

[Transcription begins]

#24 Monday

2-28-44

Dear Douglas:

I fear me that this letter must be a bit shorter than usual. Tomorrow our shop is moving around the corner to Exchange Street (15) and there is much to be done. I hope that by now your mail has caught up with you for it has pictures taken of Daryl and her first Christmas tree and also two of Dad. We were interested to have your last air-mail letter dated February 13th and then a full week later receive a Victory letter dated February 4th! Letters from Tommy reach his mother in about the same space of time whichever way sent. We have no idea where he is, sometimes we suspect England and sometimes Italy.

Graduation was held yesterday at Brown. Both John Brown and Billy Metcalf received their commissions but not diplomas for they had expected to be allowed to go until June. Billy will go to Anti-submarine school at Miami for his indoctrination and John has been assigned to (Wendell tells me a cruiser and Elizabeth, a destroyer, so take your choice!) and will be at Norfolk for his indoctrination. Timmy graduated last week but did not receive his commission at the same time as all the class expected. All their uniforms were ready and waiting but at the last minute they were told they must first go through the indoctrination period, where, he will learn when he returns to Webb Thursday morning, but his assignment is for San Diego. His thesis won first prize and twenty-five dollars and he stood fourth in the class. Not bad.

Both Mary and Bob Noyes called to see the baby but Dad and I had not arrived home from work. I had hoped to see them but Mary returned almost immediately and somehow we missed Bob, although we say [sic] him at a distance at Howard's Memorial Service held yesterday afternoon at Calvary. It was very beautifully carried out, the church was filled, ushers were Leland, Jack Ferris, Dottie's husband C.L. as he is called and Russell Byles. The service was practically the same as the one held on the Carrier Card.

Dad's library of classical music is increasing at a rapid rate and it is remarkable how the music grows on one as it becomes familiar. He spends many happy hours just sitting and listening to it. Daryl is becoming quite familiar with the [N]avy and [C]oast [G]uard uniforms. Whenever Janet

Richmond is home from school Marilyn takes her up there and there are always several of the boys home on leave or attending Brown who drop in to call and Daryl goes to them all and has just taken to calling them all "Dardee" which is quite embarrassing [sic]! Tomorrow Marilyn and Mrs. Schmid are going to Boston to buy her spring outfit, the stock in Providence yielded nothing beautiful for our darling! Not quite as bad as that, but they can use it as an excuse for a day in Boston.

Mary Louise celebrates her birthday tomorrow with a party, she being a leap-year gal, which will bring to your mind Pirates of Penzance. How long ago that seems. It is just five months to a day that we saw your cheerful face, it is easy to remember for Daryl was just five months old and today she is eleven months. We know better than to expect you home in the near future but we always have your letters to look forward to and like Churchill's [sic] speeches, each sentence is read and reread to be sure we have squeezed every bit of information from them! Perhaps Marilyn will get a letter written to you this week to make up for this very short one of mine, but it is surprising how busy she is every minute, she keeps the house beautifully even washing the kitchen floor two and three times a week!

Ever so much love and the hope that all your mail to date has arrived!

Mother [Transcription ended]