

On notepaper with Rodwell, Churchfield Road, Welling, Kent. Phone: Bexley Heath1066 all crossed out

Tues 17 X1 42

Another day of heavy clouds and sharp short showers with a northerly wind which made gardening an almost heroic performance and I was glad to turn out my leather jerkin again. 'M' also did some tidying up in a long coat.

Your letter came this morning and if the afternoon had not improved, I should have posted this for the afternoon collection. As it is I have saved my reply for the fireside this evening.

I am still waiting for Cubit to come and put the borrowed set going again and shall believe that I have got my own set back when I see it.

Of course, the Times did not give us a report of Giraud's escape from France as you say the B.B.C did, it must have been a very interesting bit to listen to.

I must confess that I could not find much fault of the Bell Ringing on Sunday morning. Why not make the best of a bit of good news we have had plenty of the other sort.

Our bell ringers have been somewhat depleted and the R.A.F filled up and as you might expect things were a bit shaky at first but went somewhat better as they went on.

The 1 in 5 damage sounds a lot especially when broken glass is not included but I t take it that a broken tile or slate would qualify for inclusion.

I was wondering if you had heard of Eric lately Parkinson are machine tool makers or were I think but may be doing something quite different now.

Gald to know your chrysants are still going strong. I have today got my last pots of them indoors today. So far there has been no frost to hurt them outdoors.

I think the question of going to Welling will have to stand over for a little until nearer Xmas. I quite see that it would be an expensive business for you. I don't know whether you would have much or that the trains would fit if you took a return to Norwich and a return to London.

Things are very quiet in Ludham but there have been signs today that a reawakening is not far off.

I understand that a party of American officers were looking round Ludham recently.

Cheerio and much love

Pa

Xways Ludham Norfolk

Sat 29 Xi 42

Dear Billie

We both went to church this morning and found all the seats on the South of the central aisle occupied so had to seek refuge near to Boardman's pew.

We went in good time and I posted to you before the service so as to save another journey in the afternoon

The church was wretchedly cold no heating, as the heating apparatus was out of order owing to a crack presumably in the boiler but it is promised to be right by next Sunday and I hope it is.

We stayed for Communion and thanks to the amount of clothing I had on, in anticipation I was not too cold, although very glad to get home to a nice fire.

'M' went again in the afternoon and Rev asked us to go up for supper and afterwards listen to Churchill at 9 o'clock.

The speech was much more helpful than some of Churchill's previous ones but I was struck with the absence of any mention of Darlan. I shall be glad to hear how it all turns out with Darlan and DE Gaulle. All told Winston didn't prove very enlightening.

It was a very dark trip both going and coming home, dense cloud and no moon. We came home soon after ten and had a read by the fire – the vicarage fire was not too good.

Mon 30 Xi 42

A bit brighter and drier today and we made a special effort and got up all my carrot and beetroot. I brought them in and M washed it being a good opportunity as there plenty of warm water she ideal being ().

This job took us all the available daylight but I am very disappointed over the carrots, nearly all are infected with maggot the results of the carrot fly's activities and the dry spell we had – The crop was over 1 cwt.

It cleared decidedly by sundown and the thermometer fell sharply indicating the chance of a frost but it clouded over again, wind backed and barometer fell and it turned to rain so dahlias not yet cut down by frost.

Tues 1.12.42

In anticipation of a trip to Norwich 'M' turned out early this morning but found it had rained and the thick clouds made it very late before we could dispense with the light

Under the circumstances the trip to Norwich was abandoned.

Here are one or two interesting items which 'M' has to relate and which I will not encroach upon. Ludham is still very quiet

Letter came this morning glad to hear that the concert was a success – Its best to give up the idea of Welling this Christmas – No wireless yet, neither have Mattocks – War news is good these days – have not seen paper yet today – Cheerio best love Pa

Crossways

Ludham

1.12.42

My Dear Babs

So glad to know the concert was a success. It means hard work but after all it must be a welcome change from school especially in these days. About Welling I have written and told them we can't think about it. It would be such a waste of money and although they say they will pay our fares I have told them it would be much better for them if they have the money to spare to save it. I reckon with what you would spend on fares the whole lot would run to £8 at least. We shall be very cosy here and get more out of the time than if we went and wasted all that amount. Things are still very quiet here according to Ted. 'Yvone' will be coming and all Black .out but we shall see. I got up early this morning thinking to go to Norwich by the 10.10 bus but it's a wretched day so I have put it off. Can find plenty to do indoors for once in a while. I believe M&S have gone but then Adcock's were taking them. Gertie sent the box last week and Miss B. has taken the wool for 2 more pairs, so I hope to be able to send 12 pairs and one pullover before Xmas but I must get more on with the pullover.

If you can get it I shall be glad of a hairnet and some (sewell) hair pins mine are getting very low. Pa has told you most of the news and nay more I have must come in the next.

Much love and a kiss

Mama