

[Transcription begins]

Wednesday afternoon, September 13, 1944

Dear Douglas:

If this letter is incoherent at times it is because Daryl is in my care while Marilyn has a week in Rockland. Bill's ship had a fire in one of the coal bunkers and while it is being repaired he hopes to have some evenings free. (Bing has just brought in a fat field-mouse!) Dad, of course, has been at the shop all day and it is pouring so that Daryl cannot even go on the piazza and every once in a while she wants to climb in my lap and see what I am doing. Your last most welcome letter spoke of an errand to a destroyer and supper on board, such events must be a welcome break in the daily monotony and I hope that they come to you frequently. Your mention of dark natives and congor [sic] eels up the rivers suggests a rather large island and now we are guessing New Guinea.

We have been at Coles for a little over a week while we are having the four lower rooms at Grand Avenue papered and up until yesterday the weather has been glorious, warm and clear in the daytime with the water and sky so very blue and then the nights crisp and clear, but the downpour today is most welcome for we have been threatened with a serious drought. We are carrying all our water from Owens' well. Most of the Coles people have gone home because of the water situation and of course, it is after Labor Day and school has started for so many. Stangs and Whites are still here but of course the Kerns come only occasionally because of the gas shortage. Francis came last week with the baby whom they call "Skipper." Don is living at BOQ [Bachelor Officers' Quarters] at Pearl Harbour [sic].

I have managed to live all my life without 38' cruisers and now they are thrust at me from all sides! I wrote you of our pleasant day with the Youngs, we have had to decline a trip on George Huston's because of a previous engagement and last Saturday we spent the day with the Browsers. The boat is a beauty with every luxury including two tiled toilets and sleeping accommodations for six. We enjoyed being with the Browsers for we had known them both back in high school days and had a lot of reminiscing (you spell it) to do. They have just inherited a very large sum of money and have bought a very gorgeous home, third from the Yacht Club and renovated it completely. We had to be back at the dock before dark (military restrictions) so went to their home afterwards. The only thing I envied them was the location for they have an unrestricted view of the river, yachtclub [sic], etc. But the house is too large for my fancy and needs two servants at least.

Chip, as you might know, is very contented here for he is never tied and goes and comes at will but spends most of his time right with us.

Dad is painting the cottage and does as much as he can every night when he first gets home so that supper is quite late. Daryl sleeps in Marilyn's little bedroom and is no trouble except that we have to be quite quiet for she is a very light sleeper. Saturday I shall leave her with the Schmids while Mrs. Webber and I try to make order out of the chaos that I know awaits me at Grand Avenue. I shall return to Coles with Daryl at night

and then the next day pack and go home for good although Dad and I will come down for a few weekends, I hope, before we finally put on the shutters for the winter.

We are all reading the war news eagerly, rejoicing at each few miles gained in Europe for when that phase is over, I feel that the boys in the Pacific will have a feeling that no longer will they have to carry the whole burdon [sic] over there but that reinforcements will continue to arrive and increase in numbers and intensity.

Dad has recently talked with Dr. Allen and he has been notified that John is buried on Saipan.

Daryl has about reached the end of her patience--it is almost her supper time and she does not like having me so occupied so this letter must come to a close. I had very little news to write you anyway because of rustivating at Coles but will try to make the next one longer and more interesting. Ever so much love to you and WHAT DO YOU WANT, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT, AND WHAT CAN YOU RECEIVE FOR CHRISTMAS?

[The above was typewritten, the lines below were handwritten.]

Dad has just come home with two fine letters from you, the latest #127 dated Sept. 7, that is quick work--also are enclosed V-mail letter from Warren which we will file along with yours. Both letters were very interesting, telling of your chance to get on shore. Now that I know you have received my questions about Christmas I will not ask them anymore.

Love

Mother [Transcription ended]