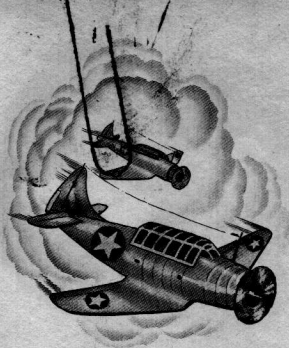


Russ Keller
mentioned

Trip to Sanibel
too briefly
described



U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION
DAYTONA BEACH
FLORIDA

Dec. 12, 1943

Dear Folks,

It was nice to
hear about Thanksgiving at
home. Though Christmas
should be even better if
I am at all can make it.
There's no possibility of
my getting home so far
as I know. Christmas
here will be just like
any other day unless one
is lucky enough to get
it an over day off. Though

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I suppose the Captain could
proclaim it everyone's day off.
The Gibbes have invited
me to pass the holiday
with them, and it's some-
thing to at least get the
invitation. With them it
would be as close to
home as Florida could
make it, but my guess
is I'll be indulging in
a little live bombing
instead, which doesn't
make one feel unhappy
when one thinks of all
the boys at sea, in the
Soloman, in Italy or

3
30,000 ft. above Germany.
Though there's nothing
we would rather do than
go home for Christmas,
in my case at any rate,
it won't be difficult
to imagine oneself there,
especially with the help
of several packages (four
so far!). The only one
I've sent as yet is a
selection of shells from
my collection to Nance,
who had asked to be
sent some. Oh, yes,
some will arrive
broken no doubt, but

They're of no value, not⁴
even to me, being "dupes."
Other "exports" should be
forth coming, though as
always at this time of
year I'm at a loss -
except for money, which
with a "tight-fisted,
penney + pinching, needle-
nursing old New England
(country of B. Wells), still
a batchelor, seems to
accumulate faster than
it is needed - except
by Uncle Sam through
war bonds.

You shouldn't have

gone to so much trouble
 about the victrola, Ma.
 I was afraid they'd be
 unobtainable even up
 there, and anyway it's
 something I should try
 and get myself - a costly
 item, which, however, I
 could easily afford.

I agree that "Random
 Harvest" makes a swell
 movie, but that it isn't
 quite as good as the
 book because of the
 pretty much necessary
 alteration of the plot.
 Nothing, however, could

be better than Gree
Garson - yum, yum!

It always amuses me
the way each of you
apologizes for what each
thinks the other may
have said in his or her
letter to me. Well, of
course there is sometimes
a little repetition, but
the different presentations
of news are always
interesting to me. If
I weren't so damned lazy
I'd write to each of
you separately, at least
once in a while.

7
You mention of Bobby
Lincoln reminds me of
something I forgot to
mention in the last letter.
Willbur Kellein brother.

Russell, recently reported
here after more than
two years off and on
the "Ranger". Almost
my age, he graduated
from Williams in '39
and from N.A.S. Tex. in
'41. He seems a
particularly pleasant
sort.

I'll Archie who is
communications office at

Tax. I just happened to
run into him in the
lobby of the "Old" building
there when up on a
ferry hop (ending at Jax.
worse luck) the other
day, but had no more
than a few words with
him because of the
approach of a formidable
inspecting party. I
managed to have a few
more words with Dick
Baker before heading
back here.

Grippe and quarantine
and tonsils and things
must be a rather grim

reminder of the days the
original four were about
the same age as the
present three. Jack will
probably get healthier
as he gets older if he
takes after his brothers,
but it would be nice
if he could be brought
to Florida by his parents.

Well, my new squadron
still hasn't convened, so
things have continued
to be pretty easy. It
was fine while the
cold lasted, but gets
dull now. The boys.

good addition to my shell collection. You should
see some of the experts' collections though.
L. to A. T. R.

however, will soon be
upon us.

Last week-end I got¹⁰
my two days off and
went all the way to
Sambel Id., which is
south of Aunt Edith's
Boea Grande. Even with
the help of the Coast
Guard I got only a
night and half a day
there. Train schedules
being such as they
are (bus service to
Deland, which is on the
NE-SW line, doesn't help
much), but I made some

P.S. Aunt finished Upton Sinclair "Dragon's Teeth" one reason