

January 16, 1949

Dearest Mum & Olive
I'll tell you about our Christmas and
let May tell you about our trip to Slondi and
Bailundu which came right after.

We had a really wonderful Christmas the
only thing lacking - all our families and best
friends but we were with you in spirit and
prayer. The children were so sweet in their
pageant and we parents were so happy with them
that Xi and I just couldn't keep the tears out of our
eyes. And what do you know Tommie instead of
playing the strike played the triangle in
"Jingle Bells" and a drum in "Pop Goes the Weasel".
The drums were the real drums that are used in
all the kindergartens in America. Tommie got a book
about "ziggers, a puppy" and Henrie got a ball, I got a basket
tray such as they use here to carry their hymn book, psalm
book and New Testament to church. (We own our own here)
May got a carved wooden snake, a couple of flash light
batteries and a tube of cement. Then we came home put
the boys to bed and filled their stockings. We had a
tangerine, a package of gum, a chocolate bar, a couple
of elastic toys - a tractor in oil tins - to put in ^{with} them & a box
of colored pencils for Tommie & a box of wire cutters for Henrie.
Henrie was awake at 3:15 and came dashing into
our room, "Is this Christmas, Mummy?" We assured him
that it was. But as Tommie wasn't yet awake we persuaded
him to crawl into bed with us and wait until awhile
after twenty minutes Mummy & Daddy themselves couldn't
wait any longer so we awoke Tommie & all went
trooping into the living room. The boys were thrilled
with everything. They got more balls, books, a whistle and