

October 1943

Xways Ludham Norfolk  
Thur 30.9.43

Dear Billee

Nothing very startling to relate. 'M' is making steady progress with my waistcoat and in the evening Madge and Sally came for Bridge and a contest between Crossways and Braeside ended in a victory for xways by 820 points after playing 3 rubbers.

Fri 1.10.43

Quite a nice bright day after yesterday's drizzle and I made a start on the Autumn clearing up and replanting but until the frost puts an end to Dahlias and other tender plants, I can only make piecemeal progress. I took up some Geraniums ready to be taken to Mrs Mattocks tomorrow morning. Waistcoat continues to make progress and was ready to try on this evening.

We had a good innings with wireless this evening, after the news Mary Ferguson, Naomi Jacob and others entertained us in a talk followed by  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour devoted to the Argyle Theatre Birkenhead from its beginning to its destruction in the blitz

Many of the old-time music halls stars were mentioned including Albert Chevalier with 'M's 'Enery Awkins', Charles Coburn, and the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo, but I don't suppose these mean much to you although it was good to listen to the old favourites again but the rendering was not up to the original. Then there was a talk on Building which only left a short interval before the 9pm news.

Sat 2 10 43

A bright day with wind veered to N'W. atmosphere very clear and a moderate amount of clear sky and not the sort of day that Jerry likes to visit Yarmouth so I decided to go there. I had previously written to Halfords to know whether they had another pair of +4s and they replied yes, but of a light brown colour. This might mean anything so decided to go and see them. I had mild fright when going up to the P.O. to catch the bus as it sailed past me almost before I realised that it was a 'relief' consequently when the service bus arrived with about a dozen passengers there were only 3 people waiting and I concluded that I should have a comfortable journey. Not so however for at Rollesby about 30 soldiers soon occupied most of the space but along the road a good many more civilians were picked up. It was a mystery how they were packed in.

I went straight to Halfords and looked at the +4s and decided they were O.K. and very similar to a pair I had from Halfords in Woolwich. A small check and far from being light in colour.

Then it came to my mind that I had left M's coupons at home but arranged for the coupons to be posted and the breeks to be sent by return.

Yarmouth doesn't seem much altered since I was there last. Its very depressing to wander through the town and I eventually made my way to the front. The promenade is open to the public but the foreshore is all Barbed wired and mines. The air was lovely and fresh and blowing off shore, and I found a shelter from the wind and in the sun and sat awhile and watched the space where the people should have been had it been August Bank Holiday. What a difference. It was not very exciting sitting there. The only occupation I could find was to sharpen the contents of a waistcoat pocket – 3 short lengths of black lead. There were a few stray machines passing over and people seemed to sit up and take notice in case they looked suspicious.

(Letter unfinished)

Crossways Ludham Norfolk  
Wed 6.10.43

Dear Billee

It has been a fairly decent day and we have spent good time in the garden. 'M' has been tackling her almost endless task of keeping the Lovers Lane bank in order. It seems no end of a job and she is now pulling out some of the big clumps of coarse grass which grows over anything.

This evening, she went to a W.V.S. meeting in the Church Hall It was called for 6.15 and ended up about 8. The subject was 'First Aid' and apparently, she had some argument with the lecturer over Epilepsy. I don't think they agreed in the end.

Thur 7.10.43

C's birthday and I hope the parcel reached him in good time. It should have done so as I posted it on Tuesday.

We had a little rain over night but with a drying wind it was soon dry enough to get on with the garden. I gave my attention to the border under the Lovers Lane bank and 'M' cleared up the bed under your bedroom window, it wanted it, and looks all the better for her attention.

We went over to Braeside in the evening and played 3 rubbers. Sally and I were 1270 up at the end of it all. 'M' had rotten cards in the last two rubbers.

There was considerable activity in the air during the evening, plenty of gun fire but I didn't distinguish much bombing.

Flares were plentiful and extended from a little East of Norwich to the Yarmouth direction; after the first do there was a lull and about 9, they came again. The land before supper was somewhat disturbed but fortunately all the disturbance was well away from here. I watched the fireworks for a short time from Mattocks front door. One flare was no sooner discharged than shells began to burst about it but they lit up and dangled in the air in the direction of Yarmouth.

As it was bright moonlight night and I did not bother to take a torch but coming home 'M' thought of the anti-personnel bombs and borrowed a torch to show us the ground to be walked over.

