

Colonel CHARLES HENRY DUDLEY RYDER

Letters 1923 – 24

11th April 1923, Charleville Hotel, Mussoorie, to Ida: My own beloved Darling, I sent you off my regular letter yesterday to be certain, although today, Wednesday is the real day. Then after I had posted I got another from you from on board. Darling, how I treasure these sweet letters, but I am worried to think you hadn't any from me, as I wrote twice, once from **Rajpur** & once from **Mussoorie** next day. Perhaps you got them after you had sailed. So glad you had a two berth cabin to yourselves. I've just written to **Ernle & Una** & I have written to **Lisle** too. I find the morning before my bath a great time for writing. I put on my washing dressing gown & I regret to say smoke a cheroot. I shall be wanting to hear such an enormous lot when you get home, all about the boys & **Margaret**, the things you got, life generally at home, how your money lasts &c &c. if I were you I should as soon as possible buy £150 War Savings Certificate, it would cost £120; do it through the Post Office and deposit them at Lloyds.

I want you to find out where **Bobby's** Savings Bank book is. I forget whether **Ernle** has one or not, & where are their Savings Certificates? Wilfred has them I fancy. There are just 14 people in the hotel & the same at the Savoy, the whole place very empty. Mrs McKinnon & Yolanda dined with Gen Watt. We played bridge after, I won 7/5/-from Gen Watt.

Darling, I adore you. You have been perfectly sweet to me & I miss you dreadfully, only consolation is that we should have been separated a lot if you hadn't gone home. Heaps & heaps of love & kisses, my pet, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

31st May 1923, U S Club, Simla, to Ida: My own adorable Darling, I'm more in love with you now than I was 30 years ago! Mail went off today, but I can just scribble a bit. I do hope this week your letter will be addressed here. You see the mail usually comes here on Sunday & that leaves a good time to answer things. Darling I have nothing to send you for your birthday, except my undying love. You can say to yourself "my man adores me." Won't we have a grand time together.

4th June. Haven't I neglected you, but I was hoping for a letter from you yesterday, Sunday; however I'll get it tomorrow. I had one from **Margaret** very excited because you were all coming down to Gratnar the following day, & one from **Lisle**, a long one, he had been in hospital with a bit of fever, but was all right again. Aden is a trying place to be in for a whole year. On Sat. I went to the parade, very dull & then in the evening to the Kings's Birthday Dinner. I was unlucky having the Afghan Minister on one side, we couldn't exchange a word. Blackwell was the other, he's a nice chap, used to chum with Coleridge. Several people asked after you, including an ADC rather intellectual face, either Noel Hill or Gregory Smith. My uniform wasn't too tight only *contretemps* one of my straps under the boot came undone. I got the Bishop to do it up. You've never had anything of yours done up by a Bish have you? Though the Grandson of one has to often undressed you! There was a severe shower of rain just as we were coming up the slope to Viceregal Lodge. The Bishop asked after you all & send his love to Violet. I'm afraid you will have time your visit to Devonshire in pouring rain.

June 5. Your letter ought to come this afternoon. Great excitement. In the meantime I dreamt last night I walked into a room & found you sitting on Andrese's (*sic*) knee. I pulled you off & kicked him out of the house & woke up & found it was only 12 & couldn't get to sleep till 2. You see what a nuisance you are. I've a busy day inspecting Crosthwait's office, playing tennis with them, dining with the Geoffrey Clarke's & going to *Amis (?) de la France* afterwards at Snowdon.

June 6. I came back from tennis just in time to jump into my clothes for dinner & read your letter by the light of the moon & electric lamps as I was going along in the rickshaw & then again quietly when I came back & I thought so much of you & the boys I didn't get to sleep till 2 am & so today after doing the morning in office I came home & must have had 2 hours sleep & feel very fit, but it won't make it easier to sleep tonight. Then today I had letters from **Ernle & Bobby**, no description

of you or your arrival, just accepted you, but both said it was jolly having you there, & very pleased with their telescopes. All you would tell me about them is delightful. I gather from Frank Hutchinson saying his boy hadn't heard about his Cert. A. that **Ernle** must have been ploughed in the practical. I'm very pleased both boys have got moves¹, there are very few after Easter, as no one leaves for Woolwich or Sandhurst.

I hardly expected you to be able to arrange for summer holidays in France, it would have been rather difficult & Darling, about money of course your first few months you must bust it a bit. I quite understand. Then later you must quiet down a bit & make visits of a month as a P. G. instead of a week, that is the cheapest thing to do. I fancy you hit of bad weather for your visit to Devonshire, bad luck. Don't put off finding out through Col. Muspratt at the War Office all about cadetships, it is much better to find out early. Then one's knowledge definitely settles one's ideas on certain points. I've already given you full facts.

Those photos were poor. I agree with you about my trousers.

7th June. About **Ernle's** hair, **Lisle** & I got it in quite good order but only by having strong groise (?) & constant brushing. I found he was parting the wrong side, look at the whirlpool at the back & start the parting from there & you'll find his ought to be on the right side & not left, but you have to be firm with him.

I've received the money for the rickshaw.

Darling, your letters are a real joy to me. Go on addressing to **Simla** till hear from me. I'm feeling very fit & full of love for you. Very many happy returns of the day, darling & when you wake up in the morning imagine me kissing you all over from your eyes to your toes! 1000 kisses, adorable pet, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

23rd June, U S Club, **Simla**, to **Ida**: My own sweet Darling, I am writing different subjects on different pieces of paper because I think sometimes mixed up in a letter you may forget them. The mails seem to come round pretty quick now. There are two men going home on leave from the Club by this next mail, mine if I hadn't taken the extension. I have known dinner parties ahead, it is funny how my society differs from what we used to have, Generals, Secretaries to Govt. Colonels & so on are my companions & I must admit I like it, better than the ADC Neil Class; my goodness he is dull. If you want to know I think his manners are very bad & so are **Violet's**, but **Ida** do where you always will misunderstand me is I say "but what is the good of saying it." You are like George III who by constantly saying he was at the battle of Waterloo finally thought he really had been; by constantly saying to me "you don't think **Violet's** manners are bad," you finally think I have said so & I've said nothing of the sort; you annoy me when you talk zu-zu like that. I'm playing tennis with the Roches this afternoon.

June 25. I feel like a damp rag, mentally, no letters for me yesterday, luckily I got one from **Lisle** with birthday wishes, dear boy. By the bye don't forget his 21st birthday. I'm going to give him £10 from me. He will spend it at Ahmednagar (?). I know what happened about your writing (?) mail day was the day **Enid** went to the nursing home & so you hadn't time. You ought to take my tip & write a bit most days.

