

Wed 1. 3. 44

We had a letter from Gertie this morning to say that were giving up Rodwell in about 6 weeks time and she would go back there

I shall be very glad to have them back again, it was very unfortunate that they ever left it.

Gertie says she will be very pleased to be back there again and she does not care a lot for Lynmere Rd and I can quite understand that because Lynmere always struck me as being uninteresting.

We have had some nice sunshine here today but it still keeps cold.

There was a bit of shemozzle over the way this afternoon. The pump was leaking and water running over the tiled floor but I diagnosed the trouble and with the aid of my fool proof spanner I tightened up the and stopped the leak, but how it was that the leak occurred during a period of non-use I can't understand. Someone from the farm evidently had been pumping and M found the water on the floor when she went over in the afternoon.

During the BBC item this evening "Can I Help You" an inventory of goods coming under part 2, air raid insurance was advocated. It will be a colossal job if carried down to small details but I think we shall make one and hope that it will not be needed. Do you think of doing the same then I could keep yours and you keep ours. In case of accidents are there any things of ours still at Keighley? Well that's all so

Cheerio and best love

Pa

Crossways Ludham Norfolk

Thur 2. 3. 44

Dear Billee

With the exhaustive letters you have had from "M" I haven't got much to say. I made a start on the chattels inventory this evening starting with the dining room and it's going to be a lengthy thing unless I miss out a lot of the minor items. The first room occupied the best part of the evening.

Although it has been a fairly sunny day the north wind has blown very cold and I have not ventured on the garden today.

Fri 3. 3. 44

This morning I continued with my list, started on the bedroom but it was a cold job and I only got as far as my personal belongings, it's surprising what a long list it made when I included all my clothing. Mrs Chadiorck(?) came this afternoon but Mrs B was not allowed out in the cold wind'

There's no swank about her and she was soon at home and kept the conversation well alive. She was very interested in the school photo (the yard long one)

She was due to go back on the early train from Potter and told us all about being away from the office and having to go to work shortly.

She was going back on Saturday as her husband would be away on stunts for some time and Ludham did not interest her intensely when he was away from it. Not that she didn't like Ludham but home pulled. In the course of conversation, it came out that she knew Sidcup very well having spent school holidays there

The snow has come at last in real earnest and I looked out as I was going to bed and found a white mantle everywhere. The trees looked lovely in the subdued light of the moon behind the clouds.

Sat 4. 3. 44

A proper snow scene this morning and the garden looked a picture with about 3" of snow but it was soft and the main road was just a sea of slush as I went up to the village, every lorry and car that passed threw up a shower of dirty half melted snow and by the end of the day a good deal, about half, had disappeared but this morning it was freezing at 6 o'clock and thermometer down to 22 during the night, luckily the traffic had cleared it off the road outside here.

One of the books this time is on the New Forest and goes back beyond Roman times, very interesting but rather heavy going. The old Kings of England do not come out too well. nor the annual ecclesiastical authorities who various people pinched bits, from time to time. There's a good map to illustrate it all.

Sun 5. 3. 44

After the coldest night this winter the sun has been brightly shining and the wind has dropped, so it is quite nice in the sun (if you are well wrapped up) We were not too early this morning and there being no church parade this time we were both at home all the morning. Dinner was a bit before one, thus giving a little bit more time before going out to Church. You know all about a word or two with the Catfield Vicar so I'll not dwell on that conversation'

We walked back with Madge and Sally. They both looked well and Madge toddled along quite well. The service was for about an hour and we were home soon after four o'clock and M had a bath before tea.

A quiet night with unclouded sky and brilliant moon, too light evidently for Jerry who did not trouble us at all.

Mon 6. 3. 44

A nice day and the absence of wind with bright sunshine gave the feeling that it was much warmer although the thermometer did not bear that out. The snow is melting fast after a light frost and by the end of the day it was only drifts to be seen but the ground ough! It was awful with a film of mud on the surface.

The maroon wool turned up this morning, bits of it so the pullovers can go ahead now.

'M' went up to the village this morning intending to do the weekly shopping but Throwers was so congested with paper and other customers that she had to come back again and then had to make a second journey this afternoon. There was a fine show of machines this afternoon, nearly 200 came back about 4 o'clock, presumably from Berlin. They were flying at various heights from a little over tree-top heights to a few thousand feet. It was impressive and the lower flying ones gave a good opportunity for a "close-up."

