

[Transcription begins]

#30 Monday March 27, 1944

Dear Douglas: Somehow we were not expecting any mail from you this week and greatly to our surprise and joy Saturday's mail produced two dated the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and coyly on the outside of the latter envelope the big piece of news. Congratulations, Lieutenant! I presume it was an "all-nav" and that Tommie's has or will arrive about the same time. We are all pleased as Punch and kept the telephone wires humming. Mary Noyes was home for the week-end, so she knows how exalted you have become, and of course, spread the news among the rest of the YPFers. By the way, Marilyn has just finished typing the envelopes, is giving many hours to collecting for the Red Cross with all of Grand Avenue for her territory and says the only other thing to make her the perfect matron is to join the PTA!

Glad that you have finally received the letters containing the Christmas pictures. I knew you would enjoy them. Even since then, Daryl has changed so much. She is just a year old tomorrow and begins to look like like [sic] a little girl and not a baby. She wears little pink flowered dresses tied in the back with a sash and little white shoes and ankle socks. (Just six months since you were home.)

The first three issues of Naval Institute Proceedings have arrived and are most interesting. Do you want us to send them to you or would you rather have us save them until you get home? I note that you have not yet received the cookies so think that I will not send them again but will try a box of maple sugar or peppermints and see in what condition they reach you. While I think of it, thanks for the Easter Card. It doesn't seem possible that it is so near. Sorry about the harmonica. If I ever get a chance to get one will send it on, but I think most of them were made in Germany anyway.

Your description of your dental experience has amused more than one person! We had a delicious dinner at the Hards Saturday night, with the Buffums and a retired Captain in the Marines and they all appreciated that choice bit. You certainly have Dad's sense of humour and your own way of expressing it. Don't forget that you are going to try it seriously sometime.

So glad you could have a day on shore. After you have left a certain place for weeks can't you tell us where it was, or is that also taboo? You will like having Sherlock Holmes to keep you company and after you are through

with [the book] and everyone else on the ship has borrowed it you can ship it home for your library.

I can't give you any more news about Norman's going in--we heard it from Polly-next-door and don't know whether he has enlisted and going in with a commission or whether he has been drafted. We have not seen Blanche nor Jesse for over a year ago in October but Dad has just done some repair work on a Masonic ring for Jesse so there have been several letters exchanged recently.

Thursday of last week the Marbles spent the night with us. They are quite settled in Kingston and I think are going to like it a lot after they once get used to village life. There seems to be a lot of cultural activity in a college town but Norman spoke most discouragingly of a professorship (what's the matter with my spelling! [after correcting several spelling errors in this paragraph]) financially, says that there isn't one there who doesn't take in as many boarders as he can or whose wife doesn't have a substitute job of some kind to eke out their existence. Can it be as bad as he paints it? Far be it from me to set money ahead of other considerations but "life can be beautiful" when a comfortable income is assured as witness our family life!

My work at the BWRS is letting up considerably for we are having new volunteers in every day who are to take my place after a week from Wednesday and I can already see what a mess affairs can reach! I hope to be home for a month or two but have been to interview Miss Marble at Brown and have had a letter from Mr. Loosely, Ex. Sec'y. of the Community Fund so am waiting to see what develops. I can afford to be a little choosy and would rather not work on Saturday nor after 4:30 because of the family.

Yes, I feel very strongly that Victory is nearer. I had put your absence for two years and already a quarter of that time has gone but I really feel now that you will [be] back in less time than that. I enjoyed Churchill's [sic] speech yesterday. His choice of words and delivery is most satisfactory to me.

Saturday I put in a long day on your apartment with Dad's help on Sunday it is now swept, dusted and washed where necessary and today I bought new crisp white curtains for all the windows. We always speak of it as Douglas' apartment. We have changed the bed to the opposite wall, with the headboard on Gray's side but much neared [sic] the window. Then the long

rack on which I have to hang the tarred bags for the winter clothing is between that and the radiator so that it is not visible from the other room, being shut off by the open door. When you are ready to occupy it again that rack will go out in the hallway again during the summer months. Reason for all this activity is an April Fools' Party next Saturday, with "Fresh Paint" signs on the front door, on the back one "Bell don't make [work?] - please bump!" and then a sign lowered from over the back door directing them to follow the rope down the cellar, up through the kitchen and then upstairs where we will have three tables of games such as "Sorry," etc.

You must still be recalling the lovely day you had on shore with your bicycle ride and bed in a hotel. Hope you have another opportunity soon. I think all of your letters have been received, the last one #95 and dated March 17<sup>th</sup> received on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

The best of everything and all our love,  
Mother [Transcription ended]