

practice carrier
landings on
"jeep" carrier off
the Golden Gate &
pelagic birds

Good bird
ride - birds

8/15/44

Dear Folks,

This is our third day at sea, but since it is also our last, I can be my own censor and drop the letter in the B.O.Q. mail box as usual.

Our ship is a baby flat-top, and we're aboard to qualify in landing our rather large planes (50 ft. span) in that rather small space that is the deck. Actually we're all through and are headed back for the Golden Gate, etc. It was quite a thrill when I went up yesterday, especially as the ship was pitching considerably. The landing signal officer allows for this, to be sure, but he can't make the landing after the "cut" (throttle back signal), the last he gives. I got

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by all right like most of the others
(a few had minor mishaps resulting
from bad landings), but didn't
exactly distinguish myself. When
one gets a little more used to
these things, they should be
fun. They differ from ordinary
landings in that one has to
have one's plane at just the
right attitude, attitude and
air speed (as slow as is safe),
as well as lined up just so
before getting a "cut", anything
too radical resulting in a
"wave off" ("go around again
and try another approach
signal").

I've been delighted with

The cosy and compact quarters
and expect better aboard a
big carrier. Being a lieutenant
will help. I should have
one room-mate, but doubt-
less not one of my own
choosing (probably a Lt. with
same date of rank). Aboard
this job the food has been
good as well as enjoyed.
Though now that the ship
is no longer merely pitching
now that it is no longer
heading directly into the
wind and isn't headed directly
downwind (now actually on a

antennae (?) hair, though somewhat broad in the base, and
quite interesting. I'm needing air, no more space anywhere
"broad head"). I don't feel so well
and will shortly head for the
fresh air of the forecabin (sp. ?),
surely no longer "forecastle")
and "enjoy" the rolling and
pitching there. What I hope for
next are more sea birds.
Black-footed albatrosses (only 7'
wingspread) have been all around,
and I've seen shearwaters (petrel
family), phalaropes, various
auks including the amazing
tufted puffin, etc. We should
be in before dark.

The last day off was nice -
bicycle ride with Joan Gray and
then with her later to the Ice
Follies (same as in the winter in
the East), on Mrs. Gray. Joan in
pleasant company - quite pretty with