

Sat Nov. 25 [1939]

Dear Parents,

This morning four letters and a Phoenix came! It was wonderful.

We were both pleased by Polonius' advice. James said: "Your Pop sounds like a good guy" which of course I disagree with emphatically, but that's just because I hate my Poppa so. The advice was good, daddy dear, and we shall treasure same.

Mama's three letters and contents were much appreciated. Rush Holt's¹ speech was excellent. Dorothy T.² made us sick to our tummies; it seems incredible! How anyone not paid, not a heartless cynic, could turn out such utter tripe is beyond us. W. Lippmann³ is only a little better. It makes me wish I were at home so I could shout out what I feel and know about the whole dirty business. I wish you could read a recent production of André Maurois' États-Unis '39.⁴ It gives a good picture of the tripe from

¹ **Rush Dew Holt, Sr.** (June 19, 1905 – February 8, 1955). In 1939, Holt was a U.S. Senator from West Virginia. "Holt's ardor for insulating the nation from war heightened with the danger after the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. Isolation, rigid neutrality and anti-militarism remained his prescription for avoiding war. Chiefly a propagandist during his remaining months in the Senate, Holt engaged in lengthy, sometimes acrimonious Senate debates, traveled hundreds of miles for numerous speaking appearances, and delivered dozens of national and local radio broadcasts." From "Isolationism and Pacifism: Senator Rush D. Holt and American Foreign Policy", by William E. Coffey, in *West Virginia History*, Vol. 51 (1992), pp. 1-14.

² Most likely **Dorothy Thompson** (9 July 1893 – 30 January 1961), to whom Philinda referred in her letter of Nov. 11, was an American journalist and radio broadcaster, who in 1939 was recognized by *Time* magazine as the second most influential woman in America next to Eleanor Roosevelt. She is notable as the first American journalist to be expelled from Nazi Germany in 1934 and as one of the few women news commentators on radio during the 1930s. From Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy_Thompson, accessed 2014-09-07.

³ **Walter Lippmann** (September 23, 1889 – December 14, 1974) was an American writer, reporter, and political commentator

⁴ **André Maurois** (26 July 1885 – 9 October 1967) was a French author.

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the producing end. Shut up, Philinda. Jimmie's taking to the guck to the office, where he argues happily with a German refugee working there who knew D. T. and thinks she's just too divine (naturally enough). She gives us the D. T.s if you'll pardon my poor pun.

About your not giving Air-raid advice: Of course not. But thanks just the same. James and I are properly appreciative of our own tender skins, don't you think you have to worry. However, we know approx. 100% more about air raids and warnings than you do, popper. One never knows when there is going to be a real one, but so far there haven't. We'll run like H---- to our abri⁵ when the real thing starts, fear not.

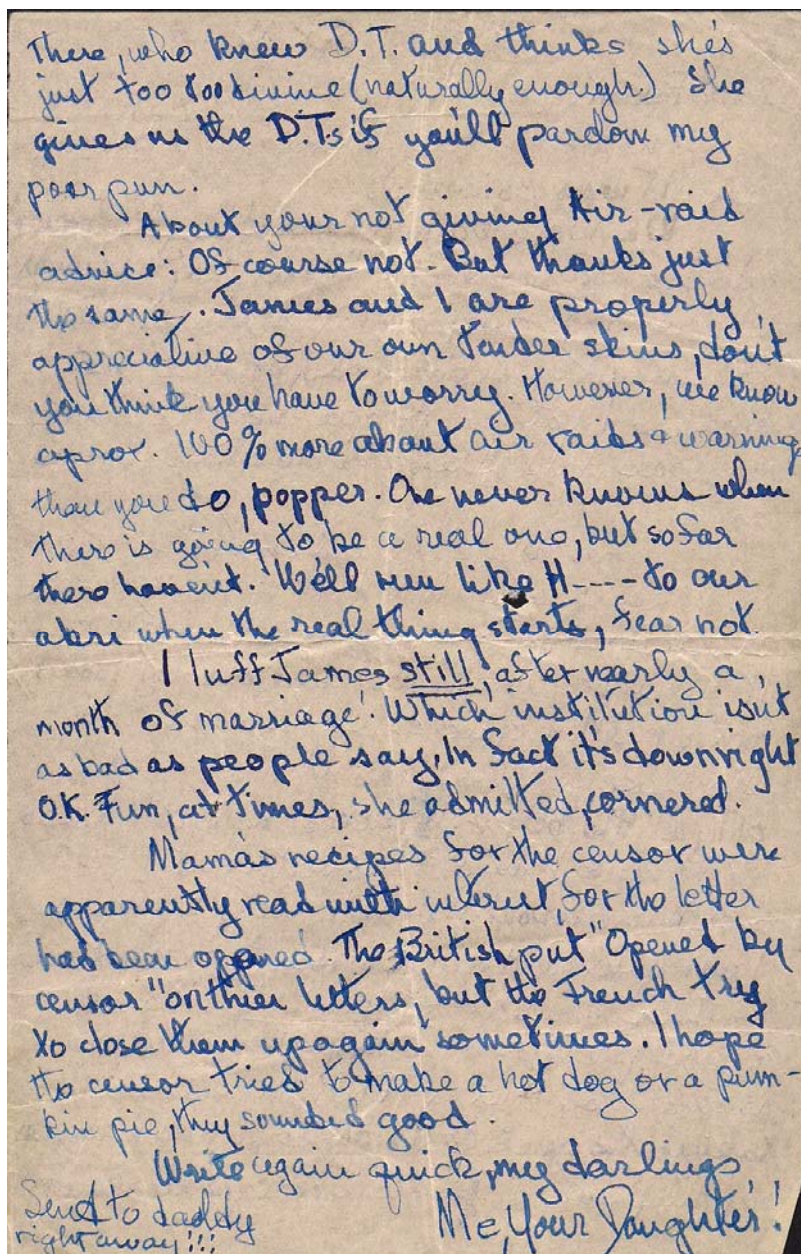
I luff James still, after nearly a month of marriage! Which institution isn't as bad as people say. In fact it's downright O.K. Fun, at times, she admitted, cornered.

Mama's recipes for the censor were apparently read with interest, for the letter had been opened. The British put "opened by censor" on their letters, but the French try to close them up again sometimes. I hope the censor tries to make a hot dog or a pumpkin pie, they sound good. Write again quick, my darlings. Send to daddy right away!!!⁶

Me, your daughter!

⁵ Abri: shelter

⁶ Send to Daddy: presumably the letter was sent first to Philinda's mother.



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