

September 1943

Crossways Ludham Norfolk  
Tues Sept 7<sup>th</sup> 1943

Dear Billee

After leaving you at the station Joyce brought me home without any event of note. I offered to walk from the PO but she came right to Xways.

The morning seemed interminably long and we listened at 7a.m. Nothing very special and I got out into the garden soon after light. The early morning nip was fast going with a brilliant sun and unclouded sky and with no wind to speak of. I had a bonfire first and then went on with my rose trimming job.

The machines were coming and going high up in the air and the clear skies enable one to see them like points of silver – evidently day machines and not night planes.

I came indoors for a spell and a smoke and discovered the packet of tobacco you left on the bookshelves. You were determined to give me one. It was nonetheless welcome and thank you muchly.

We had dinner early and after the 1P.M. news 'M' went and laid on her bed and I patronised the settee intending to have a sleep but did not lock either front or back doors.

It was not long before I heard the front door open and someone calling. You may guess who it was. It appears that he was making a coffee strainer and 'M' had told him that if he could not make a success of it to come and see her as she had a spare one.

Well, I took no notice and he went away and I tried to get some more sleep, but the quarter of an hour that I had had was all I could manage.

About half an hour later he called again so I thought that I would show myself to the poor man. He had wandered across to the garage. I told him that 'M' was asleep as we had been up since five o'clock.

Before he went, I asked him if he had noticed a surplus wheel suitable for a barrow when he had been cruising around the Parish but he didn't remember doing so.

In about another 45 mins he was back again and this time 'M' was about, much disappointed in not having a good long sleep. She fished him out an enamelled coffee strainer which we never use and he was happy. During this last interval he had been all round looking for my wheel, he mentioned about half a dozen likely places but had had no luck and he departed leaving what looks to be a very interesting book entitled 'When ships go down' and I think that I shall enjoy every bit of it. One chapter is given to the treasure ship Egypt perhaps you can remember how an Italian firm salvaged the gold.

We have been glad of a fire this evening and I have sawn up about half of the old Buddleia that was in the 'wood' but did not stay up late, went to bed about 10.30 to try and work off some of the overdue sleep.

Wed 8.9.43

Not so early up this morning and I did not get my breakfast until about 9 o'clock.

It was another lovely morning and quite a nip in the morning air. I do hope we do not get an early frost to spoil things now that they are bucking up after the rain but we shall want some more rain soon if progress is to be maintained in the garden.

'M' took your registered parcel to the P.O. in time for the early collection, and got quite a useful tip from Mrs. Thrower about the way to do up a parcel and ensure as far as possible against damage in the post especially at the corners, which she said, was from her experience the most vulnerable part. Did you notice a string had been placed right round the middle depth (supposing it to be laid flat) It will be interesting to know whether this had the desired effect and kept the corners intact. She, (Mrs Thrower), said that parcels appeared to be grabbed by the corners when they were handled in transit hence the exposure of contents which so frequently occur.

I have been doing nothing else in the garden today but trimming the climbing roses and getting thorns in my hands and arms, but have nearly finished now.

Madge came in just before tea and brought some apples not sound ones although Sally had picked them from the trees.

6P.M. news and what news too, the announcer seemed to gloat and not without reason. Isn't the news splendid and what a chance Italy's surrender will give u, and equally good it is the news about Stalin and the Donets basin.

I'm afraid the Italians will have a bad time at the hands of the Germans in the Northern part of Italy. The Americans seem to be lying doggo just at present. I suppose that they will pay a surprise visit somewhere shortly.

'M' went over to Braeside after tea and was shown the coat which was supposed to have been altered and undertook to make some alteration still required to make it useful. She also heard what an unsatisfactory lunch they had in Yarmouth. They evidently expected prewar feeding. You will quite understand that the feeding arrangements loomed large in their minds.