Things became quiet soon after 9 o'clock. Madge and Sally both agreed that they were glad we were both there to keep them company during a rather disturbing period.

Fri 8.10.43

Sorry, this did not get posted in time for you to get it before Sunday but you must blame the library books, I am deep in 'How Green was my Valley' over 600 pages.

After a cold night it has been a decent day. The wind changed round to the South and was very light and the sun quite warm during the morning. We have both been busy on the West border but 'M' was tired or we should have kept on and come in to tea later. As it was, we heard the story of the new Russian Offensive. They are doing grand.

Did you hear about the Naples post office, the only public building left undamaged but some tons of High Explosive with a time fuse was stored away in the basement unnoticed. It went off during the busiest time in the day and caused numerous casualties. Well, I don't think that I shall spoil another sheet but get this posted.

Cheerio and best love Pa.

Xways Ludham Norfolk  
9.10.43 Saturday

Dear Billee

Another (spasm) of paint this morning and got the second coat on the outside of the lounge doors. The first coat all round is not finished and Burton is waiting for more undercoat.

He certainly found the best spot to work in as with the sun on that side of the bungalow it was like a summer's day. I was glad to put in the air and stayed out all available time.

Towards sunset there was a continuous drone of aircraft passing to and fro, some coming back and others and others coming home. All big 4 engine and hidden at times in low cloud, there must have been hundreds.

Later on, fog came over so we had a quiet night no machines heard before I went to sleep. I wonder where the planes I heard going out about 6 o'clock landed. Nowhere near here I would say.

Sunday 10.10.43

Did not turn out very early this morning just time enough for the 9 am news. The fog lifted during the morning and about midday it was lovely and warm without a cloud anywhere. We did not go to church at 11 as 'M' wanted to go at 3 so I went with her just to swell the numbers and

the Mattocks did the same thing just to keep the poor man up to it for I'm sure he would readily abandon it. He told us that the church bells woke him up from his after dinner nap. It was an effort for me but I managed it. Fog in earnest this evening and not a sound of a machine.

Mon 11.10.43

Thick fog this morning which persisted nearly all day for about an hour this afternoon.

Sad to relate my secateurs have disappeared and I'm lost without them especially when there is so much cutting back and clearing up to be done. Have spent a deal of time searching for them and gave it up and got on with the West border having to be content with a small pair of inferior quality (Woolworths). 'M' came out in the afternoon and got the benefit of what sun there was but in the absence of wind the foliage remained wet all day.

I've had a letter from Welling this morning 'C' seems to be in a bad way but I'll not give you a second hand version and am enclosing the letter for you to read.

Tues 12.10.43

Your letter arrived this morning but there is very little to reply to and M is waiting so I'll continue later. Cheerio and best love Pa

Crossways Ludham Norfolk

Wed 13.10.43

Dear Billee

The BBC found us a job today, for yesterday they gave out a notice about moths saying this is the time of the year that the clothes moth grub comes active so we had a field day in the Bedroom. 'M' has got rid of all the collection that was reposing on the sheet? and turned out other woolly things. I went through my wardrobe and drawers which contained wool and saw that Naphthalene was distributed well. This was a job that occupied most of the morning then the hanging cupboard in the hot closet had to be seen to. I filled up my time propagating various shrubs and evergreens so as to have a spare plant or so as I want to use those that I have and are suitable in filling up gaps in Lovers Lane hedge.

After the 9oclock news we listened to a BBC close up 'Children's Hour' and very interesting it was. Ludham is still quiet and we had a quiet night. Did you see the September report of killed in raids it was only 4 rather marvellous but very reassuring.

Thur 14.10.43

Had a go at the passage cupboard this morning but it was too good to remain in doors and I had an enjoyable time clearing up in the garden and planting for Spring show. Cannot finish however until the frost comes not that I want it for the garden is bright and gay especially the Dahlias are blooming in profusion and 'M' has cut several bunches to give away for the church and Braeside etc.

Mattocks came for Bridge this evening got here early and left about 10.30 after having 3 rubbers. Result with sally for partner we were 250 down. Madge had some splendid cards.

Fri 15.10.43

Another fine day and I went up to the village in the morning but with one thing and another there was very little time for the garden in the morning. In the afternoon I cut the side lawn, there was quite a lot on it and today was the first time for about a week that it has been dry enough to do, the dews have been so slow in evaporating and have been copious. In addition, the wind has been very light and some trails left in the sky seemed to stay in the same place for over an hour and diffused before moving much.

