

Colonel CHARLES HENRY DUDLEY RYDER

Letters 1911.

Place names and family names are in bold for ease of reference.

From Charles, 7th August 1911, Campiri?, **Srinagar, Kashmir**: My own sweet darling, I have had a day. Lost myself for one thing which gave me 6 miles extra by taking a wrong path & the march would anyhow have been 16 miles, so I have had quite enough. I am camped in an open ?maidara about 7,000ft with a fine view. I didn't trouble about hunting for shade, as I only got in at 4 pm. Luckily my ponies also lost their way & we met by chance here. I had 3 big cupful's of tea as soon as it was ready. I can just see the faint outline of ?**Haromonk**, as the snow is touched up by the setting sun. I sweated like anything today. An English mail should be on its way out from **Srinagar** today, but I expect will have some difficulty in finding me. I am getting very fond of auction bridge, but I don't know any ladies who play it well. They get too excited, however I'll teach it you in the winter evenings, but I won't promise to play with you except for very small points. My hair is getting very grey. I feel quite sorry for the old man with the young wife! I had a rotten bad night with my toothache, but strange to say during the day it disappeared. Tell me how many bath towels I ought to get, bath sheets they are @ Rs 2/2 each. Then tell me do you want any of those strong face towels from ?Camaure. Your sort, like paper. You must bring out from home a dozen in one of your boxes for Kashmir & more in other boxes. The de L's (*de Lotbiniere*) don't have a double bed, but I think in the winter I shall often sneak into yours. As soon as I get back to Srinagar in about 10 days I shall look up my lists of things at Pindi & see what we have got.. Don't forget that as regards household linen for the house at home, you **M & E** (*Margaret & Enid*) will all be coming away. I wrote to Cox and told them to let you overdraw £200 if you found it necessary. Bring out plenty of paints & drawing materials, get them from the stores & not ?Penr.

8th August: A short march today & such a pretty one along a narrow ?marg, short grass with fir trees on both sides & then we came to a village, a mass of wild flowers. I've never seen anything like it. The regular ?margs are severely short cropped by the cattle, but near the villages in the hills, there are always bits of swampy ground & round the fields a mass of colour. I send you a letter from 'Winkie'. I had to scold her, and tell her you had become very old maidish & wouldn't at all like the last part of her letter. The toothache has gone, but I have a rather swollen cheek & a bit of a headache today; I think from the sun. I got in at 11.30 and tried to sleep before lunch, but the flies wouldn't let me. 6 pm waiting for my bath. Ida darling, for goodness sake don't have jewellery lying about in your cabin & keep your money well hidden. I want darling to pay for your outfit but if your first £25 is paid in October, you can get yourself out of that anything that you otherwise wouldn't have got. I know you'll be thinking of presents for me, but you are not to. Just at first I want you to have a nice little balance in hand. If you send any heavy things by trooper, see that it is called personal baggage, so as not to have to pay duty on it. Darling, I feel that the news of your having an allowance is too good to be true. I hope nothing will happen to mother's investments, but I don't think it will. ?E... Bays are the only doubtful point. I have told her to send me out her pass books January of each year & I would let her know how things were going, because there is of course a certain amount of responsibility attached to the advice I gave. I must write to **Lisle** this mail for his birthday. I'm afraid it will be late. On your way out get Violet something for her birthday at Port Said. Have you realised that we meet on the famous 23rd November? It ought to be raining, but instead there is a clear blue sky, with only small clouds over the high peaks. That is why it is so hot. I don't at all relish the idea of crossing the valley, in a couple of days. I have moved my table out into the verandah, after my bath. There is one point, you are better off than last time you came out, & that is that you haven't got to move into a new house. I hope you will make full use of **M & E**. It is one of your failings that you do everything with your own hands. I should say your only failing because you are splendid at a ?b... & ?last. I'm so glad I haven't got a helpless wife. If you haven't already paid my tailor's bill, don't do so, but send it out to me & I will pay it later. It would interest me very much if you brought out all your bills connected with outfit, paid & unpaid. I want to see what it all costs. I am looking out on a most lovely view of the **Pir Panjal** with snow still remaining here & there. I wish I was up there, a summer field season is trying when when one has to be out. As I am sitting here in the evening just after sunset, it is quite cool & I have put on my warm waistcoat, only I feel dull owing to my headache.

9th August: I have come up to a most delightful marg, grassy meadows about ½ a mile each way & surrounded by forest, 9000 ft so delightfully cool & then just after my tent was up an English mail arrived & so I am quite happy. Yours ending July 21. I had no idea your mother was going to begin so soon with the allowance. Yes, you are quite right to pay it in Cox, but I have made a note that it is yours. Don't worry about your cheques being big now, as of course they must be. I'm afraid any advice I send you will come rather late, and I can't tell you what we have got out here till I get to **Srinagar**. Perhaps next mail I can. But as regards household linen don't forget that bath towels & ordinary everyday table cloths are best got out here. You will therefore need to bring none of those, but I think 2 or 3 best table cloths & two dozen table napkins best. You could buy for the **Mussoorie** you left us at **Pindi** quite a fair number of things. I remember 19 table napkins. Don't bring any big boxes for **Kashmir**. Any you bring with you Grindlay will send direct to Mussoorie. Right (*sic*) bring two evening dresses for Kashmir. I am pretty certain you will only want one, but still two is on the safe side. Write to Grindlay & ask whether things can be sent out after you as part of your baggage & not pay duty. If they say no, then you should bring it with you. I should have one packing case of hats to go to Mussoorie. Here you will want only one (*sic*) at all good hat for Church & a couple of common tweed with a cock's feather soft ones. Everyone who stays up is very. ?...ly in their clothes, I can promise you that. Yes, certainly bring out your sable coat, it is so warm. Everything for Kashmir must accompany your passenger train from **Bombay** to **Pindi**. Then we shall have two tongas, (*a light horse-drawn carriage used for transportation*) and on that you may between you bring two cabin trunks, your bedding and small bags. The rest will go on an ekka (*a small vehicle used in India, pulled by a single horse*), which will reach **Srinagar** as quickly as we do, but we won't have those things with us on the road. For the journey up in the tonga you want your oldest things, as the road is very dusty. At that time of year we shall meet no one on the road. Your dirty clothes bags will go on the Ekka. Mark all your things that you want for Kashmir either 'cabin' or 'wanted on the voyage.' Then before you get to **Bombay** you can have a big re-packing things for **Mussoorie** you should mark 'Hold, not wanted on voyage'. Get the labels from Anchor Line Company or Grindlays which ever you got your tickets from. For day clothes in **Srinagar** you will want one nice tailor made for Church & two rough knock about dresses or skirts & coats. That one of **Margaret's** would do for one. Everyone wears them very short, as they play golf in them in **Gulmarg**. A very nice sort nearly everyone wore in **Gulmarg** was rough tweed with a pocket in front, a little on one side outside, with a flap & button, a regular golfing skirt.

Darling, don't go & overdo things & tire yourself out. I don't want to meet a rag, but a nice plump little wife, nice to cuddle on cold nights. Yes, get a new collar for your sable coat. I should leave Miss Fenn & the push cart question alone, I think. No I think if you give Miss Fenn £30 & £2 for Joan, that will do her well. Don't forget that £5 a term for Joan will be all right for ordinary subjects, but if you have a governess who can teach music & French or German. It should be more. Mrs D?...t. Would quite understand that. It is like the extras at school, but I particularly want all the moneys paid to Cox & Co & we pay ourselves to Miss Fenn. Consult Mrs Erskine & Jim Reid about things, they will both give good advice. Don't forget to write & thank the de L's (*de Lotbinieres*). Yes, I think we shall have the use of this piano. They also asked me whether I should like to keep their two ponies for them. I said I'd think it over, but I hardly think it worth while. A trap & pony would be nice, but when the snowy weather comes on, it would be rather a business & expense for nothing. Let me know what you think. I could get your saddle up from **Pindi** easily enough, but you would all have to bring out riding habits then.. Anyhow don't bring out bowlers, they are very little worn out here & not at all in Srinagar. Don't forget on the railway journey up from **Bombay** don't let **M** or **E** drink plain water & if they have anything wrong with (*their*) insides they should tell you at once. **M** says your cabin is near the stern. I'm afraid you feel the engines. I do hope you will have a calm voyage. I say Ida, you must go down & say good bye to **Una & Mary** (*his older sisters*). **Tempé** (*his brother Wilfred's wife*) has just been or is going for 3 days. Write & tell them you are going out & dates & say you would like to see them before you go.

