

Crossways  
Ludham  
4.4.43

My Dear Babs

Glad to have your letter yesterday morning. We guess you are pretty busy as usual this time of the year. I went to see Mrs. brown yesterday morning and she was very upset about the books. She had quite forgotten and said she was ashamed. Anyhow that's alright. She was very pleased with them and likes them better than the one on loan which she talked of returning. She spoke about money but I told her that could wait till you came and I did not know anything about that. You will have guessed from Pa's letter that he is doing the spring cleaning. What a joke. Anyhow I am getting on well with it and hope to finish next week except for a few odd jobs. Weather lovely here today 62deg and the garden is getting full of bloom, masses of Aubretia outside your window and a fine show of Wallflowers everywhere, the Tulips will be out by the time you come. This Adv was in the Times on 2 consecutive days last week. What about it, 'nothing venture, nothing have.' you know. Went to church this morning at 11 and saw Rene as I came out. Enquired about nanny. 2 kids arrived this morning she said I want to see them, in fact, I expect I shall want one when I do. Dick writes that Arhtur is very comfortable in Hosp and seems to have made up his mind to be bedridden for the rest of his life. Which Dick now says may be years. The R. Off. Agreed to accept 30/- per week so that's alright. This is a short note as before I go to post it, I have to oil Pa's back, he is now in the bath.

Parish Council meeting on Wednesday evening business: Wings for Victory Week. So, I'm going, hear there is a notice up in the village.

Much love and a kiss  
Mama

Crossways Ludham Norfolk  
Sun Apr 4 1943

Dear Billee

A fine day but we were not too early about, had the extra hour to make up for. 'M' went to Church at 11 but I stayed at home and had a lazy do nothing sort of a time.

My bath this afternoon was some game, I did not want to get soap and water where my Eczema had been so got 'M' to rub me down with olive oil. Had to go sparingly as it seems that we cannot replace the oil. I must say it was more comforting than sulphur ointment or Vaseline although the latter is very soothing.

My eczema is nearly gone and I don't want any more if I can help it hence the bath precautions.

We both went to Church this evening and apart from the drone of our machines going eastwards it was a quiet evening.

Mon Apr 5.43

'M' went to the village this morning and did some shopping at Throwers but as she had milk to bring, I had to go up later and bring the load home. I was also able to get some rubber heels for my shoes. I

had given up hope of getting any more of these owing to the rubber shortage but they had quite a good stock, probably the quality used for rubber heels is not suited to tyres.

We had the real first taste of summer today 27 in the shade and 60 outdoors at 9 o'clock in the evening. Not much wind, but there was seemed to be like a hot breath, the barometer came tumbling down very rapidly, half an inch during the day, which indicated more boisterous weather and we can do without strong winds now. The fire in the dining room died out and we did not need any artificial heat, got to bed slightly earlier than usual though. As you might expect it was nice and genial outdoors and I took full advantage of it including a couple of hours after ten.

Tues Apr 6.43

What a change this morning, half a gale from the N.W. cold and some spiteful showers which fortunately did not last long. One was glad to get out of the wind. Still, I braved it this afternoon and cut the tennis lawn which took me best part of the afternoon.

M has been spring cleaning our bedroom today and the shelter bed has had a good do. I have relinquished the feather bed and 'M' has taken it over says she can sleep better on this and I'm quite sure that I shall be better without it and hope to wake up fresher in the morning. 'M' is still finishing off 8 P.M. and I have decided to stay indoors out of the wind and am writing this.

Your letter came this morning, thanks for the enclosures. There is plenty of fresh air in Ludham today too much in fact for comfortable enjoyment of it at times. The garden is beginning to look quite gay Aubretia predominates with several shades. Wallflowers are making a show now as well as polyanthas and Narcisus. Tulips will come later. There are a fine lot of buds coming up. In Lovers Lane in the hedges there is almost a whole cloud near the junction to the Hall where the Sloes are. We can see it out of the lounge windows.

