

Mum's Diaries

When we cleared My mother's house in 2014 after her death I found three diaries in one of the bedside cabinets, dating from 1939, 1940 and 1941. They are all small pocket size diaries but the first two she used as a journal and made an entry every single day of both years. I could see they were full of writing but didn't have the time to look at them in more detail so I threw them in with a load of other papers and forgot about them. During lockdown I found them while I was searching for some family information and decided it was time to do something with them. So I set to and transcribed them.

I spent quite a while pondering whether I should read them at all but decided that Mum had had plenty of opportunity to destroy them if she didn't want them read after her death. They had moved with her from house to house and into new items of furniture so there was no way she had forgotten about their existence until she forgot about everything and it was too late. In any case there is nothing really damning or embarrassing in them. Some quite funny stuff about schoolgirl crushes (for which she uses the word "pasch") and some really interesting stuff about the war, particularly the Battle of Britain which was raging all around her in the summer after she left school. The '41 diary has far fewer entries but records the developing relationship between her and my father which is quite sweet.

They are written a lot in note form and I have kept to Mum's capitalisation, spelling, grammar and punctuation (or lack of them!) as much as possible. Where I have occasionally added a letter, word or punctuation I have put it in square brackets []. Where I cannot decipher a word or phrase I have either put my best guess or a question mark in curly brackets {}. Normal brackets are Mum's own (). She sometimes wrote "and" as a quick squiggle and sometimes in full. Computers don't do squiggles so I have substituted the ampersand instead, "&".

I realised part way in that she also frequently recorded her menstrual cycle in these diaries (most women do) and I was going to omit that. However, there are certain entries which don't make sense unless you know she was on her period at the time. E.g. her frustration at not being able to go swimming for several days of the family holiday in August 1939. She also makes reference to her friends' cycles at times, often using the expression "it" in the quotation marks. So I decided to include this detail. In the 1939 diary she records it as a capital P in a circle. I got bored trying to find out how to replicate that in the Microsoft list of symbols so I compromised and used (P). In the '40 and '41 diaries she uses a cross and four dots symbol of her own design but I have continued with the (P).

I should also point out the unfortunate fact that her Uncle Ted and Auntie Irene had a dog called Nigger. This apparently had no connotations for any of them at the time other than that I presume it was black.

1939

January

1st: **Sunday** Looked after Dusty

2nd: Went to Peggy's party. Wasn't very nice.

3rd: Went to Sutton.

4th: Went to Margaret's. Saw Judy the pup 12 weeks old. Went to pictures.

5th: Went skating. Saw ice ballet.

6th: Evelyn came to tea. Played monopoly.

7th: Didn't do anything in particular.

8th: **Sunday** Took Nigger down to Grays. He was sorry to leave mother and sisters he cried a lot, perhaps through teething.

9th: Went to Sutton with Evie. Lucky with trains. Got 2 lovely film books.

10th: Jean phoned up to ask me to go out for a walk in the morning. Poky's outing was very enjoyable. Never enjoyed myself as much.

11th: I went Roller skating with Evie & Madders had to take beastly brother.

12th: Met Jean too early. Caught bus went to Epsom. The picture Robin Hood was awfully gd was thriller.

13th: Went to see Pygmalion with Margaret. A jolly good film. Mummy and Dad went in the evening and enjoyed it very much. Mummy said Robin Hood was one of the best pictures she had ever seen.

14th: Went to Blizzi's party ate an awful lot of chocolates and many sausage rolls. Mr. Blizzard broke my present from the treasure hunt but he is going to get me a new one.

15th: **Sunday** I did not do much. I finished 'A Girl of the Limberlost' a super book. Evie has now lent me '13th Hour'

16th: Read a whole book in bed got up at 10.45. Jolly good book. Went skating in the evening wasn't very crowded. It was marvellous.

17th: First day at school. Wasn't too bad. Miss Dunn was back. Miss Hart (mean old thing) gave us some awful arithmetic homework.

18th: Waggi gave us some awful Latin prep. Jean told me she had had an accident when going home on Tuesday. Knocked down by a car. Bruised.

19th: Overslept this morning and Aunt Nell called me at 7.30. I was dreaming of Nigger. I walked home with Jean although we came out early I did not get home till 4.30. We dawdled. We went ice skating again because we did not go last week.

20th: Went to the pictures with Jean and Margaret to see 'Adventures of Tom Sawyer'. It was jolly good. Marvellous acting. Got into bed at 9.35.

21st: Couldn't go for usual walk in the morning because of rain but went in afternoon. Just after dinner Denis took me up to the library where I got Peregrine's Progress. Car was nearly out of petrol.

22nd: **Sunday** I read half my book went round to Evie's in the afternoon stayed to tea. Evan bought me some film books. Lovely pictures of Tyrone Power.

23rd: Poky got cross with Tubby, T in a violent temper. I was cross with poky. Jean didn't know geography prep so phone[d] me up. Went to bed at 8.30.

24th: My unlucky day. Had a lot of rotten homework and Jean tore my coat. Mother was a darling and understood although I felt a beast.

25th: Miss Hart (mean old thing) sent Bickie & I to detention for not getting 2 sums right - old hag. Band Waggon was mighty good.

26th: Jean & Ros had violent argument over painting prep. Went skating in evening & Mr. Pocock was there with Michael but not Poky. Gave Dad a skating lesson. Gave us brooches as 'marks of {esteem}'

27th: Went with Margaret to see 'Alexander's Ragtime Band'. It was marvellous. Poky gave Tubby a mark of esteem.

28th: Went for walk with dog + Evie. Went to pictures to see "Rich Man, Poor Girl" it was jolly good although I had to use my pocket money. Went round to Evie's. Mummy couldn't get my skating frock material.

29th: **Sunday** Asked Evie to come for a walk but she had a cold so phoned Jean & went with her. Started fixing feather trim on bed jacket. Had a bother.

30th: I had an accident. Some barmy man knocked me off my bike and I was taken to Fulham & Cheam Hospital. I had two stitches put in my head. Mrs. Skinner was my witness. Doctor came 9.30p.m.

31st: After the sleeping draught that the doctor gave me I had a very good night. I woke up without a headache but today was one of the most boring days in my life. Allowed no books, wireless, visitors or excitement. I was supposed to go to sleep but I didn't.

February

1st: I have written a letter to the Lower Vth quite long but full of utter rubbish. Doctor came about 4.30 and said that I must have no one in my room until Sunday. Not allowed to read but to knit.

2nd: Had nothing to do all day. Kathleen bought me some candies, jolly nice. Miss Newby came to see me but she didn't stay long. Mummy bought my wool for jumper.

3rd: Finished the ribbing of my jumper but I got in such a muddle with the pattern that I had to do it again. Evie came round and brought some books and read another bit of "Beau Ideal"

4th: Evie came round in morning. Jean came to see me. I let cat out of bag by saying E. read to me. Eve must have had a huge dinner for she didn't come round till 3.20. Courtesan {Sake}

5th: **Sunday** Doctor came very early, 10.30. Said I could get up for 2 hrs & have a visitor for a short while. So Mummy phoned Jean and she came down to see me. I got up at 4.0 & went to bed naughty girl at 7.0.

6th: I got up at 12.30 & had dinner up. Went for a rest at 3.0 got up again @ 4.0. I read a lot of my book 'Beau Ideal' although I don't know whether I'm allowed to.

7th: Went for my first walk since Jan 30th. Mum & I went out with Sandy & Dusty. Mum went to Village in the Evening & got me a library book 'Lonely Road'. Evie brought round some film books and a toffee apple.

8th: Mummy went to the Village in the morning. Keith had to stop in bed all morning because he had a temperature. Waited for the Doctor to come all afternoon but he never arrived. Auntie Vera came.

9th: Finished my book 'Lonely Road' in bed. Went up to the shops and talked to Mrs. Skinner on the way. Mrs. Callow came to see Mummy in the afternoon. Keith is still at home although he is not in bed.

10th: Started reading 'An Old Fashioned Girl' that Margaret lent me. We got our dartboard and Ted and Evan came in. K. & I did not do much playing. Evan made a good joke about "night starvation" and sleeping in the larder. I like him.

11th: Jean phoned up to say that she hadn't been down in the week because she had had such awful homework so I'm glad I was not there. Had some more games of darts. Cursed Mr. Bleak for running into me because I am not allowed to see 'Marie Antoinette'.

12th: **Sunday** In the morning Jean came to see me. She is sending 6 valentines to J.J. In afternoon we went to Auntie Irene's. Nigger had had a fit. Uncle had brought me a basket of fruit thinking I was an invalid.

13th: Not much {doing} nowadays. I finished 'An Old Fashioned Girl'. Learnt that there is a job in an insurance office for Denis so he has written. I only hope he gets the job so's we can be rid of him.

14th: Took 4 pictures of the dog. Spoke to Eve over the fence and through her window because she has 'flu'. Denis has 2 offers of a job & written for the other. He doesn't know which to have.

15th: Went on reading 'The Ghost' quite good. Evie came for a walk with Keith & I in afternoon. 'Band Waggon' was jolly good, although Stinker wasn't there. Stinker wrote nice letter to author.

16th: Had some amusing times watching Judy with a stone and ball round in our garden. Phoned up Stan and Veda. Learnt they were getting married on Saturday. They told me they had got a dog for Veda's company, {not ?}

17th: Eve still at home through flu. Went for a walk with me as usual in morning. She came round in the afternoon and we 'did film stars'. Finished sticking in lots of film stars Jean {I.} Cooke had given me on Sunday.

18th: Went out with Sandy as usual. Eve went to Stan's (her brother). I played darts with Daddy and Keith in afternoon & played Monopoly and won with Jimmy, Keith & Daddy. Denis learnt he could not get his job at the steel foundry because the other boy hadn't left.

19th: **Sunday** Keith took Sandy out with Jimmy in the morning so I went out with Evie with no dog it did seem queer. Wore my new pyjamas. I played a game of darts with Denis. Evan came before we finished.

20th: My first day back at school after my accident was greeted by exclamations of 'Hallo Babs'. Miss Hart wouldn't show me how to do some sums I had missed (mean old thing).

21st: Woke up at 6.20 am started reading at 6.30. We had 1st Aid yesterday. The person is nice who takes it. A lovely sunny day. Had some awful prep by the way. It is my turn to do history diary (curse it).

22nd: Wasn't such a bad day. Only had a rotten alg. prep. I had to go by bus because the day was awful, raining. Daddy came for [me] and took me back in the car. Mrs. Lewis came for tea.

[Addendum] Mrs. Lewis is mother of Mary, Buddy etc.

23rd: My fourth day back at school was not so bad but I've got the bloomin' History Diary to do. Daddy told me all I was to put in it. Went on reading 'Jane Eyre'.

24th: Went to pictures to see 'Carefree' it was good. Margaret said when she saw me "I'm so glad to see you again". Yesterday we beat Up.V in a Netball Match.

25th: Went to pictures with Fink in afternoon. Saw 'Hound of Zaroff' & 'Free to Live'. Went skating in the evening and I was nasty to Keith by saying he showed off in front of {Martin Collier}. After that he left me alone and I was rather hurt.

26th: **Sunday** Took ages to darn some stockings in morning then went out with Eve & Jean. In afternoon Mum, Dad & Keith went out in car and went for a walk. Aunt N. Stayed behind to do marmalade. I stayed with her.

27th: Went out with Jean in {morn}. Eve couldn't come, washed her hair. Went to tea with Evie and then went to Plaza to see "The Lady Vanishes". It was terribly good {&} I like Michael Redgrave & Margaret Lockwood.

28th: Today I have finished the diary (thank goodness). Miss Harte promised us all detention if we did not do our Geometry better. It was a rainy day but Blizz took {me in car Joy brought me home and took me back}

March

1st: Forgot to say 'March Hares'. Keith went to Uncle and had a tooth out because it was bad. Went to Margaret's in car with Denis because I was in an awful muddle with the {?}

2nd: Finished 'Winds of Fortune' my favourite book. Took the dog out. Mummy, Aunt Nell, Aunt {Colty} & Keith went to see "My Lucky Star". Margaret {P?} and I are going tomorrow.

3rd: (P) Got all hot and bothered in Geometry. I was afraid I'd have to go to detention and I was meeting Margaret at 4.0. We went to see 'My Lucky Star' and 'Penny Paradise'. They weren't bad, P.P. best .

4th: Started with Evie's help to make a skating frock. Went skating in evening. Jim Burr came with us. Mr. Addison was taking me round and I tripped in a hole in the ice and hurt my seat. I can't waltz.

5th: **Sunday** After yesterday's fall was unable to go for walk. Denis witnessed accident at Cross Roads had to phone police. Man knocked over.

6th: Denis went for first time to office. It was lovely having dinner. Should have been in gym team but for back. Went on reading 'These Old Shades'.

7th: Went to pictures with Evie and Stella. Met Stella at 5.30. Saw Fredric March & Virginia Bruce in 'There goes my heart' it was very funny but good.

8th: Miss Pasley was in a violent temper. Poky was her victim. I believe she made her cry (the old cat) did my arithmetic in {the?} morning in the bathroom.

9th: Joan got a lapse from Grousie unfair of course. I got a lapse from Miss Hart for forgetting to get book out. Asked her at beginning of lesson said I could get it out later. Then gave me lapse.

[Addendum] Got a book from library "Masqueraders" by Georgette Heyer same author as just been reading 'These Old Shades'.

10th: Felt as though I'd die today. All mistresses seemed to have their knife into me. Went to pictures with Evie & Stella saw 'It's in the Air'. Laughed all the way through.

11th: Was not a very successful day. Weather was rotten. Stayed out all the morning got fatigued. Had my hair washed.

12th: **Sunday** Didn't do anything in particular. Went for a walk with Mum, Aunt N. and Mrs Burleton & Margaret. Saw lots of gypsies. Finished 'The Masqueraders' marvellous book.

13th: Nothing happened of particular interest. Came in first in Skipping Race heat. Had a row from Muriel (not Jean) for setting a bad example. Mummy finished skating frock.

14th: Got a row from P. about complaining about missing our games. Miss Dunn had fallen down and hurt her very much.

15th: End of BAND WAGGON almost cried. Keith did. Jean got into a row by The Hag. Pounced on once more.

16th: Got rid of lapse (hurrah). Winnie gave Dizzi a lapse for having a dirty paint box. Macky & Fink got lapses from her but pleaded to be let off. She let them off.

17th: Went to see 'Suez' with my head in it; Tyrone Power. He was simply marvellous but the film was sad. I am now pretending to have a pasch on J. Johnson.

18th: Went for a long walk in morning. Finished knickers to skating frock. Took Evelyn skating in the evening had a marvellous time. Can now go round. Wonderful feeling.

19th: **Sunday** Wasn't a very nice day. Went out for a walk with E. it rained (This d. climate). Stayed in bed reading 'The Wounded {Name}' (marvellous book) until 11.30.

20th: Muriel tried to {put} blame on me in singing but wasn't singing for had a sore throat. So bad stayed at home in the afternoon in agony. Keith had one too but not as bad.

21st: Woke up with a thick head & a very bad cold. Had to stay at home. Miss Newby came & I look a veritable rake. Keith home as well.

22nd: Still at home. Went to library got up to top of road had left book at home had to run and get it. Got out 'Berry & Co' D. Yates. Very funny. {last sentence indecipherable-tiny script crammed in at bottom of page and pencil very faint.}

23rd: Went to Court, got there 9.30. Case did not start till 10.15 app. Mr. Bleeth got off lightly, had too good a solicitor. Gave a piece of wrong evidence.

24th: Dad had letter from solicitor. Compensation, when expenses paid is [to] be £14-0-0. £1 for Mum {rest?} for Dad. Went to see the Citadel. Robert Donat was marvellous. So was Rosalind Russell.

25th: Went up to London & bought a dance frock. Pink net. A lovely frock. Went to Ewell Castle School Concert. Very good show. Went to see 'You Can't take it with you'.

26th: **Sunday** Didn't get up till 12.30. Literally. I did not do anything only read over some books, played the piano & made myself useful.

27th: First day back at school after staying away for a cold. Jean's hair looked positively lovely. Had some barmy English prep.

28th: Miss Hart (mean old thing) made me do the Geometry I had missed as extra work. I am pretending pasch on J.Johnson. {Kath/Rather? ?} have a lovely frock.

29th: Ascham won singing cup. We had {'The plays'} because some forms are to be in quarantine. Got to a lovely chapter in my book. I could {'? ?'} leave it.

30th: Watched {Ranyard Mission} Plays, payed 4d. P.K. took crush photo away from me but gave it back. Good for her.(P).

31st: We had a foul General Knowledge paper. Couldn't do any of it. Went to Plaza and saw 'The Return of the Frog' and 'Mum Carey's Chickens'

April

1st: Cambridge won Boat Race by 4 lengths. Went to dance had a lovely time but Pat Dupe wasn't there so we were odd. Some men got drunk.

2nd: **Sunday** Didn't get up 'till almost 1 o'clock. Got a long way in in book. Better than I thought it would be. Took dog for a walk.

3rd: Had results of G.K. Exam. I got D as usual. Jean got C+ clever girl. Very amusing marking baby's papers. Na{n/m} has asked Jean to tea.

4th: Had some awful arithmetic prep. (mean old Hart). Eliot won Music cup. Miss Newby given me Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata to learn. Brahms Waltz.

5th: Nothing unusual happened got Co{mms} 'from Waggi'. Barmy D.P.S. went for some science prep it was so difficult I think none of us did it.

6th: 'Broke up' Norma & Muriel won Exams to colleges (clever things). I got B-. Went to see "Young at Heart" with Margaret. Jolly good.

7th: Didn't get up till 10.30. Had 2 Hot Cross buns for breakfast. Went for a long walk in morning on Banstead Downs.

8th: Went to Sutton in morning on byke with Keith. He had to get a new bycycle and wanted me to accompany him. Went skating in evening. Out of practise. Got a new pair of shoes in the afternoon.

9th: **Sunday** Went down to Grays. Jean in bed with flu (poor girl). Nigger better. Has not had a fit this week which is unusual.

10th: Went with Pokey and Margaret to see 'Stolen Life' & Wayne Morris in 'The Valley of the Giants. Both jolly good.

11th: Was the loveliest day we've had this year. Was out all the morning. Went to Sutton to get frock material in the afternoon. Mac was taken home.

12th: Another lovely day. Went for a walk. Finished summer frock all but hem and neck in one day. Had a card from Margaret asking {another indecipherable few words crammed in at bottom of page in faint pencil}

13th: Was invited down to Margaret's to stay the night. Went to the pictures. Saw 'If I were King'. Jolly good. Went to bed at 10 o'clock.

14th: (P) Stayed in bed for ages. Finished 'Beauvallet' lovely book. Margaret's reading it now. Staying another night. Sent note with Auntie to Mother in Sutton.

15th: For the first time in my life I used a public telephone. Did not recognise Daddy's voice. Went skating in the evening. Margaret came but was not allowed to skate. Had lovely time.

16th: **Sunday** Started reading 'The Crooked Furrow' by Jeffrey {Farrol}. Margaret reading 'Trail {Trial?} of White Knight'. She likes it. Went for a very long walk on Headley Common with dog.

17th: Mummy took Evie, Margaret, Keith and I to see 'The Great Waltz'. It was lovely. Saw the gypsies coming for Spring races.

18th: Daddy sent off 5/- to Tennis Club. Am now a member. Went up to Epsom Downs to see races. Took Margaret to see what it was like.

[Addendum] You see Margaret did not know what they were like.

19th: Went to Sutton to collect tennis racket been restrung. And got stuff for fancy dress for ice carnival
29th.

20th: We took Margaret skating again. She had P. Had to borrow belt. It was a lovely day. We were out of doors most of day. Had both {?}

21st: Was a beautiful [day]. Had both doors of dining room open 1st time this year. Uncle {Vis} came to fetch Margaret in the car. They brought Judy.

22nd: Went to Sutton. {Hotter?} day. Took Sandy with us. Bought a lot more pieces for our fancy dresses.

23rd: **Sunday** Simply ghastly day. Such a contrast with Friday. Didn't venture out of doors until after tea. Made bolero of frock.

24th: It was a rotten day. Not as bad as yesterday though. Cleared up in the afternoon & evening and we got in some tennis. Joy came to ask me to play tennis on Wednesday.

[Addendum] Miss {Dixon?} sent a card. Had an impression taken of my teeth. Uncle has got to send up to London for a tooth. {indecipherable crammed in at bottom of page.}

25th: It was Margaret's birthday. She came here and we celebrated it by going to the pictures. Saw 'Out West with the Hardys' & 'Hard to Get'.

26th: Played tennis in the morning at the club. Got my false tooth put in. It hurts a bit and Uncle had to file a bit off. I have not {indecipherable crammed in at bottom page}

27th: My plate annoyed me and I had to take it out when I ate. It is too {small?}. Took children for a walk. Evie went to school on Stella's byke.

28th: Had another game of tennis at the club. Uncle filed a piece of my bottom front tooth. Oh it does hurt. Spent afternoon with Pat, Keith and June.

29th: Played tennis with Joy, Miss Skinner & Joy's friend Audrey. Went to Fancy Dress Ice Carnival at Purley as Gypsy. Saw Cecilia Colledge. Marvellous.

30th: **Sunday** Foulest day in April. Raining all day long. Didn't get up till 10.45a.m. Went round to Evie's in afternoon and stayed to tea.

May

1st: Forgot to say 'Rabbits {?}'. Another awful day ditto of yesterday. Didn't get up till late. Had my hair washed. Pa{t} saw me with my hair in curlers.

[Addendum] Daddy went to see Miss Pasley.

2nd: Another rotten day not so bad as yesterday. Did not start to rain till after tea. Didn't do much but read & knit.

3rd: Last day at home school tomorrow. Wasn't such a bad day. Went to Sutton in morning. Cut out Mum's dress in afternoon & went for a walk with Evie.

4th: First day at school. Not so bad. Had an essay for History Prep which I think was rather bad. Went for a walk with Jim & Keith then went mice killing in Jim's shed.

5th: Went to pictures with Margaret. Saw 'Cowboy & Lady'. It was good. Walked down the road with Geoffrey. It was rather a nice feeling.

6th: Went to tennis with Joy and Audrey. Went skating in the evening. Went to see Audrey in Nursing Home in afternoon.

7th: **Sunday** A most energetic weekend. Daddy & I got the lawn ready for tennis. I mowed, he rolled then we both marked. {?} played game of tennis with him &{A?}

8th: Was a lovely day. In afternoon put on summer frock. Had an awful lot of homework. Went straight from school to tennis club with Joy.

9th: Another lovely day. I really think we have got our summer at last. Found that I'd done today's prep yesterday. Did some gardening.

10th: Had a card from Marg. has seen 'Rage of Paris' but will see it again. Learnt that I may have to play in away tennis match on Saturday. Stops getting {?}.

11th: It was a cool day and a cold evening. Walked - rode home with Jean. Had some fun when Evan was with Denis while he was filling in Police Form.

12th: Learnt I was not to play in tennis match tomorrow. (hooray!). Went to the pictures with Jean & Margaret. Saw 'The Rage of Paris' & 'Man with Wings'. Both jolly good films. Got home app: 9.45.

13th: Another energetic day to start the weekend. Played tennis in the morning with Audrey only Evie watching. Went to Sutton in the afternoon. Then coming back walked with mummy from asylum across bridge, home, to give Sandy a walk. Went skating in the evening (Phew). Got a {?} pattern of beach frock at Sutton and nice material too.

14th: **Sunday** Another energetic day making weekend. Went to church in the morning (wonder of wonders). Had to walk up to drive. Played small game of tennis in afternoon. Cut out dress.
[Addendum] Went out in car then took dog for a walk in evening.

15th: Blankety-blank Muriel went and sneaked on Tubby for not wearing a hat. Tubby had to go to Miss Pasley and of course came out crying.

16th: A drastic evening. Pa got cross with me because I wanted to listen to the wireless while doing prep. Spilt ink on cloth. Mum cross. Of course being weak I cried.

17th: Another appalling day weather being concerned. Went, like yesterday to school by bus. Mummy has almost got ink out of cloth with lemons.

18th: Last night Denis made a terrific row on the doorstep. Woke me up the selfish thing. Went on doing my frock. Had some peculiar graphs to do for Geography prep. Almost forgot to do History Diary.

19th: (P) A better day. Finished History diary (hurrah). Came home early, didn't play tennis, went to Flicks with Eve. Saw Errol Flynn in "Four's a Crowd" and "Angels with Dirty Faces" both jolly good.

20th: Went to see staff match in the morning & Miss Dunn made me umpire. Got in an awful mess. Jean had Kelvin coming to tea; she didn't want to be there so asked me to go to the pictures. Saw "The Wa{?} Case". Jolly good.

21st: **Sunday** Didn't go to church (naughty girl). In the afternoon we went out and took our tea. Went the other side of Hurtwood. Tried to fly Keith's aeroplane, wouldn't go.

22nd: A lovely hot day. Waggi gave us about fifty Latin words to learn, only learnt 20. Pasley caught Joy riding without a hat. (Phew) (fin P)

23rd: Joy, as usual, did not get a whigging but the P. spoke to the whole lot of us. Learnt Jean has joined Tennis Club. Started reading Jim Maitland, Uncle Fred has leant me.

24th: Derby Day. Not much traffic, had to get own dinner. Mummy went with Evie to see a Matinee Doctor's Dilemma. I should have gone but had to go to school.

25th: Wasn't so hot today. Georgie died at least Mum found him dead in the morning. Walked & rode home with Jean. Had a game of tennis with Daddy, Auntie & Keith.

26th: Margaret came over in afternoon. I had it off for Whitsun. Went to pictures. Saw "Say it in French" with Ray Milland & John Howard in "Arrest Bulldog Drummond"
[Addendum] Have a passion for Bulldog Drummond pictures especially when John Howard plays Hugh Drummond.

27th: Got some things for coming birthday. Pen & shoes. Winnie the Pooh for Jean Cooke. Jean B. and I went down to club. Key was missing so she came here & played on our court.

28th: **Sunday** Went to Uncle Ted's. Celebrated Jean's and my birthdays Mon & Tuesday. Took 3 pictures of Nigger, one he moved the other sorrowful. The next in a group.

29th: Went to Galleon with Mr. & Mrs.W. & Stella & Evie. Pat, Peter & Ray Galla{?} Bill & Tom, Stella's & Pat's policemen. Tom, Pat, Stella, Ray and I all went down the shoot together, it was great fun.

30th: My birthday. Am fifteen. Got £1-10s, a fountain pen, propelling pencil from Evie, pair of shoes and think am going to have waterproof cover for racket.

31st: Jolly cold day. The P. got cross with Tubby for getting a lapse. Jean getting friendly with Poke & Ros, me left out.

June

1st: Jean so-so. Had a pain, couldn't come to school in afternoon. Got star for Latin & A- for French. Had trouble with goldfish in forbidden area.

2nd: Went to detention consequently I have a lot of prep. Went swimming with Margaret stayed in about an hour but I still wasn't cold. Came home and am now boiling hot phew.

3rd: Went to Blizz's tennis party. Thought I wasn't going to enjoy myself but had quite a nice time. Borrowed the 'Quest of Youth' from her.

4th: **Sunday** Went to the sea. Of course got terribly burnt. Am now going to put on some Calamine Lotion. Evie came as well. A horrible lot of jelly-fish in sea.

5th: The blankety-blank people next door left dog out in garden last night. Woken up at 1 o/c. Kept it up for about an hour. I didn't burn too much.

6th: Went swimming in evening with E. Had a lovely time, once I got in by going down shute. It is hot. Have window open. Still don't burn too much.

7th: Yesterday was supposed to be hottest day of year but I think today was. Meant to go to bed early but shan't be in till 9.30.

8th: Went to swimming baths with Jean in evening. Left there about 6.50. Have seen some baby fish in pond. About 1cm long.

[Addendum] Fish look like a thread of cotton with knot for head.

9th: Margaret came round. We went to pictures. Saw Richard Carlson & Louis Hayward in 'The Duke of Westpoint' lovely. Simply marvellous story in it. Nearly went for detention. Didn't know French.

10th: Went to swimming baths with Evie and 3 friends. Stayed in water from 3.30 to 7.15. Went to tennis club in morning with Jean.

11th: **Sunday** Had Mummy's office friend Mrs Pearce, husband and daughter Joan. Joan is very pretty. Lovely eyes and nice hair. Had to get home to boyfriend at 10 so left at 7.30.

12th: Cold day. Some girls went swimming with school (Brrh) Had chicken stew for dinner (yum). Went to tea with Peggy & Fink at Peggy's. Was terrible storm last night. (SBP)

13th: Awful cold day. Going to bed with hot water bottle. Diana got so exasperated in Geometry she cried and went to matron with a headache. Got A for History. Miss {Rayner} thought it was good. I thought it was bad.

14th: Must remember Fink owes me 2d. Another cold day not so cold as yesterday. Wrote to Margaret. Saw films of school at new cathedral.

15th: Keyworths moved to Sutton today. Jean wild with Rozzi but not for long. Going on reading "Northanger Abbey" a very dull book. Took dog for walk on Downs.

16th: Went to pictures with Jean & Margaret. Saw "Topper takes a trip" screamingly funny. About woman ghost. Jean & I did not have to say Mrs Bell's French, hooray.

17th: Had a fine run round neighbourhood after strawberries. Travelled from Sutton to Epsom back to Cheam then to Banstead & on again to Sutton. New neighbours moved in today. Clark is name. Only seen 1 child so far.

18th: **Sunday** Went to Auntie Irene's. Nigger has grown. Had lovely strawberry flan Mummy had taken down there. Went out in car in late afternoon & it came on to rain.

