[Transcription begins]

British War Relief Society, Inc.

Rhode Island Committee

38 Exchange Place - PROVIDENCE

Tel. GA. 2176

#5
Monday morning
October 25, 1943

Dear Douglas:

The bells of the First Baptist Meeting House are pealing out and I know the procession is winding down the hill in traditional style. Of course their sound will always bring to my mind your graduation and everything which went with it. I am enclosing Mr. Wriston's sermon which I thought you might like to read.

Last night the Millards called--what a mess I happened to be in. I am gradually trying to get the house cleaned and had taken all the dishes out of the kitchen closet so that the shelves might be repainted and I was just in the midst of washing them and putting them back. But we had a very pleasant evening and the dishes can sit merrily on the floor in the dining room until this evening. Larry has been in the hospital for a slight operation to remove a cyst at the base of his spine and thus lost the opportunity of getting overseas with his outfit. Now he has the chance to try for the air corps which he thinks he prefers. Marilyn had made a very delicious fudge cake so we had our usual cocoa and they went home about eleven.

Dad has just telephoned me that he has a letter at the shop and just as I hung up, the postman came in and handed me one! What a grand surprise and what a pleasant start for the day and week. Later he will bring his letter over here so I can answer it if there are any questions.

Yesterday Dad went to church and liked Dr. Abernathy very much. He will conduct our annual preaching mission for the next week. It is very often quite difficult for me to get out to church because of Daryl. Bing had slightly scratched Marilyn's hand but because she had been doing the baby's

washing every day, it had not closed so yesterday I did it for her and of course often Bill is home and I take the baby then. He is most fortunate with his leaves. He has recently had a twelve day one, and much to our surprise had a 48 hour one the next time his ship came in.

We started taking Mrs. Buffum again mornings in the machine. For a time she has been driving her own car. Clara also goes with us so we again have a machineful with Carol Hawes making the fifth passenger. Mrs. B has had a letter within a few days from Tommie, he was in port for a short stay and very busy.

Last week we packed and sent off your package, such a small one compared with what we would like to send you, but restrictions and your wants are such that we were much limited but the love that goes with it is great and we'll more than make it up the first Christmas we all have together again! What a day that will be!

Thursday night I went with Mrs. Dick to see "For Whom the Bells Toll [sic]." Had I known the tragedy of the film I would not have picked it but it was very worth while and the Grecian actress who took the part of "Pilar"[1] was marvelous and I keep thinking of her and her acting. I do hope that I see her in something else. Ingrid Bergman who takes the lead with Gary Cooper is very lovely and it is a fine picture. I have persuaded Dad and Marilyn to go to see "Arsenic and Old Lace" with Boris Karloff in person this week. I know they will enjoy it but I would rather spend my money on Gilbert and Sullivan next month.

Dad has just been over with your letter and we enjoyed every word of them and the enclosed cartoons. I have always wanted to sleep under the stars but anywhere around here the mosquitoes would interfere! Your description of the reporting of the time was interesting and well told. Sometime I do want you to try writing, not necessarily stories but incidents or articles, for you have a humorous viewpoint and way of expressing it which could carry you far, and your illustrations would just complete the picture!

How pleasant to be able to hear Victor Herbert occasionally. There must have been others among the crew who also appreciated that type [of music]

---

[1] **Katina Paxinou** starred as Pilar in "For Whom the Bell Tolls." She was the winner of an Oscar and a Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actress for that performance.

as well as the Captain!

Your food situation seems about perfect and I do hope that you are able to continue that way. Your mention of iced orange juice and sleeping out leads us to believe that you are where it is warm but beyond that, we have no idea where you are. Will you be permitted to send postcards when in port or after you have been away from one for several weeks, can you mention having touched there?

Have I written you that Leonard Whitcomb is in the Merchant Marine as steward's mate? On second thought, I think that I have not only written it but told you when you were home! Please forgive, it's easier than erasing!

Daryl's new maple high chair has arrived--very clever one for it can be tipped from the middle in such a way that it becomes a low chair with a table in front of it and she likes it best that way for she is nearer to Chip and Bing who intrigue her. She is a darling and has just formed the habit of occasionally screeching just like a parrot from sheer exuberance of spirits.

So far, we have received all your letters up to and including the 61st dated October 21st which is perfect. (written only four days ago.)

Much love from us all to a grand boy,
Mother
[Transcription ends]