With regard to the position as Welling you seem to have had all the information so I need not add my quota. Apparently, Dot and Mrs Walkers have turned up trumps.

Have not heard a single comment on the evening Communion.

I can't see the altered conditions as to difference areas will make any difference to you as you are 'coming home'.

You speak about getting soaked when you went to Steeton, you were more favoured? than we have been with rain.

The Harrogate Keighley journey is a good instance of conserving petrol. It looks as though the land work will not interfere with your summer holiday. I suppose that you would not mind a fortnights camp in September.

Well. It's getting too dark to continue so will Black out and listen to the 9pm news. I wonder what we shall hear about Tunis its almost time we had some good news from there. Well cheerio and best love

Pa

Crossways Ludham Norfolk  
Wed 7<sup>th</sup> April

Dear Billee

Today is a day to remember the wind was something terrific, the worst I have ever experienced here. The morning was not so bad but about 4 in the afternoon the storm was at its height but there was not enough rain to wet the soil which was a bit unusual. I was endeavouring to do a little in the garage in the afternoon but it rocked so much that I was afraid it might collapse on top of me so locked up and came in.

During the worst of the weather the air was filled straw and dust, looked like a cloud and as

the direction of the wind was North of West we got the full benefit of England's straw. I have never seen the garden so littered. At the vicarage trees came down and one crashed through one of the out buildings and a slate off Gravenall's roof crashed through one of Halls windows. Slates and tiles were stripped in many cases but luckily, we escaped that calamity. Everyone on the village is clamouring for Dale to put the damage right. The Council houses in Ludham and Catfield caught it badly and no doubt there were many instances which we did not hear about.

The damage here was mainly to Rose supports and broken pot when evergreens in the porch were blown over and I can ill afford the loss of big flower pots. Under the circumstances I did very little outdoors.

Thurs Apr 8<sup>th</sup> 43

We had a letter from C this morning to say that Gertie would be coming here on Saturday, and that Barrett thought that the specialist services were not needed as she was so much improved.

'M' had been doing another spot of spring cleaning today but the sciatica has been very troublesome intermittently. It is a good job it is not continuous. Later on, she made a start on cleaning up the straw in the drive.

I did some repairing to my rose supports and not having a pot big enough for the evergreen I planted it out in front of the telephone pole outside the kitchen window.

We did not hurry after tea and listened to a play after the news and Mrs Broom came in before the tea things were if the table. I went out into the garden for a bit after tea but it was cold and cheerless and filled up a sack with straw which 'M' had collected, it may be useful to them at the vicarage for their nanny and the two kids.

I had a word about Gertie coming into a defence area and the policemen said that there was no reason why she should not come but the military authorities may at any time order non-residents to leave the area.

Our light has been playing tricks this evening and the talk after the news was not finished and after some intermittent flashes it went off till about midnight when it came on for just time to hear the news and then cut off again.

Fr Apr 9 43

Well, It's about time to go to bed now so I'll finish this off tomorrow morning and let you know what the post says (if anything) about Gertie and C coming.

Sat Morn 10/4/43

Have had a letter from G this morning to say that C&G will leave Liverpool St at 10am and arrive Wroxham just before 3 and so shall reach here 3, that is if train is on time. It's a bit awkward as 'M' has her War Savings and will not, most likely be here when they come. They want to be met at Wroxham and I shall go over with him to meet them at Wroxham.

Cheerio and best love

Pa

Crossways Ludham Norfolk

Saturday 10.4.43

Dear Billee

Today was somewhat of a mixed affair. We had a letter from Welling to say that C&G were arriving at Wroxham at 2.42 and wanted Brooks to meet them so I straight up to Brooks to arrange about the car. It was a bit of a blow to find that they were meeting the 2.20 at Norwich to bring Medicot back which would mean that we should have to wait quite a long time for the car at the station. I could not get anyone else to do the job so had to leave it at that.