19th: Came out of school early. Saw 164 bus outside school with no engine & thought it had broken down but there had been a dispute and a policeman was settling it. Walked home with Jean.

20th: We spent most of the morning practising exits & entrances of Saturday's 'do'. In afternoon we had singing practice instead of Geometry test (hoorah). Wrote a card to Margaret then letter came from her so had to write another.

21st: We had another rehearsal this time for indoors. Had tiff with Rozzi but made it up. Mummy & Dad went to Grandma's, Keith out, Denis out so was left alone until Aunt came home at 8.0 with strawberries.

22nd: Didn't do much work today because of drawing exam. It was a rotten misty day & by the time we finished games which we had by ourselves, there was not an inch of curl left in my hair.

23rd: Another awfully cold day. Had dress rehearsal of gym display. The grass was wet so we had it indoors but I pray it might be fine tomorrow. Am now reading lovely book 'The Convenient Marriage'

24th: (P) Had Music Festival wasn't {bad?}. Was a bit nervous. other than that had good fun with Miss Newby. She bought me some chocolate (good old sport). We had gym display it was wet so we had it indoors.

25th: **Sunday** Finished 'The Convenient Marriage' in bed. A lovely book. Got in a muddle with some machining. Went out in car after tea. Got in to trouble for some of Keith's doing so lagged behind in huff.

26th: Part of day sun shone but Mummy lit a fire in evening. Lost a tennis match today but no wonder, it was against Jill & Joy school's best players. Mummy met & spoke to Mrs Clark new neighbour.

27th: Got a lapse for not giving history book in. Raynor very nice about it. A much nicer day today had 2 lessons outside. {Crowley?} still going for poor old Jean. Poky got lapse.

28th: Have come to bed with bad cold am waiting for lemon and whisky. Gave in lapse today the P. quite mad. Am now reading "The Conqueror" by Georgette Heyer.

29th: Stayed at home with cold. Mother went to village in morning, took back "The Convenient Marriage" which I lent to Evie. Got up at 11.45. Uncle Fred came in evening & tried to {?} me for being up late. [Addendum] I can't help it if his kids go to bed at 6.30. I am fifteen & after all it was on[ly] 9.30 & I had had a bath.

30th: Another day at home but went to pictures with Margaret. Saw delightful picture 'The Sisters' with Errol Flynn & Bette Davis. Evan called & I opened the door to him.

July

1st: Saw Robertson Hare at Garden party up road at Bidmead's. Went to tea with Evelyn. Afterwards played tennis with Evie, Stella & Dad then Stella went round to write letters so Keith played.

2nd: **Sunday** Went down to Auntie Irene's. Mummy had two injections. Nigger still growing. Jean gave me some film stars. Jose & mother & father came in evening. Didn't take much notice of Jose.

3rd: Had term holiday & spent it in very energetic fashion. Went for a walk & played pink pink pong in morning. Went to club & played tennis [in] afternoon, played tennis in evening.

4th: Went to school today. Wasn't in a very good temper. Got a book out of library for Evie. The nice girl in the library will save 'The Talisman Ring' for me until Friday.

5th: It rained today. The fish in the pond are getting bigger. Finished 'The Black Moth'. Yesterday was Tubby's first day off (P) poor kid but still I don't like her. She and Blizzi get worse every day.

6th: Poky (the silly fool) brought a large "hanky" to school in preparation of the tears she will shed when seeing the 'Dawn Patrol' tonight. Got 'Talisman Ring' out of library. Uncle came in evening.

7th: Jean sent out of room by Grousie. Went to see 'the Dawn Patrol' with Margaret. Lost my English book there asked attendant for light & found Margaret's gloves, purse and curlers. The film was lovely.

8th: Went to Sutton with Evie. Got book back as easy as anything. Went to Keith's sports in afternoon. The first time it has rained on their Sports day for the past 16 years.

9th: **Sunday** Was a windy day. Nevertheless we went to Lancing. Water was warm because of wind and rough. There were no jelly-fish thank goodness but there was a lot of seaweed. Evie and I had two swims.

10th: Was rather late in from Games for Grousy's lesson. Told us to report ourselves to the P. Had a test on Northanger Abbey although I haven't read it I only got 2 mistakes.

11th: Have now caught 7 baby fish, 3 fantails & 4 goldfish. Joy & I had to practice tennis instead of doing Gym. I am hurrying to finish the 'Talisman Ring' for Thursday.

12th: Ros gave in lapse. The P. very cross. Got A for Scripture. Went to Swimming baths with Peggy, Poky and Jean. Got 'St Martin's Summer' out of library.

13th: Got a lapse from Winnie today but don't think I'll give it in. It wasn't fair. Had to play tennis with Joy instead of Gym. She was in bad temper. Auntie Vera came to tea. Uncle came down, first words 'aren't you in bed yet' to Keith.

14th: Went to flicks with Margaret. Went to tea with her. Took Judy out. Got home late. Missed a bus. Daddy very cross so was I. Miss Newby took me to Sutton.

15th: Jean phoned up & we played tennis at club. Caught more fish in afternoon. Went to Sutton after tea. Bought sun glasses & 5/11 bathing hat. Went and brought Grandma to spend week with us. Bought also last Sutton wool to make bolero with & also white linen to {?} {?}

16th: **Sunday** Went to Lancing. Took Evie & Grandma. A few jelly-fish there. Stayed in water all the afternoon except for about 15 minutes rest. The 2nd time Evie & I took our bathing costumes off. Lovely feeling.

17th: Nearly got a lapse. Left Northanger Abbey at home but managed to borrow one from Remove. We got our new Greenacre magazines they are rather mouldy for a 1/-.

18th: {?} Skinner was in a better temper today when I played tennis instead of doing Gym. Have felt rather moody today. I suppose that is the thought of tomorrow's geometry exam.

19th: We had Geometry exam today. It wasn't bad. Evie had rheumatism so I went round to see her. When I was there Tom phoned Stella up. I saw dance-frock she is making.

20th: Had History & Latin exams today. Both awful but Latin worse. Grandma has finished altering my little pink coat. Have got up to armholes of knitting bolero.

21st: Another 2 ghastly exams, science & English. May have passed in English but probably failed in Science. Went with Margaret to see '39 Steps'. It was very good.

22nd: Went to swimming baths in morning with Jean. Water quite warm. Went to Sutton after tea. Mummy bought me 2 skull caps (red & white) & a grey skirt. Went straight from Sutton & took Grandma home.

23rd: **Sunday** We went down to Auntie Irene's. Took Nigger out for walk in afternoon in a wood that reminded me of a jungle. He enjoyed the walk so did I. I finished the back of my bolero, started front.

24th: Only {?} more exams. Hurrah. Awful algebra. Didn't get half way through the paper. French was pretty ghastly too. Got C for Latin & English. Went out in evening with Aunt Nell. Got caught in heavy shower. Sheltered in houses being built.

25th: Had the last two exams today. Geography & Arithmetic. Both quite nice. Didn't have enough time to finish the arith. Stayed up till 9.45 doing white coat.

26th: Went to P.Kilby's party. It was rather stinking because Miss Dunn was there otherwise it was all right. We played rounders, Jutland & Murder. I was the murderer once.

27th: Broke up today (hurray). Last I see of Rosalind (Boo Hoo). Had an interesting talk with Muriel about baby goldfish she was quite decent then. She & Norma are leaving as well as Nan & Jill.

28th: Been busy packing up for holiday tomorrow. Can't think whether I've got everything. Went with Margaret to see 'Midnight'. It was very good. Have taken dog for 2 walks today. Saw 19 Barrage balloons.

29th: Got up at 4.30. Had a pleasant drive down. Stopped at Ludlow to have dinner. Awful weather. Feeling depressed. Have got a lovely bedroom. Only room for a bed and a small place to walk about. Woke up at 5.20.

30th: **Sunday** Went to Tallybont in the morning, there we had a nice swim though water is colder than at Lancing. It has been a lovely day except for wind. We went over the river and went for a walk of about 5 miles. I was tired when I got back.

31st: Was a windy day so we did not go in bathing. Went over the other side of the river. Was very tired and did not feel well in the car. Went on {bumper} boats in evening & stayed on for an hour & 20 minutes.

August

1st: (P) The people in our room are very nice. Went for a 90 mile trip round Lake Bala. Nice young man at the boats took Keith in his boat & gave him a trip. People of house very noisy 11 o'clock at night.

2nd: It was a terribly rainy day so didn't swim in the morning. Went in sitting room with rest of crowd. Started writing a letter to Evie but didn't finish. Came to bed at 11.0

3rd: The morning was quite sunny but windy. Parents went for bathe. Water cold so am not missing much. Went for a walk called Panorama Walk. Ricked ankle. Came home tired to find another visitor had sprained his foot.

4th: It was the best day we have had on holiday today. Went to Lake Bala & went out in a rowing boat. Had some good fun at boats at night with 2 boys they said oh! when we had to get off.

5th: It was another lovely day today. Went mountain climbing again. Nice young soldier treated me to electric boats. Name Chris, age 17, home Lancashire, work joiner. He was nice.

6th: **Sunday** Went to Tallybont in morning am still unable to swim (damn). Went to Lake Cwmlych am. Wanted to paddle but could not (damn). I have had rather a boring day. Don't think I can swim tomorrow (damn).

7th: Went in bathing today nevertheless. We went to Tallybont in the afternoon & the Swanstons, the people sharing our dining room, & we, had a good time. Dad & S & co complained to Mrs. Roberts.

8th: Had another swim but today was much colder than yesterday. Went to Aberystwyth in the afternoon. Had some fun on the bumper cars.

9th: Had a lovely long letter from Evie today in which she told me that Sandy has bitten Nigger. While playing Lotto at night the lights in room went out and we had to use candles.

10th: Had a lovely bathe this morning. The waves were very high. The Thomson's & Swanstons came with us. I like Mr Thomson. Went on boats. Got very friendly with boss-eyed man taking in the money.

11th: Last day at Barmouth. Not altogether sorry. Had lovely last bathe. Sea was very rough. Went for last go on boats. Was not very enjoyable. Did not get free ride we were promised.

12th: Started home at 8.45. Stayed in Oxford for tea and Hereford for dinner. Mrs. Roberts didn't say good-bye to us. Arrived home at 8.00. First person we saw was Auntie Irene with Sandy.

13th: **Sunday** Went into Auntie's room at 8.0 to see Nigger. I am sleeping in Aunt Nell's room and bed. Had tea out in garden. Played tennis after tea. Aunt Nell & I beat Denis and Evan 6-4.

14th: Jean is only eleven and she has started (P). Went for a walk on Banstead Downs. Played tennis this afternoon. John Balls came along.

15th: Margaret came to tea. Took 2 pictures of Nigger but he moved out of one before I could take him. Went home with Margaret.

16th: We got to sleep very late last night. Ate the 2 plums Uncle Fred gave us. Went to pictures. 'Yes my darling Daughter' & a Bulldog Drummond.

17th: Got up quite early at least not late and found our way to Kew Gardens. It was a lovely day. We stayed there all day. Took dinner.

18th: Went to Purley Way swimming pool this morning it was lovely. Daddy came for me to take me home because I had to get home early to go to theatre to see 'The Dancing Years' it was the loveliest thing I have ever seen.

19th: Took Auntie, Uncle and Jean home. They have been spending their holiday at Banstead. Stayed with Jean. Awful thunderstorm during night. Jean did not wake up.

20th: **Sunday** We didn't do much. Drew frocks for Jean's paper doll. Auntie Rose and Auntie Ella came over. Went for a walk with Nigger and Uncle Ted.

21st: In the afternoon we travelled to see Gravesend marvellous swimming pool. It was crowded and there was a storm when we got there so we didn't go in.

22nd: We went down into Grays for some shopping. Took Nigger for four walks, 3 times to the shops & then for a walk. Uncle has taken him again.

23rd: Had a marvellous time this evening. Uncle Ted took us to the pictures to see 'Jesse James' with Tyrone Power, it was lovely. U{?} bought us some sweets and we sat in the circle of the New State Cinema at Grays. We did it in style. Ty.Power was wonderful.

24th: Had planned to go to swimming baths today but could not because of the weather. It was warm but not sunny. Went to Grays with Uncle in evening to do some shopping.

25th: I was surprised out of my life last night. Because of the crisis, Daddy & co came to fetch me from Jean's it was a blow and I was very annoyed.

26th: Still at home. Went for walk with Evie as usual. In afternoon she, Stella and I went to see Ray Milland in 'Hotel Imperial'. It was very good. Had tea with Evie.

27th: **Sunday** Because of the crisis Daddy had to go to work today so Denis took us to the seaside. He had Evan so he was not lonely. Went in for 2 swims had a lovely time.

28th: Am getting ready for evacuation if it comes. I hope it does not. Am praying so. Went to Sutton and brought a pair of suede shoes and slippers.

29th: The weather now perfect. Went for a walk this morning. Just missed the children. Lay out in the sun this afternoon. Jean B. has been called back from holidays.

30th: Didn't go to swimming baths today as planned, but went to flicks instead. Saw "Love Affair" with Charles Boyer and Irene Dunne. Was good. And 'They made me a Nazi spy' also good. Nice man in it.

31st: At 2 o/c Muriel Knight came to tell me that at 4 o/c we were to be evacuated. We left about 4.35 in a coach. We stopped in the Cathedral town of Winchester. Arrived at Dorset about 9.15.

September

1st: First job was to write to Mummy and Daddy. Had to wash up tea things. Couldn't go out to explore because of rain. Were put into a bedroom (Jean & I) with the Besses.

2nd: (P) Have changed our bedroom. Were put into a bedroom on the top floor opposite the staff bedroom so we can be heard talking. Jean & I share our room with Peggy, Poky & Macky.

3rd: **Sunday** Had to get up later, 8.30 instead of 8 o/c. Went to Church it was rather fun. Betty & I had the giggles. Went out in the afternoon & almost lost ourselves.

[Addendum] On Sept 3rd 1939 War was declared on Germany by us.

4th: Received a parcel from Mummy. Apparently she has not got my parcel yet. Sent me knickers, socks & tooth box but no sweets which I asked for. Also got a letter from Evie.

5th: Waggi came in and told us we must go to bed early tonight because we were talking. Received a parcel from Mummy she has sent some sweets (hooray). We all went for a picnic had to take stinking Meg Douglas.

6th: Had to change our bedroom because we are having a French window put in. Jean, Poky and Macky & a few others went swimming. Stinker, Fink and I were out in the garden reading.

7th: Jean wrote a beautiful letter to Kevin. Poky received a letter from Michael. Jean & I went out together and sat on a hill and took off our shoes & socks. It was lovely.

8th: (FP) All the rest of the dorm went swimming this afternoon but I thought I had better not. Wrote a letter to Margaret in the morning. Joy Skinner came.

9th: Went up and saw the kittens that have not yet got their eyes open. They are sweet. Received a terrific long letter from Evelyn & wrote one back to her, received a terrific parcel & tuck box from Mummy.

10th: **Sunday** Was woken up by three wasps buzzing round me. Went to Church. Wasn't too bad. Went for a walk with Jean.

11th: Stayed in the garden all the morning. Went for a small walk took Hazel the little farm girl. She is sweet. Jose Base kissed me. She has a pasch on me.

12th: It is M.Rider's birthday and in the afternoon we went for a picnic. Am reading "Heartbreak Island". It is very romantic. Did not get a letter.

13th: It was rainy and cool. Received a lovely letter from Auntie Nellie and wrote three letters. Feel I am going to have a cold. Had some community singing.

14th: Weather wasn't so cold as yesterday. Went for a cycle ride in the afternoon. Some Tommies kept waving to us and stopped us getting past their tanks.

15th: Finished knitting my little bolero. It looks rather nice. Stayed in the garden in morn. Went out on the moors in afternoon saw some "Tommies". Went with Jean and carved my name on a tree with Evan's.

16th: Stayed indoors in morning went for a lovely walk with Jean in afternoon. Saw a fawn and a red squirrel. Received a parcel from Mummy and a letter. Sent one back. Did some knitting for Jean.

17th: **Sunday** Get up at 8.30 on Sundays. Went to Church. Knitted in the garden. Read the Woman's Weekly. Miss Rowsell stinks I hate her. I have a pasch on Miss Howe.

18th: The news was very bad tonight. Our best aircraft carrier has been sunk. Russia has made 3 attacks on Poland.

19th: Morn. ride on byke with Stinker, Highness & 2 Birtles. Washed up. The news today very bad. Red made 3 more attacks on Poland. More rescued from Courageous. Hitler made some nasty speeches. Adore Miss Howe, loathe Miss Collins & Dunne.

20th: Played croquet three times today. Won twice. Wrote a letter to Daddy & Mummy. Had a terrific fight with Peggy.

21st Started the new term by getting four rows. One from Waggi, 2 from P. & one from Collins, had a good cry purposely. Received a letter from Daddy saying he is coming on Sat.

22nd: Was not such a bad day today. Went for a cycle ride to Stickland in evening. Now have Scripture with Waggi and Eng. with P. Not so good. Mucked around in morning room.

23rd: Mummy and Daddy, Aunt Nell and Keith came to see me were only allowed four hours then had to go home because of blackouts. Played croquet, 2nd & listened to Band Waggon.

24th: **Sunday** Went to Church. Went for a nine mile ride. Got in a row. Sweet paper etc found on roof. Also slates found off done by workmen. Love Miss Howe.

25th: Lousy day. Awful lessons. Started knitting a new jumper, red, lovely colour. Started reading a new book. Another by Jeffrey Farnol. Moo came to say good night.

26th: Received a letter and a parcel & a letter from Uncle Ted. Lovely. Only allowed to have at Break. Ballroom dancing in evening. Danced with Miss Dunne.

27th: Wrote a terrific long letter to Uncle Ted took $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. Danced in evening. Felt romantic. Fink & Stinker went for a walk.

28th: Had a parcel from Mummy & and a letter in which she told me that dear old Mac had died. I nearly cried. Dunne got very ratty at teatime. Practised netball.

29th: Sent a parcel off to Mummy plus a letter. Did vegetables. Had a nice chat with Peggy. Had some ghastly German pudding for supper but did not have any.

30th: Went for a picnic in afternoon. Anne Pocock simply beastly to me & Jean Bickford. played a game of croquet in morning, won. Everybody depressed at night. Only heard half of Band Waggon because it begins at 7.20 when we are in at supper.

October

1st: **Sunday** As it was first day of month we didn't go to church until afternoon. Spent most of morning writing home, 2 pages to Mummy & {6} to Evelyn. Played croquet.

2nd :Got into a terrific row through writing on tree. Major Rodd stinks. Had to go to Waggi and apologise together [with] Poky. Got to apologise to Mrs Rodd.

3rd: Went and apologised to Mrs Rodd stinking creature. She was rather rotten. Wrote a letter to Denis think I was marvellous. Addressed it to Rt.Hon.

4th: Waggi's little dog has to be put to sleep. I bet she'll cry. Getting on with jumper up to armholes. Hair came out of curl. Did not receive expected parcels. Anne has a lovely dressing gown.

5th: Waggi has let other bit of form go out by themselves. We have to stick in. Couldn't have netball practice, rained. Was not so cold today as before.

6th: Had a letter from Auntie Nellie. Had a parcel from Mummy in which she put no note. It simply poured last night & we all woke at 3.10 am for the rain was pouring in. P.K. had to go out in rain & shut door.

7th: Knit & read on roof in morn. P. & Waggi took me & whole form for a picnic to find short cut to Blandford. Sure it was to dispel two camps in form. Very tired. Listened to Band Waggon. Had headache.

8th: **Sunday** Wrote home letter. Had to give to Waggi open. Hope she didn't read it. Mentioned 'silly old P.' Went for walk in morning. Hair blown out of curl. Won two games of croquet.

9th: Received a parcel with Jean's mother's parcel. Dear Mummy sent me two book[s]. Honourable Mr.{Tawnish} & Geste of Duke Jocelyn. {Jean} has pasch.

10th: Decided to call choirboy Pooh. By mistake {told} Meg Douglass. Jean beastly. Jean bumped head. I was not sympathetic. Received a terrific parcel from Uncle Ted. I adore him.

11th: Went in bed with Peg. last night & night before. Embraced & kissed. Had a simply marvellous letter from Denis. Thrilled. Played croquet in evening. Had to stop. Rained.

12th: Received Revised version of Bible from Daddy. Wrote letter to Uncle. Jean & Poky got lapse from Miss Rowsell. Had bath. Jose has a terrific pasch on me. Did tap dancing.

13th: Have now got some awful rules. Have to open parcels in front of Matron, have to show letters we send. Ruth maid came into dancing. {Rose} kissed Fink goodnight.

14th: Went to Turnworth Post Office with mistress in morning. Played croquet in the afternoon. Won both times. 1st with Jean then with Poky. Listened to Band Waggon. Heard D.Cundall's father was on boat that had been sunk by Germans. Was rescued. "Royal Oak" was {boat?}

15th: **Sunday** I wrote four letters. Went to Church. 'Pooh' smiled at Jean. Poky jealous. Went for exhilarating walk. Found pond. Saw a fawn & a stoat. J. picked some lovely leaves.

16th: 'Thisbe' smiled at me. Have finished my sweets. Went for marvellous walk in dusk. Mist rising from ground swallowed us up. Made up ghostly stories.

17th: Mrs Reynolds told our fortunes. I am to have a land owning man. Well off. Meet him at whist drive. Played croquet. Anne a flirt have 6 kids.

18th: Finished other side of jumper. Macky sat on bed & broke it. Has to sleep with M. {?} etc. Miss Hart in bed with cold hooray. Went in to see her.

Addendum: Germans bombed Firth of Forth did not succeed.

19th: Miss Hart still in bed. Maths alone. Went to see her tonight. Got a letter from Aunt Nellie. Played croquet when should have been doing work for Science cup. Had a letter.

20th: Almost got into a row for coming out ½ hour early from prep. Sure its coming on Mon: Had a letter from Auntie Kath. Cook came in to do dancing. I like her. Did Science cup.

21st: Finished "Hon Mr.Tawnish" in 2 days. Gave it to Fink, she finished it in a night. Now started the "Geste of Duke Jocelyn". Played croquet. Fink smells poor kid. Poky, Jean, Macky, Fink & Di Cundall washed their hairs. Had parcel from Mum, sweets.

22nd: **Sunday** Science cup, Science cup, Science cup. Went to Church. 'Pooh' smiled at me. Went for a walk. Played croquet. Waggi came in at night looked at books. Said nothing about 'Soldier's Lover'.

23rd: *[this date has a cross heavily drawn over it but no suggestion in the text why. It may be an additional recording of her cycle as it occasionally coincides with (P) as in this entry.]*

(P) Hate Anne Pocock. Jean got 2 new jumpers, changed hair and looked very pretty. Had a lovely time during games. Reading & knitting. New table places. Lot of Virgil to learn.

24th: Science cup judged. Wrote a letter to Mummy during prep full of wants. P.K. got a lapse from Collins stinking creature. Went on reading 'Geste of Duke Jocelyn'

25th: Learnt today the parents coming down Friday(by jove). Also having dancing Sat nights that means we miss Band Waggon (errh). Had some awful Geom. prep. Like Ruth the maid.

26th: Found some holly in my bed so did Anne. She took hers out & we put it back again (Ha ha). Finished 'the Geste of Duke Jocelyn'. Had to draw Sandy for art. Very difficult. Getting excited for tomorrow.

27th: (F.P.) *[I presume F.P. means "finished period"]*Ma & Pa came down glad to see them. Stayed at cottage with them in front of lovely log fire listening to wireless. Fell into Thisbe's arms.

28th: Dad took us to Bournemouth. Did a lot of shopping. Made holes in my new pair of silk stockings so took them to Mum to mend. Bought some socks to prevent this.

29th **Sunday** Mum & Dad went home. Do not feel too homesick. They took us to Milton Abbas a very pretty place. Went to childrens service. Ghastly vicar in church. Other one fell out of tree.

30th: Had a bad headache all day. Rested in games & went to bed after tea. Matron quite worried. Ann in bed in sick room feeling hot & cold. Missed prep.

31st: Anne has a cold. Myself better. Got a letter from Mummy & a parcel of books from Evelyn. Jean had sore throat so got into bed, stayed 2 mins & then got out again. Fool.

November

1st: Adore Matron. She nearly got me a lapse. Wrote Mummy a letter. I talked to Mate on landing, heavenly. Jean in bed all day. Anne got up. Jean better. Dr came round school.

2nd: Not much. Had a bath. Stinker got into terrific row from P. Wrote a letter to Eve. Finished my sleeve. Had room changed round. Washed hair. Matron nasty thing about it.

3rd: Anne went home for weekend. We had apple pie beds. Don't know who did them. Believe Ruth, maid. Finished knitting jumper. Sewed up kneck wrong way. Got to sew in sleeves.

4th: Bad indigestion all day. Came to bed early 8.45. Had hot peppermint drink given by adorable Matron. Could not dance with parents, so couldn't play piano (hurrah).

5th: **Sunday** Church. Pooh & Thisbe both gave terrific lovely smiles.. Adore Matron. Was in Anne's pew. Wrote letter to Mummy. Sent a frock pattern.

6th: Received a parcel from Mummy clean jumpers, apples & books from Evie. New vests. Awful preps. {Bick?} hates Anne.

7th: Nothing much. Finished 'The Stalking Horse', good. Started reading 'The Gentleman Adventurer'. Went for a walk instead of games, in rain. Had to change stockings.

8th: Went for a lovely walk in games time. Had some awful Geom. prep. & English. Played piano in Butlers pantry. Read Woman's Weekly.

9th: Waggi got new dog. Kitty, {Jelly?} & Diana went to choose it. I jealous. 'P.' told Poky off for being in kitchen she burst into hysterics. Loathe P.K. she is getting off with adorable Matron.

10th: Got up for breakfast but went back to bed in sick room, got a cold. Got Matron's wireless, enjoying myself. Matron brought me hot drink in morning. Adore her. M.came in with another drink {?}

11th: Am still in the sick room. Thought I'd enjoy but they had a 'Remembrance day' service on. Received a parcel from Mummy. She sent the new frock she made me, sweets, apples & magazines.

12th: **Sunday** Out of sick room. Matron in bed, worried all day in case she'd caught my cold. Went in to see her at night. Heavenly. Has not caught cold, only headache.

13th: Was rude to Matron & she cutting. But was sorry. Wasn't allowed out. Finished 'Gentleman Adventurer'. Felt miserable. Anne nasty, sorry after.

14th: Feeling homesick & miserable. Awful prep. Latin & History. Anne horrible. Matron adorable. Reading 'Sir Isumbras at the Ford'. Adore Stinker 'P'. Played croquet.

15th: Am talking to Matron heavenly. Staff doing play. Making a row. Feel miserable. Cook kissed Macky & Stinker.

16th: Talked to Matron. Wrote a long letter to Mummy & one to Auntie Nell to post as Sunday letter. Had a bath. Anne in bed with a cold.

17th: Matron horrible. Stinker going to get her to apologise. Matron went in to dancing but I went to bed early. {Jean?} jumped at me frightened. Awful prep.

18th: Talked to Matron. Jill Podmore, Pat Reynolds,, Jean Pugh & Stella Honey got pasches on me. Had a humiliating experience. Matron rude about my hair. Stinker stood up for her of course.

19th: **Sunday** Been collecting Funghi for Science cup. Awful stinking thing called Stinkhorn. Mucked around with Pam & S.Birtles. J.Podmore etc humiliated me when with Matron, I cried.

20th: M.Millner kissed me. I like Jill Podmore very much. Can't reason why. I like M.Millner too. Matron caught me going to say good-night. Kissed Stinker.

21st: Matron in an awful temper. She despises me I think. Kissed Stinker, lovely. P.Reynolds kissed me. Pam called me a sloppy mess.

22nd: M.Douglass says she does not like me. I despise her. S.McKnight agrees with her. I like J.Podmore very much. Went & said good-night to her.

23rd: 'P.' in awful temper. {Stinker} had row. M.Millner got house mark, walked about without slippers. A.Dick & M.Leese rowed for housemarks, both went to 'P'. Had a tuck box.

24th:Danced with Jill Podmore. Taught her tango & saw Matron with her hair long. Could not make rude remark it looked too nice. Said good-night to Jill Podmore's dorm. Adore Matron. Wrote letter to Margaret.

25th: I had to kiss J.Podmore & J.Pugh good-night to get them away from me. I did not mind it. Listened to Band Waggon. Stinker had to go to bed early for talking last night.

26th: **Sunday** Went to Church. Wrote Sunday letters. J.Podmore walked home with me. M.Millner held my hand in Church. Went down at night in dressing gown to listen to Prime Minister's speech.

27th: Very humiliated. Matron caught me say. Goodnight to J.Podmore & J.P. Knows I do it every night. Feeling sad. Don't know what she must think of me. I adore her.

28th: [*Date crossed through again and coincides with (P)*] (P) Matron's birthday. Felt ill at breakfast-time had to come up to bed. Went down & played hymns & Stinker hurt me. I think J.P. has gone off me.

29th: Went and sat with J.P. during games. She was in bed. Nice time. Stayed up quarter of an hour later to listen to a concert. Have to sit with little ones at supper. {Powers (eg)?}

30th: J.P. turned me out of Butlers P. Me offended. Thought she'd gone off me, hasn't because she kissed me. Rowed S.Honey for housemark. Kissed J.Pugh. A.P. kissed M.Millner. Russia has invaded Finland.

December

1st: Dancing. J.B. miserable. A.P. palling up with M.Rider. Kissed J.P. & J.P. Auntie Nellie sent me 2 batteries after a great deal of trouble. Awful preps. Did not go for a wet walk. Stayed in form-room while Rowsy gave a Geography lesson.

