

Rodwell Welling Road

Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 1936

Dear Billy

I did not go out at all today until this evening. There is so little doing at Graves that it is a waste of time to go there every day.

Bricklaying and plastering stopped on account of frost and only a couple of carpenters pattering about.

We went to the Odeon in the evening and saw a wholesome show and all English except 'Mickey Mouse' This was jolly good and based on garden pests and methods of controlling them and you may guess there was quite a lot of fun and more over a deal of technical and biological exactness in it.

The other pictures, besides the news, were Squibs quite a good laugh and some good characters in it. Have you seen it

*(Squibs; !1935 romantic comedy film, starring, Betty Belfour, Gordon Harker and Stanley Holloway)*

The other was The Cock o' the North a tale built up round an engine driver of the new LNER locomotive as the title shows. Some fine pictures of trains in motion. Curiously enough both films were strongly flavoured with Yorkshire accents. A good 2 hours show but could not get home without calling at the S & P.P. stop.

We did not hear much of the 6o'clock bulletin and I switched on but not a sound or a glow could be obtained and I had put a new accumulator on just before and left it quite O.K. when we went out. Too much fag to poke, mend it tonight so left it over until tomorrow.

Wed 15.1.36

Rather late up, as usual these days, and late in going out. Went to the Bank for M and called in home before going to Graves and eventually reached home about 12.30. Thought there would just be time to have a look at the wireless and see if I could find out anything. Got it onto the table in order to get a good light and switched on and then handled the LT leads and found it at once both of them wanted cleaning and then it was O K again.

Coombs called in during the morning and gave me particulars of what to do about the bungalows which the council had turned down.

One had to be abandoned so the prospective purchase would not increase his pace to enable the enlargement to be done, but the other has been arranged with some slight modification so I got right away this afternoon and carried on till after M came in from the H.S.A just after nine.

The 'optimist' is getting a bit too much playful at times, for you can scarcely move across the room without he hangs onto your feet and even goes in the garden and when I was filling the G.H. oil stove in the shed he nearly put his head under the paraffin tap, he did actually walk over the stove.

We are beginning to wonder about Hemsby if the weather does not get warmer although I notice that it has not been nearly so cold there at night as it has been here and I suppose if the cold goes rain comes in its place.

Thurs 16.1.36

Have been giving the C. Hos. a rest and have finished off Coombs job today and am posting off for prints, was quite glad to have a soft little job in variation to the complicated subject.

I think my 'architectural review' must have known what my job was for today's issue has plans and descriptions of two Hospitals just what I wanted and shall be able to get some useful hints out of it.

There is a change in the weather to sleet and drizzle today slightly milder but only just above freezing all day, no sun overcast and gloomy. I shall be glad to see the sun again.

M went to the stores H, Dressers at 9.30 this morning consequently we woke up a bit earlier. She has made up a parcel for you and I will enclose this and post it after tea or perhaps she will as she goes to the British Legion. I think the same remark applies to this as you applied to yours which came this morning and it certainly seems that I have not much to say and this will be rather a short one.

We were sorry to hear about the Marshalls. They seem to be having a rough time and her bereavement must make it ever so much more trying for her.

The petticoat has been ready for a week but M did not send it in case there was anything else to be sent or a jumper complication I think and shall have to trust this to M when she ( ) and I shall then be able to keep the fire warm and have a lazy evening.

Best Love Papa

Rodwell Welling Kent  
Tues 4.2.36

Dear Billy

Although we missed the school opening on Friday we managed to go this afternoon. It stands right in the wilderness of houses on what was all marshes xxx Maxwells farm. They have 13 1/2 acres and hope to eventually have a boys and girls central school there besides the more elementary units so it will form a complete education centre except for secondary schools.

The platform was a mixture of ancient and modern. Narris Storer is the chairman of the managers and may be taken as representing the older folk and Franklin of Becley also weighs that side of the scale. Bromfield and the head master and mistress the newer folk.

Norris made a very formal and precise chairman and when he entered with the Rev F in the retinue, I wondered whether other of them thought back to the time when Norris administered a little corporal punishment to (moores ) nasal organ.

Of course, Bromfield had a bit to say when he proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Northfield who was the official opener and Franklin made a homely unsophisticated speech Farmers English quite different to Bromfield who raked up some good old Childrens Chestnuts.