Of course, we heard the news all over again at 9 and as soon as it was finished Jerry came to say how do you do. I looked out but could see nothing for although the moon was fairly bright there was a haze which prevented bright visibility. The air was dead and sound travelled well and I assumed that the gun fire was somewhere in the South but sounded louder than usual, no doubts due to the atmospheric conditions.

I had finished blacking out by eight and after a spot of pumping came in and settled down to this which has kept me busy till 10.10 and I shan't do much tonight.

9.45am. Thur 9.943

Another fine morning but not much to add. Our men seem to be quickly over running Italy according to the BBC this morning, we shall come up against Germans soon I expect.

Glad you had a good journey and got back in quite good time. I wish we had some of the rain which greeted you. Cheerio and best love Pa.

Crossways  
Ludham  
9.9.43

My Dear Babs

Isn't the news good, they have been keeping things quiet since last Friday. I wonder how long it will take to chase the Jerries out of Italy. Well, the string of apples produced 10oz so that roughly speaking 7lb of peeled and cored produces 20oz. 11/4lb. Amazing isn't it. Pa has told you about our persistent visitor on Tuesday. He called in again yesterday afternoon just after 4 with the '( )' I had asked him for. Have not seen Rene since Monday night, he said yesterday she had gone down to Morris's for ½ hour and had been gone nearly 2 hrs. I gave him your message and he said he was sorry not to have seen you again but did not realise you were leaving so very early on Tuesday. I had a quiet day on Tuesday and yes today just washed up the table linen. I am feeling quite alright again now. Have just gathered enough mushrooms from the lawn for breakfast in the morning and intend to put some time in the garden today. Sent your p'cl off yesterday but must wait until I can get hold of a decent sheet of paper before sending the woollies to Wakefield. Madge and S are coming over tomorrow night. Their visitor comes on Monday next. Have not yet heard how C appreciated the mushrooms. Shall hear tomorrow perhaps. Madge's coat is rather nice a Saxe blue, very wide on the shoulders but I think not too much trouble to alter. She paid Roy's to do it but they have only altered the buttons. This is all now as I am going 'up to Ludham' for milk and papers and post.

Much love and a kiss. Ma

Glad you had a good journey but I miss you very much.

Xways Ludham Norfolk  
Thur 9.9.43

Dear Billee

My last letter was posted in the morning but in time for the early collection or you might have got it earlier. It's been a nice general day with plenty of sunshine especially towards evening.

We have both been doing quite a lot of clearing up in the garden, but there is such a lot to do before the winter puts a stop to it.

62 machines passed over going North and looking like silver in the sunshine, what a blessing it is that we don't get Jerry over here in like numbers.

Fri 10.9.43

We had a good fall of rain during the night and with showers during the day I registered 0.43 Its simply wonderful how vegetation has responded to the recent rains, lawns look better than at any time since the Spring. Could not do much in the garden but I out on my mac and went up into the village for the usual doings and saved 'M' a trip.

Madge and Sally came over in the evening for Bridge and with 'M' for a partner we were 590 down at the finish. I'm afraid I was somewhat reckless towards the end in order to try and finish a rubber but they decided to go before we had completed it.

Sat 11.9.43

Burton has been here today putting another half day on the external painting and by the time he had stopped to yarn at times he had not accomplished a great deal. The weather was against him, rain at times and wind in the East but he managed to put the first coat on the dining room window and knocked off just before 12.

'M' went to the usual war savings and I went up with her and took the sack of waste paper. When she came home, she finished the alterations to Madges coat whilst I did a bit of planting and hope to have lettuces all winter not quite so big as in summer but quite respectable ones.

It has not been too warm today but dull and dreary so blacked out a little early and settled down beside the fire for the evening and went to bed about 10.30

Sun 12.9.43

Although we were early to bed last night, we were not very early this morning but managed to get the 9a.m. news and both went to church at 11.

