

3 Centurion Drive, Ocala, Aug. 5th, 1940

Dear Susan & Geoff. - Thank you for letter
rec'd on Monday. it would seem strange with-
out Amaret for so long. I wonder if she was
homesick at all. How pleased she & Bern-
bara will be to see the little baby cousin.
I wonder if she is to be called Janeh or
Elizabeth. I am waiting on the house while
they are painting it - two men - they clear out
the gutters first, & then push a fresh coat of
paint on after burning off or sandpapering
the old paint - & then push a thin line of
white paint round all the windows, & then
a second coat all round, so I expect it
will take them nearly a week as there
are so many doors to do & windows. it is
to be painted green again. I don't expect
they will paint the railings at the back
because they are so covered with plants

& also some of the wood is rotten, it needs
dew but this much larch until wood is more
plentiful - We had an air raid warning
last night & decessed & came down for an
hour when the 'all clear' signal was given.
No damage was done here, our aeroplanes
were flying after the raiders. I don't know
if they were brought down. The glass has
fallen & I am afraid we shall have rain,
it is needed, but I would prefer the jaunting
to have dried first. Auntie E. is better, the
D. came on Monday & tested her blood pressure,
he found it normal for her age & then he
she will soon feel stronger, but she is to
go slow yet & rest in the afternoons -
We have been looking thro' old things. Grand
- Father's military cloak & coats & enormous
hats surmounted with gold ornaments & plume.
Epaulettes (golden) worn on shoulders.
There was a dagger wh: had been found in a
Slave ship. For some time he was in a

Man of War off the W. African coast & they
used to try to intercept the ships laden with
slaves - they were not allowed to take these
before they sailed - sometimes they were success-
ful & the slaves were freed - but at other
times they either got away or before catching
up to them a line of sharks would be dis-
tributed & when the ship was reached there
would be no slaves on board - they had all
been thrown over the side & the hold of the
ship freshly timewashed. There does not
seem much change in the War situation -

Norman & Jeanne have gone cycling to the
Chiltern Hills, they are enjoying a little
country inn. I hope it will be fine for these
last week was beautiful; but today the
weather seems to have changed - each street
here has an air warder, whose duty it is to
patrol the street & give aid & summon help
in case of fire. Small pumps are used with a
bucket of water wh. has to be kept filled

& plants

by another helper. The pumps will let the water
out in a very fine spray or by a simple action
it will come out in a stream - The spray is for
the bomb & the stream for any fires that the bomb
may have started. But there is talk of a recently
discovered powder wh: will push out fires almost
immediately. It is not safe to use the patent ex-
-tinguishers such as you use - because in a con-
fined space they generate poison gas when used
on bombs. I hope you get a very good dog. They
do say that female dogs are much more bid-
-dable & dependable & not fond of straying -
They only use ^{always} females for guiding blind persons -
& they have to be specially chosen. Sunday -
We have had several warnings this week usually
about 1 a.m. damage has been done within about 5 or 6
miles & a few people have been killed, but no military
damage. We always dress hastily & come down
- to the hall by the pantry door, & sit on a seat
there until the all clear signal goes, when
there we go back thankfully to bed. Pres-
I have &

- Bars & Harold don't always ~~to~~ go down
 - Chairs with the children, they don't hear
 any near firing. Our aeroplanes quickly
 chase the German ones & the search lights
 wh: are very vivid help in the search. It is very
 windy now & there was no alarm last night.
 Aunties have decayed on one corner of their dining
 room so will have to have new wood there - for-
 tunately it is only at the end of one or two boards.
 The painters are getting on but this wind will have
 covered the paint with smuts & sand however it
 was dry before the sand blew. The German news
 is not to be relied upon. - They said Dover was
 destroyed - but no such thing. They have reason
 to dread the place. We are well fortified & defend-
 -ed & the aviators of the Dominion & of England
 are marvellous, & of course the Navy & Merchant
 Fleet. Now some of the men have suffered
 in open boats for hours & sometimes days!!
 I had a very nice letter from Brian this
 week. I must go out & tie up some of the
 tall plants that have been blown down

