

## Colonel CHARLES HENRY DUDLEY RYDER

### Letters 1919 – 20

23 January 1919, **SS Chakdara**, to **Ida**: My own sweet darling, I haven't lost much time in getting off. I left Baghdad on the 18<sup>th</sup> and got down to Basrah on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and saw embarkation people that day. They gave me a passage in this boat & we left about 1 pm today & are going down the river, should be out at sea soon. So that episode in my life is finished. I have been getting avalanches of letters, a mail just before leaving Baghdad & more when I got to Basrah & another this morning, the last was of Jan 22 from **Enid & Violet**. You had gone up to town to take **Ernle & Bobby** to school & also to pack up your things. All right I'll now address letters to c/o of **Una**. I have been addressing to **Chiswick**<sup>1</sup> up to date. I hope you have told the post office to forward your letters. I also sent my telegram there too. I am awfully pleased about **Chucky**<sup>2</sup> getting the DSO that is besides the OBE & MC, good. He is a very good soldier & if he had been in France & didn't get killed would have been a brigadier by now. I have a fine cabin all to myself, so I have rigged up my camp table and chair & very comfortable only it is rapidly getting warm. I have wired to **Bombay** to try and stop my letters there. I got **Bobby's & Ernle's** reports which I was very pleased. You said you were sending **Lisle's** but didn't do so, but was evidently good. Quite time however if he goes on it will be a case of beginning late & let us hope he will get into something. It is unlucky that Easter is very late this year. I also heard that **Ernle** had been 'invited' to go up for his exam in September. How I should love to be at home for that. I may from **Karachi** look in at **Delhi** to make my salaams to Mart (?) & just find out if the year for which I mayn't take leave is rigorous or whether they will relax a bit. The cabin is as big as a P & O, 4 berths & I am most comfortable. One of the first things I want to do is to get a good servant. The man I have is very useless but he was the only one in **Dehra** who would come to Mespot.

No, darling I don't really worry too much about money, it is you who don't worry enough. I wish you would get firmly stuck in your little head the theory that "Father is never wrong." Just think Darling in 1917 I sent home £950, in 1918 £1050, you also had your very large own earnings. I am now sending you home at the rate of £1200 a year, but when we retire unless we save something, my pension will be £550 & your money £240, that will be £800 a year. Then think to yourself how shall we manage, as you know as well I do that the ordinary expenses of living, servants &c will never come back to the pre-war level. All I now want to do is for the next four years to put by a certain sum monthly for the purchase of our manor house.

24<sup>th</sup> we stuck on the bar last night just outside the mouth of the river, made noisy efforts to get off this morning which failed, so now we are stuck till this afternoon anyhow waiting for high tide. This all woke (*us*) up early, so I've just had some tea. Mr Freeman sent me copy of mother's will. I always wish these lawyers would put things into plain English, however I have got hold of what it means as regards the present. All my letters of advice to you as an executor may be neglected. You must have written "me" for "you" in the letter in which she was said "Mother<sup>3</sup> has made me an executor". Anyhow don't worry about the executor part of the show, I'll do that. As regards the dispute about the jewellery if it isn't settled, it must be referred to the executors, and darling don't begin by going for me & saying I'm weak & so on before even I've said anything. My business as Trustee is to try & interpret mother's wishes and not to stand up for you. In this particular dispute I should judge that you were in the right. As **Kitty**<sup>4</sup> will hold the opposite opinion it will be quite a simple thing for **Chucky** to decide. You should if you have not already done so write to him quite simply your point of view, but if he is coming home so much the better. Anyhow I'll write to Chucky by this mail. I gather from the will that **Ted**<sup>5</sup> & **Chucky** are to be paid their shares, but said

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1 This must have been her address while working at Gwynne's munitions factory.

2 A relation, but not clear how.

3 Ida's mother Josephine Grigg (née Roberts) died 21<sup>st</sup> December 1918.

4 Ida's sister (Kathleen Mary Grigg b. 1877).

5 Ida's eldest brother (Edward Taylor Grigg b. 1871).

yours, **Kitty's & Blanche's**<sup>6</sup> heart to be held in Trust by the Trustees who pay you each of the income, but you can't sell out & spend the capital, this is a good arrangement. You should tell Mr Freeman when you want to start an account and then as money becomes due it will be paid in to your account. Mother evidently wished you each to have your own money independent of any husbands, and as **Hugh**<sup>7</sup> is dead & **Blanche** is not married<sup>8</sup> I am the only bad man to be guarded against, all the same I shall retain the right to give you good advice sometimes which you can take or not as you like.

2<sup>nd</sup> March at Lahore: we arrived at **Karachi** on the 28<sup>th</sup> & I got my kit up to this station, arranged my berth &c. & then had lunch at the hotel Chaseby. Afterwards looking at the mainboard I've found that **Ernest**<sup>9</sup> & **Winnie Money & Molly** were there, so I went along to their rooms & heard all their news; he is a Brigadier looking after depots. **Molly**<sup>10</sup> is decidedly pretty & seemed to me very nice, quiet, a bit dark & a little earnest. They all asked a lot of questions about you all, very friendly & pleasant. Then I went off by the night's train. I decided to come by **Lahore**, a much cleaner journey than by the Southern Punjab, although longer because one has to stop a night here. I went to Hedon's (?) as it was nearest. I go off at 2 pm today & to reach Dehra at 6:30 am tomorrow. I am hoping to get a mail at Dehra as I see the mail of Feb. 6. from **London** had arrived at **Bombay** & if my telegram got home that would be the first mail you could answer it by. How nice anyhow it will be to get letters regularly & quickly. I feel sort of much nearer to you. I see from a list I got from Cox in Oct. 1917, they have £512 invested in your name & £100 in my name. Since then you said you had invested £200 lately. Now don't forget you will want money for outfits (if you come out) and you must sell out sufficient for that and to leave money in hand for payments for the boys, reckoning that £100 will arrive home each month probably between 25<sup>th</sup> & end of the month. I quite understand the huge prices of everything & promise not to grumble at anything so long as I know about what the unpaid bills amount to. Try and pack your things, so that your heavy boxes come up from Bombay to Simla by goods train. I rather funk your having all this jewellery in India, for goodness sake keep them hidden away on board ship. I laughed at your proposal to sell my jade. I shall propose to sell your tiara. However I am quite willing to sell jade, it never appeals to me much.

26<sup>th</sup> January, The Monastery, Mussoorie, from Marj Tandy<sup>11</sup> My dear Col Ryder, I am so glad you liked the cake. I had meant to write you a nice cheerful letter for Christmas, no, but just at the time I should have been writing Christmas letters I heard the sad news of my favourite nephew's death, dear Jack Morin (?). He has always been my special boy, & when his parents were out here & he at school and at home he always spent his holidays with us & I note (?) the greatest interest in him in every way. He was the dearest boy & I was very upset & really felt I couldn't write cheerful letters, so it was best not to write at all. Poor Jack, after fighting for 3½ years in France died of influenza just a day or two before the Armistice was signed. My brother-in-law, Major Morin, said he had told in no one of his sons death – it has been a terrible blow to my poor sister & him. So you must forgive me for not writing the Christmas letter I had intended to.

We have had a most trying time this month. Dear Hraer Khit developed a mild attack of smallpox & was wailing at table with the spots out! He was hastily removed to the Isolation Hospital & we were all vaccinated & I am glad to say there have been no further cases. All the servants heard awful arms & were miserable & then it began to snow (a foot or more deep) & rain & hail & blow & this perfectly awful weather continued for nearly 3 weeks. In the middle of all this our gear old dog "Lancer" was killed by a leopard – so really it has been a chapter of accidents! We are very sad about our dear old dog – I feel I can never bear to keep another.

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6 Ida's youngest sister (Blanche Ellen Grigg b. 1878).

7 Hugh St Aubyn Wake.

8 She married Hugh Drummon Pearson 8<sup>th</sup> November 1919, but he sadly died in Egypt of black water fever c. 1921.

9 A second cousin.

10 Their daughter aged 12 or 13.

11 Wife of Aubrey a colleague.

Today the sun is shining gloriously & it feels good to be alive. & writing – & just revelling in it. What a difference it does make.

Aubrey is on special duties drawing up the scheme for the reorganisation of the Dept. he is very busy & deep in it – he hardly has time to speak to me even!!

Everyone seems to presume Col. Lennox-Conyngham is to be the next S. G. Tho' I don't know if it is really officially announced I know this for a fact & that is, if it were put to a vote you would be unanimously elected – everyone feels you are the man to really get life & energy into the Dept. again – it is a dreadfully dead & alive affair at present. Dear old Sir Sydney<sup>12</sup> is so old. He had an operation the other day in Delhi & tho' it was feared it might be serious it was nothing very much. He leaves in March & so does Col Renny Tailyour.

I do hope old Pirrie will never come back – I must say if I were S.G. I should tell him not to!

Col Crichton is here now. I like him & Aubrey thinks him a very able clear-headed man at his job. He is very deaf & does not seem strong at all. Mrs Crichton seems a pleasant goodhearted woman – but she is always saying how changed Aubrey is!! She speaks in a regretful way about it as if the glory had departed!

The N (?) H Turners are to come to Dehra as S.T.S. If Col. Lennox gets S.G. I hope she is not so nervy & absurd as she was – I believe Calcutta has cheered her up & done her good. She has struck up a great friendship with Mrs King, I hear!! There is no accounting for tastes!

Aubrey says he is not on Special Duty, tho' it practically comes to the same thing, as he is in charge of No 4 Party which consists of 2 men & a bag. He also has to help Col Crichton by doing his work when he is on tour & sometimes tours for him.

It was sad poor Mrs Rich dying. It wasn't a happy marriage I am afraid – she was so pretty, poor girl.

Our plans are to go home next March, 1920. We feel by then the schools will be properly staffed and things going normally again. Everything seems in such a muddle this year. We have a next Governess for Edward & in this lovely climate he keeps very fit & well. I never thought he would stay out so long, but after all he is only 8 & if he goes to a Preparatory School at 9 & a half he will do quite well. He is huge & very fit & jolly. He is getting on very well with French & everything & is very happy & cheery. So we feel another year out here won't do him any harm.

I am so glad **Margaret** has her husband safely back. How lucky for her & the babe. Dear **Margaret**, she deserves every happiness. Any news of **Enid**? She is so lovely that I expect there are always a lot of people in love with her. I do hope she will be very happy one day dear little **Enid**. It must be quite a change for them having no work to do. It was simply splendid the way they all buckled to & worked so hard & well for so long. You must be very proud of them.

I suppose your plans are to go home and bring **Mrs Ryder, Enid, & Violet** out will you? I wish I could keep the Monastery for you – would you like us to in case it is not sold? It is a jolly house & such a nice position. The Garkwar of Bawal (?) nearly bought it last year, but he didn't I am glad to say, as there was not enough building room around. He tried very hard to get both the Priory & Monastery but the Priory firmly refused to sell either house or land. Mrs Philip MacKinnon's son-in-law Capt Manley is rather keen on buying it so if he does he will probably live in it himself.

Mrs Gwyn tells me her husband has applied for Calcutta. I am very fond of her, she is always so bright & amusing. Yes, I agree with you, he is the most silent man I've ever met – ponderous & silent! I always feel he must have great virtues hidden underneath or why would that charming woman love him so dearly?

