

# **Lillie's Diary**

**Lillie Gosselin**

**Guernsey  
1940-45**

# Lillie's Diary

## Introduction

*by Chris Sackett*

THIS WARTIME DIARY, written by Lillie Gosselin (née Sackett) during the German occupation of Guernsey, took the form of a letter to her older sister, Lavinia, and ran to 186 pages of careful copperplate.

At the outbreak of war in 1939, Lavinia was living in England, while Lillie lived in Guernsey with her husband, Thomas Arthur Gosselin (Arthur), who was manager of the local flour mill. It would appear that the sisters were regular correspondents, and Lillie maintained her writing, even though she knew the letters could not be sent or received until after the war was over and, of course, she had no idea that the German Occupation of Guernsey was to last five years.

Some background is necessary. People mentioned in the first letter are:

Lillie – Lillie Sackett, born 1874, daughter of Jabez and Sarah Anne (Young) Sackett, married Thomas Arthur Gosselin (Arthur).

Lavvie – Lavinia Sackett, born 1868, Lillie's sister.

Mollie – Mollie Gosselin, born 1911, adopted daughter of Arthur and Lillie, married Len de la Fosse.

Ruth – Ruth Keyho, born 1907, daughter of Lillie's younger sister Laura and Thomas John Keyho (Tom), married James Alexandre (Jim).

Anne – Anne Alexandre, born 1930, daughter of Jim and Ruth.

Dulcie – Dulcie Keyho, born 1911, sister of Ruth, married her first cousin Leslie Sackett, son of Alfred James and Lydia (Hatfield) Sackett.

Michael – Michael Sackett, born 1938, son of Leslie and Dulcie.

Laura – Laura Sackett, born 1882, Lillie’s sister.

David – David William Keyho, born 1928, son of Tom and Laura.

Will – William Smith Sackett, born 1880, Lillie’s brother; married Gladys Jane de la Mothe (Glad).

Arthur – Arthur Sackett, born 1925, son of Doris Ada Sackett (Doris Ada was a daughter of William Smith Sackett and his first wife, Laura McKenna).

There are two Arthurs in the letters – Arthur Gosselin, husband of Lillie, and Arthur Sackett, grandson of Lillie’s brother Will. The context usually makes clear who is who, the second Arthur nearly always being mentioned in association with Will.

The Occupation began on 30 June 1940 after air raids in which 23 Islanders were killed and 36 wounded. The raids were the result of a controversial mistake on the part of the British Government. Anticipating invasion by the Germans who were, by now, almost visible on the nearby French coast, all British troops were withdrawn from the islands. With solely a civilian population, the islands were clearly defenceless. But, for some unexplained reason, Britain kept the demilitarization secret, thus exposing the islands to attack by the enemy.

Lillie’s diary, or “budget” as she later refers to it, should be seen in context. She was not an historian, but an ordinary member of the public, living in and experiencing extraordinary events. She relates some of these exciting events – then at once we have a taste of the mundane. To her, it was every bit as important to consider where today’s meal was coming from (and to record the recipe) as it was to describe the terror of yet more air raids or the capture of a British agent.

Lillie used an outdated style in capitalising many nouns and this transcript keeps faith with that. It may have been that she treated certain words thus because they were so new to her – “Wireless”, “Planes”, “Air Raid”, “Aerodrome”.

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## *One*

La Couture  
Rue Maze  
St Martin's  
Guernsey

My dear Lavvie,

I'm writing you an account of all the strange happenings which have come upon us since last you heard from me.

On Wednesday, June 19th, Mollie came to see me in a very excited state. She had heard that all the children of school age had to be registered for evacuation by 8 p.m. that evening, also mothers with children under school age. We were just discussing the matter when in came Arthur all excited. He told us it was true & that he had to go round his "area" as A. R. P. Warden and tell all his people about it. The Evening Press then arrived & the following notice was in it, signed by the Bailiff.

"I am instructed to inform the people of Guernsey that the Government of the United Kingdom has decided that the Bailiwick is to be entirely demilitarised. Accordingly, the Royal Court hereby gives instructions for the immediate demobilisation of the Royal Guernsey Militia and of the Guernsey Defence Volunteers. Arms, uniforms and equipment are forthwith to be handed in at the Town Arsenal under arrangements to be made by the Officer Commanding the Royal Guernsey Militia and the Guernsey Defence Volunteers, to be disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the Officer Commanding Troops Guernsey and Alderney District. All ranks of the Militia and all members of the Guernsey Defence Volunteers will then proceed quietly to their homes. All other persons in possession of firearms must forthwith hand them to the Constable of their Parish who will take immediate steps to have them transported to the Town Arsenal."

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In the same paper were arrangements which had to be made for registering the children etc. by 9 p.m. that evening & all other than school children & their parents were strongly urged to do so. You can just imagine what a panic all this caused. It was indescribable.

Mollie & her children went on the Friday. They were supposed to have started on the Thursday evening but the boats did not arrive to time so they were all sent home again. That, of course, upset them more than ever.

I saw Ruth on Thursday evening bringing Anne back. They had to be on the White Rock at 4 a.m. Friday next morning. However, all the children were gone by Friday noon. It was a tremendous undertaking. Poor old Tom Keyho was assisting the Education Secretary. They were working day & night from Wednesday until Saturday.

I did not know until the Sunday that Laura had gone or Ruth & Jim with his father & Dulcie & Michael. Tom came round & told us all about it. He was in a very poor way, almost "all in". He was left alone with the "lodger" who has stayed with him up to now. Laura went off as a helper in David's school. When she got to England it was to learn that this school was going to Glasgow. She managed to get out of going up there because she could go to Jack's at Netheravon, so she & David went there.

I went into Town on the Friday afternoon. Gladys was with me as she was too nervous to go alone. When we got down to the end of St. Julian's Avenue there was a queue of people right across from the White Rock & a long way up the Avenue. Everyone in Town seemed frightened & did not know what to do. I'd no idea that Ruth etc. were down there then, but they were. Len did not go that day. He decided to stay a while & finish some work. He was with us a week & had arranged to go the night on which the Air Raid occurred. Arthur decided we should stay. He was responsible for the Mill etc. & some 50 to 60 men there. I didn't like the idea of throwing away all our home etc. so we decided to stay & hope for the best.

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Of course, the Air Raid came as a tremendous shock. Len & I had just had tea. He was all ready to go. Arthur, too, was home, I'm glad to say. The Raid lasted about an hour.

We had Gladys and Arthur with us. Will was at work so stayed there until it was over. Len was able to get away on a lorry that was going down to the White Rock. I was very thankful he did go then. It would have been too dreadful if he had been left here & Mollie & the children the other side. We had a 'wire' telling us of his safe arrival on the Saturday.

The White Rock was very severely damaged by the Raid & it is now certain that 40 were killed & about 25 wounded.

Saturday was a day we shall never forget & then, on the Sunday as we were having dinner, the Siren went off & we had another hour's suspense. They went off without any bombs being dropt. We felt safe once more. Then just as we were coming home from service in the evening there were three planes again & once more the Siren went & did not send out the All Clear until an hour & a half. Then we learnt that the Germans had landed at the Aerodrome.

We had to wait until the next morning to know what had happened & then we learnt that all communication had been cut & we were under the ruling of the German Commandant.

## *Two*

9 July 1940

We have gone through strange experiences since last week. It was rather wonderful the calm which settled on us when we knew there would be no more Air Raids. They are too awful. When the first orders came out from the Commandant, it was that it was not his intention that any harm should come to any one personally or to any properties.

Of course, they are our Masters, but it is very strange to say that we have lived through a week without the slightest friction.

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We have had a lot of orders which have to be obeyed, but nothing as yet that really interferes with our liberty. There are no Buses on the road & no private cars.

We have had to put our clocks on one more hour, so now we go to bed by daylight for at eleven here it is only nine by the sun. This of course is the German time.

We were more than thankful when we learnt that we should be allowed to worship in our Churches & Chapels as before. Also we have our 'Wireless', so we listen in & hear how England is getting on.

The greatest difficulty is being cut off from the 'Mainland', but we are hoping it may be possible a little later to get messages through. You will see that we are having to fit into our new regulations & we are all doing our best to comply & hope it won't be so for long.

As regards food, we are well so far. Naturally, there are some things we can't have, Bacon etc. which comes from England, & we are having to go carefully with lots of things. We are now rationed for Tea, Salt, Coffee, & Cocoa. Here are our amounts per person. Sugar 6 ozs. Tea 3 ozs. Butter four ozs. Salt 1 oz. Cocoa or coffee 2 ozs. Meat 1/- worth per week.

### *Three*

14 July 1940

We have gone through another week of our Captivity & not feeling too bad about it as yet. Of course, it is all very trying & a bit galling to see the Germans riding about in Cars belonging to the Island folk. Also they have the Buses when they need them but we all have to walk or cycle.

Arthur has always done a considerable amount of cycling especially in the summer so he does not find it quite so hard, but of late he used to Bus up & down at dinnertime, but not now. Another thing is that our Masters are buying up a lot of our

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provisions & other things & taking them to Germany. The biggest loss is the 'Tomatoe trade' which was at its height. This has meant a very great & grave loss. Every one is urged to eat more Tomatoes & to preserve them for future use.

Our "Statesmen" are doing wonderfully well. They have taken over all "Greenhouses" & have put owners in as foremen at a wage of £2. 10. 0 per week & workmen to a scale that suits their work. It means that all have a chance of earning something to tide over the unusual times.

We have all had to label our doors with a card on which is printed "This House is Occupied", as there are so many without occupants now. A Supervisor has been appointed to take a Census of the unoccupied ones & to see that they are cared for until their owners can return to them.

It is really marvellous how all are falling into line & doing their best. Of course, we are very very quiet, except for the Planes. We hear that the Germans have lost quite a lot of their Planes as your Bombers are in wait for them just outside the three mile limit.

Our greatest trial is not knowing where & how all our people are, but we keep hoping this will be arranged for soon.

Last week, a boat arrived here from Jersey, the first since the Occupation. It was manned by German sailors etc. & brought some passengers from Jersey & took some on from here. This was a great joy to those who had friends on either Island.

### *Four*

21 July 1940

Sunday once more & a very wet one too. We have gone through another week of various experiences. Our Bakers cannot bring us our bread after this week. 'Depots' in each parish have been arranged & we must go & buy our own loaf, Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays, & we are asked to eat as little as possible



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so as to lengthen out our stock of flour. No brown bread (I always had it) & they are now making bread with 'Balm' as in the last War as the yeast has given out & we are to have a certain portion of potatoes added to the flour.

There has been some excitement this week. Rumour has it that an 'English War Boat' has sent ashore a boat load of men & they are said to have cut the Cable to France & thrown it into the sea. The men are said to have been caught but, of course, it has not been published & I don't suppose we shall ever know the truth of the case. Anyhow, all the Bays on the South Coast are now out of bounds, so there must be some thing in it.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of writing, Lillie had access only to information, much of it rumour and speculation, passed by word of mouth among the local population. All official news was heavily censored. For example, the entire content of the Guernsey Evening Press was subject to censorship by the Occupying Forces, with a German officer permanently ensconced in the editorial office.

The occupation of the Channel Islands was the culminating humiliation for Britain. Her troops had been ignominiously bundled out of Europe by the Germans, and now her troops were firmly established on British soil.

British Prime Minister Churchill ordered his generals to organise some sort of raid on the islands, secretly and at night, with the objective to kill or capture the invaders. After outlining the mission, Churchill ordered, "Pray let me have a plan."

A plan was quickly provided and was code-named "Anger", perhaps reflecting Churchill's mood. The enterprise had no strategic value and was conceived with indecent haste, but was thought to have some value as training for future amphibious operations. Sadly, it was to go terribly wrong.

Only four days after the Prime Minister's order, Second Lieutenant Hubert Nicolle, formerly of the Royal Guernsey Militia, embarked on a submarine to make a one-man reconnaissance of his native Guernsey.

The submarine came up to periscope depth just off Icart Point. Lieutenant Nicolle was launched in a canoe from the submarine, not without difficulty because it was found that the canoe which had been bought in a London store was too big, once assembled, to be got out

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(such was their haste in hatching the plan). After modifications, the submarine surfaced and the canoe was launched, Nicolle aboard with a companion who would paddle the canoe back to the submarine. Despite capsizing, Nicolle was landed successfully.

The submarine, having been submerged for 40 of its 57 hours at sea, returned to England to collect Second Lieutenants Philip Martel and Desmond Mulholland, both formerly of the Guernsey Militia. They were successfully landed at Icart and met by Nicolle who, after briefing them on German dispositions, returned to the submarine.

The next stage was to be the landing at Icart of 140 Commandos taken by two destroyers, Saladin and Saracen. One group of Commandos was to head for the airport to destroy planes on the ground, petrol stores and the aerodrome installations while the other was to attack a German machine gun post and billets reported by Nicolle. Unfortunately, two of the launches which were to have taken 40 of the men ashore were found to be unserviceable, so that there were now only 3 out of 5 landing craft available.

Of these three, one went far too far to the east after launch from the destroyer and failed to find the signal from the land given by Martel and Mulholland. It is believed that this landing craft may have arrived off the coast of Sark (8 miles from Guernsey) or, more probably, Herm (three miles from Guernsey). The other two left the Saladin five minutes later with a whaler in tow, pressed into service to take the extra men outshipped as a result of the unserviceable launches. The whaler started to leak and, after failing to keep her afloat despite strenuous bailing and pumping, the men transferred to one of the launches and returned to the destroyer.

The last remaining launch found landfall, albeit in the wrong place, at the Jerbourg peninsula, some three miles east of Icart. Patrols were sent out, a road block set up, and the peninsula searched. Nothing was found. There was no machine gun post. Not a single German was to be seen.

The men were therefore ordered to re-embark. Re-embarkation proved a considerable difficulty. The launch could not get close in and a naval rating made several trips in a dinghy, ferrying three men at a time. On one trip, when carrying all the guns and one soldier, the dinghy overturned in heavy breakers. The soldier was swept away and presumed drowned. The men remaining on the beach were ordered to swim, but

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The Germans are taking many of the large houses to live in (not always the unoccupied ones). Quite a lot of our people have had to go & live with friends rather than share their homes with the Germans. The Commandant is at the 'Government House' in Queen's Rd.

You will have heard on the 'Wireless' how they are paying for the things they buy with their 'Marks' which is now worth 2/6 & of course are worthless, but one has to submit to it all. They are buying up a lot of our food & clothing, so it is to be hoped it will all soon end.

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three who had already tried to wade out could not make it. They were given some French money and told to hide ashore or find shelter in friendly households. Later, the British naval authorities declined to attempt to rescue these soldiers. They were subsequently imprisoned by the Germans.

The others reached the destroyer with the help of naval officers and ratings and the destroyer headed for home. Operation "Anger" had been a resounding failure.

The soldier presumed drowned was, in fact, able to struggle back to the shore. He was imprisoned with his three companions, all of whom were eventually liberated five years later at the end of the war.

Of Lillie's information that the "Cable" to France had been cut, there is little evidence. It seems that one group of men cut 16 wires on a telephone mast, but it is likely these were internal cables. In any event, reconnection would have been only a few minutes work.

At this early stage of the Occupation, no reprisals were ordered against the local population. This may have been very different later on.

But senior figures in the Island were obviously concerned that such British actions could prove to be to the detriment of the populace, the Bailiff being moved to try to write to the British Government urging them to "leave the islands in peace, now that we are demilitarized". He said that military activities of this kind were "most unwelcome and could result in loss of life among the civilian population". He wrote, "I do not know what the purpose of the landing was but to us it seems senseless."

He hoped that the Germans would contrive to get the letter into the hands of the British authorities, but they refused to co-operate.

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Those who have 'Gas' for cooking are now not allowed any 'Paraffin'. I shall miss this as I used an 'Oil Stove' for warming the room & we have no fittings for a 'Gas' fire & won't now be able to have any fixed.

At the end of the month all "salaries" are to be dropt by half. This has been started with all States officials & goes on to the bottom, so we shall all be poor. Many have lost their all, so we must be thankful for small mercies.

You will be sorry to hear that all this trouble is sending Gladys queer again. It is very sad for Will. She seems just helpless & vacant. It needs some courage to face life just now, does it not.

### *Five*

1 August 1940

Edith Gosselin was up on Sunday, so did not get a chance to write to you. I hope someday you will receive this diary, shall we call it.

Much has happened during the past days. 40 to 50 men have been sent over to Alderney to try & get some work doing over there & to get in the crops. Alderney was entirely forsaken.

Sark is carrying on under their "Dame de Serk". They had some sports yesterday. The German Commandant & several Officers went across.

There were a number of men in a boat going on to Alderney when the Germans came down & told them to get out as they wanted the boat to go to Sark, "so that's that". The men can't go now until Saturday or Monday. Gladys' brother Jack was one of the men.

We are not able to use our baths as they fear a shortage of water, & of Gas. Unless we are careful these two commodities will be gone by November.

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We are now registered for clothing & footwear. There is a shortage of leather for mending & Arthur is now asked if he can cut wooden soles for workmen's boots.

Our bread has been awful, but is a little better this week. Arthur is able to get me some meal flour so I make some scones for me to eat. There has been a "Census" taken of all the people who are left. We have not yet heard the result.

This week we have to make a statement as to the amount of coal we have in store. This is so that the poorer people, who have not been able to lay in a stock, may have some. This weekend we may have one tin of Loganberries or Plums. This is a concession now the soft fruits are over. We shall not be able to make any plum jam this year as they all come from the "Mainland".

We are getting to be "Vegetarians". This week we had 2/- worth of meat & 1/2 lb of liver. So you see we are learning to do without many things. We do not let ourselves think of the future but just live a day at a time.

We do wish we could hear from you but that is not possible & I'm afraid you may be thinking we are in worse straits than we really are.

The "Germans" have really been very decent up to now. Some have suffered through them having taken their houses from them, but there has been no violence as far as we know. There are some German ladies here. Yesterday I saw a Japanese nurse pass here with a little child. I only wish they would be quiet at night, but of course that is when they go to do their "is it not", but they sound so much worse in the night & always wake me.

Our tea ration is now 2 ozs instead of 3 ozs. Fortunately I had got a little store in so don't think we shall lack for a cup of tea yet. Our coal ration is one bag (1 cwt) per week.

August Bank Holiday was the funniest one I ever remember. The powers that be decreed that it should be a holiday thinking it would be good for all the folks in business to have a change.

It was a thick fog that greeted us this morning, but towards noon it cleared & it has been fairly bright this afternoon. Arthur & I walked down to "Moulin Huet", but we could only go to the top

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of the Bay. The rest was out of bounds. It does seem too bad that no one can enjoy the Bays this year. We came back through the "Water Lanes" & only saw two people on the way. It was just as tho' we were alone.

The people are really afraid to go out too much, then again there are not so many here now. It is not very pleasant really. The "Planes" fly so low at times.

Yesterday, Sunday, it was a beautiful day, the finest & hottest this summer. The morning was so peaceful & up to four o'clock. Then we had about 17 planes over & flying around right up to the evening. It was at times very noisy, even when we were at the "Mission Hall". You could not at times hear the preacher. However they were quiet that night which was a good thing.

Soap is now rationed. Those who have it in store must not buy any more for the present.

## *Six*

Sunday, August 11th.

Another week has passed & much has happened. Gladys has become worse & Will had to get a Dr. to see her. He came on Wednesday morning & he was not sure what to do so called in another who came in the afternoon. I spent the time waiting for the Dr. with her & it was most trying. All she would say was, "My God", & "I've nothing to wear & nothing for them to eat". She was wringing her hands & pulling at her hair & making grimaces all the time.

The Drs. have certified her of "Unsound Mind" & have sent her to the "Mental Home". It is a new one that has been built on an estate just off "Mount Row". It is much better than the old Asylum, quite up to date in all things. She will be well looked after there.

Poor old Will. He still keeps smiling. We don't know yet what he will do. We'll have to wait & see how Gladys gets on.

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Thursday morning we had German planes by the hundred over the Island. It was simply deafening, one continuous roar all the day.

They took Gladys away in the afternoon. Will was working here in the garden. I went along & helped him to get her ready. She went in the Ambulance fairly quietly, but when they got to the Home it was a job to get her out.

Friday morning was a busy time with the planes. Then there was a lull &, just as we were at our dinner, Guns began to go & we had an Air Raid over the Aerodrome. It lasted about half an hour & then stopped.

Arthur had just got home & we had had tea when once again the guns began. This went on for about an hour & then we saw smoke rising in the clouds & you have heard on the "Wireless" what happened. It was all very trying, but I don't need to tell you that. You know only too well, don't you.

We live about two miles from the "Air Port" so are not exactly in the danger zone, but you understand we can't get away from it in such a small place as Guernsey. There were over 36 Germans killed & 120 wounded. Only two workmen had slight accidents.

Saturday was a quiet day although we were all in the "Nerve State". This morning we woke to lovely sunshine & hoped for a quiet day. But, alas, just as I was dressing, once again the Planes began arriving in great numbers.

We went to service at the Mission Hall. Arthur was the preacher & all during his sermon there was a continual roar & they are still going it strong. I suppose we may expect another raid, as we understand it is the way the "English" are telling the "Germans" to clear out.

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### *Seven*

10[?] August 1940. 5 p.m.

We've just had an half hour's Air Raid warning. Just as we were sitting down to tea, the "Siren" went, but the all clear has just gone so it is not yet. We are in a very strange position. When we see the "German Planes" we feel safe & yet we know that the English ones come to try & get us relief from our foes.

Certainly, we are neither one thing or the other at this time. We could not but feel a bit sore when we were abandoned by the English, but of course they did not expect the Germans would walk in. But it was through the British that we had our "Air Port" built. Had we not had one, we should no doubt have been left alone. But we must still hope it will be well with us in the end.

I often wonder if you will ever read this story of events. It is very trying being cut off from everyone. We are thankful to have the "Wireless" & hope it will continue so.

### *Eight*

Sunday, August 18th.

We were all somewhat on our nerves on Monday.

I do not sleep well at any time, so you may imagine I don't during all these exciting times. However, we have had a fairly quiet time except on Thursday when we had, it is thought, over 100 Planes flying around & making a terrific noise. Then they went off & evidently visited your land & suffered much.

Friday, we had a lovely day, very few planes about. I went to Town, walking there & back of course, then yesterday we had a nice quiet day. I'd just got into bed when Bang went two bombs & some gun fire.



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It just upset us all again. We hear it was an English plane which had dropt bombs on the "Aerodrome". After a bad night for me, we have now had a quiet day & hope it will continue for a bit.

Yesterday morning, our morning paper announced that we could only get meat up to 12 o'clock midday & that from now on we can only buy meat Fridays & Saturdays. I suppose our stocks in the "Ice House" are getting short.

Fishermen are allowed to go out two days a week. I was able to get some "Mackerel" on Friday, the first we have had since the "Occupation".

We have a good crop of wheat & oats grown locally which is all to the good for our bread supply. Arthur is having a very trying time. Theirs is the only "Mill" in the Islands. Business is very difficult these days. Everything is so rationed & tied up. Every day something fresh turns up that has to be cooked & made the most of.

### *Nine*

Wednesday, Aug 21st.

We had a very quiet morning on Monday until just about twelve o'clock, when over came "Planes" by the dozens. Oh, what a noise, some of them only just passing over the roofs of our houses. We wondered what was coming next. We have heard since of how the R.A.F. have been bombing France & so they have come here for shelter.

Will was told this morning there were 120 of the Planes on the "Air Port". It has been very stormy these last two days & so they have not able to get away.

We have now to have a "Purchase Tax". We have now to pay 1/2d on every 6d article & it rises in rotation to £1-0-0.

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### *Ten*

Sunday, Aug 25th 1940.

We had rather a shock at 2.30 a.m. on Thursday last. We were awakened by what we thought was guns firing & in the sky we saw what looked like a deep red moon. We did not hear any more, but it rather upset our rest. The light in the sky was from a "Verey Light", but we have not heard any real explanation, only many rumours.

Of course, we are not told of what happens in connection with the Germans, but we guess a lot, rightly or wrongly. We are always on the "Qui Vive" wondering what is coming next. The latest order is that all the "Evacuated Houses" are to be visited by the authorities & all the clothing, bedding, etc. are to be taken away & used for those who may be in need of them. I don't quite see the sense of it, but, there it is, an order. Fortunately, I have all Mollie's Blankets, Sheets & Clothing here. I hope I may be able to keep them for her.

We don't know where they came from, but my own suspicion would be on the "Commandant". It is what one has heard of from other Countries.

Will went to see Gladys on Thursday. There is no improvement. It is a lovely day, very warm & sunny & no wind. We had a very large number of Planes over this dinnertime. They have been very quiet since (resting from their labours, I suppose). I hope they will rest through the night too.

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### *Eleven*

Sept 1, 1940.

Since writing last week, we have heard they are not likely to take clothing etc from those who are caring for them for the "Evacuees". I hope that is true.

The latest order is to the Motor dealers, to let the Germans know just how many "Cars" there are left in the Island by those who have gone away. It is supposed they want them to send to Germany.

They say that anything left in the houses are theirs, as those who have gone away they reckon as enemies. It is a strange idea, but what is straight & above board with them.

Nothing of any importance has happened this week, except that our sleep has been very disturbed by Planes arriving in the early hours. One night they kept on for two hours.

The last two days we have heard a constant rumble of "Gun Fire" from the "War Ships" on the "French Coast". At times it shook our windows it was so heavy. On Friday night it never ceased. It makes one very tired to have all these things happening, but of course it is nothing to what you are getting.

I so often wonder how you are all getting on. It is the "not knowing" that is so very trying, is it not.

I think I have told you of the incident when some men were put ashore on the Island & how they cut the Communication to France. The sequel has happened this week. There were two Guernsey men among them who had been brought to show the way about. When they had cut the Cable they found their small boat was high & dry. The tide had turned while they were cutting the Cable. They made for their homes & were in hiding for some days. Then they gave themselves up & the result has been that their friends, one a step-sister, & the other a Mother, have this week been deported to somewhere 30 miles from here & have to report to the "German Commandant" every day.

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It has caused great excitement here. There was a stiff warning in the paper to anyone who attempted such a thing again. We have to walk & talk very warily.

We are keeping very well on the whole. I expect it is plain faring that helps in many cases. We always lived plain.

### *Twelve*

Sept 8th.

I wonder how you all are. We are still going on, but it is dreary work at times. The weather has been lovely, but we do need some rain. It is now six weeks since we had any. Everything is dried up. It is cloudy today, so perhaps we may have some soon.

"London" is having a stiff time just now. When will it all end. It is really too awful to think of. It would not be quite so bad if we could know how our folk were. Arthur's sister, Ethel, is in "London".

We are finished with our Lamb's Mutton, so now we can only have Beef or Pork, which is killed locally. I had Pork today. It was quite a change. The shops here are getting to look very thin. Some of them have had to close down. The Germans have brought some Cows over for their use only, so they have plenty. The Market is open to them every day, but to us only Friday & Saturday. It is all very vexing, but we can but endure, hoping that it won't be for very long.

Arthur says the Flour will only last out until the end of the year. The poor "Farmers" & "Poultry keepers" are finding it difficult to keep going, there is so little food for them.

The last order yesterday was that we must not light a fire in the open, not even in the daytime. It seems there was a Bonfire which had been thought to have died down, but it revived & set fire to a tree near & caused a big blaze. The Germans routed out

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the people & so now no one must have one. Also there has been several "Cliff Fires" caused by sparks from "Bonfires". They seem to have no idea of modifying their orders, but there it is.

