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PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

Dear Mum & Dad - June 1st 1944.

The word certainly can get garbled! I have not transferred ships - there was never any talk of it and I feel quite certain Frichy never said anything of the kind. He may have said we were with them or something like I have said about Jim, but we haven't transferred at all. My guess is Mrs. Byers hastily read the letter, rushed into her motor and told Granny, without reading what Frich actually said.

I have not seen Frichy yet though he is nearby - as is Jim - John Peacock is aboard Frich's ship. I might put in here that being aboard an admirals staff, Byers changes ships sometimes. For certain things the admirals go on certain ships.

Before I forget to mention it

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

will you please send me about $5 worth of Air-mail stamps - plain 6 cent stamps will do. There is quite a shortage of them here. Also mum write anything but air mail or possibly V-mail. The other takes ages.

I got yours of the 22nd today, Dad, which seems to me pretty darn good. I was interested in the one to me and the enclosure of the Pres: Capt. Pate is as I may have told you the Sr. marine aboard. Most large ships have a marine detachment - they man some gunnery posts, act as orderlies for the exec. & captain etc. I know Pate but slightly - however I can say he is very well liked by all. So is Bruce Rigsbee - while speaking of the home boys.

Today was a gala one for me as far as mail - 2 from Bar and several others. Mum, Bu

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

said she was so anxious to call you Mum and yet was ~~[illegible]~~ sort of embarrassed I guess. She said she tried and hoped to succeed soon.

Did you get my letter telling you about my feelings upon being potted at by the yellow sons of heaven. I hope you did.

I hope you always keep things like that about the Iwo girl to yourselves. It is important that you do even if they may seem harmless to you. Might mir her reputation.

The food hasn't been bad lately - especially when we get a point it picks up and fruit, vegetables, and the like reappear for awhile. I haven't had any milk for over a month - it's painful not to be able to holler 'more milk'. One thing we is I am saving all my money. Haven't spent a nickle hardly in the last 2 months. Our mess bill was $30 per month, and then a few dollars a month for ice cream, etc and that's the worst

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

Had a few troubles with Bar II lately but it should be perfect very shortly. My new plane captain, Frank Paoletti is a 2nd class mech which is a pretty high rate (equivalent to ⌃ this sergeant in the army - Versacchi used to only be a Seaman 2nd class. He developed bad eyes and was transferred.

Last nite we had a big motion show aboard. Surprise feature was 2 Navy Nurses - the first women we've seen in a long time. They weren't too hot, but anything would go over big out here. Hey Mum, there's a solution for Helen Dayton and the like - ship em out here and instead of being head balloons they'd be bellies. Very simple!

Please tell Gary Mrs. Byers is wrong. I am glad she is too. I really wouldn't like to transfer now. We have a good outfit and the ship is OK. We do all the stuff the big boys do and can

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

more in the way of flying.

The other day I attended Captains mast and came away with even more respect for our Captain - Capt. Martin. He is a very understanding and just man. The man was carried right to his on Rec. 7th and then later and he is a real fighter. He is the only Capt. I have served under at sea, but I don't believe we could have a finer one.

Naturally we are interested in the political situation at home. The news we get in our ship paper is brief, but it does cover the headlines.

Not much else to write for now. Your letters mean so much to me so do keep em flowing - also please don't forget the stamps. Whenever long spells of time go by and no mail arrives never never fear - it only means we haven't had access to post office - that's all - when we hit port off goes the mail - I love you all so much

your devoted

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

I have the censor cut parts of my last letter so I don't know if you know all I wrote. They are quite strict and we can't tell a thing - it has been exciting at times, however. I hope this get thru.

I received so many letters from you the last time we met that I hardly dare hope for any more at this next mail call. Enclosed is my license they all filled out - Just keep it when they send it to you.

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

Tomorrow night is the ships "happy hour" on smoker. The band plays and there will be amateur acts and the like.

Our athletics consist solely of volley ball and that only when in port. I see nice all the comforts we used to get.

Tell Bunts hello - in your letter you I visited him. Oh yes also the young Meade girl - she should be a "lot" number shortly. Greenwich sounds beautiful at this time of year. I can picture everything so plainly, tennis, dinner on the porch, the summer evenings etc.

I told you I got several letters from Bar, too, which cheered me all up.

