Christmas night 1944.

Dearest Lee,

Your cablegram came this morning before we had breakfast. It certainly changed the whole day for us. The last letter received was written November 29 and naturally we were anxious to have some word. Thanks so much. It was the best of all Christmas gifts. We do hope your letter arrived upside down in time for you to have some semblance of Christmas. Of course our thoughts have been continually with you, beginning last night when the tree was trimmed and the stockings hung. Fred arrived about 6 p.m. and left on the 12:45. Bernice said he was as particular as you about the arrangement of the lights, balls, etc., on the tree. luckily our bulbs were all in good shape for there are none to be
of us will ever forget.

had dinner is over the house quiet
and in some order. Shirley has run up
to May's, Bernice & Walter are over at
his house, daddy resting, grandmother
looking at cards. We received one from
the Crist's who sent Bob's address:
O/C Crist & Crist, 22nd Co. 3rd S.T.R.
H. Benning, Ga.

A check for $13 came on Saturday.
Daddy has used $50 for 2 months' 
Building & Loan dues. I'll send you
an accounting next time I write.

And now, dear, another Christmas
is almost over. I wish I could
think the day had been for you
just a little bit like ours, - with
friends and loved ones, warmth and
a nice dinner; but always there has
been in the back of our minds the
thought that you had to go out
on a mission regardless of the
fact that it was Christmas.

bought this year. Our tree is very pretty
though smaller than we usually have.

Uncle Rogers & his family went
this morning bringing grandmother
who is staying overnight. We didn't
have dinner until about 3:30 and
roasted my turkey at home today
and it was late when I got it in
the oven. We expect Julia over
for breakfast tomorrow morning. It
seemed to be the only time she
could fit it in before going back.
She & May both look fine. Ben
dropped in for a few minutes. They
have 16 at their house this weekend;
all the children, grandchildren
in-laws except Mary's husband
who is in Alaska.

We had a wonderful treat
Friday night when daddy took us
& the Met to hear Pizzolitti with
Lawrence Jilek, Josephine Anzalone
in the leads. It was something none
I hope the Christmases we have spent together have been pleasant memories which have helped you through the day. Today grandmother Minikin said she hoped that some Christmas just once more she could have all of her children and grandchildren with her for dinner. That may not be possible—at least not at her house—but maybe we can all celebrate together sooner than we think.

It will perhaps be a new year when this reaches you. May it be a year we shall always remember as the one when hostilities ceased and men worked as hard to make a lasting peace as they had to wage a terrible war!

With all my love,

Mother