[Transcription begins]

British War Relief Society, Inc.

Rhode Island Committee

38 Exchange Place - PROVIDENCE

Tel. GA. 2176

#8 Monday - 11-15-43

Dear Douglas:

We have enjoyed your many letters and have had fun trying to guess where you have been. Because you have not mentioned calling on the Vadenais we think that Los Angeles is out, you had the address of the Hards in San Francisco and you do not mention them, so that city is out, although perhaps you knew that they had left for the East before you could have arrived there. So we think now that perhaps you have visited San Diego and Roger Sr. who had supper with us Saturday night confirms our belief to the extent that he said that port was a probably [sic] one for a DE. Anyhow, we know that you are well and contented and we hope that situation continues for you.

We had a very pleasant time with the Hards Saturday night, the traditional baked beans and Marilyn made the Indian pudding. We played Bridge for the first time in many, many weeks. They have many very interesting incidents to tell of their trip across the continent--now he is awaiting orders which can be for anywhere. About ten o-clock we saw a machine stop in front of the house but noone [sic] came to the door so we forgot about it until a telephone call from Mr. Brown asking us if our cat was out. I said "no," thinking that perhaps they had a stray that they thought might be ours. He told us not to let him out for the Browns had been spearing frost fish by moonlight at the foot of Armington Street (the river end) and had left part of their catch on the back steps for our Sunday dinner! We left them there until the Hards had gone home, then when we opened the back door, there were six of them about nine inches long, placed in a row so that there [sic] eyes were all staring at whomever opened the door. Chip started out but cringed back when he faced their menacing glare! I cleaned them the next morning and they were delicious. Did you ever know of a family that had more fun together? Roger is back at Carlisle awaiting orders.

I think I wrote you that Tommie had telephoned from New York but that noone [sic] was at home to receive the message. He has since telephoned from Norfolk and hopes to get a 48 before departing for far distant shores. I rather think that it will be a while before you receive this letter for I think you must have left these waters.

I think you would be wise to open the box of cookies from the church and not try to keep them until Christmas but the things in our package and the one from Aunt Eleanor will not spoil. I wish that I had been as clever as Mrs. Buffum. She packed Tom's presents in a black sock before she put them in the box so that he will really have a Christmas stocking filled! Don't tell him about it when you write for it would spoil the surprise on Christmas morning!

Glad that you have Thanksgiving birds on board. The newspapers seem to doubt that there will be many turkeys in the market locally. The local dealers absolutely refuse to kill their flocks for the prices allowed by the OPA and distant birds are not expect[ed] to reach the eastern market and for the first time in my life I have won an order for one! To please one of the men who came into the shop with a punch board I took two chances for a quarter and won a five dollar order on the Weybosset market! If there is a chance of Bill getting home, Marilyn will go to the Schmids and Dad and I will go to Aunt Eleanor's or Aunt Marion's and yet again, I may write Blanche and Jesse and have them come up. After Bill gets home this week, I can plan. I believe the traditional Brown-Colgate game is to be played. East Providence beat Cranston in the game for the championship but I think that the latter has a good game scheduled for Thanksgiving day and if Bill doesn't get home Marilyn wants her Dad to go to one or the other. She has just bought a fur coat and is quite happy about that.

Daryl continues to get more cunning every day. We have a small toilet seat to put over the larger one and she is very proud when she accomplishes what she is supposed to and chuckles and laughs and you would be surprised how good she is and how much washing it saves Marilyn. Of course it is far from a hundred percent but every time we are successful it is a help.

Do you remember that several years ago Dad bought a diamond from Stafford Allen? He has had it reset for me in a modern setting, adding two smaller ones from an old ring of his mother's and it is going to be a very

handsome piece of jewelry. I expect to get it tonight and am looking forward to it.

It is very cold here today, about 22 and snow is promised for tonight. Maine has already had quite a depth.

Norman Marble is to be Superintendent of Buildings at State College, a non-political job and probably for life. They are quite thrilled about it for the salary is good and they are happy to go to Kingston to live as Jean has decided to go back to college as he definitely is out of military service because of a heart murmur.

Mrs. Wriston is just stepping out of a taxi with her arms loaded with bundles for us so that is

THE END

All our love and good wishes
Mother [Transcription ends]