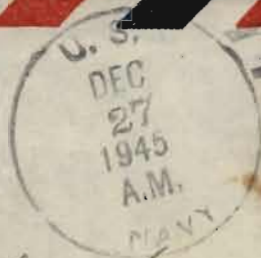


John J. Coombs
U.S. Post AKA-70
L. Division
U.S. Fleet Post Office
San Francisco Calif.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. J. Y. Smith
P. O. Box 151
Laurel, Mississippi

UNITED STATES NAVY

Dec. 25, 1945
U.S.S. Gab.

Dear Mother:

Guess you have already heard from Evelyn about me being in the States. Just seems like I never would find time to write and let you know.

I would have sent you a telegram but I know how telegrams always scared you half to death.

Mother, I'm very glad to tell you that you won't have to worry about me any more. I'm here for good this time. Even though I'm still on board ship I won't have to make another trip across for I'll be discharged in February.

UNITED STATES NAVY

(21)

Half the crew is on a twenty one
day leave now, and I was to get one
too but since I'm being dis charged
in February they canceled my leave.
I'm kind of glad they did, for I have I
go home again I want it to be for good.
I heard about James coming home soon,
so I guess he will get out about the same
time. It's almost to good to be true knowing
that I only have about thirty five more
days to serve in the Navy. The good
Lord has been very good to me, for which
I'm very thankful. It won't be long now
till we can go on some of those picnics
and hunting parties we have planned on
for so long. Evelyn wrote and told me
about being up with you and what

UNITED STATES NAVY

(31)

a grand time she had visiting with you. When James and I get home we will have a big family reunion. Today is Xmas and I'm sorry to say it seems just like any other day to me. I have been on board ship all day and the only way we know it's Christmas is by the big dinner we had and listening to the Christmas Carols over the radio. This makes two Christmases I missed away from my little sweet family but I hope it's the only two I'll ever miss. I didn't buy any Christmas for any one, but I'll make up for it next year. Don't try to send me anything, for I may get off the ship any day now and I would never get it then. I send you all my love and hugs and hope you had a very Merry Christmas. Ever.

(4)

Next Christmas we will really have a
merry one. Let me wish you a Very Happy
New Year for this year and all the rest.
No need for you to worry about your two
sons now, for we came through with
flying colors, thanks to the good Lord.
Keep your chin up and be happy, and I'll
be seeing you soon now. There are so
many service men here in Seattle it's
like a mad house but it should clear out
soon now. Thousands didn't get home for
Christmas but it couldn't be helped.
Tell Jack I said Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year. I'll write again soon,
but please don't worry about me further.
Saying good night and sweet dreams.

I love you with all my heart.

Your Ever Loving Baby Son
Tommy D. Harris. John.