

To
Bradworthy
31.

at. Lutsar Farm
Autcombe

Holworthy -

April 29th - 1943

My own Darling One

Yesterday your little note and today
your lovely long letter to answer - I
shall begin this now but post on Sat-
from Bude.

Weather is still poor, but a minute ago
the sun actually "broke the skies" as Penma
says for about $\frac{1}{2}$ a minute - That is the first
sign of clearing - but the sky is still thick
with cloud - We dress in mackintoshes and
long boots all the time and Gillian says that
there couldn't possibly be a more wonderful
place than this - so all is well.

Today June Macintosh and Yola her friend,
both of St Catherine, cycled over from Bude. At
the moment they are exploring the farm with

our two who are delighted to have two big girls, & the big girls seem pleased with them too.

Did I tell you about the threshing? There was a huge rick of oats to be threshed and a great threshing machine came - also some more men. M^{rs} Stacey had 10 men to feed that day.

We all entered into the spirit of the thing and when Nellie took a huge tray of eatables along at 11 am. The children took the cups & I took a huge can of tea which we doled out. In spite of the cold wind & the dust from the threshing machine the children spent the whole of the day in that field thoroughly enjoying themselves. Penma got a chill in the stomach tho & spent the next day in bed and took nothing but water - which she couldn't keep down - till tea time when she ate a couple of ~~stices~~ slices of toast and today is completely recovered.

Gillian however spent the day on the farm with the men threshing - with the cows being milked and collecting eggs. She unfortunately saw a man deliberately kill a little

which she wanted to keep. Hence her letter to you asking for a white mouse. This morning we went over the threshing field and it is literally covered with dead rats of all ages and a few dead mice - so her only comfort is in the hope of a little white mouse of her own.

I quite enjoyed a quiet day with Penma and as I had plenty of needlework to do I was able to occupy myself and amuse her when she went asleep - This place is grand even in the rain - but too much damp brings on my rheumatism and after all it is actual physical rest I've been needing. Yes it is wonderful to see so many eggs all at once - and we've eaten more already than we had eaten for a year I should think. They are so huge that the children simply can't eat a whole one at a time. But the goose's egg fairly took one's breath away - it was huge -

(4)

I'm so glad you had Jill of 24 hrs during Easter week end. I love you to have a child about - keep your hand in. Here come the children - so more later -

June & Yola went off at about 5 p.m. - in the rain. We had tea and the rain stopped for about $\frac{3}{4}$ hr and we went round the farm collected 48 eggs and saw a hawk only born today.

So Jill turned you out of your huge bed! I'm afraid she trusts you round her little fingers -

Poor you with the gardening all to do. Don't kill yourself over it - Wish I could help you. Thanks for reminding me about Wellingtons - I'll see about them -

Canadian butter wrappings would be useful but not if you have to use coupons.

I don't think the little silver beaten tea caddy spoon is in Bude - but will see when I get home - I had forgotten it ever existed -

There was a tiny tea caddy I used in the bedroom it might be in that if Mrs Stevens can find that

I'll send you some table napkins. By the way there may be ~~some~~ a tablecloth wearing out a little which might be more useful if I cut it up into table napkins - Ask M^{rs} Stevens. How are you off for sheets?

So glad the blue trees Hilda gave you are in bloom this year.

Chris has a weeks holiday - but evidently does not feel she can leave Botherie.

May 1st We have been for a grand walk today up the lane belonging to the farm and where it twists and turns and Chinks & wades all up and down over M^{rs} Stacey's land - Every now and then a gate from which there is the grandest view of the lake and all the land round it - It is definitely the walk we must bring you when you come here for a picnic -

Yesterday we went to Bradworthy and saw M^{rs} Hearn and her daughter Winnie and the sister who ~~used~~ ^{used} to entertain you in Exeter - All sent you greetings - M^{rs} Hearn was not there -

16.

I don't know quite what we are going home
to - read M^{rs} David's letter which I had a
few days ago - also M^{rs} Petrus very nice one
but which shows her hands will be far
too full to help me at all -

Perhaps after the rest M^{rs} Tape has had she
may be able to come to me at any rate while
you are here occasionally - Her sister-in-law
M^{rs} Brent might give me a little help -

By the way M^{rs} Mackintosh thought she had
got a new maid a little girl from ~~Marham Court~~
Tanghill age 14 just left school. She agreed to
give her £1 a week & even such long holidays
as no work to do when boys are away from College.
She came for 3 days only & then just didn't
turn up - So I'm wondering if there is any
help at all to be had -

Patricia Stevens will be 14 next Nov 9 - Do
you think she'd come to me when she leaves
school? She is a dear little girl and I
have a soft spot in my heart for her and

of course would treat her as one of the family. But possibly you have taken my suggestion and already booked her for Mrs Stevens and yourself. I think that would be ideal.

Rosemary Cottage - Here I am on my couch with the two cats (kittens not here yet - you said they'd be due tomorrow)

The drive back from Luton was simply too wonderful for words. All the trees had come out as if by magic while we were away and the sun shone and the different shades of delicate green were so lovely. We came back via Kilkhampton - In spite of the weather it has been a most successful holiday and I'm so glad to have discovered such a nice place owned by such nice people.

We must certainly go there one day while you are here, and Mrs Steacy will let us have a fowl to bring home if we let her know the day before. Yes, I think we could spend a holiday there altogether. I don't think you'd ever be tired of leaving on some of the gates

when you'd climbed up some of the higher fields
and looking at the lovely view including the
reservoir - But you shall see it and
decide. They knocked off 2 gns from the bill
because we came home two days earlier
- so we can spend that taking you to see it.
I posted you a little parcel just to tide you
over the last few days before you came back
I do hope it reaches you safely I'm afraid I packed
it in rather a hurry.

M^{rs} Petrin made us some pastys for our dinner
tomorrow - and M^{rs} Stacey let me bring back some
stuff from the farm to see us over the week end
as I can't get our rations till Monday - so we
are all fine.

M^{rs} Dando has thoroughly cleaned the whole
house - and tried herself out - I gave her an extra
5/- and told her to take a weeks holiday &
if she could give me an hour or two every day
as I had first planned I shall be glad -
Meanwhile I must get in touch with M^{rs} Tap

I'm sure she will give me some help when you come - Anyway I'm feeling quite a different person to what I was when I started my holiday. I forgot to take a map with me - But I see now that Lutsar is marked on the map. The farm is 340 acres -

Lillian shed a few tears with her goodbyes but is finding her own home quite a thrill after being away - Penma has told her dolls and other creatures all about her holiday - Now, darling, are more weeks - a strenuous one for us both - and then - it will be almost too good to be true to have you back again - Our little garden is a mass of flowers - The Petrie rose is in bud - just bursting - the American Pillar has been set back by the cold winds - it was too far ahead and is in a windy spot. Good night - I'll post this tomorrow in good time - All my love
Ada.

Having a
glorious time
feeling in our
own home -
the loveliest place
in the world!