All these restrictions are very trying to bear & yet they break any & every rule.

We are thankful that we have kept well so far, but one gets very tired with so much interference in the night time, but then again, it is nothing to what you are all bearing in England.

### *Thirteen*

Sept 15.

What a week those poor people have been having in London, also in other Towns. I often wonder if you have had any alarms yet. We don't get to know of all the places they visit from the "Wireless". I wonder how May is faring. They have had a lot of them. I trust all is well with her & all the rest in Hull.

It is so awful not knowing anything of anyone. It often gets me down, but then again hope rises & we feel we shall know someday.

We have had a quieter time since last Thursday. On that day the "Air Force" left here & there are now only soldiers. We get about two Planes over each day now. I suppose they are "Messengers".

They have now 18 Huts which have been built all round the "Coast" where they place their "Guns". The huts are for the men to sleep in & shelter. They have all been made in the Timber Yards at "de Guerins Mills". They are so huge, they put them four feet under the ground & cover what is left of them with "Bracken" so as to make them look like a "Furze Brake".

The Occupation is costing the Island £2,500 per week & the States are paying another similar amount to the folk who work in "Green Houses", so you may think our rates are not going down.

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You would smile to see our daily paper. It is not much bigger than this Pad, just two pages & only what the Germans approve is allowed to be inserted.

It is very sad to go into Town & see so many of the shops closed. They simply have nothing left to sell. We can get very little now apart from our rations. Biscuits are sold out & of course such luxuries as Cheese & Bacon have been gone a long time now.

I told you last week that a lot of the soldiers had gone. We are supposed to have only 260 here now. If that is so, it will make our food last a bit longer. We hear such stories of how they waste good food. It makes me a bit mad when we are all so straitened. It is really wonderful how well we are all keeping, except for nerves which are always being tried. But we, like you, must keep our "Thumbs Up".

There is no improvement in Gladys. Will & Arthur are getting on alright, but it will be a bit slow as the longer evenings come on.

### *Fourteen*

29.8.40 [?]

I forgot to tell you last week that the Gs had taken our Militia Band Instruments & Uniforms. It is really too bad. Our men valued them very much. Also this week they have taken one of our Buses loaded with Blankets, which they had taken from the unoccupied houses, to Germany. It is all very difficult to bear in patience.

The Germans are robbing us right & left. They are now taking all the clothing & bedding from the "Evacuated Houses". Last week they ordered the "Special Constables" to get them 350 mens suits. I'm glad I have all Mollie's things here. I pity the poor things who will come back & find all their things gone.

At the end of this month we shall not be able to hold any meetings after dark, so we have some long evenings to look

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forward to. No one is allowed out after 10 p.m. so poor Will won't even be able to come here, altho' we are only two doors away. He & Arthur have had a special pass to be out as A.R.P.s but only if there has been an "Air Raid", which we very much hope there won't be.

### *Fifteen*

Sept 22nd.

Another week has gone. It is just three months today since the "English Forces" were so tremendously busy moving all their truck, which was really the beginning of all our troubles.

Your "Air Planes" have been over again. On Thursday, Will was working in our garden when all at once we heard "Machine Gun Fire" & Bombs dropping. It was over at the "Corbiere", just at the left of "Pleinmont". They were soon over & we have learnt since that they utterly destroyed one of the "German Guns", which I have told you of, & we hear that several men were killed, but of course it is never published.

Last Monday we went to bed as usual. I was awakened at 3 a.m. by "Gunfire". I jumped out of bed to see what it was & could just see the sparks at the "Air Port". Evidently there was an English Plane about. However, nothing more came & Arthur went off to sleep, but I could not.

Again at 5 a.m. we heard Bombs & Guns & we had a proper "Air Raid". It lasted about 1 hour. It was simply awful. Of course, we were not in much danger. It was at the Air Port where their Guns were placed at the Corbiere. Just at the last there was a tremendous loud bang. It was one of their [word missing] which they had evidently turned on to the intruders & it seemed to crash right over our house. It was not far away, for the neighbours on the other side of the road found pieces of shrapnel in their yards & gardens.

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That was the worst raid we have had up this way. The Gs have been very panicky since. We have heard that a large number of them were killed. Their Hospital Ship came the next day & the Ambulances were passing in the morning, but of course there was no mention of it in the German Communique the next evening.

The English Plane dropt Pamphlets with a message from the King & Queen, telling us we were not forgotten & that we should be released as soon as possible. There was also a small print of the King & Queen standing by the ruins outside Buckingham Palace.

The Gs were furious & have told us that anyone keeping the leaflets will be punished. They must all be taken to their "Headquarters". Also they sent round men in plain clothes trying to find out who had them.

We did not get one but Arthur had one lent him to shew me. The message cheered us up a lot but I'm afraid if we get any more it will be worse for us. On Thursday the Gs seemed to expect them again. They had the whole of the coast sentried from Town to Bordeaux & would not let any one pass up to 9 a.m. without being questioned.

It was reported that two Englishmen were dropt from the Plane, but I hope it was not true.

I think I have told you that some "Fishermen" had got away in a boat from "Bordeaux". Since then all the owners of any kind of boat have had to moor them in the "Town Harbour" & fishermen are not allowed to go out, so we can't have any fish. So you see, we all suffer when one rebels.

New orders were issued yesterday. We are now to have only 1/2 pint of milk per day per person & that is to be "separated milk". The reason given is that they want more butter. It will make it bad for most folk now that the cold weather is here. We'll want our porridge, etc. I've always taken 1 & 1/2 pints per day. Now we will only have one pint.

There is plenty of milk & butter, but the Gs simply want it. I was told the other day they fry with it & even rub it into their boots. Of course, they have taken large amounts to Germany. Our tea ration is now 3 ozs instead of 4 ozs.



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I must tell you that the result of those men getting away from the "Island" is that a notice has been issued by the "Commandant" that should anyone else try to get away, all the men in the Island will be sent to "France".

You can see how all these difficulties try ones nerves & patience. It is all telling on the health of the people. You can see it as one meets others, but I'm thinking we are much better off than many "Londoners" & all those who are being raided so frequently & with such awful results.

### *Sixteen*

October 6th.

Another month started. I wonder what it will bring us.

The first part of this last week was fairly quiet. On Thursday, at 5.30 p.m., we had a sudden shock by hearing "Gunfire". An English Plane was over & dropt bombs on the "Air Port". The German guns went off & for a few moments it was anything but quiet. It was soon over, but very disturbing.

We heard next day that a man living at the end of our road just opened his back door when a shell burst in his yard & he was severely cut on both legs. He has since had an operation & has had to be Ex-rayed. He is very bad. It was an awful crash. I thought it must be pretty near.

Again last evening another shock, but not quite so bad.

The Germans are preparing the "Airport" to be used as a "Bomber Station" so unless your Planes come and smash it all up we shall be having a very noisy time.

We have had several new orders this week. All shops except Chemists, Restaurants and Butchers (these for the benefit of the Gs) now open at 10 a.m. closing at 12.30 till 2 p.m. and then closing again at 4 p.m. just giving four hours for all the shopping to be done. When one has an hour's walk up and down to get to

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the shops it does not leave much time, does it. This won't affect Arthur as they are manufacturers.

All salaries are to go on as before, so it will be a lean time for the "Owners". All shops selling shoes, Drapery & the like are being closed for ten days to take stock. This is the second time in three months.

One day last week a German boat arrived from "France" with supplies of Wheat, Butter, Cheese, Lemons, etc. which had been purchased for our use. The Gs had filled it for the return journey with lots of iron which they had been collecting from here, also 30 Radio Sets taken from the unoccupied houses. It now transpires the night it was to sail, the Gs concerned were drunk & did not understand the tidal nature of the Island. The result was the tide had gone down & the boat went over on its side & is now deep in the mud & they can't get it out. So all they stole is gone.

I don't think I told you that Tom Keyho has now a Hungarian girl working for him. She sleeps in & he says she doe very well indeed. Tom has still the Lodger with him who was there when Laura went. It is a lonely life for him as well as for Will. There is no improvement in Gladys. There are so many men whose wives have gone away with their children, but it is the same the world over almost. When will these terrible days be over?

## *Seventeen*

13.10.40

We have had a fairly quiet time during the past week, but one is always on the watch, wondering what is coming next. We are now rationed for milk. It has started today. Our ration cards for clothing, shoes, etc. arrived on Friday. We can only buy three pairs of stockings during the year & if we buy a coat it takes all our tickets.

Today we have started our evening service at 3.30. That is for the winter. I have not been to Town for two weeks now. My

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outings are very few: Service at the Mission Hall on Sundays & Wednesday afternoon for the Women's Bright Hour. On Fridays I just go to the Butchers, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  hour's walk, to get my weekly ration, 2/- worth.

I'm hoping to get some sewing done during the winter, also some reading. I called to see Tom Keyho last Friday. I'd been as far as Mollie's House. They live fairly near each other. Tom is keeping very cheery, but he must be lonely.

Arthur is kept very busy. He is the "Authority" on Flour, as theirs is the only Mill, as I told you before.

We have been able to buy a lot from France & some of it is not in the best condition, also the butter which came was bad, some of it, & had to be thrown away.

We had a very trying time last Monday evening at 10 p.m. We had just had supper & were listening to the "News". I went upstairs & as I got to the landing window I saw a great glare & realised it was a "Flare". I called Arthur & then we saw another in the front of the house & then bang went the Bomb. It was an English Plane & soon the G's guns went off & it was a din. It lasted about ten minutes.

All through the night the Patrol Plane was around, so you can guess there was very little sleep for me. Arthur slept most of the time. We have not heard if there was much damage; no one is allowed to go anywhere near the "Air Port" now.

Our coal ration is now only two hundredweight per month. In Jersey the gas is rationed. We have not come to that yet. It is very astonishing how one manages to get on without the things we thought absolutely necessary. I do hope & pray that France will not give way to Hitler's demands. It will be worse for us all if they do.

I was told yesterday that eighty German children came by Plane on Friday, so they must think it safer here. It has been sad this week to see so many Cars & Lorries taken away from the people. The States have promised to pay for them after the War. We shall all be bankrupt by then, won't we.

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Arthur & I went to see Gladys on Thursday. She seemed a little brighter than when she went in, but she is not fit to be home yet. It is quite dark when we get up now. It is of course only six by the sun when we get up at eight. You too will be having dark mornings.

### *Eighteen*

Sunday, November 3rd.

A day in keeping with the traditional dark November. We have had a very stormy night & all day it has been blowing. Guns & raining furiously. This morning at nine it was yet quite dark. It is so funny getting up so early.

We have had a fairly quiet week. The prisoners I mentioned last week were released on Friday, so Arthur has heard, after a week in Prison.

The latest order out yesterday is that all English people who have come to the Island since Sept. 1st 1939 must report by Nov. 5th. Goodness knows what will be the outcome of it all.

I went into Town on Friday. It is real sad to see how the shops are closing down & the place is full of soldiers buying up everything. I don't think I'll go down again. It is such a long walk & is quite depressing. We must settle down to a long dreary winter I expect, but we shall try to make the best of it.

It is nice to hear on the "Wireless" that things are not going exactly as the Gs planned. We are also glad to know how courageous the folk are despite all the awful shocks they have had.

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### *Nineteen*

Sunday, November 10th

I wonder if you will ever read these ramblings. Life is so uncertain. Every week brings us new orders & restrictions. The first one this week was that we must send the measurement of all our gardens, even rockeries etc. Then yesterday it was that no one was to be allowed to wear Uniforms or Badges of any description & that no Societies were to hold meetings or gatherings at all. They stopped the Salvation Army having their Open Air meetings when they first came. This last order means that no Young Peoples meetings may be held. It does not matter so much for the old folk, but the evenings will be long for the young folk. I think we shall try & get permission to hold our Women's afternoon meetings, but don't know what luck we shall have.

The third order this week is very drastic. It is that all men had to register so as to be rationed for Tobacco & Cigarettes & the ration is two ounces of tobacco & 20 cigarettes per week for Civilians but that same amount every day for the soldiers. No one had any idea of this, so most of the men were let down. Poor Will, he has been very poorly this week & he had soon got through his usual amount, & had none for the rest of the week, however.

Arthur had his ration card yesterday (they are sent out in alphabetical order) & as he does not smoke he passed his on to Will, so he was able to get some yesterday.

No lady is allowed to have any at all. They say on Monday the shops were full of ladies getting some; it was their last chance.

I told you last week about the prisoners in the jail. Last Saturday, it seems the women were let out but not the men. Of course, we shan't know much about it until the War is over.

I think I've told you before about Advocate Sherwell & how he wrote a letter to the B.B.C. & how after many days it was read over the Wireless. This same man, who has been our leader & has done splendidly, has been taken away from the Island. We don't know yet why, but report has it that he has refused to sign an order

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that all our men from 18 to 35 shall be ordered to register, with a view to be taken to Germany. We don't know if this is true, but he has been taken away.

We are told that a new Commandant is coming next week. Each one that comes is worse than the last.

This week, they demanded the officials in charge of the Evacuated Houses to find them 150 single beds & bedding & wanted them at once. They are furnishing a lot of houses & there are numbers of their women over here, & this week a lot of their policemen came.

It is all very difficult to bear, but we keep on hoping that all will be well once more. You, too, must all be very anxious. We do trust all is well with you all. It would be nice to know, but there again we still hope.

We have now heard the reason why Advocate Sherwell has been taken is that he knew that there were some of our young Officers who had been landed here as spies, but he had not reported them. Our Supervisor, Mr Marquand, has been taken as well, for the same reason.

Because of this Espionage, we have this weekend been deprived of our "Radio Sets", so now we are utterly cut off from the World, except the Germans & their reports of what is happening. But we know by now that we must just reverse all their reports. We have seen too often that is what they do with the English reports.

It is very hard on such a lot of people who are not able to get about as we can do. The time hangs heavy on their hands.

The latest report is that all Dogs have to be surrendered. The order in Germany is that they are to be used as meat. They must be getting hard up if that is true.

We have been having some fearful gales this last week. On Wednesday night from 10 until midnight it was really a fearful storm. The damage done was immense. We were very fortunate in not having anything damaged.

Will is on the move again. He has had a house offered to him with a large garden at a lower rent. He will be moving during next

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week. He hopes that Gladys will soon be able to be home again, but expects to have some one with her when he is at work. It will mean extra expense for him. He will be about ten minutes walk from here, so I shant be able to help him as I have been doing.

### *Twenty*

December 9th, 1940

It seems some time since I wrote anything of our doings in this beleaguered Island. We are indeed cut off from the world. It is now three weeks since our "Radio Sets" were taken from us. It has been the hardest cut of all. It is so mean. In Jersey, they still have theirs. They did not have them taken away from them.

We are now deprived of all "Motor Delivery Vans". There are "Central Depots" where parcels are sent to, so now it is quieter than ever. Only the Germans are on the roads, except for Cyclists. I don't think I've told you how even they can't ride two abreast, always one behind the other.

Arthur has overcome the delivery question by using two horses & vans. They had one horse at the Mill & one at the Farm. The only thing we get delivered is our milk.

It is really wonderful how well the Island business places were stocked, to have lasted so long. Of course the things that have come from France have helped tremendously. How long that will last we don't know.

I've been busy helping Will put his new home to rights. He went to see Gladys last Thursday & found her not too well. He is afraid it will be some time before she will be home again.

Our mornings are very trying owing to us being two hours earlier than the sun. We have to get up & have our breakfast by artificial light. This morning it was not really light until 9-45. We have had to change our Sunday morning service to 11 a.m. It was

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bitterly cold yesterday morning, but very sunny later in the day. Today it is very stormy again.

### *Twenty-one*

Sunday, December 23rd 1940

Last Monday we had another Air Raid, just at dinner time. An English Plane came over & dropt 4 Bombs. They destroyed a new "Hangar" just finished & tore up the "Run way" & killed one Guernseyman & injured another. There were some Germans killed but we don't know how many.

Last Thursday week Will received a message from the Hospital that they were sending Gladys home for the week end just to see how she would react to the change. The previous Saturday her brother Jack (who has always lived with them) returned from Alderney, where he has been working for the last four months. There have been 40 men from Guernsey living in Alderney, just to keep things going & taking in the crops. Jack de la Motte was one of them. It was well he was at home. He went to fetch Gladys on the Saturday afternoon. I did not see Will on Sunday, but on Monday morning he called in on his way to work to ask me to go round & stay with Gladys as her brother had to go to Town.

They had an awful week with her. Will phoned to the Matron & told her it was impossible to keep her until the Tuesday as was first arranged. I went along & had a very trying two hours with her. It is not really possible to get any sense out of her. I waited until Will came home at one o'clock & then rushed home to get dinner ready. I'd just been home about ten minutes when Arthur got here & we were just having dinner when the Air Raid started.

We finished dinner & then Arthur came in to ask if I'd go as quick as possible. Will had to go as they were expecting Gladys back at the Home at four o'clock. So we arranged for a Taxi & I



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had to go with her as her brother was too fed up to do so. However, she went quietly, but it is all so sad & trying for Will. He has quite made up his mind that she won't get better, but she may do in time.

We are still without our Radios, & we are doubtful if we shall get them now. They are very angry about the Air Raid. Just to show how they treat us – There was an order in the Press on Saturday that, on Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve, Curfew was to be until 3 a.m. the next day (Christmas Eve is a big night with them), but on Christmas night & New Year's night it was to be at 9 p.m. as usual, so those who are out to tea will have to leave early or stay the night. We are not considered at all.

We are now rationed to ½ lb flour per week & have to buy it at the bread depot. The Committee are buying all from Arthur & then distributing it to the Baker's & Bread depots. Just this week we are to have a double ration of Beef & Butter. That is 2/- meat & 6 ounces of butter per head. It will be a great help for this week, anyhow.

We are very fortunate as Mrs de Guerin has sent us the usual Goose from her own farm. Of course, there will be no Turkey as that always came from Poole in connection with the business. We are very thankful to have the Goose. It will be such a nice change.

Our family will be very small, just Will & Arthur & we two. Tom Keyho is not too well, so he will stay home with his lodger. I think I told you he had an Hungarian girl helping him so she will be able to manage for them. Douglas<sup>2</sup> is now living with his mother so they will be together, tho' Alf<sup>3</sup> will be at the hospital for dinner. It all seems so strange, but we hope & trust it will be better next year.

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<sup>2</sup> Douglas Sackett, born 1907, son of Alfred James Sackett and Lydia Hatfield.

<sup>3</sup> Alfred James Sackett, born 1865, Lillie's brother.

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### *Twenty-two*

Monday Dec 30th 1940

We have come to the end of the year & we do hope all will be well by the end of next year.

Arthur gave me a new pen for Christmas. It is a bit stiff yet. I wonder how you all are getting on. It would be nice to know.

I had the strangest Christmas day I've ever spent. Our Evening Press did not arrive until 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve & then we had such a long rigmarole in it from the German Commandant, telling us how the prisoners who had been taken to France had been tried & how they had been set free, except the two young Officers who had come over from England. They are to be "Prisoners of War" for the duration. The others are to come back to the Island (sometime). Mr Sherwell, our leader of the "Controlling Committee", is not allowed to take office again. They don't consider him trustworthy. Anyhow, we shall be glad to have them back again.

Then at the end of the order it was announced that we were to have our "Radio Sets" again. Just imagine such an order at such a time. 5,000 sets had to be delivered in the Town parish alone. Arthur went to our parish "Church Hall" to see if he could have ours & Will's, only to learn that they were at St Saviour's. It was not possible to get them that evening, so we had to wait until after dinner on "Christmas Day".

Arthur & young Arthur went off on their cycles & were gone all the afternoon. They were able to get them brought here in a "Van" which they found had been taken out for others. It did not arrive here until just before seven, by our time, just enabling us to have the six o'clock news, which we had not heard for six weeks.

Will went to the "Mental Home" to see Gladys so I was left once more with all the clearing up to do after dinner. I'd been alone all the morning as the three men went to the service at the Mission Hall. I did not see another woman to speak to from

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Tuesday morning until Friday morning, when my charlady came. I have her three mornings a week.

We were just able to have a game of "Peggety" after tea. Will & Arthur had to leave by 10 to nine to be home by "Curfew". However, we had a nice time together. It did Will good to have a rest from work & worry. Gladys seemed a little brighter when he saw her. They were having a good time in the Home.

Will has asked us to go round to him on New Year's day. He has been keeping rabbits & is killing one & wants me to go & stuff it for him. I made him a pudding when I made mine. Tomorrow I'm going round to prepare him some fruit dishes as he is having one or two of Arthur's friends in to tea, & if Gladys is fairly bright she may come out for a day or two.

We had lovely weather over the holidays. Today it is wet & stormy. I went into Town on Friday afternoon. We are getting short of many things. Sweets, for instance, are now finished. It is really wonderful how they have lasted.

We have had Guernsey Beef this week. It has been much better, with more fat than the meat which comes from France.

What a terrible time they must have had in "London" this weekend. It seems strange to have the news again. It is nice to hear "Big Ben" once more.

I see by the paper today that Jurat Rev John Leale has been appointed President of the Controlling Committee in place of Mr Sherwell. He is the son of the late John Leale of St Sampsons. He is a splendid man for the position. He makes a fine Statesman.

I see our "Income Tax" is to be 3/- in the pound next year, just about double what it was. Everything will be very difficult but we must all do our share to make things go & be thankful it is not worse.

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### *Twenty-three*

Sunday, January 5th 1941

This is the first time I have written the new date. I wonder what will be the outcome of this year to us all. We went to Will's on "New Year's Day". I went early & cooked the Rabbit after I'd stuffed him. Will is very fine in the house. He has got his quite nice & comfy. It is a pity Gladys is not able to enjoy it all with him. She was not well enough to come out as we had hoped. Her nerves had been bad for some days & she had to stay in bed. We had a nice time & left there in time to be home by nine, our time limit.

It has been intensely cold this week, sharp frosts & cold north-east winds. I don't like having to go up so early in the dark. It is only six really when I get up at eight. It is so very cold & we have to go so very careful with our Coal & of course we have no oil stoves now that we can use as we can't have any paraffin.

We have breakfast out in the scullery near the Gas-stove. It is warmer there by the time the porridge is cooked & the kettle boiled. We have not seen an egg since September & of course it is six months now since we had any bacon.

We have been having some Cheese from France but we don't like it & the smell of it is AWFUL. We can get tinned Fish & Fruit yet, but of fresh fish there is none since the order came out for the Fishermen to place their boats in the Town Harbour [all of the year]. However, it is wonderful how well we are keeping on the whole.

Tom Keyho has not been too well of late, but he is always bad at this time of year. I saw him on Friday. I'm real sorry for him. He needs someone to look after him. His Mother & sisters are here but they live at the Vale & in Town.

Our prisoners arrived home from France on New Years Eve. I have not seen any of them, but hear they are looking very drawn & sad. Mr Symes, the father of one of the "Young Officers" has taken his own life by cutting a vein in his arm. He did it while in

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prison in Paris. How sad for his wife. They were in separate Cells & not very well treated we are told.

The news today is rather good, is it not. The Greeks are doing well. Oh for the day when it will be all over.

It is very quiet here now, so few people about. Everyone seems to want to get indoors as soon as possible. We've had two good services today. We are so thankful that has not been taken away from us. It is only on the Sunday that we can meet together now, except for the "Women's Bright Hour" which I meet each Wednesday. We are starting again this week after the holidays.

### *Twenty-four*

February 19th 1941

It is nearly two months since I wrote to you. We have been jogging along quietly, nothing very much happening. It has been very cold & wet. We are getting ver short of foodstuffs, also coals. All we can buy now is our ration of tea, sugar, salt & butter, & a tin of soup, & one of fruit, & sardines which have come from France. Flour is rationed to  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb per head per week & we expect to have our bread rationed next week.

I have had three eggs so far this year. They are very precious & cost 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  d each. My stock of food is getting sadly less, but we keep hoping for better times yet.

Tom Keyho came to see us. I told you he had an Hungarian girl helping him. She has turned out to be a complete rotter. Got too friendly with the Germans, etc. etc.! Tom has got rid of her, also his lodger who has practically eaten him out of all his stores. So he has sent him off & is now entirely on his own. It is an awful problem, these men who are left on their own.

Tom does not want to give up his home, but it is a lonely life, all on his own. He is quite capable to manage for himself, but it is not right he should have to do it.

Will has Arthur & he is a rare comfort to him & very helpful.

## Lillie's Diary

We have been very cheered this week. We have received messages from Mollie, & yours as well, which came the same day, with one from a former Minister's wife. It was exciting.

Mollie was in Bradford. We are so thankful to know that Josie is with Muriel & will have the two homes to be in. Will was delighted when we told him. Douglas has heard from his wife Marie, who went away with Delancey School.

There have been thousands of messages received through the "Red Cross" during the past week or so. It has cheered the people up tremendously.

We are glad to feel the dark days will soon be gone. We are told our Gas & Electricity will only last a month or so more. Prices have gone up for both this week. There is to be no meat this week, but pork will be available, but is not so useful & does not go so far. We are thankful to know there are ample potatoes until the new ones come. We have also plenty of other vegetables, so can make a decent dinner yet.

The general health of the people is rather wonderful. There have been quite a number whose nerves have given out. I understand the "Mental Home" is fairly full. That is where Gladys is.

Our only source of news is the Radio. We hope our high tension battery will last yet awhile. Quite a number of people are now without any.

It was strange not to be able to hear from any one on my birthday, also I was not able to send any greetings to Len, Peter, or Pauline, whose birthdays were in January & February.

We don't know if Len is with Mollie. Her message was very brief, just that they were well & hoped we were. We hope to hear more soon. Arthur is having to close down the "Sawing Mill" as they can't get Oil or Electricity to run them.

## Lillie's Diary

### *Twenty-five*

Sunday March 9th

On Friday 20th I went into Town & just as I'd got nicely away from here it started to snow. Such a fall I've not been out in since we came here. It was very calm & not so very cold. It was simply lovely to see how quickly everything got covered. But by the time I got to Town the sun came out &, oh, the awful slush. It was all quickly gone.

It is a poor business trying to get anything in Town now. I just go to Sidney for my Groceries & that is just our rations & anything over that he can let me have. Most of the shops are nearly empty & many have had to close down.

We have been able to get just two ounces of Guernsey sweets up to now, but now they are only to be had on Friday & Saturday mornings & it is first come who get them. There are queues, with Policemen in attendance outside the Confectioner's shop, but I don't need them at all.

Last Sunday we went to have tea with Will & Arthur. It made a nice change for us all.

We were indeed glad to have a message from Fred, just stating they were all well & enquiring for us. It was very cheering to know they are all well. Tome has not heard from any of his folk yet. He does not know where any of them are. I had another one from Mollie last week, dated Dec 12th, in which she says they had tea with Tom & Flo on the Sunday. She is now in Stockport again. I'm wondering if she has not been there all the time, but that we may know someday. She signed it as from Len, Peter, Pauline & herself so we take it Len is with them. I'm so glad to know that. I only wish I could send them some of their clothes that we have here. I've got all their things here except the furniture. It is not safe to leave much in the houses.

There will be some sad times for some of the folk when they come back again. So many of the homes have been ransacked.

## Lillie's Diary

Last Sunday I had a busy time. Tom Keyho had a Rabbit he wanted used, so he asked me if I'd cook it for him. Will killed it, so they all came here & had dinner together. Arthur Sackett said it was like another Christmas Day. We all went to Service at 3.30 & then back here to tea. The three men went home about 8.30.