Black Heart show on today at the Amad (?) tennis court, they've borrowed all our easy chairs. I had good tennis at the Roche's, tomorrow I'm playing with Peart here & on Wednesday with Lady Jacob. Thursday, my birthday, I'm having tea with the Crosthwait's & then taking her to the ennis (?) de la France show at the theatre. I had a little doze after tea & felt refreshed. Zohur (?) Is quite excited at the idea of our seeing **Lisle** in August at Ahmednagar.

June 27. Darling I adore you. Mind you stick to the dates for addressing letters, it makes such a difference to me. It must be an awful nuisance having a husband so much in love with one. I've just dressed for tennis with the Jacobs at the Glaciers. I see Mrs Covell (?) is going to America to play

1 Both now at Cheltenham.

for the English ladies against America; she is a bit better than Mrs Barron; it is the latter I particularly want to get to know, her address is Mrs Shepherd-Barron (?), Ranworth Hall, nr. Norwich. It will be so nice to know someone near **Norwich** if Lisle is at the Depot say. You write & ask her when she is likely to be in town (if you are) she is playing in all these tournaments round town or at **Eastbourne** in the S. of England.

Gauntlett is such a nice fellow; he said to the Bishop, "I never enjoyed myself so much one day as hearing Mrs Ryder & Mrs Black chaffing each other, quite the two most charming women I've ever met." You can imagine how excited I am at the idea of seeing Lisle.

June 28. Many happy returns of the Day, Darling I have to rush off to a Committee meeting & then a funeral of an old R. E. Colonel St John Globetrotting (*sic*) out here, this instead of tea with the Crosthwait's & Ennis (?) de la France after, bad luck. Heaps of love & kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Advantages of going abroad.

As you arrived home on April 30, you have already been 24 days abroad in the year 1923-24, don't forget the financial year begins on April 6. Therefore to avoid income tax you must be out of England 5 months & 6 days. I.e. if you don't go abroad for the summer holidays, you must leave England on Oct. 29 at latest.

By so doing I shall be able to recover your own income (*tax?*) for 1923-24, probably about £50 or £60. You avoid the English winter & enjoy the winter in the South of France.

I would consult Muriel Carey Barnard on the subject. If you don't want to go south so early why not spend a month in Paris. The only disadvantage is the Xmas holidays & expense of bringing the boys out. They can travel 2nd class & if you have them in France you must make them learn French in every possible way. I give you the facts it is for you to decide. You can live much cheaper in France than you can in England unless you go & live in swanky semi English hotels.

Personally I should love to do this the following year.

Cadetship

Colonel C.H.D.Ryder C.B, C.I.E, D.S.O. war services.

China, mentioned in despatches, medal with clasp

Tibet, mentioned in despatches, medal with clasp, D.S.O.

Great War, mentioned in despatches, Mesopotamia, 2 medals

General services:

India during the war, mentioned in despatches

Anglo-French Mekong Boundary Commission 1894-95.

Explored 2 years in China) English Royal Geographical Society, Gold Medal,

Explored in Tibet) French Gold Medal, Scottish Silver Medal.

Turko-Persian Boundary Commission 1913-14, awarded C.I.E.

Surveyor General since 1919.

Awarded C.B. In 1922.

Obtained and Honorary Indian Cadetship for eldest son L.C.D.Ryder in 1920, on above record, except C.B. awarded since.

In 1920 I was a permanent Indian Service Officer, since then I have become British Service but all my service has been in the Indian Establishment.

Since Lisle got his Indian Cadetship a rule has been brought in that the holder of an Indian Cadetship must go into the Indian Army.

I don't know what are the rules for Honorary King's Cadetship (non-Indian).

Colonel Muspratt (the red one) is at the War Office, ask for him & he will find out.

10th August, U S Club, Simla, to Ida: My adorable Darling, Before breakfast. I'm a little early & it's pouring with rain, all my lights on. No news except that I love you, but that's not news. I shan't go to office this morning unless it clears. I was playing tennis on one of the Club courts, but that will be off, I fancy, dining with my friend the Viceroy tonight.

11th. Lady MacMunn & I were the only 2 guests & we played v. the Viceroy & Sir George de Montmorency, we won 23/-. I sat between Miss Fitzroy & Sister Meikle, both very nice & everyone asked after you. I've always been rather in love with Miss Fitzroy, she is very striking looking too. It was a fine evening, but raining again this morning. I'm almost packed. Today I'm lunching at the Cecil with Peart, who is moving over there for a month, to eat prawn curry & then going on (*to*) bridge at the Jacobs.

14th. Aug. here I am in the Charleville. Got here yesterday, the place very empty only about 30 people here. I slept well after a disturbed night journey; there's a break in the rains, lovely weather. I'm simply horrified at your travelling 2nd on the steamer to **St Malo**, it's never done, you can quite comfortably travel 2nd on French railways, but on the steamer's first always. I got a lovely long letter from you from **St Malo**, it is a lovely coast isn't it & I think the combination of the old town of **St Malo**, swanky **Dinard**, the **Rance** & the country behind is very good.

Lisle passed into Sandhurst with an Indian Cadetship (under new rules since then a boy with an Indian Cadetship must go into the Indian Army, it wasn't so in his day); he wouldn't have passed that shot without a cadetship, he got 6000 marks & the bottom fellow passing in got 6800. **Lisle** too failed his Cat A so didn't get the usual 400 marks for that & lost more marks 500 odd than any other successful candidate for spelling & handwriting. When you say **Ernle** & **Bobby** looked adorable in their 'leggings' at cricket, did you mean 'pads'? How unlucky the O.T.C. camp being off & I can't quite follow what arrangements you made, however I expect it's all right.

I think for the Xmas holidays it wouldn't be a bad plan to take the boys either to the S of France (the journey is expensive) or to near Paris & then when they go back you go to the S of France.

Ernle going to **Windermere** is expensive, but I hope you are doing it. **Lisle** went to a place in Devon or Somerset, they go to a jolly place & enjoy life & get work.

So glad you've bought **Bobby** a bike.

Sorry **Violet** was hurt about what I wrote about monopolising Charles, can't help it. It is much better that I should give her a hint that that relations should make remarks & it is quite true, as you know. **Enid** talks of joining you in the S of France or I suppose she would spend part of the time with her in laws.

Afternoon. I'm too rushed with work to write more, besides at this distance I can't advise, my advice would arrive after the event. Do the best you can, make your plans well ahead & remain a good long time in any place you go to.

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

18th August, Charleville Hotel, Mussoorie, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, I've got a jolly old cold & a headache, due to walking back from office, getting hot & not changing at once. I shall be all right in a day or two. I've taken aspirin is & a Cascara yesterday which is doing good. It's so delightful to feel in 6 days I shall be with **Lisle**, so next mail I can tell you all about him.

