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Folder Title:
November 1944

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	35	1	1	2

Dear Mum and Dad,

(14/11)

Wed. ~~Nov.~~ Nov. 1st

Am almost back, thank
heavens. Yesterday I went out and
saw Jimmy Walker. It really was nice
to see him and to get some news from
home. He had a couple of letters from
Garry, one of which told about me. Poor
Garry made it sound so much worse
than it was - just got carried away.
There were also a few letters from Louis
from Paris - truly interesting.

We sat around and talked with
Tim for a good while. Chauncey
Hubbard, father to Lige and short-
panted tennis player at the Field
Club, was there too. He dropped in
to see Tim, Brody, etc. There were
a lot of my pilot friends there, too. Unfortunately
some of them had met with misfortune.

Clark Kellogg, Ralph Cole, Eg Hoffmann
and McKee, all the whom I trained
with and knew well, are either missing
or killed. It is really sad.
~~and~~ Today I read an article in an

old Life magazine about the
complacency and self centered ~~ness~~ of
many workers in the states. They seem
to think it's all a picnic out here, ^{the} all
our but the shouting "attitude" - it only
they know; it only they could lose
a few of their close friends perhaps
should be a little more work and a
little less complaining. Please excuse
this little bit of calibrating, but I
feel so strongly about this subject
that I have to rave on every now and
then. This war is so big and so
tough that no one, here or at home, can
afford to relax in his individual job.

After lunch Tom Keene, Tim, and I
all went ashore to drink some beer.
I ran into Hank Urban and Fred
Crane. We talked over old times etc.
Urban knew nothing of Pres' resignation
so I told him all about that.
Crane told me ^{about} ~~the~~ several P.A.
fellows who are around so I shall
keep my eyes open.

Timmy's about in air plot,

Debervois (spelling??), gave us all lots of laughs. He is about the funniest guy I have ever seen. He sings and acts a good deal like Danny Kaye, and he makes of fun of anyone about anything or anyone right on the spot. He and a whole bunch of pilots would sing all these songs - Debervois was the center of attention - He'd make up a song about Timmy and then they'd all point and sing the chorus. I really have never had more fun.

All the boys on the ship love Tim. When we got ashore there was some discussion as to our being allowed to stay ashore, so Tim, ~~being~~ the 3rd officer in the boat, went in to see if he couldn't get permission for us to stay.

One of the fellows said "Walker is such a damn nice guy that he may not be able to talk the boss into it, but maybe by being such a good guy he will make out." and sure enough back came Tim having arranged it for us.

He knows most of the pilots and they're
all crazy about him. The 747 Air
Plot has gone from 0 to 100% since
Tim took over.

Not much more news. My next
letter will be written from my own
room aboard my own ship, with my
own gear & log.

Much love to all - I
miss you both so much,
Bob

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING



Dear Mum and Dad,

UNITED STATES NAVY

Nov. 3rd

I have so much to write about that I hardly know where to start.

Yesterday I arrived back aboard, and it was one of the happiest moments of my life - I really mean that. The first guy I saw at the squadron was the skipper. He came down to the quarterdeck and greeted me. After that all the boys came aboard. I was so glad to see them - they are a good bunch alright. Lately (since I've been away) they have been thru hell. Almost everyone has been decorated for some deed or other and believe me they deserve it. They have had it tough and I am sorry I wasn't here to do my part. They were hoping to maybe get relieved this time in but no luck - perhaps

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GB HANDWRITING

the next will be the lucky time.

The only sad part was to find that Tom Waters has been killed in action - a bombing attack. Tom worked with Doug West, Jack, and I and we all liked him a lot.

All during the time I was talking to the boys I kept eagerly eyeing my sky-high stack of mail. I was anxious to pore upon it to find out how everyone is. The mail lived up to highest expectations - I sorted them all and read them thru - I still haven't read them over, something I definitely want to do.

First of all about the accident - It seems that someone else did get out of his plane, but his chute didn't open. I am sorry over that, but am glad that someone at least got out of the plane besides myself. I wrote Delaney's sister [Mary J. Delaney 34 Somerset St., Providence, R.I.] and

also Ted White's parents ~~that~~ I can
 understand the letter ~~is~~ very good
 but I do hope they know how I
 feel about the accident. Ruth
 Daniels told me about how bravely
 the Whites received the news and
 I just say I do admire them, etc
 though I don't know them.

It is so nice to get ~~back~~ here to
 my own bed, my own clothes,
 fairly good food etc. I spent my
 last days away from home on a
 troop transport so hot. It was that
 I broke out with heat rash
 on my body. Besides that they
 served only 2 meals a day. I
~~hated~~ it and was glad to get
 away from it. For ship company
 those are OK but for travellers
 they are terrible. Around there
 I ran into Bill Rochester
 who is on his way to some Admirals
 staff. We had supper together
 one night. It was nice seeing him.

Frank Urban also showed up
then so I saw him again before
leaving.

All the preparations for the
wedding sound very exciting and
do make me very happy. Then the
present of the silver is just too
grand for words. I feel certain I
will love Bais choice, "leather-
edge" and all. I always did
like George the III's stuff anyway.