I was given the bag at Church so did not come away with 'M'. Madge and Sallyw were there and walked back with Mrs Mattock, but 'M' was able to bunk off quickly and see what the oven was doing. Diner was well on the way and we sat down before 1o'clock which gave a long afternoon and I was able to get in a walk with M and get back before tea.

We went passed Mattocks and then took the narrow lane which eventually leads to How Hill but turned and came back the same way. This is a lovely secluded lane and plenty of blackberries which 'M' says she is going to patronise later. She was able to get a bunch of red rose hips and we found a couple of fine mushrooms but having nothing to put them in had to carry them in my hand all the way home. The day has been misty and, in the evening, it was so thick as to hide the Village Hall completely but it was not cold and we could dispense with a fire in the evening.

Mon 13.9.43

Plenty of noises early this morning but not air raid sounds. A good hefty thunderstorm, rather unusual following a fog.

'M' went up the village early this morning to post a parcel to Welling, but being too early for the Times. I went up later and gave her a chance to get on with the washing. The weather was not propitious for that operation and showers upset all calculations also it was a very humid atmosphere with a temperature of 75 which seemed much too high.

Later in the day the weather improved and we managed a bit in the garden or rather I should say on the part by the kitchen window where there has been a lot of moss growing lately between us we cleaned it up but did not finish till 7.30. A quiet evening, bed 10.30 and quiet night.

Tues 14.9.43

Your epistle arrived this morning.

'M' has taken some ivy leaved geraniums and some American Pillar Roses round to Mrs Mattock at the farm. It's a nice morning with a bracing air quite different to yesterday but wind has veered only a little and I do not anticipate a permanent improvement in the weather. I am finishing this off whilst 'M' has gone to the farm. She will I expect post it when she goes for the milk etc.

I'm glad you got our letters on Saturday, just a little whiff of xways that you appear to have so grudgingly left behind you on Tuesday.

Quite an event to have burglars at Welling, they must have been excited about it, glad the miscreant was caught.

What a joke the 'Very Good' form is. The wrapping indicated oranges but there was only one between the two of us.

Mushrooms are still coming along and 'M' has gathered quite a respectable lot for dinner today.

We have not so far missed the ( cutshort ? ) except so far as going to bed about an hour earlier.

The Greengages have been gathered in and there's very little hanging on the fruit trees except pears.

What a price to pay for your bicycle accessories when at one time 5/- would have been a top price for the lot.

Well, that's about all now. Cheerio and best love from Pa.

P.S. Ludham is still very quiet except for lorries going to the airfield.

Pa has to go to the farm tomorrow for apples, they have more than they can store, good exchange for surplus plants Love Ma

Xways Ludham Norfolk

Tues 14.9.43

Dear Billee

After my last letter to you I did a bit of clearing up and after slight rain and when the grass had dried, I made a start on the lawns. It was 10 days ago when you helped do this job, consequently there was a good thick crop the lawns having improved out of all knowledge and a spring like growth made it look fresh and green. It was rather heavy work especially in the shade of the trees. 'M' came to the rescue before dinner for a little while and helped a lot on the side lawn in the afternoon. I went round the margins after tea.

I finished up 'It began in New York' a farfetched yarn but amusing and readable. A cross between a thriller and a spy story. We seem to be getting to bed earlier each night it was 10.20 this time.

Wed 15.9.43

'M' was up early this morning and got the 7 news, had been washing before breakfast.

When she went to the farm yesterday Mrs M said that if I came round this morning, I could have a basket full of apples. They were picking a tree and had so many indoors that she did not quite know where to stow them. Accordingly, I went there soon after tea and brought back about 15lbs of cookers all picked and only a very few damaged. They seemed about twice that weight before I got home. I was back in about 20 minutes and it was a bit early to get the Times so just out the time in and went up later leaving 'M' free for her job.

Did a bit of planting of Spring Cabbage and dibbled out my next years Brussels Sprouts. Thinned carrots (I wonder how they will turn out this time) and did some weeding. There seems to be millions of little seedlings after the rain.

