

March 11, 1945

Dear Friends: -

— just a line to say "hello"
and to thank you for your much appreciated box and letter which I received just before getting under way from our last port.

It is nice to know that we of Boyard are not forgotten even tho many thousands of miles away from home. — especially during the holidays when we would be enjoying ourselves so much, otherwise.

— The candy was in very good condition, which is more than I can say for many of the packages that have arrived. To date we have only received about 10% of our Christmas mail — when we will get it, no

one knows. I believe that it is in height.

Since writing you my last letter we have been on our fourth major mission in the Pacific. - that being Luzon in the Philippines by way of Lingayen Gulf. A "reception committee" came out to greet us one day from our destination but they didn't deter us from our goal. With the ever present protection of the good Lord above we returned unscathed - both as to ship and personnel.

I like your news letter very much - keep sending it.

Again thanks - and regards

to all -

Benjamin C. Betman
P.C., USNR.

USS Storm King AP171
% F.P.O.

San Francisco, Calif.