When we arrived there, we were met by Montague and conducted to chairs at the front. The chairs were folding varieties and after singing the opening hymn when people sat down there was a most audible groaning till the chairs settled down to the various weights they were carrying or should I say creaking more than groaning.

The ceremony took just over an hour and when we got up to move Montague slipped a little bit of cardboard in my hand with 'Tea will be served after the ceremony in the babies' room and accordingly we have prepared plenty of tea and decent stuff too besides various enticing edibles. We sat at table with Mr Mrs Lester Clarke and Mrs Romain. Mrs Clarke was funny in her talk about children's accents and English but had I not known that she was a Mills once upon a time I might not have noticed her remarks a deal.

We eventually got in soon after five the state of the ground permitting us to go up the road and via Hook Lane but had it not been frosty, we should have been compelled to go along Belle Grove to get there. It was a nice bright day although the ground did not thaw and I went out for a while and came back early to do a bit more Cottage Hospital. I intended to do some more in the evening but started checking some Ma a/cs for M which I did not finish till after nine so knocked off then. M has been busy continuing her reverting book.

Wed 5.2.36

The tale is soon told today, have not been out at all and have stuck at the Cottage Hospital job until after 9o'clock.

I still continues cold and this morning early was about the coldest this winter and the water arrangements in the roof froze and did not thaw until afternoon and after I had put the new oil stove in the back room for several hours.

To add to our discomfort or rather inconvenience the boiler over the sink has given out chimney cracked and leaking so much that we have had to discontinue use.

We had a gas company man to see to it but before starting he presented an a/c for 7/- to be signed but I got on the phone to the local office and said what I thought but of course the man had instructions in all cases to start only after a signature had been obtained so he went away and I am waiting events.

We have not had the new Lyn very long and I jibbed at having to pay for repairs so soon. I reckon gas heating is a wash out wish I had had electric in the first place, probably would not have been more expensive than buying a new boiler and pay for repairs to geyser and boilers.

Thurs 5.2.36

We both of us had rather a disturbed nights rest 'M' complained of a sore throat and I had a taste of neuralgia for which I tried a novel cure I.E brought the hot water bottle up under my face till it got a bit hard then shifted it and laid my face on the pillow where the hot water bottle had rested and soon fell off to sleep. 'M' says her sore throat has been easier during the day but she has given the British Legion the go by this evening don't want to sit there in the cold for a couple of hours.

I went out in the morning and called at Lewis to meet the shop fitter but can do no more till I see what they want fixed up in that line and went to Graves after. (Limeburn) has put a few more men at work this week with the usual request for more money. If he follows his usual practice he will slack off after he gets it until the next time.

Thurs 6.2.36

And after going round the village to the bank etc it was nearly dinner time when I came in. More Cottage Hospital this afternoon and a little do drainage job for (Limeburn) after tea brought 8P.M. when I came down and started on this.

C and Gertie came in but departed just as I was coming down.

'M' is busy on the re working but has found time to write a bit concerning the 'stuff' which I am enclosing.

Whilst I was out this morning the Gas Co phoned about the boiler and said they would get into communication with the makers and let us know more later. Meanwhile we are still without the use of it and its very noticeable to be without after having being used to it.

There doesn't seem much to reply to in your letter which came this morning but the wireless should be O.K. seeing the time that's been spent (and money) on it.

The inspection – I expect the anticipation is worse than the realisation.

Chu – nothing yet about the name 'M' had a reminder from the Kennel Club this morning.

We may go to Hemsby this weekend but the weather has got to improve and if we go, I expect Chu will go with us as Cunninghams are coming to 53 and they bring their dog with them – but I don't think it will be worth your while to write there. We should come back Tuesday under any circumstances.

Well that's about all now so

Best love

Papa

Sat 7.3.36

The news this morning was of starkling importance it looks like turning the whole European politics upside down. If after 1914 we could be sure of Germany's sincerity, I should be inclined to welcome Hitler's move but I am not sure that he is not using the Russian Bolshevik (bogey) as a red herring and seized on the Franco Russian pact to get through all treaties. Hitler may be sincere but the 'scrap of paper' can't be forgotten all the same. Also is the effort to come back into the League a genuine one or does it only serve to clock another affair like the Rhineland reoccupation. One doesn't know quite what to make of it all although if it is genuine its about the most momentous affair since the war. He certainly paid a tribute to Britain and has the rearmament scheme given him food for thought perhaps it had more to do with it than we yet know.

