

Robert L. Stone to Jacob Stone, Beatrice Stone, Don Stone, and Jim Stone

Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, 8 October, 1944

Autograph letter signed, 2 pages + envelope.

[Draft Created by Crowdsourcing]

Kwajalein, Marshalls

October 8, 1944

Dear Dad, Bee, Don, Jim, et al —

Well at long last we're down under after spending three months on Oahu. We came down by A.T.C. stopping off at a small navy base overnight. Surprisingly enough we're allowed to tell the name of our base here. I won't try to tell you too much about this atoll because there's not much here to tell about. The island took such a pounding from the U.S. air force that there isn't a live tree on the island. The place is absolutely flat and completely devoid of any plant life. All of the buildings on the island are very crude and kinda makeshift.

The fellows down here are really good gents. We arrived yesterday afternoon and by supper we had met most of the boys in our squadron. They are all very friendly and have done everything possible to make us feel at home and a part of the outfit. Some of them are old veterans finishing up their last few missions while others are have only been out here a short while. The way it is now you have to fly thirty-five missions before returning to the States. Usually it takes around six or eight months to finish up. After each fifteen missions you're sent on a rest leave for ten days on Oahu.

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As yet I don't know when we'll fly our first mission but I imagine it will be fairly soon. As far as I know we have to fly a few local missions and then we'll be ready for our first strike. Cross the old fingers and keep 'em crossed until number thirty-five is under my belt. We have a pretty good crew and if anybody can, I'm sure ol' Bill will get us back somehow. He's a darn fine pilot!

Can't think of any more for now so I'll close here. Please be sure that you pass my new address on to Don & Jim.

With all love—

Bobby

Lt. R. L. S. 0-696041

431st Bomb Squadron (Heavy)

APO 241 % PM

San Francisco, Cal.

[envelope]

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431st Bomb Squadron (Heavy)

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