

December 25, 1942

Dear Mom,

Well, Mom, this is Christmas Day and to tell you the truth, it isn't much of a Christmas. Our biggest disappointment is that we haven't received any mail for a while. I suppose that it will catch up to us sooner or later.

This morning was the first chance we had to go to Mass since we have been on this place. I still can't tell you the name of the place, but you probably have a good idea where it is. I went to Communion today and prayed to God that I may spend next Christmas at home with you and the family.

One of fellows got hold of an old tree that looks something like a Christmas tree and decorated it with cotton and believe it or not, but it really looks good to us. It reminds me of the tree we always had at home, with the kids always breaking a light or an ornament.

This is the second Christmas that I am spending away from home, but this time I am really far away. During the last week we have heard a radio once in a while and with all the talk about the holidays back home, it makes us feel pretty blue. However, we realize that conditions can't be helped and will make the best of it. We are in a rest area now and they are going to give us a fine dinner, turkey and all.

Some of us were talking how nice a white Christmas was. Well, out here it is entirely different. Instead of snow everything is green and the weather is hot. In civilian life we used to all complain about cold weather, but a cold spell would really go good now.

Don't get the wrong idea about this letter. I am not trying to make you feel sorry for me, but I just thought I'd let you know how things are. We are not to be pitied, because it is a great honor to stand up for a fine country as ours. None of us are the worse for wear and after the war will be able to get along very nicely back home.

Well, Mom, that is about all I have for now. At this time I am sincerely hoping that you are having a joyous Christmas and pray that the New Year will bring this mess to an end so I can come back to you and the rest of the family. May God bless all of you.

Lots of love,

Marty