¼ to 9. I finished dinner & my official ?dath, but this letter needn't go for some days. I've just written to the Alliance Bank to ask what price they will take for my shares if I wish to sell them, just so as to be ready. I hope you have given notice to Mrs Barber for **Violet**. Darling you have a lot to arrange. I am glad to hear from **Margaret** that **Lisle** made 10 runs. I think he will be all right. We mustn't expect him to do wonders straight away. The masters will soon teach him. I had a 2 hour sleep this afternoon with the wind sighing through the fir trees. I am halting here tomorrow, going for a climb. You can imagine

there must be a heat wave or something on, as here at 9,000 ft I'm sitting outside. I'm going slow in the hopes it may rain before I get down to 5,000 ft in the valley. Goodnight darling & God bless you.

10th August: I went out with my surveyor & had a gradual 5 miles up hill (*walk*) to my hill 11,200. It was lovely up there & after doing my work I had breakfast & lazed, & then on our way back we got caught in a thunderstorm & got drenched. I sat under a tree for some time but it was no good. When I got back I found all my Khalassis (*surveying assistants*) working hard at diverting a small stream which was threatening to wash out my tent. Now 3 pm. It is quite fine again, & I have the whole afternoon to myself. I think I must take an opening medicine.

5.30 pm: I lay down for a bit reading with 'Winkie' cuddling up to me. Now after tea it has begun to rain again. It is a splendid air up here & I oughtn't to have a hot head. Let me advise you that as soon as you get on board your boat to send away to the baggage room everything you don't want. There is generally room for two cabin trunks, so the girls might have a joint one. Very likely you will have it rough as soon as you get out to sea & it is better to arrange everything beforehand, so that you can get hold of things easily. I have a sort of idea both the girls will be poor sailors. You will find it jolly cold the first few days on deck, so you should each have a rug and don't forget a cheap cushion & a deck chair each, and have a neat little collection of medicines, such as your heart's soul loveth. I don't think at that time of year you will find it at all hot., except perhaps for a day or two in the Red Sea. See that the girls don't expose themselves to the sun. You will always find it easier to dress **Enid**, because she is so much more girlish than **M**. By the bye don't go in for being too old in dress yourself. You still look ridiculously young & very pretty. All you want to do is reserve certain colours for yourself. I noticed on board ship that those big scarves were worn a god deal. Go to the station & ask if you can send luggage in advance to **Liverpool**. You can have your meals on the train, & very good ones too 3rd class. There is no 2nd class, only 1st & 3rd. You must find out whether you can get to Liverpool from **Eastbourne** in the day in time to go straight on board & see whether that direct train 11.30 or so is any use. I know it goes to Birmingham & Manchester. It saves you the change & a drive across London, cab fares & tips. Do the thing comfortably. Find out from the Anchor Line to where you should tell the cabbie to drive at Liverpool. If you stop the night in a hotel, it would be best to stay at the Station Hotel, it saves two drives, & there is certain to be a good one. I wish I was at home to help you darling. Just had my bath. I have also noted down that the mail that leaves **Srinagar** on Oct 3 will be the last one to catch you at Eastbourne. Don't you think that when you leave, as **Violet** will be head of the family she might have 3d a week pocket money. Poor darling I feel more for her than for any of the others. You will support me in my plan of steadily saving something each month towards our next trip home. My heart is already longing to see my darlings at home. I now feel quite glad I'm not going on the Pabor show, so that we can meet all the sooner. I feel pretty dull & lonely at times. Make use of my outfit list. I began it on rather generous lines, but it will help to remind you of things. & look here, Ida, the things you know you want get them at once & tick them off, otherwise you will be running down town up to the last moment. On board ship they give you towels, quite good enough for **M** & **E**, but I should bring one bath towel for yourself & a face towel each for the railway journey to **Pindi**. I am so glad you decided to come out & not wait till March. I think you will like **Srinagar** even in winter. We shall have a snowy range right round us. We are very lucky to have such a nice house. It is two storeyed, and our bedroom & the girls are upstairs. The house is on the ?Gu...d with the river just in front . It is only about 6 minutes walk to the Club & 5 to the Church. My dear, do you realise that your £100 a year is Rs125 a month. It is rather curious it should have arrived just as I had made up my mind to give you a miserable Rs50 a month. I think I must withdraw that & give it to myself instead, but I think we should give **M** & **E** Rs15 a month, but I shall make them put some of it into the Savings Bank. I am very keen to know how much you & Miss Fenn think Cox ought to send her each month & let me know the name of her bank. Of course there will be 5 children instead of 4, but the 5 will be younger, but I don't suppose it will be much over £40. Anyhow you must give her a sum before you leave to last till 1st Dec. & 1st of each month till further notice. You must do that before you leave, because by the time you get out to India it will be 21st Nov & letters won't get home till well into the middle of Dec. I see you arrive on a Tuesday at **Bombay** so you ought to have letters ready to post for home on arrival. When you arrive at **Pindi** we shall either stop the night at a hotel (if we can find room) or load up & drive straight to **Tret** 23 miles, probably the latter unless your train is very late, which it very likely will be. I shall have some Chaprassis (?an office junior or messenger boy) at Pindi & very likely old ?Bajratu the storekeeper ?babn who can look after luggage going by Ekka. I shall tell Grindlay to make their man who meets you, buy your

tickets, pay for any excess luggage & give you Rs60 for the journey. Any gold you have with you left over from your £15, bring along with you, but change your silver. Try & arrange to have as little silver as possible, as you lose on exchange on silver, but not on gold. In your £15 you ought to have 6 half sovereigns. They come in handy for tips. £1 for your table steward should be enough. When I came out everyone gave 5 shillings each. You will be very particular about what the girls drink, won't you darling. See that the water is good. It generally is on board ship. When it becomes really hot they can have lemon squashes but not too many. All those things are not good for the inside. I expect you will enjoy the long tonga drive, but even you will get tired of it & glad to get into the house boat at **Baramula**. If we drive straight off to **Tret**, it will remind me of **Solon**, on our first journey to **Simla**, but you will be awfully tired I'm afraid, as I don't suppose you will sleep much on the railway journey up. My darling, how excited I get, when I think of it. Only 3½ months more to wait. I think this old cook I have will do for Srinagar. We shall have to get another for Mussoorie. Would you like to be given so much a month to run all the house expenses, or would you like to keep on our old arrangement? Of course I will do *misals* for you anyhow the first few days.

This is getting (*to be*) on of my longest letters. You will be so busy you will only have time to read it in bed. You don't tell me how **Bobbie** is behaving now. **Margaret** says he is much better. The next time we go home it will be to fetch **Violet** out & then we shall have to break up th house & send the boys to boarding schools. I forget if I told you, the house at **Srinagar** is all lit with electric light. We pay Rs 22 a month & have no bill for oil, rather nice isn't it. We shall have our own tennis court about 200 yards in the office compound, not that the weather will be very nice for tennis. I haven't been down to see any of the wood carving. I kept out of temptation & they will mostly be away during the winter & down at the *Durbar*. If you go down & see **Una & Mary** perhaps they might dig out some of their pearls for **M & E**.

After dinner: Just written to **Blanche**. I told her that if anything ever happened to mother, she was to look on our home as her home, hope I was right; also to **Chucky** (*possibly Stanley Thomas Grigg her youngest brother? Though he was known as Tommy*) to ask him if he would be in **Pindi** on 23rd Nov & whether he could put us up for a day or two before, as I shall have some work there in going through all the instruments in our *Godoon*. If Col. Bythell agrees it means I get down for nothing and one of our tongas up will be paid for, which is useful. Dearest I expect I shall repeat myself fairly often in the next few letters, because I jot down ideas about *outfit* & advice as I think of them. But after all my advice is not much use; but there is one thing to remember nowadays, that as long as you leave behind your measures for clothes & boots you can get things sent out at intervals. The only difficulty will probably be **Enid** who may still grow. You never sent me any measurements. They ought to have been taken end of June. Now towards the end of September do take all *6* & send them out. I have suddenly remembered that if you look up the old flat account book which we had out here, you will find a complete list of everything you left at **Pindi**. That may help you. I made it out a few days after you left. All the things in the list are either in Pindi or with me, that I bought in Pindi on the way up here. I know there are some more in the Pindi boxes; what you left behind, but I had forgotten to write down in which box they were & I hadn't time to open all the boxes. I think it would be a pity to bring up to Kashmir any new sets you are getting at home. In **Mussoorie** we shall want good ones. Write to Lawn & Alder & tell them to send you a price list of plate & linen. I hope to write you full instructions about plate & linen next mail. Could you find out from someone which sort of knife handles are the best for India, Ivory real or composition. You can have one crest on the forks & spoons if you like. It is the King or Queen pattern I think we settled on.

