

NEW AND
PERMANENT
ADDRESS:

Room 205

BLD. 713



U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Jan. 28, 1947

Flying prospects
- incorrect as it
turned out
T.R.

Dear Folson,

Last week was our last week of fun. Now we have classes all day, that start with drill at 6:50 A.M. and end with drill at 4:30. In between are classes in radio code, seamanship (some of us, after all, will be attached to battleships and cruisers and will stand regular watches), leadership, Navy organization, etc., and only an hour out for lunch. There are also daily, or rather over-nightly, assignments. Some of the stuff seems both either superfluous or elementary and is taught in a high schoolish manner, but even with the yellow peril so threatening they seem to think it fit that we absorb ^{it} (the stuff).

Authorities all say we are naval officers first, aviators second.

Speaking of aviators, it seems rather unlikely that I shall fly anything

but a big patrol bomber. Fighter,
dive bomber, etc., pilots must not be
over 23 to start with, and ^{pilots of} observation
planes attached to warships apparently
not over 25, which leaves patrol bomber.
There are the ships with wingspreads
over 100 feet (max. 200'), but with
pretty slow speeds of course. They
are land or island based and yet
have the longest cruising radii of
any "ships". Some are based as
near home as Squantum, but
others are probably being used in
the Far East right now.

Did I say that our first two
weeks of scheduled work, now one-
fourth over, is not part of the
regular ground school, but is
considered indoctrination? For one
thing we have no more drill
after next week. My platoon has
become part of others, so I no longer
have a command, which I don't mind.

A pleasant week-end, much of it
spent in Phil's car looking for birds,
is about the only other news. Florida
list ^{is} now over 60 and includes two kinds
of loons, one ours.

Love Toots