sat out on the deck and watched the moon set. Must be your sons in love, Ma.

Didn't fly today - had a good chance to check #2. So many little things can go wrong with a plane, especially at sea. Rust and corrosion always find their way into the plane, especially in the ordnance equipment. The skipper a couple of months ago told us "I'm a couple of months of you guys will be checking your planes awfully carefully." I'm all beginning to see his point - I have a new plane captain. He is a

smarter fellow than I do one, but he not as
interested in his work or anything like that.
He doesn't follow them when something is wrong
with the plane. He's new, however, so will
probably work out O.K. eventually.

Still have the same 2 conversion. Delaney the
ranchman is really a pack. Nadeau is a
good farmer and nice boy, but I'm
not sure he wants to fly. I think, however,
that now he does - he had love problems
in the states.

Tomorrow we get to sleep late -
~~tomorrow~~ what a nice thought. This
5 o'clock start is definitely not the
best deal.

It's getting late now, Mon, 20 & 11 fresh
Tomorrow.

April 3rd

Joy & joy - got a letter from Ben and
one from Dad today - how nice it is to get
mail. They were both 'new' letters, the 29th
& 30th of March. I hope this good
fortune continues wherever we go, but
unfortunately it is not so impossible.

Today was interesting and very easy. As I
write some of the fellows are shore.
Doug West & Tim went in, but Tom Water

and I don't have liberty - Perhaps
we'll get it tomorrow. I am on watch
tomorrow from 4-8, so I couldn't
have gone even if our section rated it.

Thanks, Dad, for your letter. The
night landings were ten sort of. You say
you expect we'll have little occasion
for such operations - I fear you may be
wrong - no one knows yet for sure.
In any case it's good to know you can
land on one of these babies at night.
We have another Air Group Commander -
Lt. Comdr. Moore, an American man
He is also the Fighter's skipper. He is a very
foreful well informed leader - and a
disciplinarian and organizer as well -
a person that we sorely needed for
skipper of the Air Group. Comdr. Bradley
was a marvellous fellow, very well-liked
by all, but he was too easy-going for
the job.

Tom Waters is organizing the ship's band.
He is very interested in music and this at

he gave me a little visit on the telephone,
Bar has taken to typing her letters - she
is not too bad on it.

You probably are wondering where we
are etc. I wish I knew exactly how
much we can say. Perhaps I can tell some
thing I have. How do the Benis know where
Walt is etc.

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

One of the photographers aboard
snapped a picture of Bruce Righter
and I talking up on the flight deck.
I'll try to ~~find~~ ^{get} it and send it - then you
can make it over to Mrs. Righter -
That's about all for now. Mom -
much love to you all -
Pete

Thursday April 6th
1944

Dear Mum,

Before I forget our new address is
F.P.O. San Francisco - any letter which you may
have mailed to N.Y. will be forwarded on to me
when you get the new one.
~~but by the time~~

Well I am now in the Pacific for the
first time in my life. We left Panama and
are heading for the West Coast for a
brief interlude. I will mail this then, but
can be a bit more lenient with what I say.
By the way did you guess what my various
"hints" were. Return Harmon's to us, of
course Pearl and then So. Pacific. I am not
sure if that's true, but it probably will
be. In any case I wanted to try it out.
We never knew till we left Panama, if we
were going to directly out on to the coast.
We'll only be there a couple of days, but
by the time you get this will probably be on
our way. Perhaps I'll be able to get you on
the telephone.

We spent 2½ days around Panama.
I got off the boat day and had a good
chance to look around. It is (Pan. City)
much more colorful than Trinidad. ~~There~~

Few speak English - it's all Spanish, so you
can imagine how well I did. In the alt
Tom Waters and I shopped around and
walked miles. The merchants are a colorful
lot and have everything. Lots of things which are
hard to get and are rationed in the states are
in abundance here. Perfume, liquor of all kinds
etc. One thing I managed to pick up was a
cheap wrist watch for Bucky boy. It's a
sadly - regular wristwatch - but it ticks and
you said he wanted it. Panama, aside
from Panama hats, doesn't seem to have any
products of its own - mostly imported goods.

I got some bag man, that's about all.
Also an alligator bag for Baw. All stores
sell them and the you see natives begging
freshly skinned hides into the stores to sell.

Coming thru the canal we saw one big
large 'gator' lying in the sun, once in a
while snapping at insects, but for the
most part content to sun himself and
watch us slide by. The canal was
fascinating and it was a real treat knowing
so much. Of course many larger ships go

thru, but I'll be damned if I see how.
In the evening of our liberty we took

in a couple of the best wine clubs. You can
be pleased that Nancy wine-club is in N.Y.
and not in Panama. It was really a
laugh seeing the sailors and some of the
officers return from liberty.

