

Reminiscences  
of Xmas



UNITED STATES  
WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS

Wednesday  
22 Dec 43

Dear Mother, Dad & Kids:

Only 3 days to Christmas & I still can't muster up that old enthusiastic, gay feeling. Perhaps because I've completely lost sight of its spiritual meaning & am dwelling only on the fact that the scrapping, lovable Shieldses are scattered all over the map. To anyone else, the things your soldiers are going to miss would seem purely physical & insignificant — the smell of spices in the rooms all this week, the 11 o'clock battle over the bathroom on Christmas Eve, with each one of us finally getting martyred & saying "I won't go to Mass", a slight tussle over whether we go in the Leo or use Shank's place & we finally beat the

Chief kids piloting the Res., are of us in  
the 3rd floor in St. Pat's basement for High  
Mass, then to Tommy's where we sample  
his wine, his liquor, & Kelly's beer &  
Pop Shames Kate puts serving her par-  
cooked bird, home again about 3 AM  
& parcel out the hastily wrapped  
packages (the couch & the chairs for  
the girls, the bed under the tree on the  
fireplace), & bed about 4 and try to  
sleep through the rattle the kids start  
making at 5 when they tear the papers  
& boxes asunder, Mom up at 9 or 10  
& get the dinner going - the rest of  
us in bed till noon, Turkey & all  
the trimmings served in the midst  
of all the dirt & papers that no one  
would clear away, then waiting, patiently  
waiting, while the Chief painstakingly  
opens each gift & explains appropriately  
over it, then the horizontal Squad  
takes up its position fondling the

hope that visitors will not arrive to disturb their slumbers & that the fixies will straighten out the wires from back to front.

That's the way we'll be thinking of Christmas at home. Please don't change it. Regardless of the miles that separate us, we'll all be home for Christmas.

I've missed the mad rush to buy gifts this year & it leaves me feeling kinda empty. I like to make selections myself, but being flummoxed this time, I'm going to ask Ma & Pop to share this lovely money order. I hate to attach strings to it, but please don't buy fish & eggs with it, either of you. Frank will get nothing but a card sent next week, cause I can't get to town until Thursday & am just

hoping I can get a decent bracelet then.  
Lanny, J. & Betty I hope, will be patient  
& give me a few weeks breather.

Well, time is a' flying, so I'll close.

To all of you - the same happy  
Christmas we've always had. Remember,  
Midnite Mass is the one thing that will  
unite us. If you insist on dwelling  
on our absence, remember that you  
have 3 soldiers to look forward to  
for other Christmases; many families  
no longer have that.

My love & prayers,  
Dad.

8 Shields A703711  
Sec A6 - HQ Det Wac  
Mr. Ogletree  
Ga.

return from A.P. school



Free

SPECIAL DELIVERY

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