Aug 11: An easy walk for 2 hours is all my march today, & I am back in the little forest hut & breakfast finished & camp settled down by 10 am. So that I have a long day before me. Unluckily I found I had only cascara left, which I took, but I don't suppose it will help me. I pass the time very pleasantly on the march admiring the flowers & thinking of our meeting, of which I think every day & all day. I am still very much in love with you darling.

3 pm: Thank you my one *faile* has been useful. I still have my hot head. I think I have a mild abscess or something of that sort.. I hope it won't mean a visit to the dentist. It's really rather interesting keeping accurate accounts. For instance I see in the 7 months March to Sept 1909 while at *Vermont* we averaged Rs 844 a month not including house rent. Here by myself I've averaged in May, June, July Rs 266 & that includes my ponies for carriage. While we are in **Srinagar** I reckon if we send home £50

we shall have Rs 1010 left & I don't see how we can spend more than Rs600. So we ought to have a nice little amount to start **Mussoorie** with. My cook wanted to charge me -/1/- a day for soup, but as no beef can be used in Kashmir I wouldn't allow it & he is quite happy, makes it up some other way. You will find with 4 in the house your ?nissals will mount up. Ida, I believe we can get tennis balls after the S of England Tournament at ½ price. You might bring out a dozen. They will do excellently for practice games. I'll get a dozen good ones before you arrive. I will send you the remaining cooking pots from Pindi for Mussoorie. We can probably treat ourselves to new ones. It is the thought of seeing you again that is making my pen run on. Can you manage to get **M & E** even ½ dozen riding lessons each. I think they will have to bring out riding habits with them, though they won't use them much in Mussoorie. What do you think, there is a cat in the garden here which annoys 'Winkie' very much, but she doesn't dare tackle it by herself. You most beautiful darling, I am longing to hug you.

Waiting for dinner: I send you two little flowers I picked. They were such a beautiful red, but I expect they will arrive ugly; a kiss goes with each. My hair is so long & horrors it is no longer curly & so grey.

After dinner: My face & head are much more comfortable. I have had my bed moved into the verandah. You don't know how happy that allowance of yours has made me. At last, you darling, you've got money of your own. What you had before, the £1000 of Uncle William's I'm afraid I stole. I won't steal this, and you can have your own little bag for bridge. Everyone is taking to auction, and as ladies all get very excited over it, if you keep cool you are bound to win. If you will let me teach you & accept it as a fact that what I say is right. But I don't play auction bridge with ladies except at ladies ?points. & you must read a book on it & take it seriously, otherwise you will just be chucking your money away. You must keep the score yourself. But I keep thinking to myself, can it really be true Rs 125 a month? It is as good as a step of promotion. I shall have to ask you to lend me those two £25 you will have received before you leave home, but I will repay you all right. On the march this morning I had one of ambitious thoughts, imagining that I was going to get the C.I.E. this December. Of course I don't really imagine I will, but I feel more hopeful this time than after any of Sven Hedin's other letters. However, when he uses the word "should" it doesn't necessarily mean "would", but it might mean "ought to". Of course if either Lord ?Creever or Sir Richmond Ritchie said that I should get it, the thing is as good as settled, but he may have misunderstood them. However, I shall open the Pioneer on Durbar Day with interest. I rather feel as if our luck had turned. I have got to see about laying in wood for the winter when I get to **Srinagar** and altogether I shall have a busy time.

In **Mussoorie** we shall have to buy some furniture as I sold most of ours. Perhaps the Turners may have some. I wish Col. Bythell had been going in April the end or the beginning of May, so that you could have seen the spring in Kashmir. I am going to bed early as I have to be up at 5. I shall have a hot march & hotter still the next two days. There was a thunderstorm this afternoon in the hills I've left, but it didn't reach here.

Aug 12: A hot march & it is hot here, although it is 6,000 ft, but instead of being under a lovely ?chenar I am in an apple orchard, which doesn't give much shade. When I say hot, I don't mean hot like the plains of course. I had hoped to find a dak (*Indian post*) here. One may come this evening. A few Pioneers would be welcome as I have nothing to read. I can't get my English mail till 15th, dearest, how I do love getting it. I haven't seen your parcel from England yet. I mean your & the Christmas presents. I thought it better not to have it sent out to me in camp. My head of ?earsche have gone thank you. This surveyor I am with Natha Singh was with me in Peking, so we have good talks together as we walk along. There were so many streams & water channels on the way to do (*sic*) that I hired a pony for a couple of hours for -/4/-. Was I extravagant? Don't forget to look through each of my letters & answer any questions there may be. Amongst others I especially want to know what the Anglo Japs sold for. I have written to find out where I can write to meet you. I expect it will be Port Said & Aden. It is lovely when one gets letters nearer & nearer. Darling, I do feel for you so leaving our four darlings behind. It is cruel work. That is why I want to be very careful & methodical over money matters to get home to them again as soon as possible. I shall sleep outside altogether tonight if there are no clouds about. I am always looking forward to going home again to see the small boys become real boys. If I had had leave due, I should seriously (*have*) thought of writing to Ned Grigg to ask him whether I could have gone on the ?al... show as Times correspondent, but it was only a thought, as I could only get leave without pay. My dear, if I got a C.I.E. one thing that would make me smile will be that I got it in spite

of the Survey Dept. bosses. Likewise there would be some sickness on their part. There is no view from here. I am well out in the middle of the valley & the hills are in haze.

You must be tired of this letter. It is absolutely essential that you go & say goodbye to **Una & Mary**. I don't know how M & E can, as they can only have one at a time. Write to them. They hadn't heard that you were leaving in October. You should use **Margaret** for writing letters when you haven't time. I've just written to **Lisle**. The whole time I was having breakfast this morning under a big tree, 'Winkie' sat opposite me with a stone in her mouth, I had thrown for her. The time flies when one has plenty to do. Here it (*is*) ½ past 4 so I shall be disturbed for tea. My cook makes rather good sweet biscuits. I've never seen trees so laden with fruit as these apple trees are, but the fruit in the villages is very inferior. Round Srinagar it is properly looked after & good. I don't see how Miss Fenn can teach Joan (*not clear who Joan is*) & **Violet**, unless you have French or German governess. Suppose Mlle ?Vaudel wouldn't like to come back for a holiday & then **Violet** & Joan could go elsewhere for their music, not to Mrs Barber's, or perhaps Mlle has a friend who would like to come. I am frightfully keen on having someone French in the house, so that the boys can gradually pick it up.

After dinner: which was good. I had two Indian corns, very young & soft, but my dear, the mosquitoes I never saw such crowds, but they didn't seem to bite much. Goodnight darling.

Aug 13: I am in a lovely spot on a chabutra (*A structure mostly found in villages of Gujarat State of India. It is a tower-like structure with octagonal or pentagonal shaped enclosures at the top. In the upper enclosure are several holes, wherein birds can make their nests.*) jutting out into the **Jhelum** (*a river*) & round a big chemar (*a tree*). I have my tables & chairs here. My tent is under a small tree, as this is a Hindu shrine. I am just alongside the ~~installed~~, no it isn't, but it (*is*) a regular ?driving round from **Srinagar** to **Islamabad**, 25 miles from the former place. Today is Sunday & though I can't go to Church I can think of surrounded by our darlings & as it's 3 o'clock here it is 10 am. with you, so you will be getting ready for Church. Has **Bobbie** gone yet? I have a man sitting on the road in case a dak comes, but I can't hope for an English dak till tomorrow evening at earliest.

The first thing I shall do in Srinagar will be to send for a barber. I month 14 days since I had it cut last. I get in on the 17th so by next mail I can let you know what household linen we have, but if I remember right the list in the big account book has a description of the condition.

After dinner: A dak came in this afternoon with 3 Pioneers & other dak, so you were neglected. Also letters from Burrand & Bythell all very excited about the threatened reductions. Col. Burrnad writes so nicely always & asks for suggestions; so different from Longe. All the same I believe the latter would have sent me on the ?abor show. Now I must shut up. Darling, this is the longest letter I have written you for years & I adore you more than ever, heaps of most passionate kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

From 'Winkie', 8th August: (Private) My darling Mistress, master has told me the good news that you are coming to join us. I am so delighted & please let me lick your face just once when we meet, only once. I won't do it again. But however delighted I am, master is even more happy. You see he tells me everything, and he wanted you awfully badly, but he didn't like to say too much, for fear you might think it better to come out in the spring. Master & I have become rather jungly, but the day he heard you were coming out he sat down before the looking glass & trimmed his moustache & then kissed your photograph & his eyes were so shiny, just as if he had been crying. So I looked away & pretended to find a mouse in a corner of the room. Master tells me **Margaret & Enid** are coming out too. I shall probably not care for them at first. 'Tim' & 'Rajah' de Lotbiniere are going to stay with us for the winter. 'Tim' is an Airedale & 'Rajah' a small spaniel. Today we are in a nice little forest but, it is so hot marching. I run from the shade of one tree to the shade of another. Do you remember how I used to dislike water, I laugh so much to think of it. Now I swim all the streams & love to stand in water whenever I see it & drink gallons.

