

Jan. 20, 1947²

T.R.

✓ Mention trip
✓ to St. Augustine
x birds seen there
P. 3 & 4

Dear Folks,

Another week and more goes by, and somehow I get many more letters than I write, which indeed puts me on the spot if I intend to answer them all, which I do. All this extra time just vanishes, but it's the fault of afternoon naps, walks, tennis, driving range golf, bowling for ten cents a string, free evening movies and such, all to be replaced by much more studying next week.

My uniform came just in time for me to go ashore at

"Secure" on Saturday with Field.
Until the shops closed we
shopped for various things,
he for paints (water colors),
which he has already used
with much success - no
photography here, but painting
OK. So for the only place to
go in Jacksonville is the
cocktail bar of the Roosevelt
hotel, where we headed after
that. Phil had to return
early for Sunday stand-by,
so another fellow and I went
to "H. M. Pulham, Esq.", preferring
not to stay and pick up
"dates." A pleasant show -
Pulham - but our hero sure
missed the boat not marrying
Hedy Lamarr.

Jan. 21

In a way it was strange

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to be wearing a uniform, but
one would almost have felt
conspicuous without it. The
town is just full of uniforms,
and though cadet uniforms are
perhaps as common as any,
there are a great many navy
and army enlisted men as well
as officers.

Saturday night another fellow
and I returned to the base to save
dough and then with two others
drove out to the beach, about
twenty miles, and thence down
to St. Augustine and Mainland.
What a beach! It is uninterrupted
for miles except for occasional
inlets. There is an interesting
old seventeenth century fort

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at St. Augustine, that our
uniforms got us in to free.
On the dirty beach of shells
were two snowy egrets, not in
their ^{full breeding} plumage yet, and on a
sandbar were various gulls,
terns, black skimmers and
a brown pelican, that took
off and flew very near us.
Further along were many more
birds including one American
egret and more gulls, terns,
skimmers, plovers and sandpipers.
Florida (crestless) jays were
common along the road. At
Mainland is a wonderful
aquarium, which has porpoises,
sharks, giant rays, tremendous
turtles and lots of strange fish.
We got into that half price.

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So many letters have been piling up that I have got behind in answering particular questions, but here goes for an attempt at a clean-up.

My Bean raincoat might just as well stay put. Thanks for the wrist watch. What exactly was needed in the way of repairs, and what was the bill?

Shippe's "Setting of the Stage" is well put all right and might almost have been written by Churchill.

About those Squantum photographs, I'll try to remember to do something about them and should eventually succeed.

Don't bother to send "feeble" mail. That is right.

I may get around to looking
up people like The Adamsons
and Motts, but it's a little
difficult when one is dependent
on others for transportation, and
unless there is likelihood of
meeting attractive young ladies.
There is little use trying to
persuade others to go along too.
A car is a very fine thing to
have down here and can be used
on the boat after hours for
most anything. Weekends
without one would probably
not be worthwhile, but
fortunately there are several
friends ^{provided} with such. There is,
for example, a golf club at
Ponte Vedra, in which membership

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is only \$15.00 a season. There being no other charges for golf. The seven day week does apply to flying, but not to ground school so we should be getting off for week-ends for a while yet. and there are rumors of the seven day flying week being too tough to continue indefinitely.

I am an Aviation Cadet not an Air Cadet, but for addresses just "Cadet" is best. U.S. Naval Air Station is correct.

At Atlanta I never was anything in the way of a leader. The one picked for our group of thirty-plus men was the first man alphabetically, who happened to be the one from Squantum

who had never had a responsible position like it and was "the quiet type." Things are different here. The ninety-nine or so that came from Atlanta form one separate class, which for marching and drill is a company of four platoons. I am in temporary command of the fourth platoon.

There is a possibility still, unless it is just a rumor, that we may move elsewhere, Pensacola or Corpus Christi, eventually, but the whole course should be over in six or seven months from now. No acceleration in the program is apparent as yet. Further training of officers is still done. Eventually that is all that will take place here.

Love
T. R.