

Bank of England

19th January 1937.

My dear Riefler,

I owe you a double apology, first for not writing to you when Dr.Flexner's letter to the Governor came; and secondly for not writing when the Governor's reply to Dr.Flexner went. My excuse is that I was frightfully busy and driven, and having to choose between explaining the situation to Flexner (by the same post as the Governor's letter went) and explaining it to you, I thought that you would not mind if I kept you waiting. I think the fact that I was so occupied was proof of the Governor's contention that I could not be spared. I cannot myself see that I do any good here; but I do find myself continuously busy - this although the particular job which I expected in the New Year (and on the strength of that expectation refused your invitation in the autumn) did not materialise. With the relations of Governments to currencies taking on such important changes, someone has to try to understand what is involved; I try to do that. I am also beset with questions about the duration of the boom; there is a lot of truth in Keynes' remark that fears of a boom may precipitate a slump.

When

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Winfield W. Riefler, Esq.

19th January 1937.

When Dr. Flexner's invitation came and I was told I could not be spared, I found that the Bank was thinking of sending someone - probably Mynors - to America to have a look round. I pressed that he should be suggested in my place. I thought this would meet the needs of the Bank better than three months spent anywhere else; and I remembered your idea of co-ordinating research by Central Banks and thought that Mynors' visit would at any rate be a beginning. Being - like myself - an academic person in the Bank, Mynors could reasonably be proposed for the honour of working in the Institute. Indeed, he and you will get a lot more out of his visit than you would have done out of a visit from me, because he is an economist while I am only a journalist.

Thomas Balogh, whom I saw for a few minutes on his return, asked me to write to you and tell you what I thought of him as an economist. I think so well of him that I have long wished to see him out of the speculative-financing world which he serves at present into a respectable academic environment. He has deteriorated in his present environment - which is a wicked waste because he has a fine mind and a burning interest in economics. I find him nearly always stimulating and informing. Whether he is really original or only a quick and omnivorous reader, I am not well enough read myself to say. But
he

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Winfield W. Riefler, Esq.

19th January 1937.

he clearly has an acute analytical mind, which is none the worse if it is eclectic rather than original, and combines with his analytical powers what no-one else in this country (except Robertson and Mynors) possesses, an appreciation and knowledge and curiosity about economic actualities - the ways in which people and institutions really react to changes in the economic situation - and the habit of checking his (more serious) generalisations by such statistical verification as is possible. Sprague told me he had a much better grasp of American banking than any other foreign student he had had. I can believe that. He has an amazing knowledge of books, institutions and persons; perhaps the journalist's flair, but supported by the scholar's habit of wide and thorough reading. If I were myself undertaking some organised research on the field of monetary economics on an international scale, he would be one of the first people I should try to get, because he starts with such a wide knowledge of different countries, based on residence and work in them, and he brings to his study of them such a knowledge of contemporary economic literature.

My respects (and sincere apologies for not turning up at Princeton myself) to your wife and the Director.

I hope

Page 4. Winfield W. Riefler, Esq. 19th January 1937.

I hope your research will involve an early visit to London and
that this time you will bring your wife.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Win. Riefler", written in a cursive style.

Winfield W. Riefler, Esq.

19.

January 27, 1938

Dear Henry:

I have been postponing writing to you partly from natural laziness and partly also in the hope that some of the very tenuous situations on which you and I are destined to focus our aspirations would become more clarified. Now I am almost ready to acknowledge that such clarification is too much to hope for in this world.

I really don't know how to convey a picture of our situation to you except perhaps by the process of elimination. First, we are for the moment more concerned than usual with the internal situation, political and economic (and in that order). This is, of course, a natural result of the decline in business. Second, we are, I think, somewhat less emotional and somewhat more philosophical about it. The hectic feeling of impending doom that was all pervasive in New York last fall has abated somewhat. It is at least modified by a realization that cyclical factors are involved. Third, panaceas have become less popular. (a) It looks as though a fair amount of the most unpopular tax features will be revised, but few any longer pivot the revival of business on that factor. (b) It is generally recognized that the railroads may stay in mess. (c) The debate on public policy with respect to the utilities is daily becoming more specific and concrete, but there is no clear clue as yet of its ultimate trend. (d) The construction picture is clearing a little. I think it is fair to say that if construction remains low it will be a result of the lower level of general activity in contrast to the past twelve months when rapidly rising construction costs constituted an important factor in the decline in general activity. Aside from these more basic individual situations, the general pattern of business is what might be expected on cyclical lines. Consumer demand, aside from durable goods like automobiles, has held up remarkably well. As a result, the sharp decline in production has produced a better inventory situation and new orders are making their appearance in small volume. I still feel that on domestic factors February will witness a turn in nondurable goods activity, that automobiles cannot be buoyant before autumn at the earliest,

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and that the level between February and the autumn will be determined by construction and the outcome of the utility debate.

This does not take into account developments in England. There is greater apprehension over here that you are making a real turn downward and that we will be seriously affected thereby. Personally I have no opinion. I have realized for some time that I am not able to judge your market.

I have been in Princeton most of the time since my return, but am planning to get down to Washington this week end. It may be that I will have more definite ideas on my return.

At our last meeting you spoke a little more hopefully of being able to get over here for a visit this winter. I do wish you would. We are really serious about wanting to see you. Please bring Mrs. Clay and Helen and make us your headquarters.

As ever,

Winfield W. Riefler

Professor Henry Clay
The Bank of England
London, ENGLAND

C 4 12 37

February 1, 1937

Dear Henry Clay:

Your good letter warms my heart. Mynors is fast becoming quite the most popular person around here. I think you will find all sorts of pressure brought on him to change his nationality and immerse himself permanently in the American scene. Seriously, everybody likes him tremendously and we are extremely happy to have him. I only hope that we can keep him equally happy. I promise that I shall do my best to introduce him to all those phases of the American situation which I should want to know if I were in the Bank.

Our real and whole-hearted joy with Mynors, however, in no way mitigates our sense of loss with respect to you and Mrs. Clay. We really want you here very much on personal as well as intellectual grounds. It is my hope that when Mynors returns he will make you so envious that you will feel constrained to emulate him.

I expect to come over to Geneva for a meeting of the Finance Committee sometime in April and shall plan to see you then. Unfortunately, I do not see how I can bring Mrs. Riefler along at that time. I wish I could.

As ever,

Winfield W. Riefler

Henry Clay, Esq.
Bank of England
London, ENGLAND

Clay 1037

February 24, 1937

Dear Henry Clay:

Your understudy continues to cut a wide swath. He is making a most profound impression everywhere. He is not only capable of carrying the prestige of the Bank of England, but I sincerely believe that he is increasing it among those whom he has met.

I do not know how good a job we are doing for him. I have tried to give him the contacts and data in America which I should appreciate if I were an economist in the Bank of England. I hope that you will find that the short three-months' period has given him a very firm background from which you and he can build later. I am sending you under separate cover a copy of a recent report of the Committee of which I have been chairman. The report is still confidential in the sense that it is not yet available for publication, but it has been widely circulated on this side of the water. I put into it most of my time during the autumn and since then have done a great deal of "selling" in order to put the program recommended into effect. It looks now as though it will go forward. I am sending it at this time not only because I want you to have it and believe that you will be interested in it, but also because it represents a fairly complete summary of one phase of the contacts which I have tried to give Mynors. If you read it before he returns, you will be better able to understand some of the things he talks about when he comes.

I find that I am due to go to Geneva for a meeting of the Financial Committee on April 26th and have therefore made reservations on the Normandie to come over at the same time that Mynors returns. That means that I shall have an opportunity to see you sometime in April or May.

Sincerely,

Professor Henry Clay

Bank of England
London, ENGLAND

19.

October 19, 1938

Dear Henry Clay:

Your long awaited letter has arrived and we must accept the result. I confess I was prepared for it in the light of recent developments in Europe. It seemed to me that you would probably react as you did.

The news that Gladys and you are coming for the winter, on the other hand, is news indeed. We are unrestrainedly delighted and look forward to it as the high light of the year. It will form one sort of contact which we will do our best to perpetuate.

I have just heard from Loveday that all the committees of which I am a member will be meeting at Geneva in November and December. As far as I can see now, that means that I shall be continuously in session there for about four weeks. I haven't picked my sailing yet, and don't know whether I shall get to London or not, though I want to badly. At any rate, I shall see you at the Financial Statistics Committee meeting at Geneva.

As ever,

Professor Henry Clay
Hurst Lodge, Hayes Lane
Kenley, Surrey
ENGLAND

Clay

My dear Win:

I ought to have written to you sooner, but I have had Siepmann's work to do since I came back and he went away on leave, and then things have made it difficult to settle down to letter-writing. When it came to the point, I found I could not leave England -- with war in the offing and two sons of military age. Whether I should have decided otherwise in different political conditions, I don't know. I do not trust myself to work if I am not in a machine that drives me; the freedom which is the Institute's chief attraction, would alarm me. And I have not much more faith in my capacity for scientific work. It would have been exciting to work with you and Walter and I should probably have been stimulated to write something; but in the last resort it is politics I am interested in, and the Institute is no more a place for politics than the Bank is. If anyone like you had asked me to work with him in England, I should have given up the Bank; nothing has happened to me for years that has given me anything like the encouragement your invitation gave me, and I shall always be grateful to you.

One thing I did do. I got it clear that if the Bank was not using me, I should consider myself free to do any work in the field of Economics that seemed to me important. Much to my surprise the chance has come already. Lew Douglas wrote asking me to go to McGill for a week or so. I put the letter up to the Deputy Governor expecting the usual objections; but he said he thought it a good excuse for me to go to America. So we settled it at once. I told him my first obligation was to you, and I want to know whether I may come to the Institute for six weeks in the New Year. I should leave here towards the end of January, bringing Gladys with me. I should have to spend a

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little time in New York and Washington as well as my week at McGill, and from Montreal I should have to pay a courtesy visit to Ottawa. But it is the Institute I want to come to.

I must write to Walter and Mr. Flexner. Love to all.

Yours,

H. C.

HURST LODGE - HAYES LANE - KENLEY - SURREY

TELEPHONE: UPLANDS 4209

1 Oct 1938

My dear Win,
I ought to have written to you sooner, but I have
had Siepmann's work to do since I came back &
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it a good excuse for me to go to America.
So we settled it at once. I told him my
first objection was to me, and I want
to know whether I may come to the
Institute for six weeks in the New Year.
I should leave ^{for} towards the end of January,
bringing Elsie with me. I should have to
spend a little time in New York (Washington)
as well as my week at McGill, and from
Montreal I should have to pay a courtesy visit
to Ottawa. But it is the highest I want to come to.
I must write to Walter & M. Flexner. Love to all
Yours H.C.

Bank of England

23rd January 1939.

Dear Win,

I enclose a copy of my time-table so far as I can fix it ahead. I have also written to Walter Stewart telling him that I am expecting him and you to answer the following questions: "Why does Government spending cure unemployment in Germany and not in the United States of America?" "How is (a) credit and (b) the exchanges, regulated off the gold standard - in fact and in ideal?"

We are both looking forward very much to our visit.

With kind regards to your wife,

Yours sincerely,

Henry Clegg

1123.17. (who is installed in my room
already & is to stay till I return)
is given with my when I start
Mr. Winfield W. Riefler. letters like this

ITINERARY

Jan. 27	Leave Liverpool.
Feb. 3	Arrive Halifax.
4	" Montreal.
11	" Ottawa.
18	Leave Ottawa for Princeton.
19	Arrive Princeton.
Mar. 24	Leave New York for Southampton.

Addresses

Till Feb. 10	c/o Principal, McGill University, Montreal.
" " 17	c/o Bank of Canada, Ottawa.
" Mar. 23	c/o Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N.J., U.S.A.

H.C.

May 3, 39.

Dear Friends at Princeton.

