

Colonel CHARLES HENRY DUDLEY RYDER

Letters 1908 – 1909. *Place names and family names are in bold to make it easier to pick them out.*

4th November 1908, Mussoorie: My dear **Violet**, Although I wrote to you last mail, I must send you a line to wish you many happy returns of your birthday and every happiness. 10. Violet that is double figures and you are getting on and I hope now you can always read my letters your own self. I wish we could be with you all. We are sending you 8 shillings to get something for your birthday present, but it may come a mail later than this letter.

Heaps of love and kisses my darling, from your loving Father.

From Violet, 24th January 1909, Murhill, Prideaux Road, **Eastbourne**. My darling, darling, dearest Father, we have had such a lovely time at **Stevenage** (*with Ida's parents*). Enid can ride but I cannot quite (?) ride yet. We came home on Friday. The last week we had not a single spair (*sic*) evening we have (been) so busy with going out to tea. Once we (?) a kind of entertainment where the vilage boys and girls sang and some of them had such dreadful voices it made us all laugh. **Cousin Connie** was staying there and we had such a lovely time. **Margaret, Enid** and I are in a play called Bluebeard. **Margaret** is one of the brothers and **Enid** and I are two of the wives (*sic*) it is got up by Mrs Lawery. Ribby (*Bobby?*) is looking simply lovely and he is such a darling. Miss has bought some little forms for the table. Grannie had a party with lovely crackers with sweet little vases in them. What has happened to Gipsy? With lots and lots and (*sic*) of love to yourself, Mother, **Ernle** and **Bob**.

From your loving Violet.

From Enid, 24th January 1909, Murhill, Prideaux Road, **Eastbourne**: We came home from **Stevenage** on Friday. We have had a most lovely time. I can ride alright now, it is perfectly lovely I think. Grandpapa used to hire a sweet little brown pony for us to ride on and Walker goes with us on Myrtle. Bully (*the dog*) comes into our room every night nearly and sleeps beside our bed. I have a new mistress in my form Margaret has too. Mine is called Miss Benny and Margaret's is called Miss Dawes. Neither of us are moved up but we are both top of our forms. We went beagling last Tuesday at **Stevenage** behind the kennels in the fields. They did not catch any hares, but just after the beagles had gone by we saw a dear little (one) running over the field quite close to us. Connie has been staying with Grannie, she is so very nice. She came beagling with us. What has happened to Gipsy, because you said you had only two dogs Winkle and Bully.

With heaps of love and millions of kisses to everybody from your loving, Enid

From Miss Fenn, 28th January: **Eastbourne**: Dear Major Ryder, Thank you so much for your kind letter by last mail. As I think I have said before I am very pleased if you and Mrs Ryder are satisfied with what I do for the children. Here they always seem quite happy and bright and I do my best to train them aright. They all bid fair to grow up strong and healthy. We lead a very busy life. There seems so much to be done to keep pace with the times. I am so glad you think **Lisle** looks sturdy in that photo, he is making a very funny face there and it does not do him justice. He really is a very handsome boy with such a healthy bright face and is a great favourite everywhere. The term is now in full swing. **Margaret** has just returned from the Life Class and has completed a study of a man I think quite successfully. Tomorrow evening we go to the Town Hall to receive the certificates & **Enid's** prize. I think their work there is very satisfactory.

I went up to meet **Enid & Violet** last Friday and bring them home. Miss Grigg brought them to Victoria as Col. Grigg was not well enough. This rheumatic gout seems to make him very helpless. Miss Grigg told me she thought later on that they would all have to come to Eastbourne so that he might be under Dr Colgate. No doubt you are pleased to be able to remain at Mussoorie. Moving is expensive and besides it seems so healthy. Dorothy Hodgson told me that her father was going to retire in April & that then he talked of going on a tour by himself. I gathered that it would be with the object of deciding plans for the future. Mrs Huxham whom I saw today tells me Winnie the elder daughter is coming down for a few days next week & I hope to see her. Old Mrs Hodgson is in very indifferent health lately, but she is old, over eighty I suppose. I forgot last week to tell Mrs Ryder I had seen Miss Worth. She was at the Theatre and waited for us to make enquiries, but was only in Eastbourne on a visit. Mrs Hawkins says she is engaged to be married to a Mr Chapman, but I forget what Regiment he belongs (to).

