Aug. 20, 1942

Dear Don:

My thoughts are with you tonight so strongly that I shall drop you a note. Of course it is hard for you to go but not much harder than for us to see you go. You can see how you are and are now so helpless to ask you in any way. But then you are a man now and will have to make your own way from here on, and we're sure that you have all stuff to do it. It won't be an easy job but then, Don, no job worth the doing is. There are bound to be dark days and darker nights but you must always remember that nothing lasts forever and in the morning it will be a new day. And you are better trained than most for the work. You are too intelligent to be fooled and believe that war is anything but a tragic mess; however, we are in this not with our consent but because of a treacherous attack that we did not invite. Regardless of the causes the effect is that we simply must win.
And we shall win in spite of our petty buckering among ourselves; for in the final analysis we are the greatest nation on earth. We know that this country has reached the highest degree of living for its people ever attained by any nation in the history of the world, and I believe enough in God to feel that with his help all the good, the right, and the fine things must survive. Of course we feel that possibly you may not come back—there is always that possibility and too, we may be gone when you do come back—but in the very grim business of war, bombs and bullets go where they are sent and we must for our own peace of mind look the fact in face. Naturally the law of averages is greatly on the side of your returning to us and please God that will be our happiest day in a life time. I am confident you will receive very good training in what ever field you are placed and that you will be adequately prepared to protect yourself.
I am sorry to hear that everything has been going as well as it should. We all have our ups and downs, and it's important to keep things in perspective. You have shown great resilience and determination in your work. I am confident that you will succeed in whatever you set your mind to.

I hope you are well and that you will stay healthy. Keep your spirits up and keep moving forward. I will be waiting to hear from you with your well-deserved success.

Take care of yourself and your loved ones. I am thinking of you all the time.