The weather there was hot and
clammy - constantly ~~perspiring~~. It
still is very warm. Our room usually
remains fairly comfortable. At night
I'm so dead tired that I could sleep in
the floor in the better room. I have been in
that first hop a good deal of the time -
that means getting up at 5 always it not
before.

Today I threw a 100 with success.
It was interesting because on the way back
to the ship I ran into a black net storm.
I tried to skirt the end but it was too
big and I had to go thru. A storm like that
can be very dangerous. The best thing to do is
go low and then fly thru on instruments. The
rain blasted down so I couldn't see ^{as far as} the
prop and the flashes of lightning kept me
convinced - The Sam I was a mighty nice
sight when I finally spied her.

The navigation is getting pretty of
practice lately so you can well imagine. There is

always ~~was~~ a question went in my mind
until I actually see the ship on my final leg.

Lt. Newsome (now Lt. Jg.) has been
grounded and will be leaving the squadron.
The sec. pronounced him 'unfit for combat'.
His eyes bother him. He'll probably get off
at California.

(next day)
Am not scheduled to fly today and
it's a nice feeling to rest. Tonight I have
the midnight - 4 watch and with flight
quarters at 530 I won't get much
sleep. The sea is chopping up a bit
and a storm is predicted. I hope to
not a bad one, cause this baby rolls too
much.

Definitely of Jimmy but with none
No wonder we miss him in the not too
distant future.

We have been having recognition
sentry with at general quarters. It's good
to know. The food has been O.K. aboard
nothing spectacular, however.

April. 2nd

Am send you some pictures taken
aboard here. With you please strike the
squadron picture in my book after you
get there with it. Also if you see Ben
she might like to see it. The one in the
plane is real cash, nice too.

Had a minute - 0400 watch
lost with and I'm dead. No news
for now - much love Pop.

Easter Sunday.

Dear Alvin,
The sunrise services this
AM were were really nice. We had them
up on the flight deck. The chaplain
gave a nice simple talk and we sang a
couple of hymns. Unfortunately the wind
was pretty strong and they had to cancel a
scheduled communion - we have it next
week, however. I hope you had a fine Easter
day. I can picture you all in church -
Sid Nance comes home - I

I can't wait to get the mail at
Calif. and have all the news. Did the
pictures come out OK. - the family

group etc.

I flew $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours this AM - When I
took off I couldn't get my wheels up
and I really started to rattle - Must
have dropped down to about 20 feet off
the water. Also my first approach was
terrible. I got wobbled off and did OK.
the next time. This was my first wave-off
this trip and I hated to get it. It
doesn't matter how really hurt it is so
much more not to have to waste those
2 or 3 minutes taken to make another
approach.

Well, now, I think I'll sign
off this garbled letter and start a
new one soon again.
Much love to you all -
your ever loving
Pete

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING



Wed. April 12th

Dear Mum and Dad,

Received my first letters
from home today - one from each
of you. They were so welcome!
I don't dare hope you've had any from
me as yet, ~~since~~ but perhaps by the
time you get this you will have gotten
one at least.

Dad's ^{letter} was April 4th. That's
not bad service at all. Please let
me know about the Yale Corporation
elections. I never having attended
the University I have not actually
~~been~~ ~~been~~ acquainted with ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{corpo.} ~~the~~
functions, but I do remember having
read about it in the Bulletin etc.,
consequently do know what it means to
own be considered for the post. I
wonder if I'll ever stop being about
the proudest son of Mum and Dad ever had.

I wish I could tell you where
we are, what we're doing etc. I can't of

course mainly because we aren't allowed
to, secondly because I really can't be
sure I know.

I finished the 4 books you gave
me then and loved them all. I'm
going to pick up a couple of more. I am
trying to read a few on Russia, because
I have become pretty much interested
in that end of our diplomatic relations.
Then, too, I know so little about it
all that a couple of books wouldn't
hurt anyway.

You mentioned Pinchot, Nash - it
sounds wonderful - I hope this gets to
you before you leave. The Vassar
trip sounded wonderful and the
girls all pretty much tops.

As I wrote Ben, these last 2
weeks have seemed the longest yet.
We flew quite a bit ahead some
interesting times on the way (Liberty one
day) etc., but still it seemed long.

Please note the new address.

It will ~~not~~ listen any letters I'm

sure.

