NAVAL AIR STATION
JACKSONVILLE

Apr. 18, 1942

Dear Pa.

It must have been a pleasant change to get down to Great Neck, but why not after a while come down here for a bit. It might be expensive and all that, but a lot of parents are doing it and who knows what's going to happen to money after this war anyway. If there were a boom, travel prices would go up. If there were a crash, no one would have any money, so why not spend a little now and enjoy oneself in these otherwise unhappy times. As for not having enough time, that's ridiculous too for a retired man. There won't be any air raids in Groton for a while, and alumni notes can slide along all right. Ma would love to come, and I'm sure she must need a rest, and of course she needs company too!

I envy Mr. Addison's plans for the summer and am heartily glad he's so much

better. At this point it seems that nothing would be better than to retire and spend the rest of our days at Squam.

No, I haven't seen the new Great Neck home yet. Sweetgum's name is Liquidambar styraciflua or something like that.

Last night I saw the "Jungle Book" movie - good entertainment at least and with some remarkable shots. The afternoon or what's left of it by the time we get back to N.A.S. and through dinner (around 2:30) a fellow forester and I are going to "explore" an area of not very distant Okefenokee swamp (south in Georgia) as we can. There's a big road through it now, and though I've been on it, it was at night coming down from Atlanta. We hope to see many interesting things such as perhaps some really big sweet gums and cypress such as are quite absent around here and some good birds too. Timber around here is pretty sad - pitch-pine-like growth of slash and longleaf pine, hammocks on drier spots of oaks, etc., and swamps of cypress, tupelo and red gum. The pines have been and are all the time

being badly burned and blazed for naval stores. The hardwoods have apparently been cut, but maybe the soil is so poor that there never were any big trees (really d.b.h.) as there are in some places.

Before to-day I had three days off from flying because of the red tape involved in going in for Squadron (extra) time. But now with a nice new instructor I hope I'm all set to get those damn stunts. We had quite a session just now, but it only made me a little woggy.

Celestial navigation, which consisted mostly of looking things up in tables then finally plotting lines, went very badly as it did with quite a few of the boys until the final exam, which I think I hit pretty well.

Love
Tooth