

Robert L. Stone to Mildred Hilson and Edwin Hilson

10 January 1945.

Autograph letter signed, 2 pages.

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The Marianas
January 10th, 1945

Dear Mildred + Eddie

Due to my changes of address, it took until today for the Pony Express to catch up to me with your Christmas present. Many thanks for the assortment of eats, which I can assure you will all be hungrily devoured. Our food situation still doesn't compare to the meals at the Waldorf, and so a few canned treats certainly hit the spot. As always, your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

I trust that the family have kept you fairly up to date on my recent doings. Life goes on about the same as always. Christmas and New Year came and went the same as any other day, except for a turkey dinner. Out here, one day is the same as the next and holidays don't mean very much.

At present, we now have seventeen missions to our credit with a mere twenty-three yet to fly. It's a long, hard pull and will take alot of good luck for us to finish up all our raids. Lately the missions have come fairly regularly, and we've put in alot of flying time. Frankly the sooner we complete our missions the better I'll like it ----- this business of combat flying isn't my idea of a very practical career!

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Before too long our crew ought to be going back on rest leave to Honolulu. After about three months of combat flying they send you back for a ten day rest leave. It will be a real treat to enjoy a few good meals and live like a human being again for awhile ----- I doubt if I'll know how to act!

I certainly hope that you had as merry a Christmas as possible and will have a very happy new year. Let's hope that is a year in which we will all return home again.

My very best to both of you and to John and Mary.

Fondly ----

Bobby

P.S. Many thanks for the exceptionally vivid (or should I say lurid) Christmas card!