Sunday 8.3.36

I woke in good time but saw the roofs wet and turned over and had another one till 8.45 but it has cleared up a deal today and it was quite pleasant out in the garden after 11o'clock and I continued any job attending to the fences etc where I could pending the arrival of the wire netting.

By the afternoon it was quite pleasant outdoors with sunshine and a temperature of over 50 and I potted about in the garden for just over an our and came in to tea soon after 5 as 'M' wanted to listen to Henry V!!! at 5.20. This lasted until 7 o'clock and shortly before that C and Gertie arrived and C said 'Have you been listening to that since 5.20 but as it was nearly finished, they kept quiet for about 5 minutes.

I hear C has sent you his latest effort on the Typewriter He is improving but has to do a little better yet before his efforts will be good enough to be part of a contract. They did not stay long but went off in time to catch the 7.45 collection.

He brought down a Daily Telegraph recent supplement on pleasure cruisers which contains a lot of useful stuff and also gives one an idea of ow much besides the actual fare the cost would be.

There is time before the middle of July to consider things but I should dearly like to see a little bit of world whilst I can but it will depend on what I can make during the next month or two.

Monday 9.3.36

A deal has transpired since I made my comment on Saturdays news but I don't think I can alter my opinion in the main. Mr. Eden has laid it down pretty precisely as on this evening's news at 6 o'clock and apparently, we must wait events and under any circumstances I am afraid the League or anything else will be unable to induce Germany xxxxx the Rhineland.

Italy seems to be getting away with things and it looks as though Germany is going to try the same game and our rearmament is not a moment too early. I think it will be found that commercial enterprise is practically mobilised on a footing almost akin to that at the end of the great war not that production had started but everything is prepared and the organisation involved after the war should be able to justify its existence should extremes be resorted to for although we did not actually keep up our armament Whitehall was organising against the time it might be necessary.

Well, that's enough of that. We both went out this morning it was fairly fine and mild but very relaxing and we both came home tired and aching. I don't think I have felt as tired for a long time and it was 3.30 before I got going but 'M' went out again about 4.30 and some Coalite arrived shortly after so that interruption it was almost teatime and I gave up.

We both eagerly listened to the news and for about the first time this year did not light up until after it was finished but it was pretty dark then

We had your letter this morning there does not seem much that calls for comment.

With regards to your request about the 13<sup>th</sup> there is a book of Builders prices which I had promised myself but I have not yet got precise particulars of it but soon will know.

Your picot edging has not turned up yet 'M' went this afternoon but it had not arrived back. 'M' says she is going to write in a day or two.

Expect C and Gertie will be here presently and will get them to post this meanwhile 'keep ta pecker oop'

Best love

Papa

Rodwell Welling Kent  
Friday 13.3.36

Dear Billy

According to all superstitions this should be my unlucky day but I do not feel overburdened on that account and if it is to be unlucky there is a consolation that we don't know what is in store for us.

It is a cold cheerless day and I did not go out till evening time but occupied myself with the Cottage Hospital job. The next step is to produce a diagrammatic plan showing the various bits and this I'm afraid means a good deal of donkey work and some repetition. Then there is a plan for the 'King Edward Hospital' fund who will have their say before giving us a grant. If we don't fall in with them the grant may be considerably reduced.

As you have heard we went to the Odeon this evening. The commercial break came at 7.5 instead of the usual about 6.15. This meant we stayed till the end of the performance about 3 1/2 hours. Plenty for your money.

We had front seats in the balcony thanks to 'M' who went in first and would not be put off with the 'Evening Paper'

I was rather disappointed with the show for I had looked forward to the 'Private Secretary' but it was a ghost of the original play and all kinds of liberties were taken including the Rev Robert driving a car which he started without knowing and did not know how to stop so after zig zagging, he came to rest at a haystack. He did not appear to change gear so was presumably in 1<sup>st</sup>. Oscar Asche as Cattermole was funny but his figure did not quite suit the part of a Livery etc Indian man.

The news and the Mickey Mouse were good but 'The Dark Angel' was very second rate. The theme was difficult to follow and even right to the end I was not sure how they all stood in relation to each other. The 'scene' at a gathering at St Dunstan's might have been left out to considerable advantage, and I am not sure that the whole plot was original.

Sat 14.3.36

Chu is getting such a little imp in the garden that something had to be done. He goes into Augels and as Keith says pulls up their bulbs and eats up the food they put out for birds. Once today he got into the road. I had missed him and went to look for him when a lorry came down the road and I was just in time to see him bolt into Augels gate which was open although ours was not.

