

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 our Christmas gifts. We do hope your losses all arrived top side up 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. Bernie 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.

Now 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 Crists who sent Bob's address:
ofc Robt. D. Crist, 22nd Co. 3rd S.T.R.
Ft. 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 were out this morning, bringing grandmother who is staying over night. We didn't have dinner until about 3:30 for I 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, grand children + in-laws except Mary's husband who is in Alaska.

We had a wonderful treat Friday night when daddy took us to the Met to hear Rigolletti, with Lawrence Tibbett + Josephine Antoinette 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 Minker said she hoped that some Christmas just one more she could have all of her children + 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