

3 Centurion Drive. Meads.
Friday, August 16th 1940

Dear Susan & Geoffrey. This is really a
letter to wish Susan many happy re-
turns of her birthday. I hope long before
such one there may be peace once more.
I went to see Brian on Wednesday & found
him very well indeed. He now goes into
Chester & has a much more comfortable
time & can buy things he needs. He works
about six hours a day. I am having a new
grate put in the tubelike - the old one was
very extravagant with coal & it was diffi-
cult to get hot water on the oven hot so
now I am having a small modern ename-
lled one with open fire underneath
the oven which is a comfortable height
& I won't have to stoop to it. It has long
wanted doing as the gas water heater has
the pipes all furred up so that it takes
hours to heat the boiler & so is very wasteful

with gas. it will take the best part of
two days to install. Then I hope Bar:
& Harold will come here to live until
the air raids are over - as I do feel this
house is more protected than theirs &
they will probably have their beds down
stairs. If I had left buying the grate
until next month it would have cost £7 more
on acct of the new sales tax wh: is to come into
operation then. We are having many air
raid warnings usually one night, some-
times two & last night three. They lasted
only a short time but we got up & took
& dressed & came down stairs - no damage
was done near here. ^{Occasional} Bombs have been
dropped in many neighbouring districts,
but the damage has been slight. Tho' there
have been a few casualties. Many people
just stay in bed & don't take any notice.
Mr. Stanley had to stop painting the house as
the paint had not come here; he got the first
coat on & has finished painting & varnishing
the vestibule - & then went to do another

house & yesterday he called to say he
had got the paint but asked if I would
let him finish the other house first.
He said "I thought I would ask you as
the other lady is more disagreeable than
you" I could not help laughing. rather a
back handed compliment, don't you think?
He really meant she was not agreeable
to have him leave her house unfinished.
The Dr. came today & said Auntie is better
& he has now given her a tonic. We are now
turning on our own beans, peas, & Harold's potatoes
wh: have all done so well. Having so many
people growing their own vegetables has kept
the price of vegetables down. Sunday Frank & I
for two letters rec'd yesterday. They were opened by
the censor & it makes delay so please put your name
& address on the back of the envelope each time &
then they will probably not be opened. That is
why I do it to your letters. Our rations are quite sufficient

We can have 6 lbs butter & 2 lbs margarine or lard - or
all 8 lbs fats - or we can have less or no butter & have
margarine or lard. They have rather more butter
they respect because many cannot afford butter
& the margarine is really very good. Aunties
have rot in their dining room floor, so Langley is
to come to pick new wood in after cutting out the
affected parts. Wood is very expensive & only a very
limited amount can be had all week. When I con-
sidered the kitchen grate they said where they buy
any new they have to send an equal weight of
scrap iron. So they are pleased to have my
old grate. We are busy getting the horse ready for
Harold & Bar - taking furniture upstairs & bring-
ing down another carpet - removing cupboards
from wall. They plan all to sleep in the back
sitting room - it is a large room really. It is so
worrying now wondering if they should bring the
children down after rec. the learning - it disturbs
them for hours if they do & hitherto it has proved
quite unnecessary. Auntie Maggie & Fanny were at
Aunties yesterday to dinner. A bomb fell not far from

three & also one on Thursday in a recent air raid
& it blew out a light they had in their bed-room!
It also blew out many windows in nearer houses.
The aeroplane was brought down & the occupants
made prisoners. There have been great air raids
on the S. coast & suburbs of London - but it has
not been a successful attempt for the enemy -
Our airmen - both British & Dominion are truly
wonderful. Geoffrey is well & gaining weight again,
Elizabeth is well, but her teeth still seem to
bother her at times - she is very active & keeps
pulling herself up & standing, she loves Geoffrey &
calls him Giffy. She is much improved in looks,
& many strangers say "Oh! what a pretty baby" -
she is animated & smiling & takes interest in all
she sees. We have rain today - the first for some
days. I am glad your crop & garden prospects
are so good. They are growing much more corn
in England - we noticed great big fields of it on our
way to Chester - some growing & some stacked. I don't
know if it was wheat, rye, barley, or oats: but Brian
pointed out oats growing well there - I believe
fowl food is very scarce, so many fowls have

been killed & it has made a scarcity of eggs.
The Germans want us to allow food to go to the countries
they have grabbed but as they say there is
plenty of food in Germany & also that England
is besieged so we think it is up to them to sup-
ply the food to the countries from which
they have taken it, & that if it were sent by
America the Germans would grab it as no fault
can be put in their word. We had no air raid last
night. Geoffrey was very pleased with Conner's
letter & sends his love & thanks for it. Rose &
Agnes do not seem upset at the air raids & they
have more than we have. Our defences are good
tho' considerable damage may be caused. What a
lot of trouble one wrecked down can cause. But if others
did not back him up he could not succeed - it is the
cruel army spirit of Germany. Geoffrey Naigh is in the
Army Air Force again - but still in Strath Settlement.
They will have to keep an eye on Japan I suppose. How
unfortunate for Mrs Wickham to get pneumonia & what a
double anxiety for all. I am very pleased Sadie is
getting on so well. With dear love from Dorothy
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