Both the Fischer girls married last year, Dorothy, the third one & the nicest, married Capt Lloyd in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gurkhas. Such a youthful little couple – he 21 & she 19. if then Edith, the eldest & the

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12 Burrard, the retiring Surveyor General of India.

beauty of the family, married Capt Wise at Cairo. He is an I.C.S. Man in the I.A.R.O a very beautiful young fellow with curly golden hair & six-foot high, so they will be a striking couple. Old Col Fischer is, I believe, at last going to retire.

How fearfully expensive the fares home are just now. I do hope we will get home in a Trooper or all our little savings will be gone paying for passages home.

This is a very long letter! I will make another cake shortly & send it to you.

With love from us all, ever yours sincerely, Marg Tandy.

My sister, Mrs Cowie & Jean have both had flu, poor Winifred was quite bad. I do wish they could come out. Herbert wants very much to get home but Sir Sydney says he cannot give him leave.

Col Crosthwait seems very keen on leaving Persia – since the Armistice was signed a lot of these jobs have grown rather dull!

25<sup>th</sup> January, Baghdad<sup>13</sup>, to Ida: My sweet darling, Two days ago I had a telephone message from GHQ saying a telegram had just been received from Govt. of India that they proposed to appoint me Surveyor General to succeed Burrard about 15<sup>th</sup> March on condition that I did not take leave for a year. You can imagine my mixed feelings, as regards being S. G. I have a feeling of great gratification at the honour. I'm not the next senior, I pass over Lennox-Conyngham & Crichton, the former of course very unexpected, but yet I am very conceited when I think I have earned it more than he has and will make a better S G than he would. That of course lies with the future, but now I'm glad I had those 2½ years in **Calcutta**, as I got to know all the ropes as to how the Department was run, and then at the end of one's service to be head of it and to feel one has been a bit of a success and that my wife and children may be a little proud of me; you see I'm opening my heart to you darling. Of course I had to accept in spite of the paragraph about not getting leave, but I wasn't going to give that up without an effort (it failed as you will hear), so dashed off down to GHQ & saw Gen. Ready, Adjutant General, explained things & asked as far as they were concerned might I have a month's war leave (all they can sanction here). He said at once certainly & they would see I got a passage by the first steamer leaving **Basrah**, and then I wired Burrard & asked him if he couldn't postpone his departure to the end of April, so that I could have my one month in England, but he wired back no, his passage had been allotted by the Controller of Passages & he couldn't go to Govt. to get it altered. He wanted to hand over to me on 15<sup>th</sup> March, and was sailing on 8<sup>th</sup> April. So by only postponing his departure three weeks I could have got my month at home, very selfish I call it. I expect he is sick at Conyngham not being made S G. Well there it is. I could do no more, so today I sent off a long telegram which I hope gets through fairly soon & will be clear. These are my plans. I leave here about the middle of February, there may be a little delay in getting away from **Basrah**; if my steamer goes to **Bombay** direct I shall possibly run down to **Bangalore** to see Renny-Tailyour if I have time before he goes, he retires on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Jan 26, well to continue. I shall go up to **Dehra Dun** & take over from Burrard about 15<sup>th</sup> March, then I shall go down to **Calcutta** & stay there a month, as they will have forgotten what a S. G. looks like & probably go via **Delhi**, or possibly stop there a day on my way up from **Bombay** just to see Mant who is Secretary, Revenue & Agricultural, commonly called R & A, who is my boss & also Sir Claud Hill who is the Member of Council in charge of that Department, as it is they would decide on my getting the billet; then I shall go towards **Simla**, probably visiting **Mussoorie** en route. I am supposed to stay at Simla from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> July. My camp office opens at **Simla** on 1<sup>st</sup> May, but I can always go up there in a few days before if necessary; then from 15<sup>th</sup> July I tour for a month, **Calcutta**, **Shillong** & **Bangalore**, then up to **Simla** for 6 weeks to 1<sup>st</sup> October, then **Mussoorie** & **Dehra** & then to **Calcutta** for four months 1<sup>st</sup> of November to end February, then March & April I can do what I like. I tell you all this to enable you to have ideas as to what you would do if you come out with the girls. I think for the first year we had better have a suite of rooms at the Cecil, very convenient as it is so near the office. I shall have a strenuous time bringing

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13 Though he had already left and must have returned in the light of the news.

back the Department to a good state, as it has been very hard hit by the war and by Burrard's age & slackness. Now comes the one unfortunate part of the whole scheme, that is my not having had leave first; what would have been ideal would have been if I could have had my 8 months leave before taking up the job & then stayed out for the whole time of the appointment till I am 55, June 1923; as it is I shall have the appointment for 4¼ years in all. As it is I shall probably take my 8 months in the spring of 1920. It is an awful blow to me having seen so little of my boys, but I don't see that I ~~couldn't~~ have helped it in any way. I ~~couldn't~~ have refused the SG-ship. My getting it now makes all the difference; being selected over the heads of others (it is the first time this has occurred since I joined the Dept.) & this holding it for 4¼ years makes it quite likely that I shall get a K.C.I.E. at the end<sup>14</sup>, then the pay Rs.3000 for that time will make a lot of difference. I have to leave it to you to decide what to do about the boys. By the Bye there will be no scope for a motor in this billet but it would help me a lot if you or one of the girls could use a typewriter well, I shall have a lot of letters to write of which I shall want a copy kept, but which I mightn't like to pass through the office. I have every confidence of doing well with your dear help. As head of a department one has to have the confidence and help of one's officers, without that one can't do much, on the other hand one has to have the confidence of Govt. in one's ability to get them to sanction reforms &c.

If you can't manage to come out this year I should probably live in the Club at **Simla**, although it is further away from the office I prefer the life when I'm by myself at a Club to a hotel, but I expect you'll come. You may have difficulty about getting passages, steamers going anywhere will be crammed for the next year. Try for a free passage, as I am going back from field service you probably won't get it, but it's worth trying. You'll probably have to sell out some War Loan for passage money and outfits. I don't know what we have in hand at Cox. I can't well send home more than the £100 each month, until I begin to draw my higher pay. My pay as S. G. After paying income tax and subscriptions will be Rs.2,765 a month. I should like it if you took over all private accounts from me out here. I'll pay in say Rs.1,200 or Rs.1,500 into a separate account and then I won't have any bother and it would save me a lot, let me devote my mind to my work and not to interviews between angry wives & old(?)bies!! If I went home on leave in 1920, you might come & leave the girls with someone in India for the summer.

27<sup>th</sup> Jan. No more news and this must go today. I only hope my telegram will get through fairly fast. Last English mail came in two days ago, one from U & M of Dec. 11, none from anyone else. You should by return post to Grindlay send me a telegraphic address. Heaps of love, darling. I do hope you will manage to come out, I want you."

30<sup>th</sup> January, Baghdad, to Ida: My own sweet darling, You must now, if you haven't already done so, find out the correct day for writing or rather posting letters to India. Don't forget c/o Messrs. Grindlay & Co. Bombay is my address. I'm afraid I shall have no mail in to answer this week and I had none from you last week, so I am badly off. Thillier & Gwyn are going back with me, the latter for Calcutta and the former to Bangalore. I am naturally very keen to get the Department at full strength again as soon as possible, I day dream of lots of things I want to do, and there are several high start the very day I take over from Burrard. I have started a note book of things I intend to do, but as of course I don't know much what has been happening in the Survey in India since I left, so I can't do much till I find out.

1<sup>st</sup> Feb. As I have had no answer to my wire I'm afraid it took some time getting through. I know there are a good many delays; and just in case my last week's letter has failed to reach I had better repeat: Govt. have decided to appoint me to S. G. on condition I don't take leave for a year. This I have accepted, greatly regretting the no leave but otherwise naturally pleased at being S. G. passing over Lennox-Conyngham & Crichton. I leave here about 15<sup>th</sup> February & take charge at **Dehra Dun** about 15<sup>th</sup> March & then go down to **Calcutta** for about a month. My office opens in **Simla** on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, that there is no objection to my being up there unofficially 2 or 3 days earlier. In my wire I suggested if you could make some arrangement about the boys that you should come out with **Enid**

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14 It was sore point that unlike most other S G's Charles never did get this award.

& Violet to Simla. If you do, we had better if we can take rooms at the Cecil. My address for letters is c/o Messrs. Grindlay & Co. Bombay, for telegrams Ryder Surveys Calcutta will always reach me. I can't send you home more than £100 monthly, until I begin to draw the higher pay, so that you may have to sell out some of your or mine War Loan. Try for free passages, you may get them, on saying I am returning to India from field service, apply to Under Secretary of State, India Office. My pay Rs.3,000 will be really Rs.2,760 after paying income tax and funds. That is just about Rs.900 a month more than you were out before, but living in Simla will be more expensive. This is all repeating what I said before. I shall be at **Simla** from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 5 months except that I go on tour, **Calcutta, Shillong & Bangalore** for a month 15<sup>th</sup> July to 15<sup>th</sup> August. Then October I spend at **Mussoorie & Dehra**. In **Calcutta** from 1<sup>st</sup> November to end of February, then March & April I can do what I like, stay on a bit at **Calcutta** perhaps. Go to **Dehra, Delhi** or where I like. This will show you what my existence in the year and will be. It is most unfortunate in every way that I couldn't get leave before I took up this appointment, because one would naturally like to not take leave during the 4¼ years I hold the billet. I shall get interested in all I am doing and want to see it done as I like, however I intend to take my 8 months leave home in 1920. It is rather curious isn't it that this long extension of Burrards against which I have always grouched should have been to my advantage in the end, because had he gone in amy (?) 1915 when he was 50 5I don't for one moment think I would have passed over Conyngham then. I bought myself another rug, that makes three high sure have, so we shall be well off in that line. I like my choice very much, they are all subdued nice colours & oldish.

With the money mother has left you, I don't know how much it will be but I imagine about £200 a year; we shall be comfortably well off, do ourselves comfortably and yet be able to save something for our manor house. I have been out here so short a time from April that I don't imagine I shall get any reward here, I might get a mention but not more; but of course if I make a success of being S.G. I might get something at the end. Success as the head of a Dept depends on two things: 1) he must stand well with Govt i.e. with the Secretary Mant and the Member of Council Sir Claud; when cases are put up to Govt they must be well put up, clear & so on. 2) he must be well thought of by the fellows in the Dept because one can't do everything oneself, one must depend on the others sometimes, men will work willingly for a head who is liked & respected, but don't do their best for a man who is not.

Having been so long in the Survey and having heard & joined in discussions about Longe or Burrard, I know fairly well what to avoid. Longe was very strict but very disagreeable, Burrard was weak, always trying to do kind things, which only annoyed the others who didn't benefit. Longe would see to everything himself & delayed things, Burrard left too much to others. With these two examples before me I hope to strike the happy mean, perhaps I shall, perhaps I won't, but you can help me in many ways. Take household troubles off my hands, look after the suitable hospitality, never have anything to with suggesting moves or appointments or even give any wives the idea that it would be a useful thing to 'write to Mrs Ryder'. Don't have rows with your Mrs Turners or Mrs Robertsons even if they are in the wrong. We ought to have quite a good time these four years, and if at any time for the boys sake we think it best for you to be at home, well I'll have to scrape along as best I can by myself, but I do hope things will so fall out that that we shall be together. Of course I don't know what work you have as Mother's executor, those things do take such a long time, the lawyers see to that. If you have settled the bulk of the business a power of attorney to the lawyer to sign for you is probably possible. There are such a lot of ways you can help me. If you decide to come out you will come straight to Simla. I've got to get myself something of a trousseau, as I haven't got many decent clothes. I have some of my boxes in **Mussoorie & some in Calcutta**.