20th. Aug. Darling, I haven't got on with my letter, the result of not having any from you, sort of makes me limp & takes the wind out of my sails. I've had two good fours of tennis, Hamilton & I beat Roome & Lewis 3 sets to 2 & yesterday Lewis & I beat Barber & Roome 2 to 1, all good games. Roome told Wood that I was playing better than any of them. Tonight the Tandy's are giving me a farewell dinner, 18 in all. I've just been writing out my speech, of the dry humorous nature, I commit about 6 heads to memory & then go ahead. Yesterday I had a farewell durbar², to present Sher Jang with a sword from the R.G.S. and to say goodbye to everyone. Wood & I go off

2 A ceremonial gathering under the British Raj.

tomorrow, he on leave & so there's my goodbye to **Mussoorie**, we had many happy days together up here, didn't we? I got rid of my cold very quickly, with aspirin. Just had the usual loving letter from **Margaret**. Although it's not raining just now it's coming on again, so I'm afraid no tennis.

Darling I feel dull & am sending you a very dull short letter, but heaps of love & kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie

25th August, Ahmednagar, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, Here I am with **Lisle**, at least not exactly with him as he is in a tent & I am in the Inspection Bungalow about 200 yards away. I arrived at 5 pm yesterday aft. & **Lisle** was on the platform, smoking a pipe, felt hat well turned down, we drove up in a tonga, my kit following in two more. This is a very nice bungalow & I have most of my meals here. Last night I dined with **Lisle** at his mess of the school. He introduced me to Major Trimble, Commandant of the East Yorks. A Punjabi band played & we cleared out at about 11. **Lisle** is as usual a dear. I have however to make him repeat every remark, he speaks so low, & he told me he had been ticked off by his adjutant for that. This morning he is away working, so I shan't see him till after lunch. He is keen on his work but not on wool, too much bother & hard work I fancy he thinks. **Lisle** wants money & the pleasures he can have from having money, but isn't keen on working too hard for it, thinks it will drop into his mouth from somewhere. He is as ever very affectionate & nice to me & his remarks are sensible. "What mother wants of course is occupation" was one. He says he gets very few letters from any of you at home. (Mrs Cowie, by the bye, said she hadn't heard from you since you went home & Mrs Tandy said much the same as regards **Enid**.) The difficulty is of course he is such a bad letter writer himself. The climate of this place is like Bangalore, cloudy & lots of eye flies³. I'm waiting for breakfast. I wonder if I shall get a letter from you today, mail in this morning.

After breakfast. The Tandy's gave a farewell dinner for me, 18 of us in all. He made quite a good speech which he had learnt by heart. I told him he ought to send you a copy. I'll send you the rough copy of mine, which made everybody laugh. Then the day I was leaving Tandy collected all the officers, surveyors &c. at the Library & I shook hands with them all & they gave me 3 cheers, altogether I felt a little overcome. Wood & I travelled down together, he going on leave. We dined with the Cowie's, Mrs Cowie only dined on a cup of arrowroot or something of that sort & looked jolly seedy. **Lisle** said his go of fever was rather beastly, he is a bit spotty on one cheek; he is a funny mixture of you & me, he doesn't like rowdy guest nights like me but he has joined the Travellers' Club at **Sandon's** suggestion (subscription when at home £15 a year!!) that's like you. He now very much regrets he is no use at tennis. He strongly disapproves of Gen. Jimmy Scott's carrying on with certain ladies in **Aden**. He'll get 2 months leave soon after getting home probably his leave will begin in March. The regiment goes to Colchester & the other battalion to the West Indies, he doesn't want to stay in England more than a year. A very nice travelling clock, rather like the one **Enid** gave me reached him just before he left **Aden** from the A&N Stores, but not a line to say who sent it; anyhow he is very pleased with it.

After lunch. No luck with mail in & only a letter from **Una** & **Mary** & none for the 2nd week from you. I know they'll roll up some time, but it is a great disappointment not to get any letters regularly. **Lisle** came in for a bit & then had to go off to work again. Now about buying a house, I'm quite willing if it makes you happy to chuck the £400 income tax we should save by not buying before April 1925 & also chucking our winter abroad, but there is this further point to consider & that is that if we were already settled down somewhere it would settle for good & all any idea of my getting some employment. Personally being a lazy person I'd like to slack & do nothing but I feel I could go on for another 10 years if I could get something to do, not too arduous, which would bring in another £500 a year, that is why I think I'm the one of the family for 'wool'. I've told **Enid** this.

Sunday, Aug 28. Can't say I had a good night, very restless, I'm off this evening. **Lisle** still walks badly, such a pity.

3 Eye gnats or eye flies so called for their habit of being attracted to eyes.

Not having heard from you for two mails I know none of your news, where the boys were in class, what about **Ernie's** cadetship & so on I can do nothing when I hear nothing. Heaps of love & kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

30th August, U S Club, Bangalore, to Ida: My darling sweetheart, I have been extra much in love with you since seeing **Lisle** he is such a dear boy & I'm so grateful to you for giving him to me. I adore (*double underlining*) you for it, in spite of the fact that I haven't heard from you for two mails running. I amused myself yesterday writing out in full (rather like an improper French novel) the details of how we started him, when complete I'll send it to you, it will make you blush! Both the boys are very disappointed to hardly see anything of you for the summer holidays. It's lucky they had **Gratnar**⁴ to go to, but I think I should make their interests the important ones for their holidays.

You never sent me any letters or papers from Muspratt so I know I can do nothing about the cadetship question.

It's very pleasant here & I have a nice double room in the Club but only 6 or 7 fellows living in & only M. O' C. Tandy of the Survey & he very morose. I called on Miss Ross Tommy (?) but she is ill. I got a sty in my eye, however it's popped & is better.

If I'd been you, I shouldn't have accepted the invitation to **Sandon**, simply told **Mabel**⁵ it was the holidays, & she would have asked you again later.

Lisle said to me, "You know, Father. Mother & I are rather alike in one thing, we both want a house like Knebworth⁶".

I have already sent you a letter by this mail from **Ahmednagar**. Heaps of love & kisses, my pet, but do be a darling & don't miss mails or address to wrong places. Ever your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

2nd September, U S Club, Bangalore, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, At last I see your beloved hand writing again, just three weeks since I got a letter from you, this one ended Aug. 2 addressed to **Mussoorie** correctly but evidently posted late. First of all I am most distressed about your shin bones, poor little darling. You must rest more darling, please go to a good doctor & take his advice. You know when I retire I want to be lazy & have a wife who will do all the hard work.

I'm so glad you liked the Brittany coast, I have always loved it. What a pity **Violet** & Charles don't bathe more. It is so glorious especially on rough days & I'm sure it would do you good, but I'm glad the lovely air has taken away your headaches.

