

Tama, Iowa.
November 14, 1956

My dear Margaret,

I am sorry for the long delay in answering your letter but you will understand why when you get through reading this. I was glad to get your letter and to know you were O. K.

The baby is just fine now and growing so nicely. They poor darling sure went through a lot and we didn't know for sure for a whole week if she would be spared to us or not, as she would be getting along all right and all of a sudden take a turn for the worse. I called Shirley right away and she left her job and came to Des Moines and she and Pat's sister that had just graduated from nursing specialized for her around the clock. This chest specialist said if she had of been a small baby even 7 lbs he wouldn't have touched her as she wouldn't of had a chance, so her weight was to her advantage. This isolette that she was in in the picture Marilyn sent you had to be kept closed all the time and the girls had to take her every need through those potholes on the side. They had oxygen going through distilled water into that and had 97% humidity in there all the time. They cut the inside of her left ankle to feed and give her blood through and they had a weight tied to her little ankle to hold her leg down and still all the time. Then they had a pump going all the time pumping the fluid out of her chest through the tubes they had sewed in her. They had her back to the chest specialist for a check up and more x-rays and the Dr. told them she is a perfect normal baby now and her case is going down in medical history. This Dr. asked them to bring her back when she is one year old for another check up and more x-rays as a follow up on her case and for their own satisfaction, to know she is all right.

I sure wish you could see her Margaret as she sure is cute. As you can see from the picture she has a lot of hair. When she was born it was real dark brown, almost black but she is losing that and it is coming in brown and with an auburn cast to it. She has dark gray eyes and we think they will end up brown, like Shirley's did. She has a dimple in her left cheek and she has such a pretty smile. Of course we think there is no baby in the world like her and she is so precious to all of us. *She is real favorite of the world.*

The next morning after she was operated on I had to come home to move to an apartment up the hill by the school as I had to give up my house to the new principal as he has a family of 7. I sure hated to give up my house but was helpless to do anything since the children are all gone. I was all packed and only stayed long enough to get the things moved and to get more clothes and I went right back. I stayed there until Sunday the 26th and came back that night and school started the next morning. They are remodeling the Apt. and painting it and fixing it all up for me. It will be nice when they get it finished and I get settled. It sure has been terrible tho being all torn up and unsettled. They bought a new oil heater for me and it sure is nice to come home to a warm Apt. and not have to shovel coal and haul out ashes any more. The children were sure glad of that part as they didn't like my having to shovel coal and come home to a cold house.

Our good Lord and his guardian angel were sure working over time recently taking care of Larry. Larry was to leave England the day that plane went down in the ocean with 59 servicemen in it and we knew he was to leave that day so you can imagine how we felt when we heard that news over the radio first. I tell you Margaret we just about went crazy with worry. Lucky for me Shirley was home or I don't know what I would of done. She said after we got more details over the T. V. news, come on Mama lets go and telephone to see if we can find out any thing. We had to go to Tawa to call as I can't have a telephone here. Shirley did all the calling. She called Marilyn to see if Larry was by chance there or if she had heard from him and she hadn't so she called Lincoln A. F. B. and he hadn't checked in there yet. Then she put in a call for him to England and they told the New York operator he wasn't there and they didn't know anything about him and when Shirly told them he was there and we knew it and if he had left there we wanted to know and when he had left, and they still gave us the run around so I told Shirley change that call and ask for his commanding officer and after about half and hour we got Larry on the phone. I never in all my life was so happy and thankful to hear his voice as I was then. Shirley just hollered when she said Son is this you and when he said yes she started to cry. I almost had a heart attach and had a terrible pain in my heart almost all day. We called Marilyn then right away to let her know Larry was all right as she was so worried and anxious. He left England then Friday noon and landed in N. J. on Saturday morning and he called Marilyn right away and Shirley and I were down there so we got to talk to him too. He got to his base that evening about 6:00 and got a three day pass and called us to meet him at 2:20 Sunday morning and Oh it was a happy reunion for all of us. He was so nervous, restless and he wouldn't eat it just hurt me to see him that way.

My heart aches for those loved ones of the boys that were in that plane. They boy from Antigo was Larry's best Buddy and roommate and he sure took that hard and felt so bad. He still mentions him when he writes.

Larry was supposed to leave at 10:00 and on the second load and the first load was supposed to leave at 9:00. They were working on the plane the first load was to go on so when the second plane came in they put the first load on it otherwise Larry would of been on that plane that went down, as that was the plane he was scheduled to go on, so you can see how close that was. I hope and prayer he never has to leave the states again before he gets out.

While in England he and some of the other Air Force fellows made a trip to Rome and Oh he enjoyed that. They went to Mass in St. Peter's and saw all the interesting sights and went out to the Pope's summer home and they had an audience with the Pope. He brought back a lot of souvenirs, including a couple toys for Karen. He also got a lot of picture slides that he took of places over there including a number of the Pope.

Shirley is Head Supervisor in Charge of the whole hospital nights at Shriners Hospital in Chicago. She sure has a nice job, likes it Oh so much. She had to leave the day Larry came home so she only got to see him for a couple of hours but was so thankful she got to see him. She was Assst at St Lukes and the head one was an old maid and had been there a long time so there was no chance of Shirley getting

a head so when she got this offer she took it. She had a number of other offers but this one was the best so she took it. It is easy for her to get home here too by train and that meant a lot.

I am glad to hear you are going to stay with Marian this winter as it won't be hard on you like it was last winter with all those children. That really was too much for you, that is why you were all worn out when you came to visit me last winter.

I am going down to the kids Friday evening after school and because of Veterans Day being celebrated on Monday I can stay until Monday evening so I'll have a nice long week end with them. I try to go down there every time I can as I want to see my grandchild as much as I possibly can. I enjoy her so much and of course grandma spoils her.

I must close here now. This is a newspaper but I know you don't mind as I had so much to tell you and this makes up for the long delay. I just haven't written to any one other than my children until the last week so I owe every one.

Oh yes our new principal and the Field Representative in Charge here are sure nice men and we like them so much and it is nice to work with them. I have 2nd, 3rd, and part of the 4th grade and 38 pupils and believe me they keep me going and I come home so tired every evening. I don't like the 2nd grade at all as I am so use to the 4th and 5th grades and that is what I prefer.

Write soon. With love

Your cousin

Edna

Get that dog pattern for me from
Mrs. Paav please so I can make
a dog for Karen for Christmas.
Thanks a million!