With so long for you and such much
love to all -

Pop

U. S. S. San Jacinto
T. P. O.
San Francisco.

P.S. Stick the "U" in on the
address. They always add it
at the Post Office.

April 15th

Dear Mum,

well how they got Pacific out of Pacific I don't know - So far the sea has been pretty rough and many have found the rail, however it's not as bad as when we left home and tomorrow all will be better I hope. I haven't been doing much since we left - getting a lot of sleep, reading, and security watches.

This last stop was certainly nice. The mailman certainly was good to me. The afternoon of the day I talked to you I got 2 from you and one from the Big One - also Bessie R gave me a picture of Dad and a clipping, sent to him by his mother I guess. Now I have all the news and also the picture. All the pictures are now tucked away in my wallet and when I find myself haunting them out for a good stare. Bucky saw "Little Obed" the picture of Ben, Tim, & his but I talk like it. Yours and Dad's were dated April 11th - That's pretty good service I'd say.

The reports of John's stay in Hoken sound perfect. I have all the details. Was sorry to hear the reports on Gampie I have no fears, however, and hope by the time you get this that the 'old connoisseur' is back on his feet. Marvelous about Major Harkins, fine one Louis, wish more than ever that I'd been home Easter and still jealous of Bucky being stationed on C.I. sound.

AIR³⁰
MAIL

I was interested to hear about Bunny
Howard - that is fine work alright.

Ran into a bunch of marines in my
class ^{at Corpus}. They are all 1st Lt's. and expect
to make Capt. in 8 months. It sure
takes us Navy fellows forever, but the marines
realize that ours is slower and are
much about not holding it over us.

I had me liberty this last stop
but didn't do too much. Had a good
dinner in town and went to a couple
of spots which were fairly dull. The
highlights of the layover were speaking
to you and Bob and getting those letters.

Wish I had Gault's address for
sure, but I may be able to dig him up.
The porpoises were spoken of as really
interesting. They had a marvelous time
playing around the ship. As we slowed
off they came within a few feet and
jumped all around - a good sign they
say.

Haven't been getting any athletics
recently, and I feel pretty lethargic. Once
we hit port again we ought to get some
good swimming etc.

Oh yea ran into Potter Harvey - or
did I tell you that on the phone.

Tom Waters' band gave its initial
performance the other nite. They were
pretty good. "Clark" is a pretty good
musician and the band should be

AIR³⁰
MAIL

really hot after a little practice.

Don Walker is now stationed in Wash. D.C.

From your reports the system was tested
a long time - I bet Lizzy was really grinding
after 3 or 4 days of system. I took the
descriptions of Bush in N.Y.

I do think Mrs. Parker is ~~making~~ making a
~~big~~ bit of a mistake, thinking of the family,
but if her mind made up I guess
that's that - you do have to give her credit
a way. She will be good in the job - of
that I'm sure.

Chuck Tim Bush certainly is way
out there isn't he.

Well, then, I'll sign off for now.
This should be mailed before very long -

Love to all,



Dearest Mum,

April 21st

Well here I sit in the beauty spot of the earth - in my estimation it is the beauty spot of the earth anyway.

I can't tell you yet where we are on anything definite. We will be here but a short while however - what I mean by short will have to go unqualified since the old man would get his session out otherwise.

~~Today~~ Yesterday and today both have been beautiful. In the first place the natural beauty of this spot is truly something. The water is beautiful - different shades of blues and greens. From the air to unbelievable it is so clear and pretty. The beaches are all soft and sandy.

Yesterday I took out in a flashy pair of red trousers with white flowers on them and took in the sun bathing. I have lost little or no sense of time, and yesterday ~~we~~ ^{there} was a beating. The waves make it ports hard have to step into. They are real powerful and tremendous. The

AIR¹⁰
MAIL

water was a perfect tang - around
75 I'd guess ~~and~~ I'd all
have loved it - After that we
came up here to the C Club pool
and swam and exercised there.
The O'Club is just across the
street from here and the beach is
but 5 minutes away by boat.

The B&O is very near the best I've seen. The rooms are small, meals good. The ^{"be-murled"} dining room ^(was word) overlooks the sea - Tonight we had some native musicians play for a dinner. Dancers did the traditional dances and a couple of singers rounded out the program.

From this report you
probably imagine we just
sitting on the sands and playing -
wouldn't that be the case -
no! we have been flying and working
on the aircraft. My plane is
working O.K. but I hope to get a new
engine in her before we go.

I haven't seen Gmth on Ting
but have seen other letters from
the state. I'll try to see Tim tomorrow.
May be seeing a good deal of
AIR MAIL

AIR 30
MAIL

all modern with 3 beautiful bars,
game rooms, barbers shop etc. Some of
the officers who are here for a good
while have little houses which are really
nice.

