

13 DECEMBER 1945

DEAR DAD,

BY THE STRENGTH OF THE WIND AND THE TYPE OF DAY THIS IS IT SEEMS LIKE SPRING IN COLOBADO- I WISH IT WAS. IT HAS REALLY BEEN FINE SLEEPING WEATHER THE PAST FEW NIGHTS. ABOUT THE TIME I GO TO BED I CAN SEE THE NEW MOON LOW ON THE WESTERN HORIZON, AND THE PATH IT MAKES ACROSS THE WATER IS BEAUTIFUL.

I'M SORRY FOR THAT LETTER OF SUNDAY, GUESS I WAS FEELING RATHER LOW. THE SERVICE HAS TAUGHT ME A GREAT DEAL ABOUT BEING PATIENT, BUT SOME TIMES A PERSON LETS HIS GUARD DOWN.

THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF THOUGHTS RUNNING THRU MY MIND ABOUT SOME THING I COULD GET MOTHER AND THE FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS. I HAVE DECIDED TO WAIT UNTIL I COME HOME FOR IT IS HARD TO GET OR THINK OF SOMETHING WHILE HERE. BUT I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD GET A FLOWER-CORSAGE, OR SOME THING LIKE THAT FOR HER, AND PUT IT AS FROM ALL US BOYS. ALSO WOULD YOU SEND A FLOWER TO VANICE- SHE SHOULD BE HOME NOW- THANKS A LOT DAD.

I HAD AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE THE OTHER DAY IN TALKING WITH ONE OF THE NATIVES HERE. HE WAS AT THE BEACH FISHING AND I HAPPENED TO BE DOWN, SO WE STARTED TALKING. BEFORE THE LAST WAR THE GERMANS CONTROLLED THIS ISLAND AND HE SPOKE GERMAN AS WELL AS SPANISH AND JAPANESE. THESE PEOPLE OUT HERE KNOW A SENSE OF PATIENCE THAT OUR CIVILIZATION HAS SEEMED TO HAVE LOST IN ITS RUSH. THE NET HE USED WAS ROUND WITH LEAD WEIGHTS AROUND THE EDGE, AND STRANGELY ENOUGH IT WAS CONSTRUCTED OUT OF HUMAN HAIR. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD HAD IT FOR TEN YEARS, AND IT HAD BEEN USED BEFORE THAT. HE WOULD WALK ALONG THE BEACH WATCHING THE WATER UNTIL HE SAW A SCHOOL OF FISH AND THEN HE WOULD THROW THE NET OVER THEM. I COULDN'T EVEN SEE THE FISH IN THE WATER UNTIL THEY WERE IN THE NET AND THRASHING AROUND TRYING TO GET OUT. I WISH THAT IT WERE POSSIBLE TO TALK WITH MORE

THEM BUT THE M.P.'S KEEP THEM PRETTY WELL GUARDED .

AM ENCLOSING TEN DOLLARS FOR THE FLOWERS, I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE ENOUGH. I HAVE ABOUT ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO SEND TO YOU, BUT I HAVE BEEN WAITING IN CASE WE HEAR ANY THING SOON. BYE FOR NOW-