

Xways Ludham Norfolk
Tues 25. 4. 44

Dear Billee

Just a short note in the hopes that you will get it before Sunday.

After I left Wroxham station Joyce went to Wroxham to get some juice and I took the opportunity to go to the P.O. there and endeavour to get your parcel on the way; but no luck and I came on to Ludham P.O. and no better luck there. I suppose that all the petty fogging post offices do the same. I left the parcel with Mrs Smallwood and she promised to deal with it which saved me having to go back home and come back later.

The day was a glorious one and I put in a full afternoon and evening clearing away green stuff which had gone to seed and then digging it over for a late sowing of the peas and runner beans

We got to bed about 11 and had no sounds to disturb us.

"Ms" leg seems to still be on the improvement but I don't think she enjoys sitting about by herself all the afternoon and evening whilst I am in the garden on a fine day and would like to be out there doing some weeding etc

Wed 26. 4. 44

Another fine day but a cool North wind kept the thermometer down below 60

We both of us woke up in good time and agreed to have an extra lay in bed but she could not rest in bed long and got up about 10 leaving me to sleep until 11. This was not exactly what I wanted. I should have liked to have been up first. As it was I lost a good part of a lovely morning in bed and she was on her feet part of the time until dinner. After dinner she took a mat out and did some weeding to the path under the dinning room window which was getting very ragged and I came along and helped. Her leg does not seem to have suffered much the place looks better and the swelling has decreased and improved in colour.

There was no Village jaunt this morning and the milk was left just inside the kitchen gate.

What do you think of the budget. The cost of living looks like going up but the increase in wages looks like being partly liquidated at least and the subsidy fund relieved of part of its burden. An artful alternative to putting on extra taxation. What tricks there are in finance.

Hope you got back in time and safely.

Cheerio and best love
Pa

Xways Ludham Norfolk
Thur 27. 4. 44

Dear Billee

Aft 'M's exhaustive communication there's not much left for me to tell and in these days I don't seem to have much time for anything but keeping the garden in order.

I had a go at the side lawn today, one day less than a week and I was glad it was not one day over instead. The mower is not behaving too well. I fancy the chain is getting worn, not to be wondered at for I have used it for 6 years and it wont last for ever and I shall begin to wonder whether I was wise to send the other one back to Welling. I must write to the makers and see what they recommend.

Fri 28. 4, 44

I went up to the Village this morning and called in at the school to see Mr Bird and tell him how we were situated now with regard to billeting, should it come about and he agreed to cancel our

offer, and said he was not hard up for billets so that was O.K. Whilst in the village I called at Throwers and told him of the position and he will bring the order if we let him have it on Monday and he will call on Tuesday aft. To anticipate I took the order on Monday morning and had to bring back the butter and margarine as we could not wait till Tuesday for it. He excelled himself and brought the goods on Monday afternoon.

Did the tennis lawn this afternoon the mower only behaved moderately and I took it down and cleaned it getting nicely messed up with the chain. You know what a messy job it is with a bike chain well this was much worse. I think I improved the running though somewhat.

Had a seed sowing day today, but the ground is very dry and I had to pump and cart water to help the job and to circumvent the birds for a dust bath in the seed rows. This took up all my available time today.

Sun 30. 4. 44

Felt very tired this morning but "M" woke up and left me to sleep till a quarter to 12. Of course she did not go to Church and we neither of us went in the evening. I went to the Village before supper and walked back via Lovers Lane. It was a lovely evening and I quite enjoyed the short walk.

Mon 1. 5. 44

I went to Ludham this morning and had a word on the way to Miss Broom who had seen the post woman pass by with a sack of wool and she agreed to call in Tuesday Mrs and distribute some of it.

I also saw Mrs Ainsworth and I gather that she is a gardening enthusiast for she spoke about nothing else all the way to the P.O.

My tomato plants have done well so far and I have pricked them out today. Hope we don't have any cold nights from now onwards although it is just possible that we shall. The Dahlias which have been stowed away all the winter I found to be growing out some quite respectable shoots notwithstanding that I stowed them away dry. Have turned them out to the frame now that my potatoes have given me some more room.

Mrs Vidler called in this evening to say good bye as she is leaving the Hall, fed up with the job

Tues 2. 5. 44

Exactly 56 years ago today I started on my architectural experiment, a long time I suppose but it doesn't seem such a very long time as I look back on it.

At last I have had a reply from my brother in Canada. I am sending it on. You can send it back when you have read it. Took a month to get here so I suppose that the mail ships are not very frequent in wartime

I have had a tedious monotonous job today Have been raking over the drive, but it pays to be doing and looks all the better for it I did not finish it till about 7.30 this evening and then started weeding outside the back door where some hefty tufts of grass had appeared.

There a nasty gusty wind this evening which is roughly handling the tulips under the dining room window and bellowing out the curtains after blackout.

Ms leg is going on well. Nurse expressed her satisfaction but it seems to me to be a slow job and I shall be pleased to see more visible improvement.

