

Re being asked  
to help form and  
train a squadron  
Prof. Vasez Ames

Feb. 7, 1944

Dear Folks,

To-day came Ma's delightful telegram, which, however, followed a letter from Nance telling of a twelve day leave beginning Feb. 21 - altogether rather confusing, especially when she latter admitted a possibility of our Wac going home via Florida! Any amount of time here for any member of the family would be worthwhile as far as I am concerned, but it seems to me that it would be rushing and

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squeezing things considerably  
for Ma to try and get down  
here and get back to Groton  
by the 21<sup>st</sup>. It seems  
probable that you didn't  
get definite word from Nance  
before wiring. Maich would  
almost undoubtedly be  
warmer than now, when  
days over 70° F. are still  
scattering, and a good long  
stay would be just what  
Ma needs, but a short  
stay before Nance's leave  
could be very nice if  
it turned out the most  
practicable. Here's what  
may sound like a wild,

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out-of-the-question suggestion,  
especially to Pa., but why  
don't both of you come down,  
even bringing Jack, parking  
the other side with a  
cooperative neighbor, and  
get Nance to spend the  
leave here? It does sound  
pretty selfish ~~as far~~ as far  
as I'm concerned, but it  
wouldn't do any of you  
three any harm. The  
big hitch would be in  
preventing Nance from  
getting home. Well, any-  
way I'll begin inquiring  
about hotels, etc., but  
if Nance's leave causes a

change in plans, I can  
 bear up. Though I do  
 rather expect to go to  
 sea in the near future,  
 within at least most  
 several months, I should  
 be able to get home  
 beforehand with any luck,  
 but naturally such  
 couldn't be counted upon.

I in respect to my  
 future here: The latest.  
 I've been asked to be  
 part of the nucleus of  
 what is hoped to become  
 an active squadron, and  
 since I was asked by  
 the prospective squadron

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commander, it was quite an honor. The idea, an excellent one, is to form the squadron here and to do so by having the prospective squadron commander and one assistant (T.R.) train half of the "rank and file", the prospective executive officer and another assistant the other half, all going to the fleet together, officially organizing, however, at a place like Norfolk or San Diego <sup>around a couple of months from now</sup> as usual. Since the four experienced,

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or in the case of the two  
junior at least somewhat  
experienced, one are expecting  
a call to sea duty soon  
anyway. The whole scheme  
is sound, but it does have  
to be approved by the  
Bureau and may not go  
through. It would be  
well if it could. The  
two veterans are fine men.

Too bad about the  
continual or at least  
recurring colds, flu, etc.,  
but all the more reason  
to come for a goodly  
stay.

I'm glad the various citrus fruits were appreciated. The "sour" jobs are or were tangelos, crosses between grapefruit and tangerine. The big tangerines really crosses with regular oranges. I forget what they're called. The regular oranges are the variety known as pineapples. Yes, I remember the tangerines at Saint Estells.

On my last day off I went on the first goodly bicycle trip in months, down to the inlet and back, almost if not quite



just drove down from Maine, but which he practically offered to share - a rare offer for a prince of a

thirty miles!! so you see that already I'm beginning to get in shape again. It was <sup>also</sup> the first time in ages for a chance to pick up shells, and I found one particularly desirable specimen, a helmet tur shell, which is usually found in pieces.

To-day, another day off. I biked up to Orono to meet Prof. Oakes Ames, whose wife promptly invited me to dinner next Friday. I shall probably borrow Russ Keller's car, which he