I feel I must write a short letter
to you all & I can't think who to
address it to so I write as above!
I am writing in my office which
is a dirty old building belonging
to the Home Office, and partly given
over to the "women's Voluntary
Services for Civil Defense". A good
old title! The Chairman is Lady
Reading once Chairman of Antigua
Norman with a certain number
of highly efficient women against
paid by the Government, with a
host of other important people
(not paid) who myself, called Administration.
Our work is to get centres going
in all areas - we have 700 already -
where we get unpaid women to
run an office to see that all women
are trained in what they can
do in time of war, and not forgetting

arrangements for the bedding of
at least 3 million children. We
Co-operate with the local authority
very glad they are to have us.
I come here daily deal with
correspondence in the London
part of Surrey.

It was really a shock to get
back to England. Our stay
in the States seems like a
wonderful dream. I heard an
American accent last night
at first sounded lovely in 7
years of it reminded me of
an wonderful time. But don't
think we are fleeing. We
are not. At first it was a shock
to see how far further people
were accepting it as necessary to
be prepared for war. Then we became
more philosophical about it.

2

both began to help in
 getting ready for a surge if it
 need be, but not accepting
 war as inevitable. I refuse
 to do that I always say so
 to other people too. 15
 funny sending me's way off
 to school knowing that you
 might not be able to reach
 him by car that time, as
 school would be rationed in
 time of war. You go to a
 Survey Education Clinic to inter-
 view young men just coming
 out of college. The young men
 say they will gladly take the
 position we offer them but they
 are 20 & 21. may be called
 up under the new "Selective Training."
 Then you go to a Survey Education
 Clinic to discuss Evacuation of

children arrange for Teachers
wives of families to go with
the children near the road
of "dumplings" used for evacuees!
A young lady (Balogh, fiance)
arrives 2 1/2 hr late for dinner
& explains (quite rightly) that
she couldn't help being late
as she was interviewing Czechs
& couldn't let them go away
as they had waited all day.
£500 a day is given out
in relief at her Office in
Mecklenburg Square.

Our Chairman, Lady Reading,
(she was Lady Reading, long before she married him)
a frustrated speaker, a very
able woman, made 280
speeches since last Oct. all
over England and here a
large number of other speakers
doing similar work.

3.

The Secretary of the Women's Institute
 got in during license a year
 ago and now she is learning
 to drive a heavy motor, so that
 she can qualify as an Ambulance
 driver. Some of them practice
 on dust carts in the evenings!
 I hear that everyone is going to
 be forced to make an air
 raid shelter but that may
 only be gossip & may not be true.
 Meanwhile we carry on as
 usual send the King and
 Queen to Canada! It really
 is an odd existence.
 Well I must stop, but I
 thought you might like to
 hear a bit of what we felt
 when we got home.
 Remember me to everyone.

G E 107

W. C. C. 9
~~W. C. C.~~
 R. B. W.
 E. M. C.
 May 3, 1939

Dear Friends at Princeton:

I feel I must write a short letter to you all and I can't think who to address it to so I write as above. I am writing in my office which is a dirty old building belonging to the Home Office, and partly given over to the "Women's Voluntary Services for Civil Defense". A good old Title! The Chairman is Lady Reading, Vice Chairman is Mrs. Montagu Norman with a certain number of highly efficient women organisers paid by the Government, with a host of lesser important people (not paid) like myself, called Administrators! Our work is to get centres going in all areas -- we have 700 already, -- where we get unpaid women to run an office to see that all women are trained in what they can do in time of war, not forgetting arrangements for the billeting of at least three million children. We cooperate with the Local Authority ever glad they are to have us. I come here daily and deal with correspondence in the London part of Surrey.

It was really a shock to get back to England. Our stay in the States seems like a wonderful dream. I heard an American accent last night and it just sounded lovely in my ears as it reminded me of our wonderful time. But don't think we are gloomy. We are not. At first it was a shock to see how much further people were accepting it as necessary to be prepared for war. Then we became more philosophical about it and both began to help in getting ready for a siege if needs be, but not accepting war as inevitable. I refuse to do that and always say so and other people do too. Its funny sending one's boy off to school knowing that you might not be able to reach him by car next time, as petrol would be rationed in time of war. You go to a Surrey Education Com. to interview young men just coming out of college. The young men say they will gladly

take the position we offer them, but they are 20 and 21 and may be called up under the new "Militiamen". Then you go to a Surrey Education Com. and discuss Evacuation of children and arrange for Teachers, wives and families to go with the children and hear the word of "dumplings" used for evacuees! A young lady (Ballogh's fiancé) arrives an hour late for dinner and explains (quite rightly) that she couldn't help being late as she was interviewing Czechs and couldn't let them go away as they had waited all day. Five hundred pounds a day is given out in relief at her offices in Mechlenburg Square.

Our Chairman, Lady Reading, a first-rate speaker (she was Lord Reading's secretary before she married him) and a very able woman, made 280 speeches since last October all over England and we have a large number of other speakers doing similar work.

The Secretary of the Women's Institute got her driving license a year ago and now she is learning to drive a heavy lorry, so that she can qualify as an Ambulance driver. Some of them practice on dust carts in the evenings! I hear that everyone is going to be forced to make an air raid shelter, but that may only be gossip and may not be true. Meanwhile, we carry on as usual, send ^{the} ~~our~~ King and Queen to Canada! It really is an odd existence.

Well I must stop, but I thought you might like to hear a bit of what we felt when we got home.

Remember me to everyone.

G. Clay

19. cc The Raper ✓
The Stewart ✓
The Trueman ✓
Mr. Earle ✓
The Fletcher ✓
Miss Zwick ✓
Gallen-Morris ✓

Hurst Lodge

Kenley

Sep 8/39

Dear Miss Wise,

I have written this long letter which I have typed in triplicate, to send to some of my friends in America and I am sending it to you to show to whoever would like to read it. I know lots of our friends are thinking of us and sending us messages of loving friendship and we love to get them. Our stay at Princeton seems like a beautiful dream which happened years and years ago, and yet we are not unhappy. We are just learning to take things day by day and learning not to worry about inessentials. My eldest boy had to join his unit in a few days so he got married first and we went up to his wedding, just for the day. It all seemed quite natural, though I would love the dear things to have had more than a two days honeymoon. However I think his wife can be with him for part of the time even if he has to be out all day.

Yours very sincerely,

Platyn Clay.

Dear Friends,

I know you are all thinking about us, here in England, and as I have a few minutes to spare I thought I would try and see if I cannot give you some glimpse of England through my experiences. It would take too long to explain the work of the Women's Voluntary Services but my job in it is to look after Centres in the different local authorities in the Metropolitan Area of Surrey, answering people's questions and trying to be a bureau of information (which is difficult when orders change so rapidly as they have been doing lately) and visiting these Centres to encourage the women in them and settle differences if they arise. I have an office in a beautiful new building belonging to the Surrey County Council at Kingston, and I drive ^{here} everyday. I am hoping to get special petrol allowance for the work - I don't think there will be much difficulty - for private people will not be able to get more petrol than will take them 200 miles a month. Think if it!! You get petrol according to your horse power. Driving at night is going to be very nearly impossible. You can only have a two inch slip showing in your side lights and most people take headlight bulbs out. You can use them if they are painted black I believe but the authorities are so strict that I think that headlights will not be used. I have a fog lamp I shall use when I have put adhesive plaster all over it and blacked the plaster $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down. All bumpers have to be painted white and a strip on the running boards. But after all if you can only go 200 miles a month you might as well use it

for day work. Winter afternoons are going to be difficult.

At night I think most people will stay indoors. You can't think what it's like crossing the London streets with no street lamps and no lights from any shop. It's really rather a terrifying experience at first. You think you are going to bump into cars as you cross the road and you only just miss bumping people walking on the side walk! Coming down from my boy's war wedding in Cheshire, the train had only a blue light in the middle of the carriage. You could not see the person's face opposite and everyone went to sleep. The conductor came through the train to wake us up when we got to ^{near} Paddington and it was evidently his usual practice! It was not ten o'clock but everyone was asleep! ~~There were~~ very few people in the train. Tubes are lovely and light and then you come out into this utter darkness. Our branch line trains have no lights at all.

Everyone wears these absurd little boxes on their backs containing their gasmask and it all looks absurd. Then the business of covering your windows! You can't think what it is like. I have had a friend working for me for a week and even now all the windows are not covered. ^{making curtains} The material has to be black or green or dark brown and you have not to leave an inch of light showing. Go out and have a look at your own windows and see how much light is showing even with your thickest curtains. Air Wardens come round and scold you if you show any light at all. In this building is what is called a control station. Here the message is received from the Coast to say that the Germans are to be seen from the Coast. The messages are then

sent out from here all over Surrey. Hooters and syrens go and the trouble is that many of them sound like noisy lorries starting and you keep wondering all day whether you have had a hooter or a lorry. However one gets used to it. The first time you heard the warning is a bit weird but soon it seems nothing though of course we have not tried a raid yet. The first warning came when I was at the C.Science Sunday School. We were just finishing our Service when the message came so we all went into the cellars and sang hymns to cheer up the children. I think they rather enjoyed it! Then I had to take three children home and wasn't the Mother pleased to see them. She had been so worried for they had had to walk a long way to S.School.

It was only a French plane!! The next one came at 3.a.m. Henry and I got up, we were the only people in the house as we had sent the children up to Yorkshire. We dressed and went out into our Air Raid shelter and sat there for half an hour. Nothing happened.

The next time the warning went it was 7.a.m.-a more reasonable time- again we went into our shelter. This time the planes came near the Coast but did not penetrate. We heard guns but alas they mistook an English plane for a German. Now Henry says he is not going to go downstairs even, he wants to be comfortable! Mrs Montagu Norman says she is not going to get downstairs till she hears guns. We have a lovely shelter. Before it had its top on it looked like an Egyptian tomb! It is 6ft deep and about the same in length, covered with corrugated iron and earth on the top

4 a

of that. We have a packing case for a table with a candle and matches and two seats. With a rug an old coat and my Canadian boots it is very comfortable. ^(shell and muskies there later) On the landing you have a bucket of soil with a shovel to use if an incendiary bomb hits your attic and everyone is asked to tidy up their attics! I have done mine! If you are out in the car in a raid you have to park your car in a side street or an open space and take cover yourself. If there is no cover you are recommended to lie down flat!!! The children were all evacuated as you know but unless we have an air raid or two I think many children will just walk home! Some of them are very happy indeed and Helen says you see people walking about the roads taking "their" children out, but the Mothers will want them back I feel sure if Hitler leaves us "in peace" in London. All girls who want to join the various women services are flocking to the Labour Exchanges to be enrolled. They are given a good uniform, have billets found for them and pay at the rate of 2/2 per day ^{begin} to ^{begin} with. I believe you have to enlist for four years which is a long time. What you do if you want to get married I don't know. Shops are having a very bad time indeed. There is going to be so much central buying that at the moment it is not easy to get stocks. Everyone of course will have ration cards for certain commodities. I am not sure which the five are but bacon, sugar, butter and margarine are bound to be amongst them. Last time we got one tablespoonful of butter per week per person! I hope we get more this time. I have forgotten meat. Meat is of course to be on the list.

There will be little fish obtainable. The trawlers I suppose will be busy catching submarines instead of herrings! The dressmakers are out of work and some are ruined from a business point of view, but clothes will still be wanted if they can only tie themselves over for a bit. The clothing factories will be very busy and of course if so many girls are in uniform civilian clothes will be needed less and less. The human unhappiness you hardly dare look at. I was seeing a friend home in my car the other day and a bright young thing passed in her car and called out "Goodbye Mr Mennell" in the gayest of voices. When she had gone my friend said "That girl is leaving her nice little home. Her husband is flying in the air force, she is going to her Mother. She is expecting a baby before long." I am fortunate, at the moment. Gabriel has a commission in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, which mends lorries at a base- or rather sees that his men mend the lorries- and is not expected to have to go abroad for month. Jim wants the Navy. He is down on a waiting list but at the moment he is going on with Accountancy. Helen is going to school daily from home, unless things get too noisy and then she will go ^{back} to Yorkshire. John will be at school in Oxford. They have a good shelter for the boys. But it is not going to be easy for parents if they hear Oxford has been bombed. It would be difficult for Headmasters to let us know for telegrams and telephones get blocked with a sudden demand as there would be with a big air raid. I can tell you I have learned a lot in one week! War is a beastly and inhuman thing and an absurd way of settling anything. But I am beginning to wonder whether the people who are ready to go into the fighting line are not more idealistic than those

who say they cannot fight, and yet I could not fight myself!
It was evidently England's business to stop Napoleon and it looks
as if history was repeating itself.

