

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

Friday, May 1, 1943

Dear Douglas:

Your letter, most welcome, was waiting at home for me yesterday and we are pleased that you find your situation pleasant. I tried to find a Geographic with an article about Key West but according to the Public Library there has been nothing in since an issue of 1906 except for a casual reference to it when describing marine plants, etc. Some one has told Dad that originally the Clyde steamers always docked at Key West and then passengers had to go the rest of the way to Miami by railroad, a kind of graft which the railroads played for all it was worth. Glad you have a library there. To me the "Life of Oliver Cromwell" sounds like heavy reading, how about some "escapist" books and lighter novels! Marilyn is reading "One Foot in Heaven" which we saw in the movies and liked very much, especially the part about the church choir for it was so true to life as we have known it at Calvary. "Reap the Wild Wind" I think is based on the early history of the Keys although I have not read that.

Who is Grimes? Perhaps I should know but I don't remember your mentioning him before.

By this time you must have my letter thanking you for the pin and the other letter which was written first but which will arrive later as I forgot to put stamps on it and it was returned to me at Grand Avenue, thus the delay.

We have had some terrific rain here and our washing has hung on the line for days but yesterday and today are lovely and we have let the furnace fire go out for the first time since last fall!

Last night we went to the annual supper of the church, held in the Junior Room for the supper first. The committee did well to provide us with meat loaf, macaroni (no one has seen a potato for weeks) carrots, apple and pineapple salad, strawberries and milk, as well as coffee and rolls.

Mrs. Ringsmuth was there with her little girl about two years old and so cunning, they have another baby boy at home. The business meeting was most enlightening and it is amazing the work that the various organizations do doing (*sic*) the year. The church had one bequest of 30,000 dollars from a mousy little old school teacher that used to come every Sunday and slip quietly into her seat and out again before anyone had a

chance to greet her and all this time she had quietly been planning this final gift to her church.

Afterwards we went down to the Journal Office with the report for we were with the Dicks and Mrs. Dick is Publicity Chairman. Down town is always filled with service men hanging on the street corners and so many times looking lonesome and I often think how happy we are to know that as you have had the opportunity you have gone to the church and there met your friends who have helped you to pass this lonely time.

Just before we left for the church the Marbles called us and said that as Mr. Marble had to go down that way, they were planning to eat at the Lobster Pot and wouldn't we join them. I hated to pass up that opportunity but we had made our reservations at the church and asked the Dicks to go with us.

The Browns sat with us and told us about Charles. It seems that his particular group had been divided into two sections, one seemingly fitted for one type of work and the other for a different kind. The two groups were put into separate cars and by some queer twist of fate the cars were switched to each others destination, one to Mississippi and the other to N. Carolina! And the government has decided that it will be too expensive to re-route them so each group has got to learn the others trade. Charles is in Mississippi and disappointed because his rightful job would have given him a better chance for advancement but as for the work, Elizabeth seemed to think that he can do either equally well.

Tomorrow is the official opening of the Edgewood Yacht Club. We are planning to have their May Breakfast with them about 7:30 and stay to the flag raising at which the Cranston Band will play.

As they say on the "Hit Parade"¹ this is an "extra" but I know how welcome they are at home and thought you might like one.

Lovingly,
Mother

What is the drinking water situation? Wendell tells me that not too long ago it was very restricted & some time ago his group of engineers put thru a pipe-line.

Roger becomes a Dr the last of this month & Donald Bliss's brother has asked him to come into his office until his service call comes.

Charlotte Hewitson is with the WAACS. (Transcription ends)

¹ **Your Hit Parade** debuted on NBC Radio on April 20, 1935. Every Saturday night the show presented the top tunes of the week. *Your Hit Parade* occasionally featured an old favorite as a "Lucky Strike Extra" plugging its long time sponsor, Lucky Strike Cigarettes.

