



U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION
DAYTONA BEACH
FLORIDA

Dec. 23, 1943

Dear Folks, and All,

It seems unlikely that this will reach Groton by Christmas, but I'll be thinking of "you-all" then even if I do have to fly. The Admiral says there is to be flying on Christmas, so the latest squadrons to form, nine included, were picked for the "privilege." I thought it meant turning down two Christmas dinner invitations instead of one (Gibber and

Paynes in Jan), it will make it very convenient for me to go to the Spinsters dance Sat. night in Jan since we who don't get Christmas off do get Sunday off.

The Spinsters in, I gather, something like the Vincent Club. At any rate all the nice "post-debe" belong.

Here at B.O.Q. there is to be some kind of a Christmas Eve party and of course a Christmas dinner the next day for everyone whether they fly or not.

Yesterday came a Christmas card from Henry, giving his address, so I

was able to send his present
 right along. Just the same
 it will probably arrive
 late, which won't matter
 too much, as it's a book,
 Lincoln's latest, which he
 may very likely have —
 which reminds me that
 my Toyn Lane presents are
 mostly books (last resort)
 sent last Sat. night, probably
 to be late and also likely
 to be duplicated or to have
 been read (the trouble with
 books).

Hearing about the
 skating makes me green.
 It would be swell if
 Ham especially got some

on Christmas. At least
our weather is improving,
by getting warmer. Since
we can't have skating or
snow, I'd just as soon
have it mild.

Too bad about the ears
and noses, etc. I got over my
cold in good season only
to catch another a little
later - fortunately a very
rare experience with me.
Again it's only a mild
nuisance. Perhaps a
cocktail party late this
afternoon, to which I'm
actually invited (local
invitations, except the

5

weekly ones to everybody
from the Wacc, come
about every six months
for me), will be the
final cure. It is removed,
incidentally, that one of
young ladies, which
probably means all three
of those Russ Keller and
myself and another guy
if we can persuade him
to come along, is all of
seventeen years old!

Ever read "The Purple
Land," Hudson's first book?
I find it delightfully
different as well as
absorbingly interesting. I
finished Dr. Barbour's book

long ago. Yes! Ma, I should like to write one like it only a little different some day.

I rather expect to check out in (have first hop in) an SB2A (Brewster Buccaneers) in a day or two. Almost as big as a TBF and with the same 1700 h.p. engine it of course dwarfs an SBD and is much faster. Later I may get a chance to fly an F6F (Hellcat), which has 2000 h.p. and is also considerably larger than an SBD. It is, however, said to be very easy to fly, so don't get anxious.

P.S. It's always possible to get orders, but now seem unlikely for a while yet. Yes, Sam is also at Tex.

Love to all
Toot