



U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION  
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

March 17, 1943

Dear Folks,

I thank you for news, photographs, addresses, etc. It looks as if Skipper might be gunning for the century mark. Has any really famous person ever lived that long? So far as I know Titian came the closest with 99 years.

I hate tough news about Susie, but great about Wilbur. Seems to me he should have a couple of

Striper by now. My half  
stripes won't come for a long  
time. Promotions come only  
every several months, and  
then practically everyone  
gets promoted if they've  
been something for long  
enough. That's it in a  
nutshell, and the Navy  
all over.

It ever something for  
the Red Cross that won't  
hurt me a bit.

Of course is well  
under way now. We're in  
the middle of the dive.



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bombing or a least well past  
the beginning. The SBDs  
do dive magnificently. Though  
their sluggishness makes  
them unexciting for ordinary  
flying. Out in the fleet  
of course they are used more  
as scouts than as bombers.  
Though they don't <sup>as planes,</sup> have the  
range of a patrol bomber.  
Their more mobile base (some  
PB planes admittedly have  
tenders) plus their numbers

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make them ~~often~~ more  
effective. Long flights over  
the ocean will doubtless  
be dull from monotony,  
but that would of course  
be true in any plane except  
possibly for a passenger  
reading an exciting novel  
while reclining on the  
cushioned seats of a Pan  
American Clipper. For  
practically everyone, even  
the most active participant,  
we must have its dull  
moments, and for most



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They are probably more frequent than the exciting ones. Undoubtedly we're still far luckier than the average citizen in or out of service.

Of course, by the way, is supposed to last a month, but several factors, of which bad weather is apt to be outstanding, are bound to prolong it considerably. We fly as a team - in formation.

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which is ~~much more~~ tiring  
than real solving, ~~but~~ <sup>and</sup> for  
me not as much fun. The  
small amount of ground  
school we get in mostly  
harmless, and the hour of  
exercise not bad fun (cal-  
isthenics, then touch football,  
softball or volley ball). To  
almost everyone I'm just  
another student, which is  
a bit humiliating, especially  
when my extra hours don't  
seem to make things  
easy. Doubtless they do



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help somewhat.

Last Sunday I went on  
a particularly nice excursion.

Bad weather, a cold, etc.

had caused me to leave

my bicycle at the Ride

over the day I left for

here and the following

Sunday - always a day

off here. This last

promised to be good - Friday

and Saturday had been

beautiful - so I took a

train Sat. night for Tax  
and spent the night.

inconveniently (12 mi. out -  
hotels in town always full)

at N.A.S. Sunday turned  
out to be rather cold, very  
windy and with a solid  
overcast, but I decided to

chance it and took a bus  
back to town then to the  
beach, there to start

pedaling, not south, but  
north - back to Tax via

Mayport and Ft. George,  
crossing the river near its  
mouth. For \$2.00 (he said





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he'd do it for \$1.00 then obviously wiled he hadn't) a Mayport fisherman took me across in his ancient one cylinder job after having a hell of a time starting it and then having it break down for a while when we were nearly mid-stream. Upon crossing the Rubicon I went hunting for the Ft. George and another dub having been told that

etc., etc. Bat birds were: about 200 skimmer (4 or 5 flock) flying  
downstream just over the water: a flock of over 30 green-winged teal on edge of creek  
various gulls, tern, heron, egret, rail, pelicans a few feet away, etc. Long to all T.R.

Their location Flat St. George  
I d., was one of Florida's beauty  
spots. It in fact is - a  
raised hammock, on a sort  
bluff overlooking a long  
inlet, the whole covered  
by a beautiful growth of  
old live oaks, other hardwood  
and pines. I left there  
only a little before 6 P.M.  
having started the whole  
trip late and headed for  
town, perhaps 25 mi. west -  
road more interesting than  
regular piney beach road (more  
salt marsh, creeks, sand hills,

P.S. Bike now here (checked in train). Money to Red