I am sorry you are not brining out a baby with you, because I always did love walking alongside a perambulator, but master says you don't want any more babies, although he would like to have one more son. Master told me one day, that perhaps you would have another baby when we spend the winter in **Mussoorie**, but that he would like to start one the moment he meets you. Master says you need not bring out a lot of stays, because he loves you best when you give up wearing them. My hair is coming out a lot. Heaps of love & licks, from your adoring 'Winkie'.

Master says I oughtn't to respect conversations that he & I have together & that he has had to put a big "Private" at the top of my letter, but master does adore you.

From Charles, 12th August, Camp...? **Srinagar**: My darling Violet, You will be sorry to hear that my hair has given up curling. Wait Violet, until you are 30 years older and then you will be as old as I am & we will see whether your hair is curly then. Now just as I am in the mood for writing, here comes my surveyor with some work, so this must wait till tomorrow.

Aug 13: I am sitting in a delightful spot under a big chemar tree round which has been built a big platform on the banks of the **Jhelum**. It juts out into the river so I get what little breeze there is. I had a long, 16 miles, hot march today, across the valley, and am 25 miles from Srinagar where I expect to arrive in four days, as I am going a round about way through the hills. It looks so hot outside my tree. My tent is not pitched under this tree because it is a Hindu praying place. There is a little shrine under the tree. It is a specially holy place because another river joins in just opposite. Last night the mosquitoes made an awful noise crying round my net hoping to get in, but they didn't & I had a good night till 1/2 past 4 when I was called & started at 5 when you would be sound asleep. Many kisses & much love my darling. Ever your loving Father.

From Charles, 20th September, Srinagar, Kashmir: My own sweet darling, Chase is ready tonight in fact he has been ready for some days, so as it is a cloudy night he has gone to bed early, and I have time to write. I have been rather lucky at bridge lately. Rs32 to the good this month. I pass one day like another, not much work, tennis in the afternoon, bridge & then back to my tent. What good letters **Margaret** writes. She wrote me two full ages last mail. Yes, it is awfully good of Sven Hedin to worry on about the C.I.E. I don't build hopes on it at all, but it is just enough to keep one's hopes tickled. **Blanche** sent me a lot papers last mail. Ida, really, I think mother was quite right to object to **Blanche** going to the Durbar & now of course as Hugh's regiment is not going, she couldn't have stayed with them. It is very kind of Capt. Twiss taking so much trouble over the trooper passage, but I don't expect any result.

22nd Sept: Yesterday afternoon I went out shooting ?Chithar with de L (*de Lotbiniere*) & young Macleod who is with him. We got 9 birds, of which I got 2. I had shots at 9 or 10. It began to thunder & rain this morning early, very heavy, so I don't feel as if I'd had enough sleep. Chase & I went down yesterday & had an hour or more looking over the wood carving shops. I thought I'd make yo a Xmas present only it won't be ready till February, in the shape of a four fold screen to cost Rs 160, a table Rs 50, a double tea tray with legs Rs 35. I hope you approve. What I should like to get is one of the writing tables cost Rs 150. They are of course bulky to move. I've got back to **Bobbie's** saving bank book. After buying Rs 100 3 1/2% for Rs96-1-6, he has Rs 3-2-11 in hand, and he will get Rs3-8-0 a year interest. **Lisle** has Rs94-4-11 in his account, so in another year I can invest his too. I have a nasty cough & cold but I took 2 pills yesterday, so I don't suppose it will last long. 'Winkie' has been unwell the last 3 weeks but I think she has escaped & is all right again.

23 Sept: I didn't do much yesterday. Tennis was impossible owing to the wet, so I played bridge & after dinner we observed stars. I again couldn't get to sleep for ages, but I'm feeling all right today. I had Steen in the forests to breakfast this morning.

26 Sept: I have been out all day. 4 pm now so I haven't much time to write. I got that delightful heap of photos yesterday, awfully good of all the children, but not of you, my dear. You seem unable to look natural unless I am there to make you. I noticed in some of the photos you can see the top of their stays in **M** & **E's** photos. I mean the line of them. This you should see to. **Enid** hasn't got her hair quite right yet. I am rather sorry now I ?hired about the Durbar. I am pretty certain there is no R.E. Camp & the cheapest visitors' camp is £2 a day each, quite out of the question. So it all depends on **Harry**, and if he can't manage it, it will have to be of ?6 and you must console yourself with getting a nice month in here & a boating trip instead of the Durbar. I can go down to **Pindi** on duty, reach **Delhi** on 3rd & you would be 12 days there without me. I don't think that is good enough. I'm afraid I have no time to write to **Enid**. Next mail will be the last I can write to you before you leave England. I think **Una** & **Mary** not asking you to Holt is just a misunderstanding. They think you don't want to go or can't leave **Eastbourne**. They are funny people anyhow. I must study **Lisle's** report's at leisure. There are to be no balls at **Delhi** only an evening reception. Yes, it is sound to get the best plate. I think I have already told you what blankets you want each, 1 under & 2 upper. I have got two spare

besides my own & two pairs of sheets you want (I have only 1 pair!). I shall have plenty of time to send you landing instructions. Just received a telegram from Crosthwait in reply to mine; "No R.E. Camp for Durbar." I thought not. I will send **Harry** a letter to meet him at **Almorah**, but I think it is about 100 to 1 against your being able to go. No, I shall not sell out the Alliance Bank shares, at rate till you come out & we see what the bills are. I think £45 a month ought about to do for Miss Fenn. i.e. £8 more than she had. Bring out two pillows each. Darling, I adore you. Do please not be an old maid when we meet. It spoils the whole show. Heaps of love & kisses, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Bring out catalogues for any things you haven't got.

Accounts for September 1911

Home £100 on 2/9/11	1505-14-3
Spent in September (includes Rs 120 for wood carving)	379-4-7
Balance in hand 30/9/11 *	<u>509-5-3</u>
	<u>2394-8-1</u>
Balance in end of August	429-0-10
Pay for August	1610-1-3
T.A. For September	300-0-0
Bridge winnings	<u>55-6-0</u>
	<u>2394-8-1</u>
*30 th Sept. Cash in hand	60-11-9
Grindlay, Bombay	222-12-8
Cox & Co, Srinagar	136-0-5
Due from office	<u>89-12-5</u>
	509-5-3

Spent in September (Rupees)

Telegram	1-5-6	Bearers a/c	5-0-0	Leather socks	1-0-0
Bearers pay	20-0-0	Telegram to England	7-8-0	Gulmarg Club	8-2-0
Cook's pay	25-0-0	Sweeper & dog	3-10-7	?Subhana ½ cost of	
Waterman	3-0-0	Club bill	16-7-0	wood carving	120-0-0
?Pestorys stores	15-2-0	Dr. Neve	10-0-0	Telegram	9-6
Stamps	2-0-0	Cartridges	5-0-0	Collection	2-0-0
?Boct	1-0-0	Ponies, camping	30-0-0	Boatman	3-8-0
Beggar	-1-0	Dhobi	5-0-0	Tonga to Gulmarg	
Cooks a/c	50-0-0	Boots, Calcutta	10-15-0	& back	<u>30-0-0</u>
					379-4-7

From Charles, 27th Sept, Srinagar, Kashmir: My sweet darling, Now the autumn is coming on, clear skies and fine views of the Pir Panjal; only of course there isn't much snow on them. How I wish you were here now. We could wander about in a boat. You could fish & I could shoot. On Saturday 30th I am going out to one of the big shoots on the Hokra Jhit. Probably 6 guns though when the duck are well in they have 10 guns, and get several hundred duck. I hope I shall shoot decently. I had one afternoon with de L & another fellow at ?Chithore. De L got 5 & we each got 2. Chithore my dear are the best eating birds I have met in India. My darling I do feel for you so much leaving **Violet** & the boys & poor Violet will feel dreadfully lonely, much worse than the others & worse than **Margaret** last time. I've broken a bit off one of my back teeth, which is a nuisance. Many thanks for paying my tailor's bill; it is a good thing to have done with. I don't quite know when Jean & Dorothy are coming, but if you give Miss Fenn £45 when you leave and tell Cox (don't forget this) to send her £45 on 1st of each month, she will have a little in hand. You must however pay the rent in September. I am sending you home £110 this mail. I am very keen on the French governess idea, Ida, & if you don't succeed in getting one before you leave, tell Miss Fenn to do so & please tell her from me how very important it is for the boys to have one good modern language. Other things they can learn at school, but languages

they can't. Would you also ask Mr Gilbert to write me a letter at the end of each term telling me generally how **Lisle** is getting on, and Miss Fenn should be told of his weak points. I want anything like carelessness, so that she can go for him on these points. I want anything like carelessness stopped at once, before it gets a hold of him. I've just had a letter from **Harry's** Adjutant (*Harry would be Ida's younger brother*) who says the Colonel has decided no visitors are to be allowed, their accommodation is very small, only just enough for the married ladies. So I'm afraid darling you'll all be much disappointed. I think I must send you another telegram but I don't know how to word it. I send you my accounts for September. I spent Rs257/- really but Rs120 more ½ cost of the wood carving I've ordered.

