



Feb. 6, 1945

Dear Folke,

Glad to hear the orchid and photos finally arrived and were appreciated. Had it been possible to have them sent before our departure from where they originated, their arrival might have been more timely, but circumstances interfered.

I forget to mention that a dance was given for the air group's officers the other day, in the evening of course. They had tried to hold it previously, inviting army nurses, but only seven volunteered, so things had to be postponed until a ship-load of navy nurses arrived, sixty odd of the latter (no beauties) coming to our dance, which was deemed very

T. Richards

✓ At sea again:  
but for the  
first time on  
Hornet: CV 12,  
ready for combat  
not uninteresting  
re comrades &  
comments about  
the War's fronts  
& my air crewman  
Leland Lee &

successful by all concerned.

2

You asked me if I still had the same <sup>air crew man</sup> air crew man, and the answer is yes. His name is Iver (Leland R.), and he comes from Covert, N. Y., near Troy, I believe. Here is a picture of me taken in front of a well known hotel on the edge of a better known volcano crater, and you can see what a nice looking little sailor he is. Young and enthusiastic he makes a good air crew man, one of the best in the squadron, even if he is only an ARM 3C (aviation radio-man third class, a lieutenant supposedly rating a 1C). I'm now flying in Doug Yerxa's division, he being the man next to me in the other picture. The others are Walker, upper right, Chin, T. Richards



3

lower right and Matthew, lower left.  
The latter (first name Ward) is one of  
our few non-fliers, being assistant  
engineering officer. Son of a geology  
professor, he is, not surprisingly, more  
interested in things than most of the  
boys, and we've often gone on  
excursions together, looking for birds,  
shells, etc. Another good friend, while  
I'm on the subject, is Bob Bollinger,  
another former instructor, <sup>and</sup> now a Lt.  
on his first tour of sea duty. He's  
from Idaho, Ward is from Texas  
(formerly Va.), Doug is from Conn.,  
my wing man, Charles Duss is  
from Mo., so you can see how  
representative we are.

These days finds us pretty  
comfortably established. I don't need  
a mirror by the way, but could use  
a razor shop if it could ever catch  
up. The boys still lag behind me,  
T. Richard

4  
as does a present, mentioned in a letter  
from Ham, from Great Neck. The  
H. A. Bull. would be nice too if it  
could bridge this gap more success-  
fully, which, however, seems doubtful.

My books are all on shelves now,  
and somehow its a very comforting  
feeling to have them there. They  
are in considerable variety too,  
though the "classics" and various  
volumes on Pacific geography are  
out of proportion to the others.

Helen Macdonald's "While I Still We  
Live" <sup>(actually from the local library)</sup> is the present main attraction.  
but its more or less introductory  
chapters are having considerable  
competition from a terrific cross-  
word puzzle and frequent though  
usually discouraging games of  
Canfield.

The food now is excellent,  
another fine feature of our present  
set-up, and altogether we are well

T. Richards



5

taken care of.

Things are looking up everywhere aren't they? The Berliners must be getting pretty jittery, and even the citizens of the various Ruhr cities can hardly feel comfortable. Just so long as our efforts in the West, fine as they are, don't appear too puny to our friends on the opposite front! May we, in short, have much to say at the peace table, and may <sup>all</sup> those at the peace table remain at peace. Tubilant must be about the word for the people of Manila! I almost forgot to mention, speaking of fronts, that we rode some time ago on a ship that took part in the invasion of southern France.

All for now; love to all! T.  
T. Richards