

May 23rd 1941
C/O Mr. Jones, Castell Farm, Cleeve, N. Wales.

Dear Susan & Geoff. Thank you for
2 letters rec^d. this week. I wrote to
thank you for the parcel you so
kindly sent. Dad & I are enjoying
the lump sugar in our tea. we had pre-
viously given it up in tea as an un-
necessary luxury. as granulated sugar
is needed for porridge, puddings, cakes
etc. We can get a few eggs but there
is so much demand that even here
they are not easy to get. I am very
glad to say the bull calf has gone to
Gold, he brought £6-15-0 I think.
The day before we had a tussle with
him when we were out with the
children, he made Dad's hand bleed
& scraped her arm & bumped
her back. She had to throw Baby
over a low hedge & scramble into

a field. I saw a dog Mr. Jones who
brought a big stick & rescued us.
This was the second time we had
had trouble with him. We are bereaf-
cut off on the side of the mountain -
we could get on by ourselves but the
roads or lanes are unsuitable for
a team. Now we do use it as
Elizabeth has a remarkable walker
can not at her age walk far -
she tries to say everything now.
Harold is in Yorkshire along with
others in the Depart^t, he expects to
come here for Whitewide week
end. My house is not let & I would
rather it was not as all my things
are scattered about. But though if
anyone they needed know badly was
want of shelter they could have it -
I think now I will write Capt. Lee &
offer it freely as at any rate my

house is not injured & has roof &
windows intact. The iron work be very
draughty & cold. We have a fire all
day yet as it is not warm & little
sunshine, showers of rain lately.
Children growing fast, eating well &
generally black - quite different to our
sandy soil at home but rain water
soon washes them clean. We are
waiting to see, we cannot make plans
until we see if Harold succeeds in
getting suitable house or rooms near
where he is in Yorkshire. Capt. Cox went
to see Brian & they went for a walk
by the sea. Sunday Mr. Carpenter & his
sister are coming to a little Inn not far
from here today for a few days. There is
one fairly level walk we take daily round
the out side. It is grassy & trees meet
overhead in places, the views are

Beautiful with constantly changing
cloud effects. Everywhere few things
can be had - we get our meat rations & be-
-con, tea, butter, margarine & sugar allow-
-ances. There is no fruit, no salmon or
tinned fruit, jelly, condensed milk or
many other things. Fish is extremely
expensive. Sausages are rationed,
but they are about $\frac{3}{4}$ bread or potato &
have no taste. We get good milk twice
a day wh. is very helpful for the chil-
-dren & we have so far been able to get
fresh oats for porridge. We have no wireless,
papers (wh. gives little news) or rivers about
6 o'clock & letters at nearly mid day.
I am afraid there is no doubt that the
parcel I sent has been lost - as they
announced all mails posted about
12th Dec^r had been destroyed by enemy
action. Is Elizabeth still at home.
I hope she will be a help to your
mother & now a magnet too can

do many little jobs. Here the 3
valuable children are most helpful,
they bring bread, groceries from Cilcen,
where they go to school, fetch milk
from farm twice a day, get ice the
wood etc. they pick up among the
trees, carry lots of water from well,
feed chickens, ^{collect eggs} clean hen house bring
up the corn, + many other things - it
takes about 1 hour for them to go + re-
turn from Cilcen. Geoffrey likes to
be with them when they are home
+ they have fine games together.
They all have rosy cheeks + look
over so well. You have a great many
calves, this expected one has not
yet made its delayed appearance.
There has been little food for
the animals + the grass has been
poor but is improving with rain.

I forget if I told you Dr. Johnson's office
has been destroyed & he has my mortgage
deeds - they don't know their fate as they
lie buried beneath tons of rubble - I am
very glad you have such pleasant
help indoors & out - it makes life so
different. You will have a nice supply
of pork & bacon & ham now dead, both
houses have killed a pig. I hope the
newer car will be a pleasure to Bob
& Alice - the old one has lasted longer
reliably. Aunties seem to be getting a
little restive, they feel they left home
in such a hurry, so I think when I
return home they will also do so.
We hear no sirens or enemy planes lately -
hope they are not saving up for an attack
in force. Very peaceful here.
Dear love always

from Mother.

We have plenty to eat

HEAVY CASUALTIES FEARED

Merseyside had its most severe raid of the year last night, when enemy planes were over a wide-spread area in regular waves for several hours.

Flares were used sparingly, but, following their usual technique, the raiders first dropped load after load of incendiaries. Thousands of them must have been dropped, but teams of fire-watchers were alert, and succeeded in quelling many incipient fires before they had time to take hold. Reinforced by the fire brigades and the auxiliary fire service, they performed Herculean tasks.

Waves of Raiders

Seen from the top of a high building in the centre of Liverpool the efforts of the ground defences to combat the waves of raiders as they came in made a colourful if dreadful picture. After a time, some of the incendiaries took hold, and the occasional deep red glow of a fire could be seen, but the outbreaks were quelled quickly by the fire brigade, so that when dawn came few fires were to be seen on the skyline.

Searchlights were continually tracing their pattern across the sky, and as they concentrated on one point there would come the crashing crescendo of the heavy ground defences in the greatest barrage which has been heard in Liverpool for some months. High among the stars would be seen the flicker of bursting anti-aircraft shells and, embarrassed by the

barrage, more than one plane released its load before reaching its objective.

Dwelling-Houses Hit

Following the fire-raising planes came the heavy drone of some of the bigger bombers, releasing high explosives over several areas. Several shops in the city were affected by the blast of heavy bombs, and there was some damage to commercial property, but once again dwelling-houses, churches, and other non-military objectives seemed to bear the brunt of the attack.

People who had taken shelter in the crypt of a church in an area which had been severely damaged the previous day were trapped when a heavy bomb struck the building. Rescue squads and other air raid precautions workers were quickly on the scene, and a number of people were extricated and taken to hospital.

In one place a furniture store was hit, and another bomb dropped close to a well-known church which had already been damaged by enemy action. Fire and explosive bombs also struck blocks of dwellings, but in one big block the majority of the residents had previously sought the safety of the public shelters close by. Otherwise the casualty list, which, it is feared, may be heavy, would have been even heavier. Fire-watchers on commercial buildings were injured, and in another area members of the fire services were also taken to hospital.

CORN TRADE CHIEFS

NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED

At a meeting of the directors of the Liverpool Corn Trade Association to-day Mr. O. T. Williams was elected president in succession to Mr. H. R. Granger, and Mr. Horatio Batty was elected vice-president.

Mr. Williams began his career with Charlton and Bagshaw, Liverpool and London, and was made a partner in 1912. For several years he represented his firm in London, and is a member of the London Corn Trade Association and the Baltic Mercantile and Shipping



Mr. O. T. Williams. Mr. H. Batty.

Exchange. He was elected a director of the Liverpool Corn Trade Association in 1932-35 and again in 1939-41, and has also served on many committees. He lives at the Hermitage, Meols Drive, Hoylake.