There wasn't much time after tea, but I tied up some Chrysants which were beginning to flop about. Sally came over about 7.15 and 'M' went to W.V.S, meeting with her. Have lighted a bit of fire this evening we shall be glad of it by bedtime I expect.

M has just arrived from W.V.S. lecture and is full of antipersonnel and explosive incendiaries and other horrors.

Thur 16.9.43

'M' is waiting to take this with her when she goes for the Village etceteras. She has got the two shirts for C, the same as mine at 8/1. 'M' says that she will write at the weekend and I expect to be able to find a parcel of vegetable in the garden which I can send early in the week. Nothing more now except that it is a lovely fresh morning and almost cloudless.  
Cheerio and best love Pa.

Xways Ludham Norfolk

Fri Sept 17 1943

Dear Billee

It was a fine bright morning and as the day wore on it was not quite so good but still nice and warm. ;'M' went to the church this morning to see to the flowers, plenty of nice big Dahlias. Its surprising how they have recovered and the outlook from the kitchen window is bright and colourful. Miss Broom gave her a couple of cuttings of a bright scarlet Geranium. I think it is Paul Campbell which created almost a sensation when first put on the market years ago. I remember Dicky Lane and how proud he was of it.

The evening sky was an ugly picture, but grand notwithstanding that and showed some glorious fire like colours. I remember years ago when was a boy wondering whether it was the end of the world when there was a somewhat similar sky one morning.

Have been having a good clean up through the kitchen garden and when I took stock, I came to the conclusion that it promised well for the Spring and early Summer this year.

Sat Sept 18. 43.

Gald to have your letter this morning and note that the envelope I sent was used again perhaps I shall return it and get good service out of it.

Miss E seems to keep you busy with timetables etc but I don't suppose the West Riding pay overtime.

It doesn't look well for the Ludham milk, it would be interesting to know more about this.

Your weather seems to have been worse than it was here. What thunder we had was distant and transient.

Theres nothing very startling to tell you today. 'M' had her usual Saturday afternoons amusement.

We had a spot more painting between yarns. Burtons a good hand at gossiping.

Moe angry skies today and some distant thunder but gardening operations not interfered with.

Sun Sept 19. 43

A lazy morning only just managed t get the 90'clock news. Don't want to miss the news these days, something noteworthy each time if its only Russia's guys celebrating a fresh achievement.

We did not hurry after breakfast and did not go to church in the morning but both went in the evening at 6p.p. not 6.30 owing to the daylight.

As usual when I go to Church, I was given the bag (not the sack) The Dr had the other and after the service when counting up among other things he said that I looked pretty fit, so I suppose that I do. I don't think he is the sort of chap to bestow spurious compliments.

'M' walked back with Mattocks and I had a little walk back along Lovers Lane. Glad to step out as it was somewhat chilly. We had a fire when we came home after blacking out.

Mon 20.9.43

A wet morning and I wondered whether I should have a lay in, but decided to get up and for the first time for a good while my mouth was normal owing to the fact of not smoking yesterday.

Too wet to work in the garden so amused myself sawing up the last of the Buddleia etc from the 'wood' result a big basket full but this is the last to be sawn up.

This afternoon I cut the side lawn whilst M tackled both banks inside the Crossways gate and cleared away the moss on the drive near the gate – made a good show and it looks all the better for it. I started on the tennis lawn but did not have enough daylight to finish it, there's not much time after tea these days.

The wind veered and the sky cleared after tea and a cold wind set in and we were glad of a bit of fire when we came in.

Nearly news time now, I wonder how many more places Russia has freed and whiter we have got Corsica or any more islands in the Aegean.

The news is good all round isn't it and the German reports are simply fantastic and now I'll close down until Tuesday and see what you have got to say.