Having had no letter of yours to answer I've amused myself by writing an account of various episodes which led you up to having babies! Most improper, quite like "La Garconne" or any French novel. You will blush fiery red, when you read it, so don't do so in public. The Survey here are a dull crowd, Beazeley lives with some friends. He told me his wife had a miscarriage at the beginning, then none for 6 years, then four in the next 6. M. O'C. Tandy lives here in the Club, but insists on having his meals at a little table by himself, but I insist in having breakfast at his table. The Scotts are rather a washout pair, however they asked me to tennis here one day & to tea next week. Robin Wanchope is the other, living at the West End Hotel, his wife is coming out next month; he is full of energy. I went yesterday to watch the Survey play cricket; they beat the Hosur (?) Remount Depot. I met old McGann & one or two people who've met you, a Major Allen who said he'd played tennis with you & Conduna (?) 15 years ago in Mussoorie. Miss Ross Tommy has had entric, but hopes to see me before I leave.

I have a Durbar tomorrow to unveil our war memorial & a farewell garden party by the Survey on Friday.

4 Wilfred's house near North Bovey, Devon.

5 Lady Harrowby.

6 Ida's parent's home.

Business. I've sent in the Income Tax Recovery papers, ought to get about £50 which will be credited to you in a month or two. There was nothing in it for you to do. Then the Cadetship⁷ question. I will enclose you a letter applying for one, if you haven't done so already, but there should be no delay, not a day.

I'm distressed about **Enid**, **Margaret** tells me she, **Enid**, still suffers from back aches, & her doctor thinks of electrical treatment, poor little girl & she is such a darling. Do for heavens sake see that before **Neil** comes home she consults her doctor as to whether it all right her getting in the family way if she can. Don't beat about the bush but use plain words, she knows babies aren't found amongst the gooseberry bushes.

Sept. 5 Oh! My darling, this is awful for poor **Violet**. It's no consolation I know but of course she is well rid of a fellow who behaves like that, a horsewhip is what he wants. I dare say his people are behind it. I jolly well hope **Violet** will do herself better. Anyhow I do feel so for **Violet**, she did not deserve it. I got yours of 15th Aug. correctly addressed here & caught the mail, so I forgive you but wish it could have brought better news. Isn't it extraordinary how our daughters love affairs won't go straight & ours was so simple, they met, they loved, they married, they had babies, that is our history. I think you were right to ease the the situation down a bit for **Violet**, but I should think the thing was completely off & she should not write to Charles except in answer to his. If he wanted to he could get the Mussoorie Adjutancy & marry, but he doesn't & that's the truth; well he's spoilt 18 months of **Violet's** chances. Mail off today & I had better close down, I'm feeling too hot about it. Heaps of love & kisses to my adorable darling, from your adoring lover & husband & father of six, Charles Ryder.

Enclosed is a formal application for a King's Cadetship for **Ernle**. **Lisle** now my dear adores Indian Army, not on my advice, on his own he is realising that life in a British Regiment without money is awfully dull.

I'm going in for a regular gamble in tea, not content with putting in Rs.15,000, I've wired to buy another Rs.20,000. As soon as you have decided where you are going for the winter your bankers say so that I can write direct.

I wonder when you are going to see **Una & Mary**, be careful not to hurt their feelings by not going, especially after **Una's** sporting effort at meeting you.

6th September, U S Club, Bangalore, to Ida: Sweetest of Darlings, I posted yesterday, this is a supplement. I heard last mail from Minorski & send it you (tear it up after noting the address); you note he was the Russian Commissioner on the Turco-Persian Boundary Commission. Well you see they've lost everything⁸, he is teaching & she doing the housework. They both speak English beautifully. Now I think it would be awfully nice for you & **Violet** to stay a fortnight or a month in **Paris** & if you write to Mme Minorsky, 8 BOULEVARD EMILE AUGIER & tell her you want inexpensive rooms, she would get them for you & they could tell you how to do **Paris** cheaply. I've answered Minorsky's letter & told him if they ever come to England of course they must stay with us & so on. He is about 45 & she about 30.

I dined at the Residency last night. Just had a wire from Staples my **Calcutta** broker saying in reply to my wire, to put another Rs.20,000 into tea, "We'll talk matters over on your arrival **Calcutta**", so he thinks it is a bit doubtful. I'm staying the day in **Madras** with Frank Armitage, as she is at home, but comes out shortly. Don't forget to write to Mrs Cowie.

Heaps of love & kisses to the soles of your feet, my pretty one, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Still thinking of poor little **Violet**.

⁷ This would be for **Ernle**.

⁸ Presumably following the Russian revolution.

7th September, U S Club, Bangalore, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, I begin this in **Bangalore** & finish in **Calcutta**. Your last missing letter turned up yesterday & so I am up to date.

I answer questions, more than you do my pet:

1. **Ernle** has no Savings Bank book, he only has Savings Certificates.
2. **Bobby** has one, **Margaret** had it when I left England & she, I think, handed it with both their Savings Certificates to **Wilfred**. **Bobby** has £20 invested in some War Loan. The security is with your lot at Lloyds, the interest £1 a year about was being credited to him in his Savings Bank book; if the latter is not forthcoming asked at a Post Office how to get a new one; he must have quite a lot in it.

I also have out here the remains of **Bobby's** Christening present, about Rs.210 (£14 or so). I'll bring this home with me. **Bobby** is rich in, **Ernle** is poor, such is life.

3. You sent on the school bills to Cox the pay, but you never told me the total, bad girl; I now have to write to Cox to find out, otherwise I don't know how much I have left there.
4. You ask me what I would like for Xmas. What I really should like would-be a letter from you, saying, You were going to give me a glorious time when we meet! Really don't send me anything, keep the money till I come & save carriage & Customs.

I'm so glad you took to bathing & liked it. You must have looked a darling in your orange bathing kit; was it stockinette & did it show off your lovely figure, by the bye what is the latter like now? I hope you haven't let yourself get skinny, that would never do. You've never mentioned Ena, nor has anyone given me **Chucky's** address.

Sept. 13. I left **Bangalore** on the 8th & spent the 9th day with Frank Armitage very comfortably, she at home just coming out; then I came on here, quite a pleasant journey, but here it is hot & sticky. I leave on 16th. I had a big bunch of letters here, but alas none from you, missed the mail again (you are a little pig) & so I don't know any more about **Violet's** engagement. I had a long talk with my broker, who thinks with me there is still a good rise in tea, so I have bought another Rs.10,000. I thoroughly enjoy a bit of a gamble. I've started well up in bridge here to. I heard from **Kitty** about her house, Mrs Covell (?) en route to America & Mrs Baron all about her tennis. I found a good lot of work to be done here, but I've got through most of it. See that the boys are if possible with you all the Xmas holidays, otherwise they'll go out into the world & we shan't see much of them. Adorable Darling, I worship you; heaps of love & kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie

Love to **Violet**, poor little **Violet**.

14th September, United Service Club, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, You are honourably acquitted of having missed last mail. These fools have sent my mail, which arrived on the 9th up to **Dehra**, although they know I was arriving on the 11th & so I've missed answering by the mail which left yesterday, d—n.

