

STO. D.W. LAW, V-76192
H.M.C.S. "ETTRICK"
C/O G.P.O. LONDON.

DEAR MOM AND LIZA:-

Just a line to let you know that I spent yesterday (Sunday) afternoon and evening with the folks at Haslemere. Saw your dear old Hettie, Charlie, and Harry and his wife. Joan was away for the weekend somewhere.

Everyone there is fine and in good health. Both of the old folks are getting on in years now and starting to show it. It sure is easy to tell that the old girls are sisters, act the same, talk the same and everything. Hettie is quite the gay old thing too. Charlie is getting a bit deaf now and hears about every second word, just like gramp.

They have a real fine home with a lovely garden terraced in the rear. They also have a vegetable garden (25 ft. by 110 ft.) across the road in the hospital grounds where they have a lot of stuff coming up. Sufficient to last them for a good long time. Charlie potters around planting, weeding, etc, Harry dug it up for him.

Altogether it took five different trains to get there and back. Haslemere is ~~on~~ on the main line from Portsmouth to London so I had to go to Portsmouth first to make the proper connections. Train service is pretty good, if you miss one you can always be sure of another coming along soon.

I will tell you the whole yarn when I get home. There is too much to it and besides I don't know where to start. They told me to tell you all sorts of things but I'll probably forget most of

it by the time I get home. There are a few pictures, although none of them recent. Too bad I haven't a camera because I certainly could get some real good snaps.

They had one close scrape with the buzz bombs and several more landed uncomfortably close to them. A dozen or so windows blown out and poor old Hettie was tossed about thirty feet by one blast. Luckily it set her down softly and she never even knew what happened. For about six weeks they slept under the stairs on the ground floor because of the buzzers coming over. They have quite a few pieces of them kept for souvenirs.

I had a walk around the countryside and it is really nice. It overlooks the Southern Downs of Surrey and the scenery is pretty had to beat.

The town of Haslemere is mostly retired moneyed people and by the looks of it is quite toffy and rich. Very little town to it, mostly winding lanes with high hedges and large homes.

I am on draft tomorrow and there is a good chance I'll be seeing you very soon. Just keep your fingers crossed. Don't answer this letter, I'll write you again in a few days and give you a better address and more recent news as to my indefinite future.

I took Hettie quite a little haul of swag. There was a fresh pineapple, 1/2 lb. of butter, 1/2 lb. of cheese, one of those tins of chicken I was saving, two boxes of chocolates (48 bars-Nielsons), and some soap. She was pleased with it and with the small rations they get it is no wonder.

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First thing I noticed when I went into the ole folks sitting room was two cardboard cartons with the old familiar A.H.LAW sticking tape all over it. They eat the contents, and then save the boxes for burning in their little fireplace. That is real economy of rationed doins. Coal is scarce as well as grub. Hettie especially thanked you for a cake, dunno what kind of a cake but according to what she said it was eaked out to last them several months. They just ate a little piece of it every Sunday afternoon for tea. You might try to duplicate that sometime, along with a tin of that jellied chicken or other fancy tinned meat. Their rations are cut on meat and what they do get has to be, in part, corned beef.

The rest of the news will wait, there isn't an awful lot anyway as far as that goes. I am glad I went. It sure would be wonderful to see you two old girls sitting down for a cup of tea again, the last of the clan.

Give my best to all at home, with a little luck I'll be able to do it myself soon but you might do it for me anyway. Show this letter to Vinnie, I am writing to her and much will be duplicated but there may be a few things omitted.

So'long for now then,

Love

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AIR M

If anything is enc
letter it will be sent
mail.

TO:

FROM:
(Sender's full name and address)

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