I am enclosing a note from M as well as Berts letter. No more now so
Cheerio and best love from Pa

Crossways
Ludham
Gt Yarmouth
29, 4, 44

My dear Babs

Glad to get your letter this morning and to know you had a good return journey. What a pity about Miss Sunderland, is her knee an old trouble, I seem to have heard of it before. So you put things right with Miss Evans, was she really surprised to learn that her letter was unfinished. I expect what really happened about the p/c that we sent was that although you posted it on Tuesday aft. it stayed in Ludham until Wed. morn. which bears out what Mrs Smallwood has told me viz: that all the larger parcels go out in the mail van in the morning. I don't envy you the scramble to get things fixed up for your "week". I wonder what will happen here. I spoke to the Collectors about it this aft. And they all agree that the best thing for her to do is carry on the Group here and let the village make its own arrangement. Even Nellie Jones said, "You must look after yourself first.

My leg is going on very nicely and when saw it on Thursday, she was very pleased and said it was healing up nicely also she thought she would only need to come in once more and that would be on Sunday (tomorrow). I have just done it up freshly and it is gradually healing right over. The next thing will be to see it does not break out again. We have managed very nicely this week and with Pa's help I have been able to give it a lot of rest, nearly all afternoon and evenings. Madge has been very good, she came over on Wed. to see if there were any dishes needed washing, but we had managed that alright, then on Friday she came to know how I was off baking cakes etc, Well I had made a batch of little cakes in the morning but she said she would make some pastry bits and some apple cake. I wanted to give her the flour and lard etc but she would only take the sultanas. I only had a few to give her and this afternoon she came over with about a dozen pastry bits, 6 tarts and a nice square of apple cake. I must think of some way to make it up to her.

I had the usual long tale about Canteen troubles this aft: and there is to be a W.V.S. meeting at 7 pm on Monday. No-one seems to know what about but presumably it is to discuss the agreement. If my leg allows I might possibly go

The latest suspicion is that Kate is getting a good thing out of it all for when bread was left at the P.O. it had a halfpenny com: on every loaf left there, now it is left in the Churchroom some one has woken up and wants to know who gets the 1/2ds. Also the man is asking for 10/- per week for delivering and they wonder who is going to have a share in that. Housekeepers are usually pretty wide awake to all that sort of thing.

When Daphne came last evening she told me that would be for the last time and on enquiring I found that Mrs Vidler is leaving next week. Her husband has found a flat near London and she is getting some of her furniture from Leicester and going to live with him. Yvonne has got a transfer to Wiltshire and Sheila has applied for one there also. Daphne says she won't stay at the Hall so she has fixed up to board and lodge with Mrs Sammies (?) after she comes back from her holiday. The sequel to all that is Miss Broom says she is not surprised, she knew some time ago that Mrs V would have to go and all the girls were so dissatisfied and complaining about the food being so bad. One of them is lodging with Miss B's niece down near The Dog and she gets all the gossip from there. I don't believe any of it for I have seen the weekly order that goes from Throwers and its certain that Mrs V and her girls could not eat it all. They get a far better selection

of stuff than I can get. Its rather a shame, I'm sorry for Mrs Vidler over it. Daphne said she was coming in to see me before she left and I shall hear her (Mrs V's version) if she does.

The garden is lovely. We have between 3 and 4 hundred tulips to bloom it will be a grand show and the blossom is all coming out well now.

Things are much the same here. We had about two hrs drone this morning a very misty morning over head. The troops had a distinguished visitor at a nearby town this week and Ludham was empty.

Had a letter from Gertie this morning. She said she would write to you. They have a lodger, an Irishman. He is paying her 30/- per week and no midday meal. So that should help them a bit if he stays long enough.

The birds are getting on with the nest. They started on Wednesday and do not seem to be hurrying much about it but they come back every night. I have not had any wool yet from Miss D but hope to see some on Monday

I have a lovely book. "Valley of Decision" by Marcia Davenport. I am sure that you would like it. It's a big book 768 pages and full of interest. Quite the nicest book I have had for a long time

Sun morning: and a lovely one. Pa is having an extra rest this morning and it is just Church time so as nurse said she would look in today I hope she will come before I start the dinner. All quiet last night again. My leg is looking better I think each time I undo it so I am hoping that it will not last much longer now.

Gertie said in her letter that they have hopes of curing clean Jeans but I should think that it was very doubtful and will mean a long dreary time for poor Olive. I want to write to her today. Pa has fixed up for Throwers to bring the weekly goods along on Tuesday afternoons so that's that settled alright. Hope you got the music parcel safely. Have you written to Vyvyan yet

I hear Vera is pushing on with the market stall arrangements. She is very keen on it people tell me but opinions seem to be divided as to how it will be received in the place. The ground on Stocks Hill is Ecclesiastical, hope the spelling is right but its near enough

. I am glad you have seen Dr Hill and hope that with the tablets you will be able to sleep better for if it is nerves sleep will be the finest thing. Don't take on more than you are obliged for Salute the S.

Let some of the others realise how much work it all means if you can.

I think this is all now. Pa will be writing I expect but I want to get them posted this afternoon

Much love and a kiss
Mama