Margaret played her part in "Bluebeard" very well & looked well too. **Violet** was a rather too rosy cheeked wife & in a resuscitated state came on in the last scene looking certainly the most charming of Bluebeard's wives. **Enid** was not looking her best. She made a very telling face in the "dead" scene. Miss Grigg told me how sweet they had been at Stevenage helping their grandfather & that Mrs Grigg had quite fretted the last few days at the thought of their going away. They went out for walks with Col. Grigg & **Enid** read the paper to him. On Saturday next Major & Mrs Sawyer are having the actresses to tea & Major Sawyer told me today that he had engaged a conjurer for their amusement. They gave £6 to the Missionary Fund as the result of the performance. We are all pretty well, **Enid** came home with a cold & **Lisle** had a bilious attack two nights ago, but his spirits were by no means quelled. We are interested in having the heights of the other two boys and I have marked them on the wall. There is a great difference between the eldest and the youngest! I can get as yet no reply from Mr Martin about papering the Bath Room. I went to the office on Monday as no answer came to my letter, but his son could tell me nothing. He appears a most awkward man to deal with. If he objects to do anything until the time stated in the agreement he has only to say so, & it seems very unbusinesslike to send no reply. Miss Reid came last week. She had seen an account of Sven Hedin's arrival at Moscow & he compared the cost of his own expedition with that of Sir Francis Younghusband, but I don't see how the two could be compared as he had no army to take. I saw that he arrived home with a flourish of trumpets. I hope to send the monthly accounts next week. I am doing my best with them, but during these few months several ?hearings payments fall due.

Please give my love to Mrs Ryder & kisses to the boys & with kind regards, believe me yours very sincerely, Fanny ?K Fenn.

From Connie, 29th January (*Probably Constance Money a cousin of Julia Money, Charles Ryder's mother*), Orchard Court, **Stevenage**.

My dearest Ida, I expect that you have heard from **Blanche** (*Ida's sister*) that I came here before the children's holidays were over. I did so love seeing them & they are the sweetest looking & sweetest-natured children I have ever met. You can't think how I miss them. I quite absolutely lost my heart to them. I want to know if you will let us have **Enid & Violet** for the Easter holidays. We should love to have them all together but of course it is out of the question because we haven't any room, but perhaps you would let us have **Margaret & Lisle** another holidays. How nice it was for the boys being able to go to you for Christmas, you must have had great fun. It sounded very cold work playing tennis though; it made me shiver to think of. **Uncle Teddie** (*Ida's older brother*) seems a wee bit better to me, & since Tuesday has felt more cheerful. Dr. Hawkins came down from town & thoroughly overhauled him, & gave quite a cheering account. He says it will be a long business but that in time **Uncle Teddie** will be his old self again. It is so sad to see him so helpless & having to give up everything. It makes it so much worse as he has always done so much, hasn't he. I am thankful to say that Mummie is better again now. She was so bad from August till Christmas; her heart was so weak & we got terribly worried. The Dr. thinks it was having her teeth done. She had cocaine so many times & it was the worst thing she could have had he says, but we couldn't persuade her to have gas & have them all out at once. **Blanche** isn't going to write this week as I am writing. She sends her best love & asked me to say that she saw the children off safely last Friday & met Miss Fenn at the station. We still don't know at all when Ethel is going to be married. However I shouldn't think it will be so very much longer now. She has been engaged for 4 years next June. She is quite busy making underclothes for her trousseau. She is doing every single stitch by hand because she doesn't care for machine made things. **Blanche** & I went up to town on Wednesday to do some shopping & of course there was a thick fog – one of the worst we were told that they have had for years. 'T was most unfortunate, it is so difficult to choose things by gaslight, isn't it; specially in sale time when you particularly want to see how faded or soiled things are. I have several other letters to write so must end up. Do say we may have the children at Easter, I want them so much.

