

[Transcription begins]

[Handwritten on a Christmas card with printed message]:
“With all good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.”

December 9, 1943

Dear Douglas - Today I know your thoughts will turn towards home no matter where you may be nor how busy. And you can be sure that your name is on our lips very often.

Even altho I am writing this two weeks before Christmas I can tell you that we have a tree about the usual size, set in the same spot and with the old familiar ornaments. There seem to be as many presents as ever for we have all been buying small gifts for each other, particularly for Daryl. And most intriguing are the ones in brown wrapping paper, marked from San Francisco stores. Your suggestion that I re-wrap them in Christmas colors did not appeal to us at all, for this is the first time we have had packages from a son away in the service--last year it was the crate of oranges which arrived just at the psychological moment.

We are back to days of yore, for a small pink sock hung in front of the fireplace!

I can't tell you at this moment whether Bill is with us, but the chances for that are rather slim.

Chip as usual is worrying his new rubber mouse (already the whistle has slipped inside and it no longer squeaks). I was fore-sighted enough to buy two last year and put one away for this Christmas.

Bing will have a drowsy day, for the catnip which has been stored in our bedroom closet is most potent.

We saw to it that Dad has a picture puzzle and that is half done on a card table in front of the dining room window. We will have to move it when the time comes for setting the table for dinner (turkey, I'm sure).

I hope you have opened our packages and that you will sense in each one the love we have for you and the faith and confidence we have that the future holds many happy Christmases where we can all be together.

Our dearest love to you, all wishes for a very pleasant Christmas.

Lovingly,
Mother [Transcription ends]