Nothing much more to relate and will continue later and see if we get a letter from you on Tuesday morning.

Tues 7. 3. 44

Your letter with enclosures came this morning all the more welcome as I have not had my pension form yet although I have written once and sent a reminder, but I suppose it will turn up sometime but that's not now. We also had a note from C. He is delighted at the idea of going back to Rodwell

The remainder of your letter mostly concerns "M" and I will leave it to her to reply in detail later on.

The war news is good. The Yanks are making them sit up in Germany and the Russians doing ditto in the East. These heavy blows must soon have some effect and there's the long looked-for second front which should be a very decisive factor. Still there is likely to be a hard kick still left in Jerry.

Cheerio and best love
Pa

Crossways
Ludham
Gt Yarmouth
5. 3. 44

My dear Babs,

Thank you very much for the Sanatogen which came on Sat morning. I had forgotten all about it. When I the parcel I thought, "Oh Sultanas or Apricots." Still I was very pleased to find

it was Sanatogen and started on it that day. Mary C came to tea on Friday. Mrs B was not able to come, it was bitterly cold with some snow showers, so of course she was not allowed out. I hardly expected her for she had a wretched cold when I saw her in Monday. By now Mrs C is back at Keighley for she was off by the 10.19 on Sat morning. It appears her husband was going off on Sat: at 9 pm on a six day stunt, then he will be in Ludham for one day after which he expects to be off again probably for 2 weeks and she did not think it was worth while to stay here on her own. She's a nice girl, was quite at home here with us both and stayed until after the news. She told us in no uncertain way what she thought of Mrs Kirk (?). and said that of 6 girls in her office (which is connected with one of the mills) that only one of them liked Mrs K. She said her nieces would be thrilled when she told them she had been to Miss Goodeys home to tea with her father and mother, probably you will have heard something about it. Of course we have not met the husband but have told her that when he is back in Ludham we should be very pleased if he would call in one evening. He is in the huts alongside Newtons where Gowing was. Poor fellow we saw in the "Times" of Wednesday that he was killed in action in Italy during Feb. Also a Major Lee who was at the Farm at one time and a Lieut. Storey, that makes 5 of the Officers who were here with the K.S.L.I

Madge and Sally came back last Wed: they had a tiresome journey, left Workington at 6.25 am and did not reach Norwich till after 11 pm. Joyce was just about to give them up for the train was over an hour late. They are very glad now that they are home again and both look well altho' from all accounts, they have had a pretty busy time and I really think they are glad on that account. We have not heard anything more about the evacuees but Miss Weekley called on Thursday to bring me the £15 extended credit and told me they were putting 20 Ev: children onto her school and this week have reduced her staff by one, leaving her with one other besides herself. Anyhow they told her she could have a supply if she could find one and she promptly did. Her Godsons mother who had been a teacher, she did not say if she was a local person but I should imagine not. She (Miss W) has had about 3 months following influenza and a tired heart and the Dr tells her she must go slow and get as much change as she could at week ends. She was going to Norwich on Friday till Mon this week end and I told her she could come here one week end if she liked, that is unless we were full up with Ev's. She said she would be very pleased a little later on. Wished to be remembered to you, that was before I gave her the invitation!

The new man does not intend to let the grass grow for he is moving in next Tuesday and next Sunday he will be on duty, 8 am, 11 and 6 pm. The following Wednesday 6 am and evening Service and Friday evening Service. What about that. I'm afraid he will have a rude awakening. I can't see many going to Church twice during the week unless its Miss B and Mrs Brown.

The A.R.P. are being cleared out this week as he wants their accommodation which is rather rough on them for they spent £9 on that Garage to fit it up. Now the only place they have been able to find is in those two old cottages next to the Sweep on the way down to Browns and they can only put up 3 beds. We happened to be going into Ch: this afternoon just as Mr Wake came up the path and we stopped and introduced ourselves. He said he was glad we had got a new man but was surprised that he was coming so soon but perhaps the Bishop thought Ludham was more important than Westa... where the population was 175. Mary said on Friday it seemed rather strange that he was coming here as the stipend was less than he was getting. I wondered if he wanted a living where he need not do much work but after hearing this afternoon of the additional Services I don't know. We also hear that the tennis people have to clear their stuff out. Mary said Mrs Ainsworth was 59 and he 60 but she looked much older than he did, so that's that for the time being. Nell is back again and the people at the point hope she does not intend to stay in Ludham but she is keeping very much in the background.

