

2/1/95

Dear Ham:

Thanks for yours of Jan. 26.  
Yes, we were indeed sitting on deck  
all gassed up, loaded with bombs  
and ready for take-off when the  
Samkoze attacked. As I recall,  
we did take off but by then  
just to get us off the deck dur-  
ing the Samkoze emergency,  
with more attacks threatened.  
Come to think of it that may have  
been the original idea. On the  
other hand in that case we wouldn't  
have had bombs, as I seem to  
remember we had. Perhaps the  
mission was cancelled or post-  
poned because of the uncertainty  
of what might have to be done  
in the next few hours. I'll  
try to remember to ask Ives.

The other picture may not  
be of the Horned, but it looks  
to be of a ship of the same

(Essex) class. As a matter of fact, I don't remember that the Hornet deck was narrower at the very end than elsewhere or that planes had room to take off when there were other planes ahead of it. We never did <sup>need</sup> nearly the whole deck to take off (see Lamontage picture). Only occasionally, as I remember, did we get catapulted. So, going back to the other picture, it looks to me that they were in the earlier stages of a projected flight, and that the planes would <sup>soon</sup> be lined up ready for take-off a little further forward (in the case of the first row) than where the nearest plane is. Obviously, I've forgotten an awful lot.

No, I never met Shepler and don't recall seeing him in action or otherwise, but it might be worth my inquiring about other paintings of his, possibly of the Hornet. It must be because it's

The 50th anniversary year of all  
the action I got into (starting  
2/16/45!) that my children  
(who <sup>seem to</sup> have taken little or no in-  
terest in my Navy career) will also  
be getting copies of the pictures,  
and that goes for Jack and Nance  
too.

Concord in January had 311°F.  
above normal, an average of ten  
degrees per day! Nevertheless,  
with winter only half over, who  
knows what to expect? Remember  
I'm describing the Blizzard of '88?  
You may recall that it was in  
March, Kimball Elms, now 92, saw  
several robins yesterday <sup>in Concord</sup> and also  
mentioned they had been around for  
a little while. Vicky, by the way,  
is coming over shortly for ten  
days or so, without children.

I'm reading Mine Eyes Have Seen  
the Glory, a biography of J.W.H.  
by a vague cousin of ours,  
Deborah Pickman Clifford, who  
is descended from Uncle Sam or  
J.W.H. herself. It's interesting  
so far (through their honeymoon  
in Europe), but may get tedious.



as I found her (J.W.H.'s) Reminiscen-  
ces from the beginning but finished  
out of "loyalty".

Enough for now  
Love to both  
Toots