

[Transcription begins]

Monday evening
#38 - May 22, 1944

Dear Douglas--We feel very happy with two recent letters from you, the latest #107 received at Dad's shop today and dated May 17th and Saturday, my Mother's Day letter, which I much appreciated. Glad that you attended the little church with the added attraction of Chinese children. Their older sisters may be "knockouts" but don't think I would be a good mother-in-law to one! Sorry the eatables sent were not a success, think I will not try that again for awhile. I'm ever so pleased that the harmonica arrived for I think you may get much enjoyment in the lonely hours, particularly if there is a duet to be tried. I can imagine just how jolly Mary Noyes' photographs must be--she is so wholesome & jolly and really is getting to be quite a fine gal with all this broadening experience she is having. If Marilyn were not married I would have been willing for her to join the Waves--it must be a great experience and planned discipline is good in many ways. Anne Dick expects to go in this August. Glad that your "notoriety" has caused you only a short session of uneasiness & the rest, a bit of fun. Roger Hard, Sr. was particularly interested, particularly in the intelligent way in which you handled it & the steak dinner you mention sounds good to me--the food situation in the states is not too satisfactory but looked at in the right way is often amusing. Meat is temporarily unrationed except for steaks and roasts, but very often the variety is quite limited. But I did have some very good hamburg the other day and in between times we have frankfurts, bologna and plenty of bacon and then we plunge and get a good roast and make it last, what with meat pie and hash. But our good old vein beef roast is a dream of the past. Bill came home Saturday and brought a 22 lb. cod to divide between the two families. We had homemade "fish and chips" tonight. I made the [F]rench fries or "chips" and Marilyn cooked the fish & it was super. Bill went back today.

The money order enclosed in your last letter has been put in your account, five dollars has been paid to the Alumni fund.

Your letters indicate how busy you are, but you are getting a marvelous experience in dealing with men and situations. Isn't it possible that you may be transferred as so many of your comrades have been? From the changes that seem [next line indecipherable] DE were more or less of a training ship, or am I wrong?

We have met Barbara Hard's Lt. "Johnny" Perkey USA--a very fine wholesome, down to earth boy, not a glamour hero, but just a nice kid. John Brown is on the US Wilkes, a destroyer, I think. Keep an eye out for him.

Saturday Dad & I left early to spend the day at Coles. It was glorious down there, everything so green, birds singing, high tide & the water so blue, everything peaceful, but overhead the planes droned all day long, reminding us that there is still a job to be finished, altho we are well on the way, we got the awnings and screens on & painted the dining room table & seven chairs to go with it (one for the kitchen). The toilet has been terribly eaten by termites. I wish Dad would consider putting in a bathroom. I would

like to put one where Marilyn's room is and add a bed-room beyond for her. How do you feel about the place--do you want us to keep it so you can have it sometime or don't you care enough about it? Marilyn will probably never be enough interested as Bill will probably want to have a permanent home near the water. Millards have just sold theirs. We kept plenty busy until 5:30, reached home just as Mr. Brown wheeled in on his bicycle to tell us there was to be a launching at 6:00--snapped the leash on Chippie and rushed him down to the foot of Norwood Avenue in time to see a new design cargo-combat slide into the water, then home for baked beans, brown bread & rhubarb from the garden, and down to the H [indecipherable] castle for a dance--pretty good for feeble old grandparents!

Sunday we drove over to Reservoir Avenue and bought three lovely salmon pink azalea bushes about 10" high, loaded with flowers and set them among the evergreens. One is your Mother's Day gift to me and next year at this time you must plan to be home to see it in bloom again.

Daryl trots all over the house and if we let her out of her play pen in the yard she makes a bee-line for the sand box in Pines' yard. Bing is very patient with her and lets her snuggle down beside him and listen to him purr. I called on Pixie the other day--he does well to remember me--he runs if a stranger approaches, but he rolled over for me and seemed very pleased to see me.

Marilyn goes to Philadelphia Friday--it will be a lovely trip for her.

We live for your letters and appreciate your writing so [indecipherable]

All our love [Transcription ended]