The Green gowns etc. sound nice
and I am more than anxious
to see the show, in fact to
take place in it. So I told
Bar the water problem may
be acute, depending on who is
home - There are 2 fellows in this
squadron who would be fine ^{for the show} and
about my ask. Bar asked
me for a list of guests and I
shall send it to him. I hope
you will put people like
Rogney Lynch etc. (friends of ours)
So I shall put just Harry,
and thus like Count Barrows,

teachers, old friends etc.

The honeymoon suggestion of Hoke sounds fun (pun - get it?) Having everything indefinite like this makes it hard to plan definitely - I probably can't plan definitely till I actually hit the States, but that Hoke sound really appeals to me.

Among my letters was one from Herbie - in it he offered me a job with GOWLO after the war - it was the nicest letter and really made me happy. I don't suppose I can decide yet but it certainly was swell. I shall of course write him soon.

Dad I got the booklet on Yale but have not read it as yet - glanced thru and it looks good.

By the time this gets to you the election will be over - perhaps we will have a new and vigorous administration, perhaps 4 more years of FDR.

I was interested in the letter from Bill Robinson's father - Bill

is a good boy.

Benny sent me a whole bunch
of scribbles and the fellows really
love them - we wanted a whole
bunch of them today.

~~I~~ I am a little anxious now
of first flight off the ship. I have
flown so little lately that I will
probably be rusty as can be.

Maybe in 3 or 4 weeks I will be
able to send you the same wire.
I have sent his mother - I certainly
hope so.

I'm afraid you are wrong
about my not having to come out
again, though I hope you are
right. This war is so big and so
damn hard that you can never
realize it fully unless you have
actually studied it or been
out here a while.

Nanny's play sounds so good,
I wish I could have seen it. I
shall write her soon too. I have
so many letters to write that I

hardly know where to begin.

Buck must be so big now. I
probably would recognize the boy.

John & Scott are to be values
I'm decided. Don't you think they
are excellent material -

well, there is a good deal more
I want to write, but it is late and
I must stop -

I want to get this off
while I can -
~~much~~ love to all -
your ever loving

Pop



UNITED STATES NAVY

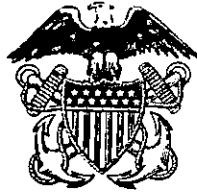
Nov. 9th

Dear Mom and Dad,

Quite a few days have elapsed since my first letter written from here upon my return. Since that first letter I have gotten back into the swing of things pretty much, having had 2 tops 20 far. Both went off O.K., and it was a relief to me, as I had been a bit anxious about landing aboard again after such a long lay-off. My new radio-man is a boy named Reichert and he seems to be very capable - I still have Nadine as target gunner.

The last few days have been rough as blazes - shingles smashing every minute, and chairs slamming around. It makes it really rugged when it comes to landing in this stuff. Fortunately, I didn't fly

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GB HANDWRITING



UNITED STATES NAVY

today.

Everyone talks of only one thing
and that is getting home. ~~the~~ we
are supposed to be relieved soon, but
nobody knows when; and then after we
are relieved it will take a few weeks
to actually get home - I'll probably
have to spend 1 week on the coast
awaiting orders etc. During that
time we can set a wedding date
though. This vagueness must be hard
on Bar. She has been so good about
waiting and has never complained

Did I tell you that Tom Waters
was killed in action - You remember him
at Charleston, don't - the boy with the
black mustache. I shall tell you more
about it later.

There is little to write about now.
Oh yes they seem to be bringing us mail
at sea now and also taking it off
occasionally so perhaps neither of
us will have these long waits any

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

more.

Do you have Ed's & Vinny's addresses? I could look them up maybe if I knew their squadron.



The election has come and gone and we now face 4 more years of FDR. There was hardly any talk of it on the 7th, probably cause most have felt that Dewey didn't have much of a chance. I know how discouraged you must be about it, and I feel the same way. ~~My~~ My knowledge of the campaign etc. is not extensive, but from all reports it was not a pleasant one.

What kind of plan does Mr. Pryor have?

My last letter from you both are Oct. 23 & 24th came from Barro I am fairly well up to date -

I love the idea of Hoke Sound, Miss, but now by getting how late than we expected

that probably won't work out. It is
not too much trouble please
keep inquiring - perhaps there is
some other nice spot there
somewhere. Don't tell Bob about
any of it - think I shall keep her
guessing on it - probably will
be guessing myself till the day
before. As soon as I get any word
on can even guess at a date I
will tell Bob so they can plan
generally.

So long and such love to all
the family.

Oh yes the Nixon idea does
appeal to me, too, but as you say
it probably would be nicer
with money and all that.
My talking about 'honeymooning'
will be as bad as "Gruft's
links" before long. By the way
sign Gruft or free up for ushers
if they will be around -

much love
PZ



Dear Mum and Dad,

Sunday Nov. 12th

There is not much to write about so this will end up by being a "hello, I am fine" note, I fear

Today was a rather full one for me, starting off with breakfast at 0400 AM. I then 4 hours this morning, the longest stretch I have flown for a couple of months - following that I had a one hour sunbath to try to regain some of my tan - also weight - (now weigh 155) After lunch I napped and then at 2 we had a church service. They hold them in the after messing compartment when we are at sea. The services are short and quite nice.

