

~~the choice of majoring in big seaplanes, for long distance scouting~~

The "choice" of big seaplanes, for long distance scouting, small seaplanes, for catapulting off battleships and cruisers, for scouting, and carrier type planes, for fighting with fighters, torpedo planes and dive bombers. My first choice of big seaplanes was turned down. Having seen a movie on dive bombing I felt that the prospect of doing that myself seem too formidable, which left small seaplanes. The training ~~was~~ was interesting and enjoyable. It ended with a catapult shot off a wharf, a short leave and expectation for duty in the Pacific. But no, the authorities decided there ^{were} too many of us, as battleships and cruisers were becoming obsolete, as were small seaplanes while more planes were needed for the new carriers. So, with more training, as landing on and taking off from a pier - tier carrier in Lake Michigan, in SBD's, we seemed ready to head for the Pacific again, until they needed us as instructors. This was using SBD's and went on for months, all in Florida.

Eventually I joined a squadron and spent most of the summer of 194⁴ in California training with it and then with the air group it became the dive bombing squadron of seeing the new SB2C "Hell-diver."

