

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

Tuesday morning 12-15-42

Dear Douglas:

We were so pleased to find your letter when we reached home last night. It was the first word that we had had since your telegram of last Tuesday, saying that you had lost your seat on the plane, and while we knew that you must have arrived safely or we would have been notified, still we were very curious as to when and how!

What an experience you had with the lateness and the down-pour. It seems to me so many important events in your life have been started in bad weather, but the sun always came through in the end, and I am sure this is the case again from your description of your location. It sounds like paradise and you certainly have a wonderful assignment. Your letter and postcards give us a very graphic picture of it all and we are so glad for you.

Twice Tommy has phoned us from Providence as he has been able to be home for a few hours. Perhaps he has written you of his experience in reporting but I will tell you about it in case he hasn't had time. He was loaded with baggage just as you were, and his Mother suggested that he check it at the South Station while he reported but he replied, "We have been told that an officer and his uniform are never separated." so (*sic*) he lugged everything over by taxi-cab to Causeway Street in Boston, only to be sent immediately back to Providence to take the Bus there for Newport! At present he is on the net-tender boat but as there is no room to sleep on it (for him) he arrives on board just too late to see the net taken in and has to leave for his barracks just too early to see it put out! This is, of course, only a temporary condition, due to the many new ensigns sent there without enough accommodations for them. He rather expects to be on many different kinds of small craft, learning about them all and seems to be enjoying his experience. He was able to have last weekend at home but does not expect to get to Providence again, although he will have leave at Newport.

You certainly are escaping heavy weather up here! Yesterday morning it was 20 above and Sunday we had a real blizzard for several hours with plenty of snow to shovel. Marilyn had gone to Martha's Vineyard with Mrs. Schmid and while I did not worry about her, I was pleased when she arrived home about eleven at night. She said the hour boat ride was very rough and many sea-sick. Bill has found a friend who is in charge of a boat just as he is, married to a girl just Marilyn's age and together they

have hired a bungalow and the four of them are going housekeeping about the first of the year. The other couple come (*sic*) from Gloucester and Mr. Kershaw will be in two nights, then Bill will be home two nights, so the girls will be alone only three nights. The bungalow is only four blocks from the main street, is very attractive and furnished, with kitchen with large coal stove, small living-room with huge fireplace and two bedrooms. Mrs. Schmid went down with Marilyn (*sic*) to look over the situation and assures me that she would be perfectly willing to have Bill's sister live there so it seems like a very happy opportunity for them. Marilyn and I are going down this week-end to see just what she needs to take down in the way of blankets, etc., then she is going down again Christmas afternoon as Bill will be in, then New Year's Day, she will move down for good and Dad and I will have to adjust our life without you young people coming in and out, but your letters will keep us in touch and our happiness will be in knowing that you are both content with your place in the scheme of things.

Tomorrow we will express to you your Christmas package—you realize we have had to be limited to what we felt you could use in your present location but you will know everything carries with it our love and thoughts of you on Christmas Day.

Roger Hard, Jr. has received his first Lieutenancy and I think I told you that Whitcomb has enlisted in the Naval Airforce but is still at Tufts waiting to be called. No word had been received from Hollier for over three weeks but yesterday a friend of Barbara's had arrived for a short leave and had talked with him as recently as Friday and he is definitely expecting to be home for the arrival of his son or daughter.

Let us know if there is anything you wish sent and enjoy every minute of your two months there.

Ever so much love from us all.
Mother (Transcription ends)