

(Transcription begins)
British War Relief Society, Inc.
Rhode Island Committee
38 Exchange Place – PROVIDENCE
Tel. GA. 2176

Friday morning
March 5, 1943

Dear Douglas:

We were much pleased to receive your last letter, telling about your saluting trip to Miami beach and the interesting information about Paul Lawrence. I remember that his family royally entertained you at their home in Gary, Indiana, and I know what a joy it must be for you to be together again. You will always find it that way in Navy life. It pays you to keep up some sort of a correspondence with your various friends for it is tragic to find that they have been in your vicinity for several weeks and yet not come in contact with them just because you didn't know they were there.

Tommie has been sent to Woods Hole, Massachusetts (Section Base)—this address will reach him—where he is going to school but was not at liberty to tell his mother over the telephone for what purpose. Woods Hole, is on the Buzzards Bay side of the Cape below the first bridge and is where Marilyn transferred from the boat to the bus on her trips home.

She and I are having a great time buying baby clothes, borrowing bassinets and baby carriages (that should be singular) and also she is doing a lot of practice cooking while she has the chance to be under my supervision.

You are doing marvelously well with your savings. The War Bonds arrived all right only another time better send them by registered mail, for they might get lost and it is a tedious process to get another.

Sometime I do hope to visit Florida but it will have to wait until after the war. Did you make that trip to the Everglades that you mentioned in one of your letters? As you have opportunity, take in anything like that for no telling when you will be down that way again.

I am enclosing the notice telling Aunt Evie's death. A short note from you to Uncle Frank would be much appreciated, he is getting old and forgetful but Dad took your picture over last night and he was so interested in your Ensign's stripe, couldn't get it through his head how you could wear it without going four years to Annapolis, but Dad finally made it clear and now he is as proud as if you were his own son. Dad also took over the class book which we have just received and he was most interested in that—

insisted on Dad's listening while he explained every detail of the navigation chart in the front of the book and told how things were done in his day. A post card once in a while would give him a thrill.

You'll be some specimen (*sic*) when you return to us what with your book learning (*sic*), judo, boxing, etc!

Dad has written a letter of recommendation for Charles Brown. He reports at Devens Tuesday. Just at present Charles is having a few days of skiing in the mountains.

I'm sure that your meals in the restaurant must get rather monotonous and indeed I would enjoy cooking one for you at home. This week we were fortunate in getting a fairly good pot-roast and it is large enough so we can have a good stew made from it and later, a meat pie. It is marvelous to see Marilyn eat. She simply eats everything without any comment. I remember when I used to make the dark spice cakes for Dad with raisins in them, she would fuss every time about why I didn't make them without the raisins but last night I watched her put down three one right after the other and not a peep out of her! It seems so good to have her home for it means young life around again. We had Betty Lockwood for supper last night, Janet in during the afternoon and the telephone rings so much more than it used to.

Does it seem quite a change to be a pupil again instead of an instructor? Are there any rumours that you may get a furlough after this course is over?

By the way, I mentioned bassinet in the first part of my letter. You will be interested to know that that one we borrowed cradled Junie Burdon when he was small! It belongs to Bessie Owen.

Customers are beginning to come in so I must get down to the business of the day. We still keep busy here, used clothing comes in slowly, but the people take out lots of sewing for children. We do not take in so much money for we obtained \$67,000 for our R.I. Branch through the United War Fund and that is plenty in any man's language.

Lots of love from us all
Mother (Transcription ends)