Tom feels very lonely on Sundays. The other days he has his work. Today he is spending with friends.

We are now to be rationed for bread, starting on the 24th of this month. The order came out on Saturday – 6 lbs 2 ½ ozs for a hard working man – other men & women 4 lbs 10 ozs per week. Some will feel it very much, those who have to take their lunch & dinner out with them. We shall take the full amount altho' we don't use quite that amount, but Will won't get all he wants so we'll be able to let him have the surplus. One can manage it that way.

### *Twenty-six*

April 20th 1941

I see it is quite a month since I wrote to you. Much has happened since then. We are now coming to the end of our provisions as an Island. We are only able to get our rations each week. Bread, Sugar, Coffee ( no tea, salt, butter), sometimes we get a small box of "French Cheese", & Beef or Pork is our meat, just 1/- worth per week each.

The bread ration is proving to be very small for the hard working man & we can only have ½ lb flour each per week, so that does not go far. We have been able to get a few eggs but, at 3 1/2d each, the poor are not able to get them. We can get extra milk now, such as it is, but we are very glad to get that. I generally have three pints extra per week & make puddings. I stocked a nice lot of rice etc. so shall be alright as long as it lasts. Then it will have to be bread & milk.



## Lillie's Diary

We use vegetables mostly, which fortunately are plentiful & soon we shall be having tomatoes. Fruit we'll have but it is the sugar that is lacking. We are learning to make quite a lot of new dishes. Today we had Rhubarb pie made with potato pastry. I had a lot of Rhubarb from Mollie's garden last Thursday & made some jam of sorts with it. I had seven lbs of fruit, 1 lb of icing sugar, 1 Chivers jelly, & a small cup of "sweetener", & a little bruised ginger. It turned out very well, but of course it won't keep any time, so shall use it.

I also made a Potato pudding, ½ lb flour, 1 lb potatoes, parboiled in their skins, ½ teaspoon of salt, 1 egg, & a little milk. It was real nice & a change.

We have had much vegetable soup this winter. Will has several gardens to care for, so he gets me quite a lot. Any sort comes in useful. We are both getting very thin, but so is everyone. I think it is the fats we are missing. Our meat is always all lean & when we are able to get a bit of pork the dripping soon goes. We have not seen any fish since the "Occupation". The Germans get all that is caught.

Some strange things have happened since last I wrote. The Gs are occupying quite a lot of houses now & wherever they go Telephones & Electric Light has to be fixed up, so we are having wires everywhere. There are five new ones right across our front now.

About three weeks ago one of these numerous wires got broken & they accused some unknown person of sabotage, so an order came out that we had to go back to nine o'clock "Curfew" until such person confessed. No one did for a week or so & then a person from St Andrews went & told them that one day her children were swinging on the Wires (some are so very low in the lanes) when a car came along, went over the wire & cut it. This person was afraid to say anything about it, but when she saw how all the folk were being punished, she went & told her story. So now we are back to 10 p.m. "Curfew". It gives more time for folk to work in their gardens, especially business folk.

## Lillie's Diary

From March 31st we have not been allowed to have any coal fires, only wood, but they take such a lot of keeping going. We can have a fire for cooking purposes if one has not a "Gas Cooker", but as there is a coal shortage that is not much use. We have not been able to get any coal the last two months, but a Cargo has come from France for the Gas Works to make gas, so as long as that lasts we shall be able to cook yet.

We have had some very cold weather since the order came out. I generally light the fire in time for tea. Arthur feels the cold so much. Other meals we have near the cooking stove in the kitchen.

### *Twenty-seven*

Sunday April 27th

Things are not improving. This week we have no meat ration at all. When I went into Town on Friday it was to see the "Meat Market" empty. There was not enough meat in the Island for everyone to have a share, so they did not sell any at all, except to the Germans.

There was a new order in the paper yesterday: a revised meat ration. Working men get 11 ozs per week; others 9 ozs; but all German men & women get the 11 ozs. That is when there is any meat at all.

There are now over 3,000 troops here. They are not using the "Air Port" at all, but have other troops for training. They are taking such a lot of houses now & treating some of them very badly. I will tell you of one in this road, just four doors away.

It was owned by a couple who went away at the time of the "Panic". They had no children & had all they wished & had a real nice house well furnished. Three officers went to live in it & only stayed three weeks. In that time they had the Electric Light & Power put in (at the expense of the States), then they left & have taken quite a lot of the furniture. The best bedroom suite, which was a very good one, they took to an Hotel just along the road

## Lillie's Diary

towards the Forest & as they were taking it in they dropt the Hanging Press. In the Hotel they are using the Ballroom as a bedroom & fixing sleeping bunks along the walls.

Then an order has come out that everyone who has charge of an evacuated house must declare the number of beds & mattresses. We have had to declare Mollie's. I only hope they won't want them. It will be only the bed & mattress they will get for I have all the other things here. It is all so unfair.

I do hope & pray they will never get to England. We are not being treated too badly, but it is the being under them that is so very trying.

### *Twenty-eight*

May 11th 1941

Last week we had a half meat ration, 1/4 worth between us for the week. This week we have none at all. It is very hard for the poor folk who have not been able to get in any stores at all. Of course there are always those who are careless about these things & then they grumble most when the lean time comes.

We have learnt to depend mostly on vegetables these days & we are very thankful that we have still a good supply of potatoes & parsnips. Onions are very precious but the Spring ones are now coming in.

The weather has been so very cold that things are not growing as well as they should. Last Tuesday night we had a very severe frost & lots of potatoes were bitten. Ours that we had put in place of the lawn were bitten but we hope they are not quite destroyed. We have planted Mollie's garden since we did ours so we hope to have better luck with them.

I went to Town on Friday. I had to walk both ways. It is so dreadful to see the shops, so many of them closed & others almost out. I was able to get one Lemon, the first I've had for weeks. I made a list the other week of the things we can't get now & there

## Lillie's Diary

were over 50 of the things we were constantly using which are not to be had.

The only things we can be sure of getting are: Bread, Butter, Milk, Salt which is made from sea water, & such vegetables as are now coming in. On Friday, the Market had only Lettuce & Radishes. At the Depot up here I was able to get Peas, grown of course in the Greenhouses, as also are the Lettuce. I was able to get 1 dozen eggs a fortnight ago from a friend who lives at the Forest & am hoping to get another doz this week. We cycle out to get them.

We have been able to get some French Cheese & that is a great help. I take it out of the box & mix it with H.P. sauce. It makes it go further & is nice to make sandwiches with a little lettuce. It is very difficult to make much variety with our meals. When once my little store is done it will be yet worse.

As I listen to the "Kitchen Front" on the wireless I gather you are yet a little better supplied than we are. It is utterly impossible for us to follow the "Recipes" as we have not the materials to make them with.

We have heard how you have been having the Raiders over again this last week. I wonder how you all are. It is so very bad not being able to hear. I have not seen Alfred of late but presume he is well. I see Will & Tom Keyho more often. We are all keeping well, but all getting thinner, which we are bound to do.

The weather has been much better today, quite warm. It is nice to think that you are now listening to the news at the same time as we are. It is not so bad getting up so early now the dark days are gone. We get up & go to bed in daylight now.

## Lillie's Diary

### *Twenty-nine*

Sunday May 25th

Just two weeks since I wrote to you. Last Sunday. Arthur was preaching at St Sampson's & friends of ours had asked us to go down & have tea with them. Of course we took our own bread & butter, but they would not hear of us taking more. We cycled down & had a real happy time with them. I had not been down that way for over a year. It was a lovely day & the memory of it will last a long time.

Today it is just the reverse. It has been very stormy for some days but today it has simply rained & rained all day. I have been busy in the garden lately & on Thursday it was Will's day to work here & he has now got our garden well sown. I was able to get 50 celery plants & we have put in some of all sorts of vegetables ready for next winter. Our potatoes, which were so frost-bitten are now shooting out again, so we hope they won't be too bad after all.

I've had to destroy 4 large blackcurrant trees; they were full of "big bad". I was sorry to see them go, but this year I won't be able to make jam as there won't be sugar for such doings. We now only get three ozs each per week.

Our meat ration was 1/2 worth of Veal for the week, for two. We can get as much milk as we care to have now, so that is good. It is still only separated milk, but we are glad to have it. We shall have to drink it at all our meals after this week as my store of tea will then be gone.

The Germans have been bringing their ships here this week. They tell me there were over 40 in the Roads on Friday. I suppose your R.A.F. are spoiling their bases in France, etc.

What a shock it was to hear of H.M.S. Hood yesterday. It has been here many times & there were many local men on her. When will all this murder end?

A new order has just come out. All the people in the Island have to be photographed for a new identity card. It was not done

## Lillie's Diary

for the last one. We have to go on June 10th. Each parish is done at one given place. There are now 23,000 people here.

### *Thirty*

Sunday June 9th 1941

Another two weeks have past. They have been very trying. We have had fog & rain day after day, very rarely any sun, but this afternoon it has cleared & it is now very warm. Whit Monday it simply poured all day. It was impossible to get out & all my poor flowers are ruined.

We are coming to the end of many things here now & last week our meat ration was 1/6 worth of Veal. This week we have none at all. We had our first taste of fish last week. Douglas took my ration card & got me a small whiting (3/4 lb & it cost 10d) but it was such a nice change. We had it for breakfast on Sunday.

Today we had one egg scrambled on toast for breakfast & have had sardines with peas & potatoes, & rice pudding & a jam tart made with potato crust, For tea, I opened a tin of peaches, so we have had quite a nice variety.

I shall have to conjure up something for the rest of the week. The sardines will have to do two more dinners with fresh vegetables. It is wonderful how well we are all keeping despite the slimming process we are all going through.

I'm having quite a lot of sewing to do altering my summer dresses & coats. They are all so big now.

I think I have told you how our three "Laundries" had combined. There was a notice in the Press last evening that they will have to close down owing to the lack of soap, etc. So now I'll have to do all my washing as long as the soap lasts & then I don't know what I'll do.

## Lillie's Diary

More shops are closing down every week. I went to Town on Friday & was fortunate enough to be able to buy 1 dozen handkerchiefs for myself, but none for Arthur.

The Germans have been very busy since seven this morning, moving about & changing houses. I think there must have been some more arrived. There are such a lot of them here now.

We have not had any more news from Mollie. I was sorry to hear the Raiders had been to Manchester again. What wicked destruction!

It has been very quiet here of late. We are very thankful to have such peaceful nights. Will went to see Gladys last Thursday & found her much better. I do wish she could get better & get out & about again. It would be so much better for Will. He manages splendidly but it is hard work for him.

We expect to be without Electricity after next week. It is a good thing it is summer & not winter, altho' it has been so cold we have had to have some fire in the evenings & we have so little coal & not good either.

Some of our farmers are feeling very bad. The Germans are just simply walking in & taking their farms & crops just as they are getting on. It is really too bad. They have no respect or feelings for any one but themselves.

### *Thirty-one*

Sunday June 15th 1941

We have been having more rain & fog during the past week & cold winds, but just now, 3.30 p.m., the sun has got through & it is very fine. We have not had anything very exciting happen these last days, except that we have had a half meat ration this week, 1/2 for the two of us. It gets more difficult to make decent meals. There is so little to work on. I had to stew the meat, it was so lean & hard, but with plenty of vegetables, I managed to make it last three days.

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I've been very fortunate this last week. Nephew Arthur went with a friend to try & get some Crabs. He brought me three which I bought from him. I boiled & picked them out so we are having Crab for tea. Today & yesterday I made some sandwiches with them as well.

Then, on Friday, Douglas brought me a nice fresh Whiting which he had been able to get for me in the Market, so we have had quite a lot of change these last days. Did I tell you we are now rationed for fish? No one family can have more than one lot per week. The queues have been so long it was hardly possible to get through the Markets.

Will is not very well. He got wet several days last week. I hope to see him this evening. I'll go along after Service.

### *Thirty-two*

June 29th 1941

First, Will is much better. He caught a bad chill. We are none of us so robust as we were & it takes some time to get well again. Poor Will. He has such a lot of care & is working from dawn to dark in the garden & then has to look after things in the house. Arthur helps him quite a lot & I do what I can, but you know what it must mean not having a woman in the house.

Gladys is not any better really. They told Will on Thursday that she will have a good day or two & then is just as bad as ever.

We are having rather trying times just now. There are 3,000 Troops here now & they are expecting 7,000 more this weekend. They ordered us to find them 7,000 bed mattresses last week. They have taken all from the evacuated houses & now are calling on others. They have taken Mollie's two.

In some parishes they are turning out people from their houses at a few hours' notice. We don't know when we may be turned out. All the larger houses they are taking, but they want them up to date, with all modern services.



## Lillie's Diary

They have taken over the mens' part of the "Mental Home". That is where Gladys is. She told Will on Thursday it was all her fault they were there. Poor girl.

We had a new order last week. We have now to ride on the right side of the road. It is the "Continental" way. I went to Town on Friday & had my last ride in the Bus. They are not allowing the civilians to ride, "only the soldiers". All these orders are very trying, but on the other hand we have not been too badly treated up to now.

It gets more difficult to make decent dinners. This week we had  $\frac{3}{4}$  lb fillet of veal. I cut it in six so as to make it do for three meals & cooked it in the "Casserole" so that nothing should be wasted. It was nice & tender, but we could have enjoyed a little more of it. The rest of the week we live on vegetables, & we are so very thankful they are plentiful now.

Our bread ration is really not too much & of course 1 lb of flour does not go far. I make Will two baking powder cakes with his 1 lb of flour. It helps out his bread, for he has the same as we do, except he gets a little more bread being a hard worker, & he gets a trifle more sugar for Arthur.

I often listen to the "Kitchen Front" & wish I could have some of the things you are still able to get.

It is just one year today since the Germans came. Tomorrow is the actual date. It is quite true, one never knows what one can live through. We dare not look forward, but just live each day as it comes. On the other hand, we have much to be thankful for. Our nights are peaceful & the Island is looking very lovely.

Last week, we went to see our friends at the Forest. They live right on the heights over "Petit Bot Bay". They are farmers & have much ground on the top of the Cliffs. It was a lovely evening when we were there. Miss Alles took us for a walk through the fields & we were able to look right across the Bay to "Icart Point". The cliffs were covered with yellow gorse & dotted with wild dog daisies. It was all so peaceful. It seemed impossible to realise such a mad war was raging. It was a most enjoyable experience. We did enjoy it. We got home at 10.45, only just in time as our Curfew is

## Lillie's Diary

at 11 p.m. Before we came away, Miss Alles brought us a glass of real milk. It was a treat. All farmers & those who sell milk have it pure, not adulterated as we do.

The flowers have been lovely this year. We are having a very dry spell just now & today it is very warm.

I saw Lydia again last week. They are all keeping well. Douglas was able to get me two Mackerel on Friday. They made such a nice change & made us three meals.

We do wish we could hear from you all. It seems so awful not knowing how you are all getting on. Peter & Pauline will be getting quite big by now.

### *Thirty-three*

Sunday July 27th

I see it is some time since I wrote to you & much has come to pass since then. The evry night after writing to you we had an Air Raid, at 1.30 a.m. on the Monday morning. It lasted about an hour. We don't know what damage was done, but we have heard since that 35 of the soldiers were killed & as many wounded, but they go on just as usual. They keep on bringing more to the Island.

We hear from the Baker & Dairy man that there are now 14,000 here. We are not able to have any extra milk, not even our full ration which is 1 ½ pints per day each. It makes it very difficult as we have to drink milk & water, so it does not leave much for puddings & porridge.

I don't think I've told you our flour ration has now ceased. We used to have 1 lb per week for us two, but now the reason given is that we were getting more than the people in France, so all we have now is our 9 lbs of bread per week, for us both that is, ½ lb Butter, ¼ of cooking fat, 6 ozs sugar, 2 ozs salt, 2 ozs B. Soda, & we have had the past few weeks 6 ozs Barley Meal which has been made at the Mills & that is now gone.

## Lillie's Diary

Most weeks we have been able to get a small Box of Cheese from France but this week that failed. Fortunately, we have plenty of vegetables & have also our half ration of meat which comes to about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a lb for the two of us.

I told you how Douglas has got me some fish sometimes but that is more difficult to get as the powers that be have issued an Order that the Fishermen with Motor Boats have to pay a £50 deposit & the sailing boats a £5 deposit. That is impossible for many of them to do & so there has been less fish & we can only have it once a fortnight, but is a nice change when we can get it. As for eggs, it is impossible to get them at all. They all go to the Gs.

We have had a nice lot of fruit, but not as much as other years. The great trouble has been the lack of sugar, but we are getting used to eating without it. We've had raspberries today but no sugar with them.

I made a potato cake yesterday & put a little jam in between. It was not half bad, but one does get so tired of the same thing so much. What a day it will be when we can have a few more things to do our cooking etc with.

There is one thing we have enjoyed this summer & that has been the flowers & shrubs. They have been lovely indeed. The weather has been good for the hay & we hope there will be a good harvest. About three times as much corn has been grown as usual. We have plenty of tomatoes, & cheap. They are from 2d to 6d a lb.

Col. Britten & his "V" campaign has brought us much trouble & tribulation. Some of our people have done as he suggested & put them on the road & plastered them on the "Road Signs" which of course belong to the Germans. The result has been that where these are so done all the "Wireless Sets" have been taken away from those in the area of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. We have one at the end of our road & yesterday our set was taken away & the Kamandant says he will punish further if the ones who have done it do not own up to it. In France they have taken away the bread ration for three days. If they do that here, we shall soon be extremely thin. It

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is all very trying & nerve racking, but we still keep on hoping it will all end one day.

Last Sunday, Arthur was not well, so he stayed in bed. He had an attack of sickness which made him feel very weak. He went to see his Dr. on Tuesday & soon began to mend & is about his usual self now. There has been quite an epidemic of stomach trouble. Will is not well today. He has been trying to have Gladys home for a few days to see how she would react to it, but it has not been a success. She is much better in health but her mind is not right. Her brother, Jack, is here for a few days from Alderney & Will thought it might help her to get used to being at home again, but she is really not fit to carry on with her home duties. It is very hard for Will.

Since telling you about our Radio Set being taken there has been an Order for the men from the area affected to "patrol" the places which have been defaced from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. It is such a stupid thing & very irksome for the men. It is reported that quite a lot of V's have been put on in the Town parish, but they have not had their Radios taken away yet, but the men have to patrol instead.

We are now rationed for Gas. We can only use half the amount we did at this time last year. It is going to be very difficult a little later on when the weather gets colder. We have so little coal & none that is really good, so we shall be dependent on wood fires & will have to go very carefully with them. However, we shall just make the best of it & keep hoping it won't be for long.

We have had several messages of late from Mollie & Len, also one from Ruth. They are near each other & meet very frequently. They are all well & happy.

I don't think there are quite so many soldiers here just now. We certainly are much quieter up here just now, but they are pretty thick in Town & other parts of the Island. They are very busy building all sorts of fortifications all round the Island. They taken charge of two of the "Timber Merchants" & have marked off as sold quite a lot of wood at Arthur's Mills.

## Lillie's Diary

Arthur is having a week's holiday so we shall have to try & get out a bit if it is fine. The weather has been very unsettled of late with cold mornings & evenings. It is much finer today, but there is a very high wind.

On Monday last (Bank holiday), we went to the Forest to see our friends & had tea with them, but it came on to rain & we had a very wet ride home. But we did enjoy it &, better still, Miss Alles was able to sell us a dozen eggs which we were very glad indeed to have. They are now 4/- per dozen.

We are now supposed to have only 1 ½ pints of milk per day, but my milkman, who is a farmer, has only once had to dock my usual 2 pints, so there are some advantages of living in the country.

Alfred came up to see me last Sunday. He has gone very thin & is looking more his age, but he is still working at the Hospital. He does not think he will be able to come up again. He finds it is too far to walk & of course there are no buses now. Lydia keeps well, but she too is failing. It is a good thing they have Douglas with them. He is a good boy & very helpful to his Mother. He has not been able to get me any fish for three weeks now. The fishermen can't go out as much as they did.

### *Thirty-four*

Sunday Aug 17th 1941

We had a real wet week for Arthur's holiday. We went for a short walk on the Monday evening & on the Tuesday we went to Jerbourg & sat in a field & read for about an hour & that is all we have been able to do. The rain, it rained every day. We went into Town on Friday afternoon but it came in wet & was not at all pleasant. Today it has been so cold we have had to have a fire.

We now know just the amount of Gas we can use. It amounts to 200 cubic feet per week for the two of us, so you can imagine about how little cooking I shall be able to do. We won't dare to

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use it for lighting purposes. We just go to bed when it gets dark. As for ironing, that is a thing of the past. I have not any iron except the Gas iron & it is not possible to buy any, besides there is so little coal we shall have to depend on wood fires for all purposes. It all makes living very difficult, but we don't despair. We shall be experts at making the best of things by the time we are finished.

We had another message from Mollie yesterday. It is nice to hear of them & to know they are well. This last one was sent on May 18th & received on Aug 16th. We are now able to send one message per month.

We are still without our "Radio Set". It is now three weeks since they took it from us. Arthur goes round to Will's often to hear the news. We wish we could hear more from you, but we must wait with patience trusting you are being kept in safety & that you are well.

### *Thirty-five*

Sunday Aug 24th

You would be very interested to see the different kind of Vehicles there are now in use here. Those who have anything on wheels are now using them. There are one or two "Guernsey Chairs". Do you remember seeing them, almost like a "Hansom Cab". These are in great demand, also Waggonettes which come in from the country two or three days a week. & Vans converted into Waggonettes.

The Growers have made themselves a long cart put on Motor Wheels, which they use to carry their produce to the Depots. The majority either cycle or have to walk.

We have gone back many years as regards travelling & again in every other way. I'm now using sand for cleaning my pots & pans. There is no item or any other like article here now. It is wonderful how the stocks have held out when you think it is now

## Lillie's Diary

14 months since any intercourse was held with England. Of course, we are getting some things from France, but only essentials. We should have had more had not our Visitors bought up such a lot & they are still getting all they can.

I think from various rumours brought by the Troops when they have been home on leave that things are very bad in their own land. There is a considerable amount of looting being done in the evacuated houses.

We are very quiet here just now. Very rarely do we see any Planes, There is some talk that they intend to enlarge the "Air Port", but I do hope it is not true. They have planted so many Guns all over the place, even on tops of houses in the Town, & have built huge look outs in many places.

We have had such a lot of rain this last week. It is better today but is now clouding over again. We do so want fine weather for the harvest. It is so very important that we get it all in safely for our winter food.

We are still without our Radio Set. Arthur has been round to Will's this afternoon to hear the news.

### *Thirty-six*

Monday Sept 29th

I see it is over a month since I wrote to you. I've been very busy & many things have happened too.

We have now got our Radio Set again. All the Main Sets have been taken by our visitors, but the battery sets they did not want & yet they kept them from us for six weeks. It is so nice to hear the news again.

We have had lovely weather all thro' the month & the corn etc. has been got in & is very good. We are very thankful to feel that our bread will be sure for the winter, altho' our visitors have claimed 40 per cent of the harvest.

## Lillie's Diary

Early in the month, we had two short "Air Raids", but it was mostly on the soldiers who were drilling on the beaches, quite a number of them being killed.

Arthur has been very poorly with stomach trouble but is now getting slowly better. Will, too, has been bad in the same way.

Mollie's house has been let, so we have had to clear out all her goods & chattels. What a business it was, to be sure. However, it is all safely housed & there is now no fear of it being taken by our visitors. It is dreadful how they are treating some of the houses & furniture.

We are feeling the shortage of essentials, especially Gas. We have none for lighting purposes at all. We've just had a small range fixed in our dining room so that we can save on the cooking. I do hope we shan't have a very severe winter. Those people who have neither Gas or Electric light are the ones who will suffer most as there is no paraffin at all for them, & they can have only one candle per week, & in some cases only one in two weeks.

We have not had anything from France for the past few weeks except Coal for making Gas. Our food consists of Bread & Butter, ½ ration of meat, Semolina or Barley flour, fish once a week if there is any, & of course vegetables of which we have a plentiful supply I'm very thankful to say.

We have just been enjoying our Grapes. We had about 60 bunches. They have been a very great treat. I bought two green figs last week, paid 6d each for them. They were such a nice change.

We have had messages from Len & Mollie again. They are well & seem to be settling down. Tome has heard from Laura & Will from Cathie. It is so nice to hear from them.

We have to light up now at 8 p.m. & it is not light until 7.30 a.m. We use a Candle to go to bed but I dare not leave it burning for Arthur. He has to get upstairs in the dark. When our stock of Candles has gone we'll have to go to bed at dark & get up at dawn, but many have to get up now in the dark. It is all most trying. There's one thing: it won't last for ever & we keep on hoping it will soon end.



## Lillie's Diary

We had a week without meat last week. After next week we commence our Services on Sunday afternoon as last winter. There is no Gas to be used in Chapels etc. & of course no meetings at all in the week. Unless there is Electric light it is a bit dreary, but we keep smiling.

### *Thirty-seven*

Sunday October 26th 1941

Another month has passed since I wrote to you. I've been very busy. Somehow there is always something to be done & it is well for me; it helps to keep one well & is good for the nerves. We have so much to try them now.

Our visitors are getting more & more bossy. There are so many here now & just lately we have had an hectic time. They are bringing in the soldiers from around the coast & putting them into houses in parishes near Town. We have nine in this road that are now occupied by them. We have not known from day to day if we should be turned out. In very many cases people have been turned out at a few hours' notice, but so far we are safe.

They went to see Will's house but did not take it. We have a sentry walking up & down the road every night. The house opposite is a "District Office" & we see such a lot of soldiers in & out. For two weeks they had a field kitchen in the yard. It was funny to see them all come with their dixey cans for their midday meal.

They do have some nice things. It makes ones mouth water to see them. One day, a soldier carried in on his shoulder about ¼ side of beef. The potatoes they are claiming 40 tons per week.

We are not likely to get much fish this winter as they have mined the whole coast. Boats are now able to go out of the Town & St Sampson's harbours. No one is allowed to go on any of the beaches for Ormers or fishing of any kind. This will be a very great hardship as we get so little meat. My ration was 1/2d worth

## Lillie's Diary

for the two of us. I'm thankful we have a good supply of vegetables, enough to last us through the winter, but one does get a bit tired of them.

We have had a few small "Air Raids" during the month.

There is one great bit of news to tell you. We have had our Gas ration more than doubled. We had six weeks of 200 cubic feet, but now we have 450 feet for cooking & lighting, so now we can have Gas instead of Candles which makes all the difference in the world to our happiness & well being.

There is a new order out that no more grain may be sold for pigs & fowls, so that will mean no more eggs or pork for us, altho' we have not seen much pork during the last months. People will have to sell their fowls so there will be a chance to get one now & again.

We had such a grand treat last Thursday. Some friends of ours invited us out to dinner. There was a plump chicken, all brown & savoury on the table. To our great delight & surprise, some friends of theirs had sent it to them & they asked us to go & share it with them. We did enjoy it. It seemed almost like a Christmas dinner. We had to get home by 7.20 as we have no lamps for our cycles. That was a day to remember.

Tom Keyho had a bad bout again last week. We have seen him today & he is well again.

We have not had any messages since last I wrote. It is Laura's birthday today. I wonder how she is getting on. We think of you all on your birthdays. It is Florrie's on Tuesday. I hope the day will soon come when we can write to you again.

