

Robert L. Stone, to Jacob Stone and Beatrice Stone

March Field, California, 12 May 1944.

Autograph letter signed, 3 pages.

[draft]

Friday

Dear Dad & Bee —

Was so glad to receive your letter today telling of Don's whereabouts. I haven't had a word from him since I saw him in Chicago and I was wondering if he'd ever received the present I sent him on May 3rd. I guess he's been busy what with his transfer and all. The change certainly seems like a good break.

Since my last letter I've changed crews. Yesterday a pilot came in looking for a new bombardier for his crew. He had finished all the phases and would [*inserted*: have] shipped out in ten days or so but his bombardier took sick. So, he wanted me to replace him rather than take a new man with no experience in a B-24. He and his [2]co-pilot and navigator all seemed like swell gents and so I accepted the position. We are now [*inserted*: put back] in the middle of second phase, and it means that I won't have to repeat all the boring ground school ect. They seemed very anxious that I join the crew and I'm mighty glad I did. will write more when I get to know the fellows better.

As you may have gathered I was rather disappointed with my other crew, although I didn't know them too well. I had two flight officer pilots who were quite young and a little scatter-brained. Most of the kids who are coming in now seem to be quite immature and surprisingly young. To have gotten on my present crew would appear to be a swell break.

I was certainly glad to receive your letter re the navy and to hear that you feel as you do [3] about the whole thing, Dad. I know that you've done a swell job with your assignment and are thought very highly of by your associates so that you shouldn't feel at all bad about it if they decide to release you. You know how proud we are of the "Comdr." but we'd be just as proud of him as Mr. J.C.S too! Be sure to let me know what develops one way or the other.

If I can get a line, I may try to call you tonight. If not tonight, I'll try in a day or so.

Write often.

Lots of love —

Bobby