Night and morning have been foggy for some and Jerry has left us alone in this area. I haven't much to write about for things seem to be very ordinary. I sometimes think you must be tired of hearing about the garden but you do get a little bit of enjoyment in it sometimes in the summer. Will wait until tomorrow before closing up.

Sat 16.10.43

You will naturally not get this before the weekend but it will not matter much as we hear that you are at Welling this weekend. 'M' went up the village this morning and called in at the Vicarage and was

told that they had a letter from you saying that you were going and here this weekend. She also had a momentous announcement that Ted had got another living. He is going to Ugborough in Devon about 12 miles east of Plymouth. You will find it in the map book. He may not get away this year but will go as soon as he can get away. Lucky to get a job in such a delightful situation. The sea is visible from the Vicarage which is an up to date house all electric, mains water and a smaller garden which is being looked after until they get there.

I am sorry that they are going. He has been down there fixed it all up and the favoured ones to be told are Browns Mattocks Miss Broom and ourselves. Any others can wait he says for the public announcement. He's a good sort and made all the difference to us in coming here, strangers to the place, it would have been very different without him. I wonder what the new man will be like, will he depart from Evans Evangelical ways.

I am enclosing a note from C but as you have seen him it will be stale news but you might like to see it.

Cheerio and best love Pa

Crossroads  
Ludham  
Gt Yarmouth  
17.10.43

My Dear Babs

I heard from Rene that you would be at Welling this weekend and if you are I hope the weather is better than the specimen we are having here today. Cold and wet. We got a hard knock when I called in there yesterday morning, they are going and hope to leave before the end of this year. He has got a living at Ugborough in Devon not far from Torquay and had been down there during the week to see and fix things up. Its lovely for them £100 more a year but we shall miss them very much and I'm afraid will be very lonely here this winter. He had only told Dr Brown and said they were coming in to see us in the evening, said there were only 4 families and Miss Broom he should trouble to tell, then the rest would hear. I said come in just the same and they said they would try, but as they wanted to tell Madge and Sally and Mrs Mattocks, they might not be able to. He was seeing Miss Broom yesterday afternoon. He told me he couldn't stand the cold here another winter. You will be as sad as we are about them going, I know. Rene said she would try and write to you this weekend anyhow you will see them when you come at ½ term. We shall go up to Church this afternoon and if they can come in this evening, we shall be glad. I also heard you were having an extra day at ½ term; will it be the Friday I wonder for if you could travel on that day that would mean 3 days here. What is the extra day for? We hope you got some reassuring accounts of Charlie. We are feeling anxious about him and will be glad to know that he is at work again for I am sure Gertie is having a pretty hard time with all this sickness. I do feel sorry for her for she never seems to get a chance, something turns up every time she thinks she is getting a bit straight. We have not heard from you since last Tuesday and there may be a letter in the post but if you made your mind up hurriedly and got to w this weekend – I know you would not have much spare time. We hope the weather will be good til after your weekend at present the garden is full of bloom and we should soon have a nice lot of Chrysants outdoor if only the frost keeps off. Things are very quiet here. Both the camos and the airfield are still unoccupied although there are rumours of large numbers coming any day but we have heard that all so often.

1.15pm Sunday

Have just heard that some machines reached the outskirts of London last night. How did you fare was the barrage in full swing, of course I am supposing that you had been to Welling, suppose we shall hear from you soon.

Have nothing more to add to 'M's contribution so cheerio and best love from us both Pa.

Xways Ludham Norfolk  
Sun 17.10.4

Dear Billee

A dull rainy morning and we did not turn out very early, just in time to get a snatch of the 9am news. It was not very inviting outdoors and as there was a dinner to cook, we stayed at home., but went to the 3pm after I had posted 'M's letter to you. The service was over by 3.45 and by this time the sky had cleared and it was a delightful walk home. The congregation was very thin only about half that of last Sunday aft.

As we were coming out 'M' asked Ted if they would come round in the evening. He said they would be very pleased but didn't know about Rene so 'M' went to see Rene who said what about Ted. As this was OK, they both came shortly after service. There was considerable activity as they arrived, searchlights and machines but nothing else heard.

