

Cross House
Torrington
Devon

My Dear Ivy

Your last letter made me realize that in a matter of a few days you will be having your baby. It seems a great pity that you and I cannot go through all the thrills of such a momentous event together. It is a womans event, and although for about 48 hours a very unpleasant one, for weeks before and afterward, one which must be the greatest experience in a womans life, although it is a womans event, if I had been with you, much of its significance would be transmitted to me. Life is made up of a constant series of major and minor experiences and I think be they pleasant or unpleasant we gain something out of them

When this is over and you are back at Bourne (~~iff~~ ??) Road with your baby it will be strange and very peculiar for me, kicking my heels in Devon. The living of my life at a standstill, while you are living our lives all on your own. I don't think I am selfish but when I read about your sister running back and forward and you awaiting your first labour pain, I feel very frustrated losing something I will never regain. If you have another someday, you will take it as a matter of course besides it would bring no such momentous changes. I shouldn't write like this it might only make you miserable but darling before you go away; I want to tell you once more how much I love you and how greatly I long to be with you now and take you in my arms and know your secret thoughts and fears at this time.

Perhaps I better cheer you up by writing about my Aunty Lucy & Lilly. Well! Aunty Lilly is never too short of gloves to want another pair. Not a new pair, it doesn't

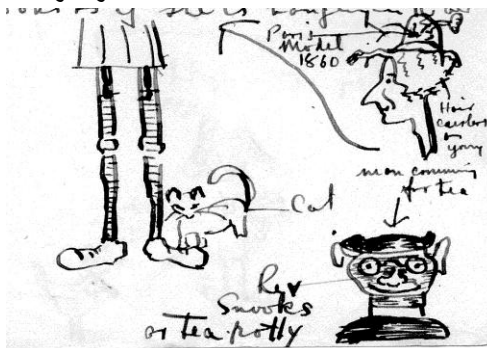
matter if there are holes in every finger as long as they are gloves, she uses them when she is doing odd jobs for the hens. You see she looks after the hens. The hens, to her nothing else matters. "Dick and thens". Aunty Dick tends her hens first thing in the morning to last thing at night.



Aunty Toots or Lucy makes bread every Friday and you mustn't bang the back door or it drops. Toots, short for toes, because of her chilblains, corns, bunions, hammer toes and big feet.



Aunty Dick has such thin legs when she wears black stockings she looks as if she is hanging in the air.





Saw a good film yesterday called "The Bad Man of Wyoming" with Wallace Bury (jfs?) Very good amusing. Bury is always good as a real tough guy who chews tobacco.

Funny you should mention Corny Cobs (jfs ??), I had been using it for about 4 days when I got your letter, so was very amused. Thank you for Chociaoret, sweets, etc. came in very useful.

Shall be out for this day on Sunday, military matter, why Sunday God only knows, however, if you should be in the throes Sat or Sun, shall ring Sunday night when I get back. Will your father be away at that time.

In the book I am reading :They seek a country. The tough Dutch woman, miles from anywhere hides the beginnings of her pains, and when he gets home late that night, she lies there pale and exhausted but with child at breast, very nice I'm sure she must have been tough! and how.

Francis Brett Young the writer is a Doctor too, so perhaps these Boer women can put on a one woman show.

There is a young captain with his wife at Sylverlands (?); they were married a year ago; were together one week and are now having their second week together, after 12 months; boy! oh boy! What Romance! makes me sigh!

Theoretically only 8 weeks to my next leave by the time you come out of the hospital 5 or 6 weeks, it will soon pass for you with a baby on your hands, probably if I came any sooner I should only be in the way, you will have all your time and energy used up, until have got the hang of it.

I am trying to find another photo for you. I think I haven't got any more, but I am going to look after I have finished this letter.

Well Darling all my love and Sympathy to you in the next week. I am thinking of you always.

Love from Kenneth
Marmaduke, Clarence, Maurice, Archibald,
William Shawcross better known as "Alf"
(submaws illegible)

Inc'd Photos to remind you of the above.