

Christmas Sunday -

23 December 1945

Dearest Folks,

This has been a very good Christmas Sunday here on Saigay. The weather has been nice - a lot of sun and enough breeze and clouds so that the temperature hasn't been too high. But the thing that has made this a wonderful Sunday has been the feeling of the Christmas spirit being very near, and in that feeling all your loved ones have been so close. Deep inside there is a feeling of happiness and content of good will and being thankful for being alive and well. Being out here has taught me a great deal and patience and seeing how in the out of way places have been among the boys who have not even had a letter in all

all afternoon the local radio station has been playing Christmas music, and from 4:30 until about 5:00 PM they broadcast the "Madrisk" (M) as it was presented at the naval base chapel. It was very good, and listening to it brought memories of church at home and also thoughts of this day there at church where

subject contained

you will have the Holmquist course at both the morning and evening services.

The service at the new west side chapel this morning was very good. On the platform they had two of the local evergreen trees, decorated with tinsel and artificial snow. Strangely enough the tin foil which they used for tinsel is really "window". Fine strips of foil which were dropped on Japan to "jam" their radar in the bombing raids. Would you call it "Resurrection?" Around the building behind the altar they had several bouquets of the evergreen and it looked nice. The sermons self were also very good. They had a choice (nearly only at the second service) which sang "Silent Night"; and also a quartet from the loose band who played a melody of songs. The sermon that the chaplain gave was a good one, although it wasn't entirely fitting for this Sunday. It certainly felt good to stand and sing several carols. "Hark!" wished it would have been in at the church, sitting my woman, Barbara and Richard and also with the same and Sally and to Bob. The feeling of being

near to you, and it was good.

The past week has been one of beautiful moon light nights (oh me!) and lovely sunsets. The coloring in the west has been almost unusual in its loveliness, and I can't remember when I have seen so many sunsets so consistently. During the early part of the week it was rather drizzly, but we have had rains since Wednesday and they have helped a lot. Ha - been true they publish a letter about the "dry season" coming to Saipan. It seems as if we have a minor flood - Ha, but it was the same last year, but the navy is cautious in its policy anyway, so maybe that is the reason.

On Wednesday I drew up some plans for the "Super Row boat", and that afternoon Sam and I started building it. The construction is very similar to the small boat that Whaley has, with the ribs about 1 foot apart, and is made of 2" by 2" lumber. We are taking our time and doing a fairly good job, so it should be a pretty substantial boat. We are going to use plywood for the bottom and sides, and cutting 2 by 4" down from our ribs and

other pieces. Our main worry is obtaining outerwear
for it - perhaps we can get some from the Navy.
Building the boat is good for it gives us some thing
to do in our spare time and I love designing & liked
working with wood any way. I'll try and get
some photos of it so that you may see it.

We have been following the news of the "cold
war" in the states, wondering if the folks at
home would have a "white Christmas," but

Thoughts of all your and plans for the future
- but ever in my mind and heart. I am thankful
for what you are, and for those who look that think
us together.

It is good that Janice was able to be there
for the holidays & hope she was with you, perhaps
today for dinner, and that you had some time together.
Our love continues to grow and we are thankful that
the time when we can start our lives together
"growing" closer each day. No more work other
is a good night for you and pray that this has been
a good night for you and Merry Christmas!
with love and affection as always
Jim