

in particular gave excellent work against the Japanese.

The latest on my son is that he left Manila by Japanese boat for Japan on December 13th. I notice a report from Washington that a transport containing 1,600 of our boys was sunk by air attack off Northern Luzon on December 15th and that only half of the boys were able to get ashore. I am, of course, very deeply worried, because the chances are that this was my son's ship. He lost his two best army friends in a previous sinking by our submarines in a transport carrying prisoners of war which was sunk off Mindanao last September. We can hope and pray of course. At last reports he was physically and mentally excellent and his morale superior.

I have taken up the question of Mrs. Baldwin coming to Australia and am waiting action by the War Department on this. I hope she can come for it she doesn't I shall be inclined to come home myself in the next year.

I am 60 years old on the 12th and will be retired on the 31st for age. I have been advised that orders are already out placing me on active duty the next day and I am to remain on here as Military Attache, which is an excellent position, I think.

I had a little round at the hospital with a bursitis in my right shoulder. I will ask you the same question that I asked the head of the Australian Women's Air Force last evening. When I was 41, 18 years ago, this shoulder had an attack of bursitis and it took me six weeks to get out of the Walter-Reid hospital. This time I went to the Heidelberg, an Australian hospital here, and I was out for good in 25 days. The question is, am I getting younger? The lady advised me in reply, that I was getting more intelligent, which is the correct answer. Previously I wouldn't go to a hospital until compelled, this time I went at once when I realized what was coming. Except for this my physical condition is excellent and I feel quite young indeed.

I hope we are going to have you visit us in California after I have settled there. I'm not absolutely sure that we will stay there. I think we will, but I am likely to be a bit restless for the first little while and perhaps hard to suit. I always did like Lawrence immensely.

Give my very best wishes to Gertrude and all my friends.

We are doing wonderful work in the Philippine Islands and I am extremely proud of our people, the part that they carried on.

Yours faithfully,

Col. Baldwin