Tues 21.9.43

It is now 10 o'clock thanks to Ted who yarned a bit and to Newton who brought another 5 cwt of coal and a couple of gallons of oil so I have a good start for the winter. Your letter came this morning. As regards the Xmas present you speak of for me please don't get anything extravagant. I know it's no use saying don't get anything at all, but you are doing a great deal for me as it is.

The Scotland travel picture must have been very interesting. I emphasise my previous remark about the overtime you are asked to undertake.

The two books you mentioned must go on our list and I'm sure that you will; like 'Slade' by Warwick Deeping which I finished in bed about 12.30 last night.

Yes, Ludham is very quiet still and Miss Broom had her holiday. 'M' is now waiting to go to the village so I'll finish off.

Best love from Pa

Crossways  
Ludham  
20.9.43

My Dear Babs

I should have written this yesterday but Dick has broken out in a fresh place and I had to write to him and Annie over the weekend. You know how the time seems to slip away on Sunday even though it looks as if there is nothing much to do. I am enclosing the first letter I had from Dick last Thursday followed by another on Sat morn in which he said that Mrs Miller had written to Herbert saying that how friends were visiting Arthur weekly and taking him some cakes etc. while she was unable to go, found with the winter coming on they could not continue also that Arthur had complained that he never heard from or saw anybody belonging to him and she suggested that Annie or I might do something. Why she wrote this to Herbert I don't know for you will perhaps remember I told you that when I wrote to her and asked her to let me know how Arthur was going on from time to time and if there was anything I could send him. She replied that she was sending him some cakes, sweets etc each week and there was no need. I replied to her letter but have heard nothing further from her. One would have thought that after that she might have written and told me she could not carry on. Well Dick said in his letter That Herbert said he would send something one week. A and I could follow on and Dick send the fourth week. Dick was writing to Annie to this effect so I wrote and told him I couldn't understand why Mrs M should write to Herbert but I would send to Arthur each week, the others can do what they like about it. I guess Annie will be annoyed For Mrs M has always written to her as you know. Today I have made a few little cakes and small apple turnovers and made him up a swell lot- 4 cakes, 2 turnovers 2 nice pieces of cut cake (fruit) a few Parkinsons Humbugs and shall post them tomorrow. Dick said things were pretty ( ) for Arthur's lying there all that time and I quite agree. I only wish it were possible to see him more often and that some of us were nearer. Before all this I had written and asked C if he would try and go some times but had a letter from him today, he has been on the sick list again with a bad cold but says he will try and go. I hope he will.

Well, the birds are still with us, I thought the House Martins had gone but saw two slip out of the nest early on Friday morning and 3 on Saturday. On Sunday evening after I came in from Church, I

watched and with much scrambling I managed to get into the nest, they are there again tonight: also, the other nest is being occupied but during the day there is great activity all round and this morning when I went out, there was the biggest lot I have seen flying all round about, so I should imagine they will be off. Not many Sparrows about now but the Chaffinches, B. Birds and Tits are still pretty active outside the K window. The tits patronise the fat hanging in the tree now and I think the Rob ins are still nesting somewhere in the wood for they were flitting about there this afternoon while I was working close ( ). Madge's coat was rather an awkward job but I managed it – and they were both very pleased. I don't know quite what she gave for it but she said there was little change out of £5, after she had paid for new buttons and the alteration which they did not do. I had to shorten the shoulder seam by just over an inch and alter the padding which was very ugly with huge pads on the shoulder. It meant taking the sleeves nearly out but still I managed it.

