

65 Alexandra Road

Mutley

Plymouth

Devon

My dearest Pearl.

29. 7. 40

Mamma & I were very delighted to receive your nice letter, also the lovely snaps of you all.

Now dear first we thank you very much for your very kind offer from your husband & yourself, we think it was ever so thoughtful of you. I will explain to you in the best way I can. My daughter is 16 December & has now

started in business, I could not spare her my husband I think I told you was in the last war, now in a mental home 14 years I have a pension, Lyle has a daughter 16 years in November she has lost her husband 6 years ago, she was in London now at Bristol with Eltis & daughter who is married and her husband is 32 years now joined up, Mary has no children she is 28 years, she has an Hotel so Lyle & Marion are with her, Marion is also in business, Doris has two children Betty 14 years August Richard 12 January, her husband Commander in the Navy, she is at Hereford with him.

he left Plymouth 12 months ² ago, he is at an air force training school ~~for training pilots~~ She left Plymouth to be with him, Ethel lives at Torquay Mary's mother Elsie lives at Southall London second husband no children, I know of no one here in Plymouth that would send these children abroad.

Mamma is 81 years and has been blind for 4 years she lives with me, Harry is exactly like Mamma & funny thing we were talking about you all night before we had the letter, sorry Vera's daughter is not strong trust she will grow out of it.

What about Edgar & Kathleen & your brother ^{Dad} trust they are alright, Ethel is like Elsie, & they say you are like Dora & me, your children are lovely we all think, I am enclosing a photo of Joyce took in Ukul. Mamma talks alot about Harry & sends her love to him & Ethel & all of you.

About the air raids we have just had one, we have a basement here, so we always prepare in the evenings, this is a naval port & dockyard so we have to expect raids, we get a good many but

mostly nights they are afraid to come over in the day, we are not nervous we have a wonderful air force in fact they are all grand men navy army & air force, we have nothing to fear really, & the raids are what we expect, Hitler will never break the English people we shall stick together until the last, heaps of people around here have to go out in the shelters, but they take it in good spirits. He thinks he will invade England but dates have been put off, but he will be in small pieces by the time we finish with him & his crowd.

There is a come side to the raids last night we heard the sirens & jumped out of bed & dressed & we found out it was all clear we had slept through it, we have no shortage of anything in the food line, just as usual, only we have the black out. Kind of you to think of us but do not worry dear we are OK here. What about your hand of you next last time you wrote? I will send on papers to you. We like your house & the grounds like look very lovely. I have a nice long garden & lovely flowers in the front, & back garden smaller but been ~~they back~~ digging for victory all vegetables not so bad.

-we are all doing it here in a small or large way. I think this is not a bad letter excuse the scribble, Joyce is gone to pictures in stays in the pictures if there is a said, which we had, all's well.

Mamma + Joyce joins me in
love to you all, thanking you again
Your loving
(Bertie)

I am Ethel Alberta

Bertie for short