The day after war broke out I went to my office which was then
at Tothill St Westminster, and was reminded of our wonderful visit
to Canada and the States. So refreshing! I rang up the typing room
about something and the lady replied, "I wonder if you would mind waiting
a bit. The Queen is coming and I must tidy our room! I then thought
I had better tidy mine and practice my curtsy which I had taken so
much trouble to learn for the Governor General and his wife!
After a time the door was flung open by one of our people saying the
Queen is coming, and shortly after that she came in, shook hands with
me and asked me what I did. She looked very nice. The children of
course were thrilled to be able to tell everyone that I had talked
with the Queen. It made them feel my work was worth while!

We shall of course make heaps of mistakes. You can't help it
when you have such an upheaval. Money will be wasted, lives lost
unnecessarily, but there is not an Englishman or woman who is not
behind Chamberlain. We felt ashamed after Munich. No one can say
we have not been patient. We shall come through. Germany can't win.

Yours sincerely,

M

Hurst Lodge
Kenley

Sep 26/39

ec. The 7th June
The 2nd June
Ref. 1
The 1st June
The 1st June
The 1st June
The 1st June

Dear Miss Wise,

Here is a bit more diary which may interest
the friends round you. It is not as interesting but then
nothing much has happened. One is glad it has not.
I prefer leaflet throwing to bombs don't you?
I hope you are getting in to your new premises and are en-
joying them.

Yours sincerely,

Clara Clay

Letter two.

Sep 21/39

Dear Friends,

Life seems a wee bit more normal perhaps, for Helen has gone back to her day school and John has gone to Oxford. John forgot his gas mask and I had to post it to him but appranetly the school had not trusted parents or boys to remember and had got sufficient in to provide each boy with one. Helen's school has an air raid warning each day to get the children accustomed to going into the shelter and they have to come into prayers as well as into all classes, with their overcoats and gas masks. Really people seem to get very used to carrying them and you see all boys on bicycles carrying these little cardboard boxes on a string on their backs. Henry wears one-the Bank made him- and Mrs Winttingham said he looked as if he was going fishing! The Bank has white canvas bands on theirs. I saw a rather sad sight this morning as I drove here to my office at Kingston. A motor lorry with a small householder's furniture in it. At the back with the furniture sat a young woman holding her baby on her knees. She had such a sad face and I felt sure she was a soldier's wife or had had her home broken up with the War. She looked so patient. I have a very nice office in the County Hall Kingston on Thames where I write (with the help of a very good unpaid secretary) a very large number of letters and answer a greatmany telephone calls. My Secretary is paid by the B.B.C. to stay at home so long as she is doing work of National importance. They do not need her at present but of course if others got killed they would want her.

However that is not very likely to happen as the B.B.C. is at Evesham. Quite a lot of firms have reserved staff like this if the offices are still in London. In each Local Authority we have a W.V.S. Centre (of women) helping all they can with local A.R.P. They interview women volunteers and try to guide them to suitable voluntary work. For instance they see, if a woman wants to be an Ambulance Driver that she does not mind seeing blood and that she can drive a car and does not want to become an Ambulance Driver because she wants free driving lessons! The County is arranging for "trekkers" camps in four places in Surrey. All on Commons where there is plenty of space. Here they would have canteens and policemen to keep order. They anticipate that in case of bad air raids a great many people would pour out of London and loot and steal if there was no food provided. Epsom and Esher have arranged for a hall to put women and children in with straw mattresses and to train suitable women to talk to the Mothers and try and persuade them to go home. They would have to be very persuasive I should think after a bombardment! Tomorrow we begin petrol rationing. I am told I cannot use the W.V.S. special allowance for coming here. I certainly refuse to use our precious 7 gals a month for private use for A.R.P. work. It takes me 30 minutes by car each way, it would take me 2 hrs each way by train! At the moment there is a deadlock! The Head Office is trying to see if there is no way round their regulation which refuses to allow me W.V.S. petrol for coming to work.

In this building is a Control station. Here, in a specially protected building, specially strengthened roof sand bags on the top sandbags round the entrance, is the telephone exchange which deals with air raid warnings. Here sit about a dozen girls at telephones all day and all night working on eight hour shifts. In a room adjacent is a large board with all the local authority centres marked out, number of ambulances, First Aid Posts, hospitals decontaminating stations, Fire Brigades etc, all marked out on this big board and during an air raid these boards would be used for marking out where these different ambulances etc had been telephoned for and the man on duty should be able to use all of them to the best advantages. What happens if the telephones are completely blown out of order, I don't know. I suppose they would use motor bike drivers of which they have a good many. It looks rather like a game to play with counters.

People are grumbling that we do not get much news here in Eng. and. I expect you know more than we do what is happening. Hitler's speeches one gets a bit tired of! I wonder if you have ever tried to really darken rooms. It is so difficult. We put special green material over the windows, then you add a strip pinned onto the window frame at the top to prevent little gleams of light where the curtain hook onto the poles, and even then it is necessary to shade your lights very much indeed. Thank heaven they have allowed cars a wee bit more light. It took me 20 minutes the other night to go down the hill!

Sep 26/39

People are now beginning to think the Local Authorities have been unnecessarily busy in protecting the Civil poluation. No Air Raids have taken place and what about paying for all this guarding? They were willing enough when they thought the bombs were coming next night, now they feel differently. The wages paid ^{to waiters (full time) are} ~~were~~ usually about £3 per week and in the country districts there was great exasperation among the villagers for paying men £ 3 a week for staying all day and all night (they had shifts of course) reading newspapers and stories and sitting in deck chairs waiting for air raids which never came. It was true they were Fire men and had a fire engine already to put out fires over a large area, yet the fires did not come, and it made then villagers mad to pass these big strong fellows sitting reading stories in the lovely September sunshine! To be sure there are heaps of people on guard and walking about all night without being paid but as most people do not know which are paid and which are not they cant descriminate. Ilford Rates are to go up, it is said, 100 per cent! And who is to pay for all this? The local ratea are paid by the local ratepayers and many of them have no money since the War. There are heaps of women and men out of work. We constantly hear of cases of people with large houses and servants completely ruined, as far as they can see. Nobody goes to London to buy clothes. All cheap tickets on the railway are stopped. Nobody feels like buying clothes and the warm weather has gone on

so that people who will buy and can afford to buy, prefer to wait till the weather gets colder and warm clothes seem attractive. Transport of commodities is difficult too for lorries cannot drive at night owing to the lighting restrictions, and it is difficult to get what you want even when it is at the factory. I have been waiting three weeks for some shoes which I know must be at the factory but they just don't come. Sugar is of course going to be rationed, as well as many other things, and at the moment the grocer lets you have one pound of sugar where you used to buy two or three. His supplies are cut down and the other day when my cook asked the man who called for the order for some sugar, he said "let me see what you have in the cupboard". She showed him and said "No you can't have any"! There was about 3lbs in the cupboard! Meat seems to be going to the troops and as many of the ordinary soldiers do not get a roast of beef everyday, the demand is greater than the supply. Before arranging what you will have for dinner you go and ring the butcher to see what he has in his shop! The Gov. tried to regulate fish buying but it was such a failure they have given up and fish markets are open as usual only where they get their fish from I don't know. Most of the rawlers are mine sweeping. We had to fill in for the National Register this week saying how many persons there are in the house on Friday night next. We shall then get our ration cards. It was quite easy in the last war so it will be in this. Only if any of you risk coming over please get your ration cards on arrival or you will not be popular with your friends!

John says they have some fine shelters at school but they are very bare but he says they intend to make them more attractive soon! At the moment no more offices are going out of London. Some firms have half in London and half in a country place where the rest could go if raids came, but it is very inconvenient for business. Harrogate in Yorkshire is full of a Gov department, all the hotels are commandeered. A charming girl in my S. School class told me she was going away the second Sunday after War broke out as her office (she was a Civil Servant) was being transferred to Southport. Last Sunday she told me they had not gone and would not go till 6% of the staff was killed!! Nice calculations! Gabriel is living at home still and driving 30 miles to his Army job. They are all Engineers but as no lorries need repairing there is nothing to do. He has been made paymaster and had to pay 30⁰ men one day and give each man two salutes. ^(600 men!) One before the ^{man} got his money and one afterwards! Peggie said his arm was quite tired by the end of the day. I wish you could see London since the rationing of petrol. It really looks like a small village as far as the roads are concerned. The buses, which are running are careering along at a grand pace and there is so much space round them that they must really feel just grand with everyone admiring them. The trains are crowded particularly on Sunday, when they run very less frequently, with people going to see realtions who have been evacuated or have evacuated themselves, teachers returning to the evacuees, clerks and girls in offices going home for the weekend and back to their evacuated offices.

All motorists, are studying how they can save petrol and finding that either their car is not as good as they thought it was on petrol, or blaming the "pool" petrol for the poor performance they get out of their car. I walked up and down our hill twice on Sunday and if you do not get your car very near the curb you do not feel like wasting petrol in putting it at a proper distance from the curb because you would be using a bit more petrol if you did! I am trying free wheeling down the hill but I doubt if it is much saving. I want to go to Church tonight. I shall have to walk down the hill take a train to Furley, cross that dangerous dark main road, do the same returning and walk up the hill once more! It is alright with a moon like I shall have tonight but it will be different when there is no moon. At one time village concerts were always arranged to suit the moon. I expect they were too in the States. Everyone who walks about at night-Air Wardens and Special Police-tell me the moon and stars look so wonderful now the streets and houses are all darkened.

This letter is getting too long. As you will have gathered there is little to say except people seem to be settle down a bit more. Everyone is terribly sorry for Poland of course as I know you will be too. I am told the Poles dislike the Russians more than the Germans. They think the Russians will just kill off the better class people and keep the others to work for them, and after the war Germany will be forced to give back what she has taken as she will be beaten owing to internal affairs, but Russia cannot be made to give up what she has taken and England will not want to go on fighting Russia.

Oct 6/39

cc. Mr. Reifler ✓
 Mr. Stewart ✓
 Warren ✓
 Goldenweiser ✓
 19 Earle ✓
 Hedden ✓
 Thurst ✓

Dear Friends,

It seems odd when you think that a few months ago we were busy on the "problem" of how to decrease motor accidents, when today we have solved it very easily. Just ruin the motor trade by rationing petrol and raising taxation and there is no further need for extra police, wider roads, fresh Police Courts etc! Most parking places are empty, the garages are nearly ruined and refusing to sell petrol unless you pay for it on the spot, no new cars appear to be sold no price for secondhand cars, and an immense number of cars put up for the winter or for the war. I expect it would pay someone to buy a few new cars for the price will go up when cars sold again, but then everyone thinks that they might be bombed and in any case the income tax is so increased that everyone has to think how to save money. I went up to the Lake district to see my Mother who was ill, and one day I walked along the main road from Patterdale to Penrith, walking perhaps 1 1/2 miles of it. I did not see one private car. I saw one van. The next time I walked it I saw one private car and no van. Usually this is a pretty busy road in summer and fall. You know 66 course that all bumpers are painted white and there is a white band painted across the front wings of about 3 inches, to help people to see each other at night. At last one can ride with a bit more light. The increased income tax is a great shock to everyone. My sister who has four children under twelve years, paying for her children's

schooling has to find an extra £50 per year. And before they did not find it easy to make ends meet. My sister rarely buying new clothes. Another person has to find an extra £380 per year. Then there are the people who are badly hit. If they can prove their income this last year has gone down 20% they are let some off but most people use up the money they have had the last six months and to have to ~~taxed~~ be charged on last year's income is not at all easy for though you may not be able to claim the 20% reduction in your income, the 19½% reduction of your income might only be in the last half year which included the beginning of the war.

