

BUONO NATALE

FROHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN

Feliz Natal

KALA CHRISTUGINA

Sheng  
Dan Jien

Merry Christmas

Shuku  
Kotansa

Schastlivogo Rojdestva

Felices Pascuas

WESOLYCH SWIAT  
BOZEGO NARODZENIA

## Greetings

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AUL POLEY, JR.  
Captain, USN  
Commanding

## Night Before Christmas

(Bennington Version)

By Paul Lazzaro, J02

(With assists by M. Soprano, YN3,  
and Marc Whetstone, SA)

T was the night before Christmas, when all through the ship  
Not a swab was a' stirring, not a faucet did drip.  
The stockings were hung in the heads with care  
In hopes they'd dry before morning was there.  
The men were tangled all up in their beds  
While visions of Yokosuka danced in their heads.  
The Captain in his nightshirt and the Escoc in his too,  
Had just left the Bridge as the chronometer struck two.  
When out on the flight deck, the watches did scurry  
To avoid the landing of an FJ-2 Fury.  
Away up the ladders and through the hatches I tore,  
Then I cracked my shins on a watertight door.  
When, what to my bloodshot eyes should appear,  
But a hot red pilot rigged in strange looking gear.  
And then, in a jet blast, I heard on the deck,  
The bellowing roar of that airdale wreck.  
He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his boots,  
It looked like he was wearing one of those Hong Kong suits.  
Six cases of beer, he had flung on his back,  
I knew at a glance it was the famous Schlitz six-pack.  
His eyes - how they twinkled! His smile was so weird.  
And I wondered if he had permission to grow that beard.  
He had a cigarette dangling from his mouth,  
He didn't care if the smoking lamp was out.  
He was chubby and plump, he looked naughty as sin,  
But, I had to laugh, in spite of my shin.  
He spoke not a word, but went right to his work.  
And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk.  
What he put in each one, I could hardly believe,  
Late sleeper's chits plus thirty days leave.  
A year's supply of P.O.D.'s,  
Which granted nothing but early liberties.  
Then, pulling the life ring of his 'Wae West',  
He said he'd give the 'cats' a test.  
With a shout of 'launch aircraft', he jumped to his jet  
And took off, for where, I know not yet.  
But I heard him exclaim, before he zoomed out of sight,  
'Happy Christmas, Big Ben, and to all a good night.'

## Admiral's Greetings

On Christmas day, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-five years ago we were promised there would be on earth peace, good will toward men. We, the officers and men of Task Force 77 are doing our part in these Pacific Eastern waters to further the keeping of that peace on earth. Throughout the remainder of your assignment in Task Force 77 you can take pride in the maintenance of a vigil which will hasten the day when we can all spend our holidays at home in a truly Christian era of peace on earth and good will toward men.

To all of you who have served so faithfully during my command of Task Force 77 I extend my sincere wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a joyous and prosperous New Year.

T. B. WILLIAMSON  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