My wool is very slow in coming from Miss Dutton, I have kept everyone going so far but I am again without any and there is bound to be some finished work come in during the coming week. Madge is groaning that she cannot get any wool but I shan't say anything about what you are trying to get for Mrs Vidler or you would be wanted to do the same for them. We are going over there on Tuesday and as Madge said if we don't play bridge we can talk. (what they had to eat (?) for three months nearly I suppose) What a hope.

If Mrs Swanston and Vera can manage it I want them to come along on Wednesday but as they were not at church this afternoon I have not yet asked them

Well, you have got plenty of village gossip here. Oh by the way, Phyllis Ritches is adopted by Mr and Mrs Riches, her mother is Mrs Skillern. Rene was right when she said, don't ask questions in Ludham.

Now this is all. 8.30 and I must see about supper before the news so

Much love and a kiss
Mama

Crossways Ludham
Gt Yarmouth Norfolk
Tues 7. 3. 44

Dear Billee

This evening we went out at Braemar for bridge and got through 4 Rubbers and got home shortly after eleven and stayed up to hear the midnight news but nothing fresh and we soon went to bed.

Wed 8. 3. 44

They are making a spoil heap in Lovers Lane depositing all along under England's hedge. All sorts of rubbish but I managed to find enough material to finish edging the kitchen garden path right round to the lawn entrance and both sides of the curve. It looks all the better for it and I hope to be able to keep things tidier. Its been slightly less cold today and I've quite enjoyed myself out in the garden.

Thur 9. 3. 4

After breakfast I went round to the farm to take back some milk bottles without seeing anyone there so left them outside the back door so as not to look as if I was after anything. Afterwards I went up to the village to meet 'M' and help her carry the basket. She has had another attack of diarrhoea and felt a bit done up, but wanted to go herself. She seemed to be a bit better when we got indoors

Got more edging material and laid it down. Spent the evening writing letters and listening in.

Fri 10. 3. 44

Did nothing much this morning except taking the oil drum to Throwers but had a good afternoon in the garden mainly tying up. The ground after the snow is a bit too wet to sow seeds but I hope to do so next week if it keeps fine and dry.

Quite a lot of machines went over about 10.15 according to reports the target was France and they came back about 2.30am flying low and making no end of a noise. I woke up wondering what was going on.

After having my saw sharpened I set about cutting up the fir tree which is lying down on the "wood." Some job and as I started on the bole didn't get very far but gave up when my arm ached and came in to tea.

Sat 11. 3. 44

"M" seems to have quite recovered from her indisposition. I wonder what was the cause. Can't trace it to anything that I know of. She did the village stunt without any help this morning

Have had another go at my sawing job and by this time my saw wants sharpening again. I stuck it till about 5.15 and gave up without achieving much, did a little bit of digging and raked over

the path just to vary things a bit. Its been a little warmer today, 57 maximum but a rough N wind made things rather unpleasant.

Quite a lot of machines about overhead but don't know anything of the return as I slept soundly all night.

Sun 12. 3. 44

7am and the alarm clock ringing beside me. I was very loath to turn out but I did so and we both went to Church at 8 am when the new man was taking the service for about 10 communicants including two soldiers.

The new man is about Evans height but quite different otherwise, less bone and more flesh and looks as though he had a comfortable life: unlike Evans he didn't spend so much time finishing, drank up the remains of the wine and cut out all the polishing and palaver of Evans. Its too soon to say anything about high or low church, but there was nothing out of the way this time, but I suppose he will feel his way for a start.

Madge and Sally were there but we did not walk back with them but hurried off in order to get breakfast over.

Theres a change in the weather this morning and a little rain which may become heavier as the day goes on. I shall go up and post this during the afternoon and M says she is writing to you later and probably will post after we have heard from you but meanwhile I am enclosing some rug patterns which she said she promised to send along.

Ludham is temporarily quiet just now but I don't suppose it will be for long. Well that's all now.

Cheerio and best love
Pa

Crossways Ludham Norfolk
Sun 12. 3. 44 (cont)

Dear Billee

We both went to Church at 6 pm for evening service and to hear what sort of a sermon the new man preached. The service was over before seven including a 15 minute service.

