

55, Westbere Rd.,
London N.W. 2

7. 9. '42

My dear Tom,

First of all, many thanks to you for the photos. The one of Edith & Frances is remarkably good. It is so clear. And the one of Jack Hornet & the bird well! was lovely.

Now how are you liking Army life? After writing, writing & again writing is it somewhat strenuous or are you enjoying the more active work. Our minds often flit across the Atlantic when we go into the city & see Canadians here, here & round about. Out this way we see very few troops. But right in town you may see in the space of a few minutes troops from all parts of the world.

How about Dierpe, & Edith's brothers. - Were they in it & are they safe? Douglas may have already written

you of his meeting with your father's
Regimental Serg. Major.

Of all the strange coincidences—
to be invited to his house & then in
talking of the Dapce Raid, then the
Canadians in the last war & that
should lead to hearing of your
father's death first hand from one
who was lying wounded only 50 yards
away from him!!!

Douglas is now getting down to real
training & tho. it is 7 days each week &
long hours he is enjoying it all.

We, home here, know what he is longing
to do & that is fly over enemy territory
& bomb hard & heavy & often.

In places London is looking spacious
these days. Where the demolition squads
have been busy large spaces have
been cleared, acres of it, & that gives
the city a most unusual appearance.
St. Paul's has never shown up so much
as it does now. It was so crowded
in by buildings that one couldn't
see its proportions & now we can.

We hope it survives the war. 58 of the city
churches are gone & 141 or more badly
damaged, so you can understand the
many open places there are now the
rebuilding has begun.

How is your novel going? Well I trust.
Doug. - was able to read some of your
stories in the American magazine
& he reckons you're a fine yarn
spinner. We are very proud of our
nobby.

Don't forget that out home is yours
if you come over this side of the
Atlantic & are near enough for it
to be of use to you.

Today has been one of great aerial
activity ~~today~~ in this district. There
has been a humming in the air
from dawn to dusk. It has been
a fine day for a wonder & that's
probably why.

We are all well & busy which is
a great thing to be these days
even if it's only knitting for the
troops. With our love to you all

Yr. loving
Aunt Jess

P.S. How the children have grown.
They certainly belong to the Beanstalk family.

P.P.S. 8th Sept. Bess & I have been to see pictures of the war this afternoon at the Burlington House in Piccadilly.

There were two collections on view, the first being one of photographs taken of the war on land, sea & in the air in & around this country.

This has been arranged by one of our leading newspapers & a fine show it is.

Among so many things that have happened one forgets & these pictures recall past events clearly.

The other show is of pictures in oils, water-colours & pencil all done by artists among the Fire Service. From them you can see blitzed London from all angles.

It shows history from the Fire Service point of view & is very cleverly done.

I wish you could see it.
Cheers.