

Kingswear Court.

Kingswear,

S. Devon.

My dear Leslie, how pleasant to have a letter  
from you and especially written for your leave. Very glad indeed  
to hear that you both are well and have your own home. What  
fun and excitement you must have had. I see you began with works  
first. I began by buying a spade. Have just returned from a  
weekend. Peggy asked if you should write, said I'd write for us both.  
If you write to Blackwells, Ltd. Oxford you might be able to  
get a copy. They are very scarce, the paper shortage, we gather but  
anyway, the book hasn't made a penny.

This address will surprise you. Dear work, Barbara and myself  
arrived here six weeks ago to join the house maintenance party. We are  
very well off here indeed and the situation is delightful. Of course,  
you will know Devonham. Peggy and I were there one cold Sunday  
afternoon a fortnight ago. So cold we sat in the sun waiting for it to  
take us back to the hotel. We are killed in the house, we sleep  
in the library and eat in the kitchen. Actually it is a monstrous  
house, just an enormous suburban villa but the others find it  
a smashing place. I wouldn't live in it anything. The boat which  
is a boat is midstream and we walk a few miles every day  
down, down, down, and up, up, up. Oh, so fit are we, so fit.  
We found 'Pig' Morris settled where when we arrived. Of  
course we came here via the Atlantic and very glad we were to  
shake the dust of that place from our heels after three days.

You must be worried about Alice in these London raids. Mrs Coppin says Delmore and Brentford have had plenty of what is going. I popped up twice for forgot three friends but the place has no longer any attraction for me.

Peggy by the way cannot use a type-writer and never will. I should think unless you are a very good typist writing that way would be very troublesome. There is enough trouble in finding what you want to say, the words in which to say it without chasing the alphabet round the keys. I have been busy writing short stories, also good enough commendation from editors but never any cash. Fanny being told that your stories are better than four out of five published stories today and then being turned down, but I stay away in the hopes of cash one day.

Did you Peggy have bought herself a violin? Well, yes, she has. We have now a lodger, a large Irish setter who fills up the cottage and will surely break her tail against the furniture. The cat has now become utterly disagreeable. He has begun to stir and on Sunday we had fresh large salmon for lunch.

Do you enquire at what you say re treatment by officers. Personally I have found them alright and perfectly man-to-man. Any old means get a commission. Don't fancy it will come any way. When I arrived here I noticed the officers ~~was~~ with possible eyes by any particulars but that's how it always is. Yes so for it.



If it were opened we did accept. No. I could tell you who  
if we met but there it is. One day though.

It is a pity you have to say furnished now. If we say  
furnished I'd go to sales but unless you are in the country it  
is not much food.

There is a billiard room here. There the chappie played  
now. A game that bore no relation to snooker I cannot  
understand.

Down here there is hardly anything but the relief of  
a little to drink, draught ciders. I took half a pint once after  
lunch. It weighed in my stomach like lead.

My word. Since you are here he'll be here. I am  
bored with my company. I'll not say anymore. But one  
thing. I do not fancy the company of higher rank either.  
People, people, people, chatter chatter, chatter, my. I do find in  
all damned stupid. But I have been very lucky and really  
I have nothing to forgive about. Hancock by the way has taken  
his social position as a P.O. very seriously. He certainly won't sit  
down to table with a Stokes. I wonder what he'd say if I told  
him that the King wouldn't sit down to table with him! But  
that's nothing. Remember us to Alice won't you. We often think  
of her. Very best wishes to you both and God bless you.  
Yours ever,  
Pike.

15-3-44

Mike + Liz

P.O.M.M. de la h... ..

Sp... .. 500221

M. T. B. 710,

Sp... .. P.O.

London.



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