

NAME: Richard

RANK: Civilian, Borough Mayor

ORGANIZATION: Not Applicable

OVERSEAS WARTIME LOCATION: England

- The following text is directly from an original wartime letter written by Richard. This is the only letter from Richard in the site curator's possession.
- The following text is presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following text. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Richard writes a town mayor in the United States:

“28th December, 1943.

Dear Mr. Mayor,

A number of evacuated children of this Borough of XX, Kent now billeted in South Wales have received through the British War Relief Society of the United States of America, gifts of sweets and toys to help enliven their Christmas festivities.

This is the fifth Christmas these children have spent away from their homes and separated from their families; and their representatives at home, the Local Authorities, their hostesses and teachers in South Wales, have done and will continue to do what they can to make their lives happy and contented. To be supported in these efforts by the British War Relief Society gives an added joy and delight to this work.

I find that some of the gifts have come from the area which you represent and I, therefore, on behalf of the Borough of XX and its Council, send to you and those who work with you, our cordial greetings and very warm thanks at this indication of the sympathy and understanding with which you regard the people of Great Britain. These gracious acts do much to bind together our two great Nations and I doubt whether they will ever be effaced from our memories.

Please, therefore, accept from me our expressions of gratitude and appreciation.

Together we hope to march to victory over Germany in 1944 led by that great American soldier, General Eisenhower. It is my hope and I feel sure it will be yours, that victory will bring with it a closer understanding between our Nations and a greater contact between our peoples. May these tokens of your sympathetic regard be forerunners of that future closeness and understanding.

With our very best wishes for 1944.

I beg to remain,
Yours very sincerely,

XX

MAYOR.”

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- It is not known whether or not Richard made it through the Second World War.
 - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime newsreel in the public domain that covers the above time period (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/ARC-38990>
 - **For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that covers the British War Relief Society which Richard mentions in his letter (reader discretion advised):**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_War_Relief_Society