After dinner: I played the usual tennis & win Rs4 at bridge. Capt. Tuck, Harry's Adjutant says in his letter that he wrote to **Harry** some weeks ago that there would be no room in their camp for visitors, so I don't think there is any object in my telegraphing. I'm afraid you will be very disappointed. I wish **Harry** had found out first for certain before suggesting it. We are having beautiful weather now. Now that the Durbar is off I will arrange for a nice boating trip on our way up from **Baramula**. I know you will enjoy that. And oh! Darling how I shall love having you with me again, it will be too lovely. In less than two months too.

28th Sept: This morning I received your telegram. "Durbar abandoned." So you must have heard from Harry that he couldn't put you up, and also that **Kitty & Hugh** (*Ida's sister & brother-in-law*) were not going. So if I had missed yesterday our telegrams would have crossed. Darling I am very sorry for you & the girls in your disappointment, but it can't be helped. We will have a jolly time up here instead, and arrive in **Mussoorie** with some money in our pockets. I am simply counting the days to our meeting. We are now having perfect weather and my cold has almost gone. Looking at the photos again I think **M & E's** shirts or blouses may be rather short waisted. That may make them drawn rather tight & show the line of the top of their stays. I think they are very good photos of everyone except you. I ought to have kept notes of what I told you to do, but your last letter from home which is in answer to this, address to **Srinagar**. I shall get it on Nov 13, & I shall not leave here for several days after that. In it you might tell me what you are bringing with you to **Pindi** in towels, sheets, table linen, knives, forks & spoons, then I shall know what to dig out at **Pindi** & what to buy. I heard from Rich today. I have bought a rickshaw & ?Shandy together for Rs200.

After dinner: I played croquet at Mrs de L's very badly & then won Rs8 at the Club at Bridge. I find the days pass slowly, darling, just waiting for 23rd Nov. Funny that we shall meet that day. I think we shall be able to drive up to **Fret** that evening if your train is not late, or we may sop a night at one of the hotels in **Pindi**. The Bombay mail is generally late though. De L told me he had asked you bring out some jewellery for his wife. Keep it carefully and at **Bombay** you are to wire to Colonel de Lotbiniere, Kashmir Camp, coronation Durbar (don't put Delhi) saying leaving by such & such a train on 21st or whatever it is, then he will meet your train at Delhi. But if he doesn't then we are to post the parcel from **Rawalpindi**. You should tell the Pioneer mail to stop sending their paper if you have not already done so. I hope you had a jolly week in London, it will do the girls a lot of good. I wonder if you've had them inoculated for Enteric. Anyhow, we much be very careful about what they eat & drink, and about their health generally. I shall be very interested to see how we stand as regards Cox & unpaid bills. Of course it is perfect heaven to me thinking of having you with me. I find the evenings alone pretty dull. I must have a coat made for 'Winkie', as the nights are getting cold. I shall write your landing instructions to meet you at **Port Said**, but Grindlay will have money & do everything for you, & they will have plenty of money. Cox at home said they would let you overdraw up to £200 if you wanted to, but I don't think it will. Don't forget to bring out a Cox cheque. My darling, what a lot we shall have to talk about. I think we can now consider we've turned the corner financially. Those last four years out here were a pretty close fit. Now I reckon that if Miss Fenn can run the house at £455 a month i.e. £540 a year plus subscriptions, £89 = £629, against that there is £205 for Jean & Dorothy, leaves £424 or say £36 a month to remit home. That equals Rs 540 a month, much less than before. But I think we had better remit home £40 a month to be on the safe side. That however will leave us Rs 1300 a month in **Mussoorie** to say nothing of your allowance. I am most keen to put by a regular sum each month for passage money, because with four of us one never knows when one of the four may not be ill, & necessitate going home.

Sept 29: The more I look at the photos the more I like them, except yours. Those of mother & Harry are very good. But what do you do to yourself when you are photoed, Ida. Bring the camera out with

you. I am looking forward to the shoot tomorrow, but I believe it is awfully hot there all day in the sun. I have been wearing a pair of boots steadily the last two days to get them comfortable, a pair I got from **Calcutta**.

Oct 1: We had a very jolly day at Hokra, but the shooting was poor. I got 11 with 48 shots, of course not good, but not bad for a first start. Col. Erskine got 35, Mr Donald 27, Capt. French 15, Col. De Lotbiniere 18 & Col. Gilbert I don't know. We shot in butts, big barrels stuck in the grass. I see the trains have been altered & now the **Bombay** mail gets to **Pindi** at 2.36 pm. That will enable us to drive up to **Fret** quite comfortably that afternoon. It will be cold there & we shall enjoy a good fire. You must all be warmly clothed for the journey in the tonga, but not good clothes because the road is bound to be dusty. Then on the 24th we shall reach **Garlin** or **Chakoti** & on the 25th **Baramula** where we shall sleep on a boat & take about 3 days coming up here. That will give time for the ekka brining you heavier boxes to come up. To do this you must have your things packed, so that you can take in the tongas the things you want. We shall have two tongas. Each tonga takes 2¼ maunds besides ourselves. If I hear the Bombay mail is running late I shall take rooms at a hotel for the night & start next morning. I shall have my bearer with me, but no other servants, but a chaprassi to see things being loaded up on the ekkas. An ekka costs Rs 30. I don't know whether we shall want one or two. If you can in answer to this you might give me a list of the boxes &c small & big you will have with you. Then I can have an idea as to how to load up. It would be better if you have got a good deal in the way of dressing bags & blouse boxes to pack on board ship, one joint cabin trunk for all 3 of you. I shall have my bedding & Gladstone bag. You know how tongas are loaded, outside on one side can go a cabin trunk, on the other bedding & a bag, & small things can go inside, but it is a mistake to overload. Mind you keep out a rug each, because it will be cold. You should each have a veil, and have warm stockings on. One's feet get cold sitting in the tonga. If we go up to **Tret** that day, we will have lunch at the **Pindi** station before we start, and dinner when we get to **Tret**. Darling, how happy I shall be with you & it will be very sharing everything with the girls. You never know what a polishing & trimming goes on before we meet. Haircut about a fortnight before, nails cut, likewise toenails, moustache cut short & much thought as to what clothes to wear. But as we have this long tonga journey we must all be rather **ingly**. Everone is much excited about the war between **Italy & Turkey**. I hope you won't meet any navy battles on the way out. I am altogether Rs140-9-0 to the good at bridge since I came out. I think I shall bag that & put it in the Savings Bank.

The next 3 mails I shall address to **Port Said** to c/o Grindlay there & shall tell them to send the letters on board. Don't spend too much money there. You will probably send Violet & the others something, especially as you will be able catch **Violet's** birthday from there. I had a splendid sleep last night. The night before I didn't get to sleep till 3 a.m. & woke at 6.20.

7.30 pm: Just back from Church & I'm dining with the de L's. If you see them at **Delhi** Station, might you say something nice about the way they have been simply awfully nice to me, constantly asking me to dinner & putting me up both here & at **Gulmarg**. The Church here is very pretty, but the Padre, Mr Fellows is not up to much, he was a curate in **Eastbourne** at one time. Col. Bythell, according to his tour programme, comes here on the 9th, but I expect a letter or a wire in a day or two giving more details. How glad I am I didn't go on the **N.E. Burma Exploration** I'm much happier waiting for you & thinking of our meeting. Mail in tomorrow & I shall be just able to answer it. **Srinagar** is quite full again for a bit, but by 15th Oct a lot of people on leave will have gone. I have been asked to the Masonic Ball on the 5th & to dinner before by Douglas of the Silk Factory & Col. Chaldecote. I shall go if I'm here, but I may have to go out that day to meet Bythell. I must find out about a boat tomorrow. I heard from Mowbray today they are off to Dehra Dun to fish. Ethel has gone to a case in Simla I think. I don't know when she goes home. May, as you doubtless know, is giving up her house and goes to live in one of those little streets off the Grove Road, I forget the name & where our carpenter lives or near there. If you have time could you bring me out a cap. Get it from Brown, isn't that the name of the place near the Sussex stores, they have my head measure, 7⅞ is my size & also a pair of rolled gold links please. I lost both these things either in the train or on the steamer. 'Winkie' will send you another letter if she has time; she always come onto my bed in the morning & we have chota hazri together; and talk about you. I must get her a coat, I always forget. I think you will like my bearer, he is a quiet man & very honest. I brought up two tins of oil with me in April & they are not finished yet! We shall have electric light in the de L's house, everywhere.

