

Foster Cliff Farm

July 13<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) 1941

Silsden Moor

Silsden Yorkshire.

Dear Susan & Geoff. It was a very great relief  
Geoffrey to get your letter yesterday telling of the  
safe arrival of another son & that Susan had  
had an easier time. Very nice to have two daughters  
& 2 sons. Thank you also for sending parcel - we  
have plenty of tea, but sugar is scarce & also butter.  
Up at the present we are using up that which you  
sent before because in Wales we were able to have  
enough, but butter rations are decreased - we now  
get 2 ozs per head per week - but can have the  
amount reduced in extra or otherwise. Suddenly  
there has been a shortage of potatoes - to every ones  
surprise as there were great stocks of old ones,  
but the deep weather delayed the new potatoes  
wh: should have been ready a fortnight ago in  
the S. However from now we shall be getting  
more & we are lucky to have our landlord bring  
us a stone (14 lbs) & also Mr. Brighley some new ones.

& these flowers in our garden will be ready for our use,  
they are coming into flower now - Harold is buying  
them from Mr. Walker (the Landlord). We are at  
Long East having some rain - we have had none since  
some time before we left Wales & everywhere it is  
too dry but good haymaking weather. It's too  
hot to be pleasant to be out in - for me at least.  
We are glad to be here & not in our small space  
at Cilceir - it was too crowded to be healthy, al-  
- tho' so great space & lovely air outdoors. Here the  
thick stone walls & floor make rooms cool - the  
postman came in thankfully & said how cool  
it was - his postman was like air, as he said,  
he usually comes in for a little chat & sometimes  
a cup of tea. All the people are very pleasant,  
sometimes it is not easy to understand those  
who speak broad Yorkshire, but we like the people.  
They seem straight forward & fair dealing.  
We want Aunties to come & stay here for a while -  
& plan for us to have the sitting room off

the living room to sleep in. We found a double bed with  
spring mattress in one of the outbuildings & are getting  
it ready. Harold has colour washed Geoffrey's  
room & is now doing their own, as the paper was  
coming off the walls nearly all over. He is doing  
it a pale green. Geoffrey's is cream. Mr. Drills has  
sent a pile of curtains, chair covers etc. which will  
be very useful. There are shutters to all the  
downstairs rooms. You would appreciate the dairy,  
it is down a few stone steps & has stone slab tables or  
broad shelves - a double tier all round - & as it is on  
the N. side it is always cold. We don't use it much  
except for meat as we have such a good larder  
with stone shelves round. Vegetables are very dear  
& scarce but will perhaps be more plentiful soon.  
The dry weather has no doubt hindered their  
growth. The postman says the Corveth address is  
as I have headed this letter. We had it given to  
us twice wrong in different ways. Letters arrived  
but were delayed. We have fields all round us  
crops in some & cattle or sheep in others -

We had to pass cattle & a young bull but Mr. Walker has removed it now & we only have the two nearly dry cows that are milked for us. Jack has been ill but is better again & Donovan has had trouble with teeth being taken out. He & Jeanne go for a holiday next month. My house is not yet so still available for the Coxs. The attacks have been less violent lately we do not get any alerts or firing here & it is very peaceful. The people who thought of taking my house have got rooms with attendance with suits & have better as the wife had recently been very ill & upset with air raids, their house being badly damaged. It took rather more than an hour to go from Dorset to Exeter by car - perhaps 1 1/4 hours & about 3/4 hr to Chester. I could have gone by bus to Chester but the buses were very few & inconvenient as I should have had very little time before I had to return & the buses were often so full passengers had to be left behind. On account of petrol shortage no extra buses could be put on. Auntie's house is let for several months at £2-20 per week - a very low rent for accommodation but they think they have good careful tenants & don't want to

make out of other peoples misfortunes.

I am glad the new baby is peaceful  
& content, it makes such a difference  
when you are lying in bed - we were  
sorry the other three had flu &  
hope they made a speedy recovery.  
It was very cold here at the begin-  
ning of June. The Marcellis had some  
of their glass houses injured in the  
blitz - it seemed as if the concussion  
lifted them up & set them down in a  
slightly different place - much glass  
was broken & the tomato plants were  
hindered in the cold weather. One of  
the sons was lost whilst flying over  
the Channel some time ago. The war  
seems to be taking rather a better turn  
for us. Owing to petrol shortage H. can  
not use his car much for it took nearly  
the month's ration to come here, & we have  
had to go several times to near towns to  
get necessities of all kinds.

It is very pleasant here - very  
pretty scenery - little dells & streams  
& hills & great trees at intervals. We  
face S. & are protected by a hill at one  
side - perhaps rather like Leicestershire.  
What a trouble the Jehovah's Witnesses are,  
but I don't think forcing people to salute  
does good - better to make them go out at  
their time & have something specially in-  
teresting for those who do obey. Best to  
make them want to salute. I am sorry  
Dorothy has not been so well. & away from  
home too. Elizabeth must visit her, she was  
so good to her. I hope the Cox family are  
all well. We are a good way from shops  
here but not so difficult as Lilece. but  
2 miles to shops down a long steep hill, &  
then just village shops.

Dear love to you all & a kiss for the  
new baby - Geoffrey was very interested  
to have a new cousin.

Your loving Mother

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