Pa told you I went to the WVS meeting, Cyril Throver gave a very good talk about gas and antipersonnel bombs. All the gas stuff I had heard before but the other was new. Mrs Adcock sent word by Sally in the afternoon that she hoped I would be there and as soon as I got into the room came and asked me to propose the vote of thanks. Mable and Lell were both there and I daresay there were quite 40. A good muster really. Poor Mrs Adcock. I am sorry for her for she seems to be losing the use of that other arm and looks very ill. I hear she goes to Norwich twice a week for treatment for it. There was a W. Drive in aid of the Comforts Funding last Tuesday and they raised £26. Various things were raffled or auctioned and a chicken was sold for £5. Mr Adcock was the purchaser. Madge, Sally and the nephew went but we did not. Have not seen a great deal of Rene or him for the last week. The wireless has not got back from Roys yet and he told Madge last night that he was going into Wroxham this morning and would hurry it up. The garden has come along splendidly, plenty of bloom now and the lawns look better than I have ever seen them. I had 18 Dahlias on Friday for the Church without picking any singles and there will be a fine lot again next weekend which will be my last for the Thanksgiving Sunday and give them a nice display of Red, White and Blue on the font. Did not hear any comments about it but last night 2 or 3 people complimented me on the latest effort which was dwarf M. Daisies, pale lavender and Pompom Dahlias. A lovely reddish-purple shade. I massed the daisies in the Kidney tray and stood the dahlias here and there it really looked fine with a vase of yellow Chrysanthemums standing behind. By the way the Chrysanths were from the Harvest. I have been nursing them up with fresh water ever since. Oh by the way Rene had a starkling short coat on last Sunday morning looked as if might have been one of Irene Marris's old kilts with the pattern like this \ | / down the middle of the back.

\ | /

10.30 p. so will leave this and finish in the morning.

Tuesday Thanks to Ted no more now. Much love and a kiss

Mama

Will see about p'cl today.

Xways Ludham Norfolk

Tues 21.9.43

Dear Billee I haven't much to tell you this time.

I hope the parcel reached you safely and in good condition. I took it up in the afternoon and soon found that it was a good weight by the time I reached the P.O.

It's been much colder today but we have managed to do a good bit of clearing up outdoors mainly in the drive. It looks quite smart and parklike. We were glad of a fire in the evening which was all quiet.

Wed 22.9.43

Had a good burn up of the rubbish collected recently, continued clearing up today but 'M' did not participate being occupied by washing and a curtain shuffle round to make a change. It's been cool again today with a cold drying N. wind but a fair bit of sunshine although by evening time

it was very chilly and I took the precaution of getting some tender plants into the frame and sifted the little one onto the garden to make a place for some winter lettuces.

We had some noises about 8.15 and I heard at 8am that Jerry had been busy in a small way over this quarter. Also, there was a continuous drone from dusk with big machines going East and later on I heard them I suppose coming back when I woke up a couple of times during the night.

Thur 23.9.43

Jack frost was not far off during the night. My thermometer registered 37 minimum Well, there isn't much to tell and 'M' is waiting to go to the village so cheerio and best love Pa P.S. Enclosed is a further communication from Dick which is also enclosed but Willia John was 81 not 71. Dick's evidently got'em bad. Pa

Xways Ludham Norfolk  
Fri 24.9.43

Dear Billee

Last evening there were several reports shortly after 8 and curiously enough the bang itself could not be heard but windows and doors rattled. It was a very still clear evening such as is favourable to the transmission of sounds, but as far as we were concerned nothing more serious happened although the BBC said that some bombs were dropped in the East.

There been rather more cloud today consequently we have not been able to see so much of our machines off on business but they could be heard and occasionally seen through the gaps in the cloud.

This evening, we went over to Mattocks for bridge. They had been entertaining and as Sally put it they had some 'left overs' which would provide supper.

It has been fairly warm today and I've been trimming the edges of the lawns most of the day. Owing to a mix up somehow Mrs (Ahbone) did not get the Times today so I went up and got it before dinner.

Sat 25.9.43

A bit more painting today but Barton knocked off at 11.30 so had a short morning. The job looks like being done about Xmas if we are lucky. Have not felt very energetic today nor has 'M' must have been some article of diet that affected us and in addition the weather has been chilly although with some bright intervals, when it was warm in the sun, but quite cool in the shade. Have carried on as usual outdoors but 'M' has been otherwise occupied and has not been in the garden today.

