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December 7, 1943

Dearest Lee:

This is Shirley's birthday, Pearl Harbor Day and Delaware Day! The sun is shining brightly and it is not very cold here,- quite different from the day 18 years ago when I journeyed to the hospital in the wee small hours, with the snow piled high and the temperature way down. This is the first birthday Shirley has ever been away from home. I sent her a white sweater for a birthday present and baked her a chocolate cake. The cake won't last long I imagine, with all those girls to help eat it.

Daddy is attending a meeting of the Council of State Agency Executives at the girls' school, Mr. Hamm and Mr. Briggs had to go down the state, so I am holding down the fort alone for a few hours.

Lee, I am going to try to get your box off with at least some Christmas things in it this week. There will be nothing in it which will spoil, so please do not be tempted to open any Christmas boxes before December 25 if they arrive early. We do want you to have a little bit of the Christmas spirit on that day and something to remind you of home.

I suppose last week was filled with flying hours, if you made up all the hours which you said were necessary. When do you enter "advanced" training? Is it still the plan that you will remain there for it?

Yesterday I sent you a program which daddy got at the game he and the governor attended on Sunday. It was a mild day here so they did not mind the weather even though it is December.

We are planning to use your records of the Christmas carol in the chapel service for the boys Sunday evening, December 19. Mr. Hanning is having the school boys read it in school in preparation. Our Christmas dinner will be held on Wednesday evening, December 22, followed by parties in all of the cottages. Washington cottage is having a Christmas dance, inviting girls from town, on Monday of that week. Jeff is bringing in a few people this evening to try to teach the boys who do not dance something about it. Last night he took about 20 boys over to P.S. school to see the opening basketball game in the C.Y.O. League. Our first game is Friday of this week with Archmere.

With all my love.

Mother