We hope we shan't have too severe a winter as we have so little coal & will have to trust to wood fires & there is not an awful lot of wood. We are rationed to 2 cwt per month.

Lillie's Diary

*Thirty-eight*

Tuesday Nov 26th 1941

Another month has passed & I've not written to you. The time seems to pass quickly & it is always full of work. You see, I do Will's washing & mending as well as Gladys's & our own. Then, altho' we have not so much to cook with, it takes more time & thought how to make the best of what we have, but it is wonderful what changes one can make with so little, but it would be nice to have some of the things we hear you have when we listen to the "Kitchen Front" recipes.

I'm afraid there will be no Christmas Pudding this year as we have no Suet, Fruit, eggs, or flour. Arthur does occasionally get me a little, but there is none on sale for we Islanders. The Germans get all they want in every way.

Since last writing, we have had an order that all Gas is to be turned off at 9 p.m. to 7.30 a.m. & from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. It is most awkward. Arthur like to hear the news at 10 p.m. (which of course is 9 p.m. with you) so we sit in semi-darkness with just a little bottle candle light, that is a little paraffin in a bottle with a spoonful of Vinegar at the bottom & a thin wick drawn through the screw top. It gives a light very similar to a Candle & of course lasts much longer &, as Candles are not to be had by people who have Gas, we are glad to have our bottle light.

I have been having a bad time with dysentery. For 10 days & nights I've been kept busy running & do not feel any too well, but it is getting easier & I hope soon to be A1.

We are now right in the dark mornings. I get up at 8 a.m. & it is pitch dark. We have to have a light right up to 9.30. Fortunately, the weather is fairly mild. I don't light a fire until five in the afternoon. We have our meals up to then in the kitchen near the "Gas Cooker". Now that we can use more Gas I don't use the stove we had put in, as it burns up such a lot of wood & we have to go very careful with it.

## Lillie's Diary

Last Tuesday we had such a surprise. The Germans had a "Mock Invasion". It was most exciting. We had a "Machine Gun" group just along the road in the garden opposite. There were soldiers galore, shooting with their Guns & Pistols. It lasted two hours from 8 a.m. to 10. Arthur managed to get to the Mill about 10 but Will, who goes to work much earlier, had to make a long detour to get to his work & Tom Keyho had to wait until it was all over. Quite a lot of people were fined for being on the road after the "Siren" had gone. We did not hear it either time as the wind was against our hearing it.

We have thousands of troops here now & such a lot of prisoners of war of all Nationalities. They are making awful havoc of the properties on the Island, knocking down partitions between fields & putting in their huge Guns all over the place. They think the Americans are coming to invade here.

We are never sure when we may be turned out of our homes. Such a lot of people have had to leave all except their personal belongings. We have been fortunate up to now.

I think one of your Planes must be somewhere about as the Guns have just been going off & it is now 8.30 p.m.. Arthur is out & I'm alone.

What a day it will be when all these terrible times will be at an end. May it soon arrive.

We have had news from Len this week & one from Fred, which we were delighted to receive, but they do take a time to come, don't they? We always answer them the day we receive them. I also had news last week from Laura & Dulcie. Laura is working somewhere near London. David has won a scholarship to a "Technical College". I'm so very glad. I expect you have heard all about it from Laura.

Arthur is about, well again, & is putting on weight. We are all much thinner than we were, but it is not to be wondered at as we get little fattening foods.

## Lillie's Diary

### *Thirty-nine*

Jan 12th 1942

I see it is nearly two months since I wrote to you. I did not get over my dysentery for four weeks & at the last I had to stay in bed for three days. It is so very difficult for me to stay in bed. There is no one to do anything for me. We brought my bed downstairs & that made it a bit easier, but I was real glad when it stopt & I'm feeling quite fit again.

Christmas has come & gone again. We had as nice a time as possible. Will & Tom Keyho spent the day with us. Mrs de Guerin gave us the usual "Goose", altho' it was much smaller than usual owing to the lack of grain, etc. Most people are having to kill off their poultry, there is so little for them to eat.

I managed to make a pudding of sorts. I'd dried some grapes & made about 1 lb of raisins, that was the only kind of fruit in it, a little mixed spice which I'd saved, no suet just flour & bicarbonate of soda, no sugar. I made a sauce with "Nestles Milk", sparing just a little sugar for it, but it was not very sweet. Anyhow, we had plenty of vegetables. I also made a cake in like manner, putting into it some dried figs which was rationed out to us just then. We made the best of it & spent a nice time together.

Our rations were increased a little that week. We had 12 ozs of sugar, just double our usual amount. Then we had ½ lb Walnuts between us & 25 Guernsey sweets. I'd saved a tin of Pears & a jelly, so had that for tea, with sandwiches made of French Cheese & Beans made into a paste. So altogether we had quite a feast. It was better than the previous year as we had our "Wireless" & the Curfew was until 12 p.m., but both the boys went off about 11 p.m.

On Boxing Day, we had a tea with Alf, Lydia, & Douglas & had a very nice time with them. It was bitterly cold so we walked down; it was too cold for cycling. It was a lovely moonlit night.

You will notice I have not made mention of young Arthur. Poor Will has been having a very bad time with him. During the

## Lillie's Diary

two years since he left school he has had about 6 different jobs of work & has lost them all through stealing & lying & instability generally. It came to a climax in October when he entered the house through the fanlight next door to them & stole £7-0-0. He was brought up at Court & was severely reprimanded & was let off as it was a first offence, but in another fortnight he was there again. In the meantime, he left Will & went to live in Town. We have not seen him since. He had stolen from each of us before this happened & borrowed from quite a number of people. He is such a nice clean looking boy &, having been one of us, people never thought anything was wrong.

The Dean & his son have tried to help him & he was put in the charge of the "Probation Officer", but they are all getting tired of him. He does not seem to want to do any better. At present, he is working for the Germans as some sort of errand boy. Will has been alone since he went, but has just decided to join Tom Keyho at his home. It will be better for them both as they are both very lonely. There seems very little chance of Gladys getting better, so I think Will is very wise to take this step.

Alfred has had a bad turn with dysentery & Rupture. He has been home nearly two weeks now. I went to see him last week. I think he is on the mend again. There is a lot of sickness here & such a lot of sudden deaths, the old folk particularly. We are all under-nourished. It is not to be wondered at that so many fail.

We are having a spell of bitter cold weather. We had a good fall of snow & it is still lying about. Our taps were frozen this morning. We can't afford to light our fire until afternoon as our stock of coal is now very low. It is very trying when we know that the Germans have plenty of coal, but they won't let us have much. We are now trying to burn Peat with Coke & Anthracite Coal, with logs of wood, but it is not like a good coal fire.

Yesterday, I cooked for Will a lovely rabbit. He & Tom came round & we all enjoyed it together. It was a treat. Of course, Will took home the remains & they lasted him through the week. We are learning some wonderful lessons through our difficulties. It is wonderful what one can do without when you have to. We often

## Lillie's Diary

think about the time when we shall be able to have a little more to do with than at present.

I go to Town each Friday just to get what rations there are, but it is really painful to see the empty shops &, in the Market, there is nothing but roots for sale, not even any flowers now. As for fish, we have not seen any for months now.

We just get enough "Barley Meal" to make Porridge for breakfast & our meat lasts generally for three or four days & then it is made to go as far as possible by vegetables. We are so thankful to have a good stock of them. What a blessing our garden is to us. The late crop of Potatoes generally was a failure & there are many people in the Island who have not been able to get any for weeks now, There are none to buy. The Germans had so many of the early crop. They don't go without much.

Sidney Marr has a German Officer & his batman living in his house. Sidney told me the other week he was tired of smelling "Bacon & Eggs" being fried for their breakfast. We have not seen Bacon since they came to the Island, but they get it. As for Eggs, I don't think we shall see any more. The poultry, as I told you, has had to be killed off. However, despite it all we keep smiling & hoping for better days.

## *Forty*

March 8th 1942

I see it is nearly two months since I wrote to you.

I must tell you first about Alfred. He got better enough for the Dr. to say he could go back to work after two weeks at home. He was so eager to get back. He had never had an illness before that kept him in bed & indoors so long. He went to work on the Monday & got through fairly well until the Wednesday afternoon which was his afternoon off. He went to bed when he got home, but got up for tea & then went back to bed again. He had some pain in his stomach & a little of the dysentery came again.

## Lillie's Diary

However, he got up as usual on Thursday which was Jan 15th. He said he was alright but felt very cold. It was a bitterly cold morning & only 7 a.m. which is really 5 a.m. by the sun. Lydia did not want him to go, but he did.

He had only been gone about ten minutes when a Constable came to tell Lydia that Alfred had dropt dead just a few yards away from their house. It was a terrible shock for her & Douglas & for us all. He just fell as he was walking with his hands in his pockets. The Dr. said it was heart failure brought on by the extreme cold.

We buried him on the Saturday afternoon in the "Foulon Cemetery" close by where Tom & Florrie used to live. A beautiful peaceful spot. I shall never forget the sight we had from the Cemetery which stands on a hill. As we walked to the grave from the little chapel there below a little to the left were hundreds of German soldiers drilling in the grounds of the Mental Home which they have taken, & they were singing as they marched. It all seemed so unnatural. It was also so bitterly cold.

We have never had such a cold winter, & we all are feeling it very much as we are all much thinner than we were & can't have such warm fires as we used to do. I never light one until about 4 in the afternoon & the work is done. It takes such a time getting ready the vegetables which is our staple food just now. We get four ounces of Oatmeal & Barley each week which makes our breakfast with bread & butter, & now we have one lb of [ ] each so I make paste with some of it & that I use for sandwiches. We are very thankful to yet have some vegetables; so many are now without. The Markets are now quite empty & the shops are the same except for our rations.

The Germans have brought over thousands of men of all Nationalities & they are not being very well fed. The result is they are entering people's houses & taking food whenever they get a chance. We have to keep all doors locked at all times. The Germans also are now taking anything they want, no matter whose it is.



## Lillie's Diary

I must tell you about young Arthur. He has been doing very wrong again, entering people's houses & taking their food & money. Twice before I have told you he had been brought up at Court. This time they have given him as punishment eleven weeks in prison. It is simply too awful for such a young boy. We can't make him out at all.

The Germans have taken charge of Mrs de Guerin's Saw Mills, so Arthur has now only the Flour Mill. He, of course, takes some charge of the men, but they are being paid by the Germans, which really means our States. The Flour Mills are now running at full capacity as we can't have any more flour from France, but we are getting wheat from Jersey & it is being made into flour at the Mills.

Work is very scarce now except what the Germans give. They are simply turning the Islands into roads & are building many more huts. They seem as though they are preparing for a permanent residence here, which we do hope won't come to pass.

You will have heard of our Air Raids. Fortunately, only one Islander was killed, but quite a lot of their men were. When is this wholesale murdering going to cease?

We are having lovely sunshine today after a very severe white frost this morning.

While we were at service this morning quite a lot of Gunfiring was going on somewhere on the sea. Also, at 5 a.m. we heard some. Fortunately, the Guns on the Island did not go off. It is awful when they do.

Will & Tom are getting on fine together. It is much better for them both than being alone.

## *Forty-one*

May 17th

I have not written to you, I see, for nearly two months. It has kept very cold & we have so little coal we can't have a fire until

## Lillie's Diary

evening & then I'm too tired to enjoy it. We have both had a bout of sickness again, but are now better. We miss the food that strengthens & fattens.

We've been without sugar for the last three months until this week when we got three ounces each as our ration. We have had two portions of "Saccharin" but it does not have the same effect on the body as sugar does, but we are glad to have it.

Arthur has been released from Prison & is now in Alderney working as kitchen boy for the Germans. I had him here for a week as Will & Tom had not room for him as Will's brother-in-law, Jack de la Mothe, was over from Alderney. It is much better he should be up there. He is not before the eyes of those who knew him so much. It has been a great trial to us all.

We have been very busy getting the garden well planted. There has been such a great shortage of food all the winter that everyone is doing their utmost to prevent such a happening again. We have had a ration of 1lb of potatoes these last three weeks which has made things a bit better, but it is very little for the working men & growing folk.

I saw Douglas on Friday. He is looking very thin & pale, as most of the men are. I think on the whole the women are bearing up best so far.

Many people have died. The Drs say it is lack of nourishing foods & medicines which have caused it in many cases. What a blessing it will be when it is all over.

We do not hear very much news as our Wireless set has given out, & it is not possible to get any more high tension batteries. We hear bits here & there from those whose sets are run by electricity. We have not got any so we can't have it.

My time is fully occupied with all my family to look after. I have been busy mending for Will & Gladys & had some to do for Arthur as well when he was free again. You see, you can't buy anything new now, so it is a case of making the best of what we have.

Our Town looks very poor indeed, not a thing in the shops except the Grocers & Chemists, & our rations are not a great deal

## Lillie's Diary

now. We still have our four ounces of butter, two ounces of rolled oats or barley done at the Mills, two ounces of coffee & two of OkO (?) which is the Cocoa husks ground; they are not nice to drink but put in porridge they make a nice change; two ounces of salt & two of oil or butter for cooking, & now we have the potatoes, so you see we don't have heavy loads to carry home.

We can buy Bramble tea, which is not at all bad. It is sold at 4d per quarter lb. & lots of men use it for smoking. There are more vegetables in the Market now. They are sold by weight. On Friday, I had one Cabbage 8d, 1 Lettuce 8d. 1 lb Carrots 8d, 2 lbs Peas 2/-, 1 bunch of Spring Onions 7d, so you see how hard it is for poor folk to get what they need.

Arthur is able to get me a little flour now & again. We have been using the sweepings from the Mill. I sieve them & they make quite a decent plain cake. You would be amused if you saw what kind of cakes we make, but they are all very acceptable & make a change.

Last Sunday, Will & Tom spent the day with us. It was a meatless week so Will killed a Rabbit & brought it here for me to cook. They were simply thrilled when, at tea, I turned out a cake. They had not tasted one for weeks. Then, with the OkO I have mentioned, I sometimes make what we call a "Chocolate Spread". I use this with a very little butter & milk & two Saccharines & just cook it in a saucepan for about ten minutes. It is really quite a nice change spread on the bread & it saves the butter.

I have also some beans yet & use them to make paste. I put some of the French Cheese when we can get it & put it all through the Mincer. I soak & cook the beans in the "Hay Box" first, of course. My precious "Hay Box"! What would I do without it? I cook all vegetables & make porridge in it. We have to go very careful with the Gas to keep within our ration.

We now go to bed by daylight as I expect you do now as you are on the same time as we are. I'm generally in bed by ten & get up at seven.

Sometimes, we have a surprise ration as a week or so ago. We had 1/4 lb dates each & another time we had 1/2 lb walnuts. Last

## Lillie's Diary

week, we had 1/2 lb pea flour which is nice to thicken soup or make biscuits. It is wonderful how all these little things help to give us a little relief from the monotony of things.

This week, we also had three ounces of sugar each. We had heard that 40 tons had arrived from France & hoped that we should at least get 1 lb, but the Germans said three ounces was the amount. I am afraid there will be no jam again this year, & it is such a pity as there is promise of plenty of fruit.

Our Spring cleaning is not of the usual order as we can't get soap enough to wash any paints. Our monthly ration only does for the washing of clothes, so we promise our houses an extra good clean when Hitler gets tired of all his waring.

It is very delightful to get messages. We have had several from Mollie recently & one from Fred. Will & Tom have had some too. They are a real help to us all. Tom had one from Laura last week. She wants him to sell up & join her as soon as possible.

I expect a number will not be coming back again.

### *Forty-two*

June 7th 1942

We have been having a week of extremely hot weather. Today, it would be the same except there is a strong north wind blowing. The sun is very strong & hot. Everything in the garden is coming on well & it seems as if we shall have a good crop of most things that are really needed for our maintenance. It is just wonderful how, as the days go & we sometimes think we shall be very short of things, that something comes along to cheer us up.

Our potato ration is now increased to 5 lbs per head per week, which makes all the difference to those who have working men & children to feed. Our own are not yet ready for digging. We can now get peas, beans, carrots, cabbage, & lettuce, which have been grown in the greenhouses.

## Lillie's Diary

As I sit here, I look out on my back garden & see a lovely sight: Laburnum, Foxglove, Flag Iris, Azalia, Peoni, blue, yellow, & white Iris, Columbine, Aubretia, Ecivera, & such a lot of others which have yet to bloom. It is all a continual feast. I feel that I get more like Mother each year in my love for the garden. If you could see me you would also say I look like her with my rosy cheeks & I'm as brown as a berry. I spend all my spare time in the garden. These light evenings, I'm sometimes out until after ten. I'm so thankful to have it all. It just keeps me sane & healthy. I wish everyone could enjoy it all as I do.

Arthur has not been well again this past week. He is very thin. He does not have the strength to do much when his day's work is done. Business is very trying under present circumstances.

We have been very fortunate this week with our food. Douglas was able to get me a Spider Crab on Friday. Then Tom Keyho rang up at dinner time to say he had three & I could have one, so I called on my way from Town in the afternoon & got it all ready boiled. Then yesterday Douglas took up to the office four skate ??obs he had been able to get for me. So today, we are having fish for dinner & tea & some left over for tomorrow. What a difference it makes to have a little extra like that.

I can now get 2 pints of milk per day & we have had a few eggs lately as well. God is very good to us & we are thankful for all His Mercies.

We had a message from Mollie yesterday. They were all well when that was sent off in November. We had one from Laura also this week which she sent off on December 24th. They do take a time to come, don't they!, but we do like to get them when they do arrive.

Will is working very hard. He has got Tom's garden all planted. It had been so neglected. Tom has not the strength & is not a natural gardener. Will looks as brown as can be. The sun has been so strong this last week or so.

## Lillie's Diary

### *Forty-three*

Aug 18th 1942

It is over two months since I wrote to you & much has happened in that time. Our Radio Sets have been taken from us again, not as "a punishment" but for Military purposes, so we are told. But, for all that, the news filters through at times, altho' it is not so very satisfactory as having it first hand.

We have been having a rather trying time of late. On June 27th, Tom Keyho was taken to the Sanatorium with lung trouble once again. The following Friday, July 3rd, Will collapsed entirely. He was alone in the house. In trying to Phone to me he fell three times & when I got round to him I found him in bed. I phoned his Dr who, when he saw him, said it was Gastric Ulcers in the stomach & ordered him to the Emergency Hospital where he has been for 5 1/2 weeks. He is now home again just a week & is staying here with us. He & Tom were living together, you remember.

I've been kept going visiting him twice a week & Arthur & I between us went to see Tom who was fortunately not far from the Hospital. Then, on Saturday afternoon, I went to see Gladys. I'm glad to say there is a great improvement in her &, if she continues so, I think she will soon be able to get home again.

It does not seem probable that Tom will come back to live in St Martins again, when he is free from the Sanatorium. I don't think he will be able to carry on his work as "School Attendance Officer". The Committee speak of finding him a post in the office, which is situate in the Grange, so he will have to find lodgings near. There is some talk of him going to live with Lydia & Douglas, but he has to get better first.

Arthur Sackett is still working in Alderney, so Will is quite alone apart from us.

Our food situation is somewhat better now owing to the crops in the garden. We have plenty of vegetables, & fish is more plentiful than it was, altho' it is now two weeks since we had any.

## Lillie's Diary

We had a meatless week lately, but we are now getting used to having so little meat that we are able to manage, but it is nice when we can get some. I see we have a meat ration this week again.

It has been very hard to have plenty of fruit & no sugar to make Jam. We had a ration of 1 lb per head for Jam making this year. That did not go far. We have now no Flour, Barley or Oat ration, only Macaroni sometimes. It is really very wonderful how we manage to keep going.

Lately, we are able to get a ration of Butter Milk. We have to queue up for it. I have to go Tuesdays. We get two pints per head. I make Cream Cheese with it which is very nice as a spread on our bread. I use the whey for various things. It is good in soup, also in porridge when we can get it. I've also boiled Mackerel in it & found that very good &, of course, for mixing pastry & cakes there is nothing better.

Arthur has been able to get me some flour at times & so we go on. There is a promise of a good Harvest. Our potato crop is very good & so are the Onions & Carrots. We have two nice trenches of Celery in & also Leeks, so we have promise of plenty for the winter.

It is wonderful how well I have kept despite all the hard work I'm now doing. Perhaps that is why. I have no time to worry or brood & no inclination I'm glad to say. Arthur is very much better. He has spent much time in the garden & is very brown.

There has been much excitement today over the news which has filtered out of the "Invasion of France". The troops here have been very busy doubling their Sentinels everywhere. They do indeed look worried. Yesterday, we heard the Guns all the day & sometimes our windows rattled very much. I wonder what it will mean for us. Some release we are hoping.

We have had several messages lately from Mollie, Leslie, Tom, Laura, & Yourself. How strange that Annie should have died in April, so soon after Alfred, & in Laura's message of today she tells us of the death of Frank Sackett's wife in India. She has been here twice on "Deputation Work" for our Women's

## Lillie's Diary

Missionary department. We liked her very much indeed. I'm sorry for Frank. He will miss her very much indeed. She was so very helpful to him in his work in India.

I suppose we must expect to have breaks in our family now. It is rather wonderful that we have gone on so long without any.

Arthur's sister, Mrs E T Wheadon, is in a very bad way. Her tongue has been paralysed for two years & it is now going right through her body. The Dr has told her husband there is no hope of her recovery.

### *Forty-four*

October 17th 1942

It is a long time since I wrote to you & much has happened during that time.

After Will had been with us five weeks the Dr said that Gladys could come home if Will could find someone to be with her in the home. Eventually he did find a very suitable person & Gladys came home & had just been there one week when a notice appeared in the paper which upset everyone.

It was to the effect that all English born males from 18 to 70 years of age were to be evacuated to Germany. This was a bigger shock, I think, than the first evacuation. Of course, Will came under this order. He had to send in his paper & when his notice came that he had to go on the Wednesday (this was Saturday, Sept 19th). When Gladys heard it she went right off again & Will had to take her back to the Mental Home. It was a terrible weekend. We went round to help Will, of course. He had taken back most of his things &, once again, back they had to come here & he stayed with us again.

However, he had a phone message from the Dr saying he had to go & see him &, poor lad, he had to pay about five different visits to Town interviewing first one Dr & another & Gladys had



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to be taken before a German Dr &, in the end, Will received an exemption owing to Gladys's condition. So Will stayed on here for a week & then he decided he must get to his own home as his work in the garden was getting so backward. He had not yet been able to get his potatoes dug & other things were needing attention too.

Once again, ill luck has overtaken him. Last Thursday, Dr Collins, for whom Will works three days a week, came to see him & asked if he would help Dr Bisson, a great friend of his, to remove his furniture. He lived in a very large house & had 22 rooms furnished. He had not only his own but his Mother's, who had recently died, also his son's who had evacuated. All went well until last Monday when Will was taking a bag of coals down some steps. He fell, & in doing so, hurt his back. He had to be Exrayed again & it was found he had cracked a rib. So, once again, he is on the sick list. Poor Will, he does seem to get such a bad time. He won't give in. He is staying on in his own home, but I wish he would give it up & come with us. But he does not know what to do for the best as Gladys might get better & he wants a home for her to go to. Also, her brother Jack comes up from Alderney at times & there is Arthur who might be coming back from Alderney at any time. It is very difficult to know what is the best thing to do.

Sidney & Flo have had to go to Germany. They went on the Friday previous to when Will should have gone. 1000 have been taken from Guernsey & a similar number from Jersey, what for no one knows.

There have been some very sad & pitiful cases, an old man of 69 & his wife, 73, another a woman with twins just six weeks old. One of our own Ministers was taken from his sick bed in the Ambulance to be examined by the German Dr & eventually he was exempted. Two others of our Ministers went with the party. They simply had to leave their homes & all they held dear & just taking a suitcase each & what they could carry. They are supposed to have gone to the "Black Forest" on the borders of Switzerland.

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The latest thing that is causing untold suffering & upset is that people are being put out of their houses to make room for the soldiers. Since the "Sark Affair", they are putting the soldiers more in Town & also grouping them more together. So, whenever they want a certain house, out the people have to go. Whole streets have been cleared in the Town. That is why Dr Bisson had to move. He went to live with a friend & within a week once again he had to move as his friend had notice to go. One never knows when it will be your turn. Up to now, we have been fortunate.

Lydia & Douglas are very anxious as they are taking several houses around them. They have taken over 100 houses in Town during the past week. There is no doubt they have been very nervous over the "Sark Affair".

We are getting well into the winter arrangements now. Our Curfew is now from 9 p.m. to 6.30 a.m. We have had our coal ration for October & November: 1 1/2 bags for the two months 7 no wood as yet. So we must not have too much fire. Fortunately, the weather is mild just now.

It is very wonderful how the people on the whole keep cheerful & hopeful. Of course, there are some who get down & look very miserable. I'm sorry for them. Many of the old folk are dying, mostly for lack of nourishing & suitable foods.

Arthur is very much better than he was. I do hope he will keep so now. Tom Keyho is getting on well. He gets up every day now & is able to take walks round about the Hospital.

Douglas was able to get me some "Long Noses". They are a strange looking fish but very nice when cooked. We had been without any fish for a month so they were very welcome.

Yesterday, I went down to see Lydia & took some flowers to put on Alf's grave.

We have not had any messages during this last month. The last one we had was from Mollie when she told us of Annie's death. It is strange she should have gone so soon after Alfred.

Arthur will have reached his 70th birthday next Tuesday. We are getting old people, yet I don't feel as old. I'm so thankful to be

## Lillie's Diary

able to keep doing my work. I just have help two mornings. I still do my own washing, etc. I think it all helps to keep me well.

I so often wonder how you all are. We don't hear much news. Just a little filters through. Some have managed to keep their Radios. I wonder if we shall ever have ours back. It is reported that a lot of them have been taken to Germany.

### *Forty-five*

November 8th 1942

You will be glad to know that Tom Keyho is very much better. He hopes to be able to leave the San. very soon now. Will has been to see him this afternoon. I was going to see him last Thursday but it rained too much.

We have this last week been told to put back our clocks one hour, so now we are on a par with you. Some don't like the longer evenings but I like the lighter mornings. It is nearly light when I get up at eight o'clock.

The people are still being turned out of their houses & we are still in ours. I do hope we shall be able to stay put.

We are getting a few extra rations just now. I think I've mentioned the Jem(?) Soup packets we get from France where, of course, all our extras come from. The soup powder is very useful for many things. We have had Macaroni for several weeks & I've got a nice little stock of it. I make spread for our bread by adding cheese to it (when we have some), & again, I use it with Apple which makes a good pudding to eat either hot or cold.

I've mentioned the "Butter Milk" we have been getting. To our sorrow, we can't have any more for the present. We are able to get more things from the Chemists now. They have been having supplies from France.

Articles of clothing are simply prohibitive. Silk stockings are £1-0-0 per pair, & Coats between £8 & £10. As for underclothing, I'm glad to say we can manage for yet another winter. Of course,

## Lillie's Diary

we have had nothing new for 2 1/2 years, but we don't look too bad. Everyone is in the same position. Of course, there are some who are suffering more than others. Sewing parties are held where ladies go to help in making & re-making clothing which has been given & also taken from the houses of the "Evacuees".

We are quite accustomed to the "Barter" system now & "Auction Sales" are very numerous where things fetch enormous prices. Rabbits were sold in the Market last week at 30/-, tame ones of course. It is only the Germans who are able to shoot wild ones.

During the past week, many of the soldiers have gone away. We hear that they have lost such a lot in Russia & Africa.