2nd: Long walk past Hedge-End. J.P. & J.P. Came in before gong dressed as ghost. S.Birtles dorm. had guided them up the stairs. Miss Rowsell caught them & they all got housemark, 1 hours hemming.

3rd: **Sunday** Church in which we had the banns to Winnie's marriage. Anne horrible to Anthe. Started reading 'These Old Shades' but have to go on reading 'The Gleam in the North'. J.Pod. sat next to me in Church. I like her.

4th: Found out J.Pod. has a pasch on Kitty Vaughan & A.Pocock so I am not so pleased. Had a lovely long walk with Matron. Hate P.K. she makes up to Matron. A.P., J.B., D.C., J.S. & Stinker told to do ½ hours work at 7 o'clock for lapse.

5th: Kissed J.Pod & J.Pugh. After tea A.P. came to bed, so did S.Birtles & B.Vaughan. J.B. threw a knife & tore my stocking & my leg. Revising. Housematch with Colet. Ascham won 20-9. Hurrah.

6th: J.Pod. still on me. Strange. Kissed her. Anthe & Poky sloppy. Matron nasty. Finished reading the Gleam in the North & started reading 'These Old Shades'. Revision for exams tomorrow.

7th: Arith. exam. not bad. Awful lot of revision for History Exam tomorrow. Had a tuck box & lovely letter from Mummy. Says Daddy is going to take me skating when he is on leave.

8th: Kissed J.P. & J.P. good-night. Stinker & Macky got a row from Waggi for being in kitchen. Not allowed to go near it for rest off term. Had two awful exams today History & French.

9th: Wet day. Just seen staff play. Absolutely marvellous. Matron superb. J.Pod. in a temper. Left in a huff. When I went to see her she cried and I had to comfort her. I like her. I think I know her better now. Wrote a letter to Margaret.

10th: **Sunday** Kissed J.Pod. & J.Pugh. Wrote a {?} letter home. Have decorated our room with holly. Went to Church. Went for {?} walk. Staff photographed in 'clothes'. Revised. Prefects had tea with P. Went to Stinker's party.

11th: Matron nearly kissed me, Anne in way. Almost promised for end of term, said 'Perhaps'. Algebra & English exam. Alg. absolutely revolting, English not bad. Ros Dunne kissed Peggy with much hugging. Slop.

12th: Awful Geom. exam. Not bad Geography. Did 3½ questions out of six for Geom. Kissed Jill Pod. Am revising for science. Had extra Latin (Virgil) with rest of form. Don't know any more for it.

13th: Feeling in a bad temper. Stinker been mouldy. Awful Latin exam. Science not bad. Got C for Geography & C+ for English. J.Pod. & J.Pugh kissed me, did not kiss them. Only 2 more days.

14th: No more exams. Hurray. Did vegetables, cook let us off some though. Decent of her. Had a letter from Mummy. Stinker feeling (kissy) kept kissing me. Kiss J.Pod. & J.Pugh.

15th: Am excited. Going home tomorrow. We have just had a small feast. Had Ascham house {party} did quite a lot of work. Walked around with present for Matron but she never came up. Kissed J.P. & J.P.

16th: Came home in coach. Started about 8.15. Got to Banstead about 12.45. Denis met me in car. Had a lovely dinner (Batter pudding). Went to Sutton in afternoon. Had to come home by train because of black out. Had lovely butter for tea. Went to see Auntie Kath in her new house in Parsons field road.

17th: **Sunday** First day at home. Joey has got used to me & comes out on my shoulder. Went for a walk with Eve in afternoon. Was going to borrow book of Mr. {W} but I heard him arguing with Stella about borrowing books so though[t] I had better give it back. Spent evening singing carols with family. [Addendum] at 11.45 Sunday night Graf Spee, pride of German Navy, was scuttled by crew.

18th: Awfully cold. Put up trimmings. K. went up tree to get some holly with berries. Went up road with Auntie Kathleen & Sandy. Did some shopping. Bought some Christmas cards & sent some off. Went & met Evie off the train. She came to tea & we played {Geog?}.

19th: Went skating in morning with Daddy & Keith. Marvellous, only 11 people skating. Went to pictures in evening with Evie, Stella & friend Margaret. Saw baby Sandy in 'Sandy takes a Bow'. Quite good. Very humorous.

20th: Went skating. Stupendous. Captain of Graf Spee committed suicide. Took Joey up to Grandma's. She gave Keith & I 5/- each for Christmas present. Feel a cold coming.

21st: Took dog for walk. Called in to see Auntie Kath. Went down to Grays. Saw Nigger. Brought Jean back with us. Went to bed at 8.15. Did not have a very good night.

22nd: Took Evie skating in morning as birthday treat. Gave her some stockings for present. Had hair cut. Went to tea with Evie played Geog. Ate chocolates & roast chestnuts.

23rd: Frosty. Went up to village in morning got two library books. One for Keith & 'Blackshirt {takes} a hand' for myself. Did a bit of shopping. Went up to station to meet Uncle Ted & Aunt Irene. Brought Nigger.

24th: **Sunday** Went to Church. Sandy came from Auntie's by himself. Must have got under their fence. As he had given them a disturbing night we have had to bring him home. Sung Christmas carols.

25th: Had powder, scent & compact from Uncle Ted. Stockings from Auntie Addie. Writing case from Auntie Nell & skirt from Mummy. Little sweets from Mrs. Coltson. Evening we played 'murder' & {'dumbcrando?'}. Evie came round.

26th: Went for a walk. Auntie Irene went home. Went to tea with Margaret. So foggy she asked me to stay the night. Phoned Mummy from Public Box. Went to flicks saw 'Treasure Island'.

27th: Stayed with Margaret for dinner. We walked to Sutton & back in morning took Judy with us. Left after dinner because M. going to theatre. Came home went to tea with Evie.

28th: Started snowing in morning. Went to Sutton. Went for a walk in afternoon with Evie & Keith. Had snowball fights. Threw snowball at Auntie Kath's window to draw attention.

29th: Still snow on ground. Went out for walk with Evie & Keith + Sandy. Snow was not good enough for snowballs so we took Keith's toboggan. Feel a cold coming. Had some hot lemon.

30th: Took back library book that Nigger tore up. Woman very nice about it paid 2/6 & kept torn copy. Peggy phoned up to ask me to go out with her so we walked up to village together. Jill P. sent me a Xmas present & a letter. Two very nice hankies.

31st. **Sunday** Woke up with a very bad cold. Went out for walk in morning. Saw Auntie Kath. Went round to Evie's in afternoon. Spent aft. knitting & jawing. Came round at 7.45. Found Keith had finished book got yesterday.

[The diary now includes the first 6 days of 1940 and Mum has filled these in, even though she also recorded more detail of the same 6 days in the 1940 diary which has more space for each day]

1940

January

1st: Changed library book got 'They Found him Dead' by Georgette Heyer. Went to Flicks in afternoon with K. & E. Saw 'Andy Hardy Gets Spring Fever'.

2nd: Went up to Dr with Keith to be immunised against Diphtheria. Awful. Hazy in the street. Went for a walk, made 2 cups of tea. Am in a bad temper.

3rd: Got up at 9.30. Finished 'They Found him Dead'. Good, guessed right murderer. Finished Mummy's socks, started my own & heard Arthur Askey in pantomime.

4th: Got up at 9.30. Evie came round to ask me to go to flicks told her I wasn't allowed out. Finished one of my socks, Mummy started other. Mum, Dad, Aunt & Denis went up to Aunt Kath's.

5th: Finished Eothen in bed, not so dry as I thought it would be. Still got hacking cough. Mummy took pen into Sutton, may be done on Saturday. Went to bed 9.30.

6th: Got up at 10.0 dressed downstairs. Finished my socks. Started one of Mum's. Played Patience in morning. Auntie Kath came down at 7 o'clock stayed till 7.30. Went to bed at 9.30.

1940

January

1st : **Monday** First day of the New Year. Finished 'Death in the Stocks', very good. Guessed the right murderer. Got up at 11 o'clock after Mum had brought up porage. Went up to village to change library book. Took dog. Got out 'They Found him Dead' by Georgette Heyer. Promises to be good. Went to flicks in afternoon. Saw Andy Harvey gets Spring Fever". It was very good. Saw 'Are you a Mason' with Bonnie Hale and Robertson Hare, very funny. Went to bed at 9.35 with a cold.

2nd: Got up at 10.30 after reading half way through my book. Went up to Drs. at 12 o'clock and had injection against diphtheria. Came out of surgery feeling very hazy and with a singing in my ears. Keith had injection too. Both felt sick. Wrote a letter of thanks to Jill Podmore. Went for a walk with dogs, Keith in afternoon, saw Auntie Kath. Made two cups of tea for each other. Auntie Addie called in with kids. Auntie Kath came in. {Ann} in a bad temper.

3rd: Got up at 9.30 because I had to get down into warm room. I wrote a letter to Matron. Had Scotch (mutton) broth for dinner. Finished reading 'They Found him Dead' good, guessed the right murderer. Read the 'Woman's Weekly'. Read a few pages of 'Eothen'. Got a cup of tea in afternoon for Mummy, Keith and I. Then Mummy & K went to Auntie Kath's. Finished knitting Mummy's socks, started my own. Heard Arthur Askey in pantomime.

4th: (P) Evie came round to ask me to go to pictures tonight. Told her I was not allowed out but asked her to come on Saturday. She is going out however so I shall not see the picture. Wrote a letter to Anne, broke my pen nib in doing it. Played a lot of "patience" today, especially 'racing demons with Keith. Still got a bad cold. Finished one sock and started the other. Listened to a good play on the wireless called Africa Flight. Mum, Dad & Aunt went to Aunt Kath's.

5th: Have still got my cough. Jean phoned me up about appointment I had made with her. Told her I wasn't allowed out. Finished Eothen in bed, not so dry as I thought it would be. Learnt another 120 French words. Had oxtail soup, then fish cakes for dinner. Am now reading 'Murder at the Keyhole', not bad. Mummy went to Sutton, took my pen, may be done next Saturday. Listened to pantomime "Mother Goose" on the wireless, quite good. Went to bed 9.30.

6th: Have still got a bad cough. Have now read half of 'Murder at the Keyhole', good. Played 'patience' with Keith in morning. Read and knitted in the afternoon. Auntie Kath and Unce Russel came down at 7 o'clock, stayed a while then went. Auntie said it was black outside and they had difficulty in finding their way. Listened to 'Garrison Theatre' at 8.0. With Jack Warner and Charles Shadwell. Had some lemon and whiskey. Went to bed at 9.30.

7th: **Sunday** Got up about 10.30. Finished reading 'Murder at the Keyhole' in bed. Started reading 'Murder on the Links' in the morning. By the way I finished my other sock yesterday. Am now knitting one of another pair for Mummy. Evie came round in the morning to ask me to go for walk, told her I was going in afternoon, asked her to tea. She came round in afternoon just as we were going for walk but stayed with Mummy till we got back. Auntie Kath came for walk.

8th: Got up at 10.30. Went up to shops. Went for a walk with dog & Keith. Called in to see Auntie Kath but she wasn't in the front room so we didn't bother her. She called while we were having dinner however and took dog up to the shops. Went to tea with Evie. {Earn?} came so left at 8.30. {Firms?} made a victory

captured an 18,000 Russian Division. Hore-Belisha resigned from War Office on Saturday. Went to bed 9.15.

9th: Mummy went up to butchers' while we were still in bed. We did not have breakfast in bed but Mummy said we ought to have a proper breakfast before going to the Doctor's. Mummy came up with Keith & {} to take back the 'serum' for me to take to Turnworth. Met 'Fink' and Peggy in village. Went to 'flicks' in afternoon saw George Formby in 'Come on George and Jackie Cooper in 'What a Life'. Took Keith. Germany holding up war materials sent by Italy to Finland.

10th: Had to get up at 9.0 a.m as Mummy wanted me to go to Sutton. Phoned up Miss Newby to tell her I would call I on my way from Sutton, got all dithery on the phone but was all right when I got to her house. Spent a pleasant hour talking to her. Went out for a walk with Jean & Evie. Miss Newby asked me to go to tea on Saturday. Went to tea with Evie. Had a lovely letter from Matron. Went to bed at nine o'clock.

11th: Keith went back to school today. He'd heard that he had passed 'The College of Preceptors' exam that he took last term. Daddy is very pleased and has given him a shilling. German planes over North and East England. Went up to Aunt Kath's when taking dog for walk. Went up again after dinner to post a letter for Grandma as Aunt Kath had gone up to town. Went to 'flicks' with Evie in the afternoon saw 'The Mikado' and 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'. Both good.

12th: Got up rather late after finishing my book 'Trouble Brewing' by Joan Butler, good, very funny. When I came down Auntie Kath was here, she took Sandy up to the shops then I walked up to her house, called in to see Grandma, then went for a walk. Had my last fish and chip dinner. Went up to town with Mummy met Auntie Nellie and Aunt Kath. Then left Aunt Kath and met Miss Ryman at a 'Corner House' and had tea. Came home in train with no lights.

13th: Got up at 10.30. Went up to the butchers.. Went round the fields with Ann and Audrey. Went up to village to Food Control Office. Had toad-in-the-hole. Went to Miss Newby's at 3.30 p.m. had tea there. Mr. and Miss Newby played the piano to me. Listened to 'Garrison Theatre' on the wireless also Robert Donat in a play. I left Miss Newby rather hurriedly in Banstead High Street and ran to catch a stationary bus.

14th: **Sunday** Got up at 10.30. Phoned Miss Newby to apologise for yesterday but she was out so spoke to Mrs. Newby. Margaret came to spend the day with me, arrived at 11.30. Had my last dinner at home. Finished 'The Definite Object' good, had quite forgotten it from the last time I read it. Mummy is busy mending my clothes for me to take back tomorrow and she and I are busy packing. Had a bath. My last day at home for 10 weeks.

15th: Am now down at Turnworth. Got up at 8 o'clock, left the house at 9.5 am. Had a nice journey down but my feet were cold despite the blanket and eiderdown I had tucked round me. After 3 sausage rolls and a few sweets I felt rather sick but that soon passed off. Had dinner when we got there. Unpacked after dinner. Took our books downstairs. Fink lent me 'The Devil's Cub'. Read it in drawing room in evening.

16th: First day of school here. Not so bad. Am feeling terribly homesick. Spent last night in the sick-room because I coughed until 12 o'clock at night & kept the others awake. Came upstairs to talk to Matron but the 'P' caught me. I cried. Have heard that we are to do extra work also that we are to be confirmed. Had to go back to my own room because Miss Hart is in the sick-room.

17th: Coughed nearly all the night and was kept awake because I was cold. We have got 2 new mistresses in place of Miss Dunn and Miss Howe. They are Miss Orchard and Miss Barret. Don't think I will like either of them. Wrote a card to Mummy to ask about confirmation. The whole school had their temperatures taken by Miss Orchard and Mrs Knibbs as it was Matron's day out. I have still got a cough.

18th: Woke up at 5 o'clock in the morning and did not go to sleep again. Watched the stars wink themselves out. By the way I am form-captain. Wrote part of a letter home. Read an awful lot of "Devil's Cub" have nearly finished it. Had our temperatures taken again today. Mine was normal. J.Pod. came back today. {Peg} in bed after supper feeling bad. Mate given me some cough mixture to share with Peggy. Jealous of 'Anthe.

19th: I am feeling quite happy. I think I have found P.K.'s hot water bottle which means she has mine, which I have been telling her for the last 5 days. Had awful Eothen prep. P.K. is in sick-room with a cold. Others went out & slid on a pond. They were making up a lie about a beautiful young man to tell Anne but Anne heard the plotting. Got "Wuthering Heights" out of the library & locked it in again so had to go and get the key again. I like it I think.

20th: Meg Rider came today. Sheila B, Pom & Dopey were in raptures. P.K. has come out of sick-room because R.Smythson has spots now so has had to take sick-room. J.Crosland has spots now so she has to sleep there also. Called in to see Pat Reynolds yesterday as well as today. Am jealous of Jennifer because Stinker adores her. Jean horrible to me. Know definitely that P.K. had my hot-water bottle. Anne kissed us all good-night. A.P., S.McK., J.B., P.B., J.C., & D.C. went skating on pond.

21st: **Sunday** Wrote a long home letter & a letter to Evelyn. 4 large pages each. Jennifer & Ru{th} Smythson are in the sick-room with German Measles. Had my last injection. It spurted blood & swelled a bit. Do not think the Dr. is as good as Dr. Smallsh{aw}. Have nearly finished "Wuthering Heights" started on Friday. Stinker been feeling bad today. I think Maureen Milner has a pasch on me. We have our temperatures taken every night.

22nd: I discovered that the bottom part of my pen was missing when I went to write. I asked Miss Barrett if she had seen it in the Gym-room she said yes, I retrieved it but it gave me rather a scare at first. I wrote a letter to Margaret. Don't know whether I like Jill Pod. or nor, I think she is going off me. I don't want her to. A pipe burst today so we are not allowed much weather. Had 1st Confirmation class, not so bad. Jean said horrible things to me. Miss Barrett did lights.

23rd: Stinker in an adoring mood flung her arms round me & kissed me when I entered her room. Had to kiss J.P. & J.P. Good-night, couldn't stop them clinging round my neck. Went out in break for the first time since I have been here. Because Barbara Shirley ill last night all her dorm. had to sleep in our dorm. so that they shouldn't disturb her. Mr. & Mrs. Pocock came. Thought I had German Measles but only had heat bump. Miss Strong took lights.

24th: Don't like Jean. Miss Hart back teaching after 'flu. Miss Barrett is working us in lax. Just missed J.P. & J.P. Washed some stockings. Had a quarrel with 'Stinker'. Don't know what my feelings are towards her. Miss Collins looking ill. Am feeling miserable. Matron took P.B. and Pamela Wright to the dentist. Anne restless. Electrician over house. The '{Amts}' [amenities?] won't work. Frozen so overflowing. Got all the hot-water bottles. Am reading "Rebecca". Quite nice-Collins took our lights.

25th: Lax with Miss Barrett. Had game on lawn because lax court is too hard and bumpy. Mate cross because I forgot to have temperature taken at proper time. Had to copy out awful lot of Scripture notes. Another pipe burst last night and we could not use cold water this morning. Stinker getting worse. She had a {b}aked letter from Jennifer from the sick-rom. Feeling dejected 'Anthe "presented her back" at Supper. Had a huge tea with everyone else.

26th: AUNTIE NELL'S BIRTHDAY [heading at top of page]

Am feeling dejected. Mucked around with Jill Pod. Matron promised to come into dancing & never came. Staff made a row, may be doing a play. 'P' and Waggi went away yesterday so they were probably making

whoopee. Wrote a letter to Miss Newby. Went for walk in rain with 'Barry'. Made holes in only decent pair of stockings. Anne opened some vegetable salad, not appreciated by dorm: may be bad. Lovely fried fish for dinner. Anne hid my sp{?} under P.K.'s bed. Had fight with her.

27th: Made a revolting 'blub' scene last night. I hate myself. P.K. Came into my bed and comforted me. Jean and Anne absolutely beastly. Had an awful burst of temper today, was revolted by it. Washed my hair, at least Stinker did. Mummy sent me a letter + book of stamps. She is ill, loss of voice. P.K. fell in pond when we were sliding on ice. She had to run home, have a bath & hot drink. 'P' and Waggi came back today. Am still reading "Rebecca".

28th: **Sunday** Not feeling so bad. Didn't listen to church service this morning, no one did. We had to listen to "Pilgrim's Progress" on wireless. Mucked around with Jill Pod. Thought Waggi was going to be cross about it but she was rowing Matron about shutting their door. Macky knitting jumper for Anne, nearly finished first side. Wrote letter to Mummy and Daddy. Sheila 'B' and 'Pom' had to escape Miss Hart when going up to bed too late. Mate took lights.

29th: P.K. promised not to muck around with Matron but broke it. A.P. & V.H. got lapses from Miss Collins in prep. L IV had supper in dining room while we doing extra, had remains of their supper, sandwiches. Waggi caught Jean writing in extra nearly me too. Wrote a letter to Auntie Nellie. I am afraid I have lost P.B.'s friendship. Ice encasing everything. Made branches and trees fall down last night. Woke us all up. 'Anthe had toothache, A.P. fetched bottle for her.

30th: Jose Bax has had records sent to her for dancing. 6 were sent a waltz fell out & a tango arrived broken all the rest are fox-trots. Wrote a letter to Auntie Kathleen. Am reading "Jamaica Inn" now lent by M. Douglass. Played 'Rugger Touch' on lax field. Jolly good but wearying. Talked to Jill Pod. in morning-room. Jose made me see her dorm, as it was changed. Miss Strong took lights. I like her. Miss Barrett gave the whole form lapses for talking after the light had gone out.

31st: Am feeling very miserable. Trees still falling. Am on the committee for play "Quality Street". Had a comm: meeting in Meg Douglass's room. Went for walk with Barry in slosh. Thawing. Barry let us off lapses hadn't meant to give them to us. Jennifer and {Ruth} up at last. Recovered from German Measles. Got a letter from Margaret. She is lucky. She is going to a dance. Seems independent. Miss Collins gave me a dirty look in French.

February

1st: (P) Wrote a four page letter to Margaret. Am feeling better. Love 'Anthe. Adore Matron. Am feeling horribly jealous of P.K. She is running after Matron. I am sure Mate adores her. It is thawing. P.K. Just told me that she has told Matron all about me not liking her going with her & mucking about & when Matron took lights she gave me a lovely look that will stay with me for always. Had a terrific tea. Got a stomach-ache.

2nd: Adore Dwarf and Matron Dancing. Miss Hart caught me reading in extra work. She was sweet about it. I said I was sorry. Jill Podmore threw a very hard snowball at my ear & neck. Gave me rather an earache. Received a letter from Auntie Nell and Keith & wrote back to Keith. Wrote out my part for "Quality Street". Quite long. Love "Jamaica Inn". Am getting near the end of it. Jean is reading "The Citadel". Have had my bed screws screwed up so it doesn't rock now.

3rd: Went for short walk in the morning with Dwarf. 'Anthe and Fink started with us but couldn't be bothered to go as far as we so they turned back. Finished "Jamaica Inn". A marvellous book. Started "Cold Comfort Farm" lent by Jean. Read some of Stinker's magazines. 'Home Notes'. Got a headache. Mummy sent my parcel at last. Had 'B.B.', Pixie Hood, sweets and wool for jumper. Started jumper. Everybody feeling fuggy. Jennifer in sick-prom with temperature. I had temperature of 99°. Believe hot room.

4th: **Sunday** Stinker and P.K. mucking around with Matron. I did a bit but am now in bed. They are trying to coax Mate out of A.Dick's room. Adore Matron. Got on with jumper. Went for short walk in morning. Wrote home letter. Love Pam Bliz. Did a lot of knitting and reading. Had a church service which Mr Littlejohn took. Matron got back into her room safely. Miss Hart took lights.

5th: Had another confirmation lesson. Bit boring. Pat. Tucker asked me how I liked my 'cremation' lesson. Watched Matron cutting out in dining-room for P.K. Macky & Fink. Got on with jumper. Started reading "The Citadel". I think J.B. is coming back to me. Anne getting jealous. Her just desserts for stealing her from me. Danced the 'Polka' with Bick. Rather exhilarating. Pam Blizzard told me she had a brother in Australia. Don't know whether to believe her or not.

6th: Had pancakes for supper. They weren't bad. Waggi took walk as Barry has lost her voice so didn't go. Started writing a letter instead to Evelyn. Talked with Jill Pod. in morning room she mended my knitting bag. I like her. Had a rehearsal of Quality Street. Don't mind it so much as I thought I would. Awful History prep. Read quite a lot of "The Citadel". I like it so far. I like Jean again now. P.K. still slobbering around Matron. 'P' caught her not quite with Matron. M.Strong T I [took lights?].

7th: Giving up sugar in tea broke it first time I had cup of tea. Went for walk with Rowsie. Went past bull in field, some girls afraid. Had rehearsal of Quality Street'. Jill Pod. gave me a sandwich gave half to Jean. Finished writing letter to Eve. Jean and Anne got 'it'. Joan Richards heard me talking to Macky & Pam & is spreading my speech round school. Told Jean at table that she hated me. Haven't got much water. D{m?}at & Waggi came through dorm. {?} took his hat off and said good night so nicely.

8th: Feel nice Have just been playing piano I expect that's why. Barry gave Macky and Jennifer lapses nearly gave me one but I was getting my pullover. Mummy sent me as blouse pattern and material. Loathsome pattern pretty material, yellow. Had a letter from Margaret. Played lacrosse not bad. Barry seemed to have recovered her voice. Matron came down fire-escape. P.K. came after her of course. P.K.shut her in J.Bax's dorm I let her out.

9th: Think P.K. got Matron into trouble from 'P' because of her mucking about. Cut out part of my blouse. Jill Pod. came into prep today for first time. She showed me some miniature books so kept one of them for a time. She was annoyed. Had a 'Quality Street' rehearsal. Peggy strained her ankle in Lacrosse. Played against Barry in lax. She said to me "Have you ever had a better game than this?" Anne was sick last night so she stayed in bed this morning. Jean cleared it away.

10th: Have been feeling very miserable. Sheila B. kicked my ankle which sent shooting pains up my leg. Getting on with 'Citadel'. Like it very much. Done 116 rows of jumper. Went for long exhilarating walk on moors 'down dale and uphill'. Before walked I walked round garden with Pam & Dan. Nearly all form washed hair. Got a headache. Saw electricity in my hair last night in dark. Nearly all the staff out today. Waggi, P & Miss Hart went to Blandford. All fresh except Collins, Orchard went to Bournemouth.

11th: **Sunday** Spent most raucous evening since we've been here this term. Got wigged by Waggi twice. Stinker and Anne doing rumber. Wrote home letter. Went to church for first time this term, am in a pew with M.Millner, H.Birtles, J.Bax & Jill Pod. They should be in that order but Jill Pod. sat next to me. I liked it, we mucked about in sermon. Miss Collins took our table at breakfast. She was awfully decent. Went for a short walk in afternoon. Got two sandwiches from J.Pugh from their supper.

12th: Another day at school. Nice table place. At round table Mate not there but Miss Roswell. A nice lot to eat. M.Millner, J.Pugh, E.Wilkinson, Pat Tucker & U.Herrmann also there. Another confirmation class. By the way Joy Skinner came on Saturday. Went for a walk in games. All late in school this morning. Barry took

lights. Danced Polka with 'Anthe. P.K. {saw} photo of cousin's wedding in paper yesterday. Barry would not do door. She said it was not done in the staff room. Tried to make her.

13th: Most important event we went for a sprint. Went up hill behind wood, over moors and down road. Finished reading "The Citadel" it was marvellous. Had a letter from Daddy Denis in bed with Laryngitis. Mummy weary of going up and down stairs. Had some rests on the sprint. Fink nasty about {Hypping} battery run out so put in a new one. Awful lot of holes in my one and only pair of stockings. Matron said she'd let me have one of the unmarked pairs.

14th: Wrote 2 letters one to Daddy and one to Margaret. Am feeling angelic. Mucked around with Maureen Millner. Went for short walk in games time. Miss Collins' birthday. Miss Collins gave some of her birthday cake to her form. Awfully decent of her. I like her. Didn't have "Quality Street" rehearsal as Meg Douglass has cold. Anne and Meg did exits with Waggi. Wrote an essay on 'Getting up Early'. Only wrote 2 pages. Miss Collins took our lights.

15th: Am feeling very miserable. Stinker & 'Fink' both said they preferred the wireless when I was playing piano. It hurt me. Had gym, took our tunics off for it the same as Monday. It snowed hard all the morning but it did not last for long. Had French conversation. Did not know what I was supposed to know. Had a strip wash in Rodd's bathroom. Put papier-mache bowl, which I always thought was china, and washed in that. Matron came to our table for lunch.

16th: Am feeling nice. Jill Pod. kissed me. I have been talking to them a lot today. First half-term weekend. Stopped school at 12.0 had prep till 12.30. Tidied till gong went. Had prep in afternoon. Played croquet for about 15 mins. Am reading "Cold Comfort Farm". Barry and Matron came into dance with us. Danced with both. Danced with little 'uns. Molly Copsy would dance with me I was surprised. About the only night I have not felt hungry. Miss Rowsell took our lights.

17th: Am feeling very miserable because Macky was wild with me for not copying out "The British Grenadier" for the singing cup. Have now done an awful lot of my blouse. Am being very energetic and am back-stitching by hand. Had a terrific fall of snow, went out for a walk in drifts waist high. Got awful wet. We took Daniel and kept losing him. Pam had gone out with her parents. We got worried once or twice. Listened to Garrison Theatre. Very good. Had Stinker Murdoch & Mrs. {Feather?}.

18th: **Sunday** Macky in filthy temper. We have been having a violent quarrel about sleeves. I am very annoyed because I took wrong boots to Rowsie to see if they were wet enough to stay from church and listen to service at home. I listened to service then was told that my boots were dry & had to go to church. Sat right next to the boiler in church so I was very warm. Jill Pod. wound my wool & kissed me good-night. Have put in both sleeves of blouse. Wrote a revolting letter home.

19th: Miss Collins came home from weekend out with German Measles. She is in sick room. Rowsie woke P.K and Anne up with water dripping from a flannel. Went in Anne's eye. Was she annoyed! Matron came to our table for breakfast. Talked to her on landing until P.K. came along, then she mucked about with her. Had a lovely letter from Miss Newby. Had another confirmation lesson. Had gym in front hall. Button of B.B came off. Barry asked if it was off anything vital, to pin it up. She is sweet. She took prayers.

