

Rosemary Cottage,  
Granville Terrace,  
Bude Haven,  
Cornwall.

My own Daily One

May 9 - 1942.

I've three letters of yours to answer - one with <sup>3 atts</sup> enclosures - one little note & a long letter - the latter full of interest - but I will not comment on it till I've given you our news - in case I have no time -

see end of letter.

I've had a busy week - but I think the keynote of our life now is "happiness" - strange isn't it? - it seemed before to be frustration all round -

\*<sup>10</sup> Beginning at Penma - she is blissfully happy at being at last the much envied school girl - and has "grown up" in a night - e.g. "Mummy I am not "darling" any more I'm school girl" or "Mummy I am not "dear" any more I'm "Mowenna". She definitely wants to be called "Mowenna" now. Don't you think we might? Then - well - more of her letter -

(here a big interruption on 'phone which looked my call to you wrong - hope to be speaking to you soon.)

The parcel & letter to Penma also left to Gillian came safely & a golden telegram <sup>from Mrs. Peter</sup> & a letter for Daisy <sup>(with stamps)</sup> & her two godmothers & certificates from one & parcel for the other (Chris) & everything

gradually accumulated and piled up ~~is~~ by  
herself - she does not suggest  
opening any yet. Gillian has got her a money  
box which records the number of pennies  
(like a car does miles) and when they reach  
36 the box automatically opens - She got  
it at the White Elephants -

I'll tell you about her birthday when it is  
over -

I'm continuing to drop in on any farms  
we pass and have a few more names of  
"possibles" - I'm quite certain it is a farm  
we want to go to when we take a little  
holiday - Also am enquiring for "help" - <sup>Have some</sup> names -

I'm getting on splendidly with the work.  
With about 2½ hours free of the children  
in the mornings just frees me to break  
the back of it. Of course this week was  
not normal - with getting started & unpacked  
& Howenna into school - ~~but~~ and now her  
birthday and a whole pile of thanks you  
letters to be written - but I think our  
routine when established will be very  
good - We have been sleeping till 7am  
- all of us but as I don't attempt anything  
but dressing ~~the~~ and breakfast & school first

3.

thing - it is good to get the sleep. I sleep well after the housework walks & school.

6:30 a.m. Wake - tea dress

8 a.m. Breakfast (we've been 5 minutes early most days -  
etc. etc.)

8:40 a.m. Start for school to be there 8:55 a.m.

On return journey I do shopping if any

20 minutes } make beds & "do" bedrooms & bath rooms  
{ this takes about 20 minutes altogether -

20 minutes } do my sitting room & nursery (unless I done the night before as I have done something)

Kitchen. Wash up prepare dinner & lay it in the kitchen. So far we have been able to fix dinner so that it can cook itself

11:35 To school & fetch children by 11:50.

a.m. When we reach home we generally are on two prearranged "jobs" prepared for each <sup>child</sup> that will keep them busy till we done the final touches to dinner which we serve as soon as it is ready. usually about 12:45 -

1:15 - Children to rest - I wash up & have a cup of tea & then a rest myself. Am usually ready for this by 2:30 p.m.

3:30 - Walk, Bench, picnics etc according to weather -

Am finding the Burgess' late high tea method rather good - at about 5.30 - then I myself don't need any supper till a cup of cocoa at about 9 p.m.

Eggs are plentiful so we have one for tea - or something else fairly substantial - but this is all an experiment - after tea childrens hours, bed, - etc - and then very quiet evenings as usual -

Here your call - you sound tired - but I hope will feel better after a Sunday rest -

So you were interested in "Dora Burgess's" correspondence in the Stratton Post. Well you get her at her best <sup>there</sup> - but typically herself in that - She is a critic every inch of her + itches to enter into any argumentative battle - Having been warned by you re the rather narrow mindedness, possibly, of her group I just let her speak as much as she liked - and as she didn't wait for answers it was easy - a silent audience was all she wanted - I agreed every now and then when I saw a chance but otherwise smiled over my sewing. She badly wants to write a book!! - but her husband says it would cost too much - She'll burst if she

make enquire. We have parted good friends with Tom - but I feel it would be fatal to press or even ask her to stay - but she knows she may - as it were make a fresh application for this job!! \$

Now for your letter -

Thank you for the lovely scrap - what ice you had - One year we had icicles like that round some of the cliffs - I don't know whether we did this year - did not go out to see.