After a brief visit to Graves I came home.....

Mon 16.3.36

The enclosed letter came for you this morning, it looks like Macs

Your letter also came before breakfast. The mathematical problem will have to be left for a time I'm afraid but I have seen and solved a similar one before. You don't say that you have solved it.

It seems as though ((Beutley?)) has found a way out of the ( ) Business satisfactorily all round.  
Hard luck about the netball though wasn't it.

'M' hopes to get the curtains made before going down at Eastertime. There's no machine down there you know.

Things seem to be easing down a bit today after the German modification of the translation. 'In due course' is rather different to 'immediately' but the diplomats have a way of leaving some loophole for retreat.

Foreign politics just at present seem to hold the field and how much is due to the B.B.C. educating the public in things that matter instead of divorce or murder cases, even the 'Peppor Case' which is down for today in the Court of Appeal was not mentioned on the 6pm news.

Joe got one of Oppenheim's to get xxx this evening and that's about all I'm going to trouble about now.

Best love Papa

Wed 18.3.36

..... together. C was busy typing and Gertie stitching but the typewriter let him down in the middle of a sheet and he gave it up. We have had to get some ink pads from the Remington Co. Phoned in the afternoon and got them next morning.

Thursday 19.3.36

Actually, got up at 7am. We did not have the curtains over and the sun was shining in. A lovely morning and inviting one to get up. Too nice to lie in bed.

I made a call at Storers and got there just as the stoves were being delivered of course they were wrong it's a wonder some firms do any business at all but eventually I decided to accept them after getting Mr & Mrs (especially the latter) to agree more or less.

I had hoped to get back before M got back but was just too late. She went out shopping and to Jenkins for some new carbon sheets for the typewriter and I have been on the C Hos. job till 8.30 this evening.

Our B had a birthday today and M asked him to come down to tea so he arrived about 3.30 and went about 7.15.

Chu hasn't got tired of being in the garden yet, spends best part of his time there and its quite a treat to be able to let him run and know that he cannot stray away. When evening time comes, he is nothing loth to settle down quietly. He is now snoring whilst lying in 'M's' chair.

Has fun and games with Augel's kitten and breathes defiance at Storers dog until the latter barks and moves towards him and then bunks indoors with his tail between his legs – literally.

Your letter came this afternoon. As you remark you had a good value for your money on Sunday evening.

What a fine game in foreign politics and really, I think the B.B.C gives the best account. I am sure I would not pick out the story so well from the Times and I should imagine that the B.B.C is responsible for a greater interest in foreign and Imperial matters and out things fairly and squarely and in a nutshell without bias not like the versions you get under the big headlines in such as the Daily Mail, Express Leader etc.

I have only the C HOs in hand at present and if I don't get anything else before Easter shall be free for a good spell but the C Hos. Annual meeting comes soon.

Sun 22.3.36

Although not so bright this morning there was every inducement for me to get up and I took a cup of tea up but found 'M' was just dressing.

It was almost just like a summer's day but inclined to be moist and not conducive to much effort and C came down to get on with the Singer and I found a job finishing off the piston rings and then potted about in the garden till dinnertime,

C came back after dinner and started on reassembling but had the misfortune to break a piston ring when getting the first piston up and into position. We had not got a spare and had to replace one of the old ones so instead of having 2 new rings so I will have only one. He was a bit fed up about it but stuck it out till 6 o'clock. There was not much that I could do just then as I finished out the afternoon in the garden clearing off dead stuff and doing a bit of digging.

'M' put Chu's harness on and took him up to 53 but he objected to the restraint going up but was more tractable coming back. He is enjoying himself these fine days in the garden it a fine chance for exercise for him. He seems to have given up scratching at the wire netting now at least I have not seen him doing it.

C finished my typing and brought it down in the morning but I delayed reading it over till the evening after he had gone consequently, I had to make a trip up to 53 as he had left a line out which altered the sense of a clause dealing with the flooring so I left it with him and he is coming down Monday morning to get on with the Singer and will bring it with him.

(Sendles?) who garages his Morris Oxford with us and puts in Sunday morning cleaning it up, he is a commercial traveller and uses it all the week spoke to C this morning about giving C the job to decoke etc shortly but C is not sure he will be able to take it on as after the 1<sup>st</sup> April there is a talk that the shop will work two twelve-hour shifts and this will not give him time for anything else.

