U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
JACKSONVILLE

Ensign with bangs, etc. Some amusing reactions T.

Aug. 24-25, 1942

Dear Folks,

Thanks for letters and telegram. The latter arrived Wednesday the day I "finished flying, so it was not untimely. Most of Thursday was spent checking out, which consisted of turning equipment, etc., back to various departments (getting one's slate clean). More red tape as well as oath, witnessed by the Captain, and handshake with same. Then checking in to the station as if one had just arrived — all on Friday. Leaving the station the first time as an officer I forgot my wallet (containing

necessary identification) and had to go back for it. In my haste on the return trip I accepted a ride gayfully and went right through the gate forgetting my week-end bag left there a few minutes before — all most embarassing! A nice dinner party at Harriet Gibbs' (Vasco girl), which, however, combined with trip to local beer joint with the two others, the house guest and an Army Air Corps lieutenant, made the evening last too late for me to get a bus to the beach until the next day, especially with bag left behind. Stay to the dance at Pointe Vedra — especially

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nice with more than the usual
two or three young ladys acquain-
tances. Bird trip to Mayport
monday yielded interesting
shore and wood birds. A
little red-head from R.I. and
Vassar, who knows Pat and
Mary, combined with moonlight
and a little song with the
boys made last night very
pleasant, the one bitter being
that above-mentioned red-head
is engaged to a cadet and
leaving shortly anyway. I must
say she made most of my
local girl friends suffer in
comparison.

That's great news about Hom
– at last! Shouldn't be surprised
if his salary doubled more
than once before many months
are past – not that that is as
important as having the job
likeable, in an essential
industry and compensating
enough to carry his family
along.

Thanks for the measurements,
Pa. Though they're a little
disappointing. One can't expect
much, however, in that soil
and with considerable shade
in some cases.

See "Mrs. Miniver" and read
"Fantastic Foot" in current Sat Eve.
Post if possible.

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The advanced training program is a little slow getting underway for us because one of our foursome, which will continue, only in four planes instead of two, with enlisted men radiomen, got a week's leave (parents getting divorced), and another got three days (brother, a squadron commander at Pensacola, going to sea), but we won't wait for the first man. I haven't seen my radioman yet, but since he will stay with me throughout the two months or so (more likely than six weeks) of training, I hope he'll prove to be good. Only a seaman second class, he'll probably take some

breaking in. I thought we will in this training be continuing to train ourselves, especially for duty with battleships or cruisers, there is no telling, as I see it, whether we'll get it or something else. With new developments arising all the time, the Navy will use us where it wants us and for what it wants us at the particular time we're ready to go.

It's pretty nice now not having to go to bed at any particular time and being able to get up later. Every evening is free if one wants it, and for a while anyway we'll really go out frequently, some every night. Personally I need sleep!

Love to all Tom