

Friday  
December 14th.

My Darling Wife —

The Christmas season is here, and Christians all over the world are reading again the Christmas story - of Mary and the manger - the three Wise Men - the birth of our Lord. At home there are Christmas decorations - signs of Christmas on every hand - but over here, too, where there are no decorations, you will find the Christmas spirit - it is in every man's heart. You and I have been fortunate - for although I was in the Army - and you were at the hospital in Philly - we have had all of our Christmases together - if not the day, we've been together during the Christmas week. Now, too, we have so many things to be thankful for, because now the war is over and, looking forward to next Christmas, we know that we will be together - that Our Day will have been here and all of these days apart will have been put behind us. That thought alone - without looking any further - will make this Christmas a merry one for us. Being apart on Christmas is especially hard - but we will continue to do as we have - looking at our future, for we know it is not just a dream never to come true - we know that in just a little while we will be together as we want to be - without the rush and uncertainty that was always with us when the Army had to be included in our life.

On Christmas eve this year I am going to read the Christmas story - doing it with you because I know that, at home, you are reading it, too. And then we will have our Christmas - I've saved your package - and while I'm opening these presents and enjoying them, my thoughts and dreams will take me back to the Christmas seasons we have had together - and ahead, to those in our future - Did you stop there, too, as I did, and dream? Our first Christmas was spent with the Gfendenning's - and it was that Christmestime that I met Sidney and Jo. Last year we had Christmas with Mother & Dad - and while we were celebrating Christmas neither of us knew what the next few weeks held for us - that in less than two months I'd be your hubby and you'd be my wife. This Christmas we know it is going to happen this year - but we can't look into the future and give Our Day a date - but just as last year held our wedding - this year holds the day we've been waiting for for so long - Our Day - when we be together forever - living our life as we want it to be.

Somewhere I heard the expression - Christmas is for the young folks and the old folks - Christmas is for everybody - but to the young children and to their parents it has another meaning - for they are the only ones who really know Santa Claus. We'll never forget the days when we were little and Santa Claus - to us - was just as real as the Easter Bunny, Jack Frost and the Sandman. No matter how much we boasted that "we really knew" after we had discovered that Santa was really Dad and Mother - the spell that Christmas wove was somehow broken. The years that followed there was no Santa Claus to look forward to - it was just an exchange of presents. But for



us - in a few years Christmas will have a new meaning - one that we can now only dream of - but never really know till we are Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus - We will know a new Christmas when first there is a tiny stocking hung beside ours on the fireplace - when on Christmas morning we can see the happiness Santa brings. But with all of its tinsel and decorations, Christmas is a day of prayer -; Christ was born - The birth of the Christian religion - it is the birth of all we believe and all we live by. Glory to God on high - and on earth, peace, good-will toward men. Gifts, decorations - they are much of the Christmas spirit, and the signs of peace and good-will on earth.

Next Christmas eve we will be sitting in front of our fireplace - our stockings hung side by side. We will have a tree - we will have a tree every year - Christmas trees are so much a part of Christmas. Just as I always like to take a reconnaissance trip before we do anything, so we've had ours for Christmas in our home - we've decorated Christmas trees together - and instead of decorating hospital dining rooms - our decorating will be done in our home! We will always have a yard - and I hope that soon I will have a partner (partners) to share my trains with - and while Jerry, Jr. and I are solving railroading problems - you and little Ruth will dress the dolls for their tea party. When refreshments are served the engineers will come home to dinner!

Soon after Christmas comes the New Year - and, Darling, it holds so many grand things for us - the beginning of our real life together and the end of these days apart. When I think of the New Year I think of it as the bright shining sun just below the horizon on the morning of a grand new day - the storms have passed and soon the day will be filled with sunshine - just so will these days pass - and our life will be filled with that extra happiness that is ours only when we're really together.

I wish this chat could be delivered to you just before Christmas - for it is my Christmas card and Christmas letter for the Christmas season. This is the first Christmas that we have been apart - but it is a merry one nevertheless because we can look ahead to next Christmas - knowing that we will be together -

So in this chat I'm sending my Christmas greetings and all my love - and I know we will both have a Merry Christmas because we will be dreaming of the ones we'll have together - knowing that next year we will be together -

God Bless You, Darling -

Jerry OX