A bit of fire was quite nice at teatime and I made no attempt at anything in the garden. Time is short and wind cold so gave the garden a rest.

Mrs Evans came in just before the 6pm news and stayed for about 20 minutes whilst I was having tea.

Sun 26.9.43

We had a lazy morning today. I got up at 20 past eight and as 'M' appeared to be sound asleep I got on with my own breakfast and she appeared just before nine.

It's been pretty chilly here today and fires have been the order of the day, and we did not trouble about anything until later in the day, and after an early tea we went along to Church at 6pm. I thought his yarn was rather more rambling than usual, and the poor man had forgotten his notes so had to make up a tale. Of course, there was no choir and instead of processing up the centre aisle he cam out of the vestry behind the organ. The organist however had some ideas of her own about the psalms although he announced it and recited the first verse and paused for the congregation to take it up. Not so says Miss Grimes and broke in F.F. for the second verse, gave the vicar and the congregation no choice whatever and so the psalm was chanted instead of being recited.

This was the last of the evening services, in future during the long nights they will be held at 3pm.

Madge and Sally were there and rather to my surprise they stayed to communion service afterwards. I should not have been surprised if evening communion had not been too unorthodox for them. 12 Stayed.



It was getting dark before the service ended and some lights were put on but immediately after the service out went the lights with only about one minute to go to the time as per regulation.

It was cold in the Church and occasionally I found my teeth chattering. We walked back with Madge and Sally and were glad to get indoors to the fire in the D Rm. Also, the (Ideal) was going as was the radiator so after blacking out had a quiet comfortable evening by the fire. 'M' was tired and went off to bed soon after 10 and I did not follow until about an hour later. A bright starlight but very quiet here with no alarms.

Mon 27.9.43

M had rather a disturbed night and got up in the early hours and had a cup of tea, went back to bed again and got up again in time to have a bath before 8am news. There doesn't seem anything startling on the News, good steady progress both in Italy and Russia, how pleased the people must be in the liberated territories.

There has been a succession of very heavy showers from a Northernly point hail at times and according to village gossip some snow as well. We seem to have got straight into winter all at once. It was too wet to do anything in the garden till about 4 o'clock so I amused myself with shoes and rubber soles. A pair I had were too large so I changed them bought a pair of stick on for 'M's slippers.

The trivet had got somewhat rusty during the summer so I polished it up and gave it a coat of heat proof paint so it will come in handy again.

Later on in the afternoon I cut back dead stems and pulled out big weeds till about a quarter to six and came in to tea.

This is the first evening I have not done something or other in the garden after tea but time is so short now that it's not worth while making a start and now, I will adjourn till the morning and see what you have to say.

By the way any fabric packing material or thick strong string would be acceptable when you are sending anything else.

Tues 28.9.43

A stormy night, heavy rain, machines going East and West and now a dismal prospect – everywhere soaked. Your letter came this morning and I hope the parcel came in due - or undue is it – course I don't think you should report at Keighley P.O. for if we did so from here the parcel may have been delivered in the meantime. I posted it about 3.15 on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> there is no doubt about that. Our address was also shown as being the origin and there was a scout's kitbag underneath the outer paper. The kit bag is one which 'M' used for laundry at Welling. Well, I shan't spoil another sheet of paper so Cheerio and best love from Pa.

Crossways  
Ludham  
27.9.43

My dear Babs

Are you very disappointed over the later 'camp'; of course, it just depends on the weather how enjoyable or otherwise it might be, still it would have made a nice break for you in term. I should think Alice was very proud for Janet to be presented to Lady Baden Powell. What I wonder did Janet herself think about it all.

