

Rosemary Cottage
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Bude -
Feb 13th - 1943.

My own Darling One

I shall begin this letter now as there is absolute peace and quiet at the moment.

Gillian has gone to school - Mabel to do my marketing and Pemma has the cooking utensils (dolls ones) + a few biscuits + raisins and is having the time of her life in the nursery.

Hope you had a good day in London yesterday - shall look forward to an telephone chat tonight or tomorrow a.m.

This week for me has been a needlework one - I've nearly finished Gillian's blue jumper (made from wool-washed + sketched of the "Day suit" Mary Spear made Pemma the year before last! The skirt of this wool takes long - When made she shall wear it a little with the blue coat and hat and it will be a little change from the endless "Navy" - Pemma is wearing the little bright red ~~cas~~ jumper as she had got tired of her navy. Som she shall wear her pink woollen set + pink coat + hat.

Now I'll Confess - I loathe Gillian's blue coat. Neither the material nor the cut are what the girls had when I ordered it. I was shown the new wartime material + told that wartime regulations did not allow the deep hem they used to have. I doubt if I would have ordered it had I seen what it would be. However I had no time to make a coat and it has tried me over the cold winter when she has at least been snug + warm + she has been

know that I was not delighted with it. It is miles ²
too big so will be O.K. next winter.

It was Gallagher who did the ordering - but I also
asked her to send some material patterns in case I
decided to make the coat instead of buy it. Among
them was some green material exactly the colour of
William's green skirt & jersey. I got $1\frac{1}{2}$ yds of this
for about 15/-.

Now I'm tackling this for the spring.
I've got less than 10/- I've got lining, buttons, cotton etc
and I'll make the swaitest little coat for her in
which she'll look aw little William again. Miss
Pickett says the old blue thing robbed her of
her personality!

I'll enclose pattern & material. I couldn't get
twist for the buttonholes but got some embroidery silk.
I've got enough material over to make a little skull
cap



which seems to be the latest fashion
as I might have enough wool to
knit a little "tummy" like the picture
in the pattern. Please return this pattern envelope
as I keep the pattern.

If you remember the jersey of the green was a clumsy
silly shape. Actually it was the first jersey I've knitted
from a pattern - and is hideous. I dared not unpick it
as it takes so long to knit and I might not get
it done in time. I found a little furrow jersey, not
very expensive & not very good, being machine made, but

quite good enough in wartime - It goes nicely with the (3) green skirt - a contrast. Having this, I will now dare to unpick the green jersey which also has green knitted knickers - as I have other green knickers I can unpick the knitted ones too. When washed and stretched this will provide me with enough wool to make a better jersey & a woollen beret or tammy. (These may not be done in time of the spring - but will eye in in the autumn)

There that is my programme of needlework for the next few weeks. The pretty little ^{green} yellow frock that she sang her Carol in will also go nicely with the green coat.

Her colours now are - Blue of winter, green of spring and yellow of summer - with a few extra summer colours thrown in -

Penna's colours are Navy or Brown of winter Pink or blue of spring - and yellow of summer with a few extra colours thrown in -

There now isn't that fun? Last winter you remember all my needlework was upset - now was I well enough to catch up in the summer. I'm still a little behind - but will catch up all right if we all keep well -

I'll have to make Gillian a very light summer coat and shorten her yellow one of Penna -

Interruption The electric man has come to fix the electric bell in Mabel's room. Yes I'm having an electric bell put from my bed to Mabel's room. This is really a great need and would have made all the difference to me

when we had foam - Only twice has Mabel gone to sleep (4) again after her alarm has sounded - but if that happens I have to get up & call her. It really does make all the difference if I can get the warm tea in before I get out of bed - I suppose it is the remains of the rheumatism but in the a.m. I'm cold & stiff when I wake & my pyjamas feel clammy & damp - The contact with the cold air then is very trying. When I'm warmed up and had the luxury of a warm bath I'm a different person. By the way Mabel is steadily improving - especially with the fires so that I have been able to have a morning bath lately. But to go back to the bell. The actual bell will be in that sort of box place where the ship stands - i.e. not actually in the room you see - but near enough to wake the deepest sleeper - The bell push by my bed.

