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December 18, 1944

Dearest Lee:-

Just a week from today will be Christmas. I hope it is just a little bit colder and with some snow; but whatever the weather it isn't going to seem much like the real thing with you away from home, and with thousands of other boys engaged as you are.

Yesterday we thrilled again as we listened to The Messiah. The church was crowded, with people sitting in the choir stalls. (That is where daddy sat, for he stayed out in the car until the last minute listening to the Green Bay Packers-New York Giants football game.) I hope before many more Christmases pass Shirley will be taking that contralto solo which she does so well "He Shall Feed His Flock", and which the soloist yesterday did none too well; and maybe Bernice can be doing one of the soprano solos, and Julia another; and you will be sitting alongside of daddy and me enjoining [enjoying] it with us.

The Governor called a special meeting of civilian defense leaders last Thursday night and Col. Terry was there to warn of the possibility of robot bombs from submarines. They seem to have reason to think we should be prepared for such, and so daddy is now busy getting some of his workers in line to combat that. He had a meeting of his county workers yesterday at 12:30 in the county building. There is disheartening news in the papers this morning about the nazis reinvading Belgium and Luxembourg.

A \$25. bond arrived last week-the first for some time. It was dated October. Daddy has decided to take out 5 shares of Building and Loan stock for you, which will take \$25. per month. I think he said it would be worth \$5000. at the end of 11 years. Of course if anything happens that you cannot keep up the payments you can always cash the shares in or borrow on them. This will be yielding you more than you get in the savings fund. After Christmas I will give you an accounting of what I have spent for your gifts for Christmas presents.

This morning's paper states that Clifford Diver has been promoted to staff sergeant at an 8th air force bomber station in England. He is a bombsight and automatic pilot technician. His father has the Packard agency in Wilmington, you know. Capt. Richard Ackart, Army Medical Corps, now in Germany, has been awarded the Bronze Star medal for outstanding bravery on the field of battle. He received the award for rescuing and treating a number of casualties under heavy shellfire near Brest, France.

We are having our annual Christmas dinner here at the school on Thursday night of this week, and the boys will begin to leave on passes Friday morning. Mr. Hamm had to go down state today and I hope he is able to bring back some holly. They say it is very plentiful and full of berries but there is practically no one to cut it. As a result holly wreaths are selling for \$1. apiece in Wilmington.

We hope to get a letter this week, as it has been over a week since one came.  
All our love, dear.

Mother