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2-17-1969

1969-02-17, Michael to Patricia

Michael Hammond

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1969-02-17, Michael to Patricia

Keywords

U.S.A., U.S. Soldiers, correspondence, San Francisco, CA, Culver City, CA, troops, postal service, postal stamp, photography, foreign occupation, women at home, USS Constellation (CVA-64), U.S. Navy, culture, boredom, homesickness, humor, morale, discontent, discharge, post-war hopes, loneliness, passport, television, education, aviation, sex, immorality, fear, aggressor

Identifier

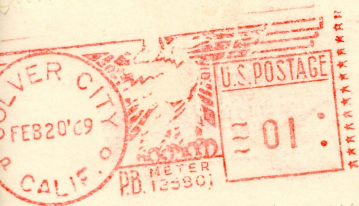
2014.059.w.r._Rowe_vietnamwar_1969-02-17_004

PH2 Michael Hammond
OP Photo
USS Constellation (CVA-64)
FPO, San Francisco, Calif.
96601



POSTAGE DUE 7

Miss Patti Rowe
3349 Sherbourne Dr.
Culver City, California
90230



17 February 1969

Dear Patti,

This will be a rather dull, short note to let you know that I'm still kicking around down here. And to put you in the spot of owing me a letter. Hope it will be more interesting than this.

Not much happening down here right now, as the ship is laid up for repairs. I've been pretty busy trying to get myself out of the Navy a little early. I hate to speculate on my chances, as I tend to be a rather optimistic pessimist - I think. Anyway, my request is finally in, approved at the first step, but no further. Guess I'll just have to wait and see. Hope my nails hold up - I'm all the way to my elbows now.

Finally got my passport, so the first step in my travels to jolly olde is taken. And I finally got started on my flying lessons. Hope to have my license by April, as we start operating again then.

If this seems rather disappointed, it's because I'm trying to watch laugh-in

at the same time I'm writing. Goldie is an absolute nut, but she's great. (Just passed the word that there's a fire in the hangar bay - but it's only an electrical fire, so it shouldn't be bad.)

To go from trivia to worse (me), I'd like to express some of my thoughts about our first (date crosses my mind, but it wasn't really that) - uh - experience. I know I'm going to feel like a fool for what I'm about to say - but that never stopped me before. Well, here goes -

First off, you're a very attractive girl and quite stimulating - I mean that in its best sense. I have no idea what you thought of me, but I'm glad you carried the conversation as well as you did, or I'd have looked like a wasse klutz than I did. And when I dragged you up to my room, I could see that you were very uneasy - and rightfully so, as everything you were thinking I was thinking I was thinking. Maybe I'd just been overseas

too long and just wasn't thinking. But keeping your cool allowed me to keep mine - and remember that I'm not one for forcing unwanted attentions on anyone. I never have before, and I'm very glad that my record is still intact.

Second, those thoughts that were crossing my mind still do, but I've come to the realization that they are way out of line - for both you and me.

Not that beauty is lacking in any way on your part. I think I've got as good an eye for beauty as any other photographer, and I've seen loveliness in women from Berlin to Bangkok. And flattery is not my forte - bluntness is.

And third, it was just great being around you. You make a guy feel as though he counts for something. I guess you personify the typical American teenager (love-children excepted) and I just wish I'd have met you about eight years ago - of course, you were only eleven then, but I think you'll understand what I mean.

Well, enough of this babbling - I've made a jerk of myself again, in more ways than one, but I'm going to mail this anyway. Guess I just have to "tell it like it is" and that's what's inside.

It's time to cut all engines and stow the old body in the rack, so I'll close it here. Be looking forward to seeing (not seeing, hearing) from you soon (A Freudian slip??).

Love,

Mike

[[Rowe Correspondence #4]]

[[Page 1- Envelope]]

PH2 Michael Hammond
OP Photo
USS Constellation (CVA – 64)
FPO, San Francisco, Calif.
96601

[[image- red one cent U.S. postage stamp:
CULVER CITY CALIF. FEB 20 '69]]

[[image- purple five cents U.S. postage stamp]]

[[image- faced black rectangular stamp: USS
CONSTELLATION (CVA – 64) FEB 18 1969]]

[[image- red stamp: POSTAGE DUE__]] 1 [[¢]]

Miss Patti Rowe
3349 Sherbourne Dr.
Culver City, California
90230

[[Page 2- Letter]]

17 february 1969

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[[Page 3- Letter]]

[[circle]] 2 [[/circle]]

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[[Page 4- Letter]]

[[circle]] 3 [[/circle]]

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[[Page 5- Letter]]

[[circle]] 4 [[/circle]]

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Love,

[[written up diagonally:]] Mike