I do not know what his sermon was about his enunciation was worse than Evans neither could I follow the lessons. He spoke as if he had a plum in his mouth. I think it is definitely that there is something wrong with his leg or legs. "M" says that he did not kneel. I could not see as Sally's hat blocked out my view. It is said that he was very nervous at the morning service at least that was Miss Brooms idea. He has had quite a number of jobs according to the notice put up on the Church porch including India and Annam so with a wide experience he should not have been nervous.

There does not seem to be much more ritual with him than Evans but he bows to the communion table every time he goes to and from the lectern. I expect you will get "M"s when she writes to you.

Mon 13. 3. 44

74 of them. A fair score but if I go on as I ought to be good for a few more at least. Thanks for yours received this morning and for the good wishes it contained. As regards "something for me" suppose you leave it over until you come home for Easter. This is rather a difficult matter this wartime. Hope you get here alright at Easter. All sorts of things are being hinted at about the railways. Anyway the second front can't be long in starting now. Hope we shall do as well as Russia on the Eastern front. It seems marvellous the way they are pushing on in the mud. They must be superlative mudlarks.

I have been sawing up more logs today but my saws are scarcely suitable for cutting up sappy wood. One like the saw that Evans had is what is wanted. We had one on the fire this evening and it took over four hours to burn out. I didn't think fir would have lasted as long.

Tues 14. 3. 44

Your other letter came this morning but as 'M' says she is writing to you I shall leave that for her. I went up to the village this morning and relieved 'M' of that job. The diarrhoea has played her up somewhat but as the day passed I'm glad to say she appeared to be a bit brighter and better.

The weather has been a little less boisterous today and brighter but its still a cold wind and my sawing job has kept my circulation going so that I have not noticed the weather much in the "wood." The ground is drying up nicely and I have looked out the seeds to be sown first and shall have to get going in real earnest. Hope the temperature gets above 45 which has been todays maximum. Paradoxically it seems from what you say that it has been warmer at Keighley than Ludham but after all Norfolk is the Coldest County in England during the winter excepting that part near the coast which gets the benefit of the sea.

Round about 10.30 just when we were thinking of bed, there was a considerable amount of flying but I could not comate it with our bombers going out when the drone is almost continuous instead of heavy bomber drone at distinct intervals and had a hunch that they were enemy planes. The guns round about soon opened up and we had half an hour in the shelter by which time it was all quiet and we went off to bed.

Wed 15. 3. 44

Apparently from this morning's paper they came in over Norfolk and Suffolk and turned for London then.

'M' is a great deal better this morning and has been to the village shopping. It still keeps cold and there was a sprinkle of snow to greet us this morning. It soon went. The ground is getting a little warmer now and I dont expect that we shall get much more snow to lay.

'M' says that she will write her letter to you this evening. The red sweater has been claiming her attention as she wanted to finish it off and include it in a sack to be sent off to Wakefield.

Cheerio and best love

Pa

Crossways
Ludham
Gt Yarmouth
15. 3. 44

My dear Babs.

I am sending herewith your shorts and shoes. So glad to hear you are going in for some tennis, for I think it will be quite a good thing. As Pa said this has been delayed so that I could finish off the red Sweater, I have 2 in Service Sacks and Miss D asked me to return one and as I have a number of things ready to go. I hurried so that the S. could be put in. She sent me 12 lbs of wool on Monday and at the W.I. this afternoon I held forth, result 6 more knitters. I now have 6 people doing Sweaters, and you will see by the enclosed list that I am getting the work done. I had a nice long letter yesterday from Rene. She said that he wrote to you some time ago and they would enjoy hearing from you. I shall reply to hers at the weekend and send it on to you after. We should have had a "make do and mend" today but the woman let Vera down at the last minute and she was lucky enough to get Mr Wake. He came and gave a talk on Turkey, he was a prisoner of war there during the last war after he lost his eye. It was a most interesting talk on Turkish life and Customs.

I asked about Mrs Vidler's Book and she said it was alright, she did not need it at present

and hoped you would be able to get the wool. Don't bother to get any wool for a jumper for me. I have enough to go on with at present. I like the pattern you have sent along very much but that will keep.

Miss S looks like being unlucky over the rug. I noticed another officer casualty in the K.S.L.I yesterday but did not know anything of him. Pa has told you of last Sunday, we have not seen anything of the new comers so far only in the Church then but Miss B told me last week that everyone was up in arms about the First Aid Post and Mrs Cook said "He had made himself a bad name before he came" Anyhow I heard later that Dr Brown was the one who gave the order for everything to be cleared out from the Vicarage. I really think he must have a stiff knee or leg or something but time will show. He is having plenty of services 2 mid week and choir practice 5.30 on Friday. I hope he will be the sort to hold his own against Skillern and Co. I heard the news re P. Riches from Miss B who was surprised I did not know it.

