

To Grandparents
more interesting than
most at this pretty dull
stage because of Christmas
time, descriptions of the
✓ country, incl. Stone Mt.
Perhaps worth sending a
copy to Danny Smith.
T.R.

Dec. 28, 1941



U. S. NAVAL RESERVE AVIATION BASE
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Dear Skipper, Gandy and Aunt Posa,

The
Gardner package was nothing less than a
delight. All, from the stirring and appropriate
verses to the melt-in-your-mouth brownies,
has been much appreciated by a sailor
so far from home. His Christmas was
much improved by the mails, but nice
people inviting him to Christmas Eve
and Christmas Day dinner made things
doubly pleasant. Exploring Atlanta for
shopping places, movies, restaurants and
the like amused us for the two and one
half days we did get off. An expedition
to the top of Stone Mountain brought
more variety to the leave and some
interesting natural history notes - loblolly
pines, brown-headed nuthatches, a Carolina
wren and a faint view of the Great Smokies.
This view included a great deal of the
surrounding country, which is practically

all of red soil covered with poor pines, short-leaf pines and various oaks, as I probably mentioned in my last letter. We could also see planes, service ships, landing at the base nearly ten miles away - with my binoculars.

The Sunny South, incidentally, has not been too unpleasant, but here at about 1000 feet above sea level winters can be cold. A foot snowfall isn't unknown, and only this morning the temperature felt as if it might have been below 20°F . In about two weeks we shall probably be moving further south and to sea level - at Jacksonville, practically on the coast. Here it doubtless will be warmer, as J.C.R. found not so long ago. There is our advanced training base, where we concentrate on flying, eventually to specialize in one of several branches such as aircraft carrier based fighters, scout bombers or torpedo bombers, or large patrol flying boats, battleship or cruiser catapult planes, etc., etc.. It's all rather exciting and exceedingly interesting, but now probably no more dangerous than many forms of service. Of course some of us will fall along the wayside, as they do at college, but one has hopes! Love to All,
Toot.