After church we had a rousing volleyball game, ~~the~~ ^{my} first ex in a long time. The game had an added attraction, the roll of the ship. You really get a workout after several games. We set the net up on the forward elevator, and they put the elevator down, so there is protection from the wind topside.

Had chicken for dinner, and that
brings me up to the present.

I really have been getting a lot
of sleep - I hit my sack at every
possible opportunity - I honestly
believe, though, that providence carved
me out to be a thin man, for
I can never gain. We now have
a system whereby several of us
can sleep in in the morning - This
is indeed a luxury and one which
everyone enjoys.

No need of coming home yet -

Flying has been going O.K. -
in fact it's nice to be back
doing something worthwhile. We
also have excitement to which
helps hurry the time along -

Will write again soon -
much love to all,



Dear Mum and Dad,

Nov. 23rd

Back in port once again, and it is nice to be here. Unfortunately, our mail got fouled up so I have had no mail from anyone since we left 3 weeks ago, but mum has it that the situation has been cleared up, and today we are supposed to collect. I certainly do hope so, for I am more anxious than ever to hear from both of you and from Ben.

Formosa in our minds, of course, is the question of when we get released - we all expect it to be soon, but we have no definite word as yet. With all the delays we'll probably encounter it may be Jan, before I reach Greenwich - however I still hope to get home for Xmas, so

keep your fingers crossed for me.

Here is something which pleased me. Today I got a package of Xmas presents from Neil Mallon. There were some books, a knife set, couple of games, picture frame & some little soap sillo. A fine present and it made me very happy. I shall write Neil this afternoon - he has always been such a good Friend to us, ^(children) hasn't he?

This morning we had a combination Thanksgiving & memorial service. The memorial part was for all the fellows who have lost their lives - They read off ^{all} their names, ~~at~~ ~~there~~ and had several prayers. It was a nice service and I am glad they had it before we leave.

The more I think about

coming home, the more excited I
get. I hope I'll be able to
snag a plane from the west
coast, but I am not too optimistic,
since I'll probably know only a
day or two in advance when I can
start home.

I shall carry all my gear to
the west coast and then send
some home. If my ~~over~~ road
west (and I fear they might)
I shall leave some there.

I hope you all had a
wonderful Thanksgiving day -

I can picture each of you
at the table now - John, Buck,
and Vance. I hope Pres got
home, but I have my doubts
about this.

Delay - just back from supper.

Our noon meal was a howling
success. I ate so much that
I was forced to sleep all afternoon.

We had a real Thanksgiving dinner - Turkey, ham, sweet-potatoes, corn, peas, cranberry sauce, nuts, pie à la mode & ice tea. It was by far the best meal we have ever had aboard this ship. I can just see our mess bill rocket up a few bucks, but, nevertheless, it was very tasty. I ~~had~~ hoped some mail would come aboard but still no luck.

I shall close for now.

This year ~~our~~ Thanksgiving has more significance for me than ever ~~before~~; for heaven knows I have more to be thankful for than ever before - mainly all of you, my loving happy family, my own precious Bar and the happiness which will soon be ours, and ~~all~~ than too my own life which has been guarded and protected during these

last few months.

To Mom, Mum & Dad. I love
you both so deeply and
am ever thankful that God
gave me two such wonderful
parents -

you are devoted
and loving middle-size -

Pop

PHOTOCOPY
GB HANDWRITING

Dear Mum and Dad,

Nov. 26th

Still in port resting and anxiously waiting to start home. Now we go or if we go this time we aren't sure, but our hopes are high and it will be disappointing if we don't go home soon. We are by far the most senior group.

I have been ashore two times. Once 2 days ago and then again today. They have an O club in there, so we all troop in. The O club is a sandy-floored log affair, all open and far from luxurious, but it's better than many I have seen and the beer & cokes are good and cold. We had a Temp-vs. Fighter ball game 2 days ago, and we came thru to victory 7-3. It was a hot day and we were all dead by the time the last of the 7th rolled around but it was fun. A swim à la nude helped fix us up after the game.

I haven't seen Tim again, but I don't think he's been ashore. Maybe I'll see him tomorrow. I did see Fred Crane again and had a fine time with him.

Our mail has gone for nothing. I have had one letter from Ben and one from you, Mum - since I've been here. That is my only "take" save for a couple of others. Perhaps they are holding it for us somewhere else. I haven't had any mail postmarked November yet at all.

Mum you told me you sent the list to Mrs. Pierce - that is true and if you can think of any more add 'em. I'd hate to forget someone.

I have most of my stuff packed and am waiting to go. ~~At~~ I believe I shall die with excitement just before I get home. I asked Ben to meet me regardless of time etc. What a happy day that will be for me.

The longer we stay here the more I fear I may miss Dad's wedding. I have been counting on making it, and would hate to miss

Will write as soon as I have some definite word for you -

Much love to all
Pip