There are some bumps going on while I am writing this 10.45 pm. And we have twice thought of making tracks for the shelter but its warmer by the fire.

Mabel and Nell are back in Ludham. Nell says they have taken her name off the list for Civil Defence and she saw a Dr in town! and told him she had done 6 years and he agreed that she had done her bit and should take things quietly. Of course she must have started before war was declared! Glad your flowers lasted so well, We have a lovely show of bloom among the pot plants - - another bump - but there is nothing much in the garden to pick. Rene tells me that the Daffies have been cut down there for a fortnight.

I'm afraid Ch and G will find a lot of work to be done before they can settle down much in "Rodwell" judging by G and of the appearance of the place when she went to see Mrs Shafts but things will have to be made the best of to a large extent. Well now for bed, perhaps I will finish this tomorrow. M N S are coming in, in the evening.

Thur. morn. 9. a.m.

Nothing much more last night so we went to bed. Just after 11. I hear from Miss Broom that the new lady likes the Vicarage very much and she thinks all those pantries etc are lovely. They are glad there is only one church. At a living in Cornwall near Truro they had 4, and at Westacre 2. So there you are, "What's one mans meat is another mans poison"

A nice morning but cold. So now I will pack up.

I am sending you 8 oz of the maroon and keeping back enough to finish the Sweater. You may like to have it for the train at E. time if you are lucky. Pa's pension people are still keeping him mucking about over the pension papers. He has told them it is his "bread and butter," but we are managing alright, thanks to my credit.

Much love and a kiss
Mama.

P.S. Not too good about E.s pal. That has possibilities which may not be too good for the rest of the staff

Crossways Ludham
Gt Yarmouth Norfolk
16. 3. 44

Dear Billee

Today conditions were better for seed sowing and I got quite a good lot in and although not very sunny it was not so cold and the wind less rough

Whilst 'M' was gone to the village this morning a soldier came to the back door for his wool. 'M' had got me into conversation with him up the road and he wanted some wool for sock mending. Said he could not buy any although he had tried, but of course he hadn't any coupons so "M" said she could find up a few small balls if he came for them. He had a long tale to tell of being short of money and cigarettes and I wondered if he was a professional scrounger. However I did not fall for

his hints, cigarettes I had none and didn't feel like giving money. He would not take the wool saying he would rather see her to see how he stood. I told him there was nothing to pay but he said he would come back again

Madge and Sally came over for bridge this evening and just after we had finished supper and we had the news on there was a knock at the door and it was the soldier. He worked it just right. He said that he had no money so could not go to the N.N.A.F.I. or the W.V. S. for a supper. M gave him a cup of coffee that was left over, a piece of cake, a jam tart and a rock cake which he soon put away.

We restarted our bridge thinking he would sheer off but he stuck till ten o'clock before he went being a good old soldier.

We finished up about ten thirty. Madge and I being nearly 1800 up. Madge had wonderful cards; I scarcely played a hand. 'M' and Sally were dead out of luck as well and Madge doesn't play so brilliantly.

Fri 17. 3. 4

A better morning even than yesterday and I got on with more seed sowing but it became cool and cloudy and a little rain so I came in about five. My thermometer registered a min of 32 and a max of 60 a range of 28 degrees, rather a big one for March.

By the way the soldier told us that he came from Shipley "a little village" near Bradford.

Sat 18. 3. 44

At last our stock of coal is just about exhausted. I have cleared all from garage and have the bit the back door to go on with so went up the village and asked Newtons to send some coal and coke and got coal at dinner time but no coke until next month and paraffin was promised and gallons so with the 5 gallons of oil I got from Throwers we should be able to easily keep warm until April when the weather should be warmer.

Had a good spell in the garden but the afternoon became overcast and dull and cold so did not stay much after five.

'M' had the word Sat, aft. And went to Throwers and got our ration of oranges (9) rather small but sweet and juicy.

I have just finished a book "Inland Farm" by R M Lockley, a very readable tale about farming in war time and the usual Red Tape of government departments. We both enjoyed it and you might like to get it as well. It's a sequel to the one about "Shokholm" The island near St Davids Head in Wales..