Feb 3. I shall feel quite nervous meeting you after nearly 4 years. Your keen critical eye will spot all the horrible bits of me, I know. Are you coming sweetheart. Heaps of love from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

List of boxes in office Mussoorie:

1. China (dinner service)
2. China
3. China (dessert service)
4. China or glass
5. Kashmir carved tables (square one & two small)
6. Chinese screens
7. Kashmir carved screens
8. Kashmir carved tea tables, music stand, bronzes
9. One carpet household plate &c.
10. Picture box empty
11. Two carpets, books &c.
12. China
13. China (tea service, decanters)
14. Two carpets, pictures &c (half empty)
- 15.
16. Chinese carriage pole
17. Golf sticks
18. Household linen, plate, Chinese curtains, ornaments &c.
19.                    -do-                    -do-                    -do-
20. Fishing rod
21. Brown cabin trunk (taken home with us)
22. Ladies saddle
23. Empty uniform box
24. Letter box
25. Ladies saddle (old one) blanket &c.
26. China

Standard lamp, no number.

This is the list in Enid's handwriting. If I get instructions I can have them sent over from **Mussoorie** to **Simla**. Things we don't want if we are in a hotel should either be left at **Mussoorie** or can be brought over & a certain amount can be stored in the office at **Simla**. I rather think though there is not much room there.

8<sup>th</sup> February, Baghdad, to Ida: My darling sweetheart, I'm so afraid my wire will take ages to get home. I anticipate if you decide to come out you will leave early in April. I think steamers take now about the usual time 25 days round by sea, but there are many of them not very good, however a lot will be coming out to act as transports for troops going home, so I have every hope you may get a free passage only paying for your food. It will make a lot of difference. I should love to come down to **Bombay** to meet you, it all depends on when you arrive & where I am. If I don't, then I'll tell Grindlay to meet you & have money for you. Don't forget Ryder Surveys Calcutta is the shortest & quickest telegraphic address to reach me & also remember this, it doesn't pay to be overdrawn at

Cox & pay about 8 per cent on the overdraft and have War Loan on which you only get about 4 per cent, so sell out anything that is required.

A big mail ought to reach **Basrah** tomorrow so I shall get it before I leave here, which will probably be about the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>. After that it will be some time before I get letters as until my wire gets home my letters will go on coming out here. They stop them at **Basrah** and send them back to India. We have been having a lot of rain & heaps of mud, so everyone is wearing long gum boots. I shall bring mine to India to walk to office on rainy days in Simla. I am frightfully busy closing things up here, and have to look at arrangements from both points of view as future S.G. who wants to get his men back and still I want to leave things in good order here & do them as well as I can. I had a very nice letter from Mrs Tandy. They hadn't heard that I was to be S.G. She said, "Every one seems to presume Col. L.C. is to be next S.G., tho' I do not know if it is really officially announced. I know this for a fact & that is, if it were put to the vote you would be unanimously elected – everyone feels you are the man to really get life, energy into the Dept." Of course this doesn't mean everyone, only her husband, still it's a good thing to have him ready to back one up.

9<sup>th</sup> Feb. Sunday. I have been spending the morning sorting out my kit, chucking away things, tearing up the letters & generally tidying up so that my actual packing won't take long. I leave any day on 15<sup>th</sup> or after according to how steamers are running down to **Basrah**. I am staying there with Col Broughton, do you remember him at **Bangalore** with a pretty wife who died; he married again. I may post a letter at **Basrah** or **Bombay** next. Major Crosthwait got a wire from his wife, just arrived home which took 11 days to get out here. I wonder when mine got home and whether I shall get an answer before I leave. Yesterday your little parcel of socks arrived brought about by the R.E. Lieutenant Heygate, you met somewhere, It has taken a long time, I'll write & thank him. He is at **Makina** which is alongside of **Basrah**. I am so looking forward to meeting you, darling & having you with me. I have had a very lonely time these last nearly 4 years, by far our longest separation. Now I hope we shall never be separated again except when I go on tour. I shall have to polish myself up as much as I can & hope I shall not be told too often, I'm fat!! You will have changed much less than I shall. Mant will be my immediate boss, but how funny it will be being one's own boss as far as the Department is concerned, but I'm older than either Burrard or Longe were when they became S.G.

Feb. 10. I am glad to have it to hand over here in a good climate a lot of bothersome things to settle for which they want me to settle before I leave. I shall be awfully disappointed if you can't manage to come out, there are difficulties I know but you have a very good way of getting over them. It will be simply glorious having you with me again, but I don't like to say too much in case you can't come, but here's an extra special hug in anticipation & heaps & heaps of love & kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

As soon as you know your steamer send me a wire something like this: Ryder Surveys Calcutta. 1. Liverpool (London or Marseilles), 2. China, Persia or name of boat, 3. April 8. 1 is place of departure, 2 name of the ship, 3 date of departure from one. At **Port Said** it go ashore & enquire at Grindlay & the agents of the particular line of steamers you come out on. As regards **Aden** I don't think Grindlay have an agency, so you would have to enquire at port office. If you are travelling by a hired transport in quark at Embarkation Office also at **Port Said & Aden**. It would be very doubtful if I can catch you at **Port Said** as you may not know your steamer till just before you sail, but if I didn't know the steamer I'd write if I thought it would catch you to c/o Grindlay, Port Said to await arrival.

16<sup>th</sup> February, Baghdad, to Ida: My darling sweetheart, I am all packed up & ready to start since yesterday, but owing to the river coming down in heavy flood it has delayed steamers coming up river, however I am told my boat will start tomorrow at mid-day. One has to be ready to go off at ½ an hour's notice. Owing to the flood the bridge can't open and so my launch can't come up here, I had to get carts to take my kit down to below the bridge & then get into the launch. I have stopped my letters at Basrah & hope to get a lot there, as the last English mail, really three in one has only



given me one from from **Una & Mary**<sup>15</sup> of Dec 18 which said that they were keeping **Ernie & Bobby** in on account of colds & yours of 1 Jan, with **Enid's & Violet's**, which said he was much better, but evidently he had been pretty ill, and that the doctor said his heart was all right and he would let you know about his lungs next week, so naturally I am anxious. And you poor darling, you had only just come back from your mother's funeral, So altogether you must have had both a sad & anxious time all in the cold of midwinter, then my change of plans will also give you much trouble in thinking out what is best to do. I have been writing on the supposition you were one of Mother's executors, but I think, as you & I are one & represent a joint interest, her selection of myself, **Kitty & Chucky** was very suitable. You seem to have arranged about the jewellery & clothes very nicely between the 3 of you, there only remains the furniture. I should have thought the simplest thing would be to put it all up for sale and if any of you wish special things, buy them at the sale, you 3 agreeing first so as not to bid against each other. As we showed half to store anything you bought for four years, it would be better not to buy much, only things you have an affection for. You see Mr Freeman thought you would each have about £240 a year, that is about what I thought and a very pleasant addition to our finances. You will have to pay income tax on that which will reduce it, but even if you have only £200 a year dear, it will be certain, and a great comfort to me to feel you have something of your own. It is a cloudy day to day & pretty cold, however I shall soon be complaining of the heat in the Persian Gulf. I have to be at **Dehra Dun** about 3<sup>rd</sup> March & take over from Burrard on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

6 pm. Just come in from my last walk in **Baghdad** so I went right round it.

Feb 17. My steamer is not going off till tomorrow, so I shall post this here. Today some more bits of mail arrived. Two from U & M of Jan. 1 & 8, more from you, but in **Una's** last she talked of Bobby<sup>16</sup> being allowed out, so perhaps it was well for my peace of mind that I got all these letters together. I heard only yesterday of his illness, hardly realised how dangerous it was, and today I get the good news that he is allowed out, heart all right, lungs much better, and how grateful I am to God and all you dear ones for nursing and looking after him. What gross carelessness on the part of the people at his school not looking after him properly. I hope you have written very stiffly on the subject, all the same I am glad he got away to where he could be properly nursed.

I didn't get letters from you of Jan. 8, only **Una's**. She wrote to me her opinion about **Kitty's** suggestion that by law **Blanche** should have had first choice about the jewels. Of course **Una** said it was ridiculous & I know **Blanche** would be the first to agree; **Kitty** has an extraordinary faculty in doing the wrong thing. Even supposing she was right, which she is not, it is so silly & useless to raise a question like that when the very difficult business of dividing things up has been successfully got over. That is why I advise very strongly not dividing up the furniture but selling it. I hope very soon after getting to India I shall be getting letters direct. Heaps of love, darling, I don't like to say too much about the joy of our meeting, because with **Bobby** having been so ill, perhaps you may think it better to stay at home. Whatever you decide, darling, I shall know it will be the best thing. Heaps again of love & kisses, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

6<sup>th</sup> March, Dehra Dun, to **Ida**: My own sweet darling, I wrote to you on board & posted at Karachi; left there on the 28<sup>th</sup> & got here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March & have been pretty busy ever since. Today I got my letters & telegrams up from **Bombay** including your telegrams "congratulations will try arrive Simla end April." It was dated 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. & reached Bombay 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Darling, darling I am overjoyed, eyes all dim as I write at the thought of seeing you again. It has been a weary long separation but in a second after meeting you we shall be on our own dear old terms again and all will be happiness. I assume you are bringing out **Enid & Violet** & it will be a great joy to me to have my dear sweet pretty daughters with me. I hope this will reach you before you leave. You must wire me Ryder Surveys Calcutta your steamer, date of departure and port of departure and I am almost certain I can arrange to come down & meet you at **Bombay**, as I find

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15 His older sisters.

16 Bobby's eleventh birthday would have been on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

there is a Survey going on of Bombay City which I should visit once a year, so that is all right and I shall have my reserved carriage which you can come into if you are good. Having my own carriage or rather compartment I can travel comfortably. You will be coming out a beastly hot time of year so take every care of yourself and the girls. I will look after you once you are landed. I am writing today to the Cecil to take rooms, I think that will be best for the first year and then we can look around. I do think this is one (*of*) my very happy days and it will be a most glorious one when we meet. Heaps of love & kisses of the warmest, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

12<sup>th</sup> March, Delhi, to Ida: My own sweet darling, I hear I must post today, Wednesday, I thought Thursday was the day & so was putting off my letter till I got to Dehra tomorrow in the hopes of having a mail to answer. I arrived here yesterday morning, stopping with the Mants, and leave again tonight. My visit here has been very useful. I've had talks with Mant & Sir Claude Hill & also seen the Intelligence people & Gen. Scott, the Military Secretary about getting officers back, & everyone was pleasant & helpful & I can see they are looking to me to put some life again into the Department. My next mail will be from **Calcutta**, but I shall not know where to address to. When once you have started I may be able to catch you at **Port Said & Aden**, quite easily if I know your steamer's name, but anyhow enquire at Port Said at Grindlay's. I am feeling very fit, and oh! my dear counting the days to our happy meeting. I will meet you at **Bombay** and we will go straight to **Simla**. The train leaves Bombay at 4 pm, Colaba Station, we get to **Delhi** the following evening & Simla the next day at 1:16 pm in time for lunch. If your steamer arrives fairly early it would be better to get away the same day out of the heat as soon as possible. We will take as much as we can with us (*on the*) passenger train, but have some heavy boxes for goods train.

