

[Transcription begins]
British War Relief Society, Inc.
Rhode Island Committee
38 Exchange Place - PROVIDENCE
Tel. GA. 2176

October 18, 1943
#4 Monday

Dear Douglas:

Dad expects to send you your rubber stamp sometime today. We hope that by this time you have received your watch and any letters that you have missed.

Last evening Dad, Marilyn and I were having cocoa and baked apples on the card table and listening to Jack Benny when who should drop [in] just for a few minutes but Norman Holmes. He was passing through on his way back from some trip trying to get lumber. He spends many days in New Hampshire and Vermont buying because there just isn't the labor in Carver to cut their own. They are very busy at the mill but are much worried about getting enough wood--have enough for about another two months but don't know where to turn next. The family down there are all well except that Jesse is quite gloomy--you know him when he is blue!

Your old teacher Miss Caulfield also telephoned last night just checking up on the many girls and boys that she had taught and wanted to be remembered to you. She is married now and has three children.

Friday night Marilyn and I went downtown to the movies to see "Lost Horizon" and "It Happened One Night." The latter I had seen before but it is always good for plenty of laughs. We had to come home in a terrific downpour and were pretty well soaked but we didn't mind that. Mr. Dick came over and played Gin Rummy with Dad and Daryl didn't peep once. This week Dad and I hope to go to see a movie with Monty Woolley and Gracie Fields. You know she is the British comedienne who played a benefit in Providence for the BWRS and whom I met in the shop so I want to see her work on the screen.

Yesterday Mr. Tomlin read an excerpt from one of Tommie's letters and commented most highly on the said young man. I have just seen the latest issue of the Odyssey and know you will enjoy this on particularly.

Saturday was unseasonably warm and hurricanes were mentioned more than once in the news. But this morning's paper says that the storm has gone out to sea although the winds were very heavy over Cape Cod last night. I have a hunch that you may have experienced more rough weather on the present voyage. How about it?

By the way, Norman told us that Jack Tobin is skipper of some landing operation ship across and that he is a proud papa. Do you correspond with him at all?

Glad that you liked the picture enclosed in my letters. They were all taken the same day by Herbert Henrikson and as long as they last I will enclose one in each letter. We think they are excellent and have had several enlargements made and altogether ordered more than a hundred between the Schmids and the Leaches.

Speaking of pictures, you say that you don't remember Betty Heddleton, Dick Whipple's girl. In the picture in the coming Odyssey she is the blonde in the front row with the clear-cut profile.

Marilyn is sleeping upstairs because Daryl wakes so early and talks, keeping Marilyn awake. This is just duck soup to Bing who goes up with her every night!

Tell me of any books that you get a chance to read and your comments for it may give me an idea of some to get out of the library for Dad and me, although just at present it is all I can do to keep up with the magazines. I am trying to get the house cleaned gradually and Saturday Mrs. Webber and I did the living room and dining room putting up the winter drapes. The couch is away having the cane back repaired.

The enclosed from the gravure section of the Providence Journal will interest you. Mrs. Jones is saving her copy for me to put with your memos, for while it is not a picture of the Elden, still it is the best picture I have seen of the DEs. Yesterday I put away your first group of letters, postcards and

newspaper clippings, up to the one of the drawing of a man made broad by travel. Reading them through again in order sometime in the future will give a pretty good story of your career so far. The Buffums called Saturday night and Tom remarked that he wouldn't be at all surprised if both you and Tommie stayed in the service by choice after the war. I told him that I would be tremendously surprised.

As I re-read my own letters before putting them in the envelope I wonder if I have written about things which interest you. I'm no glamour girl you know and lead rather a humdrum existence, so I do the best I can!

Much love to you and my prayers are with you always,

Mother

[Transcription ends]