

1

December 13, 1944

Dearest Lee:-

I had a few minutes in town yesterday after a meeting so I went looking for Julia's Christmas present from you. I had talked to her mother and she said Julia would like to have a pin for her coat lapel. I think you will be pleased with what I found. It is a gold chick with a blue stone eye. It fits in so nicely with the name of your plane that I think Julia will be pleased with it, too. It cost \$6.00 and \$1.20 tax.

We had our first big snow yesterday and today it is quite cold. There isn't enough for sledding, for the ground was wet from rain the day before; but it froze during the night and everything out of doors is white.

Last night's paper carried an article about Wallie Wroten who won a Silver Star for gallantry in France. The citation reads "During a daylight attack by his company against a strong enemy hill position, Sergeant Wroten, an automatic fireman [rifleman], noticed a seriously wounded comrade lying on dangerously exposed open terrain between his position and the enemy. On his own initiative and with utter disregard for his personal safety Sergeant Wroten left his foxhole and crept across the open terrain in clear sight of the enemy, under direct enemy machine-gun, rifle and mortar fire to the side of his badly wounded comrade, and dragged him a distance of approximately 100 yards to safety." Wallie was later killed in action.

We have received a Christmas card from Reed Gerald in India, and one from Marvin Garyantes in the S. Pacific.

The Tower Hill Football team, of which Walter was captain, will be given a dinner this Friday evening, and the girls' hockey team will serve as waitresses. Coach Minger of Penn will be the speaker. Bernice is now working at basketball. I believe she is a guard, but her height is against her. There are some pretty good girl basketball players at Tower, for it is compulsory for all girls and they have practice very day after school until 5; so that a girl who has always gone to Tower has plenty of chances to develop. Of course Bernice has not had this. She is still struggling with Chemistry. As yet we don't know what her plans will be next fall, for she - like Shirley was- does not know what she wants to do. She would like to go to New England to school. That is as much as she knows.

Thursday night of this week the boys here are putting on the first performance of their new play- "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again". Next Thursday we will have our Christmas dinner, followed by another performance. To this the Governor, Mayor James and about 20 others have been invited.

Love from all of us.

Mother