

71926

43, London Road,
Bedford.

Sat and Sun.
Oct 11th & 12th.

My dear Mother,

I am starting this letter on Saturday evening. I got a good bit of packing done on Friday night, but it was hard work with my cold — my nose being running, my eyes watery and hot, and a headache! However, I did as much as I could, and then had a good hot bath, and went to bed.

I got up at 6.30 and having shaved etc, finished my packing and packed my parcel of washing which I despatched to you this afternoon — so you will get it on Monday instead of the usual Tuesday.

And so to work.

The Air Member for Supply and Research, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Salmound was due to visit us this morning. He arrived quite early. I had occasion during the morning to leave my office (at least, Collins's & my office) and when I got back I found the party shown in our cartoon assembled. Richmond had introduced Collins to Salmound, and the latter was doing his best to be intelligent. When I arrived, Wyn Evans introduced me to A.M.S.R. (see above) who seemed to me a very decent feller. I showed him what I was doing and all that, and then the band filed out.

At 12 o'clock the usual crowd of us went into Bedford on the Crossley tender, and then,

having dropped the passengers, I was driven to Mr^s Bearley's, where we picked up all my impedimenta, proceeding thence to the above address. I returned to Mr^s B's for lunch & tea and then came along here. I have not yet had a meal here, and will report more fully in the second part of what promises to be a record screed. I may say now, however, that my sitting room seems very comfortable, though a little mixed, so to speak. It's a cross between rooms laid out by Mr^s Ashley & Mr^s Twitty. I have two armchairs & a sofa & two tables (1 big, 1 little), and about 500 pictures — photographs of people I don't know, including a large unclotted child with a huge dog (entitled 'Chums')



HELLO, GEOFF!
FANCY MEETING
YOU! FIND
EVERYTHING
O.K. HERE?

HOW
D'YE DO!
MR COX

THIS IS
MR COX, SIR
GEOFFREY

↑
MR H. FOXBEE COX

↑
COL. FELLOWES

↑
SIR GEOFFREY
SALMOND
(A.M.S.R.)

↑
MAJ. SCOTT.
COMM. H.B. WYN EVANS.

↑
MR COLLINS

↑
LT. COL.
V.C. RICHMOND

— considerable oil paintings of two lions and a large flock of sheep.

I have also 1 fox, 1 partridge, 1 plover (all stuffed) and in my bedroom two bullfinches (also stuffed).

This is the Turty touch, only more so.

Most pleasing of all, so far, however, is the little fire. Being a filthy night, this is keenly noted and duly appreciated. More to-morrow.

Sunday afternoon.

I had a satisfactory supper last night, and slept very well. This morning I breakfasted adequately, and after reading for a bit, went for a walk with Spellman, the fellow who, if you remember, I came down with the last time I was home. He called for me this morning (I having met him a day or two ago & shown him where I was going to live) and we went a walk.

I returned, and had a large and well cooked dinner, after which I read a book I had bought, and then settled down to write to you.

It seems that all the decent houses on the works' estate have been taken already, but there may still be opportunities.

I hope soon to settle down to my work. I think this place will prove ideal for it, as I have this sitting room quite to myself, and my books and tackle are in a handy cupboard.

Well, that's all now. I hope that your eyes are alright, and that G'ma and Dad are OK, and that G'ma Stem is better.

Give all of them my Love.

Mind you don't catch cold this weather. Mine has been a nuisance, but is ~~getting~~ a bit better now.

Fondest Love, my dear Mother
Your own son, Harold

2000.330

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At 12 o'clock the usual crowd of us went into Bedford on the Crossley fender, and then, having dropped the passengers, I was driven to Mrs Beasley's, where we picked up all my impedimenta, proceeding thence to the above address. I returned to Mrs B's for lunch & tea and then came along here. I have not yet had a meal here, and will report more fully in the second part of what promises to be a record screed. I may say now, however, that my sitting room seems very comfortable, though a little mixed, so to speak. It's a cross between rooms laid out by Mrs Ashley & Mrs Twitty. I have two armchairs & a sofa & two tables (1 big, 1 little), and about 500 pictures – photographs of people I don't know, including a large unclothed child with a huge dog (entitled 'chums') – considerable oil paintings of two lions and a large flock of sheep. I have also 1 fox, 1 partridge, 1 plover (all stuffed) and in my bedroom two bullfinches (also stuffed). This is the Twitty touch, only more so. Most pleasing of all, so far, however, is the little fire. Being a filthy night, this is hereby noted and duly appreciated. More to-morrow.

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