Did you finally get my letter from
Parama. I am now allowed to say we
are there. After a while we can
tell plans etc, so eventually, late
though it may be, you'll know where
I've been.

Please tell Gary my new address.
I'll try to get off a letter to her soon.

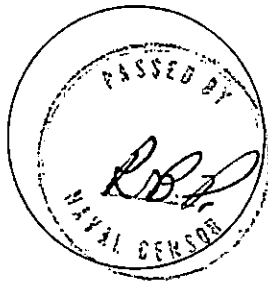
How I wish Ben were right
here with us - see. Either you'll call the
car off with your phone.

Today Dick Maisted brought us
over our mail but I had none.
I guess the postman was too good
to me before I left. Perhaps some'll come
in soon. The mail has been very
good on the whole.

Well, Mum, I'll write soon again -
Much love to all the family. I wish
you all very much and think of
you often. Summer must be getting
springy and nice by now -
with much love from
your ever devoted
P. J.

Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.

No. _____



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To
Mrs. P. S. Bush
Grove Lane
Greenwich,
Conn.

From

Ens. G. H. W. Bush
(Sender's name)

VT 51 - F. P. O.
(Sender's address)

San Francisco, Cal.

April 22nd.
(Date)

Dear Ma - I imagine the air-mail letter I wrote you yesterday beat this one, but it it didn't you'll know in detail what I've been doing when you get it.

Today was my liberty but I did nothing except sleep and then go down to the beach and let the waves beat me up a bit. Shortly after I left they stopped all swimming there because of ^{too} rough weather.

While I think of it, Ma - will you please do me a couple of favors - from my next check take out some money and buy T. T. and Dad birthday presents - also on June 8th have some flowers sent to Ben at Tyler House (quite a few real pretty ones). Just take the cash out of that check - I hope it won't be too much trouble - If this is nothing John wants just give him a \$10 - in the meantime I'll try to pick him up a pickled Taper. S. L. are some of the had I'm told - ugh!

weeks from much love, Ma dear
your ever loving

V...-MAIL

V-Mail Service provides the most expeditious dispatch and reduces the weight of mail to and from personnel of our Armed Forces outside the continental United States. When addressed to points where micro-film equipment is operated, a miniature photographic negative of the message will be made and sent by the most expeditious transportation available for reproduction and delivery. The original message will be destroyed after the reproduction has been delivered. Messages addressed to or from points where micro-film equipment is not operated will be transmitted in their original form by the most expeditious means available.

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
- (2) PRINT the name and address in the two panels provided. Addresses to members of the Armed Forces should include rank or rating of the addressee, unit to which attached, and APO or Naval address.
- (3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post office letter drop or street letter box.
- (4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope and a separate V-Mail letter must be sent if you desire to write more than one sheet.
- (5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary mail, 6c if air mail is desired).

☆ GPO 16-28143-3

DO NOT
WRITE HERE

DO NOT
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FOLD HERE

FOLD HERE

Mr. P. S. Bush
Grove Lane
Greenwich
Conn.

DO NOT
WRITE HERE

DO NOT
WRITE HERE

PHOTOCOPY
OR HANDWRITING

V...-MAIL

Ens. G H W Bush
VT 51, P. O.
San Francisco, Cal.

U. S. 23 APR 1944

NO. 5



April 27th 1944

Dearest Mom and Dad,

I haven't written for several days but still there is little to write about - at least little which I am allowed to write. I wish I could tell all because it is interesting and will be plenty exciting no doubt.

Have picked up quite a few hours lately and have boosted my total landings up aboard up to about 47. One of them (my record to last to be exact) really was a scary descent. I came in high and a little fast. I got the chute & nosed over but not enough - I then hauled back and made a real hard landing, blowing out my ~~the~~ right knee and placing myself precariously near the catapult. How I hate to make a terrible landing - I get to worrying about it and ^{also} it's not good for the crewmen. Every day someone at last gets a two on 2:50. It's not seniors, but I love like it. Am writing this back in my B.O. room on the ~~island~~ ^{island}. Today we had our first excursion again in several days. It is always

side to exercise, then sleep in a steady, non-
rotting sack.

rolling sack.
I am but very little time in which to see Tim
it is around these parts still. I'll make any
attempt to look him up but I doubt if I
see him.

see him.
Hav'n't had any mail for a while but
perhaps I'll get a letter tomorrow. You just can't
imagine how much your letter and Pais man
to me. So far we've been lucky, very very lucky
and I'm probably getting spoiled by it -
will start suffering from it very soon.
at home, knowing

