

Operational
training
starting in
SBDs at
Daytona



U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

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Dec. 9, 1943
Haul

Dear Folks,

So you see this in
two letters. I blurted at the date
of the other, but just got so
tired of carrying it around in
my pocket and getting it ~~more~~
and more crumpled that I
decided it was too stale to
send. On second thought
it seems a supplement should
mend the situation — except
for my stupid absent-mindedness
and possible and quite justifiable

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impatience with me at home.

We finished up with the red tape of arriving yesterday, and though they won't be ready for us to fly for a couple of days, our group has been formed. We have both an instructor and an assistant instructor, and there are ten of us, which makes for a squadron of 12 altogether. Three of us were instructors at Lee. Five were students there, whom we instructed, and the



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The two are from Miami.
For the most part we'll
fly together - formation,
navigation, gunnery, dive
bombing, etc., though we'll
start with a few hours of
familiarization with the
SBD. It should be
excellent training and
mostly fun.

The station here is
so new as to have its
disadvantages - no heat in


rooms and consequent damp
 cold in this nasty cool, wet
 weather we've been having.
 The temptation then, with
 little to do and with rooms
 uncomfortable, has been to
 go "ashore". It is only too
 accessible for a change,
 but wags are everywhere
 in droves, and since they
 now have to be in
 uniform at night, do us
 little good - speaking
 of enlisted ranks, most
 of which are unattractive



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anyway. Officers aren't too
common, and the few pretty
ones will doubtless always
have dates - but still one
hasn't been here very long.
There are four or five
widely scattered movie
theaters, at least one big
bowling alley, a place where
I can get the Boston
Herald only two days late,
etc., etc. A large part of
the ~~town~~ lies across the

should be interesting. Hope to get my bicycle next Sunday, which is usually every one day off. Love to all. Took

Halifax  actually a sort of lagoon behind the very long peninsula the ocean edge of which is the famous beach. There are four bridges (only two now opened), each perhaps about a half a mile long - roughly the width of the peninsula ^{too}. The head of the lagoon, incidentally, looks on the map to be about 12 miles to the north, the mouth about ten to the south. The geography will become very clear from the air, and