

Rosemary Cottage,
Granville Terrace,
Bude Haven,
Cornwall.

May 19 - 1942.
11 a.m.

My dear Dorey Anne -

Your letter is not here yet but I'll start this because there are one or two things I can tell you right now -

① Don't forget to get your kitchen books - I got mine this morning - ^{you take old books &} identity cards with you - but

I believe others could do it for you. i.e.

M^{rs} Stevens when she gets here - but don't forget to fill in the application page and put your date of birth in (even though ^{omission of this has caused delay & some} you are over 18 - !!!)

② here is a list of the Clutches you have here -

Now for my own news - M^{rs} Tafe has come - she is, I believe, exactly what we want - Her time free to come at the moment are Tues, Wed & Thurs - and she could come 9 a.m. till 2.30 p.m.

She is quiet, neat and thoroughly knows her job - everywhere will be as clean as even M^{rs} Stevens could make it -

At present of course there is much to catch up with clearing, etc. - so we never spring

cleaned - except for having the Chimneys swept - but once it is cleaned thoroughly it won't be so bad to keep clean - so I shall let M^{ms} Tafe do some of my laundry and cook the dinner the dogs she cares. With Howenna and Gillian at school and now this help I shall have plenty of time for letters, needlework + bottling and picking any fruit etc that comes along.

7:30 pm. The rain and clouds at last cleared away and we have had a magnificent day. M^{ms} Tafe proved all I thought she would be so when I fetched the children I kept them out till one o'clock. This afternoon we clipped the hedge and got the garden ready for you - then had tea on the verandah - a little walk - ice cream (we are having these twice a week - Tues + Sat) and so to bed. That is the children. I had a huge tea with them but when I've got them to bed feel the need not of food but of some stimulant - so had a cup of boric - now I'm out on the verandah writing to you.

Your letter came while we were at tea. What a lot of sweet corn - I think I'll give M^{ms} Bolt a few seeds - there are more than I can grow even if I had no tomatoes - Hope yours will do

I'm so glad you had a lovely Sunday - it poured all day here. Now you must understand we pottering in the garden in my nightie - It is grand but I could never get you downstairs - I don't suppose you are early enough to see the heron or are you?

I saw in the paper about your large size invasion. I can't interpret the other 4 Chinese Characters and have no dictionary here. There is a little well used black covered one of mine - a few inches square - by Southill - The book I have re-bound with a black & white diamond shaped checked piece of ray. If you come across that (it looks rather like a little old hymn book) and bring it for me I'll look it up - The words may be "kuan hsieh tzu tzu" - implying a sort of "grateful rest" - "a stay" - How beautifully you have written the two couplets this time. Perhaps T. Woo will have told you what they mean -

Was going to ring you up tonight - but see I will have to postpone it till Friday - I believe you said about the phone you were coming here next Tuesday. 26th or would it be Wed 27th if you are to be in Bath a day. You haven't written the date to me - since you

told me round about ^{June} ~~May~~ 1st. Anyway I'll ask
on Friday over the phone. We are getting so
excited about you coming. Mowenna too - she
often says "I want Daddy to come now."

I'm so glad Hilda is to stay with Winnie
indefinitely. I shouldn't be surprised if she
does not get much better from now on.

We have two yellow roses open - from the
Petrin plant - as that bough you nailed
up by the door. I had to move it a bit
when the blind was put up - but it is the
furthest ahead. So glad the Chinese rose
is open - you make me think of China hills.

Posted a parcel today. Tom never uses
her Cheese ration and brought me round
two weeks ration yesterday. She just walks
in here as tho' it is her home & sits &
Chats to me as tho' I was her mother. I'm
glad to see she has washed off the
"make up" - did she get tired of it - or did
her new employers object? I didn't ask.

I wrote to Mrs Asilassi about no 8 - but no
reply so far - I wish she would come.
Petrin has a job & is away. Cynthia just
recovered from Chiebsfox.

Have heard of one or two more farms - we

might visit them during the summer when we want inland walks - An empty room we could furnish would be grand - but I doubt if that is to be found now-a-days - So many vacancies -

So glad you are reading "My Country & My People" by Lin Yutang - Don't you remember Miss Sell lent me a copy - I thoroughly enjoyed it - I think he has recently published another book - I'd like to read "Brother Peter's Return" - I must see if I can get it - I get books now at the Chernish Worths library - and the ~~by~~ librarian there has by now got a good idea of my taste and so I can send Gillian to change my book - which is a pleasure both to Gillian & the librarian - My last book was a book on Mary Queen of Scots - most fascinating - I also recently got "How Green was my Valley" - a tale of the Welsh miners - At the moment I have "Cain in Egypt" - by Warwick Deering - he only just begun it - but the hero has bought a desolate farm and is tackling the weeds in a garden which must have been as Quidam garden was when we bought it.

Pearl Buck has written another book & tho' it is "out" at the moment it will be saved for me. This sent Mowema a nice little "Chinese" book in the Puffin series.

Had a little chat with Miss Player - she says "Mowema is marvelous in Eurhythmic" - all the girls say "look at her she does it better than we do!" We must be careful her head is not turned - but at the moment her whole desire is to be as other school girls and no longer a baby - she speaks about "My favourite schoolgirl" etc. - The two cats are enormous and very beautiful creatures.

We had several "looks over" the house next door. Mrs Henderson rather regards me as a "mother in Israel" & I often have to go in and help her out of a difficulty. There are two double rooms & a single - the latter is an attic with the roof window & lovely view. There is a second attic with a locked door - full of owners stuff I presume - A nice but long & thin kitchen - the view from windows lovely because window.

are low. There is piano - radio - electric
 heaters - iron - etc - And everything complete.
 The walls etc have all been newly
 papered or distempred so have a nice
 fresh look - but the carpets, upholstery
 curtains etc are old & shabby -
 I consider it more "roomy" than this
 - the rooms all a little bigger I should
 think. It would be admirable for
 say - Edith & Mary & a maid -
 or Lucy & Nellie & a maid - But I
 agree - perhaps we don't want those
 folk next door when you are here - we'd
 never have any free time - I don't think
 they'd be all over us so much when
 you aren't here - !!! I don't know whether
 it will be snapped up for a long time
 or whether say Daisy & Paul or
 anyone would like it for a week or two
 in the holiday - but of course there
 is no "service" there so it wouldn't
 be much holiday unless they brought
 a servant too - I'd like the Sinclair's
 best - especially if they sent their
 girls to St Catherine's - then we could
 take turns to fetch & take them.

Marie & Lili would love it - but it'd be too expensive for them - It has had about a dozen different folks since I came here - but Mr Henderson is the only one I have got to know - Only spoke once or twice with the last occupants -

Mr Smith has put an article in the paper this week -

Maui Verana would be a nice place for you to have your operation - How long will you be there - and where will you recuperate?

But you must tell me all this when you come here -

Tomorrow I plan to do a fortnight's laundry while Mr Tape finishes "Spring Cleaning" - possibly I'll leave some of her to do -

All my love my own darling as I get so excited but damn when your coming is near - Yours and Ada -