We had quite a small excitement this morning about 10 o'clock. We heard a plane & then Machine Gun firing. Then, on our way to Service, we heard that one had come down at the west of the Island. Some say it was an Australian & some say it was a German. I don't suppose we shall ever know which. Our visitors are, without doubt, very troubled & nervous & have been so since the affair in Sark. How we long for it all to end.

We are to have a little more Coal for December - 3/4 cwt of coal & 1/4 of coke for each of us, so that is better.

We had tea with Will last Sunday. It is really wonderful how he manages all on his own. Gladys is much better again but they won't allow her out again until she has been there three months after her going back again. Will tells us he expects to have her brother Jack, & Arthur, up from Alderney shortly. I shall be glad for him. He will not be so much alone then.

We have not had any messages for the last two months. There were some came but not for us. We sent our monthly message to Mollie last Friday.

I wonder what sort of a Christmas we shall have this year. All our stores are gone, so we shall just hope for a few extra rations. We have been able to have a nice lot of Tomatoes but they are finished now. I've been making "Grape Nuts" with "Sugar Beets" by putting them through the Mincer & then sending them to the Bake House to be cooked. They do really taste like the real "Grape

## Lillie's Diary

Nuts" & they make a nice addition to our meals. It is very wonderful what a lot we have learned to do with the ordinary things of life since the "Occupation". Necessity is indeed the Mother of Invention.

We are all keeping very well. Will is looking very fit again. He looks very much like Alfred now his hair is getting grey. Mine is quite white & Arthur has very little now except on the chin. I told you he had grown a beard. He looks very like his Father did when we first knew him.

### *Forty-six*

December 20th 1942

Tomorrow is Mother's birthday & Fred's was last week. I do so miss being able to write to you all, but I always think of you when your birthdays come round.

Tom Keyho is out of the Sanatorium. He is much better, but is not at all strong yet. He could not go & live with Lydia & Douglas as he had arranged to do. Lydia was not well & could not take him, so he is living with his eldest sister, Winnie. He is quite close to Lydia & will be near his work when once he can start again, which won't be just yet.

Will has Gladys home again. Her brother, Jack, came up from Alderney & does not intend going back again. So, it was a good opportunity to get her home as she will have company when Will is at work, at least for a time as Jack does not intend working for a bit. She is not all one could wish, but we hope as time goes on she will improve. She is very depressed & does not seem able to break away from it. She is not really capable to be left to do anything very responsible. Will has all his belongings which he had stored here for him, so their home is almost as usual for her.

We have been fairly quiet during the past month, not much doing by the Germans except destroying people's property by

## Lillie's Diary

digging trenches through the fields & knocking down any houses which may come in their way.

We are drawing near to Christmas once again. We have been very cheered during the past week by receiving messages from Len & Mollie, Laura, Cathie, & Muriel. Tom has received six & Douglas two & Will one, so between us we have heard quite a lot of news.

We are to have a few extra rations this week - 2 ozs each extra sugar, 3 ozs of salt, 3 ozs of sugar, 4 ozs of butter, & a double ration of beef. So that will be a great help. Last week, we had 4 1/2 ozs of chocolate each & we hear we are to have 2 ozs of Guernsey sweets this week as well. So we shall be quite rich. It will all help to make Christmas a bit more gay.

We are to have a "Goose" from Mrs de Guerin as usual. Will & Gladys are coming to help us eat it. Tom, I'm afraid, won't be able to come as we are too far away from him & there are no conveyances to be had now, but he will be with his own people. Gladys has been in the "Mental Home" for the last three Christmases so it will be a change for her. I shall try & make a pudding of sorts. Last week, we had a small ration of dried "Bananas", so I'll soak them & cut them up small & put them in. Then I can use some of the Grape Nuts I make. They are quite nice in Cakes. So I'll be able to make quite a nice menu after all. Anyhow, I'll do my best to make it as happy a time as possible.

We shall be thinking of you all & wishing you every good wish & just hope & pray that this may be the last Christmas when we shall be so very cut off from you all.

### *Forty-seven*

December 27th 1942

Christmas has come & gone. We had a nice quiet time with Will & Gladys. They had to leave us at 8.30 as the Curfew had not

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been extended this year. The Germans are very afraid of an "Invasion", so it is said.

The weather has been fine & cold, quite nice for getting about, but cold indoors with not very good coal to burn, but we all got as near the fire as possible.

Boxing Day, we had Arthur's sister Edith with us & she stayed the night & went off this morning to attend the Service at Ebenezer. She had spent Christmas Day with her sister Mrs Wheadon who is so very ill. What a poor state she is in. She is quite helpless & can't speak at all. It is pitiful to see her. She is only 67, not old. She & her husband are quite alone. Their four boys are away: one in New Zealand, he has two boys, that is Ernest. Arthur has two girls & Bert has four girls. These are both in the Army. Dennis the youngest is an interpreter of languages. He was Abroad at the time the war broke out. He married a Swiss girl. They managed to get away safely but lost most of their belongings. They have twin daughters.

Nothing has been heard yet from Sidney & Flo, who are in Germany. I do wish we could hear from them & get to know how they are placed.

Today, the weather has been very cold but fine. We were sorry not to hear the King's speech. We are still without our Radios.

On Christmas day, I had quite an array of flowers. On the tea table, we had quite a nice Vase of Roses & another of Violets taken from our garden. Mrs de Guerin sent me a lovely bunch of Chrysanthemums with the "Goose" which, by the way, was a very great treat. We have had just a little taste of it even today which is January 3rd 1943.

Another year has come & I wonder what it will bring us. We can't know. All we can do is to just go on doing our best & hoping for better times. I have thought about you such a lot.

Will had a reply from Muriel this week. I have been so thankful to think that Josie has been with her all this time. It was indeed fortunate for her that she went with her school.

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Gladys is much better, but there is not much to depend on with her. Her mind is still very dull. Will needs plenty of patience with her. Perhaps with time she will improve.

It is Will's birthday today. I had a letter from Arthur who is still in Alderney. He seems to be trying to improve. He says he is sorry for what he has done & is trying to be better. He has not much temptation up there as there are not many folk except Germans etc.

We have been having very stormy weather & last night & early this morning the Guns went off. I suppose there must have been a Plane about. It was too stormy for us to hear them. How they do shake our house! It is a marvel how the houses have stood it all. Quite a number have suffered &, as for the Greenhouses, many are wrecked.

We shall soon be looking forward to having the mornings lighter. That will be nice. I don't like having to get up in the dark at all.

I had a note from Tom Keyho yesterday. He had received replies from Laura & Dulcie. We can only send once a month a message & reply to those sent to us. I had one from Mollie last week. She sent it off in September. It does seem a long time, but we are very glad to receive them all the same.

We shall soon be getting busy in the garden. We still have Leeks, Brocoli, Cabbages & Celery. The last names we enjoyed very much. We have it for tea with Beetroots most days. We have become almost vegetarians now. We depend on them for most of our meals. There is little else.

### *Forty-eight*

Sunday Jan 10th [1943]

We have had a fairly quiet week. On Thursday, there were planes over, said to be Americans. Of course, the Guns fired off & made a lot of noise. I was visiting friends quite near to the



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Aerodrome so had plenty of them. They did not last long & I was able to cycle home without any mishap.

We have had a wet week with one or two bright afternoons. On Tuesday, I cycled to the Emergency Hospital to see one of our members from the Mission Hall. I quite enjoyed the ride. It was a really fine afternoon.

Our rations are very few just now, but we are managing to get enough to eat & we are indeed very thankful.

I've had two messages from Mollie this past week. Pauline has started school. She is to be five on Feb 1st. How we long to see them all. It seems such a long time since they went away.

There has been no news from Sidney & Flo yet. I often think about you. You must be missing Arthur very much indeed. He has been your care for such a long time, but I'm sure you are not wishing him back. He is away from all his weakness & suffering.

We are told on the Press that the heavy luggage which our evacuees left on the White Rock has only just been sent to them, poor things. They must be in need of them very much, as they had only what they could carry with them.

What a blessing it will be when all these sad & difficult days are over.

I'm so glad to hear Josie is so happy with you all. It was indeed a good day for her when she left here & arrived to be with Muriel & her children.

I had a letter from Arthur who is in Alderney during the past week. He is trying to overcome his failings & trying to be better, poor lad. I'm real sorry for him. I do indeed hope there are better days in store for him.

We are both keeping well & do hope you all are too. Mr Wheadon has just rung up to say his wife (Arthur's sister, Florrie) has passed away. It is a very happy release for her. She has not been able to speak for a year & had lately become quite helpless.

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### *Forty-nine*

Sunday Jan 18th [1943]

We have had some excitement & noise this past week. It started on Monday at 2 a.m. when we were disturbed by Gunfire which lasted 3/4 of an hour. A lot of planes passed over & we have heard that they had been to France. Then again, Thursday & Friday we had some more.

Arthur's sister was buried on Thursday afternoon in the same part of the Foulon Cemetery as Alfred is. It was a very cold day but not so bad as last year. It was just a year since Alfred died.

There have been two very bad accidents this past week & one of the Cyclists has died. Both were knocked down by German lorries. They are so huge & the Germans are reckless drivers. Wherever one goes, we see walls knocked down & gates smashed in almost every house they are living in.

There are not nearly so many soldiers here just now, but it does not make any difference to our rations. They were very poor this last week. We are very thankful it is not so cold as we have so small a ration of Coal.

We are simply longing to be released from our bondage. There is much sickness. People are not able to stand against it so well this year. The lack of fats & sugar are telling on many of the weaker folk. We are very thankful that we are all keeping well so far.

Tom Keyho is much better but he is not able to work yet. Our clothes are getting thinner & we are not able to buy any new ones. Our shops are looking very poor. A few have things from France, but at such a price, & they have no under clothing, especially ladies. Mens' pants are £3 -0-0 per pair & socks are 18/6 per pair. I am glad I'd had Arthur well stocked, but I'm wanting Combys & Vests very badly but there are none to be had.

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We are thankful to know that the Vegetables are holding out well. We can now get Radishes & Lettuce & other greens which are grown in the Greenhouses. They make a nice addition to our bread & butter for tea.

### *Fifty*

Sunday Jan 24th 1943

The Guns have been busy again this week. They have seen the Planes passing on their way to France. Of course, it generally happens in the night. They do startle one so, but we must not mind since they are not to hurt us.

We are having very mild weather just now & we are thankful as our Coal is very poor, also Coke & very little of it, but we must not grumble.

Arthur & Will cut down some trees at the bottom of the garden this Autumn, so we have some wood. Quite a lot of people have not any. There has been no delivery of wood this year. The Germans stopt the cutting of trees as they wanted them to screen their Guns, etc.

I've been making a Vegetable Cake this week & it is very good to eat. Minced Potatoes, Carrots, Beetroot, & Sugar Beet. After it has been baked in the Bakers Oven a little baking powder & small amount of flour mixed with milk & Cordial. They are making all kinds of Cordial at the Ginger Beer works & we use them for all sorts of things. I put some in the Porridge & mix up my cake when I can make one. It is very useful. Then we have some with hot water for supper when our milk is not very plentiful. We are learning what a lot can be done with Vegetables. They are indeed our main food just now.

It is my birthday tomorrow. I'll be 69. Arthur & Will are distressed because there is nothing they can buy one for a present. But that does not matter as long as we can see each other.

## Lillie's Diary

### *Fifty-one*

Sunday Jan 31st [1943]

We have had quite a lot of excitement this last week. The Guns have been going quite a lot & on Friday we had a real Raid. We were in Town having tea with Arthur's sister Edith, when about seven o'clock the Guns started & went on for nearly an hour. We really thought we should have to spend the night there, but they ceased about eight & we decided we would try to get home. It was very dark & we had half an hour's walk before us.

We managed to get nearly home when off the Guns went again, so we had to take shelter in a friend's house for about ten minutes & then we just got home as the clock struck nine, our Curfew hour, & we had only time to get inside the house when the Guns went off again, but not for long this time.

We heard next day that a ship had been sunk in the Harbour. We thought Bombs had been dropt when we were in Town. It is difficult to tell which are Bombs & which Guns.

On Thursday, many people were shocked to receive notices to go & be examined by the Germans as a next lot to leave the Island for Germany: all ex-Officers & all ex-Prisoners who had served any time during the past ten years & some few who have got across the Germans during their stay here. It has caused quite a cloud once more across the people & is causing much suffering.

One does wonder what will be the next to happen. We don't know yet if Arthur will have to go. He is working for the Germans in Alderney so he may get off alright, as we have heard of some here who have done so who are working for them.

I suppose we must expect to suffer somewhat the more they are losing & we hear the news is not good for them these days.

## Lillie's Diary

### *Fifty-two*

Sunday, Feb 7th, 1943

We are having a very cold spell. It is difficult to keep warm, as I can't light the fire before 5 p.m. except Sunday when I light it at dinner time as Arthur is home & he feels the cold very much. We are looking forward to the time when we can do without fires altogether.

There is much sadness about just now. Some 200 people are being sent to Germany next Wednesday. It is very cruel, I think. We have not any of ours who have to go yet. There is a report that all those born in England will be the next to go, but we get such a lot of rumours that we don't believe them until we know they are true, so we won't meet trouble half-way.

I saw Tom Keyho in Town on Friday. He is looking much better & the Dr. is quite pleased with him. He is looking out for work to do. He can't carry on his old work because he can't Cycle & the Germans won't let him use his Car. He had a message from Ruth last week & we had a reply from Fred & Mollie.

We have not heard anything from Arthur in Alderney so presume he will not be sent away. Those working for the Germans usually get off.

We are all keeping well. I saw Lydia & Douglas last week. They are both very fit.

We are all just longing for this terrible War to end, as I'm sure you all are too.

## Lillie's Diary

### *Fifty-three*

Sunday, Feb 14th, [1943]

Another week has passed. It has been a very sad one for so many people - 148 people were taken off to Germany on Friday evening, leaving here at 7.30. We have heard that news has been received that they landed in Granville at 5.30 on Saturday morning. It must have been a very trying journey. It was a very rough night. The wind was very high during the night.

What a lot of sad homes & what for? They have done nothing to deserve such a fate.

We had fireworks again last night at 10 & midnight. It is all so disturbing.

We had a lovely day yesterday, wind & sunshine. I spent the afternoon clearing my centre path. It has square bricks all the way down & the grass & weeds grow in between. It takes a lot of keeping clean but looks very nice when it is clean. We have had so much rain it had got extra dirty. I enjoyed being out in the garden. It has been a long time since I was able to get out.

We have had a lot of extra rations this week. It was very exciting - 1 lb each of Beans, 1/2 lb of Vermicelli, which is nice for puddings, 1/2 lb Jam, 1/2 pint of Tomato Puree, 1 oz extra each of Sugar, & 2 ozs of sweetened Cocoa. All very nice to have & we are real thankful for them.

I saw Tom Keyho on Friday. He had received four messages. He was excited. I had two last week, one from Laura & one from a friend. We can't send our monthly message because they are waiting for "Forms" from the Red Cross.

We hear today that the News is very good. If only we had our Radios what a difference it would make.

We are all keeping well & we really have nothing to grumble about. I think most folk are much better in health than last winter.

There are still plenty of potatoes for most folk to have 5 lbs a week. We, of course, don't get this ration as we still have some of our own. What an asset our garden is to us. We are still giving

## Lillie's Diary

more room for Vegetables & fruit. They are really more important than flowers, altho' I still have a lot of these. My Violets are really very lovely this year & the primroses are looking real bonny & lots of others. The winter has been so mild.

### *Fifty-four*

Sunday, Feb 21st, [1943]

We have had a week of lovely weather, dry & cold. I've done some weeding in the garden & on Thursday we were both out all the afternoon & got a nice lot done. It was a real sunny day.

I cycled down to Town on Friday. It was most enjoyable. We had as extra rations 3/4 lb of Rye Flour & some more beans, but no salt. Our meat ration was 4 ozs each & cost 1/10. I'm afraid I won't be able to make it go through the week. I'll have to fall back on "Jam (?) Soup", which is really quite eatable, tho' some folks don't like it, but with plenty of Vegetables it makes a real tasty dinner.

I had an extra pint of milk last week & 1/2 pint extra this morning. That will help with the puddings. It is a real treat to have sweetened Cocoa. We had some again this week.

I've managed to put a lining in my combinations by cutting up some thin vests which I used to wear in the summer. It has made all the difference. It is awful to have thin underclothing. I saw Mrs. de la Fosse on Friday & she was telling me how difficult she finds it to get underclothing for her youngest son. He is about 21. Altho' they are in the clothing trade, they can't get any at all. It is a case of patching again & again.

I sometimes wonder how you are placed, if you can still get what you need. I do hope you are not as short as we are. Our shops can only show second-hand clothing & some of it looks as tho' it might have come out of the Ark.

We are told there is only one more week's supply of meat in the Island. It is to be hoped that some more will come soon. We

## Lillie's Diary

have been very fortunate in having good Guernsey butter. It is not much that we get, but it is very enjoyable.

We have had two nice services today. We do appreciate being able to have them. The flowers are getting lovely. We had a huge bunch of Trumpet Daffodils today & they were given to me to bring home. We take it in turns to supply them each week.

### *Fifty-five*

Sunday, [March] 28th, 1943

Another month gone & we somehow are glad. It seems to be nearer the end of this warfare as the months slip away.

The last batch of Deportees did not leave here until Thursday at 5.30 p.m. There were some 27 came from Sark to go. Two very sad cases: a man & his wife & 9 children; another was a Widow with 8 children. It seems so very cruel to send such. There have been seven who were sent last time who have been brought back here. They arrived on Monday. All have been in Hospital all the time they have been in Germany. Reports of what they have had to go through are not happy ones. All of them say how much they appreciated the parcels received through the Red Cross Society, otherwise their state would have been much worse.

News has been received of the safe arrival of those who went last. That is very encouraging as we hear of so many boats being sunk.

There was a "Naval Battle" beyond Sark on Thursday. We heard very heavy firing. It is reported here that five U boats were sunk & that one Torpedo has been brought in here with five men & Officers.

We have had a week of very fine weather, tho' cold. It has been good for gardening. Will was working here on Thursday. He was not too well, had a touch of Flu but he is much better today.



## Lillie's Diary

He received a message from Cathie on Friday. Some 2,000 arrived this week but none for us.

I saw Gladys on Friday. She seemed much brighter than usual. We are both keeping well & we are truly thankful. We shall be able to send our monthly letter to Mollie.

### *Fifty-six*

Sunday, March 14th, [1943]

Have been very busy in the garden, such a lot to do all at once. Will planted some potatoes on Thursday. Have Shallots nicely growing & Broad Beans as well. Flowers are looking lovely: Daffodils, Primroses, Hyacinths, Wallflowers, Flowering Currants. Freesias in the Conservatory are really a lovely sight & quite scent the house. They are all very early this year owing to the mild weather we have had this winter. We have had very little frost so far.

I had a letter from Arthur in Alderney last week. He is well & seems to like his work on the Farm. He looks after two Cows & seems very interested in them.

Will is much better again. He was in this afternoon.

We have been having a bit of excitement this week. On Wednesday, the local billeting officer phoned to Arthur to tell him the Germans wanted some of our rooms, so he came to see what we had to spare. They would have liked to have had our two rooms downstairs & one bedroom. That would leave us with only the kitchen & wash-house. But he said they must only have one, the Sitting room, which they wanted to use as a "Pay Office".

The Germans came to see them on Saturday morning & after some time they seemed a little undecided, so went off telling us they would let us know on Monday. It would be better than us being turned out, but still I'd rather we were left alone, but we'll have to make the best of it if they do take them. We turned out nearly all our things from the sitting room on Friday evening. We

## Lillie's Diary

shall have to leave the bedroom suite & bed for their use & supply all bedding, etc. Anyhow, we shall know tomorrow what is to be.

Our meat ration cost 1/2 this week & not very nice meat. I stewed it but it was too tough to eat so put it through the Mincer. It is not too bad with the nice broth I made & adding plenty of Vegetables with it. We had 1 lb of Rice given to us the other week, so today we have had a real Rice pudding. It was a treat, altho' the milk was rather thin & it was sweetened with Saccarines.

I've been saving my sugar ration & I've now got 2 lbs, so hope to make a little Jam with our last Marrow. We are supposed to have a ration of 1 lb Jam per month, but it does not always appear. We are to have our last ration of "Tomato Puree" this week. I'm sorry as it has been so very useful. We use it with Lettuce, Radishes, Celery & any green stuff. It makes such a nice change with our Bread & Butter for tea & breakfast.

We must look forward to the time when the Tomatoes come again. We get a ration of dried Beans each week now. They are such a great help in stews, etc. We still have some of our own grown.

Tom Keyho's dear old Mother has passed away. She was such a very cheery old lady. She was just on Ninety. Tom is much better, but is still not able to get any work.

News has been received of the safe arrival of the last Deportees to Germany. The men, at least, are in Germany but the women have been left in France for the time being. What for no one knows. It does seem so very hard for them. We have not heard from Sidney & Flo, only through his friend.

Lillie's Diary

*Fifty-seven*

Sunday, March 21st, 1943

We have had a real fine day for the first day of Spring. It has been almost too fine. We could do with a little rain.

We have had two messages from Laura this last week. Will & Tom have as well. It is so nice to receive them. We can then answer them, but we can only send one per month.

Our sitting room has been taken by the Germans. They are using it as a dining room for 15 under Officers as they call them (we say N.C.O.s). They come in to dinner at Noon. One comes to get all ready & the cooking is done opposite, so we have no bother with them, except to sweep out the passage after they are gone. They bring a bit of dirt in on their heavy boots. They are not taking the bedroom at present but may later. They bring in their Radio each morning, so I get a bit of Music. They have been in a week tomorrow.

Will has been in today. He is much better again. I'm so very sorry I can't write to you now. I'm sure you must be missing Arthur very much. I think about you every day & hope the time will soon come when we can write again.

Our meat ration is still smaller this week. It cost 10d for the two of us & we are told there will be none at all next week. We are thankful to know that our bread and butter is sure, so we shan't starve. We have been told that you have been assured that we are not starving & that is quite true, but there are always some who are the verge of it at all times. They never can make things go round. They have no idea of management.

Lillie's Diary

*Fifty-eight*

Sunday, April 11th, [1943]

We have had a long spell of fine weather but it has kept very cold. We are now wanting rain as everything is very dry.

We had one week without meat, but the last two weeks we have had a small ration. We are getting rather short of Vegetables, but the new potatoes will soon be coming in (those grown in greenhouses). There is plenty of green stuff such as Lettuce, Radishes, Spring Onions, etc. which we make good use of for Breakfast & Tea.

We have seen a letter from Sidney & Flo sent to their friend Tom Castle. They write very cheerfully. They are getting parcels from the Red Cross regularly & that makes things much better for them.

Last Friday morning, two German officers came in & asked to see all the rooms in the house. We don't know yet if it means we shall be turned out. They are taking quite a lot of houses in this neighbourhood. We do hope we shan't have to go.

*Fifty-nine*

Sunday, April 18th, [1943]

We are having such hot days it is more like June than April. It reminds me very much of the year we came here. After a very much better March it came in like this in April & we had a very hot & long summer that year. It is really a blessing here as we have no coal to use, that is if one has a Gas Cooker, so it will be better for us if we do get it a bit warmer.

We are still here. We have not heard any more as to whether we have to turn out or not, so we keep on hoping for the best.

## Lillie's Diary

We are not starving, but are getting short of things. Our meat ration cost 1/10 this week. Our groceries were: 1/2 lb Butter, 1/4 lb fat for cooking, 1 lb dried Beans, 3/4 lb Flour, 1/2 lb Sugar. Milk & Bread we get as usual, 1 1/2 pints Milk per day & 9 lbs Bread per week. This is of course all for the two of us. We have still a few Potatoes left, also Parsnips, Turnips & Shallots. Cabbages sold by the lb cost 8d or 9d.

I often wonder how you are faring. It is so very trying not to hear more of you all.

I have had a rather severe cold this past week. It is now passing off. Everything in the garden is very forward. I do hope we shan't get any frosts now.

### *Sixty*

Sunday, May 9th, [1943]

We are having just now a very severe storm. In fact, it is quite a N.W. gale & it is bitterly cold. Such a change from a fortnight ago. We do hope it won't last long.

We are getting up against things a bit more now. The Germans are taking such a lot of our young men & making them do all manner of things for them, even to clearing Bombs, etc. Also they are calling in all Motors which they did not want before. This week all Horses have to be paraded before them. It is supposed they will take the best for themselves for their own use. After this month all fodder for them is to be stopt.

This week, our Bread ration is to be decreased. We lose 1 1/2 lbs per week for us two. Will, as a heavy worker, loses 1 1/4 lbs. That will be very hard on those who work so hard. We have started with New Potatoes. The ration is 3 lbs per head per week at present. We shall be able to have more when they get a bit more plentiful.

We keep hoping that things will improve. The news this week that has filtered through is very encouraging, so we must still hope for the best.

## Lillie's Diary

We are glad that we are keeping well. We have felt the cold very much this past week, having to manage without fires.

We had a message from Len this past week, dated Feb 5th, so that is fairly up to date. They were all well. It will soon be three years since they went away. What a change we shall see in the children. I'm very thankful that Josie is with you & Muriel. She is so much better than she would be here.

Gladys has been home since last November, but she is not at all as she should be. Will has a very trying time with her. She is really very little use to him. He has to lock up all food while he is out as she eats it so & when he wants a meal it is never ready. I'm almost afraid she will have to be put away again. It is all very sad & hard to bear for Will.

### *Sixty-one*

Monday, May 30th, 1943

Will has had to take Gladys to the Mental Home again. The Dr says she has no willpower to help herself.

We had an "Air Raid" on Friday evening. It was just about the same as the first one the Germans gave us, only this time it was they who were the sufferers. Quite a lot of them were killed & two of their boats were sunk in the Harbour.

We are getting quite up against things now. This is the third week we have been without a "Meat Ration". Our Sugar ration has been decreased by 2 ozs for the two of us. Our Potato ration has been increased. We now get 5 lbs each per week. That is a very great help as we have to depend on Vegetables for dinner. We have been able to get a few "Spider Crabs". They make a nice change. Other fish is rationed to 1/2 lb per head (when we can get it). Our rations this week were: 3/4 lb Flour, 6 ozs Sugar, 4 ozs cooking fat, 8 ozs Butter & 1/2 lb Jam (our Monthly ration) &, of course, our 10 lbs Potatoes for the two of us, all told.

We still manage to keep smiling & are not feeling too bad. Fortunately, we can get Lettuce, Radishes, Spring Onions & Cabbage & Cauliflower & Peas. These all are a great help. Carrots

## Lillie's Diary

are just coming in & we shall hope soon to have Tomatoes, so we shall be quite rich then. Every fresh vegetable makes such a nice change. The crops in the garden are promising well & the Wheat & Oats we are told are doing very well.

There has been a great run on "Millet Seed" of late. They had a lot from France. It has been ground into Flour &, when it is ready, is sold at 4/7 per lb. I've had 1 lb & use it to make a supper drink, like thin Cornflour. It is quite nice.

Arthur has been very busy at the Mill with the grinding. Some have bought very large quantities of it & had it ground & are making cakes & porridge with it. It is really wonderful what we do these days to get something fresh to eat.

