



4724

H. M. I. M. S. "Clive".

off Virginia

25/12/59

My dear Mother

Here we are steaming  
along the west coast of India &  
due tomorrow in Bombay. We  
have had an uneventful trip as  
yet - we left Toulon in 2 trains  
on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> & arrived  
at Rangoon at day break ~~of~~ on the 17<sup>th</sup>;  
were met by 2 regiments bands at  
the station & marched straight to the

Sway, where the baggage arrived shortly  
after us; as soon as ever we had loaded  
everything we moved off & early  
came to grief to start with, as the  
steam steering apparatus was out of  
order & nobody found it out until  
we were on the point of colliding with  
a small steamer. However, eventually  
we got away all right & had very  
fine weather until we got round  
Ceylon; then it blew pretty hard for  
a day - as they say it always does  
just there - & a good many people  
succumbed to the action of the ocean.  
I fortunately am a pretty good sailor  
& was able to face my weeks with

pleasure.

We have 3 officers of native regiments  
on board, but except them only ourselves  
- 14 officers & about 680 men. One  
poor man, who had been very sick in  
Burma ever since he got back from the  
Ponkan when he died just after we  
reached Rangoon - very hard times.

Today is Xmas day - so I wish  
with you all the compliments of  
the season. I don't feel very  
festive myself, as my beloved  
little dachshund "Smike" fell  
overboard early this morning &  
was drowned; I didn't hear  
anything about it for some

883

hours afterwards.

We get to Bombay tomorrow,  
Thursday, & tranship into the  
Mataban the next day, sailing  
again on Saturday. If Ralph  
is here I shall find him on the  
look out no doubt, & if anything  
further turns up before the mail  
goes I will add it on Friday.

Love to all

Your affectionate son

Richard Stanhope

Bombay 27.12.59.

I found Ralph here all right, stopping with the  
Bisetti. He has grown yards! Ethel & Bessie are  
coming home in the Mataban with us. I saw her  
this morning - She is truly lovely now. I love Rys.