We were in the dining room with a big easy chair opposite the fireplace and facing it to be settled down, very comfortable for the evening. We have had some Veal this weekend, also a packet of bones, and 'M' made some brawn which she made up into some sandwiches. M and I had 5 between us and they had the remainder between them and said how nice they were. In fact, Ted almost looked round for crumbs after he had the last sandwich.

Of course, they were both full of the new job and I think half the conversation during the evening turned on it.

I mentioned to him that they had about double the amount of rain down there as compared with East Anglia but he said that it didn't matter as long as it was warm.

Mon 18.10.43

Some of the finest cloud effects this morning that I have ever noticed, great piles of cumulous and streaks of strata with cirrus overhead and a good light showing various depths of neutral grey in the S.E and neutral edged with orange in the West and blue sky and fleece above with a steak of nimbus fringed on its under edge and which showed us its temper with a deluge for a few minutes but later on it's been bright and sunny. Lots of machines out today mostly flying high only discerned when reflecting the sun as a point of light.

It was too wet on the ground at first so I did a little job to M's shoes, by which time it was dry enough to get on with a bit of digging and still found some dry soil at the bottom of the spade.

We are still quiet in Ludham and last night nothing to report.

Tues 18/20.43

The postman after deserting us for a week came this morning with a letter from you and one from welling.

What a rotten end to your journey up to aggravating to have to wait about at the end of the journey – on second thoughts I find that I have mixed the two letters. It was C who had the waiting to do. There is no doubt from their letter that they were glad to see you, about the first thing Gerie mentions in her letter. Hope Dot did not catch your cold but she is liable to make a good deal of her chance to do so.

I should thin k C could get time off for the Hospital for after all its for the benefit of his health.

A packet of saccharin with Gertie's letter was very welcome as 'M' was right out having used them all instead of sugar which was used for the Crab Jelly.

I wonder whether the inoculation does much good. It doesn't seem so in your case, although it eases one's mind.

Glad to hear that the result of the A.R.P. meeting was so satisfactory to you and you certainly score over fire watching.

When the Evans were here on Sunday, they both wanted to make sure of seeing you again before they go to Devonshire so 'M' said that they must reserve the Half Term Sunday evening and come here to supper but they wouldn't have that and said that we should have to go there, so it was left at that.

I don't know why we were unable to get a paper till nearly teatime, but a dislocation anywhere between here and London may have caused the delay, at any rate I heard no sounds here.

As far as we are concerned there's very little to tell. There have been plenty of machines playing hide and seek in the fractocumulus. The air has been very clear and some bright intervals, not really cold but a biting wind although from the South. We had an alarm this morning. 'M' says some of the villagers she met thought that they saw Jerry overhead but barrage guns provided the only audible indication. This evening is dark and overcast and plenty of rough wind – I suppose you are anxiously awaiting half term.

Cheerio and best love Pa.

Xways Ludham Norfolk  
19.10.43

Dear Billee

The storm last night gave me something to do today. There was a strong wind from the South and it blew down the post on which my thermometer was fixed, luckily without damage to the box and its contents. However, this meant finding up a new post and putting it in and refixing the box, incidentally I gave the thermometer a clean up and made the figures a bit more legible. Then I turned my attention to the runner beams which had blown down on top of the row of Chrysants which were coming into bloom nicely. Here again my luck was in for the flowers were practically undamaged. It was a tedious job to tackle single handed as 'M' went to the Women's Institute in the afternoon and consequently was not available to help and although she came to lend a hand, I managed to finish by the time she came home about 4 o'clock.

We had dinner beside the fire in the dining room and so were able to listen to Smut's splendid speech. He is undoubtedly one of the best men of the day and would be a worthy successor to Churchill should anything happen to him notwithstanding that forty years ago he was fighting tooth and nail against us in S. Africa.

The weather last night evidently frightened Jerry and kept our machines on the ground as I did not hear one during the evening although in other localities, they were active.

Wed 20.10.43

It doesn't look if my tomatoes will do any good in the garden so I've had them up and hung the un ripened branches in the garage which gets quite warm in the sunshine.

Some Italians have arrived here to work on the land. 'M' saw some this morning with their big coloured patches on their backs and hears that they are quartered in one of the huts behind Mattocks. I wonder how Madge and Sally will react to this if it is true. We are going over there Thursday evening and may hear something then. Another quiet night here but a few machines about – Spitfires by the sounds of them.