3 pm. We all went to the Council debate, it was very dull, no good speakers. I sort of feel this won't reach home till after you leave. I'm also feeling very sleepy, so shall shut up. Heaps of love, darling & kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

*No more letters before Ida joins him with or without Enid & Violet.*

13<sup>th</sup> August 1920, Roses Fleuriés, Paramé, Ile et Villaines, France, to Ida:

My own darling sweetheart, I have just been in to see my beautiful boys asleep in the morning.

9.30 am. Just as I had written that, Marie, our *bonne* brought in the *petit déjeuner*, coffee, *petit pains* & butter, the *petit pains* & in fact all the bread is very inferior to what it was. Now the boys are out on their sand castle just in front of the house & **Lisle** & I are writing. He and I have made out a very complete list of the things he wants for Sandhurst, but we haven't yet got the list of the things he must have with him from there, besides uniform which is all got there. I have told Lisle I shall give him a present of £50 on his passing into Sandhurst, and a monthly allowance which will cover everything, clothes, railway journeys &c, but I am not quite certain what the amount should be. Of course I give him all his starting clothes. The payment for Sandhurst is £75 a year plus £65 at start for uniform & £35 later on for replacing it, so that averages out to £125 a year; that I pay to the college.

**Bobby** has learnt to swim, so he can now go out fishing with the others. The only difficulty is getting him over to Cancale, he has to go by tram. They catch there quit a lot of small fish (*indicating about 4 ins*), very good eating. I want to try & arrange a day mackerel fishing but for that they have to go out about 2 am. We went to the cinema yesterday, but there isn't enough comic for the boys. I called on the clergyman here yesterday, a nice old man. I am very excited at the idea of seeing **Enid** again. She sailed from I suppose Port Said on the 'Warwickshire' on the 10<sup>th</sup>. I don't know where she will land, but I want her to come over here at once & that will leave me free to go over to England with **Lisle** for a few days. I wonder how long it took for my telegram to get to you about **Lisle** passing. He is very happy over it, very keen to get out to India before we leave, which he now will do all right. I rather think when I have put my heavy luggage on board of going over to France & seeing some of the battlefields. **Kitty** has found out where **Harry's**<sup>17</sup> grave is, so we may

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17 Ida's young brother. Killed In Action on the 16th May 1915. Buried in St.Vaast Post Military Cemetery, Richebourg-L'Avoue, France. Medal Entitlement: 1914/15 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal. In action at

go together & then I could go on down to Marseilles to catch my steamer there. As far as I know it leaves there on the 9<sup>th</sup> & reaches Bombay on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct. Once the boys are back at school I can't see much of them. I have arranged for them to go to **Wilfred's** for Xmas, they are delighted at the idea, they have a ripping time there.<sup>18</sup> **Margaret** is expecting<sup>19</sup> in January so I can't have them. **Bobby** is frightfully keen on sketching, but I found his painting depended on his borrowing **Lisle's** one & only paint brush, so I have given him one of his own; he is quite happy just going out onto the shore in the evening & doing a sunset effect. **Lisle** however says that the difficulty **Bobby** will have is that he doesn't like criticism & gets impatient if his results are not good.

Aug 16. As I wake early it is generally a good time to write. I have just finished off four, including paying Cheltenham College bills. From 1st Jan. 1921 they are to be £9 a term higher. We went over to Church at **St Servan**<sup>20</sup> yesterday but halfway through **Bobby** whispered he was feeling sick, & I only just got him out in time. He was very sick on the step & so I fed him on rusks & that sort of thing, also some little sponge cakes & he seems to have had a good night. Neither he nor **Ernle** are big eaters. Where **Bobby** is rather a nuisance is on excursions where in most impossible spots he 'gets a pain'. We had great excitement yesterday in receiving the official book of the **Sandhurst** marks. There were 414 candidates, 140 past in the ordinary List & 10 India Cadets. 149 qualified but no vacancies & 125 didn't qualify, including 2 who had been given India Cadets. 7 passed from **Cheltenham** & 5 failed, all these 5 got less marks than **Lisle**. I am sending you **Lisle's** & **Ernle's** reports. You will see how good the latter's is & how no one expected **Lisle** to pass. Now here are **Lisle's** marks on a separate list of paper. Ronald Pirrie & David Pearson both only just failed on the General List, they may get in later if some fellows refuse. One can see **Lisle's** weak point is writing & spelling, that one can see in his letters. In writing there were 10 worse than he (?) Successful, in spelling only 1 & in the latter only 2 more in the unsuccessful qualified fellows. Funnily enough one of those was David Pearson. It is a cloudy day today, I must have got up very early. **Bobby** is going to make himself very troublesome about French lessons. **Lisle** tells me he is very indignant. I've got a very genial French Priest to give them one hour 3 times a week, not much is it. **Bobby** has so far not spoken one word in French. **Ernle** is much more plucky.

18 August: We went over by tram to **Cancale** & fished, & caught a lot of small fish from a boat. **Lisle** couldn't come as he had a violent but short go of the trots, indigestion. I forget if I told you **Bobby** had his turn on Sunday, just got him out of Church in time & then he was very sick, however there illnesses don't last long. I thought the list I send you of **Ernle's** class & his opinions (his exact words) on each boy would amuse you. **Enid's** boat call that **Marseilles**, on the 16th & reaches **Tilbury** on 23rd. **Lisle** especially would like to have his report sent back to him, because it is his last term's one. It is rather unlucky I can't leave **Ernle** & **Bobby** here alone, I had hoped **Kitty** would be over. Now I shall probably send him over to **Kitty** or **Enid**. Darling, heaps & heaps of love & kisses, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Love to **Violet**, 9/10ths of my letters are further her too, that is why I don't write to her.

21<sup>st</sup> August, Roses Fleuries, Paramé, France, to Ida: My own sweet darling, It is a big job being mother as well as father to the boys; each of them has had in turn and inside out of order: **Lisle** sick, **Bobby** trots, both quite all right today it's **Ernle's** turn sick, so while **Lisle** & I are out sketching, after tea I'm sitting with **Ernle** who is lying on my bed. I think he's better now, he's such a little darling as an invalid. Each time he has been sick he just gets up quickly, is sick & goes back to bed & says he feels better. He hasn't eaten anything except one rusk all day, so naturally feels cheap, but he never complains. I got Miss Clarke to get me an old woman to mend socks, but I have to do

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Neuve Chapelle Captain Grigg was wounded, and at Festubert where he was later killed.

18 It was on the edge of Dartmoor. I remember my father saying how disappointing it was that Wilfred wouldn't risk having them with infections as his girls Joan & Margery were preparing for University entrance exams and they had to stay at school for Christmas.

19 **Patrick.**

20 This was where Charlie's mother's father, William Money, was Chaplain to the English Community some time before.

dhobi's lists & try & keep the rooms tidy & nails clean, it's a job too. I've just heard from **Enid** that **Neil**<sup>21</sup> has got a month's leave & if their boat the 'Warwickshire' touches at Marseilles which it did on the 16<sup>th</sup> they would land to see his father, so I don't imagine they can come here. Then **Kitty** can't come over before the 30<sup>th</sup> so **Lisle** leaves on the 25<sup>th</sup> & I've asked **Kitty** to get him a room & see to his kit for **Sandhurst**, as I can't leave **Ernle** & **Bobby**. The pity about the latter is he has two weak points if he can't manage a thing at once he chucks it in the most utmost despair. Yesterday we were out fishing at **Cancale** & because he didn't get bites at one time he was in tears & waving his hands about in the most dramatic manner. Then he is dreadful at cards, if his king is taken by an ace he weeps<sup>22</sup>. The other great draw back is his selfishness. I have to be very firm with him & always make him do what I tell him to, but he will ever stop doing anything he likes to do if he sees it annoys the others. As **Lisle** says he will get frightfully sat upon when he goes to College & it will do him a lot of good. What is delightful about him is his keenness & energy, his great love & knowledge of natural history & his love of painting. He is very good looking. I think you'll find his faults will to a great extent be improved when he has school prefects with their stern discipline & standing no nonsense or cheek. We've got a very nice elderly house-maid, Marie, who is very sympathetic & nice to the boys.

Aug. 23. **Ernle** got all right, yesterday we went & had tea with Miss Clarke & her party & went for a walk, & today **Lisle** & **Ernle** have gone to Cancale to try for conger eels. **Lisle** leaves the day after tomorrow. I shall have heaps to tell you about when we meet<sup>23</sup>. I try & tell you everything. I started **Lisle's** account with Cox with a £50 present & a monthly allowance of £6 from 1st Sept. I think that should do him comfortably, anyhow I have explained to him that he must manage on that as he will be well supplied with clothes & will wear khaki uniform while he is at **Sandhurst**. **Lisle** is quite a good height 5ft 9 & although his chest measurement is under standard, it doesn't look it, he is very good looking & now only has his old nicky-noodle (?) look when he shrugs his shoulders to one across a table to signify 'don't know'. His walking will be improved by drill & by carrying a stick which will prevent him putting both hands in his pockets. He can find his way about well, but he generally forgets the most important point of instructions. The fisherman told him to bring certain bait today from here, but he forgot the name so couldn't get it. He is a charming companion & I shall really miss him. He always thanks one so nicely after each days outing. He says he gets hot & cold all over when, as is usual, **Ernle** & **Bobby** forget to thank anyone. **Ernle** was jolly well told off by him for not thanking a lady sitting opposite who got up to pass round a dish to him.

Aug. 23. **Lisle** & **Bobby** don't hit it off; I think **Lisle** is very patient with him, a bit the elder brother of course, but **Bobby** with me alone is first rate; he has been working away at a huge sand castle he is making. He & **Ernle** go 3 times a week to a French Abbé for lessons, but the learning French has been a failure; the '*pension*' is too big & 2 or 3 boys together can't learn it, one wants to live regularly in a French family. It has been a bit unlucky that no one, **Enid** or **Kitty**, could come over so I have to send **Lisle** over by himself. He will manage all right, with **Kitty's** help. I think the two years at **Sandhurst** is just what **Lisle** wants physically; he put off his growing till rather late & that & the hard work for his exam rather wore him down; the seaside, bathing & fishing have done him a lot of good & now he won't have too much work but plenty of physical exercises.

Aug 25: Yesterday we had a jolly good day at a small bay about 2 or 3 miles away, a picnic, a bathe & then the boys sailed home with a M Du Vallon round to St Malo; in the evening the cinema. **Lisle** gave **Bobby** a jolly good hiding two days ago, did him a lot of good, **Lisle** fairly well lost his temper & **Bobby** fairly well got what he was asking for. **Ernle** is the poorest eater I've ever met. **Lisle** says he is better at quite plain things like roast beef & potatoes, but he won't even eat that very nice French course, vegetables by themselves, peas, cauliflower, French beans, artichokes, he takes about a spoonful & leaves that. He is like **Margaret** when she was small in his want of enterprise as regards trying new food and if **Lisle** takes none or doesn't like it, **Ernle** does ditto. Had my hair cut

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21 Neil Campbell who married Enid 7<sup>th</sup> October 1919.