Oct 3: Mail in yesterday, but unluckily there was nothing to answer in it, as you were very busy in town. Ida, I don't believe **M & E** have an ounce of music in them. **M** was hugely delighted with Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet, but nearly forgot she had been to the Quaker Girl. I always thought the musical pieces we took them to in **Eastbourne** they didn't really care about. You might tell Mis Fenn to encourage, not discourage **Violet** singing about the house. I gathered from **M**'s letter that you didn't think much of the lodgings, however it will do the girls good to have seen a bit of London. Yesterday I played the usual tennis & bridge. I am generally in the office tent till lunch & then after lunch I read in my own tent. The de L's are not going home on leave. So they are taking their dogs & ponies with them to **Delhi & Jammu**. There will therefore be no riding at **Srinagar**. Darling, I do feel for you leaving our poor darlings. I do so want to regularly save money so that we can go home again soon. I can take leave again in April 1914, if only we can afford it. I had Frank Money to dine with me last night, & tonight I dine with the de L's. I hope you will be able to bring out the jewellery for them, it will save them about £10 duty.

Darling, I wish you *bon voyage*, I do hope you will be reasonably comfortable. You mustn't expect too much luxury or anything grand on a small Anchor Line, but you will have a very warm & loving welcome when we meet. I can't tell you how much I'm longing for you & how much I feel for you leaving our darlings at home. God bless you & keep you darling. Heaps & heaps of love & kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

If letters aren't delivered on board at **Port Said** go to Grindlays & get them there; it is along the front. If you have plenty of time & are tired of the sights of Port Said, I strongly advise a walk a walk out along the breakwater.

From 'Winkie', 2nd October: **Srinagar**, Kashmir (very private): My darling Mistress, I don't have much time to write letters because I have to watch dog an (*sic*) intervals during the night, dig for mice under master's tent during the day, and follow him wherever he goes, to see he doesn't get into trouble. The only place I don't follow him is into the Club, because there is a notice up that master will be fined Rs 2 if I do, so I sit outside. Sometimes I wait for master & sometimes I get tired & go home. It is getting cold at nights & master has said several times, "Winkie, I must get you a coat;" but no coat has come yet. But master is getting himself one of ?putho with leather shoulders for shooting.

Private: I'm afraid I'm not going to have puppies this time, but master said, "If Missus won't, you shan't either." Master & I have long talks in the morning about you. I get onto his bed sometimes with dirty paws & then master says how he would love to have another son. Then I say, "Why don't you?" Then master says, "You see, Winkie, your mistress has been awfully sweet & good in giving me 6 children & it is time she had an easy time, unless she herself wants to have more." Well, darling mistress, if that is so, I wouldn't care twopence, but say to master, please give me another son. I think you would find he wouldn't be backward.

I feel so sorry for you leaving four of your puppies in England, but I am awfully excited to see two of the England Babes. I hope they are really nice & will be kind to a little doggie. There is another thing master said, & that is he does so hope the first night you are together that you will let him love you his own way, afterwards it can be your way, but he does so love undressing you till you have nothing on at all & then carrying you to the bed & put his arms right round you & hug & kiss you & do something else besides & not in the dark please, master says, because you are so pretty (Oh! Mistress you are the most beautiful woman I've ever seen.). Master does love seeing your lovely face & body while he is paying you attention, besides he says you look so much prettier with your hair up, that's what master would like, I know. Oh! Mistress, I can see from his eyes how much he loves you & how he longs to have you in his arms. I don't exactly know what he means by 'in his arms', but he says you know. I do hope I shall once more have a perambulator to walk beside.

Heaps of licks and tail wags from your adoring 'Winkie'.

Master says tear this up, (*which she didn't! So such sentiments must have been treasured*) only don't forget, & he says you have never told him your dates.

From Charles, 3rd October: **Srinagar**, Kashmir: My darling **Violet**, We are having such beautiful weather now, quite cold at night, and not too hot in the day & lovely views of the snowy ranges. Last Saturday I went out for a duck shoot on the Hokra jheal (a jheal is a sort of swampy lake). There were 8

of us & we got 193 duck between us, but that is nothing compared to what is got later on. We were about a ¼ mile apart & each place had a big barrel sunk in the reeds in which one stood, so as to be dry and yet not let the ducks see one. The first hour there were a lot of duck flying about, but after that there were very few. but they come overhead at a tremendous pace and when they come from behind it is very easy to miss. There were teal, pochard & mallard. It was a lovely day only rather hot & I ate my lunch standing in my barrel. I went out & came back in Col. de Lotbiniere's motor. We had a lovely view all the time because we were right out in the middle of the valley, surrounded by hills, many of them still with snow on them. I heard last from Mother & **Margaret** from London. Be quick & grow up **Violet** and the next time we come home it will be your turn. As you will be the eldest at home I have asked mother to increase your pocket money to 3d a week. I am still living in tents and shall do so for another month, until the de Lotbiniere's leave when I go into their house and get it ready for mother & the girls. We shall all meet at **Pindi** (where **Ernle** used to shoot the tigers before breakfast) on your birthday. Heaps of love & kisses, my darling, from your loving Father.

From Charles, 4th October, Srinagar, Kashmir: My own sweet darling, It does really seem to make our meeting near, now that I can get no answer to this & you will get it at **Port Said**. I go off on 6th down to **Baramula** by boat to meet Col. Bythell who gets there on 8th & then we come up by boat slowly. Tomorrow I'm going to the dinner & dance, hope I shall play bridge instead of dancing. I had my usual good luck this evening winning Rs9. Frank Money said two people had told him I was the best bridge player here!! Just 50 days to wait, but it will only be about a fortnight when you get this, to our meeting. What heaps we shall have to talk about. I have begun to write out your landing instructions. I shall want to hear all about your voyage. 'Winkie's' coat is being made, pultoo with red edge.

7th Oct: I am in my boat on the way down to **Baramula**, but held up by a gale on the edge of the **Wular Lake**, which I don't suppose will drop till night fall as all the hills round are covered with clouds.

My only excitement yesterday was catching a fish. My new boatman is a keen ?shikari, so yesterday after dark we sallied out "frag the shikar" We first of all caught the "frags" & used them as bait, & after two bites I caught one like a large herring in size and eat him for breakfast today. There were any number of big fish jumping round. While I fished the boatman made frog like noises, I did laugh. 1 rod & line was supplied by the boatman. It has turned quite cold, so I have put on a sweater. 'Winkie' wore her coat last night for the first time, quite smart & warm.

9th Oct: I got down to **Baramula** yesterday & Col Bythell arrived soon after. Now we are just reaching the coner of the **Wular Lake** on our way up. One bit of news he gave me & that is he couldn't get a passage earlier & so is leaving Bombay on 20th April, i.e. **Mussoorie** 17th April which means we shall leave here 11th April instead of beginning of March as I thought, and you will see Kashmir in the spring with all the blossom out, the most beautiful time I think. That is a great bit of luck, because he is not cutting his leave short, 14 or 15 months he says. Major Tandy is going to Burma & that is all the news. Bythell has made several sketches for pictures already. We get up to **Srinagar** on Wednesday, so I am sending a man in tomorrow with English mail. Darling, I am thinking all the time that in a few weeks we shall be doing this trip together & you will be saying how beautiful it is. I think we will dawdle up if you find you like it, but I feel sure you will, as we shall probably have fine weather. I expect you will regret leaving Kashmir as much as I shall. I am fascinated with it.