Thur 21.10.43

Am writing this in the middle of the morning whilst 'M' has gone up to the village braving the rain which looks pretty heavy just now.

The morning broke fair and I just managed to finish digging over the tomato patch and had to come in out of the rain.

Mrs Brown called this morning to discuss with 'M' the question of a Testimonial for the Evans' when they leave. It appears that Riches is likely to be, well luke warm if not against it (thunder rumbling and a terrific deluge).

Your letter came this morning. Glad to hear you had a good journey back on Sunday but it must have seemed a very fleeting visit. C posted your letter in good time and it duly arrived here.

I don't know what to say about Xmas but am very doubtful about it at present.

I sincerely hope that Charlie will be able to continue the treatment at the hospital and get the necessary time off from work, glad to know that you think he is looking better.

Hope that A.R.P. will still require Toby and I certainly think it will be best to remain at K. The garage here is worse than ever and the roof leaks more and more. I do manage to find places where

things keep dry but the coal heap gets very wet on the floor. It will be nice if you can get here Friday morning and will help to make the cost worthwhile.

Just fancy 9 Marigolds for 2/-, extortionate isn't it but with Cs flowers and the hoe sent from here you should be well supplied, provided that the box travelled safely.

I am enclosing some old envelopes that may come in useful perhaps. We have a fine miscellaneous collection and certainly seem to get more than we send.

'M' as just come in wet through below the knee but has managed to keep the contents of her basket fairly dry, just one or two cigarettes wet and nothing of importance wetted.

'M' says that she will be glad of some saccharine's if you can get them. They won't add to the weight of your luggage much.

Rene was at the W.I. and 'M' says that she looked brighter and livelier than she has done for some time. I'd like to have the chance to go to Devonshire. They are already talking about the time when the war is over and you have your car and go and visit them. That is about all now.

So, cheerio and best love Pa.

Xways Ludham Norfolk

Thur 21.10.43

Dear Billee

After the recent heavy rains, I could find little to do on the ground as it came onto rain again about 11 and I had to give up.

This afternoon I went to the P.O. to post to you, AW, and Welling and there was some aerial activity and gunfire in the Norwich direction and we saw them nearly overhead and came in for shelter. We went over the way this evening for a game of cards and in 4 rubbers I was 2200 up but 'M' for partner at first and changed to Madge – poor Sally was quite out of luck. It was raining when we came home soon after 11 and it was quite a peaceful night about here.

Fri 22.10.43

Ground still too wet today so rearranged frame and cut up kindling wood etc. and other odd jobs – finished up helping 'M' clear up after weeding drive. Nothing very startling today and had a quiet evening with Norfolk Life by Haggard and Williamson, a very reliable non fiction book but the authors have quite a lot to say about other things than Norfolk.

Sat 23.10.43

Still too wet to get on the ground with advantage so turned out the contents of the top shelf of the hot cupboard, did a bit of sorting out and found that I had forgotten a great deal of what was stowed up there. I found a hefty box full of your Dartford School books and also one labelled Dolls – all relics of the past. 'M' went out as usual in the afternoon and I did a little job to the kitchen gates which were swinging free and could not be fastened.

I forgot to mention that on Thursday there was a paragraph in the Times stating that a number of M Ps were interesting themselves to obtain an addition to the pensions of Retired Civil and Municipal Servants etc. So, there may be a grain of comfort come my way yet, but I don't suppose that will be anything but meagre.

Sun 24.10.43

We both went to church on Sunday morning and 'M' went again in the afternoon and brought Mrs Brown home to discuss the Testimonial for Ted when he is leaving.

'M' has written to you about today's exciting event. She was preparing a bath and I was sitting facing the fire in the Dining room when I heard a plane diving accompanied by a shrill whistle and before I realised it there was a terrific crack followed at short interval by two others.

The first struck the hard road but the others fell on cultivated land. It was some job to go round and try to find out what sashes were dislocated and the dining room was so full of smoke and soot that I wondered if anything was on fire but not so as I found after investigating the roof. It was a bit of a turmoil but we settled down to read for a while before going to bed, fortunately we both had a good night's rest.

The structure of the garage did not appear to be affected but the contents of the shelves were scattered all over the place and many things hanging up were shaken down so there is a good deal to do to store things away.