22 On the virtue of being a good loser he used to tease that he was taught to be good winner.

23 It seems Ida has been out in India with Violet while he's been in Brittany with the boys.

yesterday, very short, however it will grow all right; you will be interested to see my 2 patches of golden hair. Ask Col Coldstream to let you know any wires about my dates of coming out & you send him any news you get from me by wire. As I wake so early I often get up as I am now & write very early, 7 & earlier, first shaving. I have to wait a long time for *petit dejeuner* which we have in our rooms, coffee & *petit pains*. Heaps of Love & kisses, darling, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

26<sup>th</sup> August, Roses Fleuries, Paramé, France, to Ida: My own sweet darling, I miss **Lisle** very much, he has been such a companion to me, he went off yesterday all right. E & B went down by train & **Lisle** & I drove down. We weren't allowed on board, but he talked to us over the side of the boat & we could shake hands, then when they cast off, we hurried out round the city wall & out along the mole & waved to him as his steamer past. I saw **Ernle** wipe away a tear & I wasn't far off it myself. I took the boys off to a pastry cooks where they had chocolate to drink, 4 cakes & an ice. You know **Bobby's** irritating way of always saying 'why?' when he is told to do anything, well, the other day **Lisle** was lecturing him on this & **Ernle** chipped in 'B-B-Bobby, you know if a tiger was charging & and a man said 'shoot, **Bobby**, shoot', even then you'd say 'why?' & the Tiger would eat you'. I wish you were here. 28<sup>th</sup> Aug. **Lisle** is stopping with **Kitty** who has been a perfect brick; she has just shipped **Neddy**<sup>24</sup> off to Canada & one might well understand if she felt a bit sore & jealous, but not a bit. I had a wire that **Enid** & Ena are coming over arriving either on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>. **Kitty** may or may not come, she thought of waiting for **Chucky**. Just got a nice long letter from you of 5<sup>th</sup> August. You must find out when & where to address my letters to meet us at **Port Said** & **Aden**. Unless you hear to the contrary I come by the mail steamer leaving Marseilles On the 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. I'm glad your money situation is all right. If you haven't remitted any money home out of the Savings Bank money, leave it alone till I come out and I will see to it. I wish you could have stayed a few days with **Wilfred**<sup>25</sup> you would then in a moment see what a difference it makes every penny one can save. They have spent every penny on the house & want many things but simply have to go without.

**Ernle** & **Bobby** have just gone off to their French lesson, it is only one hour every other day, not much (*more than*) 3 hours a week, but every time **Bobby** makes a fuss, it is such a drawback to him his arguments are so babyish. 'I don't see why I should do French here, I learn much more French at school head than I do here.' This from **Bobby** who can't put two words together and prefers to go hungry than go into a shop & buy a bun if it entails asking for it. I cannot in my short holiday be continually hurting him, it isn't good enough, and if one ever stops him from doing anything he wants to do, he always throws his hands about in an exaggerated manner of despair. One can quite understand why he hasn't many friends because he only thinks of himself & his own pleasure. **Lisle** said, 'Wait till the last week of the holidays, Father, **Bobby** is the absolute limit then.' **Bobby's** watch is going all right now, but **Ernle's** was hopelessly damaged by his putting his hand in the sea with it on. I will give him another presently, but not a wristwatch this time. It is a lovely warm cloudless sky today. We spent the morning out on a point of rocks about a mile away, the boys fishing in pools for crabs. I hope to go down to **Sandhurst** to see **Lisle** for a Saturday or Sat & Sunday, he is to find out & let me know.

I have a bit of rheumatism in my left shoulder & arm otherwise I'm very fit. I've had two small gambles at the tables here, won 40 Franks the first day & lost 30 the 2<sup>nd</sup>, but it isn't much fun, the odds are too much against one. Poor **Enid** had some more fever on her way home, it is a feather in your cap that she was never ill when with you, it will probably be a good lesson for her. You will know by now where the Somersets will be stationed, you can easily find out from anyone in **Simla**.

1<sup>st</sup> Sept. Tell **Violet** I will do my best for her in the gold wristwatch line £10 plus Jim's £5. We had a jolly day on the 30<sup>th</sup> going out for a whole day's sail & landing on several islands. M Du Vallon kindly asked us all & coming home he allowed the boys to steer. I expect **Enid** & Ena on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup>; it will be delightful seeing dear old **Enid** again. **Bobby** caught a mackerel the day we were

24 Presumably Hugh Edward the son of Kitty and Hugh Wake.

25 Charles' elder brother.

out sailing, great excitement. I think the weak point in **Bobby** is first his despair when he can't do a thing at once. **Lisle** said quite rightly that he didn't think **Bobby** would paint really well because he couldn't bear criticism. We went to the cinema last night. **Ernle** has many funny ways one is a sort of singing out something, or chanting it 'Chin chopper beer barrel' is one of his favourite sayings sung, he said he hadn't heard it he just invented it & to hear him say to me 'Good God, my dear fellow' is very funny. We don't have baths here, but as we often bathe twice that doesn't matter. The boys are just going out & the waves are rather big I'm going out to watch them. Heaps of love & kisses, my darling, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Love to **Violet**.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sept, Roses Fleuries, Paramé, France, to Ida: My own sweet darling, I wonder if you have thought out where to send letters to meet me. You must do this yourself. I leave **Marseilles** in the P&O mail steamer on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. Address letters to Port Said & Aden c/o PTO agents. In reply to this you can just I fancy catch me at **Port Said**. Enid should arrive here on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Poor old **Lisle** is not good at letter writing. I had to regularly drive him to write & thank people who had sent him congrats & now except for the postcard which I gave him stamped & addressed he hasn't written to me. It is a pity because in all other respects he has such very good manners. Ronald Pirrie who only failed in the competitive by a few places has got in, the Pirries live only 10 minutes from the R.M.C. & Mrs P. has written hoping to see something of **Lisle**.

Now there is one thing I wanted to write about so that there shouldn't be any discussion about it & that is **Lisle** going into the Indian Army. I've put him into that for two reasons one is that I could get him an Indian Cadetship & the other is that **Lisle** is not by instinct a soldier; he has never played with a tin soldier, never read a book about any campaign & didn't take the trouble to learn even the little drill required for the D T exam. The Indian Army however has openings in Civil employ, such as Political (if **Lisle** learns languages), Survey & so on, the British Army leads to nothing of that sort & finally I can give **Lisle** not one penny's allowance after I have started him; so don't go suggesting Cavalry to him please & don't say you wish he was in a British regiment, it will only lead to ructions if you do. It was very lucky for **Lisle** having **Kitty** to stay with & **Neil** & **Enid** the shop with. I do a lot of my writing before the coffee & "*petit pains*" come in, we are supposed to have them at 8, but it is never before 8.30, so I get up, shave & then write letting the boys sleep on. They sleep quite well & **Ernle** is developing a better appetite. They both look in their bodies very thin, but I think most boys do except the regular fat ones. How tired I get of **Bobby's** so-called 'arguments' & zu-zu talk. By himself I could get **Ernle** to learn quite a lot of French, though he isn't so clever as **Bobby**; you see with anyone so intensely selfish as **Bobby**, anything that interferes with his pleasure must necessarily be objected to as he always thinks he is right & never admits he is wrong, one can't reason with him. **Bobby** is not naughty in the ordinary sense but loves to do things that annoy. **Lisle** lost his temper one day & gave **Bobby** a good lecturing, it did him such a lot of good, he was quite docile for the next day or two, and it's what he will get when he goes to **Cheltenham** or any other school.

Your last letter was of Aug 7. Afternoon. The boys have gone off to their French lesson, I've just been watching **Bobby** at his best, he has built a suspension bridge between the two beds made of the wires from an old umbrella they found & strain, a really wonderful erection. Get him on to something like that & he is splendid. This morning he was very peevish over everything. We are having about our first rainy day; I do hope it will be a fine for **Enid** & Ena; it was gloriously rough this morning a very high tide & the waves beating onto the parade. I often wonder if I was as dirty & untidy as **Ernle** & **Bobby** like to be, I dare say I was, they certainly are not taught that at **Hazelhurst**. I've bought myself a watch for 60 francs, at first it was a wrist watch which wouldn't go, now I swapped it for an ordinary one & if it goes all right I'll give it to **Ernle**. I think I made a mistake in giving them wrist watches so young. **Bobby** broke the glass of his.

**Lisle** must be reporting at Sandhurst just now. He is posted to No 4 Company. I have enough money without selling out to start **Lisle** & pay the boys schooling. The payments for **Lisle** come to

£140 the first year and £100 the 2nd year, then he has his allowance of £6 a month. Well anyhow we have 3 of our children settled. I wish **Violet** would find someone nice to marry. I gave **Lisle** £2 for a personally present & **Margaret** & **Enid** each gave him 10/-. I can't tell you how kind Miss Clark & her niece Miss Poynder have been; do be nice to the latter's brother, he was put on to be an extra ADC for the P. of Wales visit, but I don't know whether he goes with the Duke of Connaught. You haven't told me whether you have taken on "Balguholy" (?) for next year or not. I wonder if you ever got my wire about **Lisle** passing. I sent it off on the 6th or 7th August. I think all the boys prefer money for presents, then they can spend it on whatever they like. **Ernle** has 1/- a week pocket money, I asked him what he spent it on, he said 'generally ices'. His stammer varies, sometimes very little sometimes a good deal, he knows of it himself, because he said to me that his stammering prevented him from talking, **Ernle** has a very fine character, a most dear little boy & here is a tip, praise him most warmly when he does anything well, he doesn't say anything in reply, but his face flushes & you can see he is happy. He having been with **Lisle** for one term at College has been very good for him & now being on his own will be good for him. You would be amused at **Lisle** giving his opinion freely about all sorts of things, he said once 'I think mother made a mistake in doing so much for **Ernle** & **Bobby** bathing them & all that sort of rot, I say, let them do it themselves & make them do it again if they don't do it properly.'

Sept 7. Since **Enid** arrived on the 4<sup>th</sup> I have neglected you. It is so delightful having darling **Enid** with me, not altered a bit just the dear she always was, but my dear she is pulled down with a fever & had more on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> now it has gone, and I have to feed her up & you know that is no easy matter, as quite naturally after so much fever she has to be tempted along & has little appetite. Fortunately we've now got most lovely weather, perfect. We all go over to England on the 15th. A man has been drowned in the sea just opposite, thought to have fainted in the water. I think **Enid** will soon pick up & today she has no fever (now yesterday) & a flicker of colour in her cheeks & she slept well. Ena is a little dear, the sweetest most affectionate manner & quite a little mother to **Enid**. Ena isn't pretty, she has a quaint face & an extraordinary amount of hair, she is a ¼" shorter than **Bobby**, but over a year younger. I am trying to teach her to swim. **Bobby** can swim quite nicely now & they both (Ena & **Bobby**) like going under water. **Lisle**, I think, has been well equipped for Sandhurst, **Kitty** said he had everything & more than enough. Yours of Aug. 12 arrived yesterday, apparently you are arranging to take on Balguholy for next year which will be nice. You have probably found out by now where the Somersets are going to. I've got the list of things you want & will do my best for you. Enid says linen sheets are £12 a pair, quite imposs. so you will have 2 have cotton. Heaps of love darling & kisses from your loving husband & lover, Charlie.

Love to **Violet**.

**Lisle** has a room with one other fellow, Pope, from Winchester, whom he says is nice."

15<sup>th</sup> September, (place not given, probably 115 Cromwell Road), to **Ida**: My own sweet darling, I have had the most a lovely week with **Enid**, she is an absolute perfect darling; I've never met anyone, barring yourself who is such a dear in every way. She came looking a wreck, had two days fever & then began to pick up; she has been so good about doing everything I tell her, you would hardly believe it she has taken a great deal of milk every day, and a large glass of wine twice a day & has a good appetite & a good colour, so I think her visit has been a success. She is the dearest little mother to us all, looks after everyone & everything, **Bobby** obeys her at once, she would look sweet with a family of her own. You may be quite happy about her loving **Neil**, she does, I gradually wormed it out of her & he adores her. We fortunately have had glorious weather. The boys are out having their last swim, it is 2 pm & we leave at 5 pm. **Enid** and I are writing; every now & then I'd tell her she is pretty. She is the most unconceited person you ever met, came here without a looking glass; marriage has improved her a lot. She is a most interesting gold to talk to & always sympathetic & sweet. I do hope they will go to **Lucknow**, wouldn't that be delightful.

