

Albert
(Granny Cooper)

1, Beach Villas,
1st Avenue,
D'court

Dec 15th '18

Dear Mother & Dad.

First of all, Dad. I am going to turn you absolutely green with envy. Last Wednesday I went for a trip down "Submarine Avenue" viewed all the "U" boats. I really must tell you all about it in detail so here goes. I went, of course, with the school as a "teacher," but I went to Parkston alone met the children just outside the station. George introduced me first of all to two other teachers whom I did not know, & finally I was handed on to an aunt of Mrs. Mann, who was also an "extra teacher" & we brought up the rear of the procession. When we got on the quay we had to first go on board across the "Dido" to our boat which was lying the other side of the "Dido". Everything was made as easy as possible on account of the children. I got a seat on the boat (more by luck than skill) in the bow within hearing of the coxswain who explained various points to us.

We steamed first towards the harbour's mouth & saw several of our submarines & also the first three U boats to surrender, one of which was a large one of the "Deutschland" class. We then went over towards Shotley & viewed a large battleship of the U.S. Navy. It looked very much like a passenger boat as most of the deck was taken up with cabin room instead of being clear of everything except guns as our ships are. Lying beside her were an U.S. submarine & submarine chaser, a weird looking vessel. As we turned to go up the river towards Wratness one of our submarine chasers overtook us & passed close to us. It was shaped very much like an ordinary submarine, rather longer perhaps, but no higher out of the water.