20th: Wrote an apologetic letter to Mummy. Inserted one to Auntie Nellie, both feeble. Also I got a letter from Mummy saying that she was going to make me a confirmation frock in ivory white. Don't know whether I shall like it. Played Lacrosse. Washed my hair. Came to bed with my hair wet so dried it on a hot-water bottle. Am feeling rather nice. Jill Pod. and Jean Pugh brought up 2 kipper sandwiches, very nice. Strong took lights.

21st: Am feeling rather miserable because I got a lapse for talking to Maureen Millner. Anne got a letter from Michael and is now writing one to him in bed. Fink and I led the walk. Had a letter from Auntie Kathleen. Had thousands of sandwiches brought up from L IV supper by Jill Pod. Hair did not come out of curl as I expected. By the way, lapse was from Rowsie of course. 'P' very bad now with sciatica. Dr's prescriptions don't agree with her.

22nd: By the way we dissected rabbit yesterday. Very interesting but smelly had to disinfect room also put lavender water on our handkerchiefs. P.K put her hand through the window also, she was trying to push it open when it should have come inwards. Had a parcel today from Mummy with sweets, cakes and honey. Played lacrosse. Some played tennis. P.K. and Stinker got boarder's passes in prep.

23rd: Everybody seems to be feeling fuggy. Only went out once that was to play a short game of tennis had to stop because of rain. The 'P's birthday. She is in bed with sciatica so we went up to see her in break & Kitty gave her her present, an oil fire. 2nd half-term week-end, did not have any prep. Played table-tennis. 'P' had masseuse to massage her, called her the 'lady pummeler'. She had dinner with us. Mate took our table for lunch.

24th: Was a lovely sunny day spent all day, even part of the evening. Went for a terrific long cycle ride to Milton Abbas & Bulbarrow nearly all uphill. Does my seat ache? Do my legs? Spent afternoon mucking around in garden, just like summer. Walked round garden with Stinker in evening. Listened to 'Garrison Theatre'. Parents came. Had tea and biscuits with them, lovely. Then played darts in staff room. Came to bed at 10.15 really 11.15

25th: **Sunday** P.K. has German Measles. Clocks put on so lost an hour's sleep. Was a lovely day. Listened to service in morning then went up to farm and back. Wrote home letters. Got a letter from Evie yesterday saying Margaret is going to have a baby. Had service. I had to read. I was very red. Went for a walk on moors in evening. Was light as clocks moved on. Anne and Macky went out with parents.. Came to bed early.

26th: I feel very dejected. Anne has German Measles & even now she's gone 'Anthe ignores me. Four more people gone down with G.M. today. J.Richards, J.Revell, P.Bass, Anne. Nice table place next to Jill Pod. & Joyce Revell. Talk a lot to J.Pod. 'Anthe at small table with Miss Strong. Everybody looking for spots. Played lacrosse. Had a letter from Aunt Nell. Another confirmation lesson. Measleites now occupying 2 rooms. There are 8 of them. Think Fink & Stinker be moved here.

27th: No more Measleites. Sheila thinks she has but Matron says no but to go to Matron tomorrow morning. Feeling a little less dejected. Rained hard. Went for a walk. Talked to Anne who was at window of Pink room. She, Peggy, Aveth and Joyce are together. They have got Matron's wireless. Last day of pouring out tea. 'Anthe must be desperately in love with Anne, always talking of her. I am sick of it. Started writing letter to Evelyn. Miss Strong inspected Macky once more.

28th: Am not feeling quite so bad today. Am palling up with Fink. 'Anthe using Stinker as a resting port while Anne is in bed. Anne keeps sending 'Anthe notes. Macky has not got G.M. Finished writing letter to Evelyn. Had to write a hasty card to Mummy about torn sheet being mended and not to send me one. Told Jill, Pod. off for not washing this morning, only in fun of course. Peggy and {Aveth} got up in room only. Had history in 'P's room.

29th: Nothing much. Usual school. It snowed so we went out for a walk only through half games time. The other half Barry talked to us about lacrosse. 'Anthe getting off with Macky this {time}. But Macky wild in bedroom so 'Anthe had hysterics. She really cried. First time I've seen her do it. Jill Pod. had washed her

face & ears specially for me this morning. All the Measleites up in Grey Room. Had to wash up supper things.

March

1st: Said rabbits and hares this morning. P.K. back from Measlites. She got up at lunch. Pam Bliz got G.M. Gone to Pink room. Had a parcel from Mummy with Edinburgh rock, chocolate, sheet. {WW's} told me that she could not make the skirt of the pattern for my confirmation frock. Went for run. Me left leg hurts. Rowsie gave Fink a lapse. She also told us not be in the Butler's Pantry. 'Anthe and Macky washed hairs. Waggi told me off for not blacking out properly.

2nd: Lovely day. Went for 4 mile ride in morning. Mucked around in garden after dinner. Listened to Boat Race. Cambridge won by 41/2 lengths. Good old Cambridge. Had gym practice in jumper & knickers. Had all the little ones there. Meg kept making me show them how to do it. Meg made Macky, Jennifer & I go for walk for Science Museum. 'Anthe could not come because she got it. We got tons of bones and several skulls. P.K. Played tennis with Matron lucky beggar.

3rd: **Sunday** Lovely day. Out all day. Went up to farm in morning then mucked around garden. Did same in afternoon till service. L IV played cricket. Went out on roof but were told off by Miss Hart & Miss Wagstaffe. Very annoyed. Wrote home letter. Waggi borrowed Prayer Book in service. Meg Rider read. 'Anthe and Macky think they have got G.M. because their glands are swollen. Jill Pod. horrid at lunch.

4th: School again. Am feeling humiliated, Barry came into Butlers Pantry while I was playing piano and singing Marchela with Fink and Stinker. Anne back from Measlites. Stinker now tasting position of 'Anthe's off cast. Macky been in sick-room all day, she is feeling ill, probably got G.M. Another conf. lesson. Roared with laughter at beginning, he was so funny. Lovely day out. {Sun?}. Barry's birthday. Played lax. Nearly everybody got it [the famous "it"]so only had a small game. Jill Pod. nice at dinner.

5th: Am feeling perfectly heavenly. Uncle Ted or really Auntie Irene has sent me a marvellous white Prayer Book, shiny, just like I wanted and asked for from Mummy. I love it. Also sent me chocolate and marzipan cake. Macky still in sick-room. Waggi got G.M. Pat Tucker ill so Fink is sleeping in our dorm: in Macky's bed. Stinker is sleeping in Pam Bliz's dorm along the end. Had lax. Split blouse 'Anthe very kindly mended it for me. 'Anthe, {Sheila? Stinker?} & I walked round field till 7 o'clock.

6th: Something so funny happened last night. Anne was kneeling by 'Anthe's bed and I was kneeling on Peggy's bed & Miss Collins came in and turned on the light. The humiliation of getting back into bed! Another sunny day. Wrote back to Uncle Ted. Collie gave us Boarders Lapses by the way. Rowsie told us that L V, Upp V & VI are coming to see us confirmed, or as many as there's enough room for. Went for short run, ½ hour. Made more ladders in stockings. Miss Collins took lights.

7th: Sent off birthday card to Keith. Macky is still in sick-room, now with Pat Tucker. Temperatures keep going up and down. Had netball with part of forms that do it with us, other part went for run with Barry. Anne P. took game of netball. Afterwards Barry told us we had made too much row & she had heard us coming back from run. Nurse come to look after the 'P'. Awful person. Rowsie gave us 2 sweets each in art as we had to draw them and they were tempting. Hart took lights.

8th: Keith's birthday tomorrow so wrote a letter to him. Am feeling dejected again but everyone asked me to play piano in drawing-room so felt a bit better after that. Another sunny day. Fink's confirmation frock came. Do not like it very much. Went for lovely run, Barry so busy talking she forgot to run part of the time. Listened to play on wireless. Love "Gone With the Wind", nearly got half way. Pam up from G.M. Showed Miss Rowsell my prayer book.

9th: Am feeling lovely. Told Jill Pod. not to bring me any more sandwiches & she took me into B's P. & made me play piano for her. Afterwards she, P.Reynolds & P.Pugh kissed me. Went upstairs and told her off. She came to me & apologised nicely. Was a lovely day. Bit windy. Had a letter from Mummy. Denis been to hospital for eye treatment. Played tennis with P.K. in morning then went to {Shelter? School? Stickler?} with Matron. Lot of soldiers there. Mucked around in afternoon. Watched a game of Rounders in evening. Jill Pod. gave up blazer to me when I was cold.

10th: **Sunday** Had one of our Sunday night relaxes. Stinker mucked about and we were all roaring with laughter. All rest of my dorm came to bed. Collins came in when we were laughing, after a time she said she'd better go out in case a staff came in to tell us to be quiet. She is a sport. Played croquet. Anne read in service. Listened to service in morning. Told Pat Reynolds to run up hill and back. She obeyed me. I believe I am in love with Jill Pod. Last day of table place next to her.

11th: Di Cundall's birthday. Went to her party. She had lots of presents including musical box which she opened in Science. Heard that we are not going to be confirmed on Friday because we are in quarantine. Going to be on May 15th instead. When P.Bliz told sister Di she cried because she wont see parents. Had awful hot game of Netball, Meg Douglass took it. She in an awful temper. So is Barry. She told us off for dancing the 'Paul Jones'. 'Anthe got prayer book like mine.

12th: My confirmation frock came. Awful, looks like a night shirt. Last night Meg Douglass came rushing in to tell us that we are going home next week as there is a disease in Blandford. Conf: people went to Miss Pasley & she told us all about it. Have just had a very late bath with 'Anthe (at same time) because 'P' been talking to us in her room. Miss Hart came in to say that we could be confirmed at Wareham or {Bene?} Regis with Bishop of Salisbury. Denis got germ in ear as well as eye.

13th: Had 2 more talks with 'P'. Got rather bored. Came out of extra 6.30, changed then went into 'P' at 6.45 and stayed there till 7.45. Played in sitting room after tea. Felt so lovely. Jean helped me dedicate letter to Denis. He has bad eye and ear. Rained today. Had lovely game Netball. We are going to be confirmed next Wednesday. Waggi came out of 'P's room as we were going in after supper she looked a positive sight. Collins in bad mood, took our lights.

14th: Not much. Waggi came in to dinner. She had rest in afternoon, I had to go in to her to get Scripture prep. Snowed hard in the morning but sun came out in afternoon so it melted. Went for a walk in games. Hurried over tea and prep: then changed at 6.45 to listen to "Crooks Tour" on wireless at 7 o'clock. Collins made us roar when turning out lights she said "I heard an awful lot of talking last night," I said "That's 'cos we came up late" & she said "I didn't say the talking was coming from here." What a joke.

15th: Had the last part of the elocution cup. Anne had to say a piece. Also had the choosing of the person for music cup. I had to play without warning to Miss Wagstaffe & Mrs. Knibbs. B.Vaughan turned page for me. Had another talk with 'P'. She is much better. 'Anthe had to play in music cup. Waggi suggested getting Jill Pod. out of bed at 8.30 so she could play for c of m.c. Wasn't a bad day today. Had an awful letter from Keith.

16th: Had lovely time with Jill Pod. in Butlers pantry she played piano to me. I played to her too. She kissed my head, it thrilled me. We were made to wash our hairs today unless we had washed it last week. Am definitely playing in Music Cup. Thank Heavens I haven't got to play against Jill Pod: 'cos D.Cundall is doing it. We had gym practice on tennis court. Meg has been coaching little ones so they are much better. Macky has finished Anne's jumper, she was making for her. Hart took lights.

17th: **Sunday** Not much. Did not have music cup as expected so suffered nervousness all morning for no reason. Terrific long service in morning. Went for short walk in afternoon. Had service P.Bliz read. Wrote home letter. Finished reading "Gone With the Wind". Oh boy it is lovely. Very sad ending. Rhett goes away. I cried. Jill Pod. kept looking at me at tea. Very embarrassing. Others see me looking at her think I am {hyping}. I am not.

18th: 'Anthe has G.M. She didn't get any sleep last night, poor kid, and we are sure she had a temp. She went to Mate but Mate said she had not a temp. She was feeling unwell all day, but she had to take part in gym cup, which took place in the rain. She should have stayed in so I am wild with Mate for sending her into rain. Poor 'Anthe won't be confirmed and won't be home for Easter. Elyot won Gym competition Ascham came second. Had last conf lesson. 'Anthe here for that but in bed after tea.

19th: 'Anthe has G.M. very slightly so Doctor says. We had Singing Cup. Ascham won Hurrah! Jill Pod. went home but she came in while we were having Maths lesson, to get her report so she said good-bye to me then. Did not have music cup. 'P' got German Measles. Wrote two letters to 'Anthe. People who do vegetables given a lovely tea by Mrs. Hopper {but} form do not do it. Waggi came to see our confirmation things. Fink's confirmation things came.

20th: Am now a confirmed member of the church. Had a lovely confirmation service in a lovely big church at Wareham given by the Bishop of Salisbury. P.Bliz, A.Pocock & Fink were conf: with me. Pococks took Fink & me to church, told us that disease in Blandford is Mellingitis. Mrs.Bliz. treated us all to tea. Anne went home with parents. Packed. Staff came in for dancing, danced with Mate & Miss Hart. M.Millner greased my bike for me & Mr.Pocock gave her 6d for greasing Anne's. Feel lovely.

21st: Am now home again. We had school until 10.45. Then we had break and tidied up. Then we had grades read, cups given and 'Breaking Up' service. Got B for term grade. Colet won music cup. Had dinner at 12.40. We left Turnworth by coach at 12 o'clock. Sat in seat with P.K. Had rather a tiring journey. Was given 6 biscuits & apple to eat on journey, so was not too hungry. Daddy, Aunt Nell and Keith came to meet me. Bust handle of case so Daddy & I had to sling it on strap between us.

22nd: Not much. Went for long walk in morning with Evie & Stella, up past Grandstand. Saw soldiers drilling. Saw Uncle on Golf Course. Called in to see Auntie Kath while E & S sheltered in the Spinney. Grandma almost finished lovely swagger coat for Auntie. Auntie digging for victory. Had bacon and egg pie for dinner. Mummy altered skirt of her costume to fit me, so now got first costume ever had in life except when young. Daddy played piano in evening. Got on with knitting. A.R.P.Warden came in to tell us Breakfast-Room light shining.

23rd: Got up late. Keith came up with me to Food Office. Waited for about 10 minutes, then he said I needn't do anything with book. All that way for nothing almost! Had lovely roast and Yorkshire Pud for dinner. Went to Sutton in afternoon. Got a new pair of shoes for Easter present. They have got little heels, very smart. Mummy bought some shoes. Went in costume and brown hat. I felt quite smart. Had to go by bus as train we intended to go by had been taken off. Listened to 'Garrison Theatre'. Good!

24th: **Sunday** Got up at 7 o'clock to go to my first Communion Service in the Village Church at 8 o'clock. Wasn't a bad service, so Mummy says. Did not eat the disc they gave me instead of bread. Thought it was paper. The wine was lovely. Wrote a letter to Fink. Went for long walk on Epsom Downs passed Grandstand & watched boys flying big model aeroplane{s?}. Met Uncle Fred & Auntie Addie coming home. Called in to see Auntie Kath & Co. Listened to recording of 'Garrison Theatre on Programme for forces. Daddy played piano in evening.

25th: Not much. Got up late after having breakfast in bed. Finished reading "The Four Feathers". Keith brought up two letters for me while in bed. One from José & an Easter card from Pat Reynolds. Two of my

pasches. Read and knitted all morning. Had cold chicken for dinner. Went for walk with Aunt Nell. Saw Auntie Kath at her fence. Went over and talked to her. Auntie Kath & Uncle Russell came down in evening to go with Mummy, Daddy & Aunt Nell up to Uncle Fred's for cards. Keith and I left alone as Denis had gone with pals to Brighton for day.

26th: Ghastly day. Rained all day. Didn't get up till 11 o'clock but finished reading Prodigals of Monte Carlo, not bad, not much story, and did half {hour} French learning, learnt 120 words. Did some work on Geography and Science when I got up. Went to Sutton in afternoon with Mummy, met Auntie Vera. Got a lovely new hat, green, to go with costume. Went up to hairdressers alone while Mummy & Auntie went to Zeeta's. Had most of my curls cut off. {Then} joined others.

27th: Have come to be[d] at quarter to eight because I have a temperature, a sore throat & a headache. Temp 99.8. Daddy believes I have G.M. Got up late, 11 o'clock. Did studies in morning. Had chicken broth for dinner, lovely. Went out for walk in afternoon with Keith & Auntie Kath. Walked past Grandstand where saw soldiers being drilled. Am now reading "Hatters Castle" by Dr Cronin. Very good so far. Mummy is bringing up some Gin and {It} for me.

28th: Stayed in bed all day today with a terrific headache & a rotten sore throat, same as I had last night. Woke up at 3.45 had undisturbed dozes until alarm went at 6.30. Keith fixed up this wireless in my bedroom so got a bit of amusement. Tried to read a bit but headache permitted not. Auntie Kath called in & came up to see me. Keith came in with me in evening. Had fire on. Had temperature of 100°. Mummy brought up foul Gin & water.

29th: Got up today. Took temp. in morn but could not get it up to normal. So stayed up all day. Took temp again at night was 100° so came to bed after tea. Expect to stay in bed for few days. Was not expecting high temp. tonight. I felt better all day but a bit groggy at night. Auntie Kath called in in morning for Keith & Sandy to go to Village with her. Did Studies till 12.30. Watched Tits making nest in tit-box. When in bed Keith fixed up wireless in my room again after taking it back last night. Then we had a game of {Halma}.

30th: Am in bed again today as temp. keeps going up & down. Doctor came in afternoon. He said it was only gland trouble so has given me some nasty tasting pills to take crushed up in milk after each meal. Felt a bit better this morning & Evie came to see me. She now puts on lipstick & colours her finger-nails. Keith with me a lot. Cleared out a few 'Woman's Weeklies'. Listened to 'Garrison Theatre'. Mummy came up to talk to me. Had 2 sausage rolls & a glass of cold milk for supper.

31st: **Sunday** Had another awful night last night. Awake at 3 a.m. no more sleep till 7 am. Ghastly! Did not have temp: this morning. Had a miserable day. No one came to sit with me all morning or afternoon so consequently have nearly finished book. Daddy and Keith popped in to see me in evening. Am dreading the night. Evie came in to see me, didn't stay long. Had some magazines from Mrs. Whitehorn. Listened to Service on wireless. Disturbance in Sermon-man shouted.

April

1st: 'April Fools' Day. Caught Keith a nice one. Am much better today. Slept last night after reading into night to make myself really tired. Got a letter from Anne. By the way finished "Hatter's Castle" last night started "The Stars Look Down" this morning. Daddy popped in to see me so did Aunt. Also my Mum. Keith brought in a lot of comics. Mummy & Auntie went to Grandma's. Uncle Fred came in for darts. Studied in the morning. Felt rather tired after it though {,} after reading last night.

2nd: (P) Waited all day for Dr to come. He didn't come. Got up all the same, after tea and spent evening downstairs making sure I was quite tired for bed so I should have no nightmares. Wrote a letter to Anne,

not a bad one I'm thinking. Read quite a lot of book. Mrs. Whitehorn lent me a "Lilliput" to read. Did my Studies in morning in bed. Pen would keep leaking so had to get out of bed to wash hands. Bed at 10.30.

3rd: Had breakfast in bed but got up afterwards. Finished Australia and New Zealand in morning and did some more French. Auntie Kath. came to take Mummy to Village but she had two phone calls, I answered both, which made her too late to go, also Dr. might call. But he did not call until the afternoon. He said I could go out when shower had passed. So went up to Auntie's. She asked Keith and I to tea, saw Audrey & Anne & Auntie, they took Sandy home.

4th: Up again today so am still all right. Finished Geography work in morning. Seemed to take me a long time today. Played piano. Did not go for walk in afternoon with Keith, he went with Auntie Kath, but I was glad because there was a heavy shower of rain. Wrote card to Margaret asking her to spend Sunday with me. Listened to 'Parlour Game' on wireless. Good! Finished front of jumper and started sleeves. Uncle Fred came down. Dad & he smoked cigars. Came to bed at 9.45.

5th: Jean phoned me when I was in bed. So got up, did 1 hours work, played piano ½ hour then went out for walk with her at 11.15. Did not take Sandy because she had Pickle. Keith took Sandy for walk in afternoon, went with Auntie Kath. Probably took Sandy too far because he had heart attack or hysteria at night but Uncle Fred was down here & made him lay quiet. He soon got over it. Uncle Ted's birthday, he phoned up, Mummy & Keith out so had to answer phone. Nearly finished book.

6th: Nicest day spent since been home. Aunt Nell brought up letter from Anne while I was in bed. Went up Village with Evie when I got up, then she came round and we mucked about until dinner-time. Had awful toothache then. We went to pictures in afternoon to see "Band Waggon" with Arthur Askey. About five boys asked us to take them in but we told them we had to be 21 not 16 to get them in. Then went to tea with Evie, we got hysterics over tea-table & afterwards. Got a beastly headache.

7th: **Sunday** Started reading "Happy Harvest" by {} Farnol which Aunt Nell got from her library but going to let me read in evenings. Got half-way. I like it. Margaret came to spend day with me. She arrived when only just finished breakfast. We went for walk, talked about "Stars Look Down". Evie came round after dinner, to tea. Played 'Racing Demons' a bit then mucked about with 'string tricks'. She showed a good one called Indian Rope Trick. Not same as other one. Marg went home early, she had dancing lesson. Then Keith, Evie & I played darts.

8th: Did ½ hours French learning in bed. Got up 9.15, did hour's work then went for walk with Jean. Did not take Sandy. Wrote to Anne after dinner. Went up to station to get parcel for Mummy. Some workmen called out to me. Had a little meal then caught 4.52 train to Sutton met Auntie Nell there, then we went to Cheam to see "The Stars Look Down". Very good! Saw Macky on Sutton Station while waiting for Auntie. Came home in first class, lit up carriage. Came home and had tea with Auntie.

9th: Not much. Did hour's work in bed. Germany invaded Norway and Denmark, news full of it. Went for walk with Keith in afternoon. Called in to see Grandma. Joey, the budgerigar, feeling spiteful, pecked Grandma. Am reading "Königsmark" by Mason, quite good. Played a ball game with Keith. Mummy went to Sutton so we had tea alone. Listened to 'Crime Magazine' on wireless. Wireless all put out because of news of German invasion. Played some games of 'Racing Demons' with Daddy and Keith.

10th: Did ½ hour's work in bed, Eothen, As You Like It then Keith heard some French words. Walked up road with Mummy & Auntie Kath, they were going to village, met Jean so we went for walk on downs. Met Mummy again when we came back so walked back with them. Had poached egg and chips for dinner, lovely. Our naval vessels in fight against Germans, 6 to our five. Mummy, Daddy, Auntie Nell & Denis went up to Grandma so Keith & I alone. Played 'Racing Demons'. Read "Happy Harvest".

11th: At two o'clock today I suffered the worst agonies I can remember in my life (unless when I had my accident). I had two of my front teeth stopped. Talk about pain! Our navy making successful attacks on Germany's. Was out in garden all morning. Auntie Addie came down from Uncle's and persuaded Mummy to go for walk. So we all went out, called for Auntie Kath & so took dog for nice long walk. Had long conversation with Evie after tea. She was up in bedroom, I was in our garden. Another of our fish nearly dead.

12th: Did 1½ hours work in bed. Got up near 10 o'clock, tried to phone Jean but apparently they have given it up because of War. Found pattern that Mummy sent for was too complicated for stripy material. Went out with Jean, took dog because Pickles is ill & not able to come. Got pattern from Evie in afternoon then she came round & had tea with me. Keith came with us to 'Flicks'. Saw James Stewart in Mr Smith Goes to Washington. Marg: came with us.

13th Got up at 11 o'clock. Had dinner at 12. Caught 12.32 train to Victoria where I met Aunt Nell & we caught bus to Piccadilly and found our seats, booked by Miss Ryman in a Gallery queue outside Queens Theatre, where Miss R & another girl from their office called Joan met us later. While waiting a half-lunatic man with a beard was acting Shakespeare. We sat two rows from back of gallery. The show was 'Rebecca'. Lasted 2¾ hours. had tea in Lyons. Auntie & I called in to see Auntie Collie and stayed from 7.45 to 10 o'clock.

14th: **Sunday** Rotten day for last Sunday at home (next Sunday I am going to be at Margaret's). Got up comparatively early. Went for walk with Evie but she had to bring sister Stella. They picked violets while I stood around, bored. Evie asked me to tea. Had been round in her place for about an hour when Mummy wanted me to see about cutting out pattern for new summer frock. Went back to Evie's. Mr. Whitehorn got on my nerves. Came round early, 8.30. Daddy played piano. I dropped stitches & got in a temper.

15th: Got up soon after 10 o'clock. Went for walk on Banstead Downs with Jean, Evie & Keith. Took dog, although Jean had Pickles. British troops landed in Norway today.. German Pocket Battleship Admiral Sheer was torpedoed by British submarine on Thursday,-news today. Finished reading "Königsmark", am now reading "The Brother of Daphne" by Dornford Yates. Evie came round for little while after dinner but she had to wash hair so went back at three o'clock. Aunt Kath came down to take Sandy to shops. Mummy making me a frock.

16th: Am feeling in a bad temper. I snatched paper from Keith so Daddy told me off. Went to drown temper in piano, but had to play in dark. Couldn't be bothered to put black-out up. Played tennis with Auntie Kath at club. Keith and Evie came to watch. Took both dogs. Keith acted as ball boy at beginning but got tired later on. Did not go to Flicks as arranged with Evie because she went yesterday & had no desire to go twice running so we hope to go tomorrow. Heard Gracie on wireless.

17th: Surprise! Macky & Poky turned up soon after I'd got up. Was fishing summat out of pond at time. Put 2 of fish in aquarium in pond. Saw last year's baby Marmaduke in pond, making about 4 or 5 babies in all. Poky, Macky & I then called on Jean, from there to Peggy & so to Fink who was in bed with a bad throat so was unable to come out with us. Walked through Village with Poky, Macky and Jean, P.K. had gone home. They caught bus at War Memorial, then Jean & I walked down Winkworth Road. Went to Flicks with Evie in afternoon.

18th: Got up early (At least early for me). Went with Evie to Sutton. We just missed train so had to wait 25 minutes for another. Saw Imogen Taylor & Paddy Waller. Evie bought material for dress. Went to tea with Jean in afternoon. She wanted me to tea so that she wouldn't be alone with Anne who came to tea as well.

I might just as well not have been there for all the notice she took of me. I felt very miserable. Managed to get home at 7.30. Had early bath at 8.30 then Mummy brought up some supper.

19th: Got up at 9 o'clock. Went to Macky's by bus & played tennis with her, Stinker, Anne & Peggy on Macky's hard court. We had half time lemonade in her loggia. Have felt very cheeky today, first on bus then getting ticket at Sutton. Daddy showed me how to do Stock & Shares. Went to L.Hodges she gave me some film books. Had a little snack at 4 o'clock then caught 4.31 having met Mummy in Sutton. Got some material for frock. Met Margaret and Christine. Went to see *{?}. Think Christine one of prettiest girls I have seen.

*Ninotchka

20th: Stayed night at Margaret's. Anne woke us up at ten to seven in morning with cup of tea as Margaret had to go to work. Took dog out in morning. Went to 'Pine Walk'. Went to Carshalton Public Library with Margaret in afternoon. Took Judy. Went to Flicks in evening. Saw Deanna Durbin in "First Love". A lovely film with good singing. Also saw "The Man Who Knew Too Much". Good also. We felt mad when we came out. I regret to say we showed off rather. Am reading "3 Men in a Boat".

21st: **Sunday** Am home again now. Was a lovely day today. Very hot for time of year. Margaret & I spent morning reading in deck chairs in garden. Went to Oak's Park in afternoon. Sat on seat eating choc-ices and watching R.A.F. bloke & girlfriend billing & cooing. Heard recording of Garrison Theatre missed last night. Good! Judy had rolled in something nasty. Pooh! Did she smell! Caught 9.2 train home. Bed at 10.45.

22nd: Am feeling more sorrowful as the days go by. One more day at home! Made a jelly sponge this morning under Mummy's supervision. Just lazed around in afternoon. Saw several baby fish. Had an orange. Caught 4.7 train to Sutton, walked down High Street to meet Evie. She walked up to station so we must have missed each other. Saw Tyrone Power in "Day-Time Wife" & Derrick de Marney in "The Spider". Both good. E & I went mad in train.

23rd: My last day at home. Lazed around in morning. Went up to Station to meet Evie at 12.30. She told me her mother wouldn't let her go to pictures again. I was rather annoyed. Listened to Duff Cooper giving a talk & the toast for St. George's Day. It should have been Winston Churchill but he was too hard pressed with work. Went to Food office with Auntie Kath. She asked me to tea. Keith came too after school. Said good-bye to them. Went round to Evie's to see baby chicks. Did packing!

24th: Am now down in Turnworth installed, much to my annoyance, in Aveth Dick's room with Anne, 'Anthe. Stuffy old hole with no air. Left house about 8.45 with terrible heavy luggage. Saw coach turning round, so hurried but even then had to wait until 9.15 as some parents had been told that was the time to meet the coach. Arrived at lousy old school at 2.45 p.m. Stinker gone to sick room with sore throat & glands. Macky and Peggy in room by selves. 'Anthe & I collected lots primroses.

25th: Lovely day, weather concerned. Jill Pod. arrived with Miss Strong very late last night. M.Millner should have come too but her brother has German Measles. Got top locker and desk near door in 2nd row. Am next to Jean but she is next to Anne. We had History with new mistress as Miss P is away in nursing-home having treatment for Sciatica. Had maths and art then rounders on Lacrosse field with Miss Barrett. Anne & Jean started once more. Collins decent let us stay up to listen to wireless.