I've just written to poor little **Violet**, she wrote so sweetly about your sympathy & help to her in her trouble. I think I was wise in insisting in a regular public engagement, if there hadn't been one Charles would have loafed along for years. I hope a nice trip to S of France for the winter will buck you all up. Mind & be in one of the cheap place for the Xmas holidays. I strongly advise you & **Violet** to go in regularly for French lessons, an hour a day & an hour for prep. I was to have left for Burma on Sunday 16th, but the mail is late, so I don't think I shall leave till Monday. I went out to Tollygunge & played Mr McHarg at golf. I played beautifully, beat him 7 holes up; very funny as I've only played once (at Bangalore) since last February. I must post this before I leave, but your next letters will go over to Burma with me & I shall get them at **Maymyo** (?).

Ida don't let any of the children think they are an expense, except suitably for the boys to make them work. They have all been sweet about that always, but I can look after them for many a long

year yet. After having had rather bad luck about investments I think my tea is going to turn out well, anyhow it makes the morning paper interesting to read. I'm so glad you liked St Malo & the neighbourhood. I love it, it is such a good mixture of all sorts. It's unfortunate for **Violet** the Charles episode having occurred there; she shouldn't write to him except in answer to his & then not for several days; it's quite clear he doesn't love her any more. The more I think about it, the worse I think he has behaved, a most low caddish performance, he deserves to be well kicked. I should have been disappointed if it had been a really good match, but it wasn't, although that doesn't make it any the better for poor **Violet**.

Sept. 15, I return the cadetship form unless you have already done so, complete & sign & send it at once, for God's sake don't delay. I sail for Burma tomorrow. Darling I am unsettled (?). Heaps of love & kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

21st September, Maymyo, Burma, to Ida: My own adorable Darling, I had a good voyage across & spent an extra night on board in **Rangoon** for nothing, as we arrived too late to catch the evening train, so I got the 12 o'clock next day & got up here yesterday 10:30 am. I'm staying with the Gunters, both very nice. He has arranged for my portrait in oils to be painted by a Miss Edge here. I had my first sitting today & sit every day I'm here for an hour a day. It is to cost Rs. 300 subscribed by the officers of the Survey to be put up in the S.G.'s office, I feel conceited and complimented as neither Longe nor Burrard had this done for them.⁹

I got yours of 28th Aug. from **Sandon** addressed here all right. You like my saying love words to you, but I don't get much beyond "So do I, you" out of you, do I? I hope you are thinking out things well ahead, Xmas holidays & Easter to. Miss Edge said **Mentone** (?) was by far the nicest of those S. of France places.

I played golf with Slater yesterday, badly, but then I was pretty tired, then the Gunters had a survey dinner. I inspected one party yesterday, another today. Tomorrow I unveil the war memorial & receive a farewell address to which I've got to reply. This afternoon we are playing tennis at the Club, but it looks rainy. Harcourt Butler is at Rangoon, comes up on 24th. This house is the Booth Gravelys, they are home on a year's leave.

23rd. Sept. I have a busy time. I go for an hour a day for my portrait, & yesterday I unveiled the memorial & had to receive a farewell address, well illuminated & in 2 bamboo cases, one painted, one carved, in the evening dinner party here & then dance at the Club, I played bridge, but it was 12.30 before I got into bed, & so I'm feeling rather bleary this morning. I don't see any paper here that quotes tea shares, so I shall be interested getting back to Calcutta.

I send you Well's bill. I sent you one before. Don't let them run on, darling, pay on the nail & tell them to send future bills to you.

Just back from my sitting, it's getting on, today I wore my khaki coat with medal ribbons & Miss Edge pretty well finished that. I wear my eyeglass & really the portrait looks quite promising.

I wish I could be at home to help you with the boys. Don't forget this though, give me your banker's address (ask Lloyds who they should send your money to) at **Mentone** or where ever you go to, it will save at least a week. I think you had better decide now to be home for the Easter holidays & fix on some place to take lodgings. I will be home on April 14 then we'll spend 2 or 3 months in the summer in **Paris** & Brittany. I've hurt my wrist a bit for tennis, I shall have to bandage it, so I'm only playing golf here.

Darling, how I do adore you, you are a perfect gem of a darling. It's only a little over 6 months before I start for you. I shall be like a young bridegroom, so be ready. My next letter will be from Calcutta again. Heaps of love & kisses to my beautiful sweetheart, from her adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

⁹ This would be the portrait in Ralston's possession.

2nd October, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, Here I am back in **Calcutta** & dog tired. Didn't sleep well last night, it was hot coming up the river, but I had a nice calm voyage, dull though, only two other passengers. I found a quantity of letters & a lovely one from you, quite a love letter & I adore you in consequence. My portrait was quite good when I left, a bit too pink & white, so I told Miss Edge to put in more furrows in my forehead & make me look stern. It was to cost Rs.300 subscribed by all the officers of the Survey which was not done for either Longe or Burrard.

You know if you got to Switzerland you don't get any advantage from the exchange; I know winter sports are awfully nice, but, darling don't over do it, and mind if I hear of you going 2nd class by steamer across the Channel I'll divorce you, it makes me all hot & cold all over to think of you doing that.

I landed at 12, had lunch after reading my letters & then went to office, it's beastly hot here except straight under a fan, but I leave on the 6th for **Shillong** & that will be nice. As my party at the hotel so (*sic*) fell through, I'm staying with the Coldstreams.

Tea shares are booming, Rs3000 & more to the good & they are still going up. The advantage of having shares as I have in 7 companies is that when some are quiet others are going up.

Oct. 7. I heard from **Lisle** he had finished his course & was waiting for a transport & so was going for a 3 day shoot. I've been frightfully busy & it's very hot, so I feel stupid & dull. Heaps of love & kisses, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Don't forget to send me your foreign bankers' address & tell them where to send your letters to.

9th October, Shillong, to Ida: My darling sweetheart, I got up here on 6th, Coldstream motoring me up from **Gruhati** (?), and delightful it is, we have fires at night & sleep under 2 blankets & an eiderdown. English mail just in & your telegram too. I am wiring I agree; its most awfully good of Shakespeare, of course Mrs S & the family are the drawback. You didn't say in your telegram whether **Violet** was keen; I think it would be a good thing for her to have another year in India. You & I too would rather enjoy having another year on your own (between ourselves); I don't know how far this will alter your plans about the S of France. **Violet** could join the Shakespeare's at Marseilles; I hope the baby will quiet Mrs S down & I hope the partner Basil what's his name won't have his wife there.

You must let me know what allowance **Violet** wants in India, so that I can arrange. I shall probably see her at **Cawnpore**, as I go up to **Dehra** in March. She was quite right to send back the ring.

