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United States Army

Tuesday evening December 28, 1943

Dear Dad,

It did me a world of good to hear you and the rest of the family over long distance last night. I hope that I didn't call after you had gotten into bed. I thought that maybe you would all be staying up for a call anyway, and I did want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, no matter how late. I placed my call to the base exchange at 6:47 P.M. so you see that there was quite a delay. The delay was accentuated by the fact that about thirty cadets were trying to get calls through on two phones. At 10:00 P.M. most of the boys had either completed their connection or yielded to

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the call of taps. However, a Bill Johnson stayed with me until his call came through from St. Louis just before mine came through from Wilmington. While final last minute arrangements for my call were being made between Dalas [sic], New York and Wilmington, the telephone girl informed me that she was Mrs. Herman, wife of our 275 pound Mess Seargeant [sic] who has been nicknamed Tiny; that we would have baked ham for dinner today; that it would cost me \$4.00 for five minutes. Did Bernice have a cold? If so, I hope that she gets better soon.

I opened your package this morning and am still wondering how in the world I will ever eat all of the cookies and candy so attractively packaged. But I must admit that the watch from you and Mother is my favorite gift. Thank you very much. Grandmother Minker sent me a leather letter

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holder in the same package and this writing paper was in it. Aunt Margaret sent me a package of handkerchiefs as well. The gifts from Uncle Marion and Shirley and Bernice have not arrived as yet but I will be on the watch for them. I only wish that I could personally thank you all for making possible such a wonderful Christmas.

I finished my formation flying today and now have a total of 63 hours and 30 minutes. I will finish up by Friday. We finish ground school Thursday and go to the range Friday to fire the Colt 45 caliber pistol and the Thompson Sub-Machine Gun. If I have enough time off over New Years and am able to visit El Paso I will call on Reverend Williams. Thanks for the contact.

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My Christmas card to Marion Keene bounced back because of wrong address.  
What is wrong with Drexel Hill Apartments, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania?

That is the news from here.

I hope you have a good time in New York.

Your son,

Lee