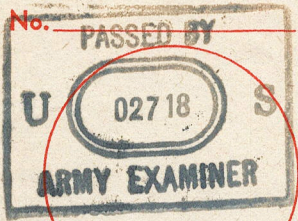


Print the complete address in plain block letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided. Use typewriter, dark ink, or pencil. Write plainly. Very small writing is not suitable.



NBB

(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To Mr F E Hertha
28 Heathdale Rd
Toronto 10 Ont
Canada

From

Pat Wm H Hertha 16 17741A
(Sender's name)

Med Det 5th Cav APO 201
(Sender's address)

2 PM San Francisco Calif

Monday Dec 25, 1944
(Date)

Letter # 32

Christmas Day in the Philippines AD 1944.

Yesterday we received PX supplies (chocolate bars, gum drops, cookies, gum etc), and 6 bottles of beer. We spent Christmas Eve playing Hearts (which is a very enjoyable card game). At 9:00 pm the black-out was enforced. There was nothing else to do except go to bed.

On Sunday we went to church. Maybe the sermon was poor, somehow or other the whole thing didn't make sense. War and religion do not mix. The sound of mortar fire broke the illusion and I remembered that we were soldiers. Then we sang Holy Night, in my opinion the sweetest and simplest melody written for the celebration. It reminded me of the tragedy taking place on the other side of this world, - a struggle that is destroying Europe, for long the leader in art, music and culture, the cradle of western civilization.

The Prince of Peace was born. Yet 20 centuries later we find the human race still trying to destroy itself.

To-day is the 25th of December. Maybe I am pessimistic because it is raining in the Philippines. But there will never be another Christmas for me until this war is over and we are together again.

V...-MAIL

Bill

DO NOT
WRITE HERE

FOLD HERE

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WRITE HERE

V-Mail Service provides the most expeditious dispatch and reduces of mail to and from personnel of our Armed Forces outside the United States. When addressed to points where micro-film equipment, a miniature photographic negative of the message will be sent by the most expeditious transportation available for reproduction and delivery. The original message will be destroyed after the reproduction has been delivered. Messages addressed to or from points where micro-film equipment is not operated will be transmitted in their original form by the most expeditious means available.

INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) Write the entire message plainly on the other side within marginal lines.
- (2) PRINT the name and address in the two panels provided. Addresses to members of the Armed Forces should include rank or rating of the addressee, unit to which attached, and APO or Naval address.
- (3) Fold, seal, and deposit in any post-office letter drop or street letter box.
- (4) Enclosures must not be placed in this envelope and a separate V-Mail letter must be sent if you desire to write more than one sheet.
- (5) V-Mail letters may be sent free of postage by members of the Armed Forces. When sent by others, postage must be prepaid at domestic rates (3c ordinary mail, 6c if air mail is desired).

☆ GPO 16-28143-3

DO NOT
WRITE HERE

FOLD HERE

DO NOT
WRITE HERE

V... MAIL

Put over A Heath 6 1774A
 Med Det 8th Cav APO 29
 26 PM San Francisco Calif

Mrs F E Vertha
 28 Heathdale Rd
 Toronto 10 Ont
 Canada