Mon 25.10.43

I had a walk round the council houses near which a bomb dropped but could see very little of any damage caused. When I came home, I took two letters which 'M' had written to you and Charlie intending to catch the afternoon post but found that the postman had gone 3 minutes early so did not take them.

Of course, there have been the usual official notes of damage done and to finish up with the Bobby came in just after eight to get his report. In the course of conversation, he stated that 10 bombs in all dropped and in answer to a leading question that I put to him said that he thought that Jerry dived to get out of the search lights and got rid of his bombs quickly in case of accidents and to give him a bit more speed to get away from our fighters.

Tues 26.10.43

A quiet night and no sound of any machines either ours or enemy, mist developing into fog kept them off this area at least. We did not get 8am news so I don't know whether they visited a clearer district. I had a good 8 hours sleep and then did not want to get up. Am waiting to see what the post brings this morning – your wire to 'M' came yesterday. Its lovely overhead today but dew has been very heavy.

Your letter came this morning but I shall not stay long to answer it fully – You will be here soon (I hope). I will arrange with Brooks after Ted has been told when you are coming, he may offer to meet you, but I doubt it. It's a nice day after the mist has cleared and seems to be fairly settled and mist or fog likely but you don't want too much of that for your train journey.

Well cheerio and best love Pa.

The farm caught it badly  
Nothing up in the village

Crossways  
Ludham  
Gt Yarmouth  
2.30 25.10.43

My Dear Babs

Thank you for wire just rec. Many happy birthdays certainly, but not another like this. Since daylight this morning I have been clearing away soot, plaster, bricks, glass etc. Had a letter from ( ) this morning and she said what are you doing on your birthday. Are you have in a party? Oh yes – I've had a party! Well, you can guess what this all means. Ludham has at last had a packet of 6 bombs and not one single person hurt, only one of England's horses in the shed at the corner of Lover's Lane so badly injured that it had to be shot. One bomb fell just outside the shed. Luckily the bombs seem to have been small. I suppose the crater was about 8 ft but we found it all filled in when daylight came this morning. Of course, we and Braeside got a good shake up. About half the tiles off here and Skillern and Dale are at present working on the roof Something hit the dining room chimney, you can imagine the condition of the dining room. Pa was sitting in front of the fire and luckily was not touched although bits came well into the room and as far as soot I have had to wash the rug. I was just about to have a bath (this was about 8pm) and as the water was a bit short, I did a little pumping, just as I finished Crash! I thought the whole place was coming down. Had I been in the bath I should have had a shock for part of the ceiling came down in the B room. Well, we then went round to assess the damage (after a short interlude in the Morrison) until the guns ceased. The front door is jammed, the whole of the framework including the side windows is out of place, it's a wonder it didn't fall. The lead light panel is out and there is a hole in the woodwork at the top where pieces of bomb splinter came in. I did not find this until we were going to bed, windows broken, a piece nearly out of the carpet on the floor and the chest damaged. My leather pouch (pochette) which I laid there when we came in from church has a small piece absolutely embedded in the leather. Evidently, I did not finish the decoration properly when I made it. All this was the worst. One pane



only cracked in the dining room and a fastening blown off one of our bedroom windows. I peeped in the larder in fear and trembling but not a thing had moved. I had visions of mixed jam!!

At Braeside 7 of their windows are shattered, both their bedrooms, dining room, drawing room, Kitchen, Scullery – broken glass everywhere and worse still the sashes are badly smashed. A good thing the glass was all outside, only a few splinters in. Another bomb fell outside the Village Hall, one in the back garden of the council houses and I cannot tell exactly where the other 3 fell but all within a very small area. Isn't it marvellous that no one was hurt. Of course, it made a fine mess of all the wires at the corner by the Crossways gates. Men have been working here all day. Well, we both took things very quietly, had some supper, listened to the news at 9o/c and settled down to a quiet read for about an hour and a half. My book 'Life in Norfolk' !! Pos a Peter Cheyney German spy tale, then we went to bed and both had a good nights rest. Madge and Sally spent their night in their dining room with a good fire, they have stood up to the whole thing splendidly. A man is now filling up their windows with felt, oh, how depressing to have the rooms darkened. I should think that was terrible. Well, there you are' as Ted would say. One good thing its over before you come. Now I want to write to C and G. Pa has gone for a walk round and he will come in in time to post this. I was too tired to go.

Much love and a kiss.

Mama