I shall finish this in London; so end the most glorious holidays I've ever had, I feel a beast saying this when you are not here, but it is your own fault for giving me such perfectly delightful children.

You would have loved to have watched as **Enid** & I did the boys this morning diving clean through waves, they do it all splendidly & look so manly. You have been an absolute darling, & when I look at them & and **Enid** I wish you could have had another ½ dozen. I know what a lot you think of **Enid** & nothing you think of her is too much. How lucky **Neil** is & I fancy he knows it.

15<sup>th</sup> Sept. Here are **Bobby** and I at the Lurgan (?) Hotel. We left poor old **Ernle** at Southampton his train not leaving till 3 hours after ours, he broke down completely, I expect he did feel pretty lonely & miserable. He has a most lovable nature. I gave him £1 for his term money & at extra £1 so he had plenty, as I gave him 30 shillings for his journey money. **Kitty** & **Neil** met us at Waterloo & took away their belongings. Little Ena thanked me so prettily. Neil & Enid took us in a hired motor he has & dropped us here. **Bobbie** and I are having tea with **Kitty** today & we are lunching with **Neil** & **Enid** at the Bath Club tomorrow, then **Enid** & I are going shopping. I've brought **Enid** back looking tons better. I gave her 3 fine carnations to set off her pretty face. The boat leaving **Marseilles** on the 9th is the "Kashmir", quite a good boat. I suppose it will be mine, but I haven't heard definitely.

I miss **Enid** very much. She has been so sweet & loving to me. I'm rather rushed darling, must write to **Ernle** & **Lisle**, heaps of love & kisses of the most passionate order, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

19<sup>th</sup> September, 115 Cromwell Road, to Ida: My own sweet darling, I've been running round P&O, India Office &c. & find that the first passage I can get is in the "Dongola", leaving **Marseilles** on the 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. and I suppose reaching **Bombay** on the 14th November. I have to go to the India Office tomorrow to see them about extending my leave and wiring out to India. It is a great disappointment to me, because I am so longing to see your dear sweet pretty face again & kiss you & so on & so on!! I am writing out by this mail to Colonel Coldstream to find out where I should take over from him, it might be **Delhi** and you might come down & be with me there for a week, if you can get accommodation in some hotel. There is generally a meeting of the Board of Scientific Advice which I have to attend at **Delhi**; last year it was Nov.19. I'll tell him to let you know. I've done a certain amount of shopping. I went with **Kitty** & **Enid** to the dressmaker & there was a long discussion about your dresses which I thought sounded very pretty & the colours & arrangement all A1; we then went to Gooch's & saw hats, frightful prices but nice. The day before **Enid** & I went to the furrier & selected your white fox skin for a stole, it was the best we could spot in the shop, and darling that will be my present to you.

I dined last night with Uncle Henry Bouverie & found him very pleasant; I should say he was very fond of **Enid**, anyhow he made her take champagne & a glass of port & then afterwards **Neil** needs **Enid** (*to*) bring down her sketches of Acre, very good<sup>26</sup> and Uncle H admired them & said they showed great talent. Uncle George (Colonel Bouverie)<sup>27</sup> was also there, very deaf & rather paralysed. **Enid** has the use of the carriage whenever she wants. **Bobby** goes back on the 21<sup>st</sup> & I go up to **Margaret's** on the 23<sup>rd</sup>; this extra time will allow me to pay each of the boys a visit. **Ernle** didn't get a double move as I had hoped, only the top boy did that but I should say he won't be far off top in his new class. **Enid** is looking perfectly lovely, & looked & talked perfectly charmingly & naturally last night no one could help loving her. **Kitty** very sweetly had **Bobby** to dine & sleep last night & he came back by tube by himself, at my request to give him confidence, and I've taught him to talk on the telephone. **Chucky** is at home, he comes back from Scotland tomorrow so I shall see him. Our battlefield trip is still on but now takes place after Oct. 21 when I put my luggage on board, probably **Chucky** will do it to, & come down to **Marseilles** with me, as he sails from **Marseilles** on the 31st. **Bobby** & I did Westminster Abbey thoroughly, the tombs of the kings & all & yesterday we & **Kitty** did the zoo. On Friday night I had an adventure, I went down after dinner to have a talk with **Kitty**, came back about midnight, found this place closed, couldn't get in, spent an hour trying & then found a policeman who directed me to a large hotel near Gloucester Road & I spent the night there & felt rather disreputable coming back here about 7 am. Unluckily I had no

26 Grandson Lisle has two framed.

27 I can't work out where the Bouveries fit in, but I suspect them to be relations of Neil Campbell's.



pretty girl to keep me company! It's a lovely day today, bright sun with a nice nip in the air. I must go & see **Bobby** now, he is writing to **Ernle**. Beloved, I adore you. I'll do all your shopping for you, at least I expect I can with **Kitty's** help.

Sept. 23. I am starting for Margaret's in ½ an hour, all packed up & just had a line to say that Miss Fenn had died suddenly. We owe her much for her loving care of our children for so many years. We owe her much for loving care of our children for so many years. Aunt **Gussie**<sup>28</sup> told me. I'd have gone to her funeral which was to be at Croydon, but I don't want to put off going to **Margaret**. I will write more from her. You had just heard of **Lisle's** passing. God bless you darling. I've wired to you & told the India Office to wire to Govt of India that I sail on the "Dongola" 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. from **Marseilles**. Heaps of love, sweetheart. I am trying to bring you out a pink transparent nightie, etc. Your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Love to **Violet**. I think I'll manage all your shopping. **Enid** & I got V her gold wrist watch, about £15 very pretty.

26<sup>th</sup> September, The Barracks, Beverley, to Ida: My own sweet darling, As far as I know these are my plans. I came up here on the 23rd & stay till the 5th (**Enid** arrives here either 2nd or 4th), then I go through town where I pick up **Kitty** & **Chucky** & we all go down to **Deal**, to see Aunt Clara<sup>29</sup>, **Chucky** stays with them, **Kitty** & I go to some hotel, till the 9th when I come through town & go down to **Camberley** & stay with **Lisle** for the weekend. On the 11th I come up to town for 2 days & stay with **Kitty**, & on the 13th to 16th I go to Battle Mears (?), It is quite close, 5 miles or so from **St Leonards**, so I'll arrange with Jim Reid to go over & see him. On the 16th I come up to **Frant**, it is on the same line, & stay there for the weekend; I hope to see **Bobby** in a football match & also I hope **Enid** will be able to stay there too. Then on the 18th I come up to town for final packing, put my luggage on board on the 21st & on the 23rd **Kitty**, **Chucky** & I go over to France to see **Harry's**<sup>30</sup> & **Hugh's**<sup>31</sup> graves & some of the famous places, ending up at **Paris**, where they go back & I go on to **Marseilles** to catch my "Dongola" sailing from **Marseilles** on the 30th October. Darling **Margaret** is & looks very fit & is as sweet & fit as ever; she is a darling. Today we went out to lunch, drove about 9 miles to some people, Harrison, his sister is an aunt of **Claud's**<sup>32</sup>. **Margaret** isn't keen on going out, but modern loose style of dress do not show her condition a bit<sup>33</sup>. I had a very jolly five days with **Bobby** in London we saw many things & he was a very jolly little companion. I made him do as much as possible for himself, taught him to use the telephone, take tickets on the tube &c. By himself **Bobby** is charming, it is his constant nagging at **Ernle** that annoys me. **Lisle's** address is GC L.C.D. Ryder, Royal Military College, Camberley, Surrey. GC stands for Gentleman Cadet. Don't please suggest his going into the cavalry, without private means he would be miserable & only run into debt. He like you my dear is not a careful manager of money; his suggesting he should buy a gun with my present & let himself in for £3-10-0 a year for a license, with a possibility of shooting a rabbit or two, is of course quite ridiculous. **Neil** & **Chucky** both agreed with me. Today is Sunday, on Tuesday we go to lunch with Maud Buckton, going by train.

29<sup>th</sup> Sept. I enclose you **Bobby's** letter isn't it good. I went over yesterday to the Bucktons & had a very pleasant day; they are going to Cheltenham next week & are going to ask **Ernle** out to tea. **Claud** has gone out shooting today so **Margaret** & I are alone together. I am hoping to bring you out a boudoir cap, but I shall have to get **Enid** to choose it. I'll make more effort to get you a nightie the sort I want, very transparent, very décolleté & altogether as improper as I can find. **Kitty** has offered to come up here & look after **Margaret** in January, isn't it sweet of her. **Margaret** is very pleased. Heaps of love, darling & kisses galore, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

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28 Augusta Currie, his mother's sister.

29 Ida's mother's sister b. 1853.

30 Ida's brother.

31 Kitty's son.

32 Margaret's husband.

33 Patrick due in less 4 months.

Love to **Violet**. I am trying to get her a good atlas.

3<sup>rd</sup> October, Beverley, to Ida: My own sweet darling, Yesterday I went into York & had lunch & a jolly good talk over old times with General Davies & then met **Enid** & brought her in here. She was looking pretty than ever, she has a very pretty grey fur coat, it is really only rabbit, but looks very smart. **Margaret** met her at the station here & we motored up. **Enid** only weighs 7 stone 10 lbs, so you can imagine what she weighed when she came to **Paramé**, it must have been well under 7 stone. She had one slight go of fever about 10 days ago, but only for a few hours. **Margaret** looks & is very well. Even you would be interested over **Margaret's** fowls; she keeps most regular accounts & up to date in 7 months has made a profit of about £6, including her stock in hand; she has 10 pullets too who ought to begin laying in the next month & than she'll be making a fine profit; she had 6 eggs yesterday, and the hens all look so smart & nice, and **Margaret** has learnt thoroughly all about them. She & **Enid** are both sewing. It is lovely being with both of them, they are both darlings each in their own way. I am hoping to have one mornings shopping with **Enid** in town, there are a lot of small odds & ends I'd liked to bring you out if I can. I have had such a good time at home, and spent such a lot of money that I'd love to get you all I can, darling. **Margaret** has just received the pink nightie from you, she is awfully pleased with it. My passage is all right by the "Dongola". I heard yesterday definitely.

I heard from Mr Darlington that they had a case of mumps, it is a good thing for boys to get this sort of thing over, but I hope it won't interfere with our trip to **Hazlehurst** on the 16th.

Oct. 4. I send you one of your 10/- warrants, sign it in the usual place & send it to your bank. I hope you will have arranged with Col Coldstream when & where you & I are to meet. I can't tell you how I'm longing to be with you again. I have heaps to talk about and I want to love you & still more to be loved, will you? God bless you darling. I don't suppose I shall meet many letters en route, so write to me c/o Grindlay, Bombay & put in anything important that has happened the last month or so. Ever your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Tell Violet her watch cost £15-15-0, so it will include Jim's present, & I'll give her the odd 15 bob.

