

[Transcription begins]

#23 Tuesday Feb. 22, 1944

Dear Douglas:

I let Monday go by without writing to you because both Gertrude and Clara had received letters from you and I felt sure that we would receive ours within a day or two, and sure enough, when we reached home last night there were three of them, dated Feb. 5, 10, and 13th. Not a hint from you as to where you are but indicating that you go in and out of port and that your mail has not been too regular. But be assured that both Dad and I write once a week always and Marilyn every week or two and I know you have enough other friends with whom you are corresponding so that when it finally does catch up with you, you should receive plenty.

I marvel that your shoes have lasted so long, I should think that the close association with salt water would have a tendency to rot the leather. I shall enclose some addresses as I think of them but I am sorry to know that you have mislaid addresses of people with whom you have become acquainted since entering the service for temporarily the only way you can keep up that bond is by correspondence, but as you say, it may turn up again. Glad that you had an opportunity for church service and communion. In years to come when you are in the quiet atmosphere of Calvary some Sunday, you will remember such an experience. We went last Sunday, the church seemed unusually full and Mr. Tomlin preached one of his best. The choir loft is always full, of course with few men, but still enough to give it balance. Dad's business is flourishing. He has all he can possibly handle, and is able to get all the silver he needs. The help situation is what is bothering him, Mrs. McQuaid has left because of ill-health and I doubt if she comes back and the rest of his crew are most undependable but he made money last year, enough so his income tax about broke his heart! Anthony is always a headache but all in all, Dad is quite happy and as usual is the life of the party when we are out in company and at home life is very serene. He loves the baby and she, him and Marilyn is developing into [a] fine woman, more patient and tolerant and very industrious. Many a night I come home to find a delicious cake or pie made for supper and she keeps the house picked up and is doing quite a bit of sewing. Marriage life is much more pleasing to her, than business. Daryl Anne has five teeth, is standing up most of the time, and while she doesn't realize, many a time she is really balancing on her feet and not depending on her hands grasping some piece of furniture.

She will walk in another month, I am sure. Bill has been getting home sometimes three times a week. Is still stationed at Bourne as skipper of a fire-control and rescue ship which also puts boarding officers on ships going through the Canal. He has turned in his old car for a much better 1937 Chevrolet coupe and Marilyn hopes to learn to drive it this summer, so she can run down to Schmids or over to the doctor's with Daryl without having to call on Dad every time. Daryl has had her two inoculations [sic] for Diphtheria and three for whooping cough. I do not go to the movies very much. It is an effort to go back down town after once getting home and somehow the Palace has not had anything lately which I cared to see. But I shall try to see the Desert Song when it comes there. Yes, we had one beautiful snow storm, starting on a Friday but by Monday it had practically disappeared from down town but I believe the young people had one opportunity for coasting as I saw a mention of it in the Odyssey and a reference to Mr. Tomlin's taking his toboggan. Hollier has just left for parts unknown, but did mention that he expected to fly over two continents over which he had never flown before. This entire last paragraph was devoted to answering and commenting on phrases in your letters and I hope I have covered everything in which you are interested. Now I shall put in a few items as they occur to me, the letter will not be an example of good English composition but it may have more interest to the reader!

Lucille Ralph was married Saturday at the Church of the Transfiguration to a Maine SeeBee [sic] just home from Trinidad and is off on a three weeks honeymoon. Bob and Mary Noyes are home and I hope to see them tonight for a minute. Charles Brown has returned to Texas--had to ride sixteen hours on the back platform on his way up from Texas but felt it was worth it to get home. Roger is still in Illinois, his fiancée looks like another Brown, so Dad says. Mr. Hard was the speaker at the CYMBC regular meeting held at Mrs. Jordan's and Dad said did a marvelous job. He is stationed on the selective service board in Providence as a result of the request of General Dean to Washington. Bob Stang has gone to Texas for a six weeks course on instructing.

We had another delicious supper at the Henrikson's Saturday night, two kinds of home baked beans (the large kidney ones and the small pea beans) Italian spaghetti and meat balls, and a huge dish of escalloped oysters besides salad, rolls and a pudding. Then Herb showed his lates[t] colored films as did Wendell. The Buffums are in New York for the week, attending the graduation of Tim. I had a nice letter from Tommie thanking me for his

Christmas card. Incidentally [sic], I understand that you and Tommie are writing each other notes pleading that you both stay in the bachelor ranks for the duration! Tuesday night I went down to the church to type the envelopes for the Odyssey, that job makes one realize how that group of young people are scattered all over the face of the globe. I have told them that between us, Marilyn and I will do that job every month.

George Jones has been in New Haven for the last two weeks for an operation, he is getting along well and should be home in another week. I do not think Leland assisted but I imagine he gave freely of advice! No fooling, he is going to make a most excellent medical man for he is so keen about it and has a perfect "bedside manner!"

Laura and Jack Donner have a new daughter, Marilyn Geneva.

Dick Whipple is still in the hospital, because they do not want him to use his leg from which they obtained a wedge of bone to insert in his arm. Hazel-Louise has announced her engagement to Douglas Bragg, so there will be another Doug in the family.

Did you hear about the doughboy in Africa who stuck a sign just outside his pup tent: "Eleanor slept here!"

We heard a propaganda broadcast [sic] from Berlin the night after the biggest raid and it was most interesting. A cultured voice without a trace of accent said he was just sitting down to his well browned sausage and potato cakes (Just a few days before an item had appeared in the paper that fats and potatoes were almost non-existent) when the air-raid sounded then he went on to tell how casually he and his friends strolled around to each others homes to see that all was well trying to convey the impression that there was no panic nor excitement. Then of course the usual few messages from prisoners were read with the promises of more in a few minutes, then more propaganda.

We follow the war news on our map pinned over the radiator in the kitchen and it continues to look good. How I wish I might follow your route with a red pencil, bear it in mind so when you are home again we can diagram one for a souvenir. That day will come and what a day it will be. I imagine it again and again in my mind but no imagination can ever equal the realization! But as Dad says, the time which seems so long now, will seem

so brief in retrospect. (a good word for an old lady to use!)

I am very busy at the shop just now for we move at eight o'clock on the morning of next Tuesday and there is much to be prepared.

Never a day or night goes by without a prayer for your safety and peace of mind and prayers are answered I know.

Ever so much love from us all

Mother [Transcription ends]