



U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
JACKSONVILLE

start at
bottom of P. 1
of mid P. 5

Aug. 18, 1942

Dear Folks,

News from Squam is most welcome, but Pat's having to do all the chores doesn't sound like such a good idea - only because of back. even if it is in good shape now. Beware big chunks of ice, too much subbied in wheelbarrow, etc! Too bad about The Farm - for the Nth. time. Of course I'll want to get up for a few days if and when I get leave.

To answer your question, the planes we fly are sea planes, and though we practice such

Things as gunners and dive bombing as well as straight navigation, all battleship and cruiser planes sometimes being used for most anything, we could hardly land on a carrier without wheels! Yes, it is possible to be shore-based for scout-observation work, but one still has to land in a harbor, river, bay, etc., unless the planes have been converted to land planes, as some O52V's have. Carrier planes are all porters and require special training for their pilots. Our special training here is merely a continuation of what we've been doing - all in O52V's.



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Bad weather, in the form of daily thunderstorms last week, prevented us from getting through in time to graduate to-day. We have two more hops still and should get commissioned on Friday. There is little in the way of ceremony, red tape pretty much taking its place, but we do see the Captain. Our "wings" we buy ourselves along with all the other costly outfitting. All the new enigmas taking advanced training are made to wear white office caps.

with their regular black
uniform, which makes them
resemble zoo keepers or something
the idea being to have them
distinguishable from the
instructors, some of whom are
also ensigns. We'll live
in a barracks formerly
occupied by cadets and ^{will} eat
in a cadet mess-hall, so
you can see how little
things will be changed.
It will be nice to be a
real officer on an occasional
evening in town and on
week-end, and also the
\$250.00 ± a month is hardly
to be sneezed at by a lone



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batchelor. O.K. The training
will be all for the good.
The more the better before
one goes to the fleet, overseas,
shore-based duty or wherever
one is going, but it will
be hard for a while to put
one's heart in something so
little different from what
one has been doing for months
and at the same place with-
out any leave (probably ~~probably~~ 
not even Sat.) at all. By
gosh, I'm going to ask for Saturday.
That combined with the automatic
Sunday off would be the best

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a dull region. With a car, gas, etc., and beer, it would be
not far from ideal compared with many places.
breathe since Christmas. I might
spend one night at The Inlet
and one at The Ride, but it is
almost impossible to get a room
at The Inlet these days on
week-ends.

Enclosed, ^{separately} is a folder showing
our very small world down here.
The map is all out of scale. The
widest part of the river being
about three miles and the
distance from here to ^{the} ocean by
air about eighteen miles - no, that's
about the right scale after all.
Downtown can be seen to be
roughly ten or twelve miles.
I've added several points of
interest or other comments circled
in red - so you see it is far from

P.S. Friday on Bld. 723, N.A.S.