

Holiday Note, Chief to Staff (December 1945)

*John Q. Barrett**

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In December 1945, Justice Robert H. Jackson carefully wrote a note by hand. It was somehow copied many times in color on official, printed letterhead stationery. Each “blue ink” copy thus looked something like a handwritten original. Shortly before Christmas, a copy was distributed to each member of his staff.

The letterhead is a seal that depicts a hand holding the scales of justice, encircled by the words “International Military Trials Nürnberg.” Beneath the seal is the name of the office, “OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL,” and its mailing address, “APO 403 U.S. Army.”

The letter, which is attached at the end of this file, is short, clear and, in Jackson’s way, not fancy or perfectly punctuated but heartfelt:

To all members of the Staff

I want every member of the staff to know how deeply I appreciate the diligent, loyal and intelligent work that has been done under great difficulty in preparing and presenting our case.

* Professor of Law, St. John’s University School of Law, New York City, and Elizabeth S. Lenna Fellow, Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, New York (www.roberthjackson.org). An earlier version of this essay was posted to my Jackson Email List on December 23, 2010.

For an archive of selected Jackson List posts, many of which have document images attached, visit www.stjohns.edu/academics/graduate/law/faculty/profiles/Barrett/JacksonList.sju.

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HOLIDAY NOTE, CHIEF TO STAFF (DECEMBER 1945)

I hope all may enjoy a well
earned respite and wish to each
a Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year.

Robert H Jackson



OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
APO 403 U.S. Army

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