Underclothing is a very expensive item these days. I bought two Vests for Arthur last week & had to pay £5-0-0 for the two. Pants are £3-0-0 each. Dresses & Suits are from £10-0-0 to £20-0-0 each. I'm glad I'm able to do without buying any. We fortunately are well off in that respect, but there are many who have to buy, especially those with growing young folk. I'm sorry for them.

As for Footwear, it is almost impossible to get & what does come from France they tell me is not worth buying & the prices are tremendous.

Eggs are being sold at 10/- per dozen, Rabbits at £1-0-0 to £2-0-0 each. It is really rather wonderful how well on the whole the Islanders are keeping. Of course, there are exceptions. Old folk are feeling the strain. The Germans won't allow any food for Invalids who are 70 years of age (I mean special food). They say they should be done with life at that age. Quite a lot have died because they have not been able to have suitable food to sustain them.

The children are being well cared for. They have extra rations & have full cream milk each day at school, also all babies & expectant Mothers. What a treat it will be when we can all have good milk again. I queue up at the States Dairy every Tuesday to get 2 pints of "Butter Milk". We have to go different days according to our names. I boil it & then make cream, add a pinch of salt & pepper, & it makes a nice paste to put in our bread.

## Lillie's Diary

We have been having a warmer spell & everything in the garden has benefited by it. I'm so glad to have my garden. It gives me hours of pleasure & keeps me fit & well. Will's garden is looking a treat. He does work so hard in it.

Last Saturday he had a surprise. He found young Arthur waiting for him. He had come up from Alderney for a few weeks' holiday. He has been up there just over a year. He is looking very well & has grown quite a bit. It will do Will good to have some company for a bit. Arthur seems to have improved. He quite likes his work up there & gets plenty of good food, which is all to the good.

Tom Keyho is now working at the Ladies College, where all the Commodities are stored & then shared out to the different Shopkeepers. He is quite pleased to have something to do again. He is not looking too well. I saw him last Friday.

### *Sixty-two*

Sunday, June 6th 1943

We are having brighter weather with showers in between, but it still keeps very cold. Nothing grows as it should do. We keep hoping it will get warmer & give us a better chance to keep well.

Will has been in. He is well again after having a bad cold. Arthur is still here. He is helping Will in the garden, which is a very large one & was in such a poor condition when Will took it in hand. However, it is looking very different now to what it did. He has had quite a lot of strawberries. We dug our bed up this year to put in more Potatoes, which are really more essential nowadays. Will has such a lot of ground he can spare room for them. He has given us some Loganberries & they are promising well. Our potatoes are not yet ready to dig, so we are still drawing our weekly ration.

We have another meatless week. Young Arthur got me three Spider Crabs, so they filled in the gap very nicely. Today, we had



## Lillie's Diary

Potatoes & Cauliflowers with a little gravy, but for a treat we had a Rhubarb tart, the first this year.

I had a message from Ruth last week, which she had sent off in January. Tom received one as well. It is so nice to hear from anyone. It will soon be three years since they all left us.

We have not heard from Sidney & Flo but have seen letters sent to their friend Tom Castle. They write very cheerfully, but of course are very restricted. Sid works a few hours each day in the Red Cross depot. What a blessing that is to them. They receive a parcel each week & get quite a variety of food which they could not get here. I'm very glad for their sakes.

### *Sixty-three*

Sunday, June 27th, [1943]

I have been very busy in the garden. Also have tried to do a bit of Spring Cleaning. It is rather difficult without soap, but the rooms are freshened & we know they are cleaner.

I told you Young Arthur was with Will. On the second Sunday, he took Girl up to have tea & they had a nice time. After Will got home from Service, Arthur arrived home quite early for him. He told Will he had received a message through a friend that he had to return to Alderney the next day, having to report at Headquarters at 10 a.m. He packed up all his belongings & Will gave him the best lunch he could spare for him to have on the boat.

On Tuesday afternoon, I was told that someone had seen him at St Sampsons & Will, when he went to get his bread ration, was told that Arthur had been transferred to St Sampsons. Since then, he has been seen by several people, but neither Will nor we have heard or seen anything of him. It is most perplexing to know what he is doing. He evidently has not gone back to Alderney. He told Will some awful lies about himself. What a trial he is, to be sure.

## Lillie's Diary

We went four weeks without a meat ration. Then we had one, & then again one without, & again this week we have some meat, but I am not able to eat any as I have had an attack of Diarrhoea, which has made me feel very weak indeed.

It is a lovely day, but there is a cold "East Wind". I have not been able to go out today.

We have had several "Air Raids" of late. We are getting used to them.

I saw three letters from Sidney & Flo last week. Tom Castle sent them up for us to read. They are getting on fairly well. Sidney finds it very slow. They are having very hot weather now. I think we are all feeling very tired of these days. What a great relief it will be when we can have normal times again.

### *Sixty-four*

Sunday July 18th [1943]

I've had rather a bad time of late, but am now feeling much better. It is difficult to pick up again after a bit of sickness as we have no nourishing & tempting food stuffs at all, simply the bare bread & butter & vegetables.

Our meat ration is now bi-weekly & not a very nourishing kind either & now our Milk ration is being cut down & that is a great loss, but it is very wonderful how one gets used to doing without.

Next week, our flour ration will cease & we shall have Macaroni instead, which of course is very good but not so useful as the Flour. Our potato crop is very good & there is promise of a good crop of Beans, which is very essential as I use them to make paste to put on our bread, which helps out the butter.

I saved up our Sugar for several weeks & have been able to make just a dozen 1 lb pots of Jam, but the sugar we get is not the best & so the Jam won't keep, but we can use it on our bread & so

## Lillie's Diary

again help out the butter. Will brought me a sample today of some he had made. It was alright but we have so little sugar, but it lasts a little & makes a change on our bread.

Will has not heard any more of Arthur. We don't know whether he is here or in Alderney.

I have seen some more letters from Sid & Flo. They are getting on alright & seem to have plenty of food. I'm very glad for they have not the home comforts we have.

I must tell you of a trying experience we had a fortnight ago next Tuesday. The Officers of this district had a supper in our "Sitting Room", which of course is theirs now. There were 18 of them. All went well until 10 p.m. when they began to sing & be merry & went on getting more than merry & did not finish until 4 a.m. next day. It was a terrible time. I was in the bedroom above. The din was simply awful. The front door was continually slamming as they went in & out. Arthur did not go to bed until they had gone. About 5.30 a.m. we were disturbed by someone stumbling upstairs. It was one of them who had evidently been left behind. He had awakened & did not know where he was.

They came back again at 6 a.m. to clear up the mess they had made as they did not want me to see it, but if you could see the floor, it is in a mess. They had a general smash during the evening & had evidently broken some glasses etc. I had to get out of bed three times to put out the light on the landing, which they had put on when lighting up the passage below & once I looked over the stairs & saw a soldier. He was drunk & had fallen asleep on the stairs.

I would not like to keep a "Public House". We have still the smell in that room, altho I open up every day as soon as I get down & leave all open until I go to bed. They had parties all over the Island that week, celebrating their three years of Occupation of the Island.

The desolations they have made are really very appalling. Everywhere there are walls broken down & fields ruined. Opposite to us they had made a riding field of one & just recently they have built a lot of stables & have now about 20 Horses

## Lillie's Diary

stabled there. That is not enough for them. They have taken a lovely field at the end of our garden & have made it into a riding field. They have deprived the people who rented it of their "Hay Crop" as they have played football in it all the winter, also for putting their horse out to grass. One has no redress, only just put up with it.

They have ruined & knocked down such a lot of property, so many poor folk have lost their all. The stories we could tell you would weary you. We are simply longing for it to be at an end.

We have had three messages from Mollie during the past fortnight. We are glad for their sakes that they went away & as we have so far been able to save their furniture they will be able to have it when they come back again. So many folk will have nothing to come back to. Tom's brother-in-law, Mr W.H. Marquis, will be one of them. His house has been completely emptied by them & their daughter's furniture as well. It will be a great shock to them when they come back.

It is over a twelve month since they took away our "Radio". It would be nice to have it again, but the news gets about. Some folk have managed to keep their sets, but it is very risky as they get severely punished when found out.

### *Sixty-five*

August 8th [1943]

We are having very strange weather just now, very stormy & cold at times but when the sun does get out it is very warm. We had a fine day for the holiday last week. We went to the "Forest" in the afternoon & had tea with our friends, Mr. & Miss Alles. Their mother passed away just a month ago. She was such a dear old lady.

After tea, they took us for a walk along the cliffs overlooking "Petit Bôt Bay". We did enjoy it. It was the first time we had been for such a walk since the Occupation.

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You will have heard on the B.B.C. talk about our rationing. Since then, a German General has been here & has looked into the matter & he has decided that we are to go back to our former bread ration, which is 4½ lbs per week. For the last two months we have had only 3½ lbs per week. It makes all the difference to our meals.

We are still on a bi-weekly ration of meat. This week for the two of us it cost 2/1, but it is better than none at all. We shall be so glad when we can have a little more variety. It is just Sugar, Salt, Flour, or Macaroni, Butter & Cooking Fat, and so little of each, & once a fortnight we get a little Coffee. The monotony of it is so very trying.

There have been no messages of late. We are hoping soon to have some more. We are glad to hear that things are moving a little. When the General was here, he decided there were too many soldiers, so quite a lot have gone away, but we don't get any more food. They keep a lot of pigs & want a lot of milk for them, so we have short rations.

Such a lot of farmers find their cows have been milked when they go to them in the morning. Others are having their crops stolen &, as for Rabbits, they are stealing them every week. So many people keep them now to try & get a little extra food. It is very hard to have them stolen just when they are ready to eat.

I saw Tom Keyho on Friday. He is not looking at all well. His breathing is very bad & he is losing weight every week. His Dr. is very upset about him. Of course, there are no strengthening foods for him to have, & so little milk. No one can now get full cream milk except those in Hospital.

Arthur is looking very well indeed. He is now weighing 9 stone. He went down to 7 stone two years ago. Of late, their staff have been allowed an extra flour ration &, of course, that makes all the difference. He is eating more vegetables than he did, in fact he will now eat anything he can get. This summer, he has spent more time in the garden which has done him good.

Will is working very hard. He has got his garden in very good condition now. It was in a mess when he took it on. It has meant a

## Lillie's Diary

hard grind. He is still alone. We have not seen young Arthur since he went off & Gladys is still in Hospital.

### *Sixty-six*

Thursday, Sept 9th [1943]

It is just a month since I wrote to you. Time passes & I seem to be always busy. Also, I've had a bad time with my stomach again. It left me very weak & I used to get very tired indeed by mid-day. I'm feeling much better, but there is still that tired, weak feeling at times.

We are still on our weekly ration of meat & our groceries are very meagre indeed. We shall be very thankful when these lean days are past & over.

We have had several shocks of late. You will no doubt have heard that seven people got away from the Island in a Motor Boat. Our punishment has been no fish since. They have made it so difficult for the fishermen, who have had to take out a new Licence, & they have to answer so many questions. They must not have any relations in England & they must pay £5-0-0 for their new Licences. It is impossible for most of them to get one & the result has been that only two men are able to go out fishing & they have to give 40 per cent of their catch to the Germans. It is such a pity as a little fish now & again made such a difference to our meals.

The Guns go off very frequently now at night time as the Planes pass over on their way to France, etc.

We have not heard from Sidney & Flo yet, but we hear of them from their friend, Tom Castle.

Our garden has done very well considering the unsettled weather we have had this year. Our Apples were spoilt during a very heavy storm we had in May. Most people suffered in the same way. We don't get much variety in our lives, just the daily round. As much time as possible is spent in the garden.

## Lillie's Diary

There is no pleasure in going out for walks, etc. Everything is so spoilt by our Visitors. I wonder if we shall ever see things put right. So many of the Homesteads have been ruined. Some have altogether vanished. So far, we have been fortunate. They have not even put any barbed wire, as they have in most of the places they occupy. They are taking down such a lot of their own Telephone Wires. We almost dare to hope it is a good sign.

Those who come here are very decent on the whole. Occasionally, they bring me a little soup & potatoes in their jackets, which I'm very glad to have. Their soup is really very good & it helps with our vegetable dinners. We shall soon be finished with Tomatoes. We shall miss them, but the Beans will now be coming in & they will take their place. It is really amusing how we seem to be always thinking about our meals. It is so very difficult to make them interesting & tasty, with so little to do them with.

Arthur is very busy at the Mill, with the people bringing in their gleanings to be ground into flour. Will has grown a lot of Maize, which he hopes to have made into flour. It makes a very nice porridge indeed.

### *Sixty-seven*

October 5th [1943]

We have this week gone back to summer time, so our Curfew is the same as yours. We are having very mild weather just now, which is a good thing as we have not any coal yet. They are beginning to distribute this week. We are to have two hundredweight for two months, that is for we two. There is to be no Coke or wood for us this winter, so we shall have to be very careful. I only hope it will be a mild winter. We have had a few nice sunny days with slight frost at night.

Lydia & Douglas came up last week & had tea with us. It was the first time Lydia had been in this house & we have lived here

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over thirteen years. She never would come with Alfred. She is failing a good bit & is very deaf indeed. Douglas is a very good son. Lydia is fortunate to have him with her.

Will has been in this afternoon. He saw Tom Keyho during the week. He is not too bright. He keeps losing weight & his cough bothers him a lot. I do hope for his sake we shan't have a very cold winter.

We have not so many soldiers here now, 2,000 we are told. At one time, we had 30,000. Most of the Foreigners are also gone away. That is why they are using so many of our local men to work for them. They are now calling up young men from 18 to 25. Some are afraid they may be sent away from the Island.

We are on very short Milk rations now, 1 pint per day for the two of us. We can't make many puddings out of that. Our Marrows come in very useful. I cut them in small squares & put them in a covered Casserole & just cover them with Lemon or Raspberry Cordial, which is made locally, & then bake them. They taste very much like Pine Apple chunks. Also, I make Macaroni & Apple pudding & put a little Cordial which sweetens it.

We have plenty of Marrows but no sugar to make jam. We have grown Sugar Beet this year, that I put through the Mincer & cook in the Oven. It is very useful for puddings & also in Cakes. It helps to sweeten them.

Today, we had a seasoning pudding made with Potatoes, Onions & Sage, & baked. It is nice either cold or hot. I'm always trying to find something new to make a little change to our Vegetable dinners. Apple & Marrow are very good together & I often make a Roly Poly pudding without Suet, just a little bit of butter with flour.



Lillie's Diary

*Sixty-eight*

Sunday October 24th 1943

We have been having very stormy weather this last week, plenty of rain & wind, but it is very mild.

Last Wednesday was Arthur's 71st birthday. He is very well & is working hard at the Mills & is still able to cycle up & down twice a day. It is very fortunate he keeps so fit & well as, at the Mill, he has only a young man he can depend on now that his Chief Clerk is in Germany. Mr Le Tocq, his older Clerk, is almost helpless with "Paralysis" & only keeps on at the Office to help him keep going as they fear when he has to give up it will be the end of him.

Will has been in today. He is well. He has just had some teeth fixed & they are a very great improvement. He has been without teeth so long that he finds them a bit awkward, but he will soon be used to them.

During the last week, a large number of Russian & Italian prisoners have arrived here. They are a rough looking lot. There are rumours that, in this neighbourhood, the Germans are leaving & we are to have some Russians. I hope it is not true.

The soldiers we have had here since last March are really not too bad. We certainly might have worse. If only they would all be going & the War ended. What a day that would be for us all.

We are having fires now in the evening. I light it at five o'clock so as to get a nice one by the time Arthur gets home to tea at six.

I had a reply from Mollie to our March monthly message this week. They were all well then. Will has had a message from Cathie, & Tom has heard from Anne. It is so nice to receive a message.

It looks as if we shall have another Christmas under War conditions. This will be the fourth under the German Occupation.

We have been enjoying a nice run of Grapes & Melons, but they will soon be done. Of course, we get a lot more now they

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can't send them away. We are having a second crop of Tomatoes. It is the first time the Growers have ventured on a second crop. They are very good. They are sold at 5d & 7d per lb, but we are very glad to have them.

We have heard that the people over 60 years of age are coming back from Germany, but it may only be a rumour.

### *Sixty-nine*

Sunday Nov 8th [1943]

Will has been spending the day with us. He killed one of his Rabbits & brought it for me to cook, & we have had some of it today. It has been a lovely day, but very cold.

We have now Russians instead of Germans. The change took place during last week. There were some 15 to 20 came in to dinner. What dirt they do bring in, to be sure! They would have liked to have had a bedroom, but they won't allow it at Headquarters. I'm very glad. I don't want any of them upstairs.

We have had a lot of rain during the last weeks. It is needed as the Springs are getting very low. I don't like having to get up in the dark, but have to do so now. Anyhow, we are getting on into November & after Christmas the days soon begin to lengthen again.

We are to have another ration of Chocolate next week, "five bars only", costing 7½d. It is only for Women & Children.

### *Seventy*

Sunday Nov 14th [1943]

Tomorrow, we shall be half through November. How we look forward to the winter going. We so dread it this year. We are

## Lillie's Diary

having a very rough week-end. Yesterday, it rained very heavily, & today we have a real N.W. gale & it is bitterly cold. We can't have a very big fire as we won't have any more coal until next month, & there is no wood to be had. I do hope we shan't have snow (we had just a slight shower today) as it will be so very bad if we do.

There are so many people who are not properly shod these days. There is some Bootware that comes from France &, of course, they are strictly controlled & very dear, & are poor stuff as well. Will had to have a pair of shoes (he could not get boots) & he had to pay nearly £3 for them.

The poor folk are suffering very much indeed. There are all sorts of appeals in the Press asking for help. You see, we have not been able to have anything to buy since the Occupation. The Germans simply cleared out the shops in no time & those who did not have any reserve of clothing have felt it.

It has taken me all my time to keep Will in good repair. He has heavy wear on his clothes, etc. He is not at all well lately. He has had a cold on him for the past three weeks & it is so very difficult to get rid of it. There are not good medicines to be had &, of course, our food is not very strong. When one does get ill it is difficult to pick up again.

We are very short of Milk, just ½ pint each per day, & there are no eggs at all as there is no feeding stuffs for the Fowls. Of course, the Germans are able to get just what they want. They are keeping Pigs, Sheep, Geese, Rabbits. It is all very trying indeed. I'm so very thankful we are keeping well. Arthur is very much better than he was last year. He is gaining weight each month. Of course, we do get a little extra flour, & it does make a difference.

I have not seen Tom Keyho just recently, but I see his Brother with whom he lives. He tells me Tom is not too well, but he is able to go to work. I saw Lydia & Douglas last week. Lydia is failing a lot. Douglas keeps very fit.

We hear there are some more messages this week-end, so perhaps we may have some this week. We do so look forward to receiving them.

## Lillie's Diary

### *Seventy-one*

Sunday, November 28th [1943]

Since last writing to you we have had great excitement. During a very severe storm, 19 bodies of "English Sailors" were washed ashore. They had belonged to the ship "Charybdis" which had had an engagement in the Channel & had been sunk. They had a very big funeral with Military Honours. The Islanders sent 86 wreaths. I did not go to the funeral as it was a very bitter cold & stormy day. They are each buried in a separate grave in the "Foulon Cemetery", just below where Alfred is buried. How nice it will be for their families to know where they are buried & to know they were so well treated. There were 27 washed ashore in Jersey & they were treated in the same way.

The Germans did the decent thing by them & followed them to the Grave. What a terrible lot of suffering is being caused by this senseless War.

Will has been in today. He is much better now. I went to see Tom Keyho on Thursday. He is not too bad. His cough & breathing are a trouble to him, but he is able to go to work. Lydia has not been well of late. She has had several heart attacks.

We have not had any "Russians" in to dinner this last two weeks. We don't know what they intend doing. They have not given up the room yet. It makes a lot of difference to my work when they don't come in with their heavy boots.

We had a message from Mollie last week. They were all well when she sent it in July. Tom has had a Photo of Ann, sent by a friend through Germany.

I told you some time ago that Arthur's Chief Clerk would soon have to give up on account of his illness. He finishes at the Office next Wednesday. Poor fellow, he does look very ill. Arthur will be now left with only a young Clerk & their Collector who is not very much use in the Office. Business is very hard & difficult nowadays.

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We have had our ration of Coal for December - 2 bags. So, we are a little better than the last two months, but it is not good English Coals. It is what we call black eggs & does not burn as well as yours does. It is very difficult to get any wood. I've just ordered two hundredweight of logs & have to pay 30/- for them.

We are having a little change in food. A lot of "Sugar Beet" has been grown this year & it is being made into Syrup. It takes 10 lbs of Beet to make 1 lb of Syrup & we pay 7/6 per lb for it. Very dear, but it is such a treat to get a little change & I use it for many things. A little in our porridge makes it very nice, also in cakes & puddings, & spread on bread it saves the butter.

This week we have our meat ration & ours had a little fat. What a treat! Arthur found it made it rich, but it was such a change. We had not seen any fat for such a long time.

We are having very dark mornings & dare not use much light. We have a water Curfew now. It is cut off from 6.30 p.m. to 6.30 a.m. & from 1.30 to 5.30 p.m. We are again fortunate as we have a Pump with Spring water & it is very good. Our second crop of Tomatoes have been a great help, but they are now finished.

### *Seventy-two*

Sunday, December 19th [1943]

Since last writing to you, Lydia had several heart attacks just three weeks ago, so Douglas called in her Dr & he ordered her at once to the "Emergency Hospital", & she is still there. She is improving. The rest & good food are helping her. The Dr intends keeping her there a month & she will have to take life much easier, & must not go upstairs at all. Her heart is in a poor state. Douglas is managing very well on his own. He is very useful in the house & can do most things for himself, which is a great help to him.

We are now rationed very severely for Milk. Some days we only get ½ pint for the two of us. There is so little fodder for the

## Lillie's Diary

Cows & no extra foods at all. Of course, it will get easier as the Spring comes & the Cows can get out more.

This is our meatless week. Next week we are to have a double ration, being Christmas week. There are such a lot of robberies taking place just now. Mrs. de Guerin had reared two Geese, one for herself & one for us. Last week, she went to the Office on the Saturday as usual & was very distressed to tell Arthur that both her Geese had been stolen on the Friday night. I'm very glad to tell you it is not too bad now. She has had one of her Pigs killed & was able to keep half for herself, & we are having some for our Xmas dinner. Arthur called at the Farm for it last evening. It is a fine joint weighing 6 lbs. We have not had such a large joint in our house since the Occupation.

Will is coming to us for three days. It will be a nice rest for him. He has not been too well of late. Arthur has been having a bit of stomach trouble again. The weather has been so bitterly cold & we can't have very much fire with the little coal we get. It is so very difficult to keep warm except in bed.

We are having a few extra rations this week - 1 lb Flour, 1 lb Macaroni, 1 lb Rice, 10 small bars of chocolate. These will be very welcome & useful. I do hope this will be our last War Christmas.

We have not heard from Sidney since he went to Germany, but we hear of him through his friend, Tom Castle.

I told you we were having some Russian soldiers coming in for their dinner. It is not so. They are all German Under Officers who come. 22 of them come in each day. You should see the dirt they bring in with their heavy boots. All the Office work in the different Barracks is done by Germans.

We had a message from Mollie two weeks ago. They were all well when she sent it in July. Last Thursday, we all had to leave our homes from 8.30 to 12 Noon, as the Germans were trying out some very large Guns they had near here. We took our breakfast to Will's & had it with him. He was to have come here to work in the garden but, of course, was not able to do so as all the roads were closed.

## Lillie's Diary

I was able to help Will clean up his house during the morning & he came here to work on the garden in the afternoon & Friday morning. We do get some strange experience these days. We are all looking forward to the time when we shall say goodbye to our German visitors.

### *Seventy-three*

January 2nd 1944

I'll begin the New Year & must try & write to you more frequently. Christmas has come & gone once more. It was a very quiet one for us. Will spent the three days with us. We have not heard from Arthur Sackett at all. He is still in Alderney. It is very sad that a young fellow should have gone as he has done. He was 18 last September.

Will went to see Gladys yesterday. She was as usual. Lydia is still in Hospital. I saw her last Tuesday. She is still in bed, but gets up a little each day. Her legs swell after she has been up a while. I'm afraid she won't be better just yet. It is Will's birthday tomorrow. He will be 64.

We had quite a few extra rations last week, which made our Xmas fare much better than we feared, but this week we are being let down rather severely. Our butter is only to be 3 ozs per head, instead of 4 ozs, & no cooking fat at all. We used to have 2 ozs per head. That is going to make it very difficult to manage our meals, & next week we shall have no meat at all. Those who have to buy potatoes are only to have 2½ lbs instead of 5 lbs per head.

Of course, we expect the next three months to be the worst yet. We have had our Coal for January, 1¾ cwt., & it is all "Anthracite". It is not at all easy to burn & our wood is not very dry, so we must hope that things will soon improve. We shan't know what to make of a good fire with real English Coal.

We are very thankful to be as well as we are. There are many who are so much worse than we are.

## Lillie's Diary

We have had a lot of Planes over this last week. We are told they are Americans. We hear that one of them came down in the sea on Friday morning when the Guns here were very active. The Germans have brought in the Americans who are now Prisoners of War. It is said that 4 were drowned & 4 are here.

As we came from our Service at the Mission Hall this afternoon, we saw a young soldier being escorted by two soldiers with fixed "Bayonets". We could not tell what he was, he was dressed so strangely. Arthur thinks it was "English Battle Dress", but we shall never know. We don't know half of what happens here.

Our soldiers who come in to dinner had a supper on the 31st & we were afraid it would be an all night affair, but they all went off about 9 p.m. They borrowed some basins & teaspoons from me & brought me in about 1 lb of sugar, which I was very glad to have, also one of their loaves which weigh 3 lbs. I gave Will some of it today as he was getting short of bread. It will be more difficult to manage our meals now we can have no cooking fat.

Will had a message from Cathie & one from Josie last Friday. We have not received any message since November & we were not able to send one last month as there were no forms, but we shall be able to send one next week.

### *Seventy-four*

February 13th 1944

I'm afraid my good resolutions to write oftener have soon failed. I did not realise it was so long since I did write to you. We don't have anything very exciting to tell you. The days come & go with dread monotony.

We are being more severely rationed than we were. Our coal for this month is only 1 cwt & very poor at that. We have already had three weeks without meat. One week, everyone had Pork & I had ½lb for two & had to pay 5/3 for it. This week I had ½lb steak



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which cost 2/3. Groceries this week are as follows: 2 ozs salt, 1d; 4 ozs Coffee, 7d; 6 ozs sugar, 4d; 12 ozs Flour, 4d; 2 Soups (similar to Oxo cubes), 5d; 1/9th of a box of Cheese (similar to Chedlets), 3½d; & 6 ozs butter, 1/1. It is not much to keep us going, but we manage to get on with vegetables which are really our main food. We now have only 1 pint of milk per day.

We have a Gas ration now. We can only use it from 6 to 8.30 a.m. & 10.30 to 1 p.m. & 6 to 8 p.m. It is very hard on those who have not Electric light. Will is feeling it very much. He is coming to live with us until the lighter nights are here. He does not want to give up his home. He has such a large garden & he has done very well with it so far. Then he is always hoping Gladys will get better & be able to be at home again.

It is very difficult for the Cooking & we have not enough Coal to use for it. We can only have a fire in the evenings. We are so very thankful we were able to have Electric light. It makes all the difference, but we can only use it for lighting purposes. Lydia is home again. She is much better, but has to go slow.