Dearest, we are going out at 5 am. tomorrow for a duck shoot, so I have no time for more. Heaps of love & kisses& oh! you darling how I adore you, ever your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

From Charles, 12th October, Srinagar, Kashmir: My own sweet darling, We got in here yesterday. Had one morning's duck shooting, out at 5 & back to the boat by 9. I got 5 but dropped 3 others & couldn't find them. Bythell got 12. I enjoyed it very much. Now he has gone to the Rose's & I am by myself again. I had a very sad letter from Chase. The doctors won't let him go on this show owing to his liver, however he is going on 3 months leave home instead & joins up here in February. I am sorry to say we shall not have the piano. It doesn't belong to Mrs de L, she was only keeping it and the owner wants it back. I've spent the morning in the office with Bythell. Now after lunch I'm lazing. Yours of 22nd Sept I met yesterday, mainly about the extra child. I am sure the bundobast (*agreement or arrangement*) will be excellent. I think you will have to set up in business soon. It is funny, **Enid** in her letter about **London** says, "We saw the Quaker Girl, Romeo & Hamlet the two latter I enjoyed awfully." I really think they

don't care two straws for music or comedy. I suppose they don't understand half the jokes. It (*is*) arranging for these extra children, which of course will help us tremendously. We must remember that we must leave room for ourselves when we go home. However, I think you have done wonders, & it will still further reduce what we have to send home.

15th Oct, Sunday: I went to Church this morning & in the afternoon. Ted & I went after the ?chillor, but met with a failure, only saw one bird each & those we missed. On Friday I dined out with Ted's & yesterday with Oliver, one of the asst. Residents. The Ormsby's were there. By the bye they came out on the **Massilia** & said they were most comfortable, all the ship's officers did their best to make everyone comfortable. Agnes Ormsby said you should make the stewardess sing, if it is the same one they had. only 39 days more, it really is too exciting to write about. I have moved my office now from camp into a bungalow, and a good many of the surveyors have come in, so we shall begin our drawing. It is not 10 minutes walk from the de L's house. By the bye de L says we can use their house boat, which belongs to the State. It is a very nice one so I shall have it down to **Baramula** to meet us. All we have to pay for will be few extra men. Isn't that luck. Every time I go out to dinner, whether it is eating too much or having a glass of wine, I feel head-achy next day. By myself I am practically a teetotalter & wake up as fresh as a bird.

17th Oct: Yesterday afternoon I got a chill or something, so went to bed with blankets, hot water bottles &c. had a bad night. & now 2 pm. I've just got up to scribble a line. Feeling very feeble & buzzy, a good deal from want of food. This is a rotten letter. Yours of 29th Sept. came yesterday. Darling how I am looking forward to seeing your dear sweet pretty face again. Heaps of love & kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

From Charles, 18th October, Srinagar, Kashmir: My own sweet darling, I'm feeling practically all right again. In fact going to play cricket tomorrow as well as lunching & dining out & next day going shooting. The Hospital Asst. gave me some excellent native medicine rather like badly tasting tea; a cup hot 3 times a day which has done wonders. I must find out the name. This is my last letter to **Port Said** & my next will be to **Bombay**. Yes, your Sept account of £211.18.8 was rather a wopper & I suppose October will be even bigger as you would have the rest of your passage money, rent & many bills still over. However, I reckon you will have about £245 to meet those, so I don't fancy you will be much overdrawn and we shall soon square up. I shall only send home £50 in November, but more can go after that. It is delightful weather up here, but in the evenings I feel a little chill & wear a sweater as well as a warm waistcoat.

Dearest, how I count the days. It will soon be only a month & then "this month." By the bye, have letters written to post at **Bombay** for home as you will not catch the English mail at **Pindi**. I shall send the additional money and instructions to Grindlay early in November. It's 10.30 pm. but I have to take my cupful of medicine before I go to bed. Only go that new line from **Bombay** if you can't catch the ordinary **Punjab** mail from Victoria Terminus. I shall tell Grindlay to reserve you 3 seats. I think just then there will be more people coming into Bombay than coming out, but you must expect to be very crowded in the train. I shall be most interested to hear all about your voyage out. You see I will hear all home news from you before you leave. I particularly want to know how **M & E** get on. I hope you have told Cox to make the regular monthly payments to Miss Fenn; if not do so from **Port Said**. I shall move into the de L's house early in November, then I shall see what things we have & see what else to bring up from **Pindi** in our ekkas. In March when the de L's come back I shall take a house boat for a month. You hadn't settled when you wrote about the ?Lowe child. If it falls though it doesn't much matter. I am very keen on the French Governess. I do hope Miss Fenn will be strict about their talking. Of course if she knows a little English so much the better. I think the arrangements you have made will anyhow save us nearly £100 a year & we have the benefit of having the French Governess for our children. I must be off to bed, 'Winkie' is fidgeting round. She can't leave me & yet she wants to get to her nice bed on my blue cushion in my chair.

22nd Sunday: I have still got a bad cold. I spent all Thursday playing cricket, Army v. Volunteers. We won easily, Col. Ormsby making 100, Major Rose 22, Capt. Keen 20, I made 16, Col. Bythell 10. So I didn't disgrace myself. On Friday I went out 11 miles to a jh..?l with Jimmy Mitchell, he got 43, I got 8, but I really shot rather well, as only had 29 shots & dropped 6 others I couldn't find. Yesterday I spent in (*the*) office. Today went to Church in the morning & lunched with the Mitchells on their big house

boat. Oh! yesterday I played tennis, tried to give Mrs Macnamara 15, but she beat me. She is decidedly good. She will not be here for the winter, otherwise you could have had good singles with her.

Oct 23: Today month! Mail in today with yours of the 6th Oct. I shall only get 3 more letters from you. Darling, I know so well what you are feeling leaving our darlings. I've been through it so often, but I have always had to leave all behind. You may be quite certain they won't forget you, even **Bobby**. Your account of the girls out for their first ride sounds very nice. We are going it in the way of household kit, but it was time we did, it will be nice having nice things. How awfully good of Jim to give the girls £5 between them. I must say he is a brick. Don't forget that the tonga journey will be cold. You ought each to wear some warm flannel blouses. Now our meeting is so near I don't feel as if I could write much. As I haven't had a telegram from you, I know you must be coming in the **Massilia**. We are very nearly down to the winter population. There are several nice people stopping up, all with daughters. Col. Mrs & Miss Tennant, Major & Mrs Malcolm & two daughters & others. I am getting warm clothes for the servants.

Oct 24: There was a slight fall of snow on the high ranges last night, so it has got considerably colder, but it is beautifully fine today. I don't expect there will be any snow before you come except on the higher ranges. I do hope you have got topis. If not try & get them in Bombay, because on the way up by boat I want to do some shooting & I can't take you out in the sun all day without a topi. Dearest, how I am looking forward to your coming. I am feeling very fit & strong (!) & my leg hasn't ached for several weeks. I have a game of tennis on each day this week & play my usual bridge afterwards. Not very exciting, but then I can only think of our meeting. The old one eyed Balu came just now & said one of the surveyors had a little pony, which he thought would suit the children. They could ride in basket saddles on each side. I had to tell him my daughters were grown up & that we were leaving the little ones at home. Now, darling, goodbye. God keep us all safe & sound to our happy meeting. Heaps of love & kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

From Charles, 25th October, Srinagar, Kashmir: My own sweet darling, Now I can only write to **Bombay** to meet you. I have written to the Anchor Line at Bombay to ask them when they expect the Massilia, because if you arrive late in the afternoon they might let you sleep on board that night & start by the Punjab Mail from the Victoria Terminus at 2.30 pm. next day. I shall arrange to reach **Pindi** on the 21st as I shall have a day's work in our Godown (*a warehouse*) there getting things out. My address will simply be Major Ryder R.E. **Rawalpindi**, as I shall tell the post & telegraph offices to deliver letters & telegrams at our godown. I shall very likely stop with **Chucky** while I am in **Pindi**. Today is the Flower Show. I have got to go & judge the Chrysanthemums. It is most beautiful weather now, nice & cold, but warm in the sun, & 'Winkie' prefers sitting in the sun in the verandah of my office. She will meet you at **Baramula** in the boat. As usual in recess I don't find myself overburdened with work.

30th Oct: You are being badly treated, but you know the feeling of excitement when our meeting is coming close. I've got a go of lumbago, I think from a long day's shoot at **Hokra**. It isn't bad yet, but I am being rubbed & can't play tennis. I got 25 duck, but fired off 200 cartridges, so I ought to have got about 70. Yesterday afternoon I went out with de L & Sheppard after Chikir. We got 8 of which I got 1. I've got no more instructions to send., but in a few days I have to send instructions to Grindlay.

Dearest, I thought of you so much on the 27th & 28th parting from our darlings. You are now well out to sea & I hope are having it calm. The mail comes in this afternoon. It is a bit difficult to write as 'Winkie' is on my lap. We have had quite wintry weather, rain here & snow on the hills. Everyone says we shall have a severe winter. I shall not be sorry to get into a house. I have ordered the towels & shall presently make out a list of things to be got out at **Pindi**. I shall get there on 21st to allow me one full day to have everything ready.

