[Transcription begins]

#75 January 10, 1945

Dear Douglas - A telephone call from Mrs. Buffum tells me of a letter received by her from you written on January 4th, which is very recent news and in all probability there will be one for us within a day or two. It's really cold right now and I don't mean "maybe." There is plenty of snow on the ground and the temperature this morning was 6 above zero, with cold promised for tomorrow. When it is not too cold, Marilyn gives Daryl a short ride on a little sled. Bill had another week-end at home--when he is at Rockland, he can make it and just now he has been laying cement foundations for a beacon off "Owl's Head." Imagine Grandpa Leach must have mentioned that sometime in his stories to you and Marilyn of "Cluck-a-wake"--do you remember them? This coming week, he has some telephone cable to lay. The weather has been very cold, 7 below and 3 inches of ice all over his ship. Saturday night we had a bountiful bean supper at the Hards' with Buffums and Browns, a good game of hearts, and listened to the President's speech on report to the nation. Dad went to church without me Sunday morning, Marilyn spent the night at Schmids' because of the storm and we picked Daryl up and brought her home after our evening at the Hards'. Bill had expected to take the 12:30 bus out of Boston but because of the storm all traffic was cancelled until the next morning. Today I went to a DAR meeting at Mrs. Taylor's house on Park Avenue (Taylor the florist) and met many people I knew. I have been urged to join but have politely declined, for I find plenty to do without attending club meetings. Perhaps when you and Marilyn have established your own homes, time will hang heavy on my hands and I will become a "joiner!" I am eligible for the DAR--you have to be a direct descendant of a man who served in the [R]evolutionary [W]ar and we are from Capt. Joshua Gray. I seldom mention the war news for I know you are steeped in it, but today we are thrilled to hear that Luzon [Philippines] has been invaded. We have been told over and over again that terrific fighting is ahead and we realize that but we are enthused to know that we are on the way back.

Mrs. Buffum wants me to give you Tim's new address. Ensign Timothy N. Buffum - 3371 Jackson St. - San Francisco c/o Mrs. Williams. Tommie hopes to be in town for a few hours this next weekend and then away.

Clara Kern writs me that Donald Kern and Bryson Dawson were together on Christmas Day at Pearl Harbour.

Again I have to tell you of the loss of one of your friends. Bob Stang is missing in action but so many are later reported as prisoners that we are all very hopeful. Bunny spent the day with me yesterday & is doing very well. Phyllis' young man, Warren Follett, was reported the same way and later was listed as a prisoner and that holds true of so many that w know including Jimmy Dennis & Campbell Kenyon. Dad hesitated to tell you in his letter about Bob, but I have promised you I will and I also know that one or another of your many friends will tell you.

I know you must be very very busy right now & I do hope you can keep well. Your

letters to us are grand and never complain but I know there are times when you are weary! Your ears must burn many times a day for we speak of you so often. All our love & prayers.

Mother

Mrs. Hard has given Dad as a Christmas present a year's subscription to "Bureau of Naval Personnel" Information. [Transcription ends]