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Feb 4th 1940.

My own Darling One.

As I don't expect your letter till tomorrow and I have answered your last one I'll give you our news now and keep the letter till I hear from you. It was rather difficult to hear you on Sat - and I have not tried to get through since - I wonder if you have. We had sunshine on Sat - then snow all Sunday (it has reached 6 in in some places) with the sun breaking through as it set - lovely! Gillian said good night to it and the snow and begged the latter to stay - it is still in the ground - or rather some of it. Yesterday was brilliant sunshine all day. We all went out in it. We all go out together but I am keeping the children apart.

In the afternoon after Gillian's day sleep I go up to the big bedroom with her & Joan has tea in the front nursery with Penner - so we all get all the sunshine there is - and that is a lot now & the children are both rosy and in the best health and spirit - well fit to fight measles if need be.

We have never exploited that lovely bedroom - I sat on the bed hemming up the curtains and enjoying the sunshine and lovely world. The sea - the church and wooded hill opposite - the river etc - all bright with snow & sunshine. Oh how I wished you could have it for a study - just the sort of upstairs study you'd love. If as the spring comes on it is advisable to sleep downstairs I shall make that

room into a lovely day room where we can go and enjoy ourselves - even if it is only for an occasional hour or two of quiet. We'd open all windows as soon as it is warm enough (and that will be soon - we had the gas-fire out during the hottest sun-time yesterday) so if an unexpected bomb came near enough to shatter windows - one might escape - or at any rate the glass not fly into the room -

By the way - all our moral is much better now and in other ways Gillian and therefore we - are better fitted to face what may come.

She cried when a brick house she built fell down. I explained to her that it was easy enough to build it up again - even real houses could be built again if they fell - it was nothing to cry about. I wouldn't cry even if this house fell down - as it could easily be built again. Of course if it fell down we'd need somewhere to stay while it was built - "where could we go?" to Tom's mother of course etc. So now we are quite calmly & happily thinking of that - rather fun. For a long time now when building with her bricks she ^{has} started off making "A.R. Shelter".

The other day she built a house with many spaces. So I said - "It is lovely and cool - a sort of summerhouse". "No," she said "There was a bomb - not an incendiary just an ordinary bomb - and it broke all those walls - You

see Miss Player had a bomb and it blew away the roof
of her house and the walls!!" She said to Joan the
other day "You are quite wrong Joan about the siren
- it doesn't sound for good girls - it sounds when Adolf
is trying to come." She has been laughing of the siren
and Joan said "It might come if you are good." I must
explain that it does both - i.e. it sounds to tell good girls
what to do if . etc. . Gordner knows what she hears at
school - but I don't think it matters if she tells me and finds
that I know it and still am not daunted but prepared -
I put into her the fact that the gas mask practice is only
play - but if the "stinks" really come neither she nor Pamela
nor any of us must take it off till I say - I believe
Gillian is a child who will face up to anything bravely
if it is not too unexpected. The terror is taken out of things
if she can say to me "You said that might happen." I do
realize that it is my attitude to things that affect her
more than anything else. It is 11 a.m. now - She is just
going to enjoy "Anne Driver" - and then we'll go out -
Wed a.m. Just rung up Miss Weir - they have twelve
cases of measles now - All came out in the last 2 days.
None in Gillian's class - she would only have come in contact
with them at prayers if at all. Oh but she was naughty during
prayers and was sent out of the room. I don't think
we should pay the school fee of this term till we know
whether she will be able to get ^{more} school this term.

I suppose we must reckon her in quarantine till Feb 22nd unless she gets it before then. I suppose it is possible for her to get it on Feb 22nd. I do hope not.

Your dear letter and envelopes came this a.m. Thank you for the Cheque. I'm at the moment trying to make out estimates minimum estimates - I mean what I could run this house on with the utmost care. I'll let you know when I've done it.

Now for your letter. I wonder just how near those bombs were. I have Heffer's plan (or map) of Cambridge - W ^{is bounded by} ~~reaches~~ Victoria Road - top^{N.} just beyond the Cemetery (right)^E Brookline Ave. (bottom)^S and Orange Rd. left^{W.}). As it is about 18 inches square it shows quite a lot. Please let me know all your bombings ^{and I'll make} etc. them out.

Is your gas mask ready - have you soaked it. Couldn't you get yourself one of those gas suits. Chris would tell you about them if you couldn't find out yourself.

I'm sorry the new part of your house is so cold. This house is much warmer than last year even in the bitter weather we have had lately - and no trouble with smoking chimneys. I dare say the clump chimney has much to do with the smoking. If any emergency comes and food difficult do start your ham - I have 2 more here and a huge tongue. Things I only plan to use when you are here - I've plenty of beans etc. much more suitable for children. Have you flour and baking powder in stock? Keep plenty of this - also rice.

I do hope you'll be here if a crisis comes. When is your next visit - I know a blitz or something is sure to come which will be terrible while it lasts - but I hope that will not be long even if it is not decisive. I'm letting Gillian have lots of intercourse with some of her very special friends round - M^{rs} Duller, Miss Rickett and others along the terrace who think the world of her - M^{rs} Parsons (Baker) etc. I tell her that if Joan & I both got ill at once she could go & tell one of them. She is thrilled and says - "Yes, and I'll bring them back & do all the work!" You say you can "go back" to the bedroom in summer where are you sleeping now?

Yes I remember the Lungs. I don't know about snaps. I'm having 3 more of these family ones printed so will send them one. I believe snaps reached Iona all right. What a nice letter from the Lungs.

Have just made a rough calculation - You say you will send half M.R.P. cheque monthly for a while. I don't know what your idea is - but that rate would be an increase -

1940.

Jan	5 - 0 - 0.
Feb	5 - 0 - 0
Mar	57 - 5 - 10
Rent "	7 - 16 - 0.
	<u>£ 75 - 1 - 10</u>

1941.

Proposed suggestion -

Jan.	25 - 15 - 0.
Feb	25 - 15 - 0
Mar	25 - 15 - 0
Rent -	7 - 16 - 0
	<u>£ 85 - 1 - 0</u>

I don't suppose you mean this increase. I'm prepared for a decrease - you can't possibly afford to increase

mine this year - But I don't suppose this is your idea - I'm sure I can do very well or less - not more - so don't you run short whatever you do - I'm going to be careful and try and save whatever you send -

Yes - I listened to "The Landowners" - I usually listen to the programme after the news - I'll enclose the pictures of the Annastings -

Thelma - the daughter-in-law - is very nice - has had more experience than Pat - the latter is most amusing - and enthusiastic - I always think of the Melcalfe family - Thelma as the married daughter - Pat the one who has just got married and Marjorie as Joan - I don't think Joan is a bit older than Marjorie - Oh I see Marjorie is 16 - so that is about Joan -

I wish the Royal Society & the M.P.C. would feel annoyed enough about the B.E.C. to themselves take on all the financial responsibilities - but I suppose in war time that is too much to expect -

Gillie's height 3 ft 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches when you measured her in Jan
You can't expect 4" growth every year

There was a crocus out in the garden just before Kivello before the snow - snowdrops everywhere - but now all buried in snow
Our mustard & cress planted in wool on Sunday ^{3 days} already shooting out roots

When are you coming next? When is Easter - Knox seems to fear a bad time for us when it starts. I wish you could either have had your next holiday - or be having it here when it starts -

Ever so much love my own darling one - I'm going to try and ring you up tonight - Your own Ada -

DADDY.OO



WORLD

+ KISS

POPE



SWIM



6:11 AM