

Sunday, May 12th 1940

Dear Susan & Geoffrey. Thank you for your letters & for the Postal Order enclosed received on the 10th. Tomorrow will be Auntie Nellie's birthday I think she will be 76 or 77. The war is getting dearer & now we have to carry gas masks about with us again. We cannot but wonder at the German leaders who have the knack of setting all ^{nations} against them. The Prussians were always brutal. They have excelled themselves this time. It is the general opinion that they cannot win this war. How they can do much harm. Extra precautions are being taken & they will meet with a warm reception here. The war news made Mr. Seward & Margaret return a few hours before they had intended, so I was advised Jack to return yesterday, so they all went back yesterday instead of today. Yesterday Harold & Barbara went to see Brian & they were very much pleased with him for they could not see anything at all wrong with him & he seemed much more content & did not complain about his detention; he has so much freedom now & the work is an interest as he comes in contact with others from outside - soldiers etc. he was

coming in a good way by the side of the road several of
 them & got into their car as far as the Hospital &
 after having tea together he took them round the grounds
 which are very extensive & really lovely in parts.
 There is a large air raid shelter there. The garden is so lovely
 - by just now, green grass & hedges & flowering trees &
 shrubs - bluebells, tulips, lilies of the valley, dornicum,
 narcissus & many other flowers in bloom. The scallie
 runners are coming up, & lettuce & parsley. Harold has
 many vegetables showing. Jack enjoyed his holiday
 here & did many little jobs for Aunties - he also kindly
 set my lawn mower in order & cut the back grass -
 I hope to finish spring cleaning this week. Barbara
 went to Lpool on Thursday & I looked after the child.
 - dren & I was also there yesterday of course.
 Baby Elizabeth has several more teeth very nearly

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through, she still has a cough but she is very happy & well otherwise, she pulls off my eyeglasses & does laughs - she is below normal weight but I don't think that matters, she is well covered with flesh, but not a fat baby.

Thank you for the photos we enjoy seeing them. The children all look very well & happy. I saw Ann

Buckershafe today she looked much stronger than when she went to Canada. She was prettily dressed in green & was just by their gate. Dad went to tea here

with the children one day this week. They thought your house so large & comfortable & the children all nice looking. I did not know they had broken their journey at Langbank, perhaps one of your letters went astray as I think you would have mentioned their visit. Capt. Cox went to see Brian on Wednesday & Dorothy had purposed going to the Isle of Man for a few days this week end but war news would probably alter her plans. I am glad you have Bill again, I liked him very much, he is so kind & considerate.

I am glad to hear you & Susan have good help. I wish Barbara could meet with someone who would be a help. Geoffrey is very independent & apt to go off playing with little friends & it is a good thing to have them

near them.

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wander off a little way & these times it will be an anxiety with so many aeroplanes constantly passing overhead, & after flying very low - of course so far they are our own planes. We hear news on the wireless very frequently - & you will probably hear more than we do as of course it is important not to tell the enemy anything.

I hope you are having good rain & that you are all well. The market gardeners all make use of high hedges to keep the soil from blowing & to protect vegetables from the wind. They are quite six feet high. Norman & Jeanette enjoyed their cycling holiday. Week about 50 miles a day. Norman has to report at the hospital for an examination to see there is no sign of cancer reappearing - just as a matter of routine. Mr. Downerley getting better, but was very ill one night with bad heart attack. Dear love to all from
Your ever loving Mother.

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