Coming down from Penrith yesterday I came through Preston. There were soldiers waiting on a platform with a military band playing on the station. They were waiting for their train to Aldershot preparatory to going over to France, To be playing Auld Lang Syne seemed to bring the war very near to us all.

I saw my brother in law who is an Inspector of Schools. He is fully up to the ears in Evacuation problems. He said if only a bomb had fallen just before or just after Evacuation the problems would have disappeared. It was the fact the bombs did not come that made things difficult! One village woman had promised to take three children. The billeting officer said there were four brothers could she not take four. She said well she would. When she got to the children they were black children with curly tight black hair! The children had come from the Liverpool dock labour. She was grand. She took them. There has been a good deal of trouble with spoilt beds, if you will excuse me going into details. You can imagine there

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would be with so many children of all ages and from all kinds of homes. My brother in law went into a headmaster's room and he said to him, what do you think that big roll is in the corner? He said material for darkening blinds. Now said the Headmaster rather testily it is yards and yards of rubber sheeting which I am cutting up into strips and giving out to the villagers ^{for their huts}. Its the only way of having any peace! It is perhaps rather improper to put in this story but it seemed to me to make so clear so many simple problems which all these school masters have to deal with, that I risked your thinking it out of place. I saw lots of children about and they seemed to be so happy collecting "conkers" and blackberries. One lot of children start early and have school in the morning and the other half in the afternoons. Some of the children think it awful to have to walk far to school! One story of a child may have been invented. She was asked what she thought of the country. She replied "Well at home we get milk out of a nice clean milk bottle, here we get it out of a dirty old cow." People in towns are working hard to make clothes for the evacuees. One place under my charge (though I had nothing to do with it) made 700 garments in about 3 weeks for these children.

It has been grand getting letters from our friends and we do appreciate them. It is good too to hear of Walter Stewart and Riefler at Washington though I am sorry for their families. It does not seem quite fair that they should have to go. I am not going to think this war is going on for ages. I am sure the German people are too sensible and too good not to wake up to the absurdity of it all. But fanatics are not -

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Oct 17/39

What is rather surprising is the real unhappiness of many of the women, who have been evacuated, in spite of every kindness from the country people. They can't bear the country. It is not only the fact they have left their homes and their husbands, but the fact that there is no Cinema no streets and traffic to look at no shops. The Women's Institute paper talks of "angish" of some of the mothers evacuated. I knew some would not like it but did not think they would dislike it as much as that. I asked a school officer to give me some figures of an area I knew. He said only 75% of the children from these schools turned up at school to be evacuated and over half had returned. Now they are sending off more! It is a very expensive business.

I think the enclosed letter in The Times is worthy of quoting; it comes from Nairobi Kenya.

" Dear Sir , I beg you to accept me to offer my three pigs to Government to be used in the war. I have kept three pigs only and I am wanting them to be in the work of your Crown according my love and power, like other fellows who have given up their lives in order to defend other people's lives. I felt heartedly as I have no knowledge or experience of any work except these pigs which I decided that I must give them to Government, exactly as I would give up my life for our Kingdom to remain just to us as it has been forever. In measuring my pigs, they are four feet in length etc. Now sir, I would be very much pleased to hear from you what you have decided for that question of these offerings. Your obedient servant
Kanoga S/O Njega

C/O Chief Kuria's Location Ihwagi

Is 'nt that charming?

Henry is very busy with Government work. You will hear of lots of very foolish things England will be doing. To arrange everything sensibly is an impossible task just as it was with you during --

The surprising thing is that people seem to expect it will all work smoothly! We have had very heavy rain the last few days, almost continuously rain, but it was as well we did not have any air raids as the shelters are all full of water. Everyone is very disturbed at the disaster to the Royal Oak and wondering what on earth the Navy is doing to let such things happen. It anchors too it sounds shocking. We go on wondering when Hitler will make an attack on the Western front but nothing happens seriously at the moment though it always seems as if it will happen next minute. Some of the German soldiers captured did not know there was a war on. They were told the guns they heard were blastings! No alien is allowed to move more than 5 miles away from the Police area without a special permit. The tribunals are sitting and giving permits to work at different things. Women in domestic service will have to stay there. I am watching two maids in my household and studying the problem from firsthand. They have bought their tickets for America(via England) when they were in Germany as they were not allowed to bring money out. They buy tickets from a Dutch line and in one case, asked the name should be altered to a sister who has already got her permit to enter the States. It is a very great uprooting and as family feeling is stronger in Jewish families than in others, it is particularly hard on them. They work well but all the time you feel your household is merely a station where they change trains! I like to feel that people want to stay with me unless they are going to get married. But that is too much to expect.

Suet and sugar will soon be rationed so I decided to carry on as usual and make my Christmas puddings! I must also make the mincemeat and the Christmas cake while I can. All the time you have a queer feeling as to whether you are "risking fate" by doing so. It is silly but the rule of learning to live day by day seems to be getting stronger and stronger. It is very difficult getting about without a moon and torches and refills are very difficult to get. Jim's little girl, Angela, got lost coming up home one night though she knew the way perfectly well, and stopped and asked at a house where she was. The lady told her and then felt anxious so, though she did not know me well, rang up to say a young lady seemed to be lost on her way to our house. Angela was rather cross that she had to be hunted for for all she wanted to know was, where was she!!! Jim went through the University Recruiting Committee yesterday but we have not heard the result. On Monday he is going to assist a neighbour who is Controller of Weather, but how long he can stay at that safe work we don't know. It will mean going to London everyday. Our train service is as usual during business hours but only every hour at other times.

England is not bitter at the moment. The newspapers are getting more used at giving at Germany's high command, but not seriously. No one is bitter or angry. What we shall be like it is impossible to tell. It is difficult to feel sorry for the German people if you have suffered in consequence and I can't see the temper keeping as it is today. No one really seems to agree with Lloyd George though he makes us think.

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He ~~does~~ not cut any ice at the moment. He won the last war
we know but he is too "clever" and I think he thinks he could get
the better of Hitler in a conference. I don't believe he could.
I only wish he could.

HURST LODGE - HAYES/LANE - KENLEY - SURREY

TELEPHONE: UPLANDS 4209

Nov 13/39. 1939

Dear Mr. Wain.

I enclose another letter which
may interest you all.

Yours sincerely
Platt (11/13/39)

Nov 13/39

MR. EARLE
MR. RIEFLER
MR. STEWART
MR. WARREN

Dear Friends,

MISS WISE

Nothing of course, has very much happened since I wrote last. At the end of last week it looked as if Hitler was going to march into Holland and feeling was pretty tense. I went into London on the Friday morning to a Committee and you could just feel the tension everywhere. It is really astonishing how you can get this feeling without even talking to anyone. A gloom seemed to be over everything realising that-sorry as we were to think of Holland having to do such a terrible thing as flooding her lands, ~~it~~ meant ^{in all} grim fighting and aeroplane bases nearer to us. It could also mean more refugees too and goodness knows where we should put them. England seems full up with refugees, not only from Germany of which we have heaps, but evacuees who seem like refugees too. However over the weekend things seemed to get a bit easier and the ^{possibly the rumour was true} suggestion that ~~perhaps~~ ~~Hitler's advisors saying~~ ^{that he had said to him} that America would come in if Holland and Belgium were invaded, may have done the trick-for the time being. I don't suppose it was correct but it might happen. There is, by the way, one thing which I can say to you which I can't say to others, the importance of American citizens always putting themselves in our places when they come over and discuss the "war situation". We hate to show our feelings because we know it is wiser not to unless we just can't help it- and this sometimes gives the impression that we are made of cast iron in our feelings. To give an example, the other night we had a visitor in and a letter had come from Gabriele ^{and her boy} and I told this to Henry before our guest. I also said that he thought he would have to go to France at the end of Jan'y. "either of us

said anything as exclamation, we just "shut down" our feelings and went on talking as if nothing had happened. Now it is quite easy to misunderstand such behaviour. We only do hard things because we think it right. ^{But} To discuss Economics and arrangements for war as if you were talking apart from sons and husbands, - at least with that feeling in the background - makes it hard for us. If we feel you understand it is alright, but I know one man last weekend felt his visitor was so lacking in understanding that he said he had the greatest difficulty not to throw his guests out! None of our friends would be like that though one of them got a bit near it the otherday!

I wonder what you thought of Winston Churchill's fighting speech on Sunday night. I asked one refugee while waiting for the Tribunal whether Hitler would be told what Churchill had said, and she said Oh no. He would just go off in such a rage that it would not be possible to read it to him. I think to speak strongly to the bully is useful and many people approved of the speech, though some people felt it perhaps unwise.

The young find this waiting for something to happen, very trying. It is one thing to go out and be a hero and "do your bit". It is another matter standing about waiting, or trying to make a machine work which has not had time to get into working order. Government departments at anytime work slowly but when it is an improvised one, like the expanded army pay departments, it gets jammed all the time. It was some weeks before Gabriel got any pay and for the young men who had no firm at their back, it was very difficult.

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Gabriel thought he was getting the pay for his rank of 1st Lieut. but finds he is only paid for 2nd Lieut. Then he gets part pay and not all and has to write about allowances etc. It is all very complicated. The lorries have not come yet or only part of them, so the men can do very little. Take the coal situation. We all had to register with our coal agent and add up the tons we had last year. This we did with the help of the coal agent. Then we were told we could have three quarters of what we had had last year. Then the miners got out of work. The Coal agents dare not buy more than the ration allowances for their customers. Coal wagons were filled by the miners and put onto the railway. The weather was warm so people did not use as much as usual. They began to economise as much as they could and with the prospect of increased income tax did it as well as they could. The result was that the Coal agents had their places stacked with as much coal (or coke) as they needed for a few months ahead and on the railway siding in one place ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{were} six miles of coal wagons full of coal waiting to be used! The miners could not go on getting up more coal as they could not put it into the wagons! We all have our ration cards for butter and bacon and meat but nobody knows really when we shall begin to need them. Petrol, ration of course is enforced and I had therefore to go by train to see John this weekend. I could not use coupons for 80 mile journey each way and to use ^{in a car} ~~it~~ when I got there. ^{so I would take a month's supply.} Instead of taking me $2\frac{1}{4}$ hours to come home it took me from 8 p.m. to nearly midnight! Oxford was full of people. I was told there ^{were} ~~was~~ 10,000 extra people living in Oxford. It was difficult to find out where they all came from. The London School of Economics was housed in Balliol. St Hughs College had been turned ^{into a war} ~~sub-camp~~

~~For~~ a hospital, the Law Courts are expected to come to Oxford if London is bombed, and there were heaps of Evacuees school children. Otherwise Oxford looked as usual except all (or most of) the valuable stain glass had been taken out. There were no taxis running last weekend as the taxi drivers had used up all their petrol till the 22nd of Nov. With extra people^{no extra petrol} and no extra taxis this would be bound to happen. Some of the buses ran every hour instead of every twenty minutes and there were few cars about. It is tiresome to go from Oxford to London and be unable to read. The light was not good enough to read by though you could see the passengers faces opposite which was some improvement to the first weeks of the war.

In looking back it may seem silly we blacked out ^{So} ~~as~~ much but a refugee living in my household, told me that the Germans were all saying that if a war started the first thing Hitler intended to do ~~was~~ to destroy London. They also said their hope was in Chamberlain who loved peace. I wonder what they think now! ^{They} ~~You~~ cannot buy a pair of stockings or a handkerchief without a special coupon which is difficult to get. I took my maid before the Tribunal today. We had a long time to wait but they were very decent to us. One girl was very upset because she was trying to keep a "Christian" attitude to war. She did not make it clear that she disapproved of Hitler's methods and so she was told to come again next Monday. Her Mother was a Pole and the girl, really English. She had spent the last seven years in the States and had come back here to help nurse the sick. I expect she will get through on Monday. Otherwise she will be interned.

