

March 13, 1945

Dear Folks,

I can't keep up with you two!
This answers your letters postmarked Feb. 19
and 26, Pa., and though yours, Ma., post-
marked Feb. 20 somehow arrived soon enough
to be answered by my last. Two have already
reached me since then, no. 23, correctly
numbered by the way, and no. 24. The
latter, you may be amused to know is
dated inside, March 22, and postmarked,
yes, postmarked, March 31! Another very
recent letter is post-marked, probably
correctly Nov. 27. It is a grand one from
M. S., that was delayed at F.P.O. because
someone stupid thought the 7 of VB-17
illegible.

Two more presents have arrived too,
three pocket books almost minus their
mapping paper, ^{from Aunt} and a birthday present
from you, Pa. - a very fine book. Mayr
seems to have done an excellent job,
and I'm most grateful for something
that fills what was a very empty space
on my shelves. Already it has identified
several doubtful species seen recently
and put them in their proper family.
Others whose families I was reasonably
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sure of it has provided none. Needless to say its usefulness will continue.

"That Vanishing Eden" is not only delightful, but of absorbing interest, as all true Floridians and many others should find. If only it had been written about three years ago! Yes, it makes me realize more than ever how much I missed in Florida. On the other hand it makes me appreciate what I did see all the more and also makes me look forward to the possibility of returning for "further exploration" of my own.

About "Helldiver Squadron"; the book about old VB-17, all I know is hearsay. Doug Yerxa (Dutel name) says that it isn't a bad job considering the author never was aboard the ship with them and little more than met any of the boys except the intelligence officer, who supplied him the facts for his account. D. seems to think it might have most appeal to teen agers. Jack?

So Henry might be moving out soon? Too bad about the grippe or whatever it is, but I can't see them leaving him be-

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kind on that account. It is Christmas
card arrived with the recent presents.
H am too? Yes, he mentioned the
possibility to me in a recent letter,
and it might very well be a good thing,
though follow if he does go alone. Nance
I've heard from recently enough to
be given her new address. Maybe if
she doesn't like it, she^{'ll} volunteer for
overseas duty too!

No, I don't pretend to be an expert
stopper or shaver for that matter, not
having used a straight for several years
and never for long periods. The local
barber put a new edge on my razor
yesterday, and it certainly makes a
difference, which is hardly surprising
after two months of use and no care.
The shop will be welcome. Meanwhile
I continue trying to improve the more
important technique!

Things continue about the same
here. It's warm, and exercise makes
one sweat as if in a steam bath.
Movies have not been outstanding
lately, but they are the often welcome
kind of entertainment that requires
no effort for one to enjoy. Books take

more, at least to get started, but one of course would move in the end.
I seem to be in pretty good shape these days. Love Toots.