With very much love, (?) dear Ida your loving Cousin, **Connie**.

From Mary Ryder, 29th January 1909, Holt House, **Holt**, Wilts.

My dear Charlie, Two tickets have come from the RGS. There is such a demand for them that only two can be given to each applicant. If we possibly can we will go. **Una** will tell you of our accident, such are the blessings (!) of an old house, the (?)candleless nights of course (?)wettdd all these things, as we are

soon leaving we will not. But we have had newspapers put in these hollows in the stone floor. I sent for the doctor directly as the end joint of the finger was (?)slanting up broken I thought but it was not that but dislocated. She is recovering wonderfully. For for (sic) several days she has done a lot of writing & tonight hopes to be playing the piano.

With much love to you both. I am yr. Loving sister, **Mary Ryder**.

From Charles, 8th February, Dehra Dunn: My sweetest of darlings. I got down to Dehra all right. Got to the office at 7.15 & left a bit after 4. Had tea with Burrands & talked to Col & Mrs B till 1/2 past 7 when I walked down to the station & had dinner. Meat very tough. Now I'm sitting in the railway carriage before the train starts. I am pretty tired and if I didn't know I have to change at (?)Thatsar could sleep like a top. As it's 1/2 past 8 now I suppose your revelling in cold pheasant or something nice like that. Nobody had any news. Mrs Burrand has done a very fine figure of (?)Ghisti. She has the same lines showing through (?)ribs so that's all right she said. You should use very little medium. She also said rub turpentine on your chilblains.. So you see how I've been thinking of you. She leaves Bombay on 18th March. The manifolds also same month. Old Sir Robert (?)Hume died last week.

Darling sweetheart, I adore you & am longing to be with you again. Take care of yourself. Ever your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

From Ida, 11th February, Mussoorie: Darling Charlie, I was very glad to get your letter from Dehra last evening. I had the verandah turned out yesterday & found your letter to Grindlay stamped – under your writing table on the ground or rather at one side. I had it posted – it's mail day. I have been so busy scribbling, so you must only expect a scrap.

Fitch's bill has just come in: Rs 55-12-6, discount 4-6-9 = Rs 51-5-9. A record isn't it! So glad. The photos first lot have come. Rather bad but very interesting, especially the Surw (?), so the children will enjoy them. I'm fearful! One of my worst!! Please don't take me again. You make me so exceedingly plain – I know I'm getting so, but I'd rather grow (...) gently. I have been feeling most seedy with my cold. It got worse & I hardly made any sound when I laughed. Today it's a very little better.

In?pen had lunch yesterday. I feel rather low spirited & think so much about Father, & Mary's going & your being away & my cold, & not seeing. I often think how different the Austen-Smith's are with (?) Cadges who would often have come round when I was alone.

By the bye Mrs Mac... (?Mackinnon) says Fitch says Major A-Smith made this season Thirty thousand! So I think he might have stood Champagne at the only dinner of the season he has given!

With fondest love & tear up my letters as you get them as they only help to make the house untidy when you return! Your very loving wife & sweetheart. Ida.

From Charles, 15th February, Loralai: My own sweet darling, Pirie & I got in here yesterday. 21 miles & 31 the day before, riding & walking. I found yours of 9th. No don't ask Mr Marten to tea. You are only asking Mrs Marten because you knew her at **Barabanki**.

Col. Longe (?) is coming on a tour in the Punjab if he gets Govt sanction, & wants me to meet him at Lahore about 20th March for about 10 days. So I'm afraid I shall have to do another tour. It's an awful nuisance, but perhaps it won't come off.

I'm so sorry about your cold, mine has quite gone. I have plenty of writing to do as I found a lot of dags waiting for me. It is a beautiful climate here, not so bitterly cold as usual. I am longing to be with you again my pet, but can't give you my dates until I get to Tandy on 24th. I don't see how I can get home before 8th March though. I hope you are keeping your accounts beautifully, I am.