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I am not saying anything about finance in these letters, because it looks just too complicated to see anyway round. Our job today is to keep on and do the best we can, though how anyone is going to pay their taxes I don't know. As to the bigger question of National Finance I should think that no one sees beyond the immediate present. Everything seems so topsy turvy. You pick up your newspaper in the morning and see, two more German ships sunk, and you say good, and the next page or the next day, another English or French ship (merchant) sunk and you say what a pity, so long as the crew and passengers are saved. Everyone is knitting of course. In my work, Women's Voluntary Services, we get heaps of sewing parties and knitting parties asking for advice and help till we begin to wish that no one knew how to knit or Sew. Then we begin to see that it is an old custom for the women folk to do this kind of work in wartime and are glad they have something to do to relieve their feelings. The lady who is specially active in organising hospital supplies in a large area of which I am a part- is Lady Gordon Finlayson. She works hard even if I do not think a great deal of her capacity for being really systematic. She is feeling things so very much. She has a number of sons and is always anxious about them. *+ you have sons in the Army Navy You must have some are in the*
~~No one would like to have no one in the house at any part of the day~~
some day or
 one night, for fear bad news comes through particularly if you have a son in the Navy. One friend of mine has a son ^{who joined} in the Navy. She ^{and would not see him for three years} thought he was safe in Malta till the other night. She did not go out to Bridge with her husband but stayed in. The tel. bell went. "Call from Portsmouth". Is John safe was her first thought are they ringing me to ^{give} say bad news.

"Is that you Mum" come the answer. It was her John. He had come back from ~~Parkmouth~~. Alexandria to Portsmouth and ^{was} ~~were~~ going up to the North Sea somewhere. He had one day's leave. So they hurried down to Portsmouth and spent the day with him. Then ~~he~~ went off. Next they heard was that there had been an engagement in the North Sea and the steering gear had to be mended and he would be home for ten days leave. He came home but was recalled and only had eight days at home as the ship had been mended sooner than expected. Now I don't suppose she dare go out in the evening for fear she is not in in case he rings her again. Isn't that trying to a Mother's nerves? She is a plucky Scot but does not find it easy.

How anyone manages without a religion I don't know but I suppose when it comes to essentials we all find we have one, though some sustain one more than others!

Yours

Johns. Clay.

Apologising for much of typing.

I have little time these days for retyping.

Hinsdale Lodge

Kenley Nov 21/39

Dear Mr. Wise.

Thank you very much for your letter.

No I don't think there is any signs
of nerves in our outlook though the
outlook of 9 ships since Saturday is
rather serious. Everyone goes about as usual
plus a gasmask. Many women knit in the
train to pass time business.

Yours sincerely

Robert Gray

Hurst Lodge
Kenley

Nov 21/39

✓ MR. EARLE
✓ MR. RIEFLER
✓ MR. STEWART
✓ MR. WARREN

✓ MISS TSCHIBOTAREF

Mr. Heritt

Mr. Gildesheim

Dear Friends,

I am glad to hear you enjoy my letters and getting simple news in this way. I find it interesting putting down my thoughts and telling you all ^{a little of} ~~about~~ what we are thinking. One person writing back to thank me, is afraid we are losing our nerve though not our courage. I am sorry if I have given this impression for there is no sign whatever that we are losing our nerve. I left my weekend case with my gasmask inside, for two nights at the railway station! Henry tried to leave his gasmask at home and not take it to the Bank with him but he got, what the children call "ticked off" for this by the Bank porter or some such official and now, obediently goes about with a white band across his chest which some one said looked as if he was going fishing!

We were all very relieved that the Germans were prevented, by the pressure of the United States and of Belgium, from walking into Holland. That was good for that weekend it looked pretty hopeless. After feeling gloomy people become cheerful again until this new sinking ~~sinking~~ of ships this weekend. It does not frighten us only it makes things look rather grim until we find a way of getting over it. My sister's friend's daughter had an unpleasant experience. This daughter was married and had a child of three years old. They were both going out to the Father in the West Indies and chose a Dutch boat to be safe, the famous Simon Bolivar. When the first explosion came the Mother was in the passage, was thrown down and injured and made insensible. The small child of three wandered upstairs and was put in a life boat. Then she began to cry for her Mother, a friend

on board, who was in the life boat, got out, ran along to her cabin and found her lifeless ~~on~~ the floor of the passage. He picked her ^{up} _{then} ran up on deck in time to throw her into the sea and himself, and ^{then} kept her afloat till they were rescued. The Mother is now in hospital with a broken jaw and sometimes conscious and sometimes not, but they expect her to recover though she may be disfigured. It does not seem much use making "rules of the game" for war as if wars were hockey matches. It makes you wonder whether real air raids are far away. Yesterday my niece saw a German aeroplane trailing smoke to hide it, or ^{to} _{to} baffle its pursuers, and today as I pass the man who sells evening papers, there is a bill out "Raids over Kent". I say to myself really? Not Scotland this time. Gabriel's wife heard the guns when the German plane came near Liverpool the otherday and she said the windows shook from the gunfire. The guns were a long way off. She was living in the house alone as Gabriel had not come home at that time of the day. I asked her what she felt like did she feel frightened. She said no, not really but when the windows shook my knees seem to become a bit shaky! I went to see a new school I am interested ⁱⁿ a Surrey County Council School for Mentally Defective children. A new little school where the teachers are doing a wonderful work with about 60 of these children. She needed comforting very much. Half of her school had been given to a lot of children from a school near by which had no air raid shelter. These incoming children were crowded so much that it reminded me of old pictures of schools long ago. There were not enough chairs or desks for them and the mentally defective children

had only one class room instead of three or four. However I was able to suggest one or two things which could be done using an old building near and I trust they can get on for a bit. But it is very disheartening for the teachers to see their new school being overcrowded and not be able to carry on as they have been doing. This crowding of schools is really very hard on the teachers and it does not look as if they are going to have a proper Christmas holiday. There is a very nice boy-or rather young man of twenty four, of a friend of ours living near who has been having a very difficult time in deciding what to do. His Father was in prison ^{as a conscientious objector during} the last war when he and his twin brother were born, but ~~The son~~ is not a complete conscientious objector like his Father. He has travelled a great deal in Germany, France and Poland for his Father's business of tea importer and exporter. The business is pretty well at a standstill. Frances (the son) asked to join the Friends Ambulance but there was no room for him. Then he approached Henry and he thought he had a job for him and that his knowledge of the Continent and of languages would be useful. At the same moment that this job seemed to be open to him, with a small salary, a telegram came to say that there was room in the Friends Ambulance. What should he do? He had no money and his family would be glad if he could earn as money matters were very tight with them. But was it right to take a job at home if he was a semi conscientious objector and did not feel he could fight? He decided he ought to go to the Friends Ambulance and as he went. Frances is not a clever boy nor able to argue well so he has had a tough time trying to make up his mind.

I started again our Women's Institute which meets once a month and was surprised to find so many people turning up. We usually have about 40 people but after missing two months with all the difficulty of less frequent buses I thought few would come. We had more than usual. People are glad to come to a place where war is not discussed and where they can meet and listen to a lecture. I still go on with my organising job and it looks as if we may have more work shortly. Apparently knitted pullovers, mittens and scarves are very much needed and I am hoping that I have persuaded the organisers of the Fund subscribed to provide comforts for Surrey men, to allow my colleague and I to distribute the wool to the women's working parties. I am at least trying to get this for we have heaps of women longing to knit and many cannot afford the wool. I suppose it has always been the practice of the women to do this kind of thing while their men fight and I am sure it is good for them to be occupied. Anyhow I understand the men will be grateful for these woolies, but there is a great scarcity of knitting wool. It is odd you know but women are also taking to wool! They are buying woolly scarves for themselves, woolly underclothing and woolly dresses even for evening wear. It is very tiresome for really the wool should all go to the men! The women in uniform too take wool for their clothes. They look quite well in khaki suits and various styles of army hats, but you will have seen them in the pictures. The women are doing a good deal of the office work, and from what I hear from Gabriel's experience it would be a good thing if there were more women there. Retired Colonels and people who are only

used to writing letters in long hand are not the people to deal with a multitude of army forms. However they are calling for more "Ats" as they call them and I have no doubt women will come forward. Some of the Ats are not having a very comfortable time for bedding is scarce, there has been such a demand for it, that the supply is not sufficient. I hear the boot and shoe factories are extremely busy. People have to walk more, therefore more shoes have to be repaired and walking shoes are needed for women as well as men. Evening shoes are not wanted. Strong walking shoes with sensible heels. We went up to see Gabriel for a night on Saturday. He telegraphed that he was free on Sunday so Henry and I went up on the last morning train and returned Sunday night. Gabriel was going to a factory for a month, near Southport in Lancashire, to learn about lens for guns and possibly diesel engines. Feggie was going with him. They are sad to leave their little house but any way Gabriel will be able to come home to the lodgings each night and not have a long drive in his car early morning and late at night ~~as well as~~ being away three nights a week at the army ~~xxxxxx~~. We came home in quite a fast train with a splendid light in the dining car. It was grand. They now put on quite a decent dinner of soup, meat and sweet for 2/6. A great improvement. The Head waiter said everyone liked the simpler dinner and it had come on to stay he felt sure. Henry said he would tell Lord Stamp, but he did not say it to the waiter. He wouldn't would he? I can't think why they have not used the blinds before and had lights on these expresses. The edges of the windows are painted black to avoid

any chinks showing. The stations are of course still very dark and it is very difficult to see enough to dial if you wish to telephone. Some call boxes have a wee blue light but by no means all. Henry keeps quite cheerful and does not look worried. Jewkes from Manchester came to see us the otherday and said how well Henry looked which seemd to surprise him. Helen does not seem to be at all disturbed with the world situation. She is working hard for her Matric exam which she takes in a fortnight. She comes home in a very dark train and I pick her up at Kenley with Henry and Jim at the same time. She has to walk to the station in the morning as I cannot spare the petrol. I asked my sister to come to lunch today. She lives about ten minutes in the car away from me. She said she would and then telephoned to say she could not spare the petrol. She has three cars! However I had a bit to spare and went and had lunch with her. I always try to have my tank full of petrol the beginning of the new ration book so that in an emergency I have some in hand. That is to say I try to live on last month's allowance and not on the current month. We have just filled in our ration books and all is in order to receive sugar, butter and margarine rations but the date when the rationing begins has not been fixed. If we get more of these horrible sinkings we have had this weekend rationing will, I should imagine, come in quickly.

But whatever happens and whatever we have to go through, we know that evil cannot triumph. It is impossible.

Hurst Lodge
Kenley

Nov 30/39

Dear Friends,

We have had a good deal of rain and little sunshine and with the help of the continual sinking of ships, no one has felt very cheerful. There has been less sinkings this week and rumours go round that a method of dealing with these magnetic bombs has been found. The storms, I suppose, have helped, and it must be a strange sight to see 50 bombs washed up onto a coast. The Gov. are trying their best to prevent Evacuees going home for Christmas and the L.C.C. is having a campaign to collect money for presents for these children. Some of the places asked to contribute are objecting. One I spoke to this morning said, our people here are too poor to contribute even pennies. There[^] husbands are either out of work or in the Army. If in the Army their wives are getting as little as 2/6 per week for the youngest child and that won't keep them in milk and the evacuees are getting good food in the country and the pay is ~~£££~~ 5/6 to 8/6 per week per child and heaps of clothes have been sent as well. The shops where the evacuated children have gone to are doing a roaring trade while the shops where they have come from are badly hit. How difficult it is to have justice!

The Women's Institutes are up in arms about the dirt and bad habits of the evacuated children. They are so indignant that Headquarters of the W. Institutes are sending out a special questionnaire to all the villages, to be signed by the President and the Secretary, asking how many children they have, how many behave in a civilised manner and what they think about the Mothers who came with the children under five. I hope very much I shall see a very full report of this. The feeling is so strong against the "dirty" town folk that there is going to be some interesting reading! The L.C.C. and the Ministry of Health say the stories are exaggerated but one of our Organisers, after a tour of four Counties, said she was so shocked at what she heard that she recommended that this questionnaire should be sent out.

Still no air raids. One story is that the Germans want to keep their aeroplanes as they don't trust Russia and need a full force to use for negotiating. Russia is said to have a good fleet of excellent aeroplanes. I can't believe it is efficient! However if it keeps off the German aeroplanes it suits me alright.

We feel it necessary to keep up our Civil Defence but its very expensive and how we are going to pay it all I can't imagine.