I'm so glad my "Chinese rose" is not hurt by the wave - it is hardy and you may be developing the green fringes - How sweet the snowdrops are. Our garden here is in full spring bloom - a "patchwork quilt" again.

Gillian was very pleased with the P.O. of 2/2. thanked you over the phone - I couldn't get her to write - she kept putting it off - (I think she is a little tired of writing) - Mrs. Poyner & Miss Wier say she must be held back - so I didn't push it - I was glad she spoke to you.

On her "Caring day" she went round telling everybody about it - No one understood of course & discussions arose - then she wanted to know when my "Caring day" was - It all led to a little further knowledge of her adopted

I told her that I came to my mother on my birthday that my mother had to have me because there was no one else to choose from and I think she was quite glad to have a baby girl - but we chose Gillian - there were plenty (?) of other we might have had but of all of them we chose her because we wanted her so badly. That night she said her prayers & said "Oh dear God thank you so much for giving me & my Mummy & Daddy & making me so happy - Amen -

Here you rang up - Is this letter clear or muddled - I'm under the influence of the luminal now - its first effect - I feel fresh & happy - no frayed nerves but no sleepiness yet -

Thank you for the book of poems - That is very interesting about Marham Church - I must tell Gillian about it - she will love to have a church specially her own - Panghill is Olaf - and the Burgess's nearly called their little boy Olaf but thought it would need too much explaining

They say travel is dreadful - I guess I'm wise to stay put - Thank you all the same for your instructions - I will write to Winnie for Panghill - I'm not keen either on the Bath idea - but will not discuss it at the moment but leave you

a success.

Your Chinese "Welcome guest" was beautifully written - and I read it before reading your letter and interpreted it "The Happy Caring Guest". It is rather the literary style - not simple Mandarin - is literally this

① 喜 Hsi joy or happiness      ② 來 lai come -

③ 之 tzu a connective with a possessive meaning.      ④ 客 ke' guest -

might be interpreted thus in order to get the full meaning of the word 客 which is a word of the old literary style & full

"The guest belonging to (the category of) <sup>of meaning</sup> 喜  
Happy or joyous Caring"

喜 來

There I'm not forgetting all my Chinese - I'm no dictionary here.

\* I see I began a theme of our happiness & stayed at Penma -

Here is Lillian - she is being my big daughter and allowed to do so much for me - messages & all sorts of new jobs - even order mopping the floors.

Jean - obviously finds her new job exciting in some ways - and a slow sitting job in others - & natty & do after 4 p.m. but dress up & go out on to the <sup>cinemas</sup>.  
me - well I don't feel in keeping anyone away from a war job - and the quiet mornings at my work are in a way restful & satisfying and when I have the children in the afternoon I'm fresher for them - ~~Jean~~ Jean was terribly difficult to train - she wore me out.

This letter seems so long - I'll leave no room & tell you about Dennis's birthday - so good night  
 my darling one -

The back garden here is a dream. Mrs Picketts has a customer who says I'm the only gardener in Dunde!

Monday a.m. Yesterday it rained all day.

Dennis was thrilled with all her presents especially yours. Every bit of wrapping paper & wool she treasured but shared with Gillian - Then I let her write & stamp all her own thanks to you letters - and Daisy sent her a book of stamps with which she stamped the envelopes - What joy - she had books, a bag - a wooden mat etc. from me - She was the happiest little girl -

Mrs Lloyd came to tea with Wynia. I'd got a 1/2 Chocolate Cake on which we put the fairy and 3 candles. Gillian said it