

3 Centurion Drive, Meols.

Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> 1940

Dear Susan & Geoffrey, Thank you for your letter - I am glad you have had the late snowfall so as to increase soil moisture.

I hope your throat was better the next day Geoffrey, we as a family do not often have sore throats. We are all well & little

Elizabeth is apparently well tho' she has not entirely lost her cough & we think it will last until more teeth are through.

She is very good & takes interest in all she sees. The trees are all out in living

green & the hedges too are lovely. I am still Spring Cleaning - my motto has to be 'ascendit'. I'm climbing up the

heights but have not reached the top -

It will be a pleasure to you to have the cellar tidy & to know what is in it. I am sending a few things

to the Church rummage sale on



Thursday & could find more if I had  
time to look things over. I feel like the  
man who said he had not time to give  
things away, he was so busy! I have  
sh. some lettuce seed, & hope to have some  
nice ones if they are like some Auntie  
M. had, we think we have got the same  
Seeds - the outer leaves bronzy & the  
heart pale green, & so tender they tore  
if you touched them. Auntie M. had  
with her sisters help set many vege-  
tables. M. & M. Naugh called here  
on Thursday, they like the small  
house & less work & also perhaps  
(tho' they did not say) the fact that  
they have not so many people  
staying with them as when they  
were here - but they said how they  
had both remarked the beautiful  
freshness of the air here, where they



got out of the bus. Harold kindly brought  
me some mushrooms Lashright that he  
had picked. I had these for breakfast -  
I seem to be the only one to like them -

Harold is having a move into another  
department, which will be  
better for him in the future tho' they  
don't expect any immediate rise. But  
it will in time lead to a better position.  
They were going to have had a telephone,  
but the charges are now increased so  
they have given up the idea. I am  
sorry postage is to be increased. but  
they could hardly increase income  
tax wh: is now  $7/6$  in the £ on unearn-  
ed income. I had a nice letter from Brian.

I expect it will not be long now before  
they take a snap of Elizabeth. it is not  
as easy in cold weather, Geoffrey was  
born in June when there was not fear  
of his taking cold. Aunties have been  
buying tripe lately, it is supposed to be



both digestible & nourishing, Auntie E. likes  
it, Auntie M. endures it & I don't even do  
that - but I like liver. We are getting  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb  
(ration) every week, &  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Bacon & 12 eggs.  
Sugar - nothing else is rationed. She was so  
getting fiercer - she cannot but be sorry for the  
lives lost - they say 1000 Germans were washed  
ashore & tho' they are enemies one cannot  
but be sorry tho' the fault was theirs.  
- She will be relieved not to have to under-  
take the journey to see her father, at present  
tho' I should think it would be pleasant  
now than in the winter. She will not  
care for having strangers again in the  
house. I am not meaning lives but other  
help will be needed I repeat. I am glad  
the little party fitted Tom. There is not  
as much choice of goods now - tho' there is  
no shortage. With dear love hoping  
all are well

Your loving

Brother.



in Hitler's big reception room at Ober-salzburg), he upsets nations, continents, geography and history like a demiurge in madness. At other moments he dreams of being the hero of an eternal peace, in the midst of which he would build up grandiose monuments."

## HITLER'S MOUNTAIN RETREAT

### GUARDED BY MACHINE-GUNS

A graphic description of Hitler's eagle's nest retreat in the mountains above Berchtesgaden is given by M. Francois-Poncet in another despatch. "From a distance this place appears like a kind of observatory or little hermitage, perched at an altitude of about 6,000 feet on the summit of a crest of rocks. The road ends at the entrance to a tunnel which dips into the ground and is closed by heavy double bronze doors. At the end of this tunnel, a spacious lift, the walls of which are covered with sheets of copper, awaits the visitor.

### Lift Up The Rock

"Up through the vertical liftway hewn in the rock, he mounts some 350 feet to the level of the German Chancellor's dwelling. Here surprise reaches its height. The visitor sees before him a squat, massive building. This includes a gallery with Roman pillars, a huge hall surmounted by a round glass dome and fitted with a huge fireplace.

"Through the bay windows one looks from the height of a plane in flight upon an immense panorama of mountains. Near the house, which appears suspended in space, rises an almost sheer steep wall of bare rocks. The whole vista is grandiose, wild—almost hallucinating. The visitor asks himself if he is really awake or dreaming.

"Is it the work of a normal mind or that of a man by a mania for grandeur, by an obsession for domination and solitude, or that of a man simply a prey to fear? One detail attracts attention, and is no less valuable than another to those who seek to ascertain the psychology of Adolf Hitler—the slopes leading up to this retreat, the entrances to tunnels and the surroundings of the house are organised militarily and protected by nests of machine-guns." Reuter.

## STREET LIGHTING PLEA AT SOUTHPORT

In order that shopkeepers can do more trade in the black-out, Southport Chamber of Trade last night decided to urge the Corporation Lighting Committee to install the new street lighting as quickly as possible.

Mr. J. Adams, the secretary, said he had seen in the newspapers that in London people were looking for the new lights with torches, but Councillor H. J. Drewitt remarked that although the new lighting was only .002 candle power it did enable people to see their way about. As soon as the black-out started business was dead, he said, and the new lights might help shopkeepers to do a little more trade.

The Chamber considered a scheme to erect canvas black-out shelters over shop verandahs in Lord Street and other parts of the town, in order that the shop windows might be fully illuminated, and it was decided to approach the Chief Constable with a view to ascertaining how far they could go in the matter.

Another striking document was despatched by M. Coulondre several months earlier, on March 18, 1939. He dealt with what was likely to be the future policy of Germany on the morrow of the seizure of Czecho-Slovakia. The French Ambassador emphasised that Germany had abandoned her policy of expansion for a policy of conquest.

"In view of the material impossibility of disputing with Britain the mastery of the sea, two paths are open to the Hitlerite leaders," the Ambassador wrote, "either to pursue without pause the subjection of East and South-East Europe, and perhaps the Scandinavian countries, and thus assure themselves in one form or another of the resources which these regions offer, putting themselves to some extent in a position to face a blockade, or else to attack France and Britain before these Powers, with American help, have reached or passed the armaments level of the Reich, and in particular have snatched from her the mastery of the air. This second possibility is not the most probable at the moment."

### Pen Picture Of Hitler

A vividly sketched pen picture of Hitler is given in almost the last despatch sent from Berlin by M. Francois-Poncet, who preceded M. Coulondre as French Ambassador in the German capital. It was dated October 20, 1938.

"I certainly have no illusions on Hitler's character," M. Francois-Poncet wrote. "I know it is changeable, dissembling, uncertain. The same man of debonaire appearance, sensitive to the beauties of nature, who at the tea table has expounded to me reasonable ideas on European policy, is capable of the worst frenzies, the wildest exaltations, and the most delirious ambitions.

"There are days when, before a globe (M. Francois-Poncet was apparently referring to the huge globe which stands