Shall put this away now and listen to the developments, if any, of foreign affairs.

Nothing very startling tonight. All seem to be waiting Germany's reply to the Locarno powers ultimatum but I expect this will be pared down very considerably before negotiations begin.

Thursday 2.4.36

....and went home to bed.

What do you think of the German reply. I fancy it has great possibilities and once negotiations can be opened and the German treaty breaking habit relegated to oblivion.

La Fleche screamed as usual but Belgium seems to be taking a longer view. M has got the N.A. balance sheet duly audited says there are several mistakes and wonders how Kett audits and signs correct and how Edwards manages to wangle his part of it. She went out to the stores for wool combing this morning and so has got that over before Easter but I wonder when we shall be able to get off and the Singer be ready

Fri 3.4.36

Got a good start again this morning and got my plans and draft statement etc ready by about 4,30 and then turned my attention to this.

C took the starter back this morning and they gave him a second one of similar shape but different fixings so that he might take spare parts and make one. I don't know how this is going to work and am afraid it will take too long. Perhaps it would have been best to have the other one from Kings. Xx is day work next week and will not have so much time to spare and certainly no day light.

M went to the bank and had it out with Edwards and there got to be some wranglings as he got the 35 and 36 collections mixed up a bit besides other thing.

Your letter came this morning. How different things would be with a better organiser at the head of affairs. There doesn't seem to be any organisation at your school at all.

This don't seem a long letter but I simply don't have much to tell. A second lot of lace curtains adorns over front windows. Searles after 3 weeks have completed the order and the other which 'M' got locally is taken down again. I'm not an expert and have not been out today but both M and Gertie say it looks very nice.

I'm going out this evening and so am anxious to get this done before I go. Easter won't be long now will it. Shall be glad to know as soon as poss. what arr. you have made about (Lord)

Best Love

Papa

Sat 9.5.36

So, I amused myself with a crime club by Agatha Christie whilst M went out to pay a sick visit to Mrs Nurse in Selwyn Crescent and to take some flowers.

I went out directly after tea for one or two things hoping to get back by 7 for the 'in town' but only managed to get back in time for the (Mastermind?) of the weekly thriller.

C came in during the evening but apart from stray (1t.s.a) caller nothing disturbed the serenity of Rodwell.

Sun 10.5.36

A bit late this morning and consequently we chased the lost time all day Dinner was a bit late tea ditto. M had an idea of going to Calford this evening but after tea decided that it was easier to remain at home.

The morning was cold and dismal but as the day went on it grew better and the evening was the warmest and brightest part of the day. I managed to cut the grass and do a little bit of tidying up before dinner but took it out beside the fire in the afternoon. Did not finish tea till after six and then decided not to go to Calford. C and Gertie then came in. They had come down to see the Catholic procession at half past six. M saw it out of the bedroom window and when they came back, I was out in the garden where I stayed until half past eight tidying up and clipping the edges of the lawns except for the 'phone interlude.

We listened to the bumptious orations of Mussolini but what an empty triumph to scream about. Just a massacre of a poor defenceless people as I see it and something which Italy will not be proud of in times to come.

Mon 11.5.36

My next visit to the dentist is fixed for 12 on Tuesday so had to get on with things this morning and went to Northumberland Heath to fix up things there including the electrical contract and several other things in connection the building and did not get back to Welling till after twelve .Had one or two calls on my own account and landed at Graves about one o'clock but soon got away and home to dinner which by the way has nowadays to be something that does not need biting or chewing and I'll be glad to get the job over but it will be a month or two yet.

M is writing to you about the bungalow and will enclose it with this.

We may go out to the Blue bell Country this evening so am getting on in the afternoon

Mon 25.5.36

So, the riding season has commenced expect you enjoyed yourself. We saw in The Times about the Hindenburg hovering over Keighley and Skipton and dropping flowers but where will this end and what will they drop next. We thought you would probably see something of it.

You had a good run round on Saturday and I expect even the north country is looking fresh and green and the A A Eclipse? Sign is funny but I expect it was cheaper to let it stand than collect it.

Poor Kent it was bit of a come down after the 100% record but then Kent frequently starts well but seem to fade away afterwards and I am rather surprised that with their available players that they should have won 4 matches off the reel.

I wish we could get some respectable rain here we want it badly. I want to get some planting done before doing to Hemsby. I suppose you will let us know what train you are coming by.

Best love

Papa.