We pay half our income in taxation apart from local taxation.

I went into one of my Centres yesterday and saw them showing a Mother how to fit on her baby's gas mask. A most cumbersome looking thing. This was quite a small place, but 1500 baby gas masks had been supplied free at a cost to the Gov. of £4 each!

The young people, as is usual during war time, are getting married in large numbers. My niece is getting married on Sunday at the Friends Meeting House to a young man, a Conscientious objector, who is at the moment teaching in a boy's school but thinks he may think it his duty to join a Friends Ambulance without any pay. His wife will then go back to teaching.

Really I think he is objecting to authority generally and has a grievance against the world including his own family!

However I don't blame him for not wanting to fight.

Gabriel is interested in working at a place which makes guns and Peggie says he finds the work there interesting for the guns are very complicated pieces of machinery. Jim is getting restless. He wants to get married in the Spring, he finds it difficult to work every evening on Accountancy when he wonders whether he ought to join the Navy before the exam in May. It is terribly upsetting to the young apart from Fathers and Mothers. We learn to live from day to day. I went to talk to the Headmistress of a school for Mentally Defective children. A wonderful work is being done there. I asked about their Christmas party. She said the teacher we are not sure whether to have one or to wait and have a big party, to celebrate Peace at the same time. It gave such a queer feeling to realise her faith that peace was not far away. That is the way we must look at it. Before then I feel it seems inevitable that other countries will be drawn in. ~~Wills~~ The American Villard's articles were very depressing during this difficult time.

4

He seems so afraid of Bolshivism. Everyone seems afraid of it which seems to me very queer. After all I cant see much difference between Nazism and Bolshivism and I cant see any nation living in that way forever. If people were not so afraid we should get on much better. Socialism had the same name at one time and no one is afraid of it now. The really rich are done in anyway except I suppose in America, and I cant see that rich people will be made this time during the war. Villard's last article was interesting on the change in the attitude of Germans to Hitler and if only the fear of Bolshivism as an alternative could be cleared away we might have peace quicker.

Later. And now I read on the placards that Russia has invaded Finland. I wonder what decent Germans think of their country now. The only thing applicable seems to be a quotation from the Bible "Forgive them for they know not what they do". It looks like a world war and yet I can understand Americans thinking "why should I send my sons to fight in this miserable war." The last war seemed colossal, it is small compared to the possibilities of this one. However we keep on. There have been few casualties up to date though no one knows what has happened in Poland. Helen's school friend, a Pole, or rather a Pole recently become a German, has at last heard from her parents in Russian Poland. They were in Cracow. Another Polish girl has heard that her home is destroyed and her Mother Father and brother all killed.

Yours sincerely,

HURST, LODGE - HAYES LANE - KENLEY - SURREY
TELEPHONE: UPLANDS 4209

MR. EARLE ✓
MR. RIEFLER ✓
MR. STEWART ✓
MR. WARREN

Per Golds ✓
n ✓

Nov 30/39.

Dear Mr. Wise

I enclose another letter, just as
the news comes of Finland with a
possibility of not being nice and. I am
so terribly sorry for have little Finland.

Yours sincerely

W. H. H. H.

M. Raper

Hurst Lodge - Hayes Lane

Kenley - Surrey

Nov. 30/39

Dear Miss Wise,

I enclose another letter, just as the news
comes of Finland with a possibility of Holland

I am so terribly sorry for brave little Finland.

Yours sincerely,

G. Clay

Hurst Lodge - Hayes Lane

Kenley - Surrey

Nov. 30/39

Dear Friends,

We have had a good deal of rain and little sunshine and with the help of continual sinking of ships, no one has felt very cheerful. There has been less sinkings this week and rumours go round that a method of dealing with these magnetic bombs has been found. The storms, I suppose, have helped, and it must be a strange sight to see 50 bombs washed up onto a coast. The Gov. are trying their best to prevent Evacuees going home for Christmas and the L.C.C. is having a campaign to collect money for presents for these children. Some of the places asked to contribute are objecting. One I spoke to this morning said, our people here are too poor to contribute even pennies. Their husbands are either out of work or in the Army. If in the Army their wives are getting as little as 2/6 per week for the youngest child and that won't keep them in milk and the evacuees are getting good food in the country and the pay is 5/6⁷ and 6/6 per week per child and heaps of clothes have been sent as well. The shops where the evacuated children have gone to are doing a roaring trade while the shops where they have come from are badly hit. How difficult it is to have justice!

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Yours sincerely,

HURST LODGE - HAYES LANE - KENLEY - SURREY

TELEPHONE: UPLANDS 4209

Jan 18/40

Dear Ann Wise-

I enclose another letter.

We just keep on.

Yours sincerely
S. Clay.

MR. ~~Evans~~ ✓

MR. RIEFLER ✓

MR. ~~STEWART~~ ✓

MR. WARREN

My Office.
Jan 16/40

MISS TSCHERNOTAROFF

Dear Friends,

It was very jolly to get cards from so many friends over the water and I am afraid our card came rather late. We keep forgetting the time it takes to get over the water. It is a long time since I wrote a letter but I have been fairly busy at my office and school holidays are a specially busy time. It was more difficult than ever with the Education Committee meetings starting again, the office to be run and John demanding every minute of the time I could give him. My partner at the office was awfully good and carried the burden of the work herself in order to leave me time for John. Somedays he came here and sat reading till I was ready to go and he was very patient! It has been very cold here for about a month, sometimes the air reminded me of Ottawa and John and Helen (I skated too one day) have had some good skating. Helen loves it, the only sport she likes. The cold still continues and it makes one think of the nice warm houses in Canada and the States. Henry said this morning I am going to have a house with Central heating before I die. I replied, well the cold does not last long in England. He answered nor do I last long, which sounds as if he was depressed. He isn't. The more work he has to do the more cheerful he becomes. One man came into the Bank the otherday, he had not been in for sometime, and said to Henry, well all the people look much older since the war but you!

He has told me to go and buy clothes if I want any during the next two years, but so far I have not managed it. I have been too occupied with work and John, but I suppose I had better go to the Sales though it is a nuisance. I have bought in some soap and some paper but I think it better for us to share all alike. It is very easy to buy things you do not want in case they come in usefully and afterwards you feel ashamed and think how silly it was. However it has had one good effect, Henry has replaced his seventeen year old winter coat with a new one! I have been trying to get him to do this for years! I wonder if you can realise how irritating this blackout is. Yesterday I saw John off at Paddington at 4.45. The stations are so dark you bump into people and it is so difficult to see if there is a seat vacant or not. All trains are very full and run less frequently with the result that I had twenty five minutes to wait at Victoria for a train. Then I went in to the miserable tearoom in the station and ordered some toast and tea. They gave me a round of toast about an inch in thickness with a teaspoonful of butter on it. I could not see to read in the train and when I picked up my car at Purley station where I had left it, I could not see through the windscreen for frost. This darkness is like living in a perpetual fog and as trains are all late-I think nothing of waiting twenty minutes at the station for Henry, without any heat in your car and no lights inside. It gets a bit dreary!

We had a good Xmas, quite quiet and peaceful, and as we missed having a newspaper for two days we could be without news. We never listen in to the wireless news. Gabriel got a week and it was lovely to have him with us for half the time and his wife Peggie. I am also glad to report that a General came down to inspect his Corps and decided to send another Corps and not his to France next month. Gabriel is going to be sent to a cooking class at Woolwich in about a fortnight. What funny things you have to learn in the army. Anyway as I have lived with "education" all my married life I am in favour of this business of always learning something fresh even if it is such an important thing as cooking. The anxiety seems to be increasing again and all one can do is to be thankful for the quiet time we have had previously. To keep off speculating what is going to happen next, to try to be ahead in your information about the future, ^{is not} is all folly. It is difficult for young people like Jim. How can you arrange about a wedding you hope to have in March? One girl I heard of the other day, whose young man is in the Army has had her wedding put off three times. It was arranged for a few days hence and now all leave is canceled for the R.E.F. ^{Jim's} exam is said to be in August and it means working hard every night to be ready but he is working hard at the Leather Control Board during the day and it gets tiring. However he is cheerful and sees his young lady every weekend. He does not like the idea of her spending the next two months in London for fear of raids.

There is a great craze for buying goods. Stockings go up in price each week and some people are buying in as if it were for a siege. If they don't have their things bombed I suppose it is a sensible thing to do. I went into Barkers to buy some pyjamas for John. They had not his size in stock though it is a very usual school line and that particular line has been sold by Barkers for years and years. I was told that the firm who supplied them were cutting up the last piece of cloth and after that there would be no more! Stockings are said to be going up 3/- a pair. I talked to a lady today who lives at Hythe on the Coast. She says they hear gunfire continually and one morning her husband came running upstairs, he thought she had fallen out of the bath. It was only gunfire. Must make the war feel real must it not? Here we have given up carrying gas masks. My sister lives at Hull. All the children have been evacuated and she sent her daughter aged six to a sister. The sister cannot conveniently take her anymore so the child has come home and the problem is how to educate her without schools. She is getting a governess twice a week but it is not very satisfactory nor do they like her living near a port. She may come down to a sister living near London which does not sound very much better. Jim was saying only the other night, if we suddenly heard the war had come to an end we should go nearly mad with joy and we should then realise what a strain it is to live in this continual uncertainty. Then we remember the Finns and think

how fortunate ~~we~~ ⁱ are. Helen got through her Matric exam with seven credits which was pretty good, and one distinction. She is now glad to think she can give up Latin. She will now prepare for Lady Margaret Hall and try to get in in a year this Easter, but it is not easy as the numbers at Oxford is so limited -for women. She was very gay all the time she was sitting for her exam and said she throughly enjoyed herself. Henry thought she was enjoying herself too much and would fail! He was quite wrong for once and did not mind being in the wrong. John and I found it very difficult to part on Monday but I expect he has now settled down to work though he says he has a master who cannot teach. Poor man as well as poor children! However he does nit have the same master all the time. I shall be going up for a weekend at the end of Feby.

Henry has a cold and has stayed away from the office for two days so I must get back home.

Yours
Gladys

19

HURST LODGE - HAYES LANE - KENLEY - SURREY

TELEPHONE: UPLANDS 4209

Feb 11/40

Dear Miss Wise,

Here is another letter which some one
may like to read. I hope it does not sound bad tempered.
I am only trying to give you some idea of thought in
England. Fortunately we all have a wonderful faith
in England and her cause.

Yours sincerely,

Walter Clay

Hurst Lodge

Kenley Feb 11/40.

MR. EARLE

MR. RIEFLER

MR. STEWART

MR. WARREN

Mr. Threlk

MISS TUCKER

Dear Friends,

We have had six weeks cold weather which reminded me of Canada. Our houses are not built for the cold and except for the skaters people did not enjoy it. The trains too got upset and the valley for one or two days when we had snow, was lit up all the time with flashes from the railways as if there was a terrific storm going on. I had no heat in my bedroom even for dressing and undressing and one morning there was ice on a glass of milk in my bedroom. The plumbers were kept busy but we were not seriously inconvenienced over this though one day we had to thaw the main with an electric fire. The main near Gabriel's house was frozen outside in the road and all houses near him had to fetch every drop of water they needed.

We are all watching the Finns and are amazed at their wonderful resistance to the Russians but Munitions are needed and any delay is serious. We had hoped much from America for the Finns but all these discussions on how and what way to send them help seems so trivial and so exasperating to the Finns. The feeling here towards America is changing for the worse. People say that America is not ready to face the issue straight. Peace proposals to a man who regards promises and propaganda as the something & is quite capable of speaking kind words of apparent sincerity to President Roosevelt's representative with the idea of keeping America quiet. ^{disturbs us} we have found by experience that Hitler's promises are useless and merely a form of argument.