I always feel frightfully rushed when a male comes in the day before one goes out & I only just arrived here, inspecting parties in the morning & various odds & ends. Now you are addressing letters quite correctly & I get them very regularly & how I enjoy them, thank **Violet** for hers. I'm a little lumbago-ish, I shall see whether I can play tennis this afternoon.

Thanks for the 3 stamps.

No, I didn't make **Lisle** keen on the Indian Army, he has simply found out how ghastly dull life is in a British regiment without private means. I advise & I know I'm right but having done so, I've done my show & if people won't take my advice, well I leave it alone, but of course **Ernle** ought to go into Indian Army.

Lisle leaves **Aden** about Dec. 23 & will be home I suppose about 10th Jan. I don't know when he can get leave though, he will be stationed at **Colchester**.

I shall get home about 12th April half way through the Easter holidays. S of France out of the question for Easter. If you can arrange some cheap place in or near **Paris** that would do, the boys could learn French. Mme Minorsky would be the person to consult. I don't mind where we are. If **Ernle** has passed into Sandhurst then he only gets 10 days for Easter. & it would be better you all were somewhere in England. Don't forget to wire result of **Ernle's** exam. Good or bad I shall be in a

fever. You don't tell me whether you have applied officially for a Cadetship, by not telling me, you keep me in a fever of anxiety. Of course I would have applied for an Indian Cadetship for **Ernle**, that would mean Indian Army, Rs.100 extra pay & about Rs.50 a month less mess bill.

Darling I can only scribble, heaps of love & kisses. You are my adored one. Ever your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

12th October, Shillong, to Ida: My darling Sweetheart, I could write you much longer letters, if you sometimes answered my questions, it makes life so very uninteresting. I should like to participate more in your life. I don't know how much money you've got or how much you spend & so all that is quite out of my control. You might have told me the amounts of the boys' school bills for last term, I haven't the faintest notion what they were. You said they were awful, but not how much. Cox write & tell me I'm overdrawn & I've had to sell out £100 War Loan. You know I originally asked you only to send me out on the 1st of each month the total amount of cheques you have drawn, then failing that send me out your passbook every 3 months. Then I asked you how much was your ½ yearly receipt from the Trust in July, none of these things were done. Once you sent me out a bundle of cheques, which I couldn't make head or tails of & tore up in a rage! Well now chuck all that, but will you obtain your pass book made out to 1st January 1924 & send it to me. I don't want to pry into what you spend, old girl, but I do loving having my accounts neat & correct & know exactly what I've got & what we've both got. Unless I know that I cannot make decisions on things, nor can I day dream, as I love doing, on what we can afford when we set up house.

I can quite understand how keen you are to settle down & if it makes you happier I agree, only if we have a house it will cost us £350 in income tax next year & unless we could let the house we couldn't possibly afford to go abroad for the winter & it would settle the question of my getting any work to do. As long as you clearly realise all that, well & good.

It's lovely up here, so cool after **Calcutta**, I feel only a little bit lumbago-ish, but not enough to stop my tennis. Mrs Molesworth will be my partner at tennis, she is quite useful & very nice. Green-Armitage, the doctor is my partner in the doubles, not much use. I shall probably know more about **Violet** coming out when I hear by letter; in your telegram you didn't say what you & Violet thought about the thing yourselves. My position is I agree if **Violet** is keen; that's the main point really.

Oct. 14. Darling, I think I began this letter rather crossly, took a cascara & felt much better. I've had a good lot of tennis & playing rather well, lumbago all right, my right wrist a bit weak, I think I'll bandage it. This aft. Sunday I've got a war memorial & Durbar show. I'm not playing any golf, only tennis.

If I were you I'd apply for both sorts of cadetship, Indian as well as British for **Ernle** & only accept the former if he can't get in without it. I've a feeling he will do reasonably in most subjects but won't qualify in French. In which case he must go for Easter hols to a family in France by himself. Mme Minorsky could probably arrange, so might **Bobby** & you could come up to **Paris** just before Easter from the S of France if you go there, then I could join you there. Minorsky & I were always great friends & they would do anything for me.

16th. Oct. No letter from you this mail, but I had one from **Margaret**, & I feel like a pricked balloon. I got through my first round of the men's doubles 6-1, 4-6, 6-2 against Coldstream & his partner, none of us playing well.

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

23rd October 1923, Shillong, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, Living in rather a rush, & I've not begun my letter to you, however luckily I have got a "nolette" to enclose, written some time ago. It has been awfully nice the Coldstreams having me so long, so I'm going to get them a Bokhara rug, they've saved me a lot. I got through 3 rounds of the men's tennis, but was beaten in the semi-finals 2 sets to 1, after winning the first set. I really was playing quite well. I leave here today week. It has been so nice being up here in this pretty cool spot & I've enjoyed it & feel very fit. Darling, you must let me know what you want extra for **Violet's** outfit. You see I don't know what you've got

or what you spend. You can reckon probably on about £150 in January for the Trust money. I can send you whatever is wanted, if you will let me know. State Ball on today, I was to have danced in the State Lancers, however unfortunately I hadn't my uniform with me, so was let off, but Mrs Coldstream was teaching me!

I'm well up at bridge, about Rs.70 I think. It is very important for me to know which is **Violet's** steamer, then I can find out when she will arrive, & I can see her en route from **Calcutta** to **Dehra Dun**. Heaps of love & kisses, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

28th October, Shillong, to Ida: My adorable Darling, I amuse myself by thinking out more "novelettes", but they are really not suitable for publication even to you!! I leave here on 30th & get to **Calcutta** on 31st. I shall either get the mail just before leaving or when I get to **Calcutta**. I've had a delightful time here & feel very fit, had some good tennis since the tournament, always playing quite well, I shall become quite conceited. I hit much harder than I used to.

I went one day to the races, made 8 bets, lost every one, fortunately only 22/-. Mrs Coldstream's views on the people up here are just the same as yours; he & I are more easy going. We are just off for a picnic lunch on the peak.

Nov.1. Here I am nicely settled in **Calcutta**, got down yesterday & Zohur has settled my things in most beautiful order. I shall shortly begin to go through all my things & weed out & sell. I always love to get into a new month & really I haven't got very long to wait now before I start for you. Address U. S. Club, **Calcutta** until further notice. No letter from you this mail, it may have gone up to **Shillong** & arrived after I left. I send you Well's receipted bill & the new quarterly bill, tell them again to send it to you, not me. Also look at this little cutting¹⁰, wasn't that your diamond necklace friend! I've got a nice room & feel full of beans, thinking out another "novelette" makes me very much in love with you. Don't forget I want to know **Violet's** steamer's name. When is Shakespear himself coming out & what you both think she (**Violet**) will want as an allowance for her dress & expenses. She should have £10 for the voyage, you & I pay all outfit, if you will do that, drawing a cheque on Cox if necessary, only tell me if you do. I am increasing the amount I am sending home to them, so they will have money.