This meant that I had to get the 1.49 bus at the Post Office and keep them company until the car arrived. So, after an early dinner I set off and secured a seat on a relief after getting out of the car I wandered along to the station and when about half way there heard a toot and a car drew up alongside me. There had been a misunderstanding about Medicot they wanted to be taken to catch the 2.20 from Norwich and so Joyce was returning empty so she came along to Wroxham Station and waited for C&G to come.

Now you know M has her war savings (just over £19 this week) and under the circumstances did not expect that we would be back in Ludham much before 3.30 and the time would soon pass until she had finished her weekly collection, but just as we drew up to Crossways I saw 'M' about 200 yards along the road. Of course, so she had no occasion to look back so did not see our arrival. Well we came in and C&G had a roast in front of the roaring fire which 'M' had left and I made them some tea and by the time they had drunk this and sorted out and unpacked 'M' was home and we all had tea. I think C had 7 cups all told. Good old tea pot sucker isn't he. Charlie was up to the village after tea to verify the times of the Sunday buses and found that on Sundays there was no bus until too late in the afternoon to get a London train so I went round to Brooks with him to fire up the car to catch the 1.14 from Wroxham. The same train that 'M' caught when she went to Welling. Gertie looked very wan and pale when I met her on the Platform but she had recovered a bit of colour before we went to bed. She kept us fully entertained til bedtime her tongue went 19 to the dozen. Effie, Barrett, neighbours, Dot and so on but she did not suggest a game of cards. I don't think she felt quite up to that.

It's been a cheerless dull cloudy sort of day and I don't think the isolated reports I heard could have been bombs but I woke up twice during the night with the windows rattling. Sounded more like mines out at sea, just single bangs and not like a stick of bombs exploding.

Sunday 11.4.43

As we had to have an early dinner, the car came at 12.45 we were in good time for breakfast. Gertie had hers in bed and C followed on after M and I had finished. M had a busy morning and we had finished dinner before half past twelve which gave a little time before C had to depart.

'M' went with him for a change and Gertie and I disposed of the dinner things whilst she was away.

It was somewhat cool this morning but by the evening it became more genial. 'M' went to church but I stayed home to keep Gertie company. During the evening, I had a walk round the garden and locked up the garage. Wasn't out there more than five minutes and when I came in I found G very much distressed by a fit of coughing which was followed by retching. Of Course, there was nothing in the house to relieve her and the (kays?) which she had been getting relief from she had left in Welling.

Mon 12.4.43

A much nicer day which improved as the day wore on. G has been in bed until the middle of the afternoon. I rather fancy she had too much to eat on Sunday. Barrett has advised her to be sparing especially with fats and meat and eggs and only partake of a light diet.

M has been doing the orthodox thing to day and got everything dry quite nicely. I took on the job of cutting the tennis lawn which proved a very warm job and 'M' came out for the last ten minutes before tea. I was cutting some of it a second time to try and get it down and cut off the thousands of daisies which seem to be increasing a lot and I can't get any Sulphate of Ammonia to kill them. Its all being reserved for farmers.

Of course, we listened to the budget and welcomed? the proposed increase in tobacco. The increase on beer left me cold as I haven't tasted any for months. I think I shall try and give up smoking. I did it once before so suppose I can do it again.

It was a delightful evening and I was loth to come in early enough to Black out and settle down to hear Kingsley Wood tell the tale about the budget. Nothing much in his speech after the announcers had done their b it.

Tues 13.4.43

By some unexplained reason the post has arrived this week about 9am. Quite a good improvement. Together with yours we had we had one from Dick who says that there is some improvement in Arthur's condition although he has developed a carbuncle. Gertie also heard from C who had a comfortable journey to London.

Theres not much to reply to in your letter, sorry to hear that you have contracted a cold and nearly lost your voice and hope that it will have departed by the time you get this.

If we see anything of Evans and he asks about the time you are coming we will let him know, but of course cannot tell him anything unless he does. Anyhow let US know as soon as you can. Brooks is very busy.

Cheerio and best love

Pa