12<sup>th</sup> October, (presumably W. London) to Ida: My own sweet darling, I am now in the final rush, out all day today shopping with **Enid** & I think we have got everything, prices awful. I spent 2 days with **Lisle** at **Sandhurst**, & saw over the R.M.C. & his room. I stayed at a little hotel, just outside the gates. **Lisle** met me at the station in plain clothes, looking very nice & manly, a nice suit he got at my tailors with the old Cheltonian tie. He is rather at the pimply stage. On Sunday I saw the Church parade. **Lisle** had his earlier but I saw him in uniform, khaki serge, belt & putties. He saluted me quite smartly. You would have loved to have seen him. **In the afternoon we went & called on the Pirries, who have a very nice house about a mile away.** **Lisle** was very excited over a rumour that the Indian Cadets were to go out to India very soon. I asked at the India Office & they said there was no idea of it. I also found out that his Indian Cadetship gives him first claim to go into the Indian Army if he wishes it but doesn't tie him down to it if he prefers British service, but without an allowance he can't live a happy life in a British Regt. **Lisle** has had no extra drills or punishments, so he has made a good start. So has **Ernle** he was 5<sup>th</sup> first week & 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> week. **Kitty** is passing on **Harry's** field glasses & revolver to us; I think **Lisle** should have them first and then if you like pass them on to **Ernle**. I got your nightie, pink with blue ribbons, very pretty. I didn't get you a boudoir cap; I found out from **Enid** that **Neil** won't let her wear one, truth is sweetheart that (private) if you have a pretty wife whom you like paying attention to, no amorous husband likes a boudoir cap, sorry, but there it is.

I've had a topping time at home & everyone has been most sweet & kind. I haven't had a moment that I haven't enjoyed and I think I've given the boys a good buck up. I'm stopping with **Kitty** these two days & go down to the Mears tomorrow & to **Bobby** on 16th to 18th. **Neil** & **Enid** have got a passage in the "Caledonia" to Egypt, leaving Marseilles on 7th November (same boat as **Chucky**), so they leave London on 29th & go to Monte Carlo to see his Father. **Kitty**, **Chucky** & I leave on 22nd to see the battlefields. I am standing **Kitty** the trip, she has been a perfect brick, putting me up

& **Lisle**, all our children love her. I have to do some packing tonight & move my things over to Cromwell Road rooms for my final packing. I got a new cabin trunk for your dresses, it will come in handy. We are seeing the dresses tomorrow, the material I have seen is lovely. I have seen the four hats at Goodes, very nice & smart. Darling, there are thousands of things I should love to have got you. I'm getting so excited to be with you again. You'll find me unchanged, always ready to love you as much as I am allowed! Heaps of love, my pet, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Love to **Violet**.

26<sup>th</sup> November, Gratnar, **North Bovey**, Moretonhampstead, **Wilfred** to his brother **Charlie**:

My dear **Charlie**, First of all for your kindly suggestion that we should charge you more than (*sic*) your boys keep here. Thanks very much but we couldn't possibly for many reasons not the least of which is that we like having them for their own sake. If I find the 25/- does not even then keep I'll tell you like a shot & charge you more but I don't at present think it will.

Next we were startled the other day by a very kind letter from **Mabel Harrowby**<sup>34</sup> asking us all including your 3 boys to **Sandon** for the Xmas week. We thought it over & came to the conclusion that it would be an excellent thing for all these young people to see **Sandon** so we accepted. We like going there ourselves to but should not ordinarily have taken such a long journey just now because of the expense. However for **Joan & Margery's**<sup>35</sup> sake we waived that consideration and thought you would waive it to on behalf of your three.

To save expense we shall not collect here but all converge on **Sandon** from different quarters & then return here for the remainder of the holidays.

What annoys me is that I shall have to get some clothes which I have not done for several years & hoped to avoid doing for at least one more.

Now 3rdly **Tempé** once supplies of the enclosed which can only be obtained as far as I know from the Delhi Bazaar whence I obtained her the last supply. It's called "Tangittie" & she uses it for making artificial flowers & ornaments.

Will you get the following amounts for me & let me know cost. I can adjust it through the Xmas bill. It's much cheaper to buy in the bazaar devoted to this stuff right in the city and not in the Chandni Chouk<sup>36</sup> where as you know everything is ruinous. It's important that exactly the same thickness as in samples should be got. They are rather inclined to sell one the European made stuff; much of it used to come from **Nizni Novgorod** on the Volga once, but the stuff made in Delhi or in sonapat (?) & neighbourhood is much more suitable. I shall be infinitely obliged if you can do this for me.

Well best Xmas wishes to Ida & you & **Violet** from us both & may you all be home again soon.

Yr. loving brother, **Wilfred Ryder**.

14<sup>th</sup> December, Gratnar, **North Bovey**, Moretonhampstead, **Wilfred** to his brother **Charlie**:

My dear Charlie, Things have been developing so fast & so unfortunately that I must try & give you some idea of them.

I told you that we were all including your three going up to **Sandon** for 10 days at Xmas. Well that was all fixed & everyone looking forward to a good time when **Tempé** suddenly got a letter from Mr Darlington (Sunday the 5th) saying they had had a lot of mumps at the school – all the term apparently – & that **Bobby** even if no more cases occurred would not be out of quarantine till the 26th. You see apart from the possibility of a development of the infection preventing any of them from getting back to their respective schools, there is the insuperable difficulty of **Joan's** Matriculation Exam; which comes off in London on the 10th. You see I have been to the expense of

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34 Countess, wife of the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl, a third cousin, at Sandon Hall, Staffs.

35 Daughters of Wilfred & Tempé.

36 The oldest and busiest market in Old Delhi.

keeping her on at school for an extra 6 months in the hopes of her getting through & I simply cannot run any avoidable risk which might stop her going up for the exam; at all. If she misses this opportunity I can't afford to give her another six months preparation for it & the exam is very important for her future should she have to earn her own living.

After thinking this all over carefully we agreed that the only thing was to ask Mrs Darlington to hold onto **Bobby** until he was out of quarantine & then send him on to us at Sandon.

Now I hear from **Claud Riall** who encloses a letter from Darlington objecting pretty strongly to keeping **Bobby** & saying that the expense to you will be considerable & also be desperately dull for **Bobby**. He also mentions that he, **Bobby**, would not be clear of quarantine until after the New Year. **Claud** has written to Dr Colgate & to **Mrs Wake**<sup>37</sup> to see if they can assist but if nothing turns up I am afraid there is nothing for it but for **Bobby** to stay on at **Frant**.

I am most desperately sorry about all this & it seems real hard luck on the boy but I think that you will agree that under the circumstances we can't do anything else. If it were not for **Joan's** examination we would take the risk of having him here but as it is we simply cannot.

I still hope something may turn up to save Bobby from having to spend his whole holidays at school.<sup>38</sup>

while we were still worrying our heads over this a letter turned up from **Ernle** saying "they" by which I suppose he means his own house Leconfield<sup>39</sup> had both scarlet fever & chickenpox so they might break up on the 15th instead of the 22nd & we hear today that he actually does break up on the 18th when he comes here. I wrote off at once to his house master to ask for details & questions of quarantine etc, but can't get an answer before tomorrow at earliest.

We were counting on **Ernle's** breaking up on the 22nd & had arranged to pick him up at the Midland Station **Cheltenham** en route for Sandon but of course that plan is knocked on the head. These infectious diseases are the very devil.

Directly I know any more I will write & let you know.

Love to you all from **Tempé** & self. Your loving brother **Wilfred Ryder**.

14<sup>th</sup> December, G.E.Burrard, Foxhill, Salisbury Road, Farnborough, to Ida:

My dear Mrs Ryder, just a line to wish you & yours every good wish of the season. We were so very disappointed not to see **Colonel Ryder** while he was at home. He did most kindly offer to come but just then we couldn't manage it & on his return to town no doubt he was too busy. I hope his trip home was quite successful & that he was able to make satisfactory arrangements for the boys? He must have enjoyed visiting **Margaret & Enid** in their homes in England, lucky girls! I have seen your name among the lady players at the Simla tennis tournament, so imagine you young & active as ever, it is a pleasure to think so. I hope that Violet is well & enjoying life like her sisters did before her.

I once was in town a short time ago & lunched with the Lennox Conynghams, they all seemed as usual well & flourishing & Enid also as usual! Spoke as though she was a pauper, & would have to go out & earn her own living! They have taken a small furnished house at **Oxford** for the winter after that their plans are nebulous.

The H. H. Turners are I believe settled at Fleet, not far from here, but we haven't seen anything of them.

Joan is very happy & occupied with a tiny 3 wheel "Morgan" motorcar, which she cleans & looks after herself – the handyman gardener isn't allowed to touch it. My husband takes a great interest in our garden which so far has been most successful giving us fruit, potatoes, & vegetables. He has

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37 That is Kitty, Bobby's aunt.

38 This was a strong childhood memory for Bobby and he was always critical of bluestocking girls.

39 At Cheltenham College.

lately put in 7 new fruit trees, strawberry plants, raspberry & loganberry canes & rhubarb.

We are now more comfortably settled than we were last year. It is nice having our own belongings & furniture & we thoroughly enjoy anthracite stoves going night & day with a separate boiler for hot water. I revel in a really hot bath before breakfast – it is such a help to my joints – just now we are having a very cold spell & it touched up my joints & (*has*) given me a temperature so I have to stay in bed, do what one can, it is the only really warm place with this heavy frost & cold north-east wind. Up to this my joints have been wonderfully better, but as you can imagine after that long illness I am still very much of the invalid, far more so than when in India. My husband has been free from a temperature for the last 6 weeks & has begun to regain weight so it looks as though the vaccine treatment is doing him good. He is inoculated weekly. As regards health we've had a wretched year. Our son continues with his job on the Staff of the "Field" & finds it very interesting. I still think that India is the land for comfort. I hope you are having a pleasant winter at **Delhi** & that **Colonel Ryder** is enjoying it too, even in **Calcutta**! Do write & tell me your news, it is such a pleasure hearing from old friends & brings a whiff of one's happy past. No doubt India to is changing, but the pace in the East is slower than the West, surely it must be!

With our best love to yourself & Colonel Ryder and with every good wish of the season to you both, fr Yrs affectionately, G. E. Burrard.

6<sup>th</sup> January 1921, U S Club, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet darling, I send you up **Wilfred's** two letters; I don't want them back. Isn't it unfortunate about the mumps infection & then **Ernie's** house also having scarlet fever &c. I can quite understand **Wilfred's** anxiety about **Joan** & her exam, can't you; I expect something will turn up; anyhow we can't do anything. I've answered **Wilfred's** letter; the "targitti" he once I can't get as the specimens never arrived, his envelope was torn at one end & I suppose they had worked their way through. I'm hoping for an English mail from you today, so I'll finish this later. I played bridge yesterday & lost every rubber but one. I'm too lucky in love just now, darling, how I adore you. **Enid** gave me my "loomy" (?) clock, lovely. It wants a little repairing which I will get done here. If Bobby's holidays have been a failure, I'll give him a bike, but don't mention it. **Enid** pays her bearer, a good man, 25/- a month; she is managing everything splendidly.

4:30 pm. Just back from office. I received English mail from you. I saw Jim Reid's death in the Pioneer. How kind he always was to the children. I'm so glad I went over & had a talk with him. I expect it will pan out all right somehow for **Bobby**. Heaps of love, dearest, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

What will be your address at **Cawnpore**? I am going over to **Burma**, leave here on the 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. And get back about 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

(*Undated note*) Darling, scribbling in office. I got yours today about Aziz; he is a liar, he never said anything about not going with you; in fact when I said that he was to go with you & what would he do about his family, he said he could arrange. If he doesn't go with you, certainly give him a notice & discharge him from date of your leaving Simla. I got in this morning, very busy, only time for this. I'll write more tomorrow morning. Ever your adoring, Charlie.