Just hearing from you at home, knowing
what your long is such a treat for me.
I loved the story of Buck and the initial gave
me. He's so damn cute - that family picture
to me is a treasure. Dash in the front row
there, by ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~impressive~~ and then little Buck
sitting up so proudly with that cute look.
He's sure a good boy and I hope his
ship has smooth sailing. Has he graduated
on with landings & take-offs yet? Speaking of
with operations. I have been catapulted at
with - quite a feeling. ~~The~~ This with flying off
carriers can be very important and very useful.
Our flying lately has been mostly like that
etc. Little final details - also necessary precautions
flights. Getting up at 330 for a pre-dawn

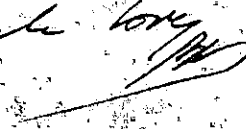
hope is a bit thing, however -

My time estimate may have been long -
No one actually knows when mine supposed to
return so it's alright to talk about it.
Wherever it is it can't be too soon for
me. One thing is sure and that is when they
do send us home with, have seen plenty of red
hot action from now on it's going to be pretty
rough duty - in a way I'm glad, cause I
probably need the experience - maybe
you should have been a little bit mean to us
so I could shake the thought of killing etc.
When my time is up all I ask for is to be
get married and be able to live with my wife
for some sort of a decent length of time.
You I was of Barbara - it's with time it with
the hectic turmoil of flight operations is
sure to be in my upper and lot of mind relax-
think of you both, all at home, and of our obligation.

~~Navigation~~ Navigation late. The
can getting in some. Navigation
shipper sure is hot it is and it is a wonderful
feeling when you're a couple of hundred miles away
from your ship to know that with usually
hit it right on the nose. Of course we have to
navigate too, regardless of who's landing, cause
you never know when some unforeseen
circumstances of any kind.

Am enclosing of old license form -
will you get me another and keep it. Type this
to someone all you have to do is fill it out
and send in for the new one in my name.

Remember Maude Ingalls, Madge's sister -
I've never forgotten her poem on at least the
last part of it - "From thence only heaven knows"
on something like that - always seemed so
appropriate ever since I've been in the
way.

Goodnight and much love to you both and
all the family - I miss you all a great
deal - Tell kindly boy John I'll drop
him a line of congratulations and give
my love to that hot parachute artist, Willy,
Hope pinchurst lived up to all
expectations for all I of you -
with love




April 28th

Dear Mom and Dad,

Not much news to report,
but right as well take off this quick
letter.

Bruce Righter is now a Lt. Comdr.
a promotion which he well deserves.
Everyone is crazy about "Bull" as
they call him. His thing as ^{the drink} ~~with~~
and has been such to me - call
me "George" as do they all.

I have a very strong feeling
that Jimmy made Lt. Comdr. too.
I haven't seen him, but the
13th came out and the men on our
ship who made it were all in that

Quonset class of Jim's etc.
Lt. Comdr. is made, not by All-Navy's
as are the junior promotions, but
by recommendation etc.

Henry Fonda, the actor is
a Lt. (j.g.) out here now where we are.

Ran into John Lebowitz - a great
friend of Stu's at Yale. I said he was
here so I looked him up and had a
chat with him. You might tell Aunt
Marge that as Stu would love to
hear it. He

He made Lt. J.G. a
month ago!

Also right in our own squadron
are 2 Yale fellows - one is
Forrest Daniels ^{from St. Paul} and, Dad, he is
Tom Daniels bo-ah (boy)! Tom
was '14 at Yale and knows you.
He wrote Bush (that's Forrest's
nickname) a letter and mentioned
having seen Mr. Osborne who said
to say hello to us. Mrs. Daniels
(Francis Hancock ~~Wetherill~~) was one of Mrs.
Katherine Shepherd's bridesmaids
when you were best man for
Mr. Shepherd's ~~best man~~.

Buck went to Yale (~~the~~ class of '41)
but didn't graduate. He is a
Full Lt. and is our administrative
officer.

The other fellow is Ted White, also
from St. Paul. - He was Yale '42
He is our gunnery officer. Having
joined the squadron after our
shakedown - not a pilot either.
He was in Zeta Psi and also is
in your senior society. Both
are damn nice guys and it is
indeed a pleasure to be associated
with fellows like that.

Hasn't been sleeping well & take
too many naps. My plane has a
new engine in it. Have been
& flying a good deal - swarming the
still time - no mail for a
long time - leave very soon - miss
you all - and that's all for now
with love to all. Love, *[Signature]*