### *Seventy-five*

March 13th 1944

We have had such a lot of cold weather it has been impossible to sit at the table & write. It has been very difficult to keep warm. We have had no coal ration at all this month. We only have a fire after tea. Arthur feels the cold so much, he just sits as near to the fire as possible. He has had a touch of the Flu, & now this last week he has caught another cold.

Will is with us & seems much happier. He saw Gladys yesterday. She does not improve. Tom Keyho is not at all well. He just manages to cope, but he is losing weight every week. It is so very difficult to keep fit now. We have so little to help one build up after an illness. We only have just the bare living, Bread & butter, Vegetables, & a small ration of meat once every two

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weeks. We have had an extra ration of Macaroni lately, which has been a great help, & also some split peas. However, we keep on hoping for better days to come.

Will has got our garden nearly all planted as far as he can. There have been no potatoes for some time now, & the roots such as Parsnips, Carrot, & Turnips are getting done. We are fortunate to have had a nice store of them, but there are many people who have not had any for weeks now. We are all looking forward to the warmer weather.

### *Seventy-six*

April 9th [1944] "Easter Day"

We had rather a damp morning but it has cleared up & we have had such lovely sunshine this afternoon & evening, altho' the wind is still a cold N.W.

Our garden is a lovely sight with the Primroses & Polyanthus & bulb flowers which all have been very plentiful. We have not been able to go out in the lanes to see the Primroses, but they must be very plentiful for the Germans have been bringing them & putting them in the gardens of the houses which they are occupying. They seem to like them very much. Also, they are very keen on animals & little children.

There are a great many Germans & Russians here now, also Italians. We get a lot of Germans in for their dinner every day. They come & borrow plates, spoons, & knives & forks every day & bring them back for me to wash. I'd rather that than they should take them away with them. It is so difficult to get them back again. They are very good at borrowing.

Lydia has had to go into Hospital again. She had inflammation of the Kidneys. Douglas rang up to tell me on Thursday evening. She had gone that afternoon. I'm real sorry for them. Poor

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Douglas, it is hard on him, all alone as he is. I shall be going to see her on Tuesday if it is fine.

We hope to see Tom Keyho tomorrow. He is not at all well. It is very difficult for me to get down to see him often. He is at work when I could go & I have to be here by five to get the fire lit & tea ready for Arthur & Will. He will be at home all day tomorrow as it is a holiday. We do hope this will be our last Easter under present circumstances.

We have had a ¼lb of Pork each as our meat ration this week & it has been a treat to see a little fat on our plates. I cooked it in a dish with plenty of Onions with it & we did enjoy it. Will pulled just enough Rhubarb from his garden for us to have just a fruit saucer full each. That was also a treat. This morning, one of our young people from the Mission Hall brought me three eggs which we shall have for our breakfast tomorrow. So, we are not doing badly.

We heard today you have a lot of Fish & Potatoes. It rather made our mouths water. We have not seen any fish since last November & there are no Potatoes for those who have not their own store. We are fortunate so far, but we have sent in an application for rations when the new ones are ready from the "Greenhouses".

It is very difficult to wash our clothes now as we have no soap, just Soda. I just simply scrub them all with a soft brush. They are not such a nice colour as they were, but I just promise them better days when the War is over.

We had a message from Laura this last week. It was nice to hear from her. Won't it be a treat when we can get a proper letter from you all. It seems such a very long time since we did have any.

We have had some lovely rain after the long six weeks of cold wind. We shall soon be seeing the roots springing up in the garden. Will has got both ours & his well planted.

I was able to buy some wool last week to make some Vests. I had eight ounces & had to pay £2-6-8 for them. Anything that

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does not come from France is bought in the "Black Market", hence its awful price.

We have wondered if you had any Easter Eggs & "Hot Cross Buns". I made some sort of a Bun for Friday but, of course, they were only a very poor imitation. Still, it was something for a change.

### *Seventy-seven*

April 30th [1944]

Another three weeks have gone. Not much change over here. It is the same thing day after day, plenty of work for which I am thankful. It keeps me well & fit, altho' I do get very tired. It is so difficult to find a change in our diet. There is so little to work on now the roots are getting done. We shall soon be having new potatoes & Peas. I hope to have some peas next week. Of course, they are grown in the "Greenhouses". We have been having Lettuce & Onion & Beetroot for our tea of late, but we have no table salt, so it is a little bit insipid. We have been able to get some Tomato "Puree" which has helped to make it a little more tasty.

This week we are without meat again. We are expecting to get very short now as the Boats are not coming as often as they were. All leave for the soldiers has been stopt. They are not as well off they were as regards food, so things are coming to a head, we think.

All nature is looking so lovely. It does seem so wrong that there should be all this Warfare. We have never seen the Spring flowers so beautiful. The Primroses & Bluebells are still very lovely. The soldiers are very fond of them.

We have been having a spell of dry weather, with plenty of sunshine, but the wind is still very cold.

I went to see Lydia last Tuesday. She was a little better, but is still very weak & she gets heart attacks which keep her so. As

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soon as she is well enough they are to change her residence from the Hospital to a Nursing Home which is situated up here at St. Martin's, which will make it much easier for me to visit her. It is a very large building put up many years ago for a "Catholic College" & has been converted into a Nursing Home since the Occupation. It is in a delightful spot overlooking "Moulin Huet Bay" & has lovely grounds & gardens. It only takes me ten minutes to get there, It is still run by the "Nuns" & they have their own Cattle & Poultry.

Will has been down to see Tom Keyho this afternoon. He is very poorly indeed. He is waiting now to get into the "Sanatorium", but they are full. They hope to have a bed for him by the end of the week. I'm afraid he is in a very poor way, but we still hope for better days for him. There is so little he can have in the way of nourishing foods. They can't be obtained, & he simply can't eat the Vegetables which we have to exist on these days. Eggs are very scarce & are 2/- each when you can get them.

I'm glad to say Arthur is now quite well again. I'm so very thankful that I keep well. So much depends on it now.

### *Seventy-eight*

Sunday May 28th [1944]

We have been having a very dry spell, over six weeks without rain. The gardens are very dry, & nothing grows as it should do. I'm afraid if it does not rain soon it will be very serious for everything. Today, we have a real heat wave. It has kept very cold up to now & we all feel the difference today.

Will has been out to the Sanatorium this afternoon to see Tom. He has been there now three weeks. He is very weak, but seems a bit better since he went there. His Doctor says he must stay there until the end of the "War" at least. Lydia is very much better. She has been up at St. Martin's for three weeks & is much

## Lillie's Diary

benefited by the change. I go to see her each Tuesday. Douglas can't go on that day.

There is much sickness here just now. The times are telling on the health of the people & we don't get enough nourishing food - no fat & very little sugar. Most people have been without potatoes for the last three months & that has told a lot. There are now new potatoes & the ration has been 2 lbs, then 2½ lbs, & this week 3 lbs per ration. They are grown in Greenhouses & are not as good as the garden ones. We have been fortunate to have our own lasting up to now. I prefer the old ones until we can dig them from the garden. We have still some dried beans, which are a great help.

This dry weather will keep the crops back. Our visitors are suffering too, as their boats do not arrive as they did, & they have not the supplies they had. Of course, we can't get any food from France either. We are all simply longing for the "War" to end, as I'm sure you are, too.

We had a quick "Air Raid" yesterday at 5 p.m. Some sixteen planes passed over & gave a good dose over the "Fort", & it seems they did some damage. It was a dreadful din while it lasted. There have been some over today. The Guns went off but soon stopt.

We have a great blessing in that we have more milk now & it is possible to make a pudding more often. We have not heard at all from Sidney, but we hear of him at times from his friend, Tom Castle.

It is Whit Monday tomorrow, but it does not mean very much holiday as we can't go to any of the Bays & it is no pleasure going for a walk even. Everywhere the desolation & ruin are so great. They have spoilt everything so. They are now putting up stakes in all the fields (whether planted or not) & are putting barbed wire so that the English won't be able to land when the Invasion takes place, which they are expecting every day.

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### *Seventy-nine*

Sunday June 4th [1944]

We have been having very lively times here during the past week. There have been two more "Air Raids", one on Friday afternoon. I happened to be in Town & had just got to Mill Street & had called to see Mrs. de la Fosse (Mollie's mother-in-law). What a terrible noise it was. They were raiding the "Fort". It lasted quite a long time. Then they returned in the evening & had another go at it. There has been considerable damage done to the "Fort" & several houses in the neighbourhood have been caught. All the people have had to move from their houses & now the road is closed. There have been many soldiers killed & wounded, but we shall never know how many as they never tell.

Planes have been over again today but no raid as yet. It is all very nerve racking. There are several "De notaters" [?] here which the British are after so we are told. It is a marvel to me that our house remains up. When the big guns go off our windows & doors shake terribly & the whole house rocks. I wonder shall we all come through safely. So far, no local people have been hurt.

We are still without rain, but plenty of wind, & today it has been much cooler. We do so need the rain. All vegetation is drying up for want of it. We don't know if you are suffering in like manner. We did hear this week that you are paying 2/3 per cwt for potatoes, while we are paying 5d per lb. Our ration has been increased to 4 lbs per head this week.

Our groceries this week cost 3/10 for us two: 4 ozs cooking fat, 10d; 2 ozs salt, 1d; 4 ozs coffee, 7d; 6 ozs sugar, 4d; 12 ozs flour, 4d; 6 ozs Butter, 1/8. On the other hand, I have spent 14/- on green groceries: Peas 1/- per lb; Cabbage, 4d per lb; Carrots, 6d per lb. That is how it mounts up. We are able to get more milk now which is a great help.

I went to see Tom Keyho on Thursday afternoon. He seems a little better but not up to much yet. He has gone very thin. His

## Lillie's Diary

appetite is not very good. There is very little we can take him as our rations are so small.

I saw Lydia on Tuesday afternoon. She is very much better & would like to get home, but her Dr. won't let her out yet. Douglas manages his own affairs very well, but it is very trying for him. Gladys is the same. We are both keeping very fit & Will is well. He had an accident two weeks ago. He cut the back of his left hand while cutting a hedge with a sickle, & has been on his Club since. He starts work again tomorrow. Fortunately, he was working for Dr. Collins at Clifton in Town, so he was very soon attended to.

We had our first taste of Gooseberries today. I was able, with a few sticks of Rhubarb, to make a nice dish for tea. We quite enjoyed it. Spider crabs are now getting plentiful. We have had two lots so far. We have to be rationed for them, as well as fresh fish. We have not had any fish since last November. What a wonderful day it will be when we can go to Town & just buy what we fancy. What a change it will be.

It will be two years next week since we had our "Radios" taken from us. It is only by stealth, as it were, that we hear any news at all. They are still putting folk in "Prison" if they are found to have their "Radio Sets", but some few still manage to keep them.

We have just witnessed a pathetic sight. 30 "Georgians", who have been brought over here as prisoners & have been training to fight, have just gone off from opposite our house. They are evidently going to fight for the Germans. Some of them were quite young boys & some were crying, poor lads. One is sorry for them. They are somebodies' sons & brothers.



*Eighty*

Sunday, June 11th [1944]

On Monday, we had a very terrible "Air Raid", again over the "Fort". The damage done was great. I rode up that way from Town on Friday. The houses are wrecks, & the Fort is done for. Every night this week we have had planes passing over on their way to France, which as you know has been "invaded" at last. We hear the invaders are doing very well, but it is only from the news we are able to hear from the "Wireless" that we know anything.

We have no boats arriving now except those for the Germans. Our telephones have been closed, which makes it most difficult for business. We can't go to see Tom Keyho as the Sanatorium is declared out of bounds for Civilians. We shall not be getting any more food from France now, so we shall soon be on shorter rations than ever.

We had a short "Air Raid" this morning up this way. They have Guns placed all over the Island. We have heard that Alderney has been taken by the raiders, but we have not heard any particulars. Young Arthur is still there. One man has died of shrapnel wounds received as he was in his Yard.

Our roads are very quiet now. People are afraid to go out unless obliged to do so. We never know when a Raid may come. There are no "Sirens" now to go off. Arthur & Will have both had to take cover during the past week on their way to work or coming home again. One never dreamt the War would come so near to us.

It is really very wonderful how well we have been preserved so far. We have very much to be thankful for. We have been able to have our Services as usual today, but all "Cinemas" & large gatherings of people has been prohibited, & the children are not allowed on the roads at all.

We have had a few showers but not enough to do any lasting good to the Crops. Many people in the country are having potatoes stolen by the Russians. They are very hungry. They don't get much food now.

## Lillie's Diary

It was only on Friday that a boat came here for the Germans, bringing Coal & Potatoes. So they are suffering as well as we. They take 40 per cent of all the potatoes dug every week. We have only been able to have 3½ lbs per head this week, & no meat ration. It is difficult to make tasty dinners now. We have only Cabbage, Carrots, Beans, & Peas. Our crops are so backward owing to lack of rain & warm sun.

I saw Lydia last Tuesday. She was not so well, & had a heart attack last week-end. She is not allowed to go downstairs now for awhile.

I get very little rest at night while the planes are passing, but we are not so bad as those whom they are raiding all the time. We expect our turn will come in time.

### *Eighty-one*

Sunday, July 2nd [1944]

We have had several more Raids. Just a fortnight ago tomorrow, we had a terrible one at 9 o'clock in the morning. Will & Arthur were just going off to work. It was in the Town, where they dropt Bombs in the "Town Harbour". They were trying to get at a "Torpedo"<sup>[4]</sup> which had been sheltering here for some days after being damaged at sea.

The result of that "Raid" was that every shop window in High St., Fountain St., & Bordage were simply shattered. There is not a window in the "Town Church" but is broken.<sup>[5]</sup> Ebenezer

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<sup>4</sup> Lillie's reference to a "Torpedo" means a submarine. Havelet Bay, adjacent to the harbour, was used as a submarine base. An unproved story at the time was that the Germans deposited hundreds of tons of sand in the bay so that submarines could ground there. In the first storm, all the sand was washed away.

<sup>5</sup> This is not quite accurate: only the windows on the east side were shattered.

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[Church] had some 15 windows broken. Services could not be held there last Sunday but they have been held there today. Fortunately, no one was hurt. Had it been an hour later the Shops would have been open & more people would have been about. It all looks very desolate, with the windows boarded up. Those at the bottom of High St. by the "Town Church" are very badly damaged indeed. It was the worst raid we have yet had.

The rain has at last come & all the crops etc. are just enjoying it all. Now we want some warm sunshine to ripen the fruit. Today it is very wet but not as cold as it has been, but still not much like July yet.

There have been no boats arriving during the past fortnight. We are not having any meat again this week. That is the second week we have not had any at all, but we manage to get along nicely. There are more vegetables now. The rain did not come in time to save the "Strawberries", but the Loganberries & Blk Currants are looking well. We hope to have a nice few Raspberries & there is more Rhubarb. We hope to get a little Jam. We had an extra ration of sugar last week, 1 lb per head for Jam making.

Alderney has been evacuated<sup>[6]</sup> during the past week. It was a false rumour that it had been raided, but Bombs had been dropt there.

Arthur has been here for one day. Douglas saw him, but he did not come up to see Will or us. He is a very disappointing lad. He told Douglas he was going down to Jersey to work for the "Germans". He wrote to Will some weeks ago when he was ill in Hospital & said he was sorry for all the trouble he had caused & intended doing better. He was in the Island all day on Monday. He had plenty of time to come up to see Will had he wished to do so.

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<sup>6</sup> Hitler had ordered the SS Penal Construction Brigade to be evacuated from Alderney. "They must on no account fall into allied hands." Alderney concentration camp inmates were sent to St Malo in France.

## Lillie's Diary

The "Germans" are expecting an "Invasion" every day now. They are simply living in their underground shelters & seem very afraid.

This week our Groceries cost 1/11 per head, so you can imagine we did not get very much. We are really existing on Vegetables & Fruit. There is enough Wheat & Flour in the Island to last five months &, of course, we get Milk & Butter, but not as much during the past week or so. Eggs are now 2/- each, & are very hard to come by.

Will has been out to see Tom Keyho today (Arthur went last Sunday). Will thought he was not so well today. Poor Tom. I'm afraid for him. I saw Lydia on Tuesday. She was much better, but will be staying in the "Nursing Home" during the Occupation.

We had a surprise at tea time today when our Telephone bell rang, & when Arthur went to answer they told him we were to be allowed to have the use of it again. That will indeed be a very great relief.

I have not been too well during the past three weeks. I have been having trouble with my stomach again, but I'm feeling much better again now & hope soon to be quite well.

We sent our "Monthly Message" to Mollie last week, but expect it is still in the Island as there have been no boats at all during the past weeks.

### *Eighty-two*

Sunday, July 9th, 1944

We have not had any Raids this week & it has been very quiet except for sudden alarms when the "Guns" fire at passing Planes.

The weather has been very unsettled & stormy, not much like July. Our blackcurrants are ripening rapidly & tomorrow I must pick them. We have a good crop, but don't know quite what to do with them owing to having no sugar. I've made just a few pots of Jam with the sugar I had saved during the winter & our 1 lb

## Lillie's Diary

allowed us for Jam making. I shall bottle some, but there again can't very well eat them without sugar, can we. We have some "Saccarines" but they are not as good as sugar & we have to use them for cooking, so they don't go very far. Loganberries are very nice but, oh, they do want sugar. However, we make the best of them & hope for better days in the future.

We are having our third week without a Meat ration, but we are all keeping very well. We are proper "Vegetarians" now, if not by choice. There are plenty of "Tomatoes" now. The "Growers" are having to throw them away as they had hoped to get some away to "Germany" as last year, but now there are no boats to carry them away, so they have them left on their hands. However, hope never dies, & most of them are getting ready a second crop & are hoping they may be able to get them off to England. What a lovely thing that would be should it come to pass.

### *Eighty-three*

Sunday, Aug 6th [1944]

I have not been able to write much during the past two weeks as the forefinger on my right hand has been festered. I'm glad it is now better. How we miss our various members when anything goes wrong with them.

We are still getting on fairly well altho' we are so cut off. We have had one meat ration since last I wrote, We only had just four items in our grocery rations this week: Sugar, Butter, Macaroni, & two boxes of matches, our monthly supply. We are thankful to have the vegetables. They help us along.

The weather is lovely just now. They are beginning to cut the "Corn", & we hear it is in very good condition & is a very good crop.

Just a week ago tonight we had a bad time. At 2.30 a.m. on Monday the Germans commenced a "Mock Invasion". It was just

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awful. It kept the whole Island awake. We had it very stiff up here. They had two fires just outside our house, which they kept going to light their "Flares" with. The noise of the "Guns" was dreadful & kept going right on until 11 a.m. There were several explosions from the "Mines" they put in the hedges & in the roads. Some houses had all the windows smashed & they, Themselves, had a few casualties. One man was killed near here.

We hear that the news is very good & that the "Allies" are doing well in "Normandy", also that we are now completely isolated. We have heard today a rumour that the "Germans" here are talking of surrender. We do hope it will be true. We do know that they are getting very short of food, & now, of course, all supplies are cut off. The only boats they get come from Jersey & they, of course, are in the same plight. It is wonderful to think we may soon be in touch with you all again.

Arthur has been to see Tom Keyho today. He was much the same. I saw Lydia on Tuesday. She is much better, but the Dr. won't allow her to go home yet. I went to see Gladys two weeks ago. She really seemed more like herself & we are hoping that when things become normal again she may be better.

Will has got all our potatoes dug. They have turned out better than we expected, so that is good. We are enjoying our Raspberries just now. We have to eat them as we have no sugar to make jam. I've bottled some. Will has a very good crop of Loganberries, but there again we want sugar for them. He has sold quite a lot at 2/- per lb.

### *Eighty-four*

Sunday, Aug 20th, 1944

We are all getting a little excited at the possibilities which seem to be coming our way. The news from France is so cheering. Our visitors here are getting to look very worried & they have

## Lillie's Diary

been trying to get away, but your H.M.S. are patrolling about outside & they don't get much chance.

We are told a "Convoy" left here on Friday morning but they did not get to "Jersey" as they had tried to do. They were met just outside Sark & were engaged & some of them were seen to sink. It all seems so horrible but it has to be.

This week we are having more cuts in our food,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb each off our bread per week for Arthur & I, but Will who had 6 lbs per week is now to have the same as we do, which means he loses  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lbs per week. Our Gas & Electric light is also cut down, so we do hope something will happen soon.

Our groceries this week were Butter, Sugar, & Macaroni. We can't have much less, can we? However, we are all keeping smiling. It is really wonderful what a little hope will do. Some people, of course, are feeling it worse than others.

Will has been to see Tom Keyho again today. He is really in a bad way. He has gone so very thin & the Dr. told him this morning that he would never work again. Lydia is still doing well. Douglas called in this afternoon after having been to see her. I shall be going to see her again on Tuesday.

We have had a nice drop of rain during the past two days. The garden was getting very dry as we have had a very warm & dry spell. Our Dahlias are looking very well this year, also Gladiolas.

Will has had a bad spell with his Tonsils. He lost his voice for several days. The Dr. said it was Laryngitis. He is better now.

We shall be glad when we can have some news again. We have not had any since June. How the evenings are drawing in. It is quite dark now by 10 p.m. & it will soon be dark at 7 a.m. when I have to get up. Our Gas goes off at 8 a.m. altho' I can get a little after that time, but not those in Town or St. Sampson's.

The Farmers are starting threshing the wheat tomorrow, then Arthur will be very busy taking in & storing the "Wheat". He is having to grind "Oats" for the "Germans" to make their bread. They are taking it from their store from their horses, but it won't make good bread & there will be a lot of waste. They are very hard pressed for food now.

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### *Eighty-five*

Sunday, Sept. 3rd [1944]

Tomorrow is the 44th anniversary of our wedding day. Since the news is so good & things here are getting very tight, we are daring to hope that our bondage will soon be at an end.

Our groceries this week were the poorest yet: 4 ozs butter, 2 ozs fat, 2 ozs sugar, & 12 ozs Macaroni each, no meat, & our milk is only 1½ pints a day for we two. We are not buying potatoes now as we have our own. Our bread ration is now 4½ lbs each per week, so you see we can't get much less, can we? Of course, we have vegetables & they are what we depend on most, & yet we keep well.

Our Gas & Electric light are very much reduced also. There is none from 12 p.m. to 5 a.m. & from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. It will mean the men will have to work from 7 p.m. to 12 p.m. We are now having a ration of logs each month. They are very wet but they will dry for the time when we shall want them. We don't expect to have any coal unless we are relieved of our visitors.

### *Eighty-six*

Sunday, Sept 17th [1944]

Another two weeks are gone & we are still prisoners. We are all getting War weary & we are all feeling the strain of semi-starvation. Many people are getting very weak, but we are better off than the people in Jersey. They are now without any Gas, & hot water is being sold at 5d per quart. They have electric light only four days per week.

Fortunately the weather is mild now & we do hope it will continue so for a few weeks more. We all dread the cold & wet. There is no coal in the Island. We are still hoping for better days.



## Lillie's Diary

Arthur & I went to see Tom Keyho on Thursday afternoon. He was looking a little brighter but he is not able to get up yet. He goes as far as the bathroom to get a shave & when he gets back he is quite spent. There is so little we can take him now. The Drs are in sore straits now all their supplies are going & it is difficult to get necessary medicines. We have heard that in Jersey they have not an Antiseptic left. In fact, they are in a very bad way indeed.

The "Forces" are getting very low as well, so perhaps when they get to the rock bottom they may give in. I don't think I have told you that the soldiers are now using our room in the evening. They come in at dusk & are there until 11 p.m.. Sometimes, the room is very full. They have a "Radio", so we hear the music, & of course they listen to their own news.

One Officer comes in every morning at 5 a.m. & it is sometimes 7 a.m. before he goes. I sleep so lightly I always hear him come in. We have to leave the door unlocked for him. They are all very decent. We don't get any trouble with them & it is better than being turned out of our home altogether.

Will has had great difficulty in getting rid of his cold., but it is really now very much better.

Your Planes pass over every day now & drop leaflets printed in "German", telling the Soldiers how you are progressing. The Offices are very angry with them &, if anyone is found to have one, they take it always & a fine has to be paid.

### *Eighty-seven*

Sunday, October 8th [1944]

A fortnight ago last Friday we were all very excited when we heard that a boat had come outside the Island, flying white flags, & that two American Officers had come ashore & had met German Officers, & had a talk together. We all hoped it would mean good news for us all when we heard that the conversation had been satisfactory, but alas, we now hear that it is all done

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with. The Germans won't accept the terms offered & we are where we were.

Then we have heard that Mr Eden has said that nothing is to be done for us at present, so we expect we shall have to go through another winter. We only hope it will not be too cold as there is no chance of any coal.

The Germans have taken so much butter from us that now we only have 3 ozs per week per head & 1½ ozs for cooking. It is very rare we get more than ½ pint of milk each per day & the Drs are not able to get any extra milk for the sick folk.

Many people now have to go to bed at 8 p.m. when the gas is turned off. There are no candles & those folk who have neither Gas or Electric light are in a poor way. It is expected that the Gas will only last until the end of November.

We have not tasted salt for many months now. It is wonderful how one gets used to doing without. No meat ration again this week & we have only had fish once this year. It will be strange when we can get more to eat. We are so used now to doing without.

Will saw Tom Keyho last Thursday. He was about the same. Will saw Gladys yesterday. She was worse if anything, so very excited. Someone had told her that the "Germans" had cleared the "Airport", which had been heavily mined for some time, so that their own planes could land. It is a long time since they had any over. Two came last night at midnight & went off again at 2 a.m. Gladys thought the Americans were coming to bomb the Island.

Lydia is much better but is still at "Blancheland." She is much better there as they get much better food & more food than we do. They keep their own cattle, so get more meat & plenty of milk.

I have now something to do to keep Will warm. His shirts are almost past mending but I must do the best I can with them.. He feels the cold very much indeed, & so does Arthur, & with only wood fires it is very difficult to keep them warm . Fortunately, I do not feel the cold so much. In fact, it suits me better than the warm muggy weather we get sometimes.

## Lillie's Diary

We have been having very stormy & cold weather during the past week, but today it has been lovely all the day.

### *Eighty-eight*

Sunday, November 12th [1944]

Much has happened since last I wrote to you. Two boats with a noted Pilot on board have managed to get away from the Island during the past two weeks. This has caused very much excitements & we are all hoping they have safely arrived at their destination. The Germans are very furious with them &, as a reprisal, they claimed lots of our food - all the beans which were to have been sold as rations, & some of our wheat and potatoes.

We are now in sight of total want. Our Gas & Electricity will only last until Dec 13th. We have been told today by a prominent baker that there is only one month's supply of flour in the Island. Our rations now consist of Butter, Sugar, & Flour or Macaroni. We have this week had our Monthly ration of meat, 1/10d worth of pork for we two. We have greatly enjoyed it, such a treat to have a little fat.

The potato ration is now 5 lbs per week. Fortunately, we are not dependent on that. We have not taken our ration since we started digging our own &, between Will & us, we shall have enough for the winter, but the poor people who have been able to grow any are in a poor way. Now that the Germans are buying up such a lot of vegetables, it is very hard for them.

On Friday, there were long queues hoping to get a Cabbage. Douglas told me all he was able to get was 2 ½ lbs of Carrots. He has been cooking for himself 4 lbs of vegetables per day. Will was able to let him have some potatoes. It is a good thing Lydia is in Hospital for they always come first.

The Germans are demanding certain head of our Cattle too each week. You see, they can't get any supplies now that we are

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cut off from France, & they are getting to the end of their stores too.