Mrs Pirie is coming up to **Mussoorie** in April, but Major P not till May. Jean is a jolly little girl, a little shy with me at first. Then you know I'm not much good at playing with children except my own. Major P says you hit fearfully hard at tennis & are very good!

I halt here tomorrow & go straight down to **Harnai** on the 17th. I missed last mail but hope to write this mail. Heaps of love & kisses, my darling, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

From Ida, 15th February, Hollow Oak, Mussoorie: My darling Charlie, I enclose the home letters. I heard from Connie, but I send it to you. It is such a nice (?) thick letter & makes me happier about Father for I have really felt quite unhappy about him. I've not heard from Mother for about 4 weeks I

think. We have evidently not received one of **Una's** letters. So you will be as much puzzled as I am as to references about the accident (*see 29th January above*). These are only a few lines to take crowds of love and largest kisses right on your mouth! From your very loving wife & sweetheart, Ida.

Cox has received £40 from you. I'll keep that letter.

From Charles, 16th February, Loralai: My sweet darling, It is Bob's birthday, you probably forgot! Yes, Fitch is a record, only beaten let us hope by this month. Don't forget you can get anything up to Rs 175 from the office and after 7th March you can draw a cheque if necessary. As I have to go this additional tour with Col Longe, which may necessitate my having to go to **Simla** with him, I am suggesting that I can cut out my present trip to Simla with him. It is useless my going twice. If so I shall reach you on 4th March & not 8th. I hope you will be quite well!

I had a game of golf yesterday. Pirie & I beat Col. Kemball & Major Gough by 2 holes. Pirie or I are playing a single today & I go off early tomorrow morning. I shall bring back about Rs 200 from my travelling allowance which will be a help. I got yours of 11th today. How careless of you not to have posted that letter to Grindlay before. It contained Harry's cheque for Rs 30.

Darling I always dislike photographing you, because they come out so bad. I'm so sorry. Never mind, you are so beautiful you can afford to have a bad photo now & then. As this goes along with me I shall finish it in the train.

Harnai, 17th Feb. I had quite a pleasant drive down here and have two hours to wait, so I have written two or three letters & had tea. Harnai, you have probably forgotten is the place where I got the telegram which told me your objections to having another baby would not be very strenuous (*sic*). That was almost exactly two years ago! alas! alas! It was cloudy but not cold so I could enjoy good long thinks, and how I would love to see you in the family way again once more. Sweetheart I adore you & am feeling very amorous. I wish we were just married, or else that we had lived 50 years ago. Heaps of love & kisses all over your adorable body, from your adoring husband & lover, Charlie.

From Ida, 17th February, Hollow Oak, Mussoorie: My own darling Sweetheart, Did you remember it was Bob's birthday yesterday? I gave him three (?) little toys. Annie Garner arrived last Monday. She seems very pleasant – very tall & quite English. **Bob** is very tiresome & cries dreadfully when Mary doesn't do everything for him. It is dreadful to hear him. Mary goes off after lunch & perhaps it will be better when he doesn't see her.

How unfortunate you are about your box. You ought never to travel without me. It really is quite weird how that box loses itself!

My appetite is not brilliant. I think I must have had influenza for I feel so slack always now – so tired; my voice not right yet. Mrs Philip M. has asked me to tea & Bridge two tables on Friday. Perhaps it will cheer me up, for I don't think I have ever felt quite so lonely. Remember me to all you stay with especially my friend Captain Tandy. With fondest love & many kisses from your very loving wife & sweetheart, Ida.

Bob's photos you took are sweet.

From Charles, 18th February, Multan: My darling sweetheart. I found two letters from you & the English mail here, also Capt. Tandy & having seen his office we are in the Railway waiting room, have dinner at 7.15, go off at 7.50 & I reach my destination at midnight & he goes on. About your going down to **Dehra**, yes by all means go, if the new nurse is satisfactory & you can trust her. I should love to have a little change. Darling, you have been so good & uncomplaining. I will wire to you from **Peshawar** date of my arrival. It will be 4th if I don't go to **Simla** & 8th if I do. I didn't sleep well in the train last night, so I am very tired and I met official letters here, which I have had to answer. I shall enjoy being with you again. I do hate these long railway journeys by myself and feel reduced to a dull state & too stupid to write. Heaps of love & kisses, my pet, and though my letters are short I do love & adore you & think you are the most wonderful person I've ever met ever.