Sun 19. 3. 44

We both went to Church this morning and in order to see if we could hear better moved up to the seat next behind Browns. Certainly it was better but Ainsworth clips his consonants and runs one word into another making it difficult to follow him. The service was cut short, only the 1st lesson and by 11.30 he was ready to preach for 15 minutes having a Communion Service to follow so we got home just about 12 o'clock.

Riches told 'M' that the vicar wanted to speak to "M", presumably about the church council so she is going again at 6 but I think that I shall stay at home.

The registered parcel came on Saturday morning and according to instructions was opened carefully and without mishap. Thanks muchly for the Bernes (?) and the wool. 'M' has made a start on one batch and as soon as that is finished she will be able to judge how much more will be required and will let you know.

Shall finish off now and go up to post. So Cheerio and best love, Pa

P.S. Isn't Russia doing great things.

Crossways Ludham Norfolk
Sun 19. 3. 44

Dear Billee

After I posted to you I walked back home via Lovers Lane; it was a lovely afternoon but as usual lately there was a cold wind and one wanted to keep in the sun.

Later on shortly after supper there was considerable activity and I heard one machine, evidently enemy, making some noises like a muffled machine gun. Shortly guns opened fire and judging by the sounds reckoned that they were nearer than Norwich or Yarmouth so we patronized the shelter for half an hour but had no sooner got by the fire than they opened fire again and after an interval of about twenty minutes all was quiet and we got ready for bed but not until 11.30 did we finally retire.

Mon 20. 3. 44

Overcast, cold and dreary and that persistent northerly wind still blowing but I managed a short session in the garden and am getting pretty full except for the ground reserved for the potatoes Mrs Swanston and Mrs Parsons came this afternoon. We had some good fights and at times did some rather reckless bidding, but it was good fun. They left at dusk as Vera does not like being out after that on account of road traffic.

Tues 21. 3. 44

A bit better today and M's washing episode was lucky. I went up to the village and on my way called in to have a look at Vera's plants. She has some geraniums and a fuchsia all very leggy and she looked rather wistful when I cut the down, thought I was going to kill them but I brought the cuttings home and promised to try and root them. These people have the most elementary knowledge of how to treat pot plants, or rather seem to contrive a treatment to put an end to them. After I got home I made cuttings and put them in, so await results. I am not too sanguine as the available pieces were not too suitable and that's all I did outside. Had a date to get my hair cut this afternoon and had a bath afterwards. 'M' followed on and it was teatime then.

Have been listening to Brains Trust but it was about the weakest effort I have heard. Nearly went to sleep over it.

Have not heard from you today so will adjourn till tomorrow morning.

Wed 22. 3. 44

We can say that Spring is here now and the lawns look as though they will want some attention so I got out my bean wire and opened it out flat and dragged it up and down over both lawns in order to distribute the worm casts, then boldly went over the way to borrow their garden roller to roll the lawns down before having to use the machine.

This roller is a pretty heavy one as I found coming up the bit of a slope to the Xways gate. I wonder that Sally manages to pull it round. I made a bold start on the tennis lawn but very soon was glad of some help by "M". With one or two rests we managed to do both but M is tired this evening but I'm glad to say that I'm normal and it has had no tiring effect on me. All the same I was glad when it was finished and to sit down to tea.

There isn't much to tell you today, nothing from you so will wait until tomorrow when under any circumstances I shall post this to enable you to get it before Sunday.

I forgot to mention there was a lot of gunfire around 1 am this morning they made a considerable amount of noise and 'M' came into the shelter for just under an hour until all became quiet. I hear that 9 were brought down so it must have been a fairly big one and not confined to London.

Thur 23. 3. 44

Your letter came this morning and I will endeavour to deal with it, briefly, and so avoid a special journey to post it.

The b (?) should last pretty well one month. I don't have a lot each time

What a rotten business to have to travel on Good Friday. Will you have to put up anywhere overnight. M is better but not quite OK yet. Still she is improving.

We are awfully sorry to know that you have had the same complaint and your sore throat adds further complications

Although as you say we get some fireworks here nothing has seriously disturbed us since that memorable Sunday evening do.

M thinks that the wool you sent will be enough for one pair of stockings. She has nearly done one leg and it looks as though it will be enough.

Pension has duly turned up, thanks for your offer.

If the Lindsay Camp materialises and you get there it will not be a very far cry here.

