

Reflections re
submarine
warfare after a
good account of
flying SIVS-2
OS2-Us. The
countryside, reading
etc.
A good letter
for a change
P.R.



NAVAL AIR STATION
JACKSONVILLE

June 1, 1942

Dear Folks,

Speaking of weather our varies
from pretty clear to very cloudy more often
than not being one of these extremes
rather than somewhere in between, but
it has been almost continually hot
and muggy. Every so often comes a
rather violent shower, almost a cloud-
burst, but with little or no thunder
and lightning. As summer comes
on, the extremes of heat, humidity
and rain will doubtless become
more marked. Only once or twice ^{recently}
have I been cold up in a plane, and
this has always been in an open
cockpit and ^{lately} minus any kind of jacket.
Seldom, however, does one go above
5000 feet. As you may have gathered,
things have moved along pretty fast
and reasonably well of late. It was

just two weeks ago that I checked
out of Ryan, and I guess a week ago
tomorrow that I checked out of SNT in
Powerful, fast and smooth compared
with anything else of one motor around
here they were really fun to solo
and with their wheels up (cruising)
pretty nice looking. We return to
them soon for instrument flying.
Our present planes, OS2V's, are
slower, but easier to fly and so
ideal for formations. One has two
days of three plane formation and
I guess two of nine plane (if
this isn't confidential), and this
is the second day of the former.

On our various rides one sees
a good bit of country of course. There
are good spots of farmland as well
as the almost endless river bottom
hardwoods, hammocks (upland
hardwoods), pines and wet grass
areas, but south of Jacksonville
they are ^{in this vicinity} very much the exception.
Perhaps I mentioned before that



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Florida ranks third, I think, after New Hampshire and Maine, in per cent of area in forest land of all the states. For western states, it must be remembered, have without exception large areas of prairie and desert. Most of eastern Washington and Oregon are this way, for instance, and, as Ma has seen, the same is true of Colorado. Yes, Pa you must get out west after the war over. The mere thought of it almost thrills me — but this is Florida, and while it is interesting, it is perhaps on the whole disappointing. The main trouble is of course not being able to get around to see more of it. Even when one occasionally might get time, there's no gas or tires. There will be buses to the

beach to be sure, and before long
I should be getting days off not
spoiled by ~~recesses~~, radio or descent.
I had two hours (my first) to
"march off" yesterday, otherwise a
free day, because of forgetting to
sign in after a flight. Instead of
going to the beach, which I haven't
seen for maybe a couple of months,
I went for a long walk on the
station and later went to town for
a juicy steak (there in a favorite
restaurant - Bigen') and an
amusing movie, "My Favorite Blonde"
- well named since Madeline
Carroll is the heroine.

Many bits of spare time, now
frequent, are spent on books (Chopin,
Buckan, Van Wyck Mason, etc. - what
next? Any ideas, Pa? There's a
library), letters and magazines (Sat.
Post - "Assignment in Brittany", Life
and Newsweek, principally), and now
and then my dear old Thesis.

Love to all
Toots.



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P.S. Come to think of it I might as well continue for a bit since I don't seem to be scheduled for a morning hop.

Another thing I'm doing more and more is swimming — in either of two pools, one a 25 metre, I guess — deep and with diving board — the other a nifty 50 metre job, new, but only 6' deep. I T doesn't take long these days to work up a glow. A little ambition should keep one from getting too flabby. At least on a grip machine the other day in town the guy said my squeeze was the best he had ever seen!

Yes, the submarine situation is rather desperate, isn't it, especially when people stupidly say that we're building two ships a day and

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soon will be ^{so everything OK.} dipping more, not realizing that for more ships are being sunk. That men that took a long time to train are being drowned and that undoubtedly more and more submarines are being built. We should be studying things like bigger and better depth bombs, more watertight compartments, new convoy systems, etc. They ought to try experiment with huge supply planes too. Speaking of planes it looks as if Hitler and his boys have a few more things to worry about, but it's all rather grim too.

Send my best to people at the wedding, especially Mary and Bobbie (Tell Nance I'll send her \$5.00 if she'll get me a present for them), and of course Molly, Gardie, Orie, Grandma, etc.

Just now found out my advanced training will be VO-VCS - catapult seaplanes attached to cruisers or battleships.