(Transcription begins)

British War Relief Society, Inc.

Rhode Island Committee

38 Exchange Place – PROVIDENCE

Tel. GA. 2176

Monday, June 14, 1943

Dear Douglas:

Of course we are all walking on air since receiving your last letter. It seems too good to be true but why are you only having two days? Your letter says "July 2nd and 3rd" Could it be that you meant to write "July 2nd or 3rd?" A Captain in the Marines told me that you should be entitled to travelling time besides your furlough days—have you asked for them? But whatever the situation, let us know if you can when to expect you for I shall not go down to the shop while you are home and want to give them as much notice as possible. Of course we can feed you—we are not going short on food it is only that we cannot get just what we want when we want but there are always plenty of substitutes. Let me know if your mouth waters for anything particular and we will try to get it.

You certainly have had the breaks so far on assignments! Can you tell the name of your ship? It is very possible that it is being built at the yard where Donald Kern is working and if so, I might be interested to go up to Boston when it is launched for he could probably get us passes.

Another question comes into my mind—what are you doing now? Is your course all over—are any of your crew with you and are you perhaps starting on their training?

Bill was able to be home again this weekend. His course finishes next week and he thinks he is all set to start in the Academy on July 8th, but as you know nothing is certain in this life but death and taxes and he is keeping his fingers crossed for he is afraid he will be assigned somewhere between the time of finishing at Provincetown and July 8th.

Just let us know if you have any particular desires to be fulfilled while at home, food, places to go, or people to see ad we will do everything we can to gratify them. Of course you know that absolutely all pleasure driving is out so we have to depend of (*sic*) shank's mare[1] or the trolleys and busses to get places but we can meet you at the station or airfield so let us know.

Lovingly & impatient,
Mother (Transcription ends)

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[1] **Shank's Mare**—Taking "Shank's mare" is a humorous figure of speech for walking. "Shank's mare" and its variant "Shank's pony" are more common in Britain than the U.S.