[Transcription begins]

#20 1-31-1944 Monday morning

Dear Douglas:

Grandma, Dad and I went to church yesterday and whom should we see but the Aker boy who had visited with you on January 14th. He had very little information for us about you, in fact nothing more that [sic] we already knew but it was something to know that he had seen and talked with you so recently. He is home for a thirty day furlough. Dad was disappointed because he was so uncommunicative but I realize that there was really nothing to say.

I have just given the postman a letter for you from Marilyn so I think she must have written you all the family news and this week there seems to be little of that. The weather has been unusually warm so that Daryl has slept out every day but today the temperature has dropped quite sharply to 12 above but still no snow which is marvelous for we city dwellers.

Trudy Kraus is in the Osteopathic Hospital for observation for appendicitis. Dick Whipple goes in this week to the R. I. For his arm repair.

The BWRS [British War Relief Society, Inc.] is moving around the corner on Exchange Street and I step out of the picture the first of April! We are more or less under the jurisdiction of the United War Fund and their policy is less rent and every worker a volunteer. I intend to stay home for a few weeks and then get back into something. I don't want to stay home until the war is over and yet I want to get into something where I can feel that I am accomplishing something worthwhile. In the meantime I am very busy getting ready to move the shop and get all the records in shape for Mrs. Smith to take over. She is quite distressed at the thought but we have to bow to the powers that be.

I feel very guilty because I have not sent you any packages. Can't you give me some idea what you would enjoy, what the other fellows receive, what arrives in good condition, etc.

We broke our first record on the automatic change last night--one of the overtures from the Merry Wives of Winsor [sic]--and Dad will go in today and see if he can replace [it]. I don't know how it happened for while they

occasionally get stuck, we have always been able before to right them. Saturday we played through all the Gilbert and Sullivan albums. Which brings the thought that on February 10th Dad, Marilyn and I are going to hear [H.M.S.] Pinafore and Trial By Jury. The other choice is Mikado and I enjoyed the picture version with Kenny Baker so much that for a time I prefer to keep that memory unsullied by another, just as I feel about the Brown presentation of "Patience." Not until you come home and go with us will I care to see that one again!

I hope your food continues to be good and plentiful, your bed clean and soft and your fellowship congenial. What more can a man ask! Anyhow, you know we are praying for the best for you.

Love from us all

Mother [Transcription ends]