The Neutrality Act has been such a disappointment. American ships no longer come to England and therefore the tonnage for the Allies is so much the more reduced. The other neutrals are told to act like the United States and keep away-they do not do so as it is necessary to keep ships moving,-but it encourages Hitler to sink neutrals if there is no danger of a powerful neutral like the United States being offended sufficient to come in on the other side. Can you imagine what it feels like to be living in a vulnerable small island watching the Finns fighting and helping them as far as we can at the moment, with an Army across the Seas, with ships patrolling the Seas ceaselessly, and the Air Force watching our shores daily and hourly, knowing that there is a friendly powerful neighbour approving of all we are doing and applauding us for all our sacrifices, watching us straining our finance to the utmost and yet feeling that somehow Right will triumph and anyhow nothing can be done till after the Presidential Election? Pardon if this sounds brutal and unfair. I know there are heaps of arguments to be said on the other side, I make all kinds myself in defending America from my friends, but the feeling remains that we are not blind to our extraordinary position as a bulwark with France against a powerful and ruthless enemy. Can you imagine what it feels like to see photos in the newspapers of Finnish towns that have been bombed and hear the remark that Germany is thinking of a big offensive in the Spring? That there is a residential school in Germany where "good Nazis" are being taught how to govern England when she has "won the war". They are lectured to on the

Welsh and I believe are choosing the German administrator for Wales. It may only be newspaper talk on the otherhand it is like the Germans to plan ahead so thoroughly. However people go on working just the same, you see men going about in khaki in the streets and on trains everyone carries a torch at night of course and one gets used to driving with very poor lights. One friend of mine has a nephew mine sweeping and with a son in bed in France at a place unknown in a small town where there is no proper sanitation and obviously no baths. He was better they said but coming from a house with every luxury it is not to be surprised at if his Mother is worried. When I said I was sorry the father replied "Oh well we are not so bad as some. We have to put up with things".

Gabriel's Unit is still training. He had a week's course at Aldershot learning to cater for troops.

Henry is very well. He keeps very busy but always makes out he has little to do! He went into London today Sunday which was unusual and he gets his Sat mornings at home which I am glad of.

Yours sincerely,

MR. RIEFLER
MR. ~~STEWART~~
MR. ~~WILKINSON~~

✓ MISS TSCHEBOTAREFF
~~MR. RIEGLER~~

3

Belgium

2000

gained 56 lbs each since September! I hope they wont go on doing it! Another child when he looked at porridge for the first time said " I thought porridge was food for bears not for people!" Another, on seeing a rabbit burrow for the first time said " Oh look, an air raid shelter for the rabbits."

Some of the boys love the farm work and intend to come back and work on the farms when they leave school. Perhaps that is the way to "get the people back to the land"!

We are hearing a good deal about Keynes's idea of compulsory saving. It sounds very complicated for those who have to make the deductions from wages, but it may be we shall have to try out some such plan. Our present colossal taxation will not be sufficient. Already retired people in a small country village like Epping are joining at houses to save expense. The shops are not doing much business except at special sales, and the meat shops are doing no business at all. This is the first week of rationing of meat and everyone is saving their 1/10 worth of meat for the weekend. Most people got a bit in I think last week and do not wish to use the week's ration coupons until the end of the time. I live on petrol the same way. At the end of the period I fill up my tank and live on that till the beginning of the next period. Garages usually close at 6.p.m.now. It is not worth, while keeping open after that the sales are so poor and the ^{profit} cost of running a petrol pump is almost negligible.

Prices have not gone up much. Petrol is up to 1/10 which is very high. Fruit comes in freely from S.Africa and that is at pre war prices. Vegetables are dear owing to the frosts and we have no beans and peas like you have, at this time of the year, except at prohibitive prices. Turkeys can be bought at 1/4 per lb which is very reasonable. I expect food stuffs are difficult to get for the Turkey Producers and they are selling them off now rather than waiting for a higher price in the Spring. Lentils have gone up from 2d per lb to 6d.

Jim, our second boy, is getting married next week on March 21st. He had hoped to go on working at the Leather Control Board until his exam in August, and have six months married life, but it does not seem as if the Army or the Navy will let him. He has now to go before another Board and no one seems hopeful of his chances of being allowed the six months. He is therefore not getting his flat ready until he knows the result. He would of course have to go into the ranks like everyone else. You have now to be in the Army six months before you get a Commission and three months in the Navy. Some of you may say, "how do they stand it?" All this anxiety, or is it they just don't know the risks England is running? We know well enough. We are not blind.

LETTER FROM A FINNISH UNIVERSITY LECTURER TO ENGLISH FRIENDS.

Vasa, Finland. 11.2.40.

Dear Friends,

You must forgive me for not writing to you before. It is not that I have not often thought of you, but I have only had a few hours free every day, and come home late in the evenings. Ever since your war broke out I have wanted to tell you how much I admired England for her resolution to put an end to Hitler's horrid progress. This war has been hanging in the air for so long that it was almost a relief when it broke out. There must be better times coming when the dictators and their "ideals" are crushed, as completely as they must be. One can only wish that the fight will not be too long and hard, and that you and France will not have to sacrifice too much. Oh, how grand if we could meet once in a "new-born" Europe! I wish you to tell your countrymen how much admiration your young men gain by going out to fight for the ideals of freedom and democracy, though their own country is in no apparent danger. I cannot help feeling that despite all the horrors and miseries of war, we are living in great days. One has sort of a warm feeling inwards all the time over and over again witnessing greatness and the spirit of sacrifice in everybody - though of course the primitive rawness and cruelty Russia has exhibited sometimes feels crushing.

The first sensation here with us when we had to face the war with herds of uncivilised, sullen, miserable creatures was a horror that so much misery and terror could be exhibited in our days. One had got used to a life of international work for the progress of education and social reforms in every country; people were beginning to get outside the narrow national borders, there was exchange of music, exchange of work-results, exchange of students, teachers, and artists - it was so difficult and depressing to realise that millions of Europeans were living in horror, starvation, and on a barbarously low intellectual level. We hear how women and children (captives from Poland) were driven in front of the Russian soldiers to make mines explode, how the soldiers were forced forwards, threatened with guns by their own cheka-agents, how Russians stopped fighting when they came upon a Finnish field-kitchen, how greedily they snatched at sweets that were given them in the prison - sucking at them for hours - you knew lots and lots of details like these, giving such a gloomy picture of the state of the human being in Soviet.

In our country we have always realised that the state in Soviet was horrid, but we have been too few to do any rescue work, or to make the world see that it had to beware of the enemy of humanity and civilisation - bolshevism. I am afraid in many countries there has been ignorant admiration of the new Russia, ignorant and not a little stupid. It is a good thing for the whole of civilisation that we now have been able to show the world what Soviet Russia is - barbarism and misery and terror - and that the "unconquerable army" is a complete failure - no effective capable organisation, no permanent leaders, and inefficient weapons. If only the world would realise the truth now, and never more believe in Soviet Russia - if only the world would not forget again that barbarism has been disclosed and found even militarily weak, that it is nothing to dread or tolerate, that there is a duty to hold it back! Then our little people would have had the great task to open the eyes of the world and would not have fought in vain, whatever its own fate might be.

I am sorry to write such a long letter, but I feel I have to tell you a little about us - there is so much to write, still I must try to be brief. You understand that it has been depressing to see the deeds of that barbarian army; the suffering in their own ranks, the marks of their bombing raids - still all this is kept in the background of one's mind, outweighed by the great features one has witnessed in our own soldiers and in all the individuals in those democracies that have helped us. Never have the spirit of sacrifice and personal courage and warmth of heart disclosed themselves clearer than now. I have in many different ways come to see the spirit of the Swedish people for instance - poor people, workers and industrial magnates have given alike; everybody has contributed with money and clothes to the "Finlandsinsamlingen"; the workers have worked on Sundays to be able to give their wages for that day to us; idealists in great quantities have left homes and children to

(2)

fight for us. Of course our fight is their fight; if we cannot stop the invasion it will not be stopped at Sweden's borders, it will surge in over the whole of Scandinavia and finally become the end of all European civilisation. Still, our existence is threatened, it is natural that we should fight to the last, the Scandinavian volunteers leave a life of peace to join us. Every day one gets new examples of how grandly people in Scandinavia want to help us. If the military help has not yet been great and open, it may have its causes, and perhaps a "neutral" Scandinavia will be able to help us more efficiently than a Scandinavia at war. We know so little of the help that is coming from outside, still I have a feeling that your country is doing her share. It is worrying to have to ask for help, but we are such a small people! I feel we manage grandly; the reports from the frontiers are fine, the soldiers are calm and strong and energetic, one of them was heard to say "The Russians might get me, but Finland they'll never get", and that is how they all feel and we too here behind the frontier. The raids over civil towns and villages will not have any effects. Still one understands they might be more disastrous with the summer, I need not declare why - so before then we must have more aeroplanes and air-raids-precaution machinery; we hope to get it - the other democracies whom we finally are fighting for will help us!

If you want to know how it feels being bombed - it is a thing one gets used to. The children have soon I hope found their way to safer Nordic homes, the old and weak are in the countryside, and the working part of us gets more or less established in cellars. So far I belong to the happy ones who have not lost anyone dear, but one never knows when a great sorrow in that form comes. One is prepared for everything, even for horrors, perhaps yet in store.

A few weeks ago Vasa was very severely bombed, the smell of smoke still sometimes lingers in the air. This town is quite a small one, so it meant rather much that about 300 families all of a sudden found themselves homeless. Thank God all who asked for help could get money and clothes from a "Finland-funds" (Scandinavian, mostly Swedish) - it was such a relief to be able to help immediately. I am at an aid-bureau, dealing with these things. We lost our home that day too, but are happy to be alive all three - for the present. Here again we were able to notice how efficient the material help from Sweden is; father lost all his surgical instruments but only a few days later some instruments were sent from Sweden by air and so he can continue his work. Mother is safely in the countryside now, she got rather a shock sitting in the cellar while smoke and hot air from the burning building overhead streamed in.

This is a very naive and disconnected letter. I hope you will get some idea about how we are feeling now. I have never been a chauvinist, but now I cannot help feeling very proud of our brave and extremely able soldiers. I suppose it is their calmness and absolute belief in the highness of their cause, combined with ability in out-of-door life, farmers as they mostly are, that makes them fight so extremely ably.

Love.

Greta.

P.S. Thank you so much for the card, written one day after the bomb on our home.

County Hall
Kingston May 13/40

W. L. C.
W. L. C.
P. H. C.
S. H. C.
T. H. C.
E. H. C.

Dear Friends,

It seems years since we heard-on Friday- the news of the latest behaviour of the Germans. It still seems incredible to us. We seem to lose count of the number of fresh nationalities being treated in this barbarous way. We got our hopes up about Norway and then dashed to the ground once more. At the moment we seem terribly ineffective and the neutrals so fearful that they do nothing towards co-operating with us till disaster is upon them. If we had taken Churchill's warning some years ago things might have been different. Many of us have felt for a long time Chamberlain must go and then the Debate in the House-followed by everyone most intensely-we woke the next morning to find we had a new Prime Minister and the Germans had walked into Holland and Belgium. We knew the Bismarck, we had sailed on it two years ago- and to hear of the bombing of Amsterdam and Rotterdam places where we had tied up our yacht in their friendly yachting harbours-seemed a desecration. I had to go off to my office at once to assist in carrying out the hush hush scheme which had been prepared since November, for the housing of refugees if these Low Countries were invaded. Some refugees have arrived but not in any large numbers. In my area the Surrey County Council have taken the dog racing stadium at Wimbledon to receive the refugees coming into the Metropolitan area of Surrey, which may number 10,000. They are to come at the rate of 1,000 a day and the trains will bring them to this stadium from the Ports. It may take three weeks work and we have a wonderful lot of our Women's Voluntary Service people giving all their time and labour for nothing, to deal with this horde of people. Each refugee will have to be medically examined, cards made out for their assignment to the particular local authority which will house them, give them ration cards and all the usual paraphernalia which is bound to be performed. The Authorities will also have to look out for spies. To Wimbledon will then come charabancs each with one or two interpreters, sent by the Local Authority (15 of them) in this particular area and with a few of our W.Vol. Service people to shepherd them back to their town and to settle them in when they arrive. Empty houses are being taken, bedding collected by our W.V.S. people from householders and Committees formed to do all they can for our "guests". The refugees will be given tickets which they can use at the local shops to buy what they need to feed themselves and they are expected to cook for themselves. This is only one bit of England and the same thing is happening all over the neutral areas where the evacuated children are not! The W.V.S. also have to deal with fresh numbers of evacuated children which are expected from the towns as soon as bombing appears to be imminent. These children will mostly be billeted. Our butter and sugar will probably have to be curtailed with all these extra people but we are getting used to margarine and only hope that will go on. So far we have fed very well. But with Germany getting all the Danish and now Dutch eggs we used to get it is not going to be so easy.