We are hoping & praying that something will soon happen to bring us release. It is getting very serious indeed.

Arthur had a shock last Monday. When he got to the office, he was met by a "Policeman" who told him his sister, Edith, had been found wandering in the early hours of that morning & had been taken to the "Police Station" by two soldiers. It seems she had been to tea with a friend up this way in the afternoon & had left there at six o'clock, & of course it was getting dark then. She evidently lost her way & had been wandering about all night until she was found by the soldiers. They took her to the P. Station & they took her to her home at 3 a.m. She was in a deplorable condition. It was a fearfully wet & stormy night.

Her landlady told me it gave her a fearful shock to see her. Arthur went to see her & found her in bed, naked. She said she was too hot to bear any clothes on. Arthur was afraid for her, so he went back to the office & phoned to me. I went down at once. Arthur had phoned the Dr. I just missed seeing him, but the Ambulance came & we got her ready, & got her off to the Town Hospital where she is now under observation. She has been doing queer things for some time now & has taken to wandering about in the evenings. I'm afraid we shall have trouble with her as she has been managing her own affairs for so long & has a very strong will. However, she is now safe for a little while.

We have now four people to visit in Hospital: Tom at the "Sanatorium", Gladys at the "Mental Home", Lydia at the "Blancheland Nursing Home", & now Edith at the Town Hospital. It has been too wet for Arthur to go & see Tom today. It has rained all the day, but it is not as cold as it has been. All last week, it was so cold & stormy.

We do hope you are all keeping well. It is such a long time since we were able to hear from any of you.

There is no Coal in the Island & some poor people have not even any wood. Will has been fortunate & has been able to get us quite a nice lot, so we are able to have a fire in the evenings with

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the logs which we were able to buy, but which are not available any more.

Plans are being made for "Communal Cooking." I hope to be able to manage my own. It takes such a long time preparing vegetables, which is our staple food now, but we are very thankful to have them at all. When will this terrible war end?

### *Eighty-nine*

Sunday, November 19th [1944]

I've had a very busy week. Monday washing, & I went to see Lydia in the afternoon. She has had more trouble with her heart & had to stay in bed for a few days.

Tuesday, I went to see Edith Gosselin & called at her room twice to get things for her. It was awful weather & has been all week. Will saw the Dr who is attending her, on Saturday. He told Will he will keep her in Hospital some time. She is not insane yet, but is not in a fit state to be out on her own. It is very sad. Arthur will be appointed her Guardian, & we shall have to clear her room & store her furniture until we see how she gets on. Her landlady won't have her back again. She has become very dirty in her ways etc.

Wednesday, I had to attend a meeting at 3 p.m. Thursday, I went to see Gladys at the Mental Home. She is very much better & if only the times were normal she might be able to be at home again, but not at present. She would never be able to manage on the little we have to do with now.

Friday, I went to see Edith again & did my shopping. Our rations for the week, costing 3/5d for the two of us, were Butter & Sugar & Flour.

There is much bitter feeling about at the last act of the Germans. They have taken the whole stock of our Potatoes from the different depots & are now visiting the houses of those who

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have grown any & are taking away any over a certain amount. We hear we are to be allowed 90 lbs per head. That won't last through the winter. Our only hope is that the War may end or that we may be relieved of their hated presence.

My mornings are always very full with preparing vegetables & getting through with the house work. However, I'm ever so thankful that I keep so well & can do the work at all. I have no time for repining which is very good.

Will & Arthur are both keeping well. It was too rough for anyone to go & see Tom today. I saw his brother in law yesterday. He told me Tom was about the same.

### *Ninety*

Sunday, November 26th [1944]

We have had another wet & stormy week. Tuesday was the only fine day. It was very cold but just nice for walking. I went to see Lydia. She was not too bad, better than the week before.

On Friday it was very wet. I had to walk to Town & back again & got very wet. I went to see Edith Gosselin. She was about the same. On Wednesday, I went to see the Doctor who has charge of the Town Hospital. He told me she was not insane, but "Feeble Minded", & not at all fit to manage her own affairs, so yesterday Arthur had to attend Court to be appointed her "Guardian". On Wednesday next, I'm starting clearing up her room, something to get on with. It is very dirty & untidy. I'll be glad when it is done.

Will has been to see Tom this afternoon & was caught by a very heavy rain shower. Tom was not so well today. Will went to see Gladys. She was not so bright as when I saw her the week before. It is quite a case going to see all the "Invalids".

This week, our bread ration is being cut. Instead of 4½ lbs we are to have 3 lbs per head. The Germans have claimed 500 tons of Potatoes & it all depends on how the people who have grown largely whether there will be any for the people who have not

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been able to grow any. We are allowed to keep 90 lbs per head for the winter.

All we have to depend on now is 1½ ozs of fat, 2 ozs sugar, 6 ozs of Macaroni or Flour, 3 ozs Butter. This week, we had an extra 2 ozs of Cheese, & we have ½ pint of Milk per day. So you see we have not too much to get fat on.

However, we have an extra treat this week. Mrs de Guerin has had a "Sow" killed & she is allowed to have half of it. The new order has not yet come to pass & the Germans claim the other half. She has given us a nice piece of the loin to roast, but the snag is it is in lieu of our "Christmas Goose". She has not one for us this year, so we are having to eat our Christmas dinner now, & hope something will be coming later. We are very thankful to have it. It will be a very great treat.

Our mornings are very trying. The "Electric Light" is only to be had from 6 to 11 p.m. & there is no Gas for lighting. I have to get up at seven a.m. to get breakfast ready. Will has to leave at 8.30 & Arthur goes soon after. I have just about 4 or 5 Candles. When they are done I don't know what I'll do. The mornings are so very dark now, but we still keep hoping something will soon happen.

## *Ninety-one*

Sunday, December 17th [1944]

We are getting nearer to the end of our provisions. Our rations for the last few weeks have been getting less & less. This week was the limit. For we two, we had 4 ozs Sugar 2½d, 12 ozs Macaroni 1/-d, 4 ozs butter 1/3d, 6 pints of milk 1/3d. We only had milk six days, & next week we are promised two days without, separated milk at that.

We have neither Coffee or Tea, so we drink hot water with a drop of milk in it for each meal. Our bread ration is still 3 lbs per week each. We are hoping to have a meat ration this week.

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We have been told that there is a hope of a "Red Cross Ship" coming to bring us food. I do hope it will be true, otherwise we shall have a very lean Christmas. The Germans had told us that they were arranging for a boat to come & had told the people to make arrangements for the reception of the food. It was undertaken by the St Johns Ambulance people & of course great hopes were raised. It was only last week after hearing of Mr Morrison's speech in Parliament that it was realised that the stuff they had been telling us was untrue &, now in our paper yesterday, they put in the speech made by Mr Morrison & claim it has all come about by their intervention, the bounders.

Arthur has been to see Tom Keyho today. He is in a very poor way indeed. I'm almost afraid he won't last until Laura can get here. He is so very weak. I saw Lydia on Tuesday. She was very bright that day. Gladys is about the same & Edith Gosselin is quite content to stay in Hospital, so it is plain that her mind is weakening. It is a great relief that she is content. We rather feared trouble with her.

It does seem strange that Christmas is so near & to have no preparations to make ready. There is not anything to buy in Town, & what is worse the Chemists shops are very bare. The Doctors are finding great difficulty in keeping their patients alive, there is so little food & medicines to give them. Indeed, many are dying for lack of proper food.

We are told that the Gas will be done by Thursday & that the Electric will only last just over Christmas. We shall indeed have to spend our days in bed. It is dark now until 8.30 a.m. & some days it has been difficult to see then. My stock of Candles is down to one & a half, & no means of getting any more. So you see we are in a poor state, but we are not without hope that something may happen & we shall be released.

The soldiers are suffering very much indeed. Each day they seem to get thinner. Two weeks ago, eleven soldiers died of blood poisoning. They were hungry, so dug up some bulbs & ate them. They were all buried the same day.



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It does seem stupid of them, when they must know that they can't win, to keep going on. Why don't they give in?

We three are keeping well. We are all getting more genteel, but are still able to keep going.

### *Ninety-two*

Sunday, December 31st 1944

I have much to tell you today. I'll begin with Christmas. It was indeed the very leanest one we have had. However, there were bright spots. Our rations for that week were very small – 4 ozs fat, 2 boxes matches (our monthly supply), 4 ozs Sugar, 12 ozs Flour, 12 ozs Rice, 4 ozs Cheese, 6 ozs Butter. This is for we two. This week it is smaller still – 3 ozs fat, 4 ozs Sugar, 12 ozs Macaroni, & 6 ozs Butter.

Our bright spot was a goose, which we did not expect. Mrs de Guerin killed two of her smaller birds, as the two larger ones had been stolen, & to our surprise she sent us one. I had no Gas to cook with (it expired the Wednesday of that week), so I only had a wood fire & had to boil them in my Fish Kettle, but it was really quite nice. I'd made some stuffing with beans, Onion & Sage. It really tasted quite nice.

I made a pudding with flour & a little sugarbeet. We could not have any sauce as our milk ration was only  $3\frac{3}{4}$  pints between the three of us. We stuck a piece of holly in it & made believe it was a real Christmas pudding. For tea, I'd saved a tin of pears (pre-war!) & a jelly, so we did have that extra & I made a cake, same mixture as the pudding & was able to bake it in the Gas oven on the very last day we had any.

We were just the three of us. In the evening, I mended stockings & read a little. Will went to see Gladys in the afternoon. On Boxing Day, Arthur went to see his sister Edith at the Town Hospital & I went to see Lydia. On Thursday, I went to see Tom Keyho. He is very ill indeed. I don't think we shall be seeing him

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much more. He is really failing very fast indeed. Will has been to see him this afternoon & Arthur is going tomorrow morning.

This week has been a very exciting one. Last week we were told that the Red Cross boat had left Lisbon for the Channel Isles, & that it would take about four days to get here. However, it did not get here until Wednesday afternoon, but was not allowed to discharge until Thursday. I went down to the White Rock on Friday afternoon when in Town & what a thrill: I saw a load of "Tea Chests" in which the parcels were packed being taken to the Hall where they were to be unpacked. It really made one's heart stand still to think we were going to have something more to eat.

Today has been a very wonderful day. The parcels have been distributed at our several "Grocer's" shops & oh! the joy when we had them. I'll give you a list of the contents.

Two parcels each have arrived but only one has been given out today. We are to have the other next month. This one is from Canada & we are told it is likely we shall have them monthly.

6 ozs Chocolate,	8 ozs Sugar
20 ozs Biscuits/ship[?]	4 ozs Tea
5 ozs Sardines	4 ozs Cheese
20 ozs Milk Powder	16 ozs Marmalade
6 ozs Prunes	13 ozs Ham/Roll
10 ozs Salmon	3 ozs Soap
14 ozs Corned Beef	1 oz Pepper & salt
8 ozs Raisins	20 ozs Butter (Creamery)

When one thinks we have three parcels like this one, it seems almost unbelievable that I have all this in store. It is years since we had so much, & to think we shall have another next month. Everybody is simply thrilled & so very thankful.

We are told that the Representatives from the Red Cross said we were the worst fed people they had ever met & they told the Germans that it was disgraceful how we had been treated during the past years. We had really got almost to the rock bottom, & it is so very wonderful to feel we are now so very well off.

I only wish we could let you know, for we have been told that you have heard of our distress. I was very delighted to have a bit

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of good soap. I've been having to wash my clothes without any at all. I simply scrub everything as clean as I can. We are told that the "Electric Light" will only last another week or so. I have not been able to sleep the last two nights, we have been so excited at receiving so much.

Lydia is very poorly again & has been in bed for the last week or so. She has such a severe cold & cough. Douglas has spent his second Christmas alone. Lydia was in the Emergency Hospital last Christmas, & Gladys has now spent five Christmases in the Mental Home.

### *Ninety-three*

Sunday, January 7th, 1945

We have had a trying week. Tom Keyho passed away in the early hours of Wednesday "very peacefully". Arthur went to see him on Monday morning & found him very weak indeed. It is a happy release for him. He has suffered so much during the past ten months. We buried him yesterday, Saturday morning, at the "Foulon Cemetery" in the same grave as his Father & Mother. We are very sorry for Laura & the Children. It will be a great shock when they can hear about it.

We have not been able to have any news since last June when we were cut shut off from France. It has seemed such a long time since then, but we are still hopeful we may hear some day.

When we were at the funeral yesterday, it simply poured with rain. Will & I cycled down at 10 a.m. & it rained all the way. Arthur went to the Office first & cycled from there to the Cemetery.

We have today had "Thanksgiving" Services in our Churches & Chapels for the "Red Cross Society" in appreciation of the wonderful help the parcels have been to us all. At our little "Mission Hall", we realised £35-0-0 which is very good for so

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small a cause. Everybody realises how wonderful the parcels have been to us. It is just wonderful to be able to have a little extra.

Today, we have had two Sardines each for tea. Such a treat to have something with our two slices of bread & butter. We had three prunes as well. I made one packet do for twice, the same with the Sardines. We mean to make it all last out the month, when we are promised another parcel. It is very wonderful how the parcels have cheered us all.

I saw Lydia on Tuesday. She is still very poorly & does not get rid of her cough. Edith Gosselin is the same. I saw her on Friday. We shall miss paying our visits to Tom.

The weather is bitterly cold & it is so very difficult to keep the room warm with only wood fires. It is quite a work of art to cook dinner now. There is not time for much else during the morning.

We are expecting to have the Electric Light cut off in a short while. We shall have to go to bed at dark.

## *Ninety-four*

Sunday, Feb. 11th, 1945

It is already over a month since Tom Keyho passed away. We have been having trying times, & very little to do with. Our rations have got smaller & now this next week we are to have none at all, but the following week they are serving all they have in store & then there will be none.

Fortunately, we have had a second "Red Cross Parcel" served out to us two weeks ago &, this week, the "Vega" (the "Red Cross Boat") has come again with two parcels for each of us.

I'll copy out the statement made by our "Bailiff". You will then understand the situation better.

Guernsey Evening Press. Saturday, Feb. 10th.

Important notice to the people of Guernsey.

## Lillie's Diary

To my deep regret, I have to inform you that the supply of flour will be exhausted after next Tuesday's bread issue, but I have received a letter from Colonel Iselin, the International representative in Lisbon, who visited us six weeks ago, in which he states that on her next trip the "Vega" will bring flour. This has been confirmed by Mr Callias, the "International Red Cross" representative now in the Island.

The "Vega" is expected back about the 6th of March. The position has been considered in all its aspects &, in order to alleviate suffering as far as possible, arrangements are being made for the distribution of "Red Cross" parcels on the 15th instant & on March 1st.

For the week commencing the 18th instant, we hope to issue increased rations as far as our resources allow.

Victor G. Carey  
Bailliff.

So you see that is why we shall have none next week. However, it will make very little difference as, for the last month, we have had nothing but 2 ozs flour & 2 ozs butter each week, beside our 3 lbs of bread, & our milk has now got down to 2¼ pints per week. Of course, there is a 5 lbs potato ration for those who have not any of their own, & 4½ of roots.

We, fortunately, have enough for the present, but not for long. As you can see, how we are all hoping & praying for release to come to us. I'm afraid this statement in the paper last night will have upset a lot of people, particularly those who are not well & strong.

Lydia is much better, altho' still in bed. I did not see her last week as I was not too well. I had a cold but am better again. Edith Gosselin is about the same & we cannot expect much improvement.

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### *Ninety-five*

Sunday, February 25th [1945]

We have had our 3rd Red Cross Parcel. It has been a great boon as there has been no bread ration for the last two weeks, & we are waiting for the Red Cross Boat to bring us some Flour. Many people are feeling the loss of bread very much indeed. There have been several deaths from starvation already &, this week, a man strangled his wife & then drowned himself in a bath of water. It is all very dreadful.

We are indeed fortunate as Arthur has a flour ration allowed him by the Germans, so we are able to get a little bread.

We are to have our 4th parcel from the Red Cross this week. It will be from New Zealand this time. We have very little milk now, 2 or 2¼ pints per week, so we are more than thankful to have the milk powder from the Canadian parcel. It is indeed very good.

Tonight is our last with the Electric Light, so we shall have to go to bed at dark & get up at dawn. It is very difficult to arrange our work. We shall miss our evenings for sewing & reading. We shall soon be having longer days & that will make it easier.

Many of the workmen are giving up work. They are not strong enough to carry on. The Doctors have now to get about on their Push Bikes as there is no petrol, & it is not possible to call them after 6 p.m. In some cases people are dying in the dark as there are no Candles or Oil of any sort.

We are very thankful to hear that the British Government are taking over the feeding of the people in these Islands. It is very amusing to hear that the Germans can't feed us any more, when they have been stealing our food & Cattle all the winter. What a blessing it will be when they have gone away from us. It will indeed be a very happy & joyous day for us all.

We have heard indirectly from Sidney Marr that Mollie had a son born in May of last year. There have been some Messages brought over from "Lisbon" by the last boat, but we were not fortunate to get any. We have not heard from anyone since last

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June. We are keeping very well & able to do our work. I saw Lydia last week. She was very much better. I also saw Douglas. He was well too.

We have had a meat ration this weekend, 2 lbs of beef between the three of us. Quite a big ration & we are enjoying it very much indeed. It is a treat to have some soup. Our beans are lasting well, also our roots. We have enough potatoes to last until the end of March. This week has been the last potato ration for the public.

### *Ninety-six*

Sunday, March 4th [1945]

We have had a record week of rations: 2¼ oz flour, 2¼ oz Macaroni, & 2 pints of Milk, & there was a small ration of potatoes, but to make up for that we had our 4th Red Cross Parcel. It is from New Zealand this time & we are very grateful to have it. It is very wonderful how they have come just at the right time.

Today we have heard that the Boat bringing us flour is in the harbour. We do hope it is true. It is now three weeks since we had a bread ration. Since last Monday we have been without "Electric Light". We have been going to bed at dark which was at 7.30 p.m.. It made a very long night.

Yesterday, the Germans decided we should start double summer time, so we put our clocks forward an hour. It makes a lighter evening but of course the mornings are that much darker for a few weeks.

It is fine how cheerful the people are keeping on the whole. Of course there are always some who grumble. It is much better to make the best of things if one can. We are having a very cold snap again, but the sun has been very bright today.

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We are all keeping well. Lydia was much better on Tuesday. Arthur saw Gladys yesterday. She is about the same. It is a great pity.

### *Ninety-seven*

Sunday, March 18th [1945]

We are still getting less for our rations. Last week our groceries consisted of 6 ozs of flour which had come from "Lisbon", for which we had to pay 2d each. That was all we had, & our milk cost 5½d each. This week we are not to have any flour as the Gs have claimed 30 tons of it, which just makes our ration for the week. We shall have our bi-weekly ration of butter & we are to have 4 ozs of soap each which has also come from "Lisbon". We have had no milk for two days. We are to have our 5th Red X parcel next Saturday.

All roots are now finished. The Gs are stealing "Broccoli" even before it is fully grown. It is very little use trying to plant anything. The outlook for foodstuffs is very dark. Were it not for the Red X parcels we should indeed be starving. We cannot be too thankful for them & the extra bread is a very great help.

The Spring flowers are very beautiful & very plentiful just now. We are getting on with the digging. The weather has been very dry this past two weeks, so Will has had a chance to get on with it..

Our fire is a great problem. The wood burns away so quickly. Arthur & Will spend such a lot of time chopping wood. I can't do any ironing now. It is so strange having to wear our underclothing rough dry. However, that is a minor matter. On the whole, the people are more cheerful now we have more to eat, & the health of very folk is improving. Of course, there is a lot of sickness & so very little relief for it. The hospitals are all full.

I saw Lydia last Tuesday. She was much better. It was a lovely afternoon. I found her sitting in the garden, which is very



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sunny & sheltered. Edith Gosselin is about the same. I saw her on Friday.

It is so nice to have longer evenings. Douglas brought me three Candles last Thursday. They were very acceptable. We are longing to hear news of you all. It does seem such a long time since we heard from anyone. I saw two letters Sidney had written to his friend Tom Castle. They had been written last November. He said you were all well in England the last time he had heard.

### *Ninety-eight*

Sunday, March 25th [1945]

Yesterday we received our 5th Red X Parcel. We had one New Zealand & two Canadians. One of the C. was different to last time, so we have quite a variety. What a difference they make to us. They are indeed a great boon.

During the past week we have had  $\frac{1}{4}$  pint of milk each. Today we have had  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pints for the three of us. We don't expect any more this week, but we are to have 6 ozs of flour, but no butter.

It is very difficult for the majority of the people. All roots are done. We have yet a few potatoes & some beans & a few cabbages just coming on. We had a meat ration this week, costing  $1/6d$  for the three of us. I've made it do for three dinners.

We are all very hopeful. We keep hearing the news is good, but don't get many particulars.

We have been having a week of lovely Spring weather & that does help one to be more hopeful. I do hope there will be a change. It is so difficult to keep the wood fires going. I wonder if you can realise that we have had no coal for the past two years & since December no Gas & now our Electric Light has failed. We have to depend entirely on wood for all cooking & mostly wet wood at that.

It is very interesting to see people of all classes going out with their little carts & perambulators, carrying a saw to try & get a

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little wood from the hedges, etc. Last winter the Gs forbid anyone to cut down trees without a permit, Now they themselves are cutting them down everywhere. They have not any firing so they have to find what they can. The roads & lanes are looking very bare. Poor little Guernsey. She has suffered at their hands. It will take many years to get it right again.

Some people have lost houses, & fields have been ruined with their concrete beds laid down to support their posts with wire netting stretched across. Our back garden has barbed wire across, but not in the front.

### *Ninety-nine*

Sunday, April 8th [1945]

It really begins to look as tho' I shall soon be able to send this budget to you. Anyhow, we sincerely hope so, for we are getting to the end of everything here. We have nothing at all from Island resources except ¼ lb butter & ¼ pint of milk per week. Our bread & flour come from Red X parcels & we are thankful to have another delivery this week.

Last week, we had only three loaves, but yesterday we reverted to our 2 lb loaf. That is because the "Vega" arrived on Thursday. You see, we were a week's ration of flour short owing to us having to feed our visitors. They are simply starving & are simply laying their hands on anything they can get hold of. They are even gathering Nettles & mincing them to make soup. Some of the rank & file are looking very ill & have gone frightfully thin.

People are afraid to leave their houses because there are so many robberies. Will has suffered that way. They broke into his place, ransacked every room, & took off all his seed potatoes, 60 lbs, also a ring belonging to Gladys, & they took a big [     ] pan & two vegetable dishes, we suppose to cook the potatoes in. It is all very trying.

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They dig up the potatoes from the Greenhouses before they are fit to eat. We have been very lucky so far. It may be because they are in the house so much that they leave our things alone.

By the way, we did have a meat ration this week, costing 1/6d for the three of us. I have made it do for three dinners. I stewed it with some beans & herbs. It was real good. We have nothing to make gravy with now except vegetable water thickened with a little flour. Had we not the Parcels we should have starved. Many have had their parcels stolen, which is very hard to bear.

You can imagine how eagerly we are looking for news these days. There are several people who have "Radio Sets" & the news filters through. I went to see Gladys yesterday & found her much more like her old self. I think & hope that when our life becomes more normal she may be able to come home & start afresh. It would be hopeless to try it now, the difficulties are too great.

We are having good Spring weather, but today we have a strong N. East wind which makes it very cold despite the lovely sunshine. We are all keeping well. We are not as strong as we might be, but that will return when we get more to eat. Arthur is really putting on flesh & his weight is getting almost normal. His appetite is very good now. We expect to be done with potatoes & beans this month.

### *One hundred*

Sunday, April 22nd [1945]

We have been having varied experiences of late. Our visitors are getting more hungry & are taking more of our roots etc. There is now very little for anyone, & our people too are getting very hungry & weak. Last week, our only rations were 5 lbs of bread & 1 pint of milk each. This week we have 4 ozs butter & 6 ozs of flour & our usual bread & milk. The flour comes from the Vega.

Our Red X parcels are still keeping us going. There was not enough to give each a second parcel this month so at the end of

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this week we are to have a third of a parcel, just to help until the Vega returns next month when we shall hope to have one parcel each again. Some people are in very great distress.

We hear today that the news is very good, so we are more hopeful. This week we are to have various things from the "Vega" which she brought on her last visit here: 6 ozs sugar, 2½d; 4 ozs salt, 2d; Tablet toilet soap, 6d; 1 Candle, 1d; 1 Box Matches, 2½d; 6 cigarettes, free. We also had a meat ration, 6d each, so we are quite rich. It is long since we had so much. I sometimes wonder what it will feel like when we can go to the shop & just ask for & get what we want.

We received a message last week from Fred which he had sent 31-3-44 & we received it 13-4-45. We were very glad to have it. We have heard through Mr Barnes that Flo, Sidney's wife & his sister, died on December 24th 1944. We don't know how long she was ill, just a Red X message to say she had passed away. I'm very sorry for Sidney.

Last week, a terrible double murder was done here by some Russians. A man & his wife were done to death. Their Red X parcels & some Fowls were taken, so it is presumed that was the reason. The soldiers are all very hungry. Some are looking terrible thin & ill. When will it all end?

We do so often wonder how you all are & if you have enough to eat. It is so hard not to have enough. We have much to be thankful for. So far we have been able to have a little extra flour from the Mill & it does make such a difference. Our roots are now done & we have just a few potatoes for this week.

It is really wonderful how well we are all keeping. The weather has been ideal of late. Will has been able to get our garden planted. He now spends his evenings in his own garden. He is hoping to be able to get some seed from England before very long. I do hope he will.

The "Vega" is expected back early in May. She passed through from Jersey last Sunday, so we may hope for another parcel by the end of May.

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I shall have plenty of work to do when once the soldiers have gone. They have had our sitting room for over two years & it is in a terrible state. The floor is quite black & there is very little paint or varnish anywhere. It will all have to be redecorated & it will take some fresh air to make it nice & fresh.

### *One hundred and one*

Sunday, May 13th [1945]

What a lot has happened since last I wrote to you. We are now a free people once more. It is so wonderful it takes all our time to believe it.

Since Tuesday there has not been much work done by most people. I have not been able to see much of the excitement. Someone has to look after the meals etc., but it is all very lovely & we are now to have as much food as we can eat for a tonic to fatten us up a bit.

We are told that the British people find us all much too weak etc., but that will soon now be remedied.

Those who have their "Wireless Sets" are putting loud speakers in their windows so that the passer by can hear the news. Our next door neighbour has been very good & has brought us all the important news each day.

The Germans are leaving the Island tomorrow, so they tell us. We shall be glad not to see them about.

We are hoping soon to get news of you all. It will take a little time to get everything in order once more. It will be very wonderful to be able to go to Town & see something in the shops once more.

I have been suffering with my feet such a lot of late. I have Neuritis[?] in both of them & it is difficult at times to wear my shoes. I shall be glad when we can get some proper medicine for

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them. It has been so very trying not to be able to have any for such a long time.

Yesterday, Saturday, was a general holiday. It was a lovely day & the people simply crowded the Town, so they tell me. I did not go out. I was in Town on Friday. I went to see Edith Gosselin. She is about the same.

I hope to soon get this budget to you. I'm afraid you will find many mistakes. You must just think that it has been such a relief to just tell you a little of what we have had to bear, but it has been so little in comparison with so many people who have suffered so much.

We all send our love to you all. Will has written to Cathie & Josie, so you will have heard before you receive this.

Hoping soon to hear from you

Your loving sister

Lillie