26th: Wet day. Scotch Mist I think. 'Anthe seems to be coming back to me but I expect it is all put on. Wrote a bit more of letter started yesterday morning in bed. Was awakened by 'Anthe sneezing, frightened me. Am reading "Greenery St" by Denis Mackail lent by Anne. Had lovely bath with 'Anthe's bath salts. Went out after supper, talked to Reynolds above Butler's Pantry while P.K. playing piano there. Then I went in to B.P. & 'Anthe fetched music for me. Had Mrs.Durham again.

27th: All form except for Skinner who funk'd it & Stinker who was not allowed out went for walk. We sat down on log half-way then went on over downs. Came back had oranges then went out to pick primroses with Jean & Anne. Jean horrible to me. Had lovely afternoon in garden, lying on rugs and playing tennis. P.K. came down on swing hard wallop. Washed 4 pairs of socks & 'Anthe's, Anne's & my own, very angelic. 'Anthe and Anne very thick again. Feel homesick & miserable. Listened to Garrison Theatre.

28th: **Sunday** Lovely day not as regards the weather. Finished home letter in bed. Have got same place in for church so am next to Jill Pod. again. Forgot to stay to Communion Service after the Service. Went out for walk in afternoon with lot of form the Jean & I left the lot and gathered a lovely lot of cowslips. Mrs. Hopper gave us a stone jar to put them in. Played the piano a terrific lot after tea in drawing room. Played so much I got tired of it. I played hymn for service.

29th: Stinker went into sick-room again with temp: last night & she is now in sick-room. Rotten day. Feel homesick. My socklets fell down the gutter & Anne went out and grazed her knees and got them. I feel so guilty. Played tennis on hard-court with Sheila B. as partner & against Diana & Jean Hodges. It began to rain so we had pack it up. Played piano in Butler's 'P'. Don't like Matron. We have horrible silent meals. Barry took lights. She is sweet but I don't like her.

30th: This evening has been so lovely that I do not want the day to end. Found someone had put sweets in pocket, asked Jill Pod. but she said they weren't hers. Told her I hated her for not telling me whose they were so she told me they were hers but she had given them to me. I think she is sweet. Had awful English & History prep. both essays. Did 6 pages for History. Came out of prep early. I mean didn't have extra went for walk with Fink. 'Anthe, & Anne annoyed 'cos I didn't go with them.

May

1st: Feel quite nice. Threw Jill Pod's sweet down drain. She was annoyed. She played hymn this morning. Got C for History. All wrong, had to read Mrs. Durham's notes. Got a letter & parcel from Mummy with 3 pairs of socks lovely! Stinker out of sick-room. Went in to see her in evening. Lost scissors. Played piano. Finished my sweets. Played rounders. 'Anthe & Anne picked flowers for the 'P'. Waggi went to see her, she is coming back on Friday. Waggi took lights.

2nd: Went to early Communion at eight. There was only one lady besides us so service was short. Went down there on bykes. Had breakfast when we got home. Jill Pod: gave me a sweet. She is sweet. I feel so terrible now Stinker has been so horrid to me. I came up to bedroom after prayers tonight and stood looking out of window watching others in garden & talking to Cecil, I like her. Stinker came up & apologised. Anne & Jean came in arguing about the hereafter.

3rd: Hot day. Of course I was playing rounders. Quite a nice game. Upper V & Jean Hodges against Lower V & Up. IV except those playing Tennis. Fink picked up a slow-worm (like a snake) Ugh. By the way ya we saw two snakes fighting yesterday. One had fangs in neck of other which was writhing in agony. Had sweets from all pasches. Miss Pasley came back from {Bournemouth} Nursing Home. Anne, Fink & P.K. carried her upstairs. Played tennis in evening until 9.0.

4th: Played hymn this morning. Played tennis then lazed on bank. Was near tennis court with Joy so watched a game of tennis with Jill Pod: Nice morning Anne and Jean out. Went for picnic in afternoon with Waggi. Went long way right down Okeford Fitzpane Hill to a place with a bridge and garlic. Jean brought some home. Place stinks of it. We took bottle being cleaned instead of lemonade. So had lemonade afterwards & for supper.

5th: **Sunday** Nice day. Felt very energetic tonight. Played rounders with part of Upper V & Up. IV. Lazed around in morning, went for walk with Pam and Fink and sat on hill. Farmer told us Dan would be shot if

left off lead. Went to church in afternoon, did not sit next to Jill Pod: she was annoyed. She showed me picture of Cumberland. Had tea out in garden. Jean smacked Rowsie's bottom. Put summer frocks on in evening. Sent letter to Evelyn.

6th: (P) Lovely day. 'Mate' did not allow us to go into summer frocks. Did not have new table place. Very annoyed! Did ropes in gym. Played tennis on hard court with J.Hodges, S.Birtles & José Bax. Sheila kept making pointed remarks about me and José. Jean learnt that she's going to be confirmed on Wednesday. Wore summer frocks in evening. Went out for a walk with 'Anthe & Anne in evening, not bad. Getting tired of their loving. Jill Pod: said good-night in terrible loud voice & everybody heard. She annoys me.

7th: By the way we signed our death warrants yesterday, I mean our school-cert-forms. 'Mate' allowed us to wear summer frocks. Marvellous! Had boring time in games by myself. Went in drive & walkers past L IV having lesson outside. Jill Pod: sent me a beaming smile, I am sure Miss Hart saw. Have packed up piece of stale cake & given it to Vivian to put on Jill's bed for her birthday tomorrow. Barry wore a sweet checked blouse & shorts for games. Walked around with Fink in evening.

8th: Hot day. 'Anthe was confirmed at Ashington, came back at nine o'clock. Two birthdays M McKnight & JillPod: All L IV sick except Pat and S. Honey. They had eggs, radishes & choc: cake. No wonder they were sick! Jill Pod got a lovely tennis racket for birthday and she knew who the cake & raspberry came from by my writing on the parcel. Fink not doing games because she has bad ankle so walked round with her.

9th: All L IV were sick except S. Honey because they had bad eggs at the birthday party. They got up but weren't allowed any breakfast. J.Pugh went out in the middle of breakfast & the others were sick afterwards so they all went to bed for the morning. Jill Pod: annoyed me at tea-time by stopping me from going out of room and asking me to play piano. Had parcel from Mummy, new vests, socks, chocolate and Mags. Barbara Shirley very bad in bed with bronchial pneumonia.

10th: Germany invaded Belgium and Holland, also towns in France including Luxemburg. Lovely day, finished letter to Denis in garden on seat with Fink. Played piano in evening with Jean as duet. Sounds good. Awful lot of prep. Took 1½ hours on History. Stayed up till 9.35 listening to news. Heard speech by Neville Chamberlain. He has resigned and Winston Churchill is now Prime Minister of England. B. Shirley taken to Nursing Home with appendicitis.

11th: Feel as though it has been the nicest day this term because I have been with Jill Pod: a lot. Most of Upper school played Stoolball, organised by Miss Barratt, in the afternoon but I had blister on toe & it. I watched and made rude remarks to Jill Pod: playing tennis. I made her annoyed. I borrowed her racket it is marvellous. She also played piano and so did I. Had tea out in garden. Wrote letter home. Washed hair & went out.

12th: **Sunday** Had to get up early to go to Communion. We were late because we were waiting for Waggi. Went to church at 11.15. Not bad sat next to Jill Pod: She talked a lot before service. Major Rodd read the lesson and took the offertory. The Seniors and J. Hodges, only {6}th form member are having a campaign against Upper III who are very rude. We had a talk with them, reprimanding them. Then Jean went to Waggi about it. Had tea in garden.

13th: Feel rotten. J. Hodges and I were playing 'The Skater's Waltz' & Barry said only one to play at once, so we made as much row as we could, played 'God Save the King', 'Sir Roger de Coverley' and my march over & over again. I felt really cross with her. Had Eothen returned. Played Stoolball, got three runs. Walked round with Miss Orchard, Fink & Miss Hart in afternoon break. Talked to Stinker outside sick-room. She is very bad. Not getting up until Monday. Barry took lights.

14th: Meg & Kitty arrived in middle of lunch. I expect term will be spoilt. Always feel conscious of them. Had conference with 'P.' yesterday about unruly Upper III. They have asked us to tea in the wicker hut which they are converting into a house with curtains etc. Had extra arithmetic with Miss Hart. Jean Hobson and Barbara Vaughan also came back with Meg & Kitty. Had bath. Denis's birthday, 19 today. Wrote to him. Stinker got up, not coming to school till Monday.

15th: There was a very bad thunderstorm last night, lightning flashed and rain poured down in torrents. Consequently rained all day and went for walk in games. Feel conscious of Meg & Kitty. Had letter from Evelyn. Was very cold in evening changed into jumper & skirt. Am at big table for tea duty. Played piano in drawing room & after supper in Butlers P. Anne was doing algebra & making dickens of a row. She annoyed me. J Pod. brought my laundry up while I was washing up.

16th: Mate left early this morning, went up to town to fetch M. Millner. Not back till late. J. Pod & co: had to go to bed early for talking last night. But she was hanging out of windows waving to me (thrilled) when I came in from playing tennis at night. Much better day than yesterday, sunny too. Played tennis in games on hard-court with Meg, Kitty & Jennifer. Other court going now. Macky told off for 'not doing' games more than three days. Barry went swimming in Blandford.

17th: Just had a lovely time. Had bath in New Bathroom and Jill Pod: came out to see me. They had door open I hope they do every time. M. Millner back. Played Stoolball in games. Rowsie a fool. Played tennis in evening with 'Anthe, Anne & Fink. 'Anthe in bad temper. Saw Jill Pod: out of window. Had parcel. Divine knickers. Mummy told me Mr. Newman killed in action. Feel terribly sad about it. Collins told us off for talking in morning. Her usual sarcastic way. Jean in awful temper.

18th: had lovely day. With Jill Pod nearly all time. Mended a chair with her & Stinker in afternoon. Played tennis after tea then after that Jill Pod: was horrid to Vivian, would not help her take her things in so I made her & she chucked them all over the place. I would not say good-night to her but said it sweetly to Vivian. She came to me when I was about to change, however, and she looked so sweet I had to say good-night to her. Started writing home letter. Went for walk with Macky in morning.

19th: **Sunday** Cried for first time since I've been here. Anne made horrible remark when I was trying to sun my chest. Of course 'Anthe stood up for her. Went for walk after that with Fink, vowing I'd break up with Jean for ever. I don't think it's going to work. Jill played for service, she did it all wrong & went very red poor child. Went out in evening with Fink. Saw Jill out of window but did not encourage by waving. Meg Rider came. Troops of girls presented bouquets [sic], I gave her some weeds. Collins let us listen to W. Churchill at nine instead of coming to bed.

20th: Have just been pouring out all my thoughts to Mate. Told her how much I liked Jill. She was very understanding. She told me that when she was with me Stinker & everyone thought she was horrible & cutting. We had sports heats. I came in 500yds & hop skip & jump. I did not do throwing the cricket ball & dropped ball in ball on hand. Mr. Pocock came, he also came in & watched the heats. Saw Jill out of window. Told her to go to bed. She went! Also saw J. Pugh & Pat Reynolds. We didn't get excellent. Brushes dirty. J.'s drawer untidy. Waggi took 'P' out.

21st: All day seems to have gone wrong. Was horrible about Jill's playing but did not mean it. Sent a message to her apologising and she sent back that I was an idiot. I saw her after my bath, she said good-night through door. I think she is so sweet. Played tennis with Kitty, Pam & Dopey on new court. Rotten game. Anne & Jean did work alone in room because they were doing extra art. Had half-apples for lunch. Am writing with Joy's pen. Played piano in Butlers Pantry.

22nd: Played hymn. Didn't make any mistakes. Quite a nice day. Went for walk in games as it was dull but 4 people played on hard court, it rained in night so grass courts too soft. Jill sat next to me at tea, I asked her

to. When she got me a cup of tea, Anne made pretensions of hiccoughs meant to be hyp, hyp, for harbour your pasches. Had game of tennis in evening with Fink, J.Hodge & Pamela. We played well I think. Saw Jill out her window. Had awful English prep, looking up in dictionary. Germans captured Amiens.

23rd: Feel terribly miserable. Waggi been absolutely horrible to me. Poured out too much of my heart to Fink about hyping because I had long talk with Jill. Then threw ruler at her & Waggi saw. Had game tennis in evening same as yesterday. Saw Jill out of window. {Can} See Barry & Mate picking flowers in garden am writing at window. Collins been decent. Hate Waggi. Feel homesick. Love Jill. New table place next to M.Worthington & Di Blizzard at Barry's table. Jean opposite me. Collins took lights.

24th: Miss Rowsell's birthday. Not such a bad day as yesterday. Felt a bit miserable at tea because there was not a place for me. Had heats instead of games and I was supposed to be playing tennis on the hard court. Came in obstacle & driving p{?} round obstacle. Jean was my partner. She came in obstacle too. Walked round in evening with Fink. Saw Jill out of window. She has pink pyjamas. Had bath. Jean been nice. Barry only allowing 3 days not doing games.

25th: Have had a lovely day but did not feel satisfied until I went into Jill's dormitory with Pamela who was saying good night to sister Di. Have been with Pam all day. Went out for walk with her in morning came back by farm & saw Jill & co: We went up into a hay loft with them. Mucked around with Pam till lunch. Did not go for picnic with rest of form. Anne very annoyed about us not going. We played tennis. Would not smile at Jill all through tea because she had made Vivian cry. Told P.Reynolds off for same. Then went in to say good night to Jill.

26th: **Sunday** I feel do terribly terribly miserable. Pam and I have been pouring out all our secrets to each other. I am sure I have told her something I should not have. I even told her about my loving Jill. Went into Jill's room and read to them out of "Just So Stories" instead of Miss Orchard doing it. I felt so nice. Jill is sweet. M.Millner nearly fainted in church. She had to sit down. Sat next to Jill she looked sad. Church full as it was National Day of Prayer. Pam adores Miss Collins.

27th: Felt a bit better today but Macky told me off for tearing up a {revolting} book of Molly's. I felt so miserable I went & apologised to Molly. But Macky came into Butlers Pantry after supper while I was playing & she was nice. But horrible again after. Did not go in with Pam to say good-night to Di and dorm: because Mate was on the landing. Nearly all school had to go to bed early because Collins crept round last night to see if anyone was talking. Because of it 'P' give us a lecture and promoted heads of dorms: I am head.

28th: Got chill in my stomach, keep going to 'L'. Just came in from tennis with Pam - singles. Saw Jill out of window. Had lovely time in prep. Jill & Pat stayed in & mucked around with her all extra. Rowsie taking it but kept popping up to Jean & Anne in dormitory. Rained so we went for walk in games although some played tennis. We have new girl - one of famous {Hamboroughs}. She is Swedish. Is day-girl. Was late for supper because {?} & Rowsie in room with Anne & Jean so could not change.

29th: Quite a nice day. Jill got told off for not practising properly. She was mucking around with Di Bliz. on violin. She had to do extra hour in B.P. Mucked around there. I asked to be excused and went to see them. Jill is sweet. When Pam went to kiss Di good night Miss Orchard was having row with them and wouldn't let me go in. When she'd gone however I did go in. Had parcel from Mummy & Mate said I wasn't to have but Jean took it out of tuck cupboard when she wasn't looking. Got lot of food.

30th: 16 today. Started birthday very well by getting boarders lapses. Jean & Anne threw my presents at me, two {perf?} books & presents from Jill & Jean. "The Tavern Knight" & "The Story of an African Farm" a book Jill wrote on Cumberland with photos & sweets from Jean. In maths I noticed bulge in alg: book. Was

felt doll made into needle-case. Given by Pat Reynolds. Tuck-box went all right. Mate didn't see. Had lovely birthday party. Have lent Mrs.Hopper Mummy's cake-tin must get it back.

31st: Feel very miserable. Mate caught me in Jill's room & told me to go out. I told her I was saying goodnight to Di with Pam. She made me feel horrid. Then Stinker & I had terrific quarrel & she told Anne & Jean and they were all against me at supper. But went out for long walk almost on moors with Pam. We gazed at the scenery and sky and kept saying how marvellous it was. Got 7/6 from Uncle Ted & card from Evelyn. Had bath after coming in late.

June

1st: Feel terribly miserable. Anne & Jean persist in being horrible to me. Very squashing! Pam is adorable. Went for short walk with her in morning after 'P' had given whole school talk on situation. B.E.F. & Belgian troops being evacuated by Dunkirk. Cut off by Germans so have to retreat. Worked almost all the afternoon. Saw Jill a little. Ironed my 2 weeks' washing at last, also done today's. Played tennis after tea with Pam, Fink & Peggy. Going to church in mufti tomorrow so got to borrow hat from Pam.

2nd: **Sunday** Have had a lovely day but Miss Collins has just told Pam and I to report ourselves to Miss Wagstaffe tomorrow because we were in Aveth's dorm: Just before that we had been late in, about 2 mins from lights out. We told Miss Hart but she was not cross. Had lovely time with Jill today. Went in to see her before supper. Mucked around. Miss Orchard came in. She was very sweet. Went up after supper to look for {Orch?}: for Pam's blisters. Went in, Jill kissed me, I kissed Jean.

3rd: The talk wasn't as bad as I expected. No punishment. We had to go to Miss Collins and ask her if we had lapses as well. She was horrid about it said "Of course you do!" It made Pam very miserable. Vivian Ronässen & Daphne Woolcombe have got chickenpox. Jill's dorm in quarantine. They were being isolated but think it is hopeless. Daphne walking round school with spots. Thought they were knat [sic] bites. So glad did not go into Jill because Waggi went in.

4th: Vivian Ronässen has Scarlet Fever. She was taken away in an old crock of an ambulance to a fever hospital. Her form is being isolated so not allowed to go near Jill. Said goodnight to her out of the window nevertheless. Jennifer, {Stella?}, Sheila B, Sandy & Gillian Knibbs are also isolated because they were sitting at Vivian's table. We are now out in garden as much as poss: Had tea & supper out there & did all prep & history out there. Pulled up docks among wheat. Got large blisters on hand. Fink is in Pam's room, changed with Jennifer.

5th: Had blood tests. Spent another day out in garden but did not have tea or prep out. Had prep in dining room, L V had it in L. III & all doors were open. U. IV had it in own form room with door open. Had awful history test all afternoon decides for School Cert: Got 26% am very worried. Played piano in drawing room. Miss Strong allowed me to if I was alone so had lovely time. Jill heard me out of window & asked Pam to tell me to play louder. Macky got Chicken Pox. Everybody gargling.

6th: Awful worrying day. Sent card to Mummy & Daddy. Don't know whether to have them down or not. Will not be able to go into cottages or shops. Dr. {Gaster} looked at arms where he injected yesterday. Am immune to it but Anne and Jean aren't. They have got to keep a yard apart and have their throats painted. Wrote letter to Uncle Ted but have not got a stamp. Started writing to Margaret in games but couldn't be bothered to finish it. Had all meals out except breakfast. New table place next to Jill only she's isolated & next to B.Vaughan & {?}

7th: Got back tin lent to Mrs.Hopper on birthday. Mummy & Daddy are here after all our writing of frantic cards & waste of 2d stamps yesterday. They arrived at 2.10 about. Not allowed to go in any cottages or shops so had tea on hill & supper in front garden. Went for long walk over moors, up by pond. Went to see

view from other side of hill. Mrs.Bickford just had pleurisy so we had to leave her behind. The{n} Jean & Mr.B. walked away. Had tea on hill with them, supper alone.

8th: Lovely hot day. Wore sun bathing frock Mummy brought down. Had dinner at school but teas on hill and supper outside cottage. Went to Blandford in afternoon. Had ice. Mummy bought me a lovely sun hat. Had to try it on outside shop as not allowed in because of Scarlet Fever. Mrs.Bickford bought me a lot of writing paper. Also got some from Mummy so got a lot now. Talked to Mrs.Carter's, that's the person Mummy & Daddy are staying with, son. Saw Cecil{e?} several times outside cottage next to Mummy's.

9th: **Sunday** I am feeling very miserable. Mummy & Daddy left at 5 o'clock. After such nice time with them came home and was sitting on bank talking to Macky out of her window, L IV were on other side of fence when the 'P' came out and told Pam and I off for being that's side of fence. Spent morning on moors. Went for long walk on them with Mummy & Daddy alone as Jean did not want to come. Had lamb & mint sauce on doorstep of cottage. Have terrible headache. Think it is touch of the sun.

10th: Nothing has happened. Got a lovely letter from Evie in which she says that she has got some material and will make me a frock when I come home as a birthday present. The foxgloves fell over on chest of drawers & room smells absolutely vile had to spray it with disinfectant but still stinks and we've got to sleep in it. Had prep on front lawn. Jill looked out of window and said good-night. Played tennis in evening. Saw J. out of window.

11th: Anne & Jean horrible. Anne took my desk & Mrs. Durham told me to settle down quickly so I started to say "Well she..." so Anne continued in nasty voice "Anne's got my desk" "You tell-tale-tit!" Mrs.Hopper made ice cream & seniors & prefects had it. Other school to have it other days. Did docking. Am reading "Hilary On Her Own". Had awful History prep. 4 of Miss Rowsell's bantam eggs have hatched. Anne in Jean's bed when Collins came in last night to say she was sleeping in passage. Italy has come into War.

12th: Anne & Jean horrible all day. But they have been nicer tonight. May have been inspiration of Symphony Concert on wireless. A piece by Elgar. Pamela has actually asked Miss Collins to go for walk with her tomorrow morning. We had supper in as it was not a hot day and was a cool evening. Also had prep inside. Had Algebra Test in afternoon. It wasn't bad although I couldn't do a bit of it. Played tennis on hard-court with Meg Rider, A.Dick & H.Birtles.

13th: Am now sleeping with P.K. in Macky's place in little room. Macky has joined other two Chickenpoxites. Jean was horrible to me while I was doing room, was crying and Anne came in. Jean said she was sorry though in class. Had breakfast indoors, sat in forms. When we got up after breakfast the form fell on my big toe. It is a horrible mess, I can hardly hobble along. Mate bandaged it. Wrote letter to Evie in games. P.K. telling me all secret about love {for} Mate.

14th: I feel that this is nicest day I have spent since I have been down here. I think it is because I have been with Jill an awful lot and also Anne & Jean we're out. Anne & J. were horrid to me in morning threw all my things out of room & said I could not have two rooms. Pam's parents came in middle of our 2 hours prep: this afternoon. Watched & made remarks on Jill playing tennis. Played tennis with Fink, borrowed Jill's racquet so when took it back went into her room. They asked me to read to them. Pughs came in in middle.

15th: Had parcel from Mummy yesterday. Also Jean's mother sent her some strawberries by Mrs.Hodges. We all had some. Had letter from Mummy. Evie has got a job, starts on Monday in a bank. Went for long cycle ride, was with Jill most of the time. She fell over as she came in the drive so washed her and took her to Miss Orchard. Then spent an hour with Miss Orchard & Jill running about after them. Had lovely time. Pam went swimming. Awful row {?}had with Mate on phone.

16th: **Sunday** Finished an 8 page letter to Evie and a 10 page one to Mummy & Daddy. Feel very dissipated. Nothing seems to have been happening. It rained and so spent all afternoon and evening in B.P. with Jill & others. Upper III & IV had dressing-up ball in afternoon was with Miss Strong & Orchard. Found Jill alone in Morning Room she told me she was miserable. Didn't find out why. Played Miss Orchard up saying wrong people were sleeping in wrong beds. She came back afterwards & said she wasn't really cross.

17th: France has capitulated from fighting. P has just been talking to us we can go down & listen to news if we want to. I am worried what we are to do. Had lovely time in Jill's room with Miss Orchard. I adore Orchie she is so sweet. Jill had awful smelling Methylated Spirits on her to get off sticky of plaster. P.K. Listened to news in Mate's room. Heard very short speech by Winston Churchill relayed to North America. Played tennis on hard court with Di Cundall.

18th: Revising furiously for Geography Test tomorrow. Miss Hart said I would have got a credit for my Algebra Test. I am so thrilled. Pam & I went feeble in prep: & Jill thought we were laughing at her. She wanted to know when she was going to bed what we were laughing at. Went docking with knives to cut off tough stems. Said good night to Jill in room. Had to write out all shopping list for special shops. Listened to emphatic speech by Churchill. Bed at 10.0.

19th: Halo round sun all day. Looked like a circular cloud with rainbow round it. Have just been listening to the news. Germans made raid on East Anglia last night. We made successful raids on Germany. Had Geography test. Awful! Went in to say good night to Jill. Fink saw me. Had lovely time. Bent over her to tuck her in, did so want to kiss her. Pam said I ought to have done. Di Cundall has Chickenpox, so have both Birtles. Played Stoolball.

20th: Very exciting night last night. An air-raid at 2 a.m. Woken up by Matron pulling curtains across windows. Thought it was P.K. getting out to examine spots that she thought were chickenpox. Heard machine-gun fire & bombs. At 3 am heard all clear. All top landing spent the hour in drawing room or library on floor with blanket, pillows and gas mask. Peggy did not wake up. We have moved form room up to our room on top landing. All top landingers are installed on mattresses in drawing room & sitting room. Kissed Jill, Pat & Di Bliz good-night. The bomb was 2 miles away. Love Jill, Fink found out, does not understand.

21st: No air raid last night after all preparations of sleeping downstairs. Rest of school docked all afternoon we only had our usual hour. Jill and José took my docks from me & carried them. Nice of them. Only said good night to Jill very shortly by popping head round door. But saw her 3 times out of window and went in after bath to stop her banging on wall. She said sorry nicely then good night. Others are sleeping downstairs again. Mate been horrible to P.K.

22nd: Chief event of today-I washed Jill's hair, had such a lovely time doing it. Also did Pat's. Then when Stinker did mine I got all L IV to rub it so almost dry immediately. Did five act play to school. Every form did one. Ours was village concert rehearsal. I was pianist, had to play all wrong for Anne & Jean {te}asing. Jennifer was untidy schoolgirl saying poem. She was good. Played piano in evening, Jill stood behind, then she said good-night nicely. Mate nice to Peggy.

23rd: **Sunday** Have decided to stop spoiling Jill for a while. Very difficult. Am almost ignoring her. Anne & I went out for lovely walk, talked about Jill nearly all the time. She it was who decided I should ignore her. Wrote 8 page home letter. France has agreed to Germany's terms which are capitulation of part of France and all troops, air-force, navy and armaments. Fink in bed with bad eyes and cold. Love Jill. Had to keep out of bedroom for Peggy to kiss Mate goodnight. Don't think I stayed away long {enough?}

24th: Am still being quite distant with Jill but couldn't keep it up during prep: because she chucked a miniature mouth-organ at me also a magnet and a pin. It is very difficult not to muck about with her, I love

her so. I have got a book of hers on the Lake District. Pam went in to say goodnight to Di after lights I did not go in but kissed Di at door. Pam said Jill asked where I was. Think Jill is getting too friendly with Aveth. I am jealous of her. Moved our classroom downstairs again & now our form is sleeping in library. Carried heavy bookcases out of library.

25th: Have stopped being aloof to Jill. She kept smiling at me in prep. Finished the Tavern Knight in break. Very nice book. Got letter from Margaret very short, not very interesting except that she has joined a club & asked me to go to a dance when I come home. As I like dances I should think I'd enjoy it. Read 97 pages of Eothen in prep consequently head feels very heavy. Air raid last night, called Mate Miss Hart when she came in to do curtains. 5 killed, 20 injured.

26th: Had English Set Books Test. It wasn't bad, at least I could do it all. 2 hrs. Mrs. Durham took L IV lights went up with Pam & they were making the dickens of a noise. When Mrs. D. had gone I told them what I thought of them and would not say good night to Jill. I wonder if she cried 'cos I was nasty. Am sleeping in library now. Slept there last night. Had fun. Pam is beside me. All L IV sick last night because they were pigs at teatime. Played Stoolball. Love Jill.

27th: An air raid last night. Did not wake up till 4.15 & Miss Hart who sleeps with us during raid went out 5 mins: later. Apparently she had been there since 12.30. Pam & I talked after lights last night and Waggi looked in window. Gave us a blowing up this morning. Made awful 'faut pas'. Asked P. Reynolds what was matter with her last night 'cos I heard she'd been ill. She didn't know she had because it was Hysteria. Miss Orchard said I was never to ask her what was the matter with her again. Played hymn. Jill nice. Did not go in to her.

28th: Feel very miserable. Anne made horrible remark after Sheila blew up Pam for not doing tidying. She said "Congratulations Macky on having the courage to approach the enemy." Do not like last word. Pam says Di has got a pasch on me which has been coming all the term. Miss Orchard made me go in & put them to bed as they would keep popping out & saying good-night. Jill knocked on wall while I was having my bath. Took no notice of her. Russia in Roumania. All had extra French with Miss Collins in prep.

29th: Got a parcel from Mummy with soap and sweets. Had an arithmetic test was ghastly got 3 out of 7 sums right: Waggi read out the answers. Waggi took us for picnic in afternoon down to lake in Milton Abbas. Climbed trees. Rained when we came home got soaking wet. Di's birthday tomorrow so went in with Pam at our bedtime and put her parcels on her bed. Practised tennis for match. Am Jennifer's partner. Started writing home letter. Jill woke up when we went in to Di.

30th: **Sunday** I think I feel more miserable or am in more of a temper (I am not sure which, or both) than I have ever been before. Was rude to Mate called her Mary Pike went & apologised she was furious. Di had party, Pam took them out of bounds went up to see them had lovely time with them but met Waggi & 'P'. 'P' furious told me I shouldn't be with them & told Pam off for taking them out of bounds. Pam cried, Di cried then 'P' had us in her room & I cried. 'P' said Pam & I too sentimentally friendly. Feel awful.

