

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

Thursday April 15, 1943

Dear Douglas:

It seems years since I have written to you and I don't know what items of interest Dad has sent you, so news may be repeated in this.

Marilyn and Daryl Anne came home from the hospital on the eighth day after her birth which was doing remarkably well. Both are doing beautifully and we do not hear a sound from the baby from eleven at night when she has her last bottle, until seven the next morning. Her bassinet is put in the dining-room and the door closed. To me she is the perfect image of Bill although some staunch relatives think there is a Leach look. She has quantities of very dark hair which will soon rub off and the new fuzz will, I think, be light.

Marilyn came home on a Sunday afternoon and Sunday night the Schmids appeared with Bill which was almost too much of a shock for Marilyn. He had five days leave, so on Wednesday when Marilyn felt a little stronger, she and the baby went to the Schmids' house to stay until Saturday morning. This worked out unusually well for first Dad came down with a day of the grippe and then I had it. I felt all right by Saturday but by Monday was down with a relapse—too ambitious, I guess. Marion Butler had planned to be with us for a week anyway so everything has worked out all right. I am back at the shop and feeling perfectly fine, Dad is all right and Marion Butler is at the house every day until I get home in the afternoon. Marilyn is up and around but taking life easy for a week or two.

Elizabeth Brown called me up to tell me how grateful they are that you and Charles had dinner together. His last letter had sounded awfully homesick but the next one that came right after it, had an entirely different tone as he had been with you and the world looked much brighter.

We know from the length of time between your letters that you must be very busy but hope you find it interesting and you are evidently able to stand the strain for you do not mention ill-health of any kind.

I am reading Cross Creek aloud to Dad and think that sometime you will enjoy reading it. It is about some of the interesting people who live in inland Florida and I was much

amused to come across the following couplet for I remember how you chuckled over it when it first met your eye.

“From ghillies and ghosties
And long-legged beasties
And all things that go boomp in the night
Good Lord, deliver us!”

Dad has made an extra shelf under the serving table in the dining room and it has made an excellent record holder. He comes home with new records almost every Saturday and it is interesting to see what fine music he really enjoys, Grieg, Tchaikowsky, Beethoven. He sits there with his eyes closed, smoking his evening cigar and thoroughly happy for the time being.

It still keeps very cold, my fingers tingled even in warm gloves this morning and I am glad enough to have a fur coat. The north wind has been very strong, although two nights ago we had a severe electrical storm but the next morning the weather was even colder.

Chip is very proud of Daryl, sits by her bassinet all day and runs out to tell us if she so much as stirs and several times we have found his toys down beside the bassinet as if coaxing her to play. Bing is disdainful and quite put out because he cannot take advantage of all the nice warm blue blankets so lavishly displayed around the house. The time has come for bells around his neck because of the nesting robins and I have a very good collar for him and fitted close enough so he cannot get caught with it.

Romberg had a popular concert at the Auditorium Sunday which I hoped to attend but could not because of the grippe. He is to make a return engagement at a later date by request and I do hope to go then.

I think Bob Noyes is flying off Daytona Beach at present and Mary has passed her basic training and is to be stationed in Washington with the Bureau of Communications.

Possibly when I go home tonight there will be a letter from you answering these questions so ignore them if so.

Did you receive our picture and what do you think of it?
Did you receive your commission which we sent by registered mail.

I will try not to have too much baby news in my letters but you can imagine that she pretty well fills our attention, but as Dr. Bowen expresses it—“these Grandmothers are a damn nuisance!” and Daryl has living three great grandmothers, one great grandfather and two grandmothers and two grandfathers, (poor child)

It's time for me to go out in the cruel howling icy blast for a bite of lunch—and I'm not fooling, its cold!

We are interested in your references to these Southern Gals who lure you into the paths of righteousness, why not give us a break and tell us a name or two?

Ever so much love to you from us all
Mother

(Hand-written in the margins of the letter): Do you know that Edmund and Barbara have named their son Douglas Edmund? Tommie has left Woods Hole and is stationed at Newport for another month. (Transcription ends)