Heaps of love & kisses, my pet; I'm rushed arriving the day before mail day & lots of letters to answer, private & official. Ever your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Love to **Violet**.

Date of **Ernle** going up for **Sandhurst**.

I assume that the masters think that there is no good his going up for **Woolwich**, he would be a gunner, he couldn't pass high enough for sappers. The point is when should he go up, his first chance is December this year. I am a great believer in a boy passing in as young as possible, it may make all the difference later on in life the few months, the older fellow has to retire for age & the younger one just escapes & gets command. The only reason for postponing is if a boy by so doing is able to distinguish himself more at school & therefore at **Sandhurst** by winning some prize or getting into the XI or XV, this does not seem likely in **Ernle's** case. Therefore I recommend his going up in Dec. this year.

Consult his House Master (I see his name is G Ray, not Gray as I thought). I hope **Ernle** has passed his Certificate A do let me know, the 3 to 400 marks for this count for the army exam. He must improve his handwriting, **Lisle** lost nearly (or over) 500 marks for bad writing & spelling. He must improve his French, he really ought to spend the summer holidays with a French family. Get **Violet** to write to her M^{l^e}. who married. Frank Hutchinson's boy, same age as **Ernle** is two classes above him, he is not going up to **Woolwich** till June 1924, the reason for the delay in his case is because they want him to be certain of Sappers.

¹⁰ Newspaper cutting referring to an arrest in Llanelly of a man wanted in India for cheating.

12th November, U S Club, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, I got two letters from you this mail, yesterday. darling I'm so distressed you are not happy. I really don't know what it is you want. Just think how lucky we have been. You have a husband who simply adores you, here you are aged 50 & loved as if you were 19, both your sisters have lost their husbands, you have 6 of the most lovely sweet children, who all adore you, your sisters one has none, the other has only one nice one the other a bundmash (?). I admit we haven't got enough money for everything, but we should have if we didn't buy a house, our income of £1200 a year clear of income tax, surely that is good enough. Your husband has many honours, **Kitty's** none, so if **Chucky** prefers them to you, why grizzle, let him. I write like this because both your letters where are the grizzling ones & now you are going to lodgings in **Eastbourne** to display that damnable independence of yours. I still don't follow why you have chucked France. I should have stayed for **Ernle's** exam & then gone off to **Paris**, arranging rooms with Mme Minorsky, had the boys over for Xmas holidays, then when they go back to school or **Sandhurst**, go down south, see Violet off at **Marseilles** & go to any on the Riviera fixing up with some friend like Miss Cary (?) Barnard, then come up again to **Paris** for Easter holidays, have the boys over there, make them learn French & I'd pick you up there & read all go over together at the end of the holidays (only difficulty there is Ernle if (*he*) only has 10 days), then you & I would have a year before us with our pockets full of money to go & see all sorts of lovely places, Scotland for instance. Oh! we'd have a glorious time; when you grizzle I feel as if I'd failed to make you happy. I don't intend to be independent at all, I'm going to stay a month with my beloved **Margaret** & a month with my beloved **Enid** & won't for one moment think I'm not welcome, of course I am, so you. Buck up, old girl & look at things in a cheery light. Of course we shall have a difficulty in finding a house to suit, but don't look at houses costing £3900, it only makes one discontented with what one can afford.

I don't know who has been stuffing you up with the cost of fares to **Paris**, all that is more than paid for by the £55 Income Tax recovery, think of seeing the Lonora (?) & Versailles & Fontainebleau & a bit of the battlefields.

I had a great day yesterday, attended the Armistice service at the Cenotaph, beat McHarg 6 up at golf & won Rs.70 at bridge, cold weather coming on & I feel full of beans writing before my bath. Oh! We'll have a topping time.

13th Nov. Sometimes I grumble too, but only for the moment. How lucky I've been with a wife the best prize in the world & I won, better than £10,000 a year any day to have you for my wife & 6 lovely children who all love us like anything & what I call sufficient to live on & every month I'm adding a bit and a sufficiently successful career to look back on. My dear we are the lucky ones in both our families, no doubt of it. & think, I shall be home the middle of April & there'll be just you & me together. We'll have a perfectly glorious time.

I went to the said our last night "The Loves of Pharaoh", one of those huge spectacular films, the excitement was bad for me, as I slept badly & am yawning as I write at 7:30 am, but I like getting on with my letter. I lost 4 rubbers yesterday afternoon straight on end. I think I shall come home early & have a sleep. Dearest I adore you, my sweetest of darlings.

Tea (*shares*) is sticky, going back a little, however I think it will come up again soon. By working in the factory it was you who started our fortunes on the upgrade.

Nov. 15. So cheerio, old bean & don't be surprised but get ready to be loved with overwhelming passion middle April. Why, my dear that's only 5 months from now, & the weeks & mail day come tearing round. I dined last night with young Sankey (Mrs Longe's son). I'm so much in love with you. (*I wish*) I was with you to kiss all your depression away. I had a most interesting afternoon reading some of your 1918 letters, which I keep. I'm gradually getting them in order.¹¹ My portrait is finished & on its way over from Burma. Gunter says it's a good likeness, but a little weak in painting (?); I'll have it photographed. I met some friends of mine here Wylly's, whom I thought were in **Bombay**; they go home in my boat which is lucky. How beautiful you are, Darling. Heaps

¹¹ I wonder what happens to these.

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

16th November, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, I'm rather longing for it to get cool enough to do without a fan. There is a storm in the Bay, which stops the north wind from flowing in. This morning writing of nine (*sic*) gives me lots of time to write, we have two holidays, today Friday & tomorrow. I'm playing golf today, tennis tomorrow (I get very little tennis in **Calcutta**) & golf on Sunday, so I'm lucky, but I'd sooner be eating a kipper with you. By the bye, you never told me a word about English food, isn't it good? If you are at **Eastbourne** you ought to amuse yourself unpacking some of our Chinese things & setting them, if we've decided to sell anything the sooner it's done the better, & by War Savings Certificates. I got a regular gallery of my photos in front of me, how very beautiful you are, darling.

Have you tackled **Ernle's** hair, don't forget he must part it on the right side & you'll find it will be quite all right.

20th Nov. Not much of a mail only a short one from you. You had just arrived at **Eastbourne**; you said the houses you saw from **Chucky** were impossible, but you didn't say why. Of course if you want to live in one of the most expensive localities you can't also get the ideal house. I was hoping you would have learned to drive a car by now, it would be so useful. I'm thinking of **Ernle** all the time, **Lisle** didn't have to go up to London for his exam, they are evidently going back to old ways. Of course it was an awful pity **Ernle** having to do Cert A just a few days before the exam. I hope **Bobby** will get that off his chest next spring. We had rain yesterday, the remains of a big storm that has bust miles of railway between here & Madras. My weekend games were tennis, very poor, hardly anyone who could play, golf I was playing well, won once & half to the other. I dined with Duval last night, ladies' dinner at the Bengal Club, lost 5/- at bridge.