July

1st: Felt a bit better today but Pam in awful temper. Barry told her to go to bed early in front of Miss Collins. Went docking in evening and did prep in games' time. Got our time tables for School Cert. Starts on Thursday week. French oral tomorrow. Smiled at Jill while she having supper. Went to Waggi about English paper, I got Pass nearly Credit. Am quite pleased. Jennifer thought she had Chickenpox so kept away from form but it was false alarm & she is now back with us. Barry took lights.

2nd: (P) Had French Oral Exam. Nice woman examiner. Had dictation, then reading, then conversation. Think I have failed. School docked for 1½ hours. We did it for last hour as usual. Nearly finished field. José my carrier as usual. Jill was with Miss Hart all the time. Washed Stella Honey got off some black on hands

also tried to do Jill's but the black wouldn't come off. Was air raid yellow warning in middle of prep, we weren't told so took not notice of it until Miss Hart told us all clear had gone.

3rd: Science test - ghastly could not do any of it properly. Was a red warning in middle & girls near window had to move out into passage outside. Jill had not got any socks to wear and as she was going to put on some wet ones, I lent her a pair of mine. Went in to Jill before their lights then came out again & did not go back but met Miss Pasley as I was shouting to Miss Orchard. She asked me what I wanted with Miss Orchard & told me not to bother her, so went downstairs. Feel very hungry & tired. Did ironing.

4th: Miss Rowsell brought 2 corrected science papers into the lesson. Of course they were Anne's & Jean's. They both got credits, lucky things. Played piano in B.P. In games & Jill looked in at window. Supposed to be excused from Science but only wanted to see who was playing. Went out of B.P. & she came & met me in hall. Kept encountering her today. She washed my socks & also darned them. Stinker got Chickenpox: went in to see her in games. Had 1 1/2 hours arithmetic {because} Miss Hart gave us it instead of singing then prep, then Di, Macky & I had extras.

5th: Got a pass for Science found out that it's a Credit. Am so bucked. Jill came in with my pillowcase and when Cecil came up to give me one she said "That girl always seems to get hold of your things." Anne said "Very well said Cecil." Then when telling Cecil off for saying such a thing Jean & Anne made catty remarks. They were again horrible at supper & I felt so miserable that I worked it off by working. Had a bath. Jill came into middle of prep to ask me if I had a book for Waggi. She left me with such a sensation in my heart.

6th: Lovely day {because} I had a nice time with Jill but am worried because she is miserable & I was just about to find out why in B.P. when some of others came to the window. Then couldn't go in with Pam {because} Mate, Barry, Collins & Rowsie conversing on landing. French Exam in morning wasn't bad left about ¾ hour before it finished. Wrote a lot of home letter. Got a huge tuck box from Mummy, 3 choc: spreads, 2 jars honey, 8d slab choc & dozens of cakes. Got a terrific headache.

7th: **Sunday** Wasn't a bad day. Went to early Communion at 8.30 in 'mufti'. Went to church in afternoon. L IV were going to give band for R.A.F. collection but when went to get Waggi who was supposed to be playing 'cello Miss 'P' said she was out so they couldn't have it. They were very annoyed & Jill in a temper but still I was up there when they had their lights taken so hope she felt better. Wrote home letter & finished one to Marg. Played piano a lot. Kitty & Anne mucked around in evening.

8th: Am revising furiously for exam on Thursday. Have another terrific headache. Head feels too heavy. Got a card from Daddy telling me to send off byke now as there may be restrictions on travel. Elyot v Colet tennis matches. Practised for Ascham's go tomorrow, borrowed Jill's racquet. Suzy Knibbs & Sandy Worthington so very destructive they had to spend day with the 'P', all meals. Went in to Jill to say good night. Love her. Blacked out. Barry on duty. Ate a very big tea so did all form.

9th: Nothing happened. Miss Hart & Waggi came back after being away yesterday. Think nobody is going home for holidays because we in restricted area. Think they were looking for 'nother house. Only a rumour. Revising violently. Had 3 maths lessons. Embarrassed Jill when she was having supper, kept laughing at her when she putting lettuce in mouth. Said good night to her on landing didn't go in, Jean on landing. Collins in good mood, took lights.

10th: Feel very vacant, 2 Geography & 1 Biology exam tomorrow don't know a thing. Revised frantically but I fear there is no hope. Were allowed to do prep: in form room but were more disturbed than in dining room as Di was sight reading modern dance tunes on her violin to Jill's accompaniment in next room. Got letter from Mummy, Daddy & Auntie Nellie & belt from Mummy - nice one. Nigger was put to sleep before Uncle & Auntie went to stay with Mummy & Daddy {because} he kept having hysteria. Love Jill.

11th: Had 3 exams for School Certificate. Two Geography & a Biology - all ghastly. Most of form liked Biology but I couldn't do it. Had note by Dopey from José sent one back. Had to tell Jill that she was having music lesson after she came back from {charlocking?}. She came in all wet and looked so worried because she had to change. She looked so sweet. Got jealous of Aveth because she was with her but found out Aveth had parcel which held clothes for L IV play.

12th: Feel very miserable yet very happy. Feel miserable ∴ Jill told me she's going home on Monday. Feel happy ∴ had nice time in her room tonight & Pam told her I was worried about her going home. Feel miserable ∴ was embarrassing when I walked into dining room to see them & Rowsi was in there. Feel happy ∴ French papers weren't bad. Wrote a terrific long part of home letter. Also wrote one to Evie in spare time we had before exam. Rained all day.

13th: Awful catastrophe. Was in Jill's room when Miss P. Came in to see new girl Anthia the L IV have got. I stood behind door - don't know whether she saw me or not. May have thought I was Miss Orchard. Had lovely day. Did drawing exam 9.30-11.0. Awful objects. Washed clothes. Went for walk in afternoon with Pam on moors. Helped L IV dress for play, it was very good. Washed hair, Jill with me, rinsed hair for me, poured water on it. Then rubbed me for ages even when M.Copsey & P.Tucker having bath.

14th: **Sunday** Washed Jill's hair. Absolutely marvellous. Played piano an awful lot to Jill because she is going home tomorrow. Played in evening before she went to bed. She was sitting on Sheila B.'s bed & Pam told me she was nearly crying. When she went out she did cry and Miss Orchard took her up to summer house. After supper Pam went in & told her I would say good night in Fink's room. Was in there $\frac{3}{4}$ hour with her, hugging her & going over old events. Meg & P.K. saw us. She was seen by P going back to room but said she was {gaunt/quiet/alright/in ?}

15th: Jill has gone! Now my life seems utterly devoid. She came upstairs to say goodbye to me with Sheila B. & a few others. Kissed her, wiped her eyes with my handkerchief. Of course Anne saw her going down passage, said something horrible about a love scene with pasch. I cried terribly & went into Fink's room to wash eyes but started again worse. Kept having heartaches all through English exam which was awful. I discover I love her very much. Feel terribly miserable. Pam adorable.

16th: Still feel miserable. Keep getting sharp pains across chest - heartache. Had a ghastly Geometry paper. Had to draw foxgloves for plant drawing exam. Didn't like History exam much. Finished History 15 mins before end of exam so wrote a bit more of letter to Jill. A treasure hunt organised for School Cert: people. To make us go out in air I expect. Joy, Pam & I were boobies, came in last. Had some of choc: biscuits of prize which all rest won.

17th: Couldn't get to sleep for ages these last few nights, keep thinking of Jill. Awful exams today. Arithmetic - ghastly. English - awful. Biology simply unspeakable. Honestly could not do one question. Clutch book Jill gave me to my heart in bed, am oh! so silly. Di has said that I can put a letter to Jill in with hers. As only an art exam tomorrow we did not do work until 7.0 but Miss Collins took us out for terrific long walk until 6.30. Uncle Ted sent huge tuck box. Choc biscuits, cake & tons of chocolate.

18th: Finished writing letter to Jill. Put in it "Hope you don't develop chickenpox in train" and had stuck it up about five minutes before I heard that she had developed it in the train. Di addressed letter & sent one of her own in it. Oh I do love her. Got a letter from Mummy. Says she is sending a trunk so sent key. Bye went off by goods train ∴ C.P. did not come. Hope it won't get broken. As piano has been moved in here ∴ of {being?} next to exam room Di & I played this morning. Miss Orchard played in evening.

19th : Got a lovely letter from Jill. Apparently she wrote the day after she got there. She has got Chickenpox. She asked to know names of my music so that she can play them & remember me. She also

wants a photo of me. Molly Copsey has got a pasch on me I think, she asked Cecil to say good night to me for her & C said it in drawing-room, everybody heard. Algebra exam not bad. Had lovely time all day out in garden with Pam & talking about Jill. Read her letter over & over again. She sent me 2 brooches painted by herself. Love her.

20th: House matches. Me playing with Joyce Revell of course we lost against Meg & Joy but beat Pam & Hobby. Mate turned out drawers for sewing. Felt so cross with her, got in a bad temper & am afraid rather showed off in laundry room in front of Pat Reynolds, ironing, with Pam washing. Cannot forget Jill's letter. Went on painting picture for art cup. Had to iron in dressing gown just before lights. Got awfully worried this morning because trunk arrived at Blandford Station. Love Jill very much.

21st: **Sunday** House art cup judgement today. Saw photo of Jill with pony amongst Elyot's photograph exhibits. Pam in awful mood all day. Miss Collins made sarcastic remark about it being essential to have an art critic when I said I was just looking at the exhibits. M. Copsey presented me with bowl of roses and a sweet. She is going home tomorrow so is Joy & Stella Honey. Lay on bank with Di Bliz: inspecting Ant's nest. Played piano. Last Sunday.

22nd: My last exam over I really went mad after it. Played tennis for 1½ hours then still felt so full of energy that rode up & down drive on Di Bliz's bike with her on back. Had 2 glasses lemonade. Di Bliz got letter from Jill let me read it & said I could keep it. I think she must understand. Spent morning doing what we liked - mostly revising but we did play some tennis. Got a letter from Mummy she & Aunt Nell are meeting me on Thurs.

23rd: Nothing to do all day but not bored. Did four autograph albums & got another one to do. Di got a letter from Jill & one enclosed to me. Anne saw who it was from I think. 2½ pages from Jill. Got a letter from Daddy. Am very worried 'cos when lorry came up from station for bykes it did not bring trunk & so everyone packed except me. Played tennis with Diana Cundall. Pam in awful temper cried twice because she remembered she is leaving Miss Collins.

24th: Last time I shall write my diary at this school - we are going home tomorrow. Spent most of morning clearing out K.G. for Miss Orchard, it was filthy. Then trunk arrived so packed but no room for anything. Painting exam for Anne & Jean in morning, then when we were clearing up, Latinists had Latin exam in afternoon. Played piano in evening, last time here. Hobby & Sheila B. Kissed me good night & Miss Orchard kissed the who{le} school. She is sweet.

25th: Am now back at home. Arrived about 4.30. Left Turnworth for last time at 9.30. Mate very casual about loss of my sheet. Got to Templecombe at 11.30 & left it at 12. Had coach to selves locked in. Had good fun on the train. Mummy & Auntie met me at Waterloo at 2.35. Had one cup of tea each & lugged my heavy case into the train. Greeted by Keith & Jean at station. Keith had bicycle so took case home on that. Played carpet bowls.

26th: First day at home - naturally nice. Very surprised when trunk came, did not expect it for at least a week if not more. Was playing ping-pong when it arrived. Keith won ping-pong set & we have apparently borrowed Whitehorns' table. Spent rest of afternoon clearing out drawers and having general tidy up. Of course I unpacked trunk. Went out for walk in evening with Evie, Canadian soldiers in Nork Park kept calling to us.

27th: Auntie Irene got up at 6 o'clock & went to Grays. Jean & I got up late and was just about to put frock on when Jean B. came down with things I had packed in her trunk & asked me to go for walk with her. Went reluctantly. Had boiled mutton for dinner. Got lots of baby goldfinches & they are colouring. Went to flicks in afternoon, saw Sonja Henie in "Everything Happens at Night". It was good. Went with Evie & Stella then went to tea with them and fitted frock Evie is making for me.

28th: **Sunday** Went to Church this morning, but apparently so many people go that they have to have two services ∴ the P{t?} one starts early and we arrived ½ hr late & just before sermon. We're bundled into little back place & had to sit on boxes. Went swimming at Sugar Bowl in afternoon. Went with Evie & Stella & met her around there. Jolly fun. There were five boys & 4 girls counting myself. Played tennis in evening & then wrote a letter to Jill in drawing room.

29th: Am not feeling in a good temper. When I was coming back from going to tea with P.K. a bee stung me on my lip as I was cycling home. I managed to pull the sting out. I thought P.K. had just merely asked me to tea but it was her birthday & I did not take her a present and I felt rather uncomfortable. Heard that cannot have hair permed tomorrow after all. Went for walk in evening & saw B. Malvern with soldiers. She is 12.

30th: Feel done in. Have just been playing super tennis with Denis, Ta{b}e & Daddy. It was marvellous. Got up at 9.45 & went by bus to Sutton with Mummy. Bought myself some nail polish and a powder puff. Feel older now. Also bought 2 pairs of stockings with birthday money. Played tennis with Keith, he beat me 6-2. Am reading 'Rogue {Herries}' lent by Stella. Evie could not play tennis as she had been working hard and was tired.

31st: Jean B. came for me at about 10 o'clock this morning. Was naturally in bed. Told her I was going out although I had not made any definite plans. But still I went out & delivered P.K.'s present on her doorstep as she was out then went and saw Grandma. Had few games of tennis with Keith & Jean. Sat down & knitted for a bit then went to make tea. We had no bread so Mummy phoned up baker. Went to pictures with Evie. Saw "Untamed" with Ray Milland.

August

1st: Am writing my diary in Mummy's room as I am sitting by the fire drying my hair which has been washed ready for the perm tomorrow. Had a bath this morning consequently was up late. Have started finger exercises on piano again. Have discovered that my fingers are very stiff. Played around in afternoon having several games of ping-pong with Keith & Jean. Felt very weary all the time. Jean has got 'it'. Went out for walk on downs in evening with Evie & the dogs.

2nd: Got up early (8.30) and had hair permed. Mrs. Brown came to do it about 9.40 and didn't finish until 12.45 so it was 3 hrs. in the doing. Got burnt twice on head. Went to Pam Bliz's tennis party in afternoon - it was her birthday & once more I had not taken a present for her. Tubby Ferguson was there & we were nagging each other all time. I think I hate her, she is revolting, at least I hate her way. Had a lovely letter from Jill. No curling hair.

3rd: Got up late about 11 o'clock. Went for walk with dog. Saw new lot of Canadian soldiers. Awful lot of tanks & guns knocking around Nork Park now. Lovely dinner of lamb & mint sauce. Met Evie outside Plaza at 3.30. Forgot I was meeting her there & waited at station for about 10 minutes. Saw soldier carried on stretcher & taken away in ambulance while I was waiting there. I was not late however as Evie was waiting for Stella. Saw Basil Rathbone in Rio.

4th: **Sunday** Was going to Church first at 10.30 then at 11 O'clock but did not go after all as I felt too weary. Read a lot more of book, am getting more into the story now. Played piano for about two hours & Jean was with me. Sometimes we sang. Played piano in afternoon. Audrey, Ann & Auntie came down. Audrey is terrifically tall. Had tea in the garden. Daddy played piano after tea. Ladies & Jean went out. Played bowls on tennis lawn then Daddy played piano again.

5th: A very dull day. Felt so tired all day that had to keep waking myself up. Nearly went to sleep on the hammock so started painting & went on all through the afternoon. Had tea in the garden & were very

bothered with wasps. Keith killed three. After we had all finished except Jean, who was drinking a cup of tea, Keith jumped off the hammock & it swung forward & knocked over the table & swamped Jean in tea. Played tennis with Denis & his boys.

6th: Miss Brown came to set Mummy's & Auntie's hair. Went up road. Then went for walk in fields & for first time talked to Canadian soldiers. Painted in the afternoon, also had a fight with Keith & consequently tore his shirt a bit. Mummy, Aunt Irene & I met Evie & Aunt Nell at Sutton & we went to pictures & saw Fred Astaire in 'Top Hat'. It was good. Had to come out before programme ended to catch train - {Bus be the cruelte???

7th: Painted in the morning. Audrey came down to see if Auntie Irene & Kath were here to go to Village with them, as they weren't she spent about an hour talking to Mummy in Kitchen. Went to Swimming Baths with her & Anne & Auntie Addie & Kath. Lovely in the water. Quite warm. Had 3 swims altogether. Went to Sugar Bowl - Galleon was crowded with rough soldiers. Walked there & back. Played tennis in evening with Denis, {Tabe} & Dad. Had letter from José.

8th: Went for walk in morning up past Canadians. One said "What are you blushing for?" Felt rather stupid and am wondering when I shall get out of habit of being shy. Went round Spinney. One nice soldier said nicely "How do you do girls." Met May Bran{?} coming home, she asked about School Cert: Went on long fruitless walk to Nat: Reg: Office to have address changed on my Identity Card. Was supposed to have Ration Book as well so came back in bad temper. Daddy played piano.

9th: Jean B. called for me while I was still in bed. Had to go for a walk with her. When we were out on the downs apparently a German plane came over & dropped bombs on S.W. coast. Toad-in-the-Hole for dinner - lovely. Read mags all afternoon. Got quick tea for myself, Keith & Jean - then rushed off to catch 4.52 train. Met Margaret at 5 o'clock & we went to Lyons & had an ice cream to fill in time while waiting to meet Evie at Plaza at 5.52. Saw 'Typhoon'.

10th: Got up late as it was very windy & rainy. Jean & I went up to village to get some cake for tea. Took dog. Evie & I did not go for cycle ride as planned because it was too windy but she came to tea with me and we played monopoly before tea with Jean - she won. Daddy played piano a bit then we played 'Racing Demons' then Evie & I had a mania for drawing film {stars}. Jean went for walk with Dad.

11th: **Sunday** Got up early - 9 o'clock to go to Church at 10.30. Anne & Audrey came down - it is Audrey's birthday - but Audrey could not come to church with us because Madame Ann did not want her to. Mme Ann said it was because Audrey had the wheezes last night. Was a nice service. Did some drawing in afternoon, one of Joan Blondell was the image of Constance Bennett (shows how well I draw). Felt very tired went to bed at 8.30.

12th: Was awake from 12.15 to 3.30 & did not really sleep properly afterwards. Had been scared into thinking there was going to be a German invasion & was worried. Jean B. phoned me about 9.15 to ask me to go to swimming baths & also for a walk. We went on Banstead Downs but she let me try to get some sleep until 11 o'clock & we arrange to meet then. Walked to baths in afternoon & Mummy & Auntie came by bus. The Sugar Bowl was crowded.

13th: (P) Woke up at about 2.30 am and did not get to sleep until about 5 o'clock. So I felt so tired I spent the morning in bed with the blackout drawn. Got up at 11.45. Pam had phoned and asked me to go to a tournament in aid of the War Fund. Varnished my nails in the afternoon and of course I made mess of them. Had tea quite early then went out & met Evie at 4.55 & we went to see Swanee River with Don Ameche.

14th: Woke up at 5 o'clock this morning to find Jean looking out of the window at a light shining which turned out to be a star. At 5.30 we looked out of the windows to see a German plane flying low over Ewell way. John Balls came over to say we could not go over to his place as Auntie Vera was not feeling well. Mummy & Keith went however and I finished Rogue Harries - a lovely book. Wrote 2 letters, 1 to Macky 1 to Jill. Played tennis with boys. Conversated with Pa{rsc?}.

15th: Heard German plane overhead at 3.30 a.m. Most exciting evening. Nazis attempted to raid Croydon airodrome and I was just going round to Evie's with her when we heard machine-gun fire very close to us. We looked up and there was a dog-fight taking place - it seemed only a few yards away from us. We went out into the garden & watched it. Heard & saw anti aircraft fire. Very thrilling!! Aunt 'Rene was very nervous. Went up & had Identity Card changed & saw a nice man in Council {house?}

16th: Air activity - phew!!! And two raid warnings, was just coming back from a walk past Auntie's house when the first siren went so we spent ½ hour in Auntie's house. The second went out about 5.5 when Margaret & I had just got settled in the pictures. The film "Wings of the Morning", went off & several people left their seats we stayed where we were. Did not hear the 'all clear'. Apparently there was a fight overhead - terrific no: of planes. Had letter from Pam.

17th: **Sunday** Really have not done anything today. Went up the shops this morning - saw deaf & dumb children evacuated at Residential Schools. Had to go to village in afternoon so to save time I went by byke. Forgot to take carrier so had to come back riding single handed - had a job starting up hill at the traffic lights - nearly toppled over. Had tea in garden. Auntie Col{bie} came. Had fight with Keith. Saw Evie over fence & gave her some material for collar for my frock.

18th: A very hot day & also most exciting. We had 2 air-raid warnings one at dinner, one at tea time. Incidentally the same times as the Friday raid. I have not heard so many planes overhead at the same time & we had to take our dinner into the hall although I have been told that the Friday raid - when I was in the cinema - was bigger. Keith cycled to Purley with {Jimmy} & saw all smashed windows of houses round a house where a bomb fell in the front garden.

19th: Jean B. called this morning about 10.20. I was almost up. Went for a walk with her but had to have dog on lead most of time {because } Canadians were rushing around in a Bren gun carrier. They are building something in the hazel wood. No air raid warnings. Washed hair in afternoon & Mummy set curls in pins. Took most of the afternoon mucking around with it. Auntie Addie came. Went out for cycle ride with Evie & looked up times of buses for tomorrow.

20th: Was very rude to Auntie Irene & got in awful temper. Had to apologise this evening {because} Mummy said she was feeling it. After display of temper I felt so ashamed that went up to bedroom & cried - soon got hysterical. John Balls spent day here. Played cricket & he sent hard cricket ball about {6?} ins away from verandah glass windows. Went to pictures with Evie. Saw Errol Flynn in "Dodge City". Also saw 'Men of the Lightship'. Came home in bus crowded with drunk soldiers.

21st: Am beginning to feel very dejected. Seem to be losing touch with family at times - especially Mummy. Went up to village this morning to get a library book as I finished 'Judith Paris' in bed this morning could not get the sequel but got {Saint?} book 'The Brighton Buccaneer'. Woman remembered my name & also my number which is more than I did. Auntie Irene called Keith a 'good boy' & Jean keeps teasing him about it. Painted in the afternoon. Read some of my book. Am miserable.

22nd: Had to get up quite early {because} Mrs.Lance had to do rooms. Phoned up Miss Newby but she was not in. Went up the shops twice. Mrs. Summers took ladies in shop in turn & did not attend to the one who had pushed in. Miss {Wag?} phoned up at dinner-time. Am to go to tea on Tuesday. Am longing for it.

Pamela came about 3.20 & we talked - in lounge a bit, then played 1 game of tennis. Had tea in lounge alone then went up to see Canadians. Postman gave me letter from Jill while I was looking out for Pam.

23rd: The 'Jerries' came over last night. Was woken up by people wandering around the houses watching planes being caught in the searchlights. After planes had gone over we had the air-raid siren, so spent a cold 1/2 hour in the hall. Got up at 10 o'clock and went up shops. Had a headache so took an annadin. Was not feeling good but went to meet Margaret as usual. Caught 4.7, met Mummy & co at Zeeta's, bought some tennis shoes & then met Margaret at 4.50. Saw "Primrose Path".

24th: Air raid siren at 9.20. A most exciting day. Went up to village in morning. Soldiers on lorry waved & shouted. Went to Pam's tournament in afternoon. Won the only game I played {because} owing to air-raid I had to put M.Douglass in my place & go home to get ready for dance with Margaret in evening. Had bath. Met Margaret at 7.25 & went to Banstead Institute. Danced with quite a no: of boys. Were just leaving when air-raid siren went. Spent 1½ in shelter - sing song. Arrived at Margaret's at 1.50 a.m. after catching last bus home. A boy has fallen for Margaret.

25th: **Sunday** Not much news today. Woke up at 10 o'clock. We must have taken some time getting up {because} I noticed that when we were in the garden it was 12.45. Had lovely lamb & mint sauce for dinner. Called on Christine after dinner but she could not come out. Went for long walk up to Oaks Park with Uncle Vic & Judy. Had choc-ices up there. Spent evening reading, playing piano & eating plums. Had 2 air-raid warnings 1 at 10.37 & the other at half past eleven. We stayed in bed - downstairs.

26th: Two air-raids late last night but Margaret & I took no notice & stayed in bed. Went down to shops in morning. Went to Plaza in afternoon to see "Grapes of Wrath" with Henry Fonda. I was very disappointed in it. Saw a Jones' family picture on with it. At 9.30 p.m. the siren sounded so we went in cupboard under the stairs. We soon got tired of that so Margaret & I went to bed. The 'all clear went at 3.45. 6hr raid & all others still up.

27th: We got up about 10.30 to 11 o'clock. Went down to shops. Then caught 12.0 train to my home. We spent day there. Was going to tea with Miss Newby but she couldn't have me. Went up to village in afternoon to change my library book & Margaret to change her mother's. Got some cake & tea buns that Marg & I fancied for ourselves. Saw soldiers. Marg: nervous like I was at first. Went for walk round Spinney with whole crowd & Evie. Evie came up to {station?} on byke. 2 air raids at night. We slept.

28th: A most exciting day. I have been buying some of my outfit for town. Met Mummy at 11.0 o'clock on train. Got in her carriage. Auntie Nell, Auntie Vera & Margaret were there. Went to "C&As" & bought a lovely maroon coat. Marg bought herself a tan costume. Went to Lyons' & had 3 course lunch. Went back to C&A's to get a hat. Also went upstairs got see frocks with intention of buying 1 but they were such good bargains that I tried on about 10 & came out with 2 so did Marg. Air-raid at 9.0 lasted 7 hrs.

29th: Auntie was cleaning up in morning so she sent us outside in garden. Read an awful lot of my book. Went to Grange Park after dinner & went out in a rowing boat. 4 boys there kept bumping into us. One of them was nice looking. We left there at 5.30 & walked home. Bought some sweets. In evening did a bit more reading then watered the garden with the hose. John kept mucking around & threw a squashed tomato at me. He sleeps downstairs in our room now. No air-raid.

30th: Auntie received a Post Card from Mummy saying she would not be able to meet her in Sutton as she was going to the Chessington Zoo & asking us to go with them instead of meeting Evie as arranged. We caught 9.51 train & when we got home they were waiting for us. We went by 3 buses there & when we arrived we heard several planes & an awful lot of booms. Everyone ran for the shelter. During day there were 4 raids {inal}: 1 at night. Began at 9.10 and ended at 3.50.

31st: Uncle put clock in to wake John up so I got out of bed and fished around for something to put on it. It woke John up at 6.30 & he went to the baths. Woke up again at 8.30 when an air-raid warning was sounding. I broke the music stand of the piano. We had 3 air-raids before dinner & 3 after although last was 12.30 in morning. Marg: & I went to pictures & saw 'Broadway Melody of 1940' with Fred Astaire & Eleanor Powell. Had to see part of film again as we were not allowed out in middle of a raid.

September

1st: **Sunday** Woke up about 9.30. Uncle came in & pulled all clothes off us so had to get up. Marg & I were just going to shell peas in garden when warning went & we shelled them in cupboard instead. Had 2 warnings today. Marg & I spent afternoon sun bathing but went out for walk to {Pin?} Walk with Uncle just before tea time. Auntie Letty & Uncle Frank came after tea so was left out a bit but played piano. Caught 8 o'clock train home. Everything goes wrong. Ann sleeping in Uncle Ted's bed.

2nd: Dreadful catastrophe has darkened my life. Jean phoned up & told me that she has got School Cert: I did not think my result had come but when I finished conversation went into drawing room & Mummy had received it. I have failed. Have just been out for walk up road alone - 9.30 - feel so dejected - Daddy is annoyed Keith was sweet. So were Mummy & Uncle. Got a book out of library this morning 'The Scarlet Pimpernel' & have finished it. {This?} lot of Canadians gone.

3rd: Have got a very sniffly cold. Went up to Jean's at 9.30 & we went to P.K.'s. She failed the exam like me & only passed in Maths. We heard that Fink had got Matric & we went to see Joy & it is pretty certain that she has Matric. Was an air-raid whilst out with Jean so we went down into her dug-out. Although there was an air-raid in afternoon I was able to meet Miss Newby at alleged time 4.15 & go to tea with her. Had a lovely time. Sat in garden.

4th: A most exciting thing occurred. I was getting dressed about 9.30 when we heard a plane coming down that seemed as though it would crash into our house. Mummy rushed us into the cupboard & Keith saw the plane crash - at the back of Jean Hodges' garden. We went up to see it when 'all clear' had gone. Didn't see much. Rumours went round 1st pilot was killed, then he had bailed out but I think it is now known he was in it. Wrote a letter to Jill. Vivian, Denis' friend came in. We played tennis.

5th: Got up quite early as Mrs. Lance came. She was at back of garden when plane crashed yesterday. Am reading 'Chivalry' by Rafael Sabatini. There was an air-raid warning at 10 am & I thought that I would not be able to go to Miss Newby's for a music lesson at 11 o'clock. But 'all clear' went at 10.55. Washed wool of jumper taken to bits & started one with complicated pattern. Saw Stella & Evie come back from baths when going for walk. Think they might have asked me.

6th: Was going to Miss Newby's to hear some duets she was playing with a man but there was a terrific air-raid - the biggest yet, shook the house, & Mummy did not think that Auntie Vera would go to Sutton to meet her in afternoon so she asked me to go with her in the morning. Bought a bag & some gloves. Was warning just as we were coming away so had to spend 1 hour in shelter. We finished dinner at 3 o'clock. Met Marg at 5 & we went to pictures. Was a warning whilst in there & one tonight. Saw Evie.