When you are writing will you send a little note to go in with the shirt for Charlie, let me have it in time. I shall post the p'cl about the 4<sup>th</sup> Oct or 5<sup>th</sup>. It would be nice of you to write to Arthur now and then and I'm sure he would appreciate it. The address is Ward No.11, County Hospital. Orpington, Kent. I am hoping if we get a letter from Welling tomorrow to hear that Charlie has been to see him sometime this weekend. Not much of an outing I know to visit anyone in a ward for Chronic cases but after all it's much worse for the invalid. I have been doing all kinds of odd sewing jobs today and lengthening the sleeves of the yellow cardigan. There was just about enough silk. If you are sending a parcel at any time don't forget to put in the ball of fawn wool that you have like my coat. Last Sunday wk when we came out of church Madge made the remark to Rene that there

would only be one more evening service and I said what a pity it was, seeing how easy it is to raise money in Ludham that someone didn't set about it a couple of years ago and have the church blacked out. Even if it would cost £40 the money would have come along. The sequel to that was last evening when giving out the afternoon service for next Sunday Ted added that someone had suggested that the church should be blacked out and he would like to hear what people thought about it!! I hear he was grumbling a week ago when a W Drive for the Comforts Fund raised £29.10 and one for the S. School only £3

I concluded you did not get the parcel of garden produce on Thursday as you should have done for you did not mention it in the letter we had on Sat. I hope it arrived in good condition, if string was anything to go by it should have done so. Miss Dutton has sent me 7 1/2 lbs of grey wool. 3 for sweaters, 3 for scarfs, mitts etc and 1 1/2lbs for socks. On the strength of that I have roped in another knitter Mrs Phillippo and as I told them at W.S. on Saturday sine no one is now doing any knitting for Mrs Adcock I can't be treading on anyone's corns if I make it known that I can supply with wool anyone who will knit. It seems Mrs A cannot get any wool these days. Miss Broom intends to stick to sweaters she says she likes doing them. Have you had or head anything about a Wings for Victory Certificate. Miss Weekley writes me that she has now the one for the 'Village' and one for the Group and would like to come over some time and present them, she wonders if we could arrange a 'social'! I am wondering what about a Whist Drive: admis 1/- and give stamps for prizes out of the proceeds and let any balance go for rent of the room. I shall have to sound the powers that be about the room. It would not be much trouble to arrange and I might get some of my own back and people always seem keen on a W. Drive. Well, this is about all now. Pa has left his over till the morning I see so goodbye much love and a kiss Mama  
The latest rumours 'no more soldiers coming to the camp' ?? We saw a Barrage Balloon come down in flames on Friday and I was very disappointed that it wasn't a -----

Crossways Ludham Gr Yarmouth Norfolk  
Wed Sept 29. 43

Dear Billee

A little genial this afternoon but there was much cloud and a distinct coolness in the air and with the garden like a morass I gave that a miss and potted about indoors and in the garage.

M went to see the church flowers etc and went over the way to return a torch they had had last night. 'M' went over after tea for a few minutes and stayed until 8.45 meanwhile I was entertained by the 'Any Questions' for ¾ of an hour quite amusing although without (load)

We have had a grand stocktaking of my hand knitted socks and stockings with a view of seeing what could be done in the way of making one out of two and with a bit of wangling it can be done with the longest of the stockings and with the shorter ones they will yield some socks.

Someone had the idea that we did not want all the Conference Pears which were hanging so thickly and about ¾ of them have been stolen. So senseless as they were not ripe and fit to eat and will shrivel and spoil from premature gathering. There is no temptation now for 'M' picked all the remainder. They were some way from the lane and I can only suspect field workers for a good deal has been done on the land lately.

We had a letter from Welling this morning C has been on the sick list for a fortnight and is afraid that he is losing weight but has not weighed himself to make sure. Anyway, Barrett is back again now and he has faith in him which goes a long way. All the same Charlie seems to have more than his share of his sick list, more's the pity. Its nearly 9 o'clock and I'll adjourn until tomorrow and will write a bit to send to Welling after supper and the news.

Thur 30.9.43

Will try and get this to the early post this morning so there will not be much to add. It's a pretty dismal prospect and looks like an indoor day.

Cheerio and best love  
Pa