

Robert L. Stone to Jacob Stone and Beatrice Stone

Marianas Islands, 31 December 1944.

Autograph letter signed, 3 pages.

[Draft Created by Crowdsourcing]

The Marianas

December 31st, 1944

Dear Dad & Bee —

Well here's your Pacific correspondent back at it again to bring you up to date on the latest from out this way. Christmas and now New Years Eve is going by the boards and we're about to launch on a new year, which I hope and pray will bring us all together again and put an end to this damn war. Out here among the palm trees holidays don't mean much and so our New Years celebration [*inserted: merely*] consisted of a few [*struck: fa*] warm beers and some native coconut whiskeys, which is dynamite! I hope you had a pleasant visit at Williamstown over the 24th and that your Christmas [*inserted: was*] as much of a festive occasion as possible under the circumstances. Did you stay up there for New years too?

To start off 1945 I have fifteen raids to my credit and our slogan is twenty-five in forty-five! It will be a long haul to complete twenty-five more missions, but as time passes the missions add up. Recently we ran into some fairly tough opposition and had a couple of close calls — a wing and a prayer really hits it on the head, but as long as you make it back that's all that matters.

[2]

To answer a couple of your questions, Dad — Up until our ninth mission [*strikeout: s*] we flew a different ship each time. Since then, we were assigned a ship that belonged to a crew that finished up its missions and went home. They had the name Flying Jenny painted on and so we had to leave it. The name is quite appropriate because it's a fairly old jalopy but somehow it seems to get us there and back.

Barry was down here a few days ago waiting for me when I got back from a mission. We had dinner here and I drove him back to his camp. He's fine as ever and seems enthusiastic about his new work. When we get together again I'll try to have a picture taken of us to send you. It's kinda hard though because you're not allowed to have cameras or take any pictures on the island, but I'll see if I can arrange something.

Say Dad, I want to thank you for the various clippings you've sent me. Please continue to send any clippings of the 7th AAF because its fun to see what they write about the work we're doing. Thanks also for passing on the mail from the various boys as they come to you. You're a regular clearing house!

[3]

Still the packages Bee sent to APO 153 has not arrived but there's still a chance that it may come through. It's such a shame because you mailed it so very early. I did receive the box from Robert Day Dean's and the box of cookies from 375, both of which I thanked 700 for long ago. Of course, they were mailed to APO 241 and got through alright.

Many thanks for all your various letters which help to make life more bearable out here. You'd be surprised what a lift it is to come back [*inserted*: from a raid] cold, hungry, and possibly a bit banged up, and dead tired and have a few letters from your family, friends, and loved ones waiting for you. It really makes a difference.

Must run now to go get our ship loaded up. A very, very happy new year to you all.

Best love —

Bobby