7th: Am very worried. Germans launched biggest raid of the war & there is burning - at moment 10 p.m. a terrific fire in London it is about 3 miles long. I was up at station & saw fire & talked to Geoff Bur{r} about it. Felt quite grown up talking to a boy in dusk. Went up to Auntie Addie's to pick plums & met Jean B. outside. Had to go up to village with her. Spent afternoon in garden reading. Had an air-raid warning just as settling down to tea. That was the biggest.

8th: **Sunday** The fire is not really out tonight. We can see the glow in the fire. Of course there is another air-raid & we have heard & seen the terrific barrage that is being put up. Went for walk on downs with Jean. Sandy has a bad leg & limps badly - think he has been stung. Finished reading 'Chivalry' in afternoon.

Tab came to tea & he & Denis are at pictures. Hope they get home safely. No trains are running to London Bridge as line has been hit. Went out for walk in evening.

9th: We have had the first real experience of war. Great damage is being done in London by Germans & success is going to their heads. Raid warning went when just getting tea ready. I was going to cut some bread when I looked out of window & saw about 50 planes - Germans. We hurried into cupboard. We heard a terrific bonk-{about} & several others. The bomb dropped in Hillside at back of us, 8 houses away. Side of house was blown away. All safe.

10th: Had a succession of silly little raids beginning just before 1 o'clock. But we are hearing guns tonight & 'Jerries'. Mrs Whitehorn came round & told me Evie was at home with a cold so I spent the day with her. We seemed to be eating all day. Especially apples from her garden. We didn't have sweet round here for dinner as electric cooker had gone wrong. We had fruit instead. When I left Evie's at 8 o'clock - when warning went, Stella had not got home & they were getting worried. Am reading 'Harm{on} John'.

11th: Took Sandy for short walk in morning but could not take him far in case of air-raid warning. Sandy has bad foot don't know what it is. He limps badly. Mummy went to village came home in airaid but no raid. Read book very much as am trying to finish it by tomorrow as I have to fetch the book in waiting for me then. Did some drawing with Jean. Was playing cards in evening when heard the rush of a bomb. We rushed into cupboard. Keith & Jean slept there. Barrage was terrific.

12th: Daddy's office has been badly damaged so he was unable to go up today. Uncle also stayed at home after worst disturbing night. Dad & Uncle took Sandy to Vet & he had foot lanced. Went to music. Finished {'HarmerJokers'} - queer book. Got 'The Fortress' out of library. Now the {gun fire?} is terrific. Yesterday was biggest barrage of war. We have a lot of mobile guns around us. Did some painting in afternoon. Bathed Sandy's foot and took him for walk but not far he kept stopping to bite paw.

13th: Got up quite early as siren went at about 7.30 am. Undid part of school tunic. Evie is going to help me make a skirt of it. Denis was mentioning the pictures when Mummy astoundingly came out with 'Let's all go & see "Charley's Aunt"'. We went & Keith Denis & I stayed in while others went home. Daddy went up to office today & did a bit of work in basement. Had 4 hr raid at dinner-time. Buckingham Palace was deliberately bombed.

14th: Was still in bed when Jean came round. Aunt'Rene told her that I was going to have a bath so couldn't come out. Was a siren at 9.30 soon 'all clear'. Had bath the Margaret turned up with Judy & Aunt Nell who had come back from starting to work. Margaret & I arranged to go to pictures, met at 2 & went to see 'Gaslight' with Anton Walbrook & Diana Wyngard. Jolly good. Have been 2 sirens tonight but both 'all clears' have gone. {Strange?}

15th: **Sunday** Most astounding - 165 German planes shot down up to 8 o'clock. We lost 30 planes & 20 pilots. Mummy washed my hair in morning. Siren went just as finishing. Played 5-stones while drying it in front of fire. Have got quite a long way with the jumper I am knitting for Margaret. I read & knitted all the afternoon also played the piano. The siren went at {8}.10 wonder if it is going to be one of usual 'all night' raids.

16th: There is a beautiful row going on just now. Talk about a barrage - the noise is terrific. Went up to Village in morning despite fact that siren went. Popped in library book. Then called round to see Fink but she was in Village in shelter. SDhe has a bomb just outside her house it broke no win Dow's. Saw damage done by bomb dropped in Churchyard. That news was in paper. Aunt Nell got home late 8.50. Everybody was worried. Saw 'It's a date? Man took us in car.

17th: Am feeling very sore so have come to bed at 8.45. Mummy went to Auntie Vera's for the day & she was talking to Aunt Nell in bedroom when I went in pretending to cry & they both attacked me told me to control myself. Mummy received letter from Mrs. Reynolds asking to buy my coat. I got one from Pat, 1 from M. Copsey & my books from Stinker. Set Mummy's hair yesterday & combed it this morning. Set my own hair & used it as an excuse when Jean came round.

18th: (P) The barrage is again terrific tonight. 3 big shops have been hit in Oxford St. where Denis works. He annoys me he is so pro-German. Took Sandy up to Vets & did not think that I would feel queasy at the sight of blood but I had to leave the surgery. I was so disgusted with myself. Went to see 'Irene' in afternoon with Evie & Jean. Ray Milland & Anna Neagle were in it. It was good. A soldier tried to be fresh with Evie but she wasn't having any.

19th: There has been only one air-raid warning today & that was this morning before I got up. Of course there is 1 going on at present (8.40.) Went to music this morning. Walked to Village with Miss Newby afterwards. Took back library books & bought cake. Evie spent afternoon & evening with me. We played 'Monopoly' with Dad who was turned out of office owing to Time Bomb. Of course Evie won. Still feel as though I'm not wanted here. Did some drawing with Evie.

20th: It was a terrible night last night. Lots of people heard a plane come down. It demolished 1 & wrecked 4 houses in Merton Park. It was a German. Went up to the shops twice in morning. Evie spent the morning with me. There is now 9.20 a big glow in the sky showing a fire. Went to pictures with Evie in afternoon. It was lucky that we went to Epsom as a 'time bomb' went off in Sutton completely demolishing a shop. There is a lovely big barrage.

21st: Went out for walk in morning & went right over Nork Park which Canadians have vacated. Was a short warning in morning. Evie went to Plaza but owing to 'time bomb' in middle of Plaza took a train to Epsom & saw the picture there.. Heard & saw lot of our planes when the 2nd warning went after tea. Went up to library to get Vanessa booked for me. Had to bring back bottle of lemonade 'took' underneath one arm. A soldier called me 'Freckles'.

22nd: **Sunday** There have been 3 warnings today although weather has been rotten & visibility poor. Went for walk in morning with Evie. Walked through the Spinney. Played game 'Cheat' with Jean & Keith after dinner, then painted with Jean. Read some of my book. Played cards again in evening. Also did some knitting, must finish Marg's jumper quickly. Of course there is an air-raid tonight began 7.10 awful lot of bangs & another great barrage.

23rd: The girls have gone back to Turnworth today. I am so glad that I have not gone for 1 thing I would not have had the bath I have just now finished soaking in. The sirens are just now sounding (7.45) For the night I suppose. Went up the shops & also for walk this morning. Called in to see Grandma. Read nearly all afternoon. Found a beetle in pond. Hope it won't do any damage. We saw 35 planes out during one warning.

24th: Don't know why but nobody cooked me any breakfast this morning. Jean did her own so I suppose I was meant to do likewise. I had bread & butter & marmalade. Went up to shops with Mummy & Jean. We have changed bakers. Went for walk. {2} Aunts & Mummy went to Sutton shopping in afternoon. Found another beetle in pond. We raided Berlin for 4 hours or more last night. Have got over ½ way through 'Vanessa'. It is lovely. Have finished 1 shoulder of jumper.

25th: Another raid in progress. Started 8.35 p.m. Denis reports that last night Nazis dropped mine on Tottenham Court Rd. Did a lot of damage. Went up to shops then went for walk this morning. We started for walk but sirens went so had to come back & go later. But we went before the 'all clear' went anyway.

Painted in afternoon. Read lot more of 'Vanessa'. Very sad, she dies. Finished front of Marg's jumper. Have got a craze of playing 'Patience'. So has Jean.

26th: I have just come back from seeing the thrilling film of 'Rebecca'. Laurence Olivier who played the part of Max de Winter was a marvellous actor & Joan Fontaine as his wife was also marvellous. Spent this morning (after music lesson) chasing in & out of buildings in Sutton trying to find place to register for job for me. Am too young, may have to wait till I'm 17 next May - hope not. Bought a lovely pair of new shoes - blue with quite high heels - highest yet. Wore new clothes, took new bag.

27th: Another barrage tonight. Warning is going as I am writing (at 8.20). We have had an exciting day and two raids with no warning. We saw dog fights both in morning & afternoon raid. The aft: raid had no siren but the guns were going & we saw a whole crowd of Jerries turned back by our fighters & the sky seemed to be filled with planes. Warden just came to tell us lights are showing. Guns are terrible now. Saw Joy Skinner out with a Canadian Sergeant. Not at school.

28th: It is 9.45. We have just been rather frightened by 3 bombs falling & we not knowing they were coming. I am still shaking. Sandy was outside & we all rushed into hall but we did not forget him. We fetched him & he walked in as though nothing had happened. I wrote a letter to Jill. I hope it gets there via her mother. Margaret brought Judy over this morning. She has had a land mine near her house blown off tiles, front door & a few windows. Got lift to village. Went for a long walk.

29th: **Sunday** We had a terrible night last night. Incendiary bombs literally all the way round us. 1 in Green Curve & 1 up road in Dougall's garden. A time bomb came down with a rush & we thought our last hour had come. Time bomb is in Warren Road. Went out for walk this morning. The gypsies are back in the 'Spinney'. Called on Aunt Kath. By the way 2 houses burnt out by oil bomb last night. Hope to get more sleep than we did last night. Started reading '& Tell of Time' by Laura Krey.

30th: Had a letter from Fink. She seems to be pretty miserable at school. Rowsie has left & apparently the school is moving to Wincanton. We had 2 terrific dog fights near us but the sky was cloudy & we were unable to see planes. We had just come in when we heard a plane doing a terrific dive. Apparently Mrs. Whitehorn saw plane going down in flames. It landed at Kingswood & was even given out on wireless as being shot down near Tadworth. Jill went to school last Thursday.

October

1st: Woke up last night round 2 o'clock & kept imagining I could smell smoke & that house was on fire. Went for long walk up to Downs in morning. Went to see 'Pinocchio' in afternoon with Jean. It was better than I expected. There was good picture on with it as well called 'Little Orvie' about dogs & puppies. May Bramble was waiting at steps as we got out of train. Saw Uncle Ted but had to keep with May. There is a fire (or fires) burning over Ewell way now. Probably another 'Molotov Bread Basket'?

2nd: I always knew I would be disgusted & a little surprised at the devastation Nazi bombers are causing in our England. I went today to Auntie Vera's and saw damage done by land mine - absolutely horrible. About 8 houses demolished & almost 100 I should think unliveable in. Wore a skirt & jumper & stockings today. Went for walk in morning. Went to music in afternoon. After seeing damage done to houses round Auntie's Mummy has packed several cases of clothes. Am sleeping with her 'cos Daddy is away tonight.

3rd: Another funny night. Warning went at 8.15 & 'all clear' at 9.15. It is a black night to go with rotten day we have had. Jerries have been flying over all afternoon without a warning. Lot of gunfire. Was out looking at bomb craters on Downs with Ann & Audrey & Jean. We flung ourselves under a tree when we heard planes & the firing became intense. But we made a dash for shelters & stayed there a while, then another dash for home & in just in time. Wrote a letter to Fink. Slept with Mum last night.

4th: Has been a {dirty?} day. Siren all afternoon. Keith had to stay in school until 5.30. The 1 tonight started at 7.30. 1 bomb has dropped already. Last night was peaceful - 'all clear' at 2.20 a.m. & there was not another siren until 5.45 a.m. 'all clear' 6.10. Went for walk in morning then had hair washed. Read 'The Squire of Wynfield' story in some of old Woman's Weeklys. Had a longing for Jill last night. Daddy has come home again. Evan is home on leave and came here tonight. He really is nice.

5th: Went for walk as usual in morning but did not go far as our boys were up & we thought there was going to be a raid. We had only been in about 10 mins. when the siren went. There was a dog fight near here we watched but our fighters soon chased them into the clouds. They lost 25 today to our 9 with 4 pilots safe. Mum & 2 aunts went to Sutton so I got tea for the boys. There is a terrific barrage tonight. Have got on a lot with Marg's jumper.

6th: **Sunday** So far there has not been a warning tonight. It is 10 o'clock. We had 2 during day - 1 all afternoon - but did not take much notice of them as Jerries were round about all day even after 'all clear' had sounded. Heard several out when on walk with Evie & Jean. Painted all afternoon. Went for walk about 'blackout' time and it was pouring with rain. Jean & I got soaked as did dog. Hair was wet, had to dry it by fire. Got cup of tea for all during the afternoon.

7th: No warning last night. Went up to Village to get book for Uncle. Started for walk - siren went - came back. Went after 'all clear' but another siren when out. Took no notice until saw 2 Jerries in sky & heard lot of gunfire. Sheltered in Auntie's. Jean B. came for me after dinner. Went out with her. On that terrifying Saturday she had 3 incendiary bombs in her garden. Went to Sutton after came back from walk with her & bought a mac-cape. Very nice & expensive. Had a very nice letter from Sheila B. She wants to buy my Lax stick.

8th: Went out for walk past Spinney where we saw where incendiary bombs fell. Grandma came down when a lot of machine gunning had just finished. I put on new mac-cape and walked home with her. Painted with Jean all the afternoon. Knitted and read in the evening but soon got windy when 2 bombs whistled and fell, shaking the house. 3 more fell, but a long way off. We rushed into hall for 1st 2. Boys in lounge put on tin helmets & flung themselves on floor. Took dog out in evening.

9th: Went up to village in morning with Auntie Kath & Jean+dog. Siren went when we were up there. The basket was {heavy}. Wrote a letter to Sheila B. Got library book 'The Black Moth' by Georgette Heyer, for Uncle Ted and read it myself. Have read it before. Auntie Vera came over with Judy. She has had two more of her windows blown out by a bomb. The 3 bombs fell last night - 2 in Higher Drive & 1 in Ruden Way by Drift Bridge. 1 whistle was heard tonight - probably wind.

10th: It is another horrible night. Planes coming over in continual stream. I am getting more nervous. Time bomb went off during the day with a terrific explosion. Went round to Buckles Way where bomb fell that woke me up last night. Wrote a letter to Stinker. Read a lot more of 'And Tell of Time'. We have just heard a plane zooming over as though it was dive bombing. Saw Jerry high up today, also some A.A. Fire. Letter came from Labour Exchange Head Office. Hope I get a job.

11th: It is another awful night. One bomb has fallen already (9.15 now). I was in cupboard at time ∴ of big guns - seems near us. Went up to see Auntie Kath. Was going to pictures with her in afternoon but she had a bad headache. Saw about {1,9?} house that were damaged by bombs & a time bomb in Fir Tree Rd & Ruden Way. Only tiles and windows as far as I could see. Heard Jerry come down + bombs. They were near Keith & he had to lie under a tree, frightened. Had a letter from Jill. Had music lesson.

12th: Another bomb fell at 12 midnight. Woke me up. Went up to shops with Jean. Allen Schooler gave me letter from Pam that she addressed to 80 instead of 70. Gypsies came to Aunt Kath's when we were there

asking for water. She said she wasn't allowed to supply water to them. Went through woods where soldiers were. Went out with Mummy & Daddy in car. Daddy has got it out because he is being evacuated & has to see about billets next week. Not so bad tonight. Not a route.

13th: **Sunday** Helped to get the breakfast this morning. Went for walk with Evie, Stella and Jean. Stella led way as usual so didn't go far. When came back felt dissatisfied, had nothing to do - so went and played piano. Went to tea with Evie. Wore 1 of new frocks, Margaret Hewitt came to Stella, she wore a lovely fur coat. She was in a house 2 doors away from where bomb fell in Fir Tree Rd. Took dog when we went over fields to see Margaret off. Warning went so we hurried home.

14th: Had lovely hot bath - waited a bit - then went up village to get Uncle a book 'The Convenient Marriage' by G. Heyer - and some drink. No warning until we got back. Sandy went out with a bone lodged in his mouth. Read the book, finished it tonight. 3 bombs have fallen so far. Quite a long way away though. Daddy has gone away for week to find billets for office. Went for walk in evening. Lovely moon. Am sleeping with Mum tonight. Lights went off just long enough to light candles.

15th: It was a lovely night - moon shining but it has changed and raining hard. The planes started off bad and 2 bombs dropped. I played piano for a bit while it was quiet. 5 bombs dropped this morning. I thought it was a plane coming down so hopped out of bed. Heard zoom of it. Was told that it was dive bombing to get away from fight that was going on overhead. Went up to Auntie Kath's & for walk. Painted in afternoon. Finished 'And Tell of Time'. Had a lovely hot bath.

16th: It is a horrible night - raining. Have spent most of evening in cupboard - very squashed. Went up to village with Aunt Kath. Saw Owen Boreston with his Ma. He seemed a strong silent bloke in R.A.F. uniform. After coming back had to go up to shops. I should not get so fat. It was an oil bomb that whistled down last night. We had one lot of gunfire during the day & 1 warning. Miss Newby came here to give me music lesson. She has got to now because her piano is being stored.

17th: Was woken up by Aunt Nell saying there was a letter waiting for me from the Labour Exchange. Was requested at Exchange where received a card for an interview by the Air Ministry. Am going tomorrow. Left Mum in Sutton as she went on to see a friend in Ewell. Got a lift home, as we had done coming. Went for walk & dog from over road, a lovely red-setter followed us. Had dinner early then met Auntie Kath & went to Odeon to see 'The Ghost of Breakers. Very thrilling. It is quite a bad night.

18th: Got up just past 7.0. Caught train to Victoria with Mum & Aunt Nell. Went to a Labour Exchange where woman was nasty -. Then went to Bush House in Aldwych where had to report with Mummy and wait 2 hours in room with 10 other young people. Filled up a form while I was waiting. Some of questions I did not know properly. Was eventually called in to see Miss Collins. She asked a few questions then said I was to report on Monday 9.30. Will get 22/6. Was so nervous kept wanting to go to lav. Saw Denis' office. Bought a pretty ring.

19th: (P) Posted off letter to 'Home Notes' for patterns of frock. Went to Margaret's for day. We went to Sutton in morning & Marg bought a pair of shoes with very high heels. Her mother disgusted. Went to pictures in afternoon. Saw 'My Favourite Wife'. Very funny. Cary Grant & Irene Dunne. Was so late out that had to go straight home. Jumped on to moving train. Felt annoyed about having to get home because of - Hitler. Almost 20 bombs dropped tonight.

20th: **Sunday** Had a very bad pain when I got up so took an Anadin with breakfast & felt better. Sat in verandah in sun all morning. Finished 'Where the Strange Roads go down'. Margaret came round in afternoon. We went up to station to get my season ticket. Then with Evie & Jean we went for walk over

downs. The siren went but we took no notice. Saw bomb craters. Went to see Marg: off with Jean & dog. Had to wait ¾ hour for train. Saw gypsies outside shelter. Quite bad tonight.

21st: First day at work. Went to Bush House. Dad took us by car. He is being evacuated today. Nearly fainted in Bush Hse as had to stand & wanted to go to lav. Asked lady for chair then another lady took me to cloakroom. Felt better after that. Talked to quite a lot of girls. Had photo taken. Was worried I should not be in time to meet Aunt for lunch but was allowed to go down & ask her to wait. Went to dinner with her. Then had to report to Mr. Abraham at Woburn Place. Had to go in shelter. Was shown what to do at work by a nice girl Miss Baldwin. We are evacuating.

22nd: First day really at work. Had to copy out names at first - then I learnt how to Compt on {Comptometer}. Am allowed out to lunch when I like. Met Auntie today. In afternoon some work came so I settled down to do that. Left at 5 after signing register. Got home at just before 7. Miss Baldwin came & helped me - I do like her. Another new girl came today. We had a rest from drone of planes. Hope a new thing has come in to stop them coming. I like my job. Had to do adding on machines. Some mistakes.

23rd: Wore some new corsets today and the bones have been sticking in all day. Miss Ryman was with Auntie when I met her for lunch. Had quite a lot of work to do all day. Talked a bit with the girls today. Went to Westminster and after {running?} down few side turnings we arrived at Labour Exchange. I got an Unemployment Card. Wrote a letter to Pamela. Had a letter from Jill. School has moved to Somerset. Am reading 'Greatheart' by Ethel M. Dell.

24th: Was supposed to get money today. Waited in long queue at Woburn Place, when got to desk was told to go to Adestral House. Walked right down there with two other girls but they had not heard from Woburn Place so Peggy & I have got to go tomorrow. Winnie was able to get hers as she came on Saturday. Auntie & I had luck coming home, caught tram & bus nicely & were able to catch 5.30 Portsmouth train first stop Sutton. Home 6.30.

25th: Peggy & I rode down to Adestral House again & this time were able to get pay. Mine was 13/11. Not much. Also gave in Health Insurance card procured on way to work this morning. Got very friendly with Joan Smith, girl sitting next to me. Peggy & I were teasing her all afternoon. Lot of people left early so office was quite empty. Had lovely time. Also went to London Bridge with her. Got there 5.20. But arrived home after siren went.

26th: Went up in train with Auntie & we had to go to London Bridge as Mitcham Line was upset. As she left office at 1 o'clock I had to come home at 5 o'clock by myself. As a matter of fact I went to Victoria with Joan. I think she is very nice. I was at Sutton when that siren went & at Belmont when their siren went. I ran down road & Uncle & Daddy came to meet me. I was so surprised I did not greet Daddy properly. Finished 'Greatheart'.

27th: **Sunday** All we seem to have been doing today is having raids. Lots of bombs fell this morning. We saw streaks in sky. Miss Newby came at 10.15 to give me a music lesson. She has suggested my spending Christmas with her as she will be in Bath which is near Tetbury. Dr. came & gave me an examination. Had to take off jumper. He saw false tooth. Wrote a letter to Jill. Got on with Marg's jumper. Washed hair. Packed up lax stick to send off to S.B.

28th: Had a lovely time at work today. I do like Joan Smith. She & I were teasing each other nearly all the time. When Miss Pontin came & asked who I was going to be billeted with I could not say. I do not want to be with Peggy, she boasts. Miss P. asked Joan to give alternative for billeting as she wasn't sure if 3 could go together. I asked her if she would like to come with me, she said she would not mind. I hope she does. Work was muddled. Home just as siren went.

29th: Came home in a torment of mind. Nobody will ever know what a state I was in. Auntie & I missed each other & after waiting $\frac{3}{4}$ hour & going to her office & up to her floor, I asked two men whether she'd left. I had to go without her eventually. Caught 6.8 at Victoria. Was at Waddon when siren went. Man offered to walk down Nork Way. Saw Auntie at Eastgate Parade so left the man. Talked to {2 men} in train. Daddy was at home when I arrived. Went for walk in lunch hour.

30th: Didn't feel very happy in office today. Arrived at 10.20. Miss Pontin said they'd heard from Mummy & those girls of 16 could leave at 4.0 and 1 o'clock on Saturday. Winnie was sitting at my desk next to Joan & I was annoyed, she is like to stay there. Scotch girl Peggy made me feel uncomfortable. Joan didn't pay much attention to me. Phoned Aunt up from office. Got home 6 o'clock. Came down with Vivian Boreston. Awfully interesting chat.

31st: Wasn't so bad at office today. Winnie's still got my desk but Joan spoke to me a little. Got in at 9.15 but Rose whom I came up with put 9.10 so I did too. When came to sign off noticed my name had red line underneath, as Peggy Price had seen me do it. I thought it was because she didn't believe me but I think it was because all those after me would be late. Marjorie Grisdale is a dizzy blond. Has a new bloke every day. Got to Sutton 5.20. Waited $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Got home 5.50.

November

1st: Was annoyed when got home. 1 thing happened after another. Was nicely ensconced in corridor train when told to get out & go further down. Of course had to stand. When at Sutton saw Evie get out of coach so went & joined her. Offer for 1 for lift was given but Evie & I wanted to go home together. Got on bus & thought she was following. Got a seat upstairs but came down to see Evie & noticed she wasn't there. When got out at Cross Roads train came in so I could just as well have gone by that & Evie had her lift. Girl brought in cups she broke.

2nd: Got up to office at 9.10. Put down 9 o'clock as other people did. Ate sandwiches while I was {waiting/walking?}. Peggy & Winnie were allowed to finish at 12.20 as they had finished work. But Peggy of course had to wait until Beryl finished so that she could walk just along the road with her. Of course Winnie had to wait too. Came down with Auntie just missed train. Met Evie at Sutton. Tried to get pattern at Woolworth's but all my size out. Got dressing-gown pattern however. Saw film Dr. Cyclops at plaza.

3rd: **Sunday** Had bath, apparently took all hot water so when Denis got in he grumbled & Mummy - wonder of wonders - told him off. Said I'm not a bit of dust. Had music lesson. Margaret came & we went for long walk over Epsom Downs to Grandstand in rain. Saw where bombs dropped. Went up steps, heard bugle, soon retreated. Evie came round in afternoon. She put my hair in a role on top. I tried it but it would not go so I cannot have it like that. We went up to station to see Marg: off. It is 10 o'clock & no siren has gone.

4th: Had to take some work into another room. Felt important I was all alone. Strange to tell did not feel frightened. Went out with Beryl & others in lunch hour to buy cakes as it was Beryl's birthday. We all had a piece. Joan paid more attention to me today, even smacked me on face playfully. Bus took a long time getting Westminster so did not leave Victoria until 5.40 {on} fast train to Sutton. Auntie & Uncle & Jean have gone home. Place seems empty. They've left all sweets. Am reading Uncle's 'Sir John Dering'

5th: Had to go up alone as Auntie took holiday to buy dress. Wished Stella Many Happy Returns - it is her 21st birthday. Hope to have my desk back tomorrow. Would not speak to Winnie unless she promised to let me have it. Did whole lot of work & had to do it all over again as got it wrong. Called in for trunk. Sat next to horrible man in train. At Westminster man offered me (& trunk) lift to Vict:Station. Nice of him but S.R. officials awful at station. Wasn't allowed to put trunk in Luggage Van. Caught train immediately at Sutton. Home 5.25.

6th: Auntie & I decided to stay in London Bridge train - good job we did at Mitcham line not open. When we got to Lond. Bridge tube station not open, just missed a train to Cannon St. Caught one later however. Got to office about 9.10. Put down on attendance sheet 9.5 as Rose did & Winnie gave me desk back so had lovely time with Joan especially lunch hour. Talked a lot - she said I did anyway. Had Jerry over & guns going. Got home 5.50 after waiting 20 minutes on Sutton Station. Rowdy night.

7th: I put a bit of lipstick on & when I got to office 1st thing Peggy said was 'You've got lipstick on'. I denied 'cos thought it had come off. Joan said same so told them not to be personal. Finished 'Sir John Dering' in the train. Had nothing to do in lunch hour. We played trick on Peg & hid her comb pretending to have thrown it out of window. She got really annoyed - can't take a joke. Bad Blitz tonight. Several bombs dropped. Finished Marg's jumper. Started writing to Sheila B.

14th: Queer night. Siren didn't go until about 8.30. Just as Auntie & I had started out in the moonlight to take Sandy for a walk. Even then only 1 plane went over & it was such a lovely night we couldn't resist taking our walk. So walked up & down road keeping near house. Learnt that we are evacuating to Tetbury on 27th Nov. Bought 2 scarves, 1 for head & 1 for neck. Miss Pontin had afternoon off so office was noisy. Gave 6d for Dizzy Blonde's birthday tomorrow.

15th: Trains running to time so Auntie & I caught London Bridge train & got up at 8.30. In office at 9 o'clock. Dizzy Blonde's birthday. Fun when Miss Pontin went out. She got a date with an almost stranger. Went out with Winnie to get some chocolate, couldn't get much. Peggy & Beryl went to Oxford St. They were late back. They liked my scarves. Took $\frac{3}{4}$ hour getting home from Sutton. Joan said she's not type boys ask to dance. I think she is quite like me. Coventry smashed last night.

16th: Bad raids last night. Big fire in London still blazing when Auntie & I left in morning. Was Hampton's Furnishing Dept: in Trafalgar Sq. Saw it smouldering when came home. Denis bought Beethoven {5/8}th Symphony. Also bought Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No:2. Only one line to London & that London Bridge via Mitcham Jct. Caught 1.45 at Vict: met Marg: & Evie at 2.30. Bought a brown skirt & some mauve wool. Went to see 'Stardust' & 'The House Across the Bay'. 'All Clear' went tonight but siren went after {?}.

17th: **Sunday** Terrible explosion at 5.45 this morning. Really thought windows were coming in. Mr. Frost (A.R.P) came round later & asked if all all right. We asked him where it fell. It was Eastgate. Mrs. Rhodes shop absolutely a wreck. She was got out safely thank goodness. All Eastgate shops are wrecks. Also Nork W. shop windows out. Saw dog been killed by flying glass. Auntie Addie lost 3 windows. Evie's side gate window smashed. Marg: came, & Evie came to tea. Went up to see Marg: off. She had Judy. Sandy was frightened by bomb, shivered. Bad stormy night.

18th: Mr.Rhodes is wonderful his shop is open today. Was a horrible afternoon when got to Westminster could not get a bus, all were full up. Got soaking wet. Got lift to Sutton got out of car and got on bus immediately. They are meeting me every day. Was home before Auntie. When got home 4 letters were awaiting me. 1 from Jill with season ticket case & photos: 1 from Jean, Pat & Sheila B plus 5/- postal order for lax stick. Siren went 8.30.