So long for now and we love to all

BB

P.S. I am afraid I will not quite have the nerve to look up Edwin Kaufmann if I see into him out here.

P.S.S. Lt. Rodd Allen has been transferred. He was the one you met at R.I. - nice looking and swell guy.

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

Dear Mum & Dad Sun. June 4

Well another Sunday is about to come to an end. Today was one of rest and quiet for the most part. I had a security watch on the flight deck all morning - played volley ball this aft. and went to see Happy Go Lucky, an old but amusing movie, twice.

Yesterday the ship sponsored a beer party - rather yesterday I went. The party spread over 4 days so everyone could get to go. We each had only 4 cans of beer, but it tasted awful good. Climbed coconut trees, chased chameleons thru the undergrowth, went swimming and had an allowed good time and a most welcome change from shipboard life. Were I to choose between shipboard & landbased on a place like we were at yesterday - I'd choose the ship - always clean, food comparably good etc.

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

I hope you got my letter saying I had not changed ships or squadrons or anything at all. Saturday was the only time I have been able to get off; consequently I haven't seen Tommy at all.

I wrote Tim Wyles' mother a letter today and it wasn't too easy. He was really devoted to his mother.

Well, I will sign off for now – Never worry if letters are spaced far apart. I miss you all an awful lot –

Much love to you
devoted Tommy
Bob

Dear Mum and Dad, June 10th

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

I suppose this is the first letter you've received from me in a long time, but in my last I told you it would be a while between so I hope you haven't worried at all. So I write this there is no possibility of getting it off to you until we hit port and heaven knows when that will be, but nevertheless this evening is an excellent one for writing so here goes.

The day we sloped off on this jaunt I had given up hope for any more mail, for ages when suddenly the bugle sounded mail call, and shortly thereafter I was the proud possessor of 3 marvelous letters - one from each of you and one from my birthday girl, Bar. Such an unexpected and enjoyable surprise. First the snapshots - I love them Mum. Incidentally if you could send me pictures from time to time like that,

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

I would really love them. Bar looked so cute, the boys so "clean and nice" and the "estate" lovely - old shaggy place that himself proud too. I now have the snapshots inside my large picture of Bar and the upper is still now inviting. Incidentally we have been having long, long rains. This AM up at 3 and in the air well before dawn. That is just a sample.

The best news was that Pua was coming home - how happy that made me - and ~~[illegible]~~ how I long to be there with him. I wonder if he is with you now - certainly will be when this arrives. Give him my love - of course. How happy you both must be having the Penguin in the fold. It's been ages since we've all been together hasn't it? I really get so happy thinking of how good that news is that it makes me feel right there with you all.

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

We have received flashes on the invasion of Europe and eagerly await any further news. Every day our ship puts out a sort of newspaper. The news in it is gathered from the most part from aboard ship, but there are a few short wave radioed messages. I am eager to receive your letter telling about how the news was received at home, but I will have to wait a while now for any letter I'm afraid.

What are your plans for the summer etc. I hope you get to Kport for a while anyway - Gosh I had a marvelous time there those 2 weeks last summer - but then why shouldn't I have - with most of the family there, that 'salt air', that food, and oh yes having Bar there may have had something to do with it.

The weather seems to change - it has been hot every single day and

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

usually Old Sol "claims more than his fair share" – Resultto – sleeping at time is a very "sweaty" (pardon!) operation; I have a real cue ball haircut which would cause you to disown me –; and we all have glamour boy Tarz. Still they can send me home any time. Speaking of that I am sort of hoping to be home for Xmas. It depends on so many things but most squadrons get relieved in about that length of time.

Our Air Group Commander – Comdr. Moore was a classmate of Betty Lou's brother at the Academy. He is a full commander now – i.e. Moore is Incidentally also. Kauffmann is around these parts – also the brother.

What is Vinny McClelland on – a Destroyer or what? What's his ship's name.

Understandably you will have read about us by the time you get this – Yes we all have interesting and exciting (often too exciting) tales to tell.

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

Our hours have been such that I haven't read a great deal this trip. Sleep whenever we camped fly a good deal.

As much as I hate to admit it, and though I'd never tell Bev for fear she'd misconstrue what I said, I really think we did the right thing in not getting married. A couple of fellows' wives are at outset are having babies now. The guys worry a lot and I imagine it must be hell on the poor girls. No it wouldn't have been fair to Bev to have gotten married. When I return I certainly have me car, however. I will have saved $3,000 by mid fall.

