[Transcription begins]

#43 - Monday night June 26, 1944

Dear Douglas--Marilyn is holding a long conversation via telephone with Betty Lockwood, Daryl is asleep as is Chip, Bing is down cellar until I am sure all the birds are in bed, Dad has driven out to the Scituate Barracks--something in connection with his Aux State Police organization and I am settled at the desk for my weekly chat with you. Your latest letter, dated June 15th, came thru very quickly altho I judged you were on the high seas when you wrote it. Every trivial detail you write us is of the utmost importance to us, so never fear that you have nothing of interest to write us.

Mrs. Buffum had word from Tommie dated June 5th in which he said in part "I am on the edge of something so stupendous that it seems incredible and yet I wouldn't miss it for the world!" and since that they have had a V-mail dated June 7th, saying briefly "I am OK and don't worry." So we all feel he has been thru D-day and survived. The war news continues to be good, altho Cherbourg is not completely cracked yet. June 15th & 16th meant fewer Jap ships were afloat to menace a certain DE and the Russians are surging forward--all in all--much to be thankful for.

We have had a miserable spell of weather for over a week, lots of rain, chilly and depressing and hard to keep Daryl in dry panties altho she has learned to whisper "chair, chair" and occasionally has been known to say it before rather than after! My Martha Waterman club had planned its picnic for Coles this past Saturday but that was cancelled. Dad an I had planned to go down for the week-end and Marilyn had invited Marilyn Eaton to stay with her so about four o'clock Saturday afternoon after vainly waiting for a let-up in the downpour, Dad & I packed the machine with food etc. & Chip & went down. We felt real cozy after we had lighted the stove & the lamps & started the clock going. We went over to Greenwood to Geo. Huston's for some good fresh Block Island Sword fish. Dad told the waitress to tell Mr. Huston that Mr. Leach was in the dining room & would like to see him before we left. Pretty soon she came back and said "Mr. Huston says it won't do you any good to send in your name with your order, your piece won't be any the larger for it!" After we had eaten we went out in the kitchen and had a good time [indecipherable] Then we drove around by Edgewater Beach & found Mrs. Jones & the two Misses Redferns (Mr. Jones had gone to the YPF banquet) We stayed until about eleven playing "Michigan"--do you remember playing that night after night at Coles years ago? Sunday the weather was even worse but Mr. & Mrs. Dick came down for dinner (Quahog chowder & clam cakes) & the Fishers drove in later so we had a real jolly time. We were fortunate to find we had left some kerosene in the stove for we can't buy it now without coupons for it. We came home about six, Daryl had gone to bed & Marilyn was glad to have us home again. Bill is still at Sandwich awaiting orders & wishes they would come for he likes boat work rather than the desk work they are giving him now, but he thinks he may get home this next week end.

Last week I saw Bing Crosby's new picture "Going My Way." I thought it excellent--the casting was perfect and the attention to detail just what I enjoy. I do feel that to thoroughly enjoy it one should forget temporarily that there is such a thing as

Protestantism & Catholicism for unless you can do that, I think one or two items might grate on one's nerves, but I really enjoyed it and want to take Dad to see it. The old Priest could well be awarded the Academy Award.[1] Hope it comes your way!

Young Harvey Whipple headed towards the big Mayflower Hotel at Plymouth Saturday morning in search of a summer job & has not yet been heard from so either has been put immediately to work or is searching farther afield. Mary Louise is working in a department store on Hope Street for the summer.

I think I have told you most of my activities for the week, the rest have been merely routine sweeping cooking dusting etc etc, but very contented doing them (my years away in business were good for my soul!)

Take care of yourself, hope you don't need your "battle britches" too often!

Ever so much love

Mother [Transcription ended]

[1] Barry Fitzgerald played the part of Father Fitzgibbon and did receive an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor. Bing Crosby won the Best Actor Oscar for his part as Father O'Malley.