19th: Got up to London Bridge just before 8.30. So got into office in good time. No sirens today. One tonight went at about 6.10 - very early anyway. Came home by car again - same people. Mummy had letter from Daddy & he went to the pictures because he had nothing to do. Fancy him doing that. He saw Rebecca. Pam's birthday so we had cakes in office today. Joan went out and exchanged postal order I had for lax stick - very nice of her. Mummy bought me some powder. I had to pay for watch - 10/6

20th: Up at office in good time again today. Two bombs fell early this morning in Woodmansterne & killed 3 people in a shelter. Had fun with Joan lunch-time. Made up before came home; of course they laughed at me ∴ did not hurry there was hold up in Strand. Was not late for lift however. Walked up Sutton High St.

with the man from Banstead & managed to catch train coming in as I got to station. Saw Auntie there so came on with her. Mummy making frock.

21st: (P) Got up to office early, signed off 8.50. Felt rotten, had stomachache. Managed to get Cot. Wool in bag & so fix up like that. Knew what it was when had stomachache. No work all day. Read a mag in morning. Joan was nasty to me about my work. Watched Joyce & Winnie doing stationery. Strand was closed so buses had to go round by embankment. Was a hold up for as long nearly, got out but it was pouring with rain. When got to Charing + ran round to car stop but car was in hold up too so I was not late.

22nd: Got up to office in good time so did Joan. Took Anadin with cup of tea which did stomach & headache good. Went to Oxford St. with Winnie in lunch hour. Bought pair of blue socks 3/3 - monstrous price but I liked them. Got to Sutton in car by 5.15 so decided to hurry to Skinners & buy material for bolero in contrasting blue to wine frock. Evie caught me up just outside Skinners. Manage to get blue in same material. Cut out bolero at night.

23rd: Seem to have been doing nothing but waiting in queues all day long. Waited in Adastral House for advance pay this morning. Was from 11.15 to 12.30 getting it. Gobbled down a bit of my dinner then went to Victoria with Joan. Caught 1.37 left Vic at 1.50 - Slightly late. Bought material for dressing gown, - red blankety stuff. Then waited for Evie a bit. But queue to see 'Convoy' was getting longer so Marg & I decided to get in it. Evie turned up & said she was going to Plaza with Stella. Managed to persuade her to come with {me/us?}. Got in 4.50. Came home on bus. Nice conductor {put me with Jean}

24th: **Sunday** Got up pretty late. Evie could not come for walk with me after all, so went alone. Called in to see Auntie Kath & Grandma & say goodbye to them. Went out in car in afternoon to Little Switzerland. Went for lovely long walk took Sandy, he loved it. Heard siren while we were there. Also funny one on a private house. Several bombs been dropped there, probably ∴ of soldiers' camps. Almost finished my bolero, worked until 11 o'clock trying to finish it. Had hair washed. No siren but a bit of gunfire.

25th: Didn't like saying goodbye to Daddy - he didn't like it either, I could see that. Got up to office in good time. Spent all day packing up & literally lolling about. Winnie & I were alone for a few minutes during lunch-time. Pat phoned up Marg: her call went all round the office, everybody talked to her. Had man in packing machines. Bessie bought 4 pairs of stockings & left them somewhere probably in bus, poor girl, she won't see them again. Office was in a mess. Girl was not in car when I went home but we picked up someone else.

26th: Although did not hurry out, as thought books would not be there to sign, I caught a train that got me in to office in good time. Good job ∴ book was there after all. At 10 o'clock we were told to go & get the photos for our passes. They were all awful. I look like a fat woman in a circus. From then on was waiting until 4 o'clock for railway pass. Was so annoyed at having to wait. Waited in Beryl's room where boys were fighting with girls. Evie came round to say goodbye. Worried over packing. Mummy talked about life while I having bath.

27th: Left house 8 o'clock. Denis took me by car to Paddington. {Tate} & Marg: Rob: came too. Denis half pulled handle off case but it did not give way - thank heaven. Left Pad. 9.40 arrived Tetbury after 2. Peggy & I billeted tog: in village Avening 3¼ miles from Tet. Annoyed at first but such a nice house & such nice people, Mr. & Mrs. Hares he is a schoolmaster, that we don't mind being away from shops in Tet. House has electric light & water laid on. Wrote to Mummy. Played piano. Esmé, who is next door came in as she was alone. Lovely bed. Slept well.

28th: Got up 7.40. Took such an age dressing & cleaning shoes that had to hurry over breakfast as bus went 8.30. Westonbirt, our office which was a school, is a huge building. Peg & I spent a long time finding our room, but eventually were taken to an out building called the annexe. Went for walk round grounds,

saw the Chapel. Lovely grounds! - beautiful place! Had to wait for bus until 5.35 as it was late. When we got in Mrs.Hares gave us a hot dinner of chops & we had jelly sponge & cold custard. Had terrible headache after skipping. Lady gave me Eucalyptus drops on sugar.

29th: Did not have such a rush for the bus. Got to school at 9 o'clock. Miss Pontin fussing around all day & just because she wants to move our room has got to go with her. She did annoy me today. Went to dinner in canteen. Had lovely rissole. Went up on roof in lunch-hour. Bessie locked us out there. When we came back we tried to lock her in but she had taken the key away. Had tea in canteen. Buttered bun & bread & butter & jam. Had work to do today. Bus left 5.10. Had steak & kidney pudding for {breakfast}.

30th: Left home just before 8.30 and we had to run for bus. Luckily it stopped for us. Would have had to walk 7½ {yrs} if we hadn't run. Left the school at 10 o'clock. We are going to work 48 hrs a week not 54 as some are. In afternoon Beryl & Winnie came over by bus and we walked to Minchin Hampton - we had meant to go to Nailsworth but took wrong road. Could not get any tea there. Bought cakes to eat. Came back different way by beautiful Stroud valley. Mrs. Hares let B. & W. have tea. They caught only bus at 8.15.

December

1st: **Sunday** Mrs.Hares called us at just before 10 o'clock. As we had arranged to leave house at 10 & meet B & W halfway from Tetbury, we were told off by them when we went by bus to Tetbury in the afternoon as we had not met them ∴ we did not leave until 11.0 so never met them. Walked round Tetbury part of afternoon. Then B & P went for long walk & W. & I went to her billet & I played about with the sweet little puppy. Had tea in primitive sort of place then went back to their billet to wait for 7.35 bus. Wrote 6 page letter to Evie.

2nd: Got a letter from Mummy. Peggy had one too. Mummy put a stamp in mine but it must have dropped out when I opened [it]. So when I got back at 6.30 at night I took a torch & went into Audrey to see if I could find it. We must have looked funny inspecting the ground so closely. Hear[d] air-raid warning when we got out of coach at Avening. A few 'Jerries' came over. {London} was quiet last night, thank goodness. Started writing letter to Mummy - 8 pages. Esmé & Aud. came in & giggled. Played piano.

3rd: Were early out this morning so had time to post letters at Post Office. Stopped postman & made him look through letters for ours. I had one from Auntie Nellie. Miss Pontin gave us official time for lunch 12 to 1. Said we were not to use phones for private calls, & a lot of other complaints she made. Marjory & Rose had been sick in night so they had to rest today. They both looked pretty ghastly. M went home early. Got C.N's for byke so finished 10 page letter to Mummy. Some Jerries have flown over tonight.

4th: In middle of night Peggy & I both moved at same time & bumped our heads & woke each other up. We did laugh about it this morning. Posted fat letter to Mummy. Miss Pontin was nicer today, she had few more complaints though. We're supposed to get out of office room during lunch hour. Wrote a letter to Sheila B. Finished reading 'Tzigane' and nearly finished ribbing of jumper. Went up to spare room with Mrs. Hares to get apples, had a lovely big one. Went to be[d] late - about 10.15.

5th: Had bath soon as arrived in Westonbirt. Esmé, Audrey & I had one first & Peggy kept guard. Then she & Beryl had one & Esmé kept guard. Started reading 'Return I dare not' by M.Kennedy. As Peg: finished 'Forced Landing' I have started that instead. Played about with Mr.Heywood & Mr.Spite. Esmé & Audrey came in to Mrs.Hares to get books. Audrey got so wrapped up in book she stayed long time. We did not wait for Peggy to catch bus as she was saying goodnight to Beryl. She annoys me.

6th: Got paid. Gave back 10/- of advance pay so have been working out a budget on 10/-. Beryl & Peg went to lunch without us so we did not sit with them or take any notice. Very windy day. Last night was so windy that our bedroom door kept banging. Mrs.H. put mat by it but I didn't get much sleep. Heard there were to

be tickets for Ensa concert on Sunday. They are to be balloted hope to get one. Got on well with sleeve of jumper.

7th: As it was raining we stopped bus at top of our road. Miss Pontin made lot more daft rules. Getting more like school than ever. Posted letter to darling Jill. Peggy went to Tetbury on Esmé's byke to see Beryl of course. I walked part of way to Tetbury & met Jean & Winnie. They came into Avening had to go down bottom of hill to see bus time table as some boys had torn the other. I saw them smiling. They caught 4.15 bus back to Tetbury.

8th: **Sunday** Awful schemozzle today. Went to see Ensa concert and on way back Audrey, Esmé & I walked faster than Peggy and she didn't half kick up a fuss. We had a quarrel over supper then when in bed she cried so I had to apologise sweetly. She is spoilt! We managed to stop bus coming home so did not have to walk. Concert was good. Lot of good looking soldiers. Audrey & Esmé just walked in this morning. Peggy & I think it is a cheek.

9th: Thought we had missed the coach as we were late & heard a bus going somewhere. However we caught it but 2 other girls nearly missed it & through Peggy, the bus was stopped and they got on. Esmé cycled to work. Had bath when we got here - lovely. Bad raid on London last night. Am worried about Mummy. Peggy trying to be friends with me asked a lot of awkward questions, turning me against Audrey. Wrote letter to Miss Newby. Peggy tried to play piano.

10th: I find I like Audrey very much and I think she likes me. She has been in here again tonight and I have been doing her hair. During lunch hour I finished reading 'Forced Landing'. Had no work to do most of the day but learnt from Joan Baldwin how to do Overcharges. Later some sorting came so did it with Esmé. Was very noisy all day I don't know why. Audrey had head on lap coming back in coach.

11th: No work all day except a bit of sorting in morning. So Audrey & I were sent over to L.M.S. In afternoon Audrey asked me to leave canteen & I wouldn't so she went in huff & when I joined her in L.M.S. we didn't speak to each other for ages. When we came out in dark we made it up & put arms round each other. She kept pressing hand in bus. Terrible bad raid last night. Felt quite frightened. Had letter from Mummy & one from Pam.

12th: Literally have done no work at all. Went to village with Audrey in lunch hour, we were very loving & had arms round each other going but coming back some people followed us so we had to behave. However we went round to see big pond & she chucked ice along pond to watch it slide. She is now lying in my lap & only Peg & Esmé are in the room as others went home at 5 o'clock because there is no work to do. I have got my arm round her.

13th: Went to village with Audrey & Esmé & Es. phoned Tetbury Station to see if the bicycles of Peggy & myself were there. Mine was but Peggy's wasn't. So went down again with Peggy at teatime. She phoned Stroud to see if it was there. They said they'd sent it so she phoned Tetbury again. After a bit of argument they said it was. Had bad throat so got 2 of Audrey's throat tablets. Mrs. Hares brought us drink {&} raspberry vinegar for throat.

14th: Fetched byke from station. Esmé & Audrey went by byke today so came home with me & Peggy who also fetched her byke. Rode with Audrey most of way. Mrs. Hares took Peggy & myself to Stroud where we did lot of Christmas shopping spent over a pound. Aud: & Es: gone to Gloucester {with} Mrs. Green. Mrs. Hares said don't know how they are going to get back. Am rather worried. Trunk did not come as expected.

15th: **Sunday** As Peggy had hair washed in morning decided to ask Esmé & Audrey to go for a walk. But they were going to church. They asked me to go & meet them from there though. In afternoon went for walk with Audrey we walked to Charrington. Did not see Mr. Heywood & Mr. Spite. We had a lovely time.

Went by aerodrome & saw several aeroplanes taking off & landing. Went round to take book to Audrey & stayed there long time. Saw Audrey to bed so kissed her goodnight.

16th: Audrey & had a quarrel [because] I would not lend her 10/- to buy me another Christmas present because she has discovered I do not like the one she has got. We made it up beautifully later however. Went to village & posted off parcels & Xmas cards. Sent one off to Mrs.Hares. Peggy seemed to be nasty today. Had lovely time in coach with Audrey. 3 Xmas presents waiting for me & luggage. A powder puff from Eve, coat hanger from Aunt Kath & a lovely thin scarf from Grandma.

17th: My dressing gown is really lovely. Went down to show it to Mr.&Mrs.Hares last night. They received the Xmas cards we sent them today. Went walking round grounds in lunchtime with Esmé & Audrey. Had some new slippers in trunk. Pam Kirby was horrible because I had done my work a bit wrong. She made me feel quite miserable. Had lovely time in coach. Kissed Audrey goodnight at gate. Went round there to give Audrey book but they {came} back to choose. Kissed Audrey in porch.

18th: Went out for walk down to lake in dinner time with Audrey. Went to the dance. Were ready at 8.45 then Peg: discovered she'd forgotten shoes so had to hurry back to get them. But bus did not come until 8.5. Wore green silk frock. Thought I looked nice at dance but only partners I got were in 'Paul Jones'. Did not enjoy myself because I was jealous of people with Audrey especially Bessie, she likes her. Had to leave at 11.30. Audrey went to sleep in coach. Peg: fell down steps & hurt knee. Mrs.Hares annoyed.

19th: Audrey & I had a quarrel but we made it up not too nicely. Went to village to post some Xmas cards. Audrey kept looking at Bessie & I felt pangs of jealousy. Took book round to Audrey & she sat on my lap so we had a lovely time. She came to see me off so we had lovely time in porch. Mrs.Hares not very well. Told us off this morning. We have to keep our slippers downstairs now. The oven came down and hit her in the face.

20th: Was jealous of Audrey with Bessie again. Went to village with Audrey - lovely time. Beryl & Winnie gave me their presents when they came. I must not open them. Mrs. Hares made a fuss about Audrey. She said horrible things. Audrey came round to see how much higher she wanted my saddle as she is borrowing it. Then went round with her & dried her hair when Mrs.Green had washed it. Audrey gave me present. Went up to bedroom with her. Packed when I got round at 10.0.

21st: (P)Am at home now. Left Westonbirt 11.50. Caught 12.20 train. Audrey came to see me off, Esmé came too. Said goodbye. Had long wait at Kemble & Jean Walker got so cold she felt faint. In train she did faint. I had to chafe hands. In looking after her lost a piece of mistletoe Audrey had given me. Anyway Jean was given seat & an RAF buy gave her his coat & scarf. Sat next to him & he did muck about. Kept us in fits. Auntie met me at Paddington. Took taxi to Vict: Pleased to see {Humphrey?} dog. Evie came round had hair washed. Had bath. Mrs.Hares & Mrs.Green gave me presents.

22nd: **Sunday** For my first day at home I had quite an enjoyable time. Finished Mrs.Green's 6d trash in bed. Went round for Evie & took her birthday present. She is 17 today. Then we went out for walk. Called in to see Auntie Kath & Grandma. Thanked them for presents. In afternoon went round to Evie's to tea. Stella had Margaret Hewitt & her sister Olive to tea as well but they were not to know it was Evie's birthday in case they felt awkward. Blitz not too bad.

23rd: Got up pretty late. Took Sandy for a walk. Called in to see Auntie Kath. Went to Sutton with Mum: Bought an awful lot. A new bag blue, pair of ice calf brogues with coloured laces, some stockings & a hood for Audrey, a silk hanky for Jill, a sponge bag for Beryl, some socks & all sorts of other odd things. The bag is very nice so are the shoes. Evie came in to see about meeting for pictures tomorrow. When she went round it was snowing - still is. Evan's come home 7 days leave. Came in army kit. Guns are noisy tonight.

24th: Christmas Eve. Went shopping again with Mum. Got Rebecca for Peggy. Also got Beryl a sponge bag.. Wore my new shoes took new bag. Got 5/- from Auntie Addie. Went to pictures with Evie. Saw 'Busman's Honeymoon' at Chear Rd Theatre. It was good. Was surprised when got home & found Daddy there. He arrived about 6.30 apparently. There was no raid so Evie and I came home all right. Slept in bedroom alone. Had lamp on - new one. It was lovely and comfortable.

25th: Woke up about 8.45. Switched on new lamp & opened presents. Audrey's first. Lavender scent & some lovely hankies with lace round. Lavender powder & 2 hankies from Winnie, writing paper from Beryl, a diary from Mrs.Green & other things opened before Keith gave me a diary. Went to see Marg: She gave me some lipstick. Her cousin Peggy was there. Called in to Auntie Addie's on way home. Forgot to thank her for 5/- present. Turkey for dinner. Walk with Daddy in afternoon. Spent evening with Auntie Kath & co. Lost 4d at cards.

26th: Am now back in Gloucestershire. Got up pretty late and had a bath. Went back to bed again. When got up had to hurry with packing. Daddy took me to Paddington. Keith, Auntie & Mummy came to see me off. Caught 1.55 train. Arrived Kemble 4.30. Had to wait for train to go to Tetbury until 5.50. Phoned Peg: & got her to stop coach. Free ride to Avening. I was disappointed Audrey was not there. She had {pains}. She came round - lovely. Went to dance. Got off with boy - Basil who took me home. Got a date with him Sat.

27th: Got up quite easily despite late night last night. At office waited 1 1/2 hours for pay of 9/8. Helped Audrey do a lot of work. Managed to force a fish cake & bread & butter down me. Hard job. Went to village with Audrey. Started off in quarrel [because] she would not take my shilling. Turned out all right afterwards. She came round to Mrs.Hares while I was unpacking. She stayed all evening. We played cards - Whist. A & Mr.Hares beat Mrs.Hares & myself. A came up to bedroom & we had a lovely time. Managed to get dinner down me.

28th: Mrs. Hares annoyed me this morning. She wouldn't let me play the piano [because] Mr Hares was asleep, but he put the wireless on loud. Had some more pay I've to us after bit of argument - 17/-. Could not eat dinner. Felt so ill went to bed. Audrey came round but Mrs. Hares didn't let her come up - she thought I was sleeping. Audrey has gone to pictures with Mr. Heywood & Mr. Spite. When she came home she came in to see me - lovely. Had awful row with Mrs. Hares about fussing in bed. Audrey comforted.

29th: **Sunday** Cried myself to sleep last night. Do not know what I would have done without Audrey. Spent morning in bed. Had to go up and tell Basil I could not come to the dance with him yesterday. Apparently the forces were sleeping there so there was no dance but he was going to take me to pictures. Audrey went to church after seeing me. Then she spent afternoon with me. Went round to see Nurse Hall & in bed with Audrey for while.

30th: Audrey told me last night that when she came home from pictures, Mr. Heywood brought her to gate and kissed her and called her darling. She is frightened. Won't go near him. I have to look after her - love it. Forced a sandwich down me at dinner time. Had quite big chicken dinner at Mrs. Hares so felt better. Went round to Mrs. Green, sat with Nurse Hall & Audrey & I played patience. Esmé spent evening in with Peggy.

31st: Felt much better today. Had usual dinner in canteen. Am reading book Peggy gave me for Christmas 'Follow the Saint'. Good! Winnie & I were reading it together in tea 10 mins this morning. We read for about 30 mins however. Esmé & Audrey have come round & we are eating nuts. I have been round to see Nurse Hall - I like her! We all, except Peggy, played card-game cheat. Then had port. Went to bedroom while Audrey put on dance frock- lovely.

1941

This diary is a small notebook style, a page to a week and the first page is missing, 1st-4th January. Mum used it more as an appointments diary than a journal and only made entries occasionally. But she added comments at times which give it more of a journal feel.

January

23rd Dance I hope

25th Go home

30th Meet Basil & co.

February

4th Go to pictures with Bill, Peg & Reg.

7th Dance at Avening

8th Go to dance with Basil. Meet him 6.15.

10th Dance at Westonbirt

14th Bill met me off bus. Went out in car.

15th Meet Basil 8.0 for dance.

16th Bill might meet me off bus? X

20th Saw Bill

25th (P) Meet Ron [struck through] 8.0 outside gate X

27th Might see Bill? Did!

28th Carnival Dance Avening 9-1.0 Bill there.

March

1st Dance at Nailsworth. Cecil's car 8-8.15 at Cross. Came home with Bill.

5th Might see Bill? X

22nd Dance at Nailsworth. Went in Cecil's car came back in Bill's. Saw him after 3 weeks. Lovely!!

24th Might see Bill X

28th Pictures with Peg saw Brigham Young.

29th Had message from Bill to see him at dance.

30th Horse Riding. Cecil's horses

31st Might see Bill X

April

1st (P)

3rd Dance at White Hart.

5th Pictures with Ron, Peggy & Joanah in Tetbury, meet them 6.0 outside cinema. Stroud with Peg in afternoon. Bill says see me at dance. Saw him.

6th Saw Bill. Talked to him for a little while.

8th Should go to pictures with Ron. Saw 'Splendour'.

12th Go home (I hope)

13th Skated with Eve.

14th Skating with Eve.

15th Spend day with Margaret. Meet Eve 6.15. Go to Pictures.

16th Shopping morning. Hair permed 2.30. Mrs Brown.

17th Pack up catch 4.15 from Paddington to Tetbury.

18th Dance at Westonbirt X Not to go in Cecil's car* Postponed to Wed.

19th Cut Bill

23rd Dance at Westonbirt. Dave & Johnny here.

24th See 'Strike up the Band' in Stroud with Ron, Peggy & Joanah.

25th Dance in Avening. Gave Bill horrible look again. Dave & Johnny there. Refused Dance Basil & John!

26th Esmé treating us to see 'All this & Heaven too' Stroud. Made up with Bill.

May

2nd Dance at Minchinhampton but one at Kemble so go there instead.

8th X Pictures with Ron. D.D. in 'First Love'. Not allowed by Mrs Hares.

17th Pictures with Ron. Meet him 3.30 outside Gaumont. See 'Thief of Baghdad'. Good.

20th Dance at Westonbirt

24th Dance at Avening Kemble Band.

29th x Pictures with Ron see 'I Take this Woman'

30th (P) Birthday

31st Go home

June

2nd Back to Avening

7th Ron sent letter to Peggy Saxby giving her up.

8th Meet Ron 2.30 under clock Tetbury. Ron gave me fountain pen.

10th Dance Westonbirt postponed to 17th. Dance at Avening.

13th Concert Avening

14th Dance Avening. Kemble Band.

17th Dance Westonbirt

19th Meet Ron 7.45 outside New Palace Cinema, Tetbury.

21st Go home.

24th Meet Ron, Sue & Dennis outside cinema Tetbury 8.0. See 'Night Train to Munich'.

27th (P)

28th Go to Bath with Ron & Peggy.

29th See {Jonas} in hospital afternoon.

July

12th Home to Cambridge.

16th Dance at Minchinhampton with Ron, Peg & Denny etc.

18th Pictures with Ron.

19th Go to Bath with Ron, Peggy & Denny.

20th See boys at lake in afternoon.

24th (P)

August

2nd Go to pictures Stroud with Peggy. See 'Kitty Foyle'. Good!

5th See Ron again

6th Move to Tetbury

7th Meet Ron 7.45 outside Cinema. (No seats, went for walk instead)

9th Go home to Cambridge. Catch 12.20 Tetbury.

10th Went out for long cycle ride with Keith & Dad in morning. Went for boat ride on river - afternoon with Keith.

11th Should start Summer Holidays. Out on river.

12th Out on river.

13th Home to Banstead.

14th Go to see Mrs Brown. Take baby out.

15th Go to town. Buy a skirt.

16th Letter from Ron. Pictures 'Major Barbara'

17th Wash hair. Tea with Eve.

18th Back to Shipton Moyne. Stuck on Kemble till 9.45.

19th Ron calling for me about 8.15.

20th Ron coming again about 8.30.

22nd Ron calling again.

23rd (P) Go to pictures with Gardiners. X (Too wet)

25th Go to Bath to see 'Dear Brutus'

26th Met Ron outside Cinema Tetbury 7.45.

30th Go to pictures with Gardiners. Les at Croydon for weekend, go with Mrs Gardiner.

31st Ron coming 6.30 approx.

September

1st Ron calling again 8.15 approx.

2nd " " " [ditto marks]

3rd Ron goes home. Go to see Mrs Hares?

6th Go to Ron's for weekend. X Dance in evening cancelled.

7th Hope to go to Banstead

8th RON JOIN R.A.F.

13th Pictures with Les.

18th Pictures with Kingy. See 'Four Feathers'.

20th Go Ron's for weekend. Dance.

21st Ron comes from camp home 1.20. Call & see Peg.

23rd Pictures with Kingy. See Spellbound.

25th Pictures with Kingy. See Freedom Radio

26th Pay Day

27th (P) Les' fiancée, Vera, coming for weekend. Sleeping with me.

October

1st Dance at Westonbirt.

4th Go home 12.20 train. Surprise - Ron met me at Banstead Station.

5th Meet Pam Kirby, Miss Pontin etc. Kemble about 8.30 off train from Paddington. Me on 'it'. - Ron came again.

11th Meet Kingy 2.15 Town Hall. Catch 2.40 train to Cirencester.

12th Kingy coming afternoon.

13th Meet Kingy 7.30. Outside Cinema Tetbury. See '20,000 Men a Year'

17th Kingy calling 7.15. Going to flicks Malmesbury. See 'So Ends our Night'. Terrible windy weather.

20th Meet Kingy Tetbury Pictures 7.30?

21st Bilious attack. Stayed in bed all day.

23rd Kingy taking me pictures.

25th Go to {Ciren? Cinem?} with Kingy. Go to Regal to see 'Quiet Wedding'. Mrs Horton saw me with Kingy. Vera come for weekend with Les.

27th Kingy calling 7.15. Pictures Malmesbury. 'Of Mice and Men' & 'The Man Behind the Mask'.

31st (P) Pictures with Kingy. See 'Son of Monte Cristo'

November

1st Go home. Ron met me half way down Nork Way. Heavenly.

2nd Ron came down again 11.45. Left by 6.17 train. Left me terribly sad.

3rd Go back to Westonbirt. Jumped on 9.40 train as leaving Paddington. Go to Tetbury. Club concert with Willy.

5th Pictures with King. Malmesbury see 'My Son, My Son'.

7th Pictures again with Kingy. See Jon Hall in 'South of Pago Pago'.

8th Work Saturday afternoon. Miserable in evening.

9th Alone all day. Washed hair.

11th Pictures Tetbury. Meet Kingy outside Cinema 7.45. See 'Waterloo Bridge'

13th Dance at White Hart, Tetbury. Kingy taking me. Calling 7.45.

14th Fainted through having blood test.

15th Go to Cirencester with Kingy. Meet him Town Hall 2.20.

18th Ron sent telegram to say Posted today. Also had 20 page letter & a 4 page one. Not bad.

19th Mad with Kingy

20th A.H. Dance. White Hart. Heard Ron being posted to Hendon.

22nd Catch 2.19 bus Shipton Moyne to Stroud. Go to see 'Bitter Sweet' at the Ritz with Kingy.

23rd Pack up cases for next weekend.

25th Willy calling 7.50. See 'Target for Tonight', Tetbury.

27th Kingy coming 7.10. See 'Cheers for Miss Bishop' in Malmesbury.

29th Catch 12. 20 to London. Peggy meeting me at Paddington. Dance with {Ren} and Ron.

30th Catch 7.33 to Cambridge. Ron came to Liverpool St to see me off.

December

1st Interview Board of Trade 11am. Bought 4 guinea frock-blue.

2nd Went to pictures with Keith. Bought burgundy handbag. Ron starts 7 days leave.

3rd Bought pair of gloves. Used up all coupons. Saw 'Ziegfeld Girl' with Mum & Keith.

4th (P) Daddy saw me off on 8.20 train from Camb. Ron met me Liv. St. Took me to dinner & pictures. Saw 'Hatter's Castle'.

5th Ron travelled down with me yesterday and was at work all day today. Took 2 hours lunch to be with him. We went to our wall. Lovely time.

6th Ron took me to pictures. Saw New Moon'. Had to ride back alone it was raining too hard to let him come with me. Got soaked.

7th Ron came to tea. We spent evening on sofa. I realised how much I loved and trusted him.

8th Went to Kemble to see Ron off on 12.48. Felt ghastly when he had gone.

13th LEAVE TETBURY FOR GOOD. Vic carried luggage. Ron met me at station. Lovely surprise.

14th Ron took Peggy and me to News Theatre. Then Peggy & he saw me off.

15th First day at work in Board of Trade. Hate woman am working with. Had letter from Ron written on Friday.

20th X Supposed to meet soldier Bill. Didn't! Bought Ron's Xmas present, a pipe.

21st Went out for cycle ride with Keith

23rd Had Xmas present from Ron, a lovely manicure set, he is a darling.

24th Went to flicks twice. Saw 'Gullivers Travels' & 'Toppers Return'. Took Keith.

25th Mr & Mrs Cole came in for Christmas.

27th Ron wrote on back of envelope that he was being posted & our planned weekend was off. Made me very sad indeed.

28th Went out for ride in car.

29th Went to 'Playhouse' with Mum, Dad & Keith. Saw 'Dangerous Moonlight' - lovely!

31st Went to Mrs Nelson's social 'do' with Mum. Played games mostly brainy ones.