

[Transcription begins]

#27 March 13, 1944

Dear Douglas:

I had just settled down to a few minutes of typing to you when a machine drew up in front of the shop, nothing unusual to that, so I kept on typing but stopped immediately when fire teams also stopped and rushed to the rescue of the aforementioned machine which proved to be on fire! Much excitement which is still going on but no flames, just smoke, crowds and jabbering. In the office building across the street the windows were just filled with girls' heads but they have suddenly all disappeared so I judge the "boss" has just come in! It is pouring rain today and we are all glad for that for it is much needed.

Friday we were made glad by a letter from you dated the 28<sup>th</sup> of February. Sorry that you had to miss the ceremonies contingent [sic] with becoming a Shellback and Polywog.<sup>1</sup> We immediately traced the mythical lines on our kitchen map. I should have said I may be at CA at Brown rather than CU, isn't it called the Christian Association? So far I haven't done any thing about it or any other position, want to be home for a few weeks first. Wish some of your second class mail were getting thru to you for I think we have sent some Readers' Digests and drawing pencils and pads. By the way, we have just been able to subscribe to Naval Institute for you and will either hold the copies of the magazine or forward them if you think they will ever reach you. Dad still eats regularly with the club fellows and tonight is going to Ted Donle's for an executive meeting and knowing Miriam, there will probably be quite a spread. A letter received by the Buffums Saturday from Tommie speaks of his having a 48 hour pass to a "very, very large city" (a birthday cable to her stated definitely that he is in England. We had supper and bridge at their house Saturday night with the Hards and Ed Howarths (Mary Arnold.)

My paragraphs contain many more items of subject than they should but it saves paper and weight! Jimmy Dennis has now been reported a prisoner of Germany. We had supper last week at the Fishers and they told us how Jimmy's parents had received a letter from a man in the plane in back of

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<sup>1</sup> This refers to a ritual ceremony of the U.S. Navy commemorating a sailor's first crossing of the Equator. Shellbacks have previously crossed the Equator and Pollywogs have not.

Jimmy's saying that he had seen Jimmy's plane going down with two engines functioning and he was sure that they must have landed all right so they are much relieved to have their hope confirmed.

Hope Allen has purchased all of Waukeela and Mr. Philbrick is to help her this coming summer and then she expects to have a man teacher on salary in his place. I think that she has a good proposition there.

At long last your bookcase has arrived and we are delighted with the whole thing. It just fits along the wall between the living-room windows and the door into the front hall, the books are all in it and either with the door open or closed it looks as though it were made for that spot. We shall keep it there until you want it upstairs and then Dad will make me some shelves to replace it. I think it was an excellent investment for you have a good start on a library. Some time I will type out the titles so you may know just what you own.

Yesterday we rode over to Aunt Eleanor's with Daryl. She meets new people very well and is soon smiling and creeping around the floor. Young Hartley had an orchestra going full blast, mostly saxes and foot stamping!

Richard Whipple is home from the hospital, his arm still in a cast and not able to step on his leg yet. Clara told me this morning (you know she rides down with us every day) that the young people called on him after YPF last night and all autographed his cast.

I like to hear of the movies you see for it gives us a point of contact when we have seen the same one. We too saw "Lost Horizon" and then read the book. This week some night Dad and I are going to stay down to supper and go see "The Miracle of Morgan Creek" which had one of the best criticisms I have ever read in the paper as far as enthusiasm goes and since then it seems that everyone we know says, "You must go see it but don't let anyone tell you [the] ending, it's clever!"

Sometimes you seem so far away, especially when we realize that Daryl is a year old on the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month and she was just six months when you left, but then your letters arrive and we know how near you are in thought and feelings. We can only imagine what your experiences are but we look forward to the day when you will be able to tell us of them in person. We did not know where San Pedro was until Roger Hard told us. By the way

did you know that Joe DiMaggion [sic] owns a restaurant, The Grotto” on Fisherman’s [W]harf?<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Hyland sent me a postcard of it only last week.

Jog my memory if I neglect to mention any of your friends about whom you want news, I try to mention the different ones as I hear about them.

Yours til [sic] the fleet comes home.

Lovingly,  
Mother

[Handwritten below Saidee’s signature] When you write you might mention the number of the letter from me you have received then I will have some idea of how up to date on home news you are. Did you ever receive the pictures of the Christmas tree, Dad in his easy chair, and Dad and Chip?

[Transcription ended]

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<sup>2</sup> Joe DiMaggio held a partial interest in Joe DiMaggio’s Grotto, a restaurant actually owned and operated by his parents. In time Joe sold out his interest in the family business.