I have learned a good deal out here — tho that's not practical by a long shot. but it all goes to making a man out of me. As far as elapsed time making a difference in my feelings towards

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

But ~~then~~ I was sure when I left I'd never change, and now as each day passes I am more sure. I love her so desperately that nothing could ever change my feelings - I think I'm convinced.

Well it's now 8:25 PM. and I'm dead tired so I'll close hoping with love to all the family

you ever devoted son,

Ray

June 15th

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

Dear Mum and Dad,

My letters have not been many of late, but we have been having long strenuous days with very little time off - when we do manage to get an hour or so during the day we plop into our sacks and sleep.

By the time you get this it will be almost your birthday, Mum, and I have no present for you - Nevertheless my heart will be with you as always before and for many more years to come.

I am so anxious to get somewhere where we can get some mail. It hasn't been too long since we received any letters and yet it seems

like ages.

As you probably have guessed these past days have been full of many great experiences for me. I have seen more than I ever dreamed I would have done more than I ever dreamed I would be doing, too. It is exciting and also gratifying and satisfying — I wish I could give you details — tell you incidents but I can't.

Pro Clemente wedding should be shortly — I wonder if Pro is home yet —, John out of GCDS and his Buck finished his tour at Meade Pt. Play. Oh how I wish we were all together as in the old days — Peace and quiet and [redacted] love laughter instead of the grind.

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

never before have I appreciated things as have so much. Perhaps this very appreciation makes it easier to be here, however.

I love you all and miss you so. Have you seen Bev lately - I guess not. Oh Mom, I miss her so much. It's going to be unbearable to have to leave her next time knowing that it's like now. Perhaps, however, there will be no next time -

So long for now - love to all - you are loving,

BB

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

June 22nd

Dear Mum and Dad,

Things have been happening so fast that I have forgotten when I wrote you last. 3 days ago I had to make a forced landing in the water. It was my first water landing and when my engine acted up I was a bit nervous. It went off O.K. however. All three of us got out safely and into our raft. We were rescued by a destroyer. I'm afraid I can tell you no more details than that.

As I write this I have not gotten back to ~~the~~ my own ship. ~~[illegible]~~ Yesterday I was transferred from the destroyer by "breeches buoy" to this ship. When I will get back I do not know. I am getting a rest here so I don't care too much, though I would rather be back with our own squadron.

The transfer on the breeches buoy was quite a thrill.

← Illustration of transfer

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

I really enjoyed my stay aboard the destroyer. They all treated me and my crewmen like kings. I slept a good deal read a lot and generally enjoyed myself. When they picked us out of the water the Doc administered us some brandy. The crewmen were always surrounded by an attentive group of listeners and they would have liked to stay there.

Ben Grosscup is aboard this ship and so is Rozo Allen who used to be with our squadron. Grosscup is a Yale fellow, knows all the walkers and also your Dad and uncle Jim Bush.

P.S. Grosscup just dropped in here to the ready room with a Lt. Joe O'Brien on Joe Bryson. not me which - He is a cousin of Mr. Dick Kimball's - knows you well, Dad and was really swell - Do you remember him. He is stationed on this ship.

We have had no mail in ages and it sure will be a happy day when the mail ship arrives or when we hit port to collect the sacks. Incidentally the papers have given you adequate info on what we've been doing. As I told Bev, it would be so much more

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

Fun if I could share all the experiences I've had with her and with you - at least by writing about them.

Still haven't seen Jim though even now he isn't far away.

I wonder if Pres is home now. How I'd love to be heading back to the States soon -

Guess I'll be getting a new plane now since it was Bar II which I planked in the water. I still have the same clothes I went in in and they do need a change - unattractive but true.

Some of the experiences, that fellows out here have had lately would really amaze you. The "braid" will go then almost anything to rescue pilots and crews - and believe me, it's a real comforting feeling. Well that's about all for now - much love to all.

Bill

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

Dear Mum & Dad, Mon. June 26th

Once more back aboard my own ship and really glad to be back. Before actually getting back I was transferred from 3 different ships, 2 destroyers and one carrier. (I am assuming you got my letter telling you about my crash landing in the water.) It was certainly nice to get the clean clothes back on and get in my own sack. Two new pilots joined our squadron and came aboard with me. By then I was an old hand at being transferred by breeches buoy.