Of course they ^{refugees} may only be coming over here to be bombed. We feel now that there is no hope of America helping us, the help would only come too late. It may be after all that America has to take the job on - that would only be if we were defeated - but we hope that will not be. I have not done anything about moving Helen again as one cannot tell where is safe now unless I sent her to the States. We live between two aerodromes so it does not sound very safe but who can tell? Anyhow I have, once more, got out chairs in the dug out a tin box containing food and a kettle and meth. stove to make tea. Splintered glass is the danger so it might be wiser to go into the dug out and as the weather is warm I may be able to persuade Henry to get out of bed! Gabriel is in a workshop of the Army Service Corps near Woolwich looking after the repair of range finder for guns and Jim is still with the Weather Control Board for a few months at any rate. Life is very unreal today. I let Helen go to Oxford on Sunday to hear the Bach choir but I spent all Saturday here at the office and Whit Monday too. Sunday School teaching as usual on Sunday morning. One of the boys (aged 18) had just lost a friend flying. Sunday School lessons are pretty real today I assure you. I love teaching these young people - they are so keen and so fresh - and I want to help them to face anything. They love it too and never miss if they can possibly avoid it. Helen is in the class too.

Later Wednesday. The news of the surrender of Holland. Alas. How could they hold out against an army descending from the skies in such numbers? I had asked if I could meet the De Jung children, (De Jung is at the Netherlands Bank) if the parents decided to send them over. I got a letter back on May 14th saying how grateful they were for my offer but said they were not going to do so at the moment but would communicate through the Bank of England if they decided to do so. That was the day the after the Germans walked into Holland. The telephone wires were out of order from Holland about Sunday I believe. People look strained but no one is excited. We just keep on listening for news on the wireless. Henry looks very grave. My German refugee cook cried nearly all yesterday. Her Mother is a refugee in Holland with her sister husband and child, living near Rotterdam. Strangely enough she looks better today now the Germans have walked in. I suppose she was afraid of them being killed but I should imagine it might be worse now they have walked in completely. However we keep on. Real times are quite gay though now Holland has gone we begin to wonder where the bombs will fall next.

Yours sincerely,

Clay.

We know evil can only take a nation in temporarily - from suffering is important to us. We know that evil cannot prevail ultimately - the facing of this has cursed England already. Our mistakes distress us but the ultimate result we never doubt.

WWS ✓
WWR
RWB ✓

Henley
Oct 29/40

Dear Friends,

One of my last typed letters to Princeton was returned by the Censor saying I must delete what I had said about Air Raids. Bit silly I thought it when your journalists are given a pretty free hand here to say what they like. I should think you are tired of hearing "eye witness" reports of London's Air raids and the wonderful London people. They are wonderful but Americans would be just the same under the circumstances. The people who talk about raids all the time are called "bomb bores". I trust this letter won't be like that. It is difficult not to talk about them as it is so much around us and we see so few people and hear so little about other matters. Naturally you want to know whether your friends have their houses intact not to say anything about themselves. People are finding outside shelters too cold and damp and prefer to take further risk and be warm! Most people therefore are sleeping on the ground's floor, with a door or window easy to get out of, with a full complement of clothes and coats near at hand ready to dash out if necessary. People "not so young" find that it is wise to have any supplementaries used during the daytime, near at hand also. One of Henry's friends forgot this, escaped in his night attire and said he felt the loss of his teeth more than his household possessions! You get used to doing without ordinary conventionalities about sleeping. Helen sleeps in the Nursery with Henry and me at weekends and while I was away Peggie slept with Henry in the Nursery. We sleep pretty well. I can sleep through quite a good bit of gunfire now. Gabriel has been looking after some new guns fairly near us-they have gone now-when the gunfire was particularly loud we said "Gabriel's guns" and felt most secure. Aren't we ridiculous? He comes here one night a week to see Peggie. We are thrown in as an extra! Perhaps that is hardly fair to him as he is a devoted son, but we are quite glad to be included in this extra. We have been looking for a house rather less noisy than here but have not been able to buy one. They all get snapped up. I should hate to leave here for good and I am so sorry for the landlord as his income would be so seriously diminished. However for the duration it would be good to have somewhere where the children could go walks undisturbed and for Henry to have quiet weekends. Miss Grier has bought a house at a small village called Kings Sutton near Banbury and has very kindly offered us most of it. She will keep a sittingroom bedroom for holidays and join us for meals. This is a great thing for us to be able to go to and I think we shall move most of our furniture in about a month. I do not like leaving Henry here alone with a maid but if I can help him by making a comfortable home for him at weekends it is my business to do so. He is anxious to get me away as I have not quite recovered. We get quite used to having fighting overhead and to hear bombs, but it does cramp your walks when the sirens go so often. I do not like the children to go far unless it is necessary and there is always the possibility of their finding time bombs in the rough grass. Helen is a boarder at school, to save the journey, and comes home at weekends and Jim is still on holiday in Devon with Angela. He joins the Royal Artillery Signalling Corps on Nov 14th. It's hard on the young today and it is going to be very hard on Jim and Angela to be separated. I hope he is not sent abroad. However I am fortunate that neither of the boys are in the R.A.F.

Yours Gladys Clay

Nuffield College
17 Banbury Road, Oxford, Eng.

My dear Win:

I wonder whether you would care to invite F.R.Hicks (and his wife) to visit the Institute. He sailed a week ago and will be in N. America till Christmas. He is visiting Harvard, New York, Washington and Chicago, where he has friends; but he seems to know no one in Princeton (though Viner is a friend of his). He ought to meet you and Walter, but he is not the kind of person who forces his way in anywhere without an invitation. Is there not some party in September he could come to? or is that a time he should avoid?

I have got to know him properly only recently - since he came to Oxford as a research fellow of this institution. I have now a great respect and some affection for him; I also like his wife who has quantities of drive and practical efficiency which he lacks and many people usually resent in a woman. I asked the Rockefeller Foundation to ask him over because they had never visited America and I thought he would gain a great deal from a break between Manchester and Oxford. He has a beautiful mind and, though a very orthodox economist, a wide range of interests. He can get at him care of Joe Willits.

I thought I might be over myself next month on an invitation Joe Willits made for me; but I had to get back here too soon for my prospective hosts, and the date is now fixed for Jan. 10th or 12th in the New Year. I shall descend upon the Institute with or without an invitation.

Make sure at that September party that you see my friend Michael Polanyi, the Professor of Physical Chemistry at Manchester who seems to me to be the one good political philosopher we have. And make Walter see him; I have told him I am writing.

I hope you are all flourishing. What has happened to those boys of yours? My two eldest are back at work out of the Army and the _____ left school for the Navy last summer. My friend Helen has just finished a two years nurses training at Darlington Hall in Devon and goes to a school near Oxford to teach next month. Hicks will tell you about me. The chief change in the last year is that by securing Hicks _____ and Loveday as fellows Nuffield becomes a real entity for the first time.

But I can't think about all that sort of thing. I am on the Norfolk Broad with Helen and John, and it is only a wet day that has made me write this letter before I get home. It is my second holiday, since I have already had a fortnight sailing ~~###~~ on the west coast of Scotland with Alan Anderson whom you probably met with Arthur Guinness. I thought I was going to miss it because I had been asked to advise the Ministry of Fuel in preparing their case before the Tribunal which was setting the compensation for the

nationalized coal mines: however my evidence was called two days before I was due to go off. It was an interesting job; nearly all the arguments on both sides were bad, and Tribunal's questions in accordance since _____ the kind of economies which lawyers are prone to, but I feel the answer was about right. Coal is a bad business; fancy a Labor Minister thanking the E.W. Railway - in Parliament - for converting their locomotives to oil fuel!

Well, I wish I could see you. One reason I left the Bank was that I wanted more freedom to move about, and I have found I have less. You must come over here,

Henry Clay

FROM THE WARDEN

on paper

NUFFIELD COLLEGE

17 BANBURY ROAD • OXFORD

Telephone: OXFORD 48323

17 Aug. 1946

My dear Wain,

I wonder whether you would care to invite J. R. Hicks (the wife) to visit the Institute. He sailed a week ago, & will be in N. America till Christmas. He is visiting Harvard, N. York, Washington & Chicago, where he has friends; but he seems to know no one in Princeton (Hugh Viner is a friend of his). He ought to meet you & Walter, but he is not the kind of person who forces his way in anywhere without an invitation. Is there not some party in September he could come to? or is there a time he should avoid?

I have got to know him properly only recently - since he came back to Oxford as a research fellow of this institution. I have now a great respect & admiration for him; I also like his wife who has qualities of order &

much of the evening which he looks & many people intensely
 resort in a woman. I asked the Rockefeller Foundation to
 ask him on, because they had never visited America &
 I thought he would gain a great deal from a week between
 Manchester & Oxford. He has a beautiful mind and, though
 a very abstract economist, a wide range of interests. You
 can get all his % for Wills.

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 invitation for Wills made for me; but I had to get back
 here too soon for my bookish work, & the date is now fixed
 for Jan. 10 & 12 in the New Year. I shall descend on the bookish
 work as without an invitation.

I take you at that September party that you see my
 friend Richard Polanyi, the Professor of Philosophy at
 Manchester who seems to me to be the most profound
 philosopher we have. And make Walter see him; I have
 told him I am writing.

I hope you are all flourishing. What has happened to
 more boys of yours? My two eldest are back at work out of the
 planning & the first is now back for the Navy (air) service. They

friend Helen has just finished a two year master's training
 at Dartington Hall in Devon & goes to a school near
 Oxford to teach next month. Horke will tell you
 about me. The chief change in the last year
 of my teaching Horke, Charles & Lucy &
 follows. Napier became a real entity for
 the first time.

But I can't think about all that sort
 of thing. I am on the Napier Road with
 Helen & John, and it is only a wet day
 that has made me write this letter before
 I go home. It is my second holiday, and I
 have already had a fortnight's sailing on the W.
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Well, I wish I could see you. One reason I
 left the Bank was that I wanted more freedom
 to make about, & I have found I have less.
 The work came over here.

Henry Clay

Clay

September 17, 1946

Dear Henry:

It was wonderful to hear from you. Your letter came while Dorothy and I were up at Cape Cod. I was not, however, sailing. The weather at the Cape this summer was rather humid, to say the least, and we were contented to stay in the house.

I have just written Hicks. September is practically impossible as a time for a visit, with the people he ought to see and ought to see him simply not around. Accordingly I am trying to arrange for a date somewhat later in the year.

I have kept in a sort of remote touch with your activities through Loveday and others. It sounds as though Huffield is getting organised. Hetherington, when he was here the other day, reported glowingly on your Huffield conferences. I judge you are getting the techniques under thorough control.

I have been scattering my interests more than I would like, but I suppose that is inevitable. During the last year I spent considerable time and effort getting studies organised on social and economic aspects of atomic energy. We are getting to the place where we may have a few decent reports. I have also been devoting considerable time and effort to our common interest: world economic policy. This summer I have been slaving writing a report on American Foreign Economic Policy for the Twentieth Century Fund. It is finished at last -- at least I hope it is finished, the other members of the Commission have still to give it their final okay. If they do, it ought to be issued very shortly. I doubt whether it will meet your approval (judging from your Foreign Affairs article) but I think it will have your sympathy.

You can't imagine the thrill of genuine pleasure that went through your friends in Princeton with the word of your Knighthood. We all bask in reflected glory.

As ever,

Sir Henry Clay
Huffield College
Oxford, England

Sir Henry Clay died July 29, 1954 in hospital in Middleburg,
in Holland, where he was on a holiday, after a road accident.