I see that your last letter was dated Sunday and the postmark was Tuesday and arrival of it here was Thursday so it has taken a good time in transit. Hope you get this before Sunday.

Cheerio hope you will soon be quite well and best love from
Pa

P.S. Surely there is someone in K who could do one nights fire watching to save you on Good Friday, will write tonight

Love and a kiss
Mama

Crossways
Ludham
Gt Yarmouth
23. 3. 44

My dear Babs.

So sorry to know you are feeling "anyhow" again and hope by now you feel better than at the week end. I have now finished the first Stocking and find I have just used ½ of the wool. Did you realise that it would knit up with a brown fleck at intervals – it does and gives a very nice effect. About Mrs Vidlers wool and coupons. I spoke to Daphne when she came in this evening and she tells me that Mrs V has bought some material in Norwich and they are holding it till she sends the coupon book so if you have been unable to get the wool this week end, will you send the book and it can be returned to you if you think there is a chance of the wool. Mrs V is hoping very much that there is. Poor Daphne had a grievance the new Vicar will not allow them the use of the tennis ground and last year she said they all carried pails of sand in the autumn to dress it ready for the season. It looks as if he will make himself very unpopular if he goes on like that for he is so different to Evans who would go out of his way to make things right. Daphne said "He is nothing like Mr Evans was. He was always ready to help us." She said that Mr. A told them he had written to Mr E about it altho' I don't know what that meant. Well there it is and there is nowhere at all that they can get hold of a ground for a game. Quite a bit has been said already in the Village about the Garage and the First Aid Point so this will not improve matters. So far as I can gather up to date no one seems to have had any conversation with him and have only seen him in Church but I have heard one or two say they think she is very nice. So we shall see, After all they have only been here two weeks and seem to be doing everything themselves so they can't have much time at present for people

I hope it will be possible for you to get out of one night fire-watching. As far as the restrictions go they are just the same as in previous years and should not make any difference. Good Friday is a bad day to travel I should think unless most people manage either the Thursday or Sat. We have not heard from Gertie since last week end when she told us Mrs S was moving on the Friday. We had a letter to say that she was giving notice (with much regret) on the 20th and have since had a confirmation not from H.....stones. She told G she was clearing out last week end and coming back this week to have a good clean up and would then let her have the key.

I wrote to Leo about the floor covering as Bertie spoke to him about it and she did not seem inclined to leave it but I pointed out to her in my letter that it was never economical to refit tho' it would probably last a long time if it were left where it was. Anyhow she replied that she agreed and would we consider £3. Well we thought it well worth while and sent the cheque to Gertie to take round. For the present Pa has paid it for they must find the moving gets pretty stiff and I wrote and

told G she could let me have it back later on. They would have been at a loss without anything on the floor and altho it has been down now for 15 years I dare say its good for a few more yet

I wrote Annie a short note for her birthday and sent her a tray cloth. Had a letter back to say she thought my note was very short and cold, nothing like my usual chatty letters. Was there anything that I was offended about and incidentally re the letter I wondered if Vyvyan liked the boots I sent her at Xmas time so I expect poor V had to go thro it for a day or two after! I also had a letter from V. She had evidently had a good blowing up for not writing. I must write to them both this week end and also to Rene. My only reason for writing a short note to Annie was because I had very little time to catch the post. We have just had a nice supper. Mrs Mattocks has had a pig killed and this morning while I was out, called and left some pork sausage and pork brawn, some of which we have just had and very nice too.

I am going to Norwich Saturday afternoon, to a W.I. meeting. A car is calling at 1.15 and as there is room for three Mrs Smallwood and Mrs Swanston are going with me. I'm having the collectors tomorrow evening.

The weather has been better for the last two days and I feel much more like doing things I'm glad to say. Pa borrowed the roller from Braeside yesterday to roll our lawns. and I helped him. Oh dear it was an effort. The next time they lend it to him they had better lend a man as well. We are going over there on Sat. evening; I hope there will not be any alarms while we are there I would rather be at home. For although nothing has happened near here it's a bit disturbing. Don't worry about the Red Sweater, I thought you wanted to have the wool. I think this must be all now. 10.20 p.m. but it can be posted tomorrow and you may have it on Monday.

Much love and a kiss

Mama

Easter will soon be here. I wonder what Winston will have to say on Sunday.