The high point of my return was 4 letters - 2 Dad, 1 Mum, 1 Aunt Nance. They were all May 31 or June 1, but they constituted the first mail we've had since we've been at sea this time and I was so thrilled to get them. Today a destroyer brought some more mail alongside. I got one from

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

Gary, dated June 2nd - I was pleased to learn that she now knows I'm still on this ship and that probably you know it too by now.

Which away I had heard that Lt Cmdr. Melvin was missing - It certainly was a relief to return and find him aboard OK. He had quite an experience which I'll someday be able to tell you about.

Gary also mentioned that some of my letters had been quite heavily "cut-up" by the censor. I hope the ones to you have not. I'm glad you understand the long mail-less stretches, Mum. You get them and so do we. I hate these long periods of no mail, but as you say we're lucky to get any mail so far out here.

So much has been happening that the time has gone by quite rapidly. The days themselves seem long since we're up so early, and also the same

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

all hot sweaty weather is always present.

Bar's two letters (and yours of course) were a godsend. I miss her so desperately and love to think of getting home to her. She is so wondrous to me, and now she is the object of prime importance in my life. After these hectic, often frightening days, it is indeed a comfort to lie in my upper and think of those wondrous days ahead with Barbara. If only I could see her - look into those lovely eyes, hear her laugh, or watch her playing with Beth. Enough of that for now.

I was thrilled to hear all about JJ's ball season, the fall day at GDS etc. Now I am wondering when you are going to Maine.

Gamy said you were taking Mrs Admiral to tea - I haven't heard from you since then, but perhaps soon they'll bring some news to us;

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

It will be nice to get back to port - just to sleep.

Ran into a Bob Southing - on the destroyer from Biddeford Pool, who knows "Bo-ware" - I had seen him with that hot-boy Pool crowd at the River club dances, but he was awfully nice and my familiar face is a welcome sight. Oh yes I ran into Sid Overall on another ship. He is a torpedo pilot graduated last Fall some time. We had such fun talking over P.A. He was in my first class there - paired with Moorhead and then ~~[illegible]~~ with Moorhead and Dad Ed at Yale. Where the Ed a Vin - also I feel for poor Brother - 18C is a slow squadron if I remember correctly - Anyway his lucky to be there, tho I imagine his anxious to get out somewhere. When I get home I'm going to put in for a spell of shore duty, but I have my doubts as to whether I'll

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

get it. Probably will come back as is another outfit - should get some fun months in the States anyhow. Plenty of time to wed myself to Bar. Have you read this Gov't education Bill - looks to me like it might be a nice 2 or 3 year rest at college. I'll have saved some money and then they pay you, too, it seems.

It's just a passing fancy - probably because right now the lazy routine of college would appeal to me. We could live in some small apartment and I could study - Bar too if she wanted - Well, it's just something to think about. My mind grasps at any and every possibility since it's so much fun planning and wondering.

Barbara's letters are so wonderful. I do hope she is happy at Smith. I'm afraid she misses out on some fun by being engaged, but she always been so cute about it.

I wish I could see you all right

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

now. There is so much to tell - so many little things which I'm afraid I'll forget which I know you'd enjoy, and yet which I cannot write.

We've been flying a good deal which has lots of excitement. The initial shakiness has left me before the battle, but the intensity of fire over the objective will always scare me - & that I'm sure keeps you a good Christian anyway.

At this I get feeling awfully "miss-Bar" and "miss Mum, Dad and all" but for the most part I am relatively happy. The time has seemed endless since we parted. However when all's said, I'll have to admit I'm glad I am here - though I do wish this phase of it were behind me and I was home again, having been there it. At last I feel that I am at least doing my part and when I get back I'll have no feeling of guilt about being in the States.

Oh Mum I hope John and Bunk and

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

y our children never learn to fight a war. Friends disappearing, lives being extinguished - it's just not right. The glory of being a carrier pilot ~~the~~ has certainly worn off. True it's always a thrill to land successfully aboard, to return and see your ship steaming along, there lots of thrills, but I mean it's mostly work.

I have rambled on for pages and said little I'm afraid - I love you all so very much -

your ever devoted son,

Ron

P.S. Which I remember - don't ever send me any packages. They take ages and always get crushed.

P.S.S. I hope you got my letter asking for air mail stamps.