2nd Nov: I am having a mild go of lumbago & have hope it won't last long. However I'm going to see McNab, the civil surgeon tomorrow. In consequence of this I've been doing nothing, no tennis. However I think I shall begin again in a day or two. I've got a good lot of office work now. Go for a walk in the mornings & play bridge in the evenings. The de L's leave tomorrow & I shall have my things moved in after breakfast. My dear, how the time flies. 3 weeks today & we shall be in each other's arms. Chucky will be at Pindi, so we shall see him there. I shall stop with him when I go down. I've sent home £60 this month & Rs500 to Grindlay. They had Rs222 before that, so I think you will have plenty. Last mail I heard that Mary had a go of lumbago. I hope they didn't spend a lot of money

& come to Liverpool to see you off, but I hope you wrote to say goodbye. I heard from Mrs Turner. They have had wire put in the outside of the court in place of grass & for that & for the net & screens. They want Rs40, so I am paying them that. They say the drawing room is in a very bad state & strongly advise us to have it distempered. You can write to Mackinnon when you come out, as there are ? Vihausamas at all the bungalows. I shall very likely come down without a bearer, then I can go to the parcel tonga for one third of the price. Dearest, how I am longing for you & looking forward to our meeting.

Nov 4: I moved into the de L's house yesterday & am gradually getting things settled. All the rooms are so nice. We have a very nice bedroom, two bathrooms & a dressing room, unluckily two beds, but I expect we shall only use one. The girls have an equally nice room, also upstairs. My lumbago has practically gone & I played tennis today for the first time for a week.

Nov 11: Darling, in the evening instead of writing to you I sit in front of a fire & read. I have sent Grindlay full instructions, ask the man for my letter. I told them to give it to their man. If he does every thing very well give him Rs2, not more, and don't let any coolies bother you at the station, make him pay for everything. Darling, everything is ready. I have taken my seat in the mail tonga for next Saturday 18th. I am not taking my bearer down with me. The servants at the dak bungalows can look after us, and my bearer also wants us to take on as khit one of his friends in Pindi whom I will see. I think you will like my bearer. He is so quiet & honest. I have got 12 of the famous fowls from the holab fattening up, and a lot of the best walnuts, vegetables & fruit we get every other day from the P. W. D. Gardens. De L arranged that we only pay Rs2 a month to the coolies who bring them in. I was out at Hokra yesterday, shooting. I wore specs & shot so much better. It rained all day & we all got drenched, but I am none the worse. I got 24 duck. I hope now I shall steadily improve. It is still raining. The rain has come unusually early & the snow is coming lower & lower down the hills. I've stored in 400 maunds (*sic*) for the winter, and I think you will find everything comfortable. I have also hired a piano for 3 months, Dec. Jan. & Feb. for Rs10 amonth. On the house boat in the sitting room there is a small fire place. For the bedrooms I have two oil stoves, one ours, one Mrs de L's. Our china & glass is all out. No china was broken, some glass was, but as it was always a scratch set it doesn't matter. We shall have our blue set of china for breakfast & our old dinner service. There is a farewell dinner to the Erskines on Thursday at the Club. The Frasers succeed them. I heard the other day that Capt. Hodgson was engaged to a widow. I must write & congratulate him. I was very sad last mail day, no letter from you. I expect you were very busy. I see the Massilia left Liverpool on the morning of the 29th according to the Pioneer. I wonder whether you will arrive a day late. I also saw a list of passengers, but no one I knew. You must be in the Red Sea by now. I am getting out my warm underclothing. We shall have fires in every room & for your bathroom you shall have an oil stove. During our period of poverty, you have been so good, darling, about doing without those little comforts that you should have had, that I want you to have them now; although of course we shall always have to (be a) bit careful. I think our days of almost hardship are over. Perhaps I shall think differently when you come out with Cox largely overdrawn & a sheaf of unpaid bills! I heard from Blanche last mail that she had met you in town and that you are looking tired. I expect you must have been. However, the rest on board will do you a lot of good. I'm feeling very fit. I was rather afraid shooting yesterday might bring on my lumbago again, but it hasn't yet anyhow.



I'm sending this off today to make certain you get it. Heaps of love & kisses, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

*S.S. Massilia, launched Glasgow,
21st August 1902 for Indian Service*

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Accounts for October 1911

	Rs	a	p
Home £110 on 3.10.11	1650	0	0
Spent in October	276	4	5
Balance in hand 31.10.11	<u>477</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>2404</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>

Balance in hand 1.10.11	509	5	3
Pay for September	1610	1	3
J. a. for October	230	0	0
Sale of buffalo	39	9	0
Bridge winnings	<u>15</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>2404</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>

31 st October	Cash in hand	14	0
	Grindlay, Bombay	222	12
	Cox & Co, Srinagar	81	6
	Due from office	<u>173</u>	<u>14</u>
		<u>477</u>	<u>15</u>

Spent in October

Shooting at Hokra	3-0-0	Cartridges	34-0-0	Cooks a/c	60-0-0
Collection	3-0-0	Waterman old	1-6-0	Boat to Baramula	10-9-0
Repairs to boots	2-0-0	Sweeper	4-0-0	Shooting	5-10-0
“ watch	2-0-0	Himalaya Club	7-2-0	M.O. to Violet	3-15-0
Club	38-8-0	Shooting	4-8-0	Boat to Baramula	
?Bromide paper	1-4-0	400 cheroots	11-12-0	& back	10-10-0
Barber	8-0	Flower Show	1-0-0	?Tumtim out to see	
Cook's pay	25-0-0	Dhobi	5-10-0	Surveyor	3-4-0
Bearer's pay	20-0-0	Mending racket	1-0-0	Telegram	12-0
Shooting coolies	1-12-0	Winkie's coat	2-11-0	Leather socks	<u>1-0-0</u>
Pestongee	20-13-6	Bearer's a/c	11-0		270-5-6
				Unaccounted for	<u>5-14-11</u>
					276-4-5

From Charles, 12th November, Srinagar, Kashmir: My own sweet darling, I've just close a letter & was going to morning Church, when down came the rain again & as both my big coat & waterproof were soaked yesterday & I am lurching out, I'm staying in. I have just put on my spats to keep my feet warm. I'm afraid you'll get no bridge during the winter. There will be about 7 regular men players but not a single lady player, however, in the evenings I will teach you auction. Sunday is my great day for doing accounts. For the 6 months May to October, my average has been Rs275 a month, and as my J. a. has been Rs300 I have lived on my J. a. which is pretty good. The wood carving for which I have paid half only is be my Xmas present to you. The things won't be ready though till March. To the end of October I have won Rs145-13-0 at bridge and as soon as we can do it I am going to pay that into my name in the Savings Bank. I'm going to give myself an allowance of Rs50 a month, and you will have yours paid into your separate account out here, but it is not worth while starting a separate account for you till we get to **Mussoorie**. I expect we shall have £100 to pay off either overdrawn at Cox or unpaid bills, but that we can do gradually. I'm afraid all the leaves will be off the trees before you arrive. I'm so sorry you've missed the autumn colouring, it has been perfect. I've written to ask permission to shoot on the **Haigam Jhil** (near Jammu a lake or wetland), on the way up on the 28th or 29th. It is the place for geese. Rs de L has left a pair of Gilgit boots for you. I am getting a pair for myself. 'Winkie' is busy watching for mice, in the corner. Oh! I forgot to tell you Mrs Erskine wanted a home for a cocker spaniel, black, so I said I would keep it.

12th November, (Private) tear up but think of it. My own sweet darling, I still long for another son, and you will find me as amorous as ever. I can't quite make up my mind whether to stop the night at **Pindi** or go up to **Tret**. It will depend on whether your train is late. Besides you would like to see something

of **Chucky**. Darling, I go to sleep day dreaming of you & wake up every morning very strong. I'm afraid you will find me a great nuisance for a few days, although it can't last as long now-a-days as when I did it 13 nights running in old days. You have never told me your dates, which I was so anxious to know. I do hope it will be all right. In the boat there are only little camp beds & **M & E** too near for me to attempt anything. But in the bungalows coming up I expect to have a very good time, and when we get here too. The latch of the electric light is just by the bedside, which I am delighted at, although it will be rather cold for the costume I admire you most in. I hope you yourself are looking forward a little bit to a husband's love & attention. It will be simply glorious having you to cuddle in bed & to have my arms round you again, one hand feeling your pretty little breasts & the other elsewhere. Sweetheart, I simply adore you, my only regret is that I can't put you in the family way straight off. I do think I am lucky to have such a sweet darling of a wife. You will have some most passionate love making Ida, and I expect I will make you blush. At any rate the plans I think of would, if I told them to you. There is a cheval glass in our bedroom here. Darling, heaps & heaps of kisses all over you. Doesn't it almost give you a thrill thinking of our meeting. Ever your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.