Xways Ludham Norfolk

Fri 24. 3. 44

Dear Billee

One of the warmer March days and more pleasant in the garden. Misty at first but mainly overcast all day. We do seem to be short of sunshine this spring. The books from Smiths came this morning including Within the Cap – your recommendation and a thriller by M G Eberhart “The man next door” quite a decent crime yarn.

Sat 25. 3. 44

I was awakened about 1.30 am by the terrific roar of machines flying low, evidently ours coming home and the row lasted some time. I also heard a machine making a noise like a machine gun with an unearthly screech followed by a thud and guessed that a machine had come down not far away, but have not had any definite confirmation, or as to where it happened, several people in the Village heard it as well.

I had a good spell in the garden today clearing up dead leaves and weeding etc. It was nice mainly but became cold tea time.

M went to War Saving meeting in Norwich with Mrs Swanston and Mrs Smallwood. They were taken there and brought back by Mr Story of Horning, as no cups of tea were provided she got back in good time and our tea was in good time in consequence.

Sun 26. 3. 44

We did not wake until about nine and as it was so late I decided to stay in bed a bit longer and eventually got up about 12.30.

It was a lovely day with bright sunshine and a maximum temperature of 65. I went to post in the afternoon and came back by Lovers Lane. Its nice and dry in the lane after the dry weather we have had lately. So far in March there has been a 60% deficiency of rain and we could do with a shower or two now. We went to Church in the evening at 6. 0 pm and were pestered by mosquitoes. Ainsworth gave us a 15 minute discourse but I could not understand about half of what he said but I did hear him say that the induction ceremony was to be at 3 pm on Saturday which clashes with M's war savings do.

Madge and Sally came over to hear Churchill at nine o'clock, a good yarn but told us very little. I suppose you heard him.

Crossways
Ludham
Gt Yarmouth
26. 3. 44

My dear Babs.

We got your last letter and the news of how you were on Friday morn. We feel very anxious about you for I feel sure the real troubling has been piling up since the Autumn. Each time you have gone back you have never been really fit. I wonder if Dr Hill will let you come home this week if you ask him, that would give you a chance to get right again before the end of the Easter holidays. You must be thoroughly run down and nothing but a complete rest will put you right again. Ask him and see what he has to say about it. The weather is lovely here today you would have been out sun-bathing all the afternoon had you been here.

I went to Norwich yesterday afternoon. Mr Story from Horning came and got me and brought me back. Mrs Swanston and Mrs Smallwood went with me.

We had the enclosed letter from G. yesterday I guessed what it would be about the house but after all they have the advantage of getting it cleaned up while Mrs Shafts is paying rent for it till the 27th the day they move in. I guess they are busy there today.

I have told Mrs Vidler that you will not be able to go to Bradford again before you come home and that you are sending her Coupon book back. I'm afraid this will have to be posted as we go to Let me know if there is any possibility of you coming home and how you are.

Much love and a kiss from both.
Mama

Mon 27. 3. 44

Felt a bit slack this morning and did very little but after dinner was more energetic and nearly made up for lost time. Among other things I turned out some plants from indoors to frame and cleaned your window board and gave it a coat of brown paint: it was getting a bit shabby.

Tues 28. 3. 44

As "M" was washing today I went after milk etc and nearly all my available time was taken up with Chrysanthus. M went over the lawns in the afternoon gathering up straw in preparation of putting the lawn mower over them as the grass is definitely growing now. Your letter of the 24th inst came this morning. I think you did wisely in having a spell, it's a pity you did not make a job of it and rest your throat a bit longer. There is not much else to reply to.

Your letter of Sunday came this morning. I wonder if you were wise to go back to school so soon.

So far Yarmouth and Norwich have not been troubled by Jerry's last spasm and hope that this freedom continues.

I saw Mrs Vidler this morning outside the post office and gave her back has clothing coupons together with a little note from "M"

Mrs Swanston represents the Womens Institute on the war savings committee.

My stockings are well on the way and it looks as though there will be just enough wool to finish the second one.

What a price to pay for Daffodils. I hear that Arums are of per bloom. As regards a Peony it's a bad time to move them just now but I will see if I can get a piece off without disturbing the root. The Phlox I can easily manage and it should replant quite well.

Hope that the fire watching turns out O K and you don't have to travel on Friday.

Well its now nearly 11 o clock and I'll get ready for bed and close up and post on Wednesday.

Wed 29.3.44

Your Norwich hospital transfusion card came yesterday and I am sending it on to you. I've nothing else to add at this juncture so come on Easter and best love

From Pa