



Mr + Mrs G. Stewson  
Langbank  
Sask  
Canada.

Foster Cliff Farm, Silsden Moor, Silsden.

July 20<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) 1941.

Yorkshire.

Dear Susan & Geoffrey. Thank you very much  
for your letters, it was very lucky under the  
circumstances that Leonard was born alive. as  
Daniel Dummerley's first baby was choked before  
being born. it was indeed fortunate Mrs. Gravener  
was free to come. Thank you too very much for  
the parcel wh: arrived about 2 days after the letter.  
All very welcome, especially the sugar, also butter.  
I tried hard to like tea with such sugar but to me it  
tastes then like medicine. I have plenty of tea  
as I <sup>have</sup> had a box unopened that I got before war started  
from Mrs. Barr. Yes, boxes 3 & 15 are all preserved in  
good order. Aunties house had drawing room window  
broken & some tiles off roof & window latches sprung.  
my house had no damage, though no 1 - further from  
bombs - had several windows broken. Poor Mrs. Barr  
considerably over 80 has to get up, in night, when  
alert sounds & go into a shelter outside. They  
have suffered greatly there, & in other parts of the  
Town - house after house down or in ruins. Many  
of the streets unrecognizable. Both small & big

houses were bombed. I had a letter from Capt. Cox, he said most kindly that he will continue to go & see Brian - he had been a day or two before & found him well. He walked into Chester with him, & Capt. Cox took bus back from there - he said Dorothy was probably going to return to J. G. Dr. as she Aunt was not making any progress - it must be a great worry to the husband & the Coxes - I believe there is no shortage of food or eggs in the island. Here many people have been unable to get eggs - but we have been very fortunate & win more so here - there are no queues for food here & we can get cereals & even biscuits which were unobtainable before coming here. The allowance for eggs now I believe is 1 egg per person per week. We get good fresh meat (usually lamb) & we have milk in the garden for milk sauce & soon we shall be using new potatoes from garden - the peas since we came are over 2 inches high now, & we shall soon have lettuce. we have also some rhubarb, & may have a very few rasp. Fruit has been unobtainable - no oranges, lemons, <sup>apples</sup> bananas, only  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb strawberries sold to each customer! & that the only time obtainable - still we have all necessities & more, & we are very thank.

-ful & wish other people were as well off. We have a  
sack of flour so I am going to make bread - tho' the bread  
we get is good but not always easy to get delivered.  
We expect Aunties tomorrow, Harold will meet  
them in Ilkley - they come here by train - & will  
bring them to the door - he would have gone to ask  
worth for them if he had had enough petrol - but it  
used up nearly all the month's supply coming here  
& he cannot get more until August. He has bought  
a very cheap motor bicycle & hopes to ride it to  
& fro to Ilkley (7 miles each way) every day he  
gets an extra allowance (2 gallons per month) for  
that - it won't be enough but he may have to use some  
of the car ration. War news at present is more  
encouraging & raids have been less serious tho'  
still has several times lately been badly attacked -  
we can hear planes a long way off some nights - but  
there is nothing here to attack, we are surrounded  
by fields all with stone walls - loose stones built up  
quite an art. Mr. Walker (the farmer) is very  
good indeed to us - says we shall not starve! & he  
keeps his word. We often have beautiful lettuce  
given to us, & Kale wh: is like Cabbage - we had some  
today - there is a big field of it & he told us to help  
ourselves to it. There are a lot of sheep, & now

They are enjoying themselves in a big hay field. So  
Harold has had to go to tell Mr. Walker - who tells us  
this farm has been farmed by his family for 200 years.  
We find the house very comfortable, so few steps -  
none from the outside, & only about 12 stairs (7 also  
a few stone ones to dairy wh: we do not use) all on  
the two levels - one down & one up - so much easier  
with children & we like the fresh big kitchen & the  
garden has been much neglected, but we are gradu-  
ally making a difference. There is a cat & two  
kittens & the children & they are on very good  
terms: they live outside but come in when they call.  
We have been very busy getting settled, but we feel now  
to have more time for ordinary things. There is an  
Valor Perfection oil stove (2 burners) wh: is most useful for  
boiling kettle quickly for breakfast. I had one  
in the last war when the gas was so often  
turned off or else too weak to cook with - & it cooks  
very well indeed. I think of you often & hope you  
are all well. With dear love always

from Mother

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