

Somewhere in the Moluccas
23 December 1944

Darling,

I was very happy to hear about your trip to New Orleans. I'm sure you must have had a very good time and I'm glad you and Gene got to go. Too bad, though, that the Tigers had to lose.

I am enclosing a letter from Mr and Mrs Holmes. Just tear it up and forget about it. I'll think nothing more about it.

I also received a very cheering letter from Carol Landis. She is in Jackson now--temporarily unhoused at Memphis apparently. She was giving me Hail Columbia about the time of my last letter--which I must have written when I was at a very disgusted point here. She was telling me not to lose my sense of humor--which is easy to do down here, I assure you.

I feel very good now, though. It looks like we will have as pleasant a Christmas possible under the circumstances. We will have a nice dinner, with Christmas gifts from the Red Cross, and Johnson, Trout and I are having an "open house" party at our tent Sunday night. We're having cold chicken sandwiches, cheese, pickles and punch and are inviting all the officers of the division headquarters to drop in. The chaplain is having a Christmas program Sunday evening, with carol singing and the band will play.

I'd like to have seen Georgia Mae and Helon--I suppose they have aged like the rest of us.

I expect Gene was very disappointed in the game--hope he didn't get seasick riding on the ferry so much. I'm not surprised at your weeping over those pathetic books, but I think that's what makes Christmas doubly hard for us here--we cannot buy Christmas gifts for our loved ones.

I'm proud as punch over my writing kit. It is perfect. If you could send me some air mail stamps now and then I'd appreciate it. We cannot buy them at all and often air mail envelopes are not available. And I know many of my letters arrive postage due because of lack of stamps on this end.

Thanks for the cartoons. All the boys are getting so they look forward to them--anything to preserve the sense of humor.

Our big package ship hasn't arrived yet, but the postal officer tells me he's expecting it daily--so the Santa Claus mail shouldn't miss Christmas by too much.

I'm missing you all so very much and I hope the New Year will have more pleasant things for us all.

Loads of love,

