

**Robert L. Stone to Jacob Stone, Beatrice Stone, Don Stone, Jim Stone, Ken Marks, and
Barry Marks**

Oahu, Hawaii, 13 July 1944.

Autograph letter signed, 3 pages + envelope.

[Draft Created by Crowdsourcing]

Thursday July 13th

Dearest All —

At long last we arrived at our new home. We were greeted by a lovely sight as our ship steamed into the beautiful Hawaiian Islands. The blue water and sandy beaches made us a royal welcome. We stayed on ship board the first night and didn't debark until the next morning at which time we were met by trucks. They took us to our base which is a small landing strip.

To one side of us are mountains and jungle and on the other is the ocean. We live in tents and have to use mosquito nets at night because of the insects etc. Everything at the base is quite crude and life is rather on the rugged side.

For awhile we will be flying training and patrol missions before going "down under." I'm not completely sure of the nature of our work but for awhile I believe it will

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consist of training.

Everything [*inserted*: military] here on the islands is extremely hush-hush and so it's very hard to write a good letter. Anything much pertaining to our base and flying etc. is out.

Was in Honolulu yesterday and it's not much of a place. It's full of navy. All of the stores are full of junk for the American soldiers to buy. It's almost like Playland. Got a look at famous Pearl Harbor although you can't get inside to look around. The islands are really beautiful with their volcanic peaks jutting up into the blue skies. Parts of the island (where we're based) are really kinda wild and woolly — nothing like the beautiful Hawaii that you see on posters and in the movies.

I hope by now that you've received the letters I wrote on the boat. As yet I haven't received any mail over here and I'm looking forward to my first letter. Incidentally, they say that air-mail comes lots faster than V-mail so please use that. From now on our time off will be quite scarce so you'll have to bear with me if I can't write often. I definitely won't be able to write anyone but you and Pam. Please tell all my friends to write

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but not to expect to hear from me because I just won't be able to make it, even though I'd like to. Be sure that the boys all get a copy of my letters. The following is my new address and be sure you make it exact so that I'll be sure to receive my mail.

Lt. Robert L. Stone 0-696041

7th Bomber Command (Heavy Training Detachment)

APO 953 % Postmaster

San Francisco, Cal.

I'm looking forward to finding that you make use of this often. Mail call is the big event of the day here.

Enough for now.
With love —
Bobby

[*envelope*]
Lt. R. L. Stone 0-696041
7th Bomber Command (Heavy Training Det.)
APO 953 % Postmaster
San Francisco, Cal.

Lt. Comdr. J. C. Stone
375 Park Avenue
New York City
N.Y.

Notes:

Letter is written on United States Air Forces letterhead.