This also saves me some anxiety when sirens go. It will be quite enough, if necessary to collect the children & take them downstairs without waking & calling the maid. I'll arrange a signal which will say "Come down, I'm taking the children downstairs" - and perhaps one which will say "Abandon ship" - which will mean get out by the best means you can - i.e. she could easily get out of the window or to Petrus's roof - etc. etc. - Anyway I like to be able to communicate with her without going upstairs. From actually downstairs of course we have the little telephone you fixed so conveniently -

Neither weather has been pretty wild again all the week with bright intervals - Today is grand and the glass going up - so we'll plan a "do" to Stratton this afternoon

If it keeps nice.

There, darling, Penma is getting restless & Mabel needs me & Eylliam will soon be back so I'll leave this & finish later.

3:30 p.m. - I took the children for a walk - by an roller skate & Penma with her pushing dog. We found the skin of some sea bird - smaller than a seagull. The pinions of one wing were gone - but the other still whole. I collected these of the Indian hall. I also got ~~an~~ ^{an} ornament made at the White Elephants ^{an} of ~~the~~ small beads.



flat piece of stuff thickly sewn over with green, orange & black beads. It will do magnificently for the front piece of the head arrangement -

I got this before Eylliam joined us.

We all had a nice rest and now Mabel has taken the children out.

Sunday Valentines Day. Well, my precious Valentine!

What bad news you gave me over the phone last night. It might have been worse - take what comfort you can from that - but the more I think of it the more I see your problems.

Hilda gets your breakfast & I gather tidies up for you - good job you are a tidy man & don't make a great mess. Have you a gas fire? What warmth

are you getting? The damp & possibly cold house ^(6.) is not good for your side. Do get yourself some new vests (wool, if possible wool-silk) if you won't wear the wool ones I have that belong to the pants.

You have "supper" at Jill's home - good - but where do you have dinner? or is their supper equal to a dinner? Who provides your lunch? Can Hilda get this for you - Who collects your Station? Oh a hundred questions go through my mind - Do you come back after supper to a cold house? or does Hilda slip & see there is a warm room for you - What about Fridays & coming back from London - what welcome (or lack of it) awaits you shall I bring Mabel and the children and come and take care of you?

I'm not quite clear what has happened to M^{rs} Stevens the love was poor & I expect I must have heard wrong. I thought you said she had broken her leg - later I thought you said "Collesio" but if leg it must have been "Potts" or is "Potts" the wrist?

You said she was in Addenbrooks for a week then three weeks rest & her daughter to wait on her - Poor dear, how she will hate it. I must write to her. And that horrible daughter waiting

on you - I don't like it at all - but perhaps she (7)
will serve a man better than she does her mother.
After all it was a man who fell for her when she
was in ^{because she took such care of him} his service - but that was before she was
spoilt. If there ^{is} anything I can do to help please
let me know at once. Shall we spend the
Easter holidays with you? I mean go back with you
after you have had a little holiday with us - or
you come back with us after we had been with
you. I'd be rather afraid that if we came to you
first you'd have no excuse to come to us so you'd
better come first & fetch us - How I ramble on
But please keep me in mind to help if you see
any way I could and let me know -

If you have any little tins of turgue or galantine etc
do use them now - because it is an emergency time
for you and you must keep up your strength. What
about getting yourself some Extract of Malt - I believe this
is doing me a world of good. I get 2lb jars at 30s
but they had have 1lb jars as well.

Lentil soup is easy to make - Simmer them in water
- you need to add to this as the lentils absorb it - a carrot.
Some Celery adds flavour - but simmer & stir occasionally
till thoroughly soft - flavour with salt & pepper - add
a lump of marg if you have it - & serve hot.

All my love
yours and Ada.

It will reheat if
you make enough for 2 or 3
add milk or powdered milk
if you have any -

You can still get small tins
of heidberg or. optant soups
Carbon free - Veg. non-milk -
Have these in stock always -
There are also vegetable soups -