Very happy with your letter.

7<sup>th</sup> January, U.S.Club, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet darling, Good hunting two rats; you'll soon get them under. You wrote on the 4<sup>th</sup> but as I didn't get here till the 5<sup>th</sup>, I couldn't write except once when I was at **Lucknow**. I always have a bit of a rush when I get here first, not only work, but I get talking to fellows in the Club & even play bridge occasionally, lost 41/- the first day & then 26/- yesterday. I've taken my "loomy" that **Enid** gave me to be mended one or two little things, I'm so pleased with it. I'm afraid the ayah (?) Will be a constant source of trial to you, don't lose your temper, keep smiling, cheerio, old bean, that's the way to look at things. Yes, it seems years since I kissed you & I long to kiss you again. I can't tell you how much I adore you for all your sweetness to me when I was with you. You are an absolute darling. I leave **Calcutta** on the morning (early) of

the 14th, so the last letter I can get from you is the one you post on the 11th; to catch the 12 o'clock train, after that it will be no use sending letters to **Burma** as I shall be dashing about their; but I'll send you telegrams now & again & I'll send you my dates & places so you can send me telegrams if anything important occurs. Heaps of love my darling, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

11<sup>th</sup> January 1921, United Service Club, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet darling, I missed writing yesterday, so sorry, fact is my morning time before breakfast I was writing English mail and when I got back from office I sat down to tea & a book & quite forgot I had a wife! Then I didn't get one from you either so that's all right. Colonel Beaseley had a motor smash, driving his own car & not looking where he was going, charged straight into one of those island lampposts, car badly damaged, but he was only a bit cut in the face. Mrs B. undamaged. I had a great day at bridge yesterday, won over 50/- holding lovely cards. No hot baths this morning, the boiler is having its annual cleaning. Zahur is improving, quite keen to learn. My dear, the crows in the early morning are too noisy for words, they always wake me at dawn. I've got my accounts nicely going. I kept within my 500/- comfortably last month. You know I feel much more comfortable when I know exactly what I'm spending. I think Lord Reading will make a very good Viceroy, the only time I saw him was at **Strathpeffer**, he had a motoring party. I'm not going to play golf till I come back from **Burma**. I get back on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. & shall expect to have a lovely lot of letters & English mails; always now addressed to 13. Wood Street. I'll finish this in office.

Office 3 pm. Boo-hoo, no letter from you, perhaps I may find one at the Club; anyhow darling, I adore you & always will. Ever your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

17<sup>th</sup> January, Minto mansions Hotel, Rangoon, to Ida: My own sweet darling, Here I am after a very pleasant calm passage; besides Col and Mrs Coldstream, General & Mrs Stockley were on board. I played bridge with Mrs C. Against the Stockley's. Mrs C. Is quite the worst player I've ever met, bar none. However by dint of holding good cards we won 11/-. My train leaves at 5:30, so I came up here & am having lunch with the Stockley's. I saw one book on board "Clayhanger" by Arnold Bennett & thought it rather dull. I met General Fane & Gen Ross here, the latter commands the Brigade & was on my steamer going home & the former commands the Division, I knew him in China. General Stockley looks very seedy still. I'm belonging for news; this is another place which makes me think of old times, rushing about buying stores & seeing people about some expedition & thinking of you. No more expeditions, but thinking of you still fills my thoughts. It is quite cool here, very cool for what I know of **Rangoon**. I'll write from **Kalaw**. Heaps of love, darling & kisses many, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

18<sup>th</sup> January, Kalaw, to Ida: My own sweet darling, Many times have I written to you from this spot, a most delightful one. I left **Rangoon** yesterday at 5:30 pm, dined at **Pegu** and hadn't to change at **Thazi**, where we had breakfast as I had arranged for a through carriage. You can imagine how interested I was seeing the old road & 3 of the stations were old friends where there were road bungalows which I had often stopped at, **Hlaingdet, Yemabin & Pinyaung**. This place is just where one gets up onto the plateau, little rolling downs covered with fir trees, and cultivation in between. We are at what looks like a nice hotel, it is quite new & very clean, all built of wood, smells nice. I saw a couple of surveyors & we may motor out one day about 30 miles to see some others, that is not settled yet. I like the perfect quiet here & the romance of being in old haunts. This place is quite changed since I was last here in 1903. The railway has turned into a hill station, a small one, but still in old days there was just the one roadside bungalow & nothing else, lovely climate 4000 feet up. I shall wire to you tomorrow. Just had a lovely hot bath & changed for dinner & can think of you. I read Townshend's book on **Kut** &c. in the train, very interesting. You must be at **Cawnpore** today.

Jan. 19. I had a most glorious sleep last night, only woke up once & went to sleep again. I don't know when this will reach you but tomorrow I shall address to c/o **Enid**. Heaps of love & kisses, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

If you heard where **Ernie** was in class & didn't telegraph, I shall give you the worst battering you've

ever had.

21<sup>st</sup> January, Kalaw, to Ida: My own sweet darling, I send you back the letters, delighted to get them. I have kept **Bobby's** to me and **Una & Mary's**; how unfortunate these 2 are, even allowing the make the most of it, especially **Mary**. You will need do nothing about Lloyd's letter, just file it, it is only the re-investment of £200 of some other sort of War Bonds which were paid off I think.

**Bobby's** map & bird awfully good. I've sent him a lovely map of India, mounted & everything to hang up. Col Coldstream is going out by motor to see some surveyors, not necessary for me to go, so I shall have a day writing. I got the telegram from **Claud** that **Margaret** had a boy<sup>40</sup> born on the 14<sup>th</sup>, late last night, so I am walking down to the telegraph office at 9, as soon as it is open. I am delighted & have sent her my £10 present. She was so counting on a boy, it would have been cruel if it had been a girl. I slept rottenly night before last, but splendidly last night. I hope you will write to Lady Burrard with as much gossip as you can. Heaps of love darling, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Your Rs.1000 went to you early in January, at least to the Simla Bank. Let me have a list of cheques you have drawn in January made up at the end of the month. I shall expected at Calcutta when I arrive.

23<sup>rd</sup> January, Maymyo, to Ida: My own sweet darling, We got here this morning after a tiring journey, left **Kalaw** at 11 am & got down to **Thazi** by train at 5, there it was hot, my carriage was put into a siding & we went for a very dusty stroll, then sat on the platform & talked & had dinner. When I went to bed the sandflies got to work, till we got the fan going. We left about 3 am & had to change at **Myohaung** at 6 & then got up here about 11, had breakfast at the refreshment room. Now I'm installed very comfortably in the Circuit House just opposite the Club, so I read the papers for a bit. I got your telegram on arrival; bad luck **Claud** breaking his ankle, horribly painful too. I'm so sorry there's no news of the boys, I'm so keen to know whether **Ernle** is top, I'm afraid not or he would have dashed off a letter. I read the Woolwich & Sandhurst entrance list with great (*interest*). Tupman (?), Lisle's friend passed 2nd into Woolwich & I noticed 2 fellows who failed last time (they were in Lisle's class), passed in Swales & Pellew, this will be the term below **Lisle**, so he will be 6 months their senior owing to his getting the cadetship, that is good. It is good to get into the army as young as possible. I feel slack & sleepy & longing for a letter from you. Today is Sunday & you were going over to **Enid** today. I do hope she has had no fever. If she goes on having it, the doctor ought to test her blood to see what sort it is & put on a regular course of quinine or arsenic, make her do it. Goodbye, darling, heaps of love & kisses, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Love to **Enid & Violet**.<sup>41</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> February, U S Club, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet darling, So glad, old dear, to see your writing again. You know you have always got me to fall back on when no one else admires you, and I am very patient. I've evidently missed a whole mail, as there is no mention in any of the letters of what place in class **Ernle & Bobby** had. Let me know this by return post & damn all dances & tennis &c. rather than fail. I can't write to the boys till I know.

I'm hoping to play golf tomorrow & do a snipe shoot on Sunday. I didn't have a good night last night as I had no mosquito curtains. I'm looking forward to your accounts when they arrive!

How well **Margaret** has done with her fowls, she only owes £4-6-5 and for that she has:

Fowl house & wire	£3-0-0	10 young	hens @ 15/-	<u>7-10-0</u>
6 hens @10/-	3-0-0			14-7-0
1 black hen @ 7/-	7-0	less owing		<u>4-6-5</u>
1 young cock@10/-	10-0			£10-0-7

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40 **Patrick**.

41 Possibly at Mussoorie.

So she is fairly £10 to the good in 11 months. Whenever I meet anyone interested in hens I always hold her up as the success.

I am so glad you are taking **Enid** in hand. She is as bad as you were at that age & my darling how anxious I used to be about you. Heaps of love & kisses to your sweet darling self, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Love to the girls & Neil.

5<sup>th</sup> Feb. I send you Mr Williams letter & report; it's very good, sorry **Ernie** wasn't top, but 2<sup>nd</sup> is decidedly good.

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21<sup>st</sup> July 1921, U S Club, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet darling, I was so delighted yesterday to get your dear sweet letter, and felt very happy in consequence. I am very busy in office the few days I am here. I send you **U & M's** letters as they (*are*) partly to you. I've had a shocking luck at bridge Rs.91/-to the bad so far, not won once. I've only played one out of the Club with Mrs Ducat; she said I was looking very thin. I've seen the Nashl car man for **Enid** & also the pearl man who is sending **Enid** up some 4 of to (?) 70/- pearls on appro. I've also done all my shopping. There was a smart shower of rain yesterday, but it is very sticky here. I've defeated the bugs & had two good nights, only last night I sat up talking to two brokers about shares. They both said buy coal shares, so I probably shall.

Unless you have already written you must at once right to Mr Shakespeare or Mr Grey about your missing cheque for £100 & you should enclose a letter to the bank saying "Please stop payment of cheque, No... for £100 made out to Mr Basil Grey as it has been lost" & ask them to send it to Lloyds Bank, 16 St James Street.

Heaps of love & kisses, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Love to **Violet**.

1<sup>st</sup> September 1921, United Service Club, Calcutta, to Ida: my own sweet darling, Arrived today about 12 & went straight to office with a large bundle of letters & found lots of work to do. No particular news, but I'm so glad to be starting towards you. I leave tomorrow & reach **Mussoorie** on the 4th. I got the English mail you sent me on. Have you read "The Montebank" by Locke, I'm bringing it along. I'm dining with the Beazeley's tonight. I think she is going home. I'm so glad **Enid** is better, but of course she has no strength now. I'm frightfully rushed on tour, no time for anything. Darling I adore you, the fewer Bagharas (?) The more love you get from me. Heaps of love, darling, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

2<sup>nd</sup> September, Office, to Ida: Dearest, Just a line, I'm off this evening & will reach **Mussoorie** on the 4th, the same day this reaches you. I haven't had a word from Reggie about the 610/- he owes us. The bank here sent up 1250/-do you. It's pretty gummy here & I shall be glad to be up in the cool. I don't quite like the idea of **Violet** being in a cubicle, they are rather public. However you arrange as you think best, I'll take the cubicle if you like. I wonder if Sir Thomas Holland is going, I don't see how he can stay on, he has made a mess of things, and awful mess. I was very interested to hear what Brayne said, one is much more likely to get things approved if one has a reputation for being reasonable. Heaps of love, darling, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Love to **Violet**.