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ROYAL MAIL

CHESTER

5 30 PM

17 DEC 39

Dr & Mrs G. Stevenson



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Langbank
Sask

Canada.

3 Centerton Drive Meols

Dec^r 21st 1939.

Dear Susan & Geoffrey - Your Xmas letters arrived on Wednesday (14th) so they had not been so long in coming considering the war. Thank you very much for the dollar. I am glad you have had so many festivities lately, & that you have renewed the paper for Brian - he appreciates it very much & passes it on to us or to Captain Cox when visiting him. Thomas Loutts a remarkably big boy in the photo & so sturdy. Most people say boys are harder to bring up but I did not find it so. Yes, I am sure Margaret is writing much better - with less effort. I gathered 3 red rosebuds today, we saw a number of roses in a garden in Chester last Wednesday - you will be glad to have an advance supply of wood. Where do you get it? I see in Finland where are immense forests which they say moderate the climate & help to retain moisture - how are your trees growing? I had a number of turkeys to dress on a day. Did Harold

have any? I am sitting in front of a
beautiful red fire with a reading lamp
(electric) by my side. Electric telephones
are un procurable but fortunately we
have them & now refills can be had. There
are so very many road accidents owing
to the absence of lights. They don't go out
after dark except occasionally to rock
other houses & then we have a torch to use
in case of need. On Monday Auntie D. &
I went to Dr. Head to take a holly wreath
to the grave (Uncle Tom's, grandfather &
grandmother) they are all buried in the
same grave (a double one to hold six) in the
Cemetery. It is beautifully kept. & then we
went on to see Dr. Dren, who looked very
well - he will be 97 in May next.
Auntie D. sent some lovely holly with
great clusters of red berries on it, so I
made a big wreath with a thick back-
ground of ivy for dear Daddy's grave -
There are still hundreds of evacuees
in Toy lake & neighbourhood, & they are

organizing treats for them. There are several houses here & in W Kirby where Czech refugees are housed - several families in one house. One large house has cripples (English) evacuees. Geoffrey was not feeling very well this morn^g, so we went to Hoylake without him - borrowing the pram to carry things - & when I returned it, he was standing on a chair in the kitchen with a big apron tied round him 'helping to wash'. He has a slight touch of acidosis (caused Bar. flunks by too much chocolate). There is a good deal of scarlet fever about, it has been bad at Aikeworth - one pupil having died at the school hospital - he had it very badly. & I think he had rheumatic fever wh: often follows. I am making bread on Saturday - they all like home-made bread. I am writing early because I expect to be at Barbados on Sunday, while they are at Southport.

They do not want to take Baby aback
so far in the car. She is a dear little
Baby, so contented & loves to be talked to.
She goes away & smiles. The fishermen
are having a hard time of it on the S. coast.
We heard on wireless the welcome given to
the landing of the Canadian troops & also
speeches by them. They said what a fine
body of men they are. They will not be
going to France for some time & many are
spending Xmas with friends in England.
Some were in the last war. I am look-
ing forward to the photographs.

Geoffrey has not been taken for some time
& Baby not yet. I hope you received
the parcel safely wh: I sent off on Nov^r 23.

With dear love

from
your loving mother.

I hope you all had a very happy
Xmas. we are all to be at Aunties & we
are having pork for dinner -