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1968-11-09, Michael to Patricia

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PH2 Mike Hammond
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FREE

Miss Patti Rowe

3349 Sherbourne Drive

Culver City, California

90230

November 9, 1968

Dear Patti,

I got your letter yesterday, and I sure was glad to hear that you liked the bra celet. My gift plans don't always work out that well, so I'm always happy when things turn out well.

Thanks for the picture from your "Sweet Sixteen" party. It gives me just that much more of an insight into what you are like. I now have two pictures of you, and both show you happy and smiling. This is something I like to see, mainly because it's something we don't see much of out here. War is kind of a grim business, and there isn't really much reason for laughter, so a smile is something to be cherished. About the only thing we've had to smile about recently is the halt to the bombing of the North, and that only because it will make things easier on us. And we have only two things to look forward to: getting home, and hoping for an early end to this war.

Be that as it may, I'm getting rather maudlin, so I'll change to a lighter subject - you. Maybe I'm just one of those guys who'll never be able to fathom the depths of the female mind. I can't for the life of me understand why you would hesitate to give me your measurements. I wouldn't hesitate at all to give you mine. Of course, since you're not planning on buying me a kimono (I hope), I guess you wouldn't really have much use for such a thing as my measurements. And what's more, I kind of like your measurements - sort of the girl-next-door type measurements that always seem so healthy and refreshing. Who needs Jayne Mansfield???

Turning to other things, as cabbages and kings, you asked when my hitch in the Navy started. Well, it was August 30, 1965, and it is scheduled to end on August 29, 1969, though I will probably be discharged sometime in June, in order to return to school. And returning to school won't be the easiest thing I ever did, since I have been away from it for three years now. But I do look forward to it very much.

And speaking of school, it's nice to know that you like your photography course. It's always nice to know that there are others who are as enthusiastic about something as oneself. And you might be interested to know that my younger brother, a senior at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, is a journalism major with a minor in photography. He uses strictly a 4x5 format, and has my Speed Graphic for his camera. Here in the Navy, I use quite an assortment of cameras, including: Speed Graphic, for 4x5 work; Mamiya C33 Professional for 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ x2 $\frac{1}{4}$ format, like your Yashica; Leica M4's for 35mm work; and my own Nikon F for my pleasure shooting.

Well, I think that's just about it from this end. I'll be looking for a letter soon, so "get hot", as we say in the world's largest navy, a get one underway to me.

Mike