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December 27,1944

Dearest Lee:-

It seems we have been getting calls all morning from folks who have received Christmas greetings from you and appreciate them so much,- the Hamms, Hemmings, Daisy, Boykins. We had never been told, you know, that you were a first lieutenant and the commander of a six plane group. We are so proud of you dear, for we know it has meant hard, hard work and your very best effort at all times.

The picture in Europe certainly looks anything but bright at present and I fear the list of casualties will be a long one. Maybe it will prove to be the darkest hour before the dawn.

After a rather warm rainy Christmas day, the thermometer has dropped considerably and it feels as though we shall be having more snow soon. The girls are in town this afternoon attending a luncheon with [sic] Mary Elizabeth Davis is giving,- an annual affair. Yesterday was May's last day home so she, Shirley, Bernice joined Miller, Dougherty, Gregg, for lunch and a general gabfest. Ruth was returning to her work in Philadelphia after an appendicitis operation. Julia went back last night, May this morning. We are expecting Mason Robertson, the sailor about whom I wrote you a few weeks ago, to stop off with us overnight Friday on his way back to Villa Nova from Savannah, Georgia. As yet he and Shirley have not met.

I spent \$22.50 of your money for gifts for Shirley, Bernice, Julia, daddy, grandmothers.

Daddy gave me a lovely three-strand string of pearls as a Christmas present. The girls gave me some fruit-juice glasses to match my glassware. We had aunt Florence out to dinner last night. One of her gifts to me was a large green candle about two feet tall and several inches in circumference which we have as a part of our mantle decoration. It should last several years and we are being careful of it this year so you can enjoy it with us next.

We are looking for a couple to do work here at the school. You may remember that Mr. & Mrs. Snyder have been with us for a year,- he working at duPont's in the daytime and helping in the cottages and office in the evenings, she assisting me in the office in the daytime. Well, Mrs. Snyder is going to have a baby in April and as they already have one child and only a small apartment we shall have to let them go.

Legislature starts next week and that always means a more or less hectic time. The Governor is quite concerned now over the loss of revenue which will result with the closing of Delaware Park; but we always managed before without it and I guess some plan will be worked out. There is much activity over the

Family Court Bill which has been defeated several times. This morning daddy and I were in a conference about it for two hours. Next Thursday is the annual meeting of the Wilm. District W.C.S.C. and my last as district president. So we are all kept busy and I hope with things worthwhile. Our love to you, Lee, and write whenever you can.

Mother