21st Nov. I'm using up all sorts of odd note paper & envelopes, not worth bringing home. I came back from office before lunch, bit of a headache, laid down after lunch & now 3 pm. I've just got up, I think a cascara tonight will do the needful, in spite of its I feel full of love for you & cheeriness generally. I'm full of plans for next year, Scotland 2 months, Brittany 2 months, Paris 1 month, winter sports 2 months, Riviera 2 months, learn to drive a car (you too), oh! all sorts of nice things, pockets full of money, heart full of love & sailing for home in a little over four months. I won over 40/- at Bridge yesterday, that always brightens me & then I'll hope for a long letter on Sunday.

Tea shares steady, not moving. I'm seeing a broker on Friday to discuss shares with him & see if he has nay good ideas. What I'm after is to see if I can't have some luck & make a bit more so that you can have a house more to your liking.

If **Ernle** passes into Sandhurst he is to have £6 a month, a free outfit of clothes then pay everything for himself, as **Lisle** did, rail fares & everything & I'll also give him £50 to start with, but that he must not send on odds & ends like **Lisle** did, keep it in tact. He'll have his own account at Cox & write his own cheques.

I shall be interested to know what sort of allowance **Violet** ought to have; I think in addition I'll authorise my Bank to cash her cheques up to say Rs.500 in case of emergencies or for rail journeys. Any English money she has over after the voyage tell her to keep & I'll give her rupees for it.

Nov. 22. The cold weather has arrived, lovely, only I want a long letter from you with all the news. I'm Rs.230/- up at bridge this month, isn't it extraordinary. I wish I knew where you were going to spend Xmas.

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

You know you can write checks on my account at Cox, it's a joint account; you should ask them what is my balance & write a cheque to **Violet**, £100 or whatever you think fit for her out of it, only let me know.

23rd November, Calcutta, to Ida: My adorable Darling, I wonder if you are thinking of me today, that day¹² which though 32 years ago seems to me as if it was only a year ago. Every incident of that day I remember clearly, though I have a bad memory generally. Very many happy returns of the day, it's much more important to me than my birthday. Married all these years you are still to me a young goddess.

24th Nov. it is so delightfully cold in the early morning, I'm wearing my thick dressing gown. Today is Saturday, mail in tomorrow. I can't help it, I still get all of a goggle wondering what sort of a letter I shall get. I have such lots of things to think of, first of all my darling wife & then the children, my work, my games, exploring (that's over), bridge, gambling in shares, keeping my accounts & so on, but by far the greatest & most interesting of these is the 'only woman I've ever kissed'. I pray she won't be too independent. I lost 11/- at bridge on Thursday & won 43/- yesterday, all fine rubbers played before dinner. After dinner I treated myself to a cinema, all comic they have on Fridays, not bad. I had a long talk with Dutt, the Bengali broker, a remarkably intelligent man, so I've gone a plunge & bought Jute & Tea shares to the tune of about Rs.14,000 on an overdraft. I pay 7 or 8% on the overdraft, but all my shares pay me 12% to 15% & will probably go up. Now that I've bought Jute shares I get interested in all the crop reports &c. I arranged the overdraft with the Allahabad Bank who hold my tea shares, they allow one overdraft about equal to half the value of the shares.

25th Nov. Mail comes in this afternoon. Frank Hutchinson was here for two days en route to Burma on tour; you know, Ida, although he is dull he is a nice fellow, a sahib. I only one 14/-yesterday at Bridge. I spend my spare time going through all your letters during the war, they are most interesting. Darling, how you worked. I've got them all in order, date in blue pencil on the envelopes¹³.

26th Nov: Darling in a way I'm sorry I was cross when I wrote, your letter is the answer, but at the same time it was effective, and I've got you to answer my questions & I'm all alert again. Truth is darling I spoil you & you want the 'big stick' now & again.

Now look here, as regards accounts, yours at Lloyds, I want no list of cheques only your passbook up to about first January. As regards Cox's I don't want to see the bills at all, all I want is when you pass them to Cox for payment, note the amounts in a penny (?) book & next mail in your letter tell me what it is or any cheques you draw on Cox, that you must tell me, tell me twice rather than not at all. About your ½ yearly money from the Trust, of course you seen it in your passbook, if you ever look at it, to me it would be a most frightfully exciting thing to know how much it is, it varies so, it is paid in about Jan. 15 & July 15. Tell Lloyds to always let you know.

All right I'll think about what **Violet's** allowance should be, although it isn't my job & fix it up.

I send you the addresses you ask for, any R.E. You can always get by addressing to Cox.

You've never sent any message to Zohur, so I've twice lied and said you sent salaams. I hope you will write a little letter in an envelope addressed to him to my care.

Nov. 27. Darling, the deed is done. I've bought 25 National Jute, 25 Orient Jute and 200 Rutema Tea for Rs.14,562, and consequently I shall be something over Rs.12,000 overdrawn.

I'm giving the Coldstreams a farewell dinner on 20th. Dec. got to be done.

I wrote to the carpet man at **Peshawar** for some more **Bokhara** rugs but he won't send any on approval. I've found out the sort we got for Margaret is Royal Bokhara. I'll get 2 or 3 of them before I leave India & one I must give to the Coldstreams in return for their hospitality.

If you are staying in England you ought to learn to drive a car, they are so cheap now.

28th Nov. it is most perfect weather, but of course only for a little over 2 months, how delighted I shall be never to see a fan again. You've never told me whether you've got Andrea (?) to send in a

12 The day they first met.

13 It would be so good to match these letters with hers, but we don't seem to have them.

bill for last March in **Dehra Dun**. I have to move into another room, hundred and Rs.175 a month instead of the hundred and Rs.120, but my present room is only a temporary room & one is liable to be turned out. Darling, how I do adore you, quite irrespective of attention, for which I'm getting a bit old. I'm simply longing to look at your beautiful eyes, especially when they are all shining. We shall have a topping time at home. I warn you when I come home I shall feel very extravagant & you will have to restrain me; not I think in theatres much. I came to the conclusion after I was home in 1920 that most of it was a waste of money, just a few really good pieces are worth seeing not more. I lost 17/- at bridge yesterday, I also played badly. How pretty you are, darling. I made a mistake in the date for Easter, I worked it out from the Prayer Book to be April 1, but it is April 20.

Nov. 20 (30?). I had such a headache yesterday afternoon, aspirin no good, however a cascara last night seems useful, anyhow the head has gone. My new room is I must say very nice. I'm not like you I love money & what nice things it brings. I'm sorry to say I always smoke a cheroot after chota hazri while I'm writing to you.

Yesterday afternoon I went over to the Lawn House & talked with Mrs Lloyd & another lady, Mrs Woodhead. I nearly sent them into hysterics; do you know this story: a Bishop calling at a house, little girl of