[Transcription begins]

#19 Monday, January 24, 1944

Dear Douglas:

I have just had a permanent and my hair is cut very short, comfortable but chilly in the back of the neck! Your last letter dated Jan. 14 and received Jan. 20 speaks of a meeting with Austin Aker, so I called Mrs. Aker and she was so pleased for she hadn't had a word from him since Dec. 15. If and when he comes home I hope he will call us and tell us how you look, etc. Mrs. Brown has just telephoned me and says that Charles expects to be home the first two weeks in February (just a year that he has been away) Roger is quite content with his present assignment, an eight hour work day and very congenial officers with whom to chat during a long evening and Sundays, for there is little other recreation and they are a long way with poor transportation facilities to the nearest large city.

Daryl has definitely put aside the bottle, and is taking all her milk from your old silver mug. She wears overalls and is pulling herself along the edge of her play pen. Every day when the temperature is not lower than 20 she sleeps out for two or three hours and her cheeks are like two roses. (I have a vague feeling that I wrote that sentence to you before!)

We went to see the Student Prince but I must admit that I enjoyed a previous performance much more. In the first place, the Prince was fair, fat, and obviously forty but his voice was glorious and after the fir [sic] I closed my eyes for his solos, and thoroughly enjoyed each one. Dr. Engel was splendid, voice, appearance, and acting and the rest of the cast were adequate. I looked forward eagerly to the Journal write-up and thoroughly agreed with it, particularly when they criticised [sic] calling one of the lackeys a "4-F" and the poking of Lutz in his protuding [sic] belly with the comment "the 2nd front." Why producers think they must gild the lily is beyond me. But still, I am glad that I went and I know Marilyn is. Gilbert and Sullivan is on the way with the Mikado and Pirates. I had hoped for the Gondoliers as I have never seen it. The screen version of the Mikado with Kenny Baker was so very fine, that somehow I think I would rather keep that in my memory, so I guess it will be Pirates.

Saturday night was another bean supper. We had invited the Hylands, Fishers, Buffums and on Saturday afternoon Mrs. Hard called up saying that

she and Mr. Hard were to be alone and couldn't we come over to supper, I did some rapid mental counting of silver, number of beans in the pot, etc. and then invited them to join us, which they did and it made the evening just that much livelier. Ta-bowl was enjoyed the first part of the evening and then hearts around the dining room table, the laughter and noise was more or less terrific but Daryl didn't open her eyes, but still, if you just turn the handle of her door, she is awake in an instant--it's a queer thing!

Don't ever worry about your letters not being interesting, just the fact that they are news from you, makes them immensely important and they are the first thing that I look for when I come into the house at night. We know how limited you are in what you can write but we still like to hear about the daily things in your life such as food, clothing, something about the men with whom you are associated so that we may form a mental picture of your comrades, news of the various boys with whom you correspond. Mrs. Buffum has heard from Tommie and rather suspects that he is in England.

Richard Whipple is to go into the hospital as soon as a bed is free, to have a piece of bone taken from his leg and grafted onto his arm which has not healed since a year ago Armistice day.

We are all well and thinking of your [sic] constantly.

Love from us all
Mother

Larry is being sent to West Virginia as an MP. [Transcription ends]