

V-MAIL  
[Transcription begins]

Lt. (jg) Douglas Leach USNR  
USS ELDEN DE-264  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

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#74 1-4-45

Dear Douglas - Your letter written on Christmas Day arrived this afternoon and we enjoyed each detail telling of how you spent the day. Hanging your socks outside the door was a happy thought! The menu for the dinner sounds most bounteous and our memories of this year will be all the more pleasant, knowing that you too, had a good day. Glad you were not at sea this year and that you had an opportunity for a church service. The "sun glass" was sent thinking it might come in handy as a "magnifying" glass when pouring over charts or even examining a bit of seaweed or fish scales or what have you just for curiosity! You can see how hard up we were for ideas for gifts for you! You know Christmas holidays last about two weeks in our house and this year is no exception. Several of Marilyn's friends have been over, and today I entertained Bunny, Marion French, Mrs. French, Mrs. Millard, Elsie Greene & Mrs. Hopps. Marilyn made delicious cream puffs. Tonight the tree and Santa Claus on the mantel are lighted for the last time and tomorrow we put them away for another year. Perhaps you will share them with us next year! If I have sent you books which you find you do not have time to read but want to keep for your library why not send them home sometime when you are in a port? You will know that Santa Claus had surprises for you in his bag. My pocket book will be a constant reminder of a son's thoughtfulness. I'm sure you will make good with all this extra work which has descended on your shoulders because of Lt. [indecipherable]'s absence in the hospital but hate to think of your load being so heavy. Yes I will convey your thanks to the relations for various Christmas gifts. A. Hazel writes that she has ordered more films for something she gave you last year & when they come she will send them to you. Love - Mother [Transcription ends]