Your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Address 22nd - 24th Peshawar, c/o Major T (?) I Rich RE. 25th, 26th, 27th to Pindi, c/o O H B Trenchard Esq..

Tandy sends his kindest remembrances.

From Charles, 20th February, Leiah: My own sweet darling, I sent you off a letter from **Multan** on 18th. That evening Tandy & I travelled together. By the bye he left his shirt with studs & links & waistcoat with watch in the train & hadn't got them back. That is worse than I have ever done. Well when we got **Kot Sultan** where I was to get out at midnight, there were no signs of Baker, so I decided to go on, however at **Leiah**, the next station there was a wire from him saying he had arrived after the train had left, so I got out, waited till 2 & went back. Result was I didn't get to bed till 4 a.m. That day 19th we went one station down the line, saw a surveyor and rode back on a camel. Got back at 4. Today we came on here by train. Tomorrow we go out to see a surveyor and on 22nd go on to Tandy at **Mianwali**.

I am so glad Mrs Garner seems all right. I am so distressed about your appetite. You ought to have a change. It must be very lonely, you poor darling, but you are a brick. I am longing to see the photos of **Bob**. Have you asked Mr P Mackinnon as to when we should move so as to leave time for the houses to be done up, because anything that requires to be done to (?)Vermont should be done now.

It is quite hot here in the middle of the day, but quite pleasant at night. God bless you darling. Heaps of love & kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

From Ida, 24th February, Hollow Oak, Mussoorie: My own darling Sweetheart, we had the most awful storm yesterday & last night. The most frequent & terrible lightning & immense hail stones I have ever seen. I really was most alarmed & it has just started the same sort of thing tonight. I had very little sleep. & the poor baby had a very bad night too. About the 5th I think he has had. He isn't very well today, a th...? feverish I think, owing to his teeth I expect. I am simply longing for them to come through.

I went ...? & Bridge with Mrs Adams yesterday & when I got as far as Mrs Beazeley these huge hail stones came down so I went into her house. It's an awfully nice house Charlie, & lots of rooms. I do wish we could have taken it & only 1050 – well to continue. Mrs B & I went on when the hail ceased to Mrs Adams. & we came home in very bad lightning & a most high wind. I thought Captain Beazeley seemed quite nervous but he was gallant enough to see us home. He said he felt sure you would have done the same for his wife. & altho' I begged him not to come out of his way I was so glad to have his company for I was really trembling all over with fear.

Mrs Kitching & the Beazeleys came to ?tennis Mrs K couldn't come. Afterwards we had music. In spite of the kind heart of the Beazeleys I really felt so annoyed with them at times. I don't know what to do. With lots of love & I do miss you so much especially when it is stormy! Your very loving wifie Ida.

25th Feb. **Bob** had another bad night. I've just given him oil. We had snow in the night.

From Charles, 25th February, in the train: My own sweet darling, Yesterday Tandy & I spent the day going out by train to **Mari** on the **Indus**, recrossing over by ferry to **Kalabagh** wher we saw the salt quarries. I took some bits to send home to the children. I left **Daud Khel** this morning at 7.30 & now I've got as far as **Jand**. The train has begun to move again so I must stop. How clever of you to have 1-6-6 too much. I have been keeping my accounts very well, and shall come back with Rs 200. I quite agree with you it is sickening having to go off on tour again, especially sticking in **Lahore** doing nothing. I write a few lines at each station as I want to post this at **Campbellpur**. It has been very cold the last few days since the rain. I wonder whether you had snow.

You were a silly girl if you wanted more babies not to get them when you had the chance, when **Bob** was 3 months old. I too wish we could have lots more. I hope to get some news of the scheme &c when I get to Peshawar. All the work is going on well. I am longing to be with you. You never sent me your dates, but that no longer interests you. I wrote to **Enid** last mail but no other letters. I am spending one evening with Griffith at **Nowshera**, coming down from **Peshawar** by an earlier train so as to have dinner with him. I will telegraph to you from Peshawar the date of my arrival. I shall get up to the library about 11.30, so you might come & meet me. I may walk up if it is cool, if not I shall ride. Heaps of love & kisses all over you, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

From Ida, 26th February, Hollow Oak, Mussoorie: My darling Sweetheart, I'm so sorry I have been writing such dull letters. Today I have the whole Station to tennis etc. The last I think of having, but I got rather let in for this. **Bob** seems a little better this morning, but he is rather off his food. I expect he will be alright when his teeth come through.

Well I have plenty to do, so there will only be a few lines. I have no special news. Just the old one that I love you more than ever & am longing for your return. The dance at **Dehra** is on the 5th & I do not think I shall go to it. I shall accept, but shall not go. It will mean an expense. Much love darling from your very loving wifie & sweetheart, Ida.

From Charles, 26th February, Peshawar: My own sweet darling, I got in here yesterday and as far as I can see I shall not have to go to Simla, and so will be with you on 4th March. I am living in a tent in the Rich's compound and as you know I enjoy that. The younger Erskine & Major & Mrs Ogilvie (a doctor whom I met in Tibet) joined us last night. I am going over to see Ross Keppel about 12 about some of our work, otherwise I haven't much to do. The Rich's are going on leave at end of May.

I shall be disappointed if arrive in **Mussoorie** at an unsuitable time. I wish I knew your dates. I think I shall have a Bombay meeting this time. I am tired of the quiet sort! I dreamt of paying you attention last night. I wish we could afford to take leave home in June, and I think nurse ?Wicken would have another job. I will tell Cox to send Miss Fenn another £5 on 1st April, and the Bank at Mussoorie to send home another £5. Will you tell her I quite agree with her objecting to **Enid & Violet** going to Birmingham. Will you when you write to **Connie**, say you would rather **Margaret & Enid** went and if it is all the same to them for part of the summer holidays instead of Easter..

I was very amused at **Blanche's** annoyance at having to go & select baby clothes for **Kitty** (*hers & Ida's sister*). I wish though it was for you instead. I often feel very tempted to be bold and try for another son. I should if we were going to be together all this year: of course it is a glorious time for me but very poor fun for you the whole nine months. I hope **Bob** will have some teeth through when I come back. Heaps of love & kisses my darling, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

I wonder, when you say your prayers, you don't ask for guidance, as to whether you should have more children or not.

From Ida, 27th February, Hollow Oak, Mussoorie: My darling Charlie, I have no other instructions after today how to address you. Perhaps a letter will come today telling me how to. I do hope it will tell me you will be here on the 4th. **Bob** still continues to sleep very badly & Annie is wonderfully bright & (?)patient, but she will not rest in the day altho' she has only had two fair nights since she came. This morning **Bob** has a ?thick rash round his body. I must watch it & if it gets worse I must have the doctor. I gave him another (?)dose this morning.

My tennis & Bridge went off all right & the cakes I made were a success. The home (*sic*) bread & butter & (?)white was all eaten up!

Ernle is very jolly. He is sleeping in my room as a great treat & gets into my bed for his Chota Hazri (*early morning tea served with biscuits*). I am trying to sell the Buffalo & have nearly decided to let it go for Rs 60, but Mr Marten says we are selling it at a wrong time & if it was with calf again we ought to get almost what we gave for it. But I'm afraid we should lose the extra by keeping it till then. I think I shall let it go for 60/-. With fondest love & many may kisses, darling, from your very loving wifie & sweetheart, Ida.

From Charles, 27th February, Peshawar: My own sweet darling, I see in the paper two days in succession **Chakrata** 2 inches rain which might mean feet of snow; so I expect you have been having some bad weather. I have had no letter altering my plans, so I shall reach you 4th, that is a Thursday & English mail day, so get your letters written and come & meet me; say at the Library at 11.30. I shall come up the road past the Beazeleys old house. I am now going to see the Dickies shortly. I went to see Arthur yesterday. Mrs Rich went out to a dance last night, so Rich & I were alone. He doesn't go to dances now. We leave here tomorrow morning and go to **Mardan** & en route see Winsloe at the **Nowshera** Cavalry Cantonment. I had a letter from Col. Fleming yesterday. In it he said the scheme has had to go home again, details secret, except that there are to be 12 parties instead of 14 and though the S.G. (*Surveyor General?*) still talks of 3 circles, the 3rd circle is evidently a bone of contention. Rich & I went yesterday afternoon to hear a lecture by Sir J Willcocks on West Africa. It was decidedly interesting. No news of my box. Trenchard has an exam on while I am at **Pindi**, so I may stop with **Chucky**. Heaps of love & kisses, my pet, from your adoring lover & husband. Oh! do be amorous when we meet.

From Charles, 4th March, Mussoorie: My darling Violet, I have only just arrived and mother tells me it is mail day, but I'm afraid you will only get a short letter. Mother met me some way down the hill with **Ernle** in the Rickshaw and we walked home together. It is quite warm up here now in the sun, but mother says it is quite cold at night. I hadn't much of a sleep last night, only from 1 to 6 and not very sound sleep either. **Bob** has two teeth just through; that makes 6, but he ought to have more than that. Mother and both boys are looking very well. I saw 'Judy' the puppy we gave uncle **Tommy**. She is a sweet little dog. The monkey gave her such a box on either ear once, and after that Judy has taken very good care not to go within reach. Heaps of love & kisses to you all, from your loving Father.

* * *

From Charles, 19th August 1909, Mussoorie: My darling Violet, I am enjoying a really heavy cold & so is Ernle, but the weather is improving and we have seen the sun occasionally, but very soon we ought to have beautiful weather. Our pups, 3, are getting on. The biggest Baby has got brown spots, the others black. Winkle chases the cat away if she goes near them. We can't weigh Bob any more as he kicks about in the scales so much. I didn't go to (*the*) office yesterday because of ... and today is a Hindu holiday & all offices closed, so have two lazy days running. Our cow doesn't like the rain and she nearly stopped giving milk. However, now it is fine she is giving more again. All our things are out in the sun drying. Our boots get as if they were covered with fur from the mould if they are left alone for 2 or 3 days. I hope you have had nice holidays and plenty of paddling & bathing. On the 31st I have to go to **Quetta** for 10 or 12 days to see some work there and on 25th Sept I have to go to **Poona** and **Bangalore** for about 3 weeks. So I shall have quite enough railway travelling, as it is 2 days in the train to Quetta & 4 days to Bangalore. The Post Office are making enquiries about my socks. I hope you will knit me a pair soon. I want all I can get as I use them all the winter. Heaps of love & kisses, my darling Violet, to you all from your loving Father.

From Charles, 27th October, Garden Reach, Rawalpindi: My darling children all four. I left **Mussoorie** on the 24th and reached here the following evening. Since then I have been very busy getting my surveyors out to work and also trying to get the house a bit ready for Mother who arrives tonight at 8.45. I expect **Ernle** and **Bob** will be very tired and Mother will not have time to write, so I am writing to all of you. The mail leaves here on Wednesday night, that is tonight, and I am rather afraid I may have missed the mail. The dogs were so pleased to come down with me. It was the first time they had been off the chain since three months ago. They are very good and so obedient. I think the bungalow will be quite comfortable soon. At present it is very bare without curtains. I have my office here which is convenient. It wanted a tremendous cleaning. **Rawalpindi** is still quite hot in the day time, but cool at night. I was really quite glad to get away from the cold of **Mussoorie** on account of my lumbago, which is a bit better since I left.. Mr Chase has been stopping with me. His mother was going to see you, as she lives at Eastbourne. The owner of the house has left 30 pigeons here. I fed them this morning, but they are not very tame. I don't know how they and the cat will get on. **Uncle Tommy** (*Ida's youngest brother*) comes down here from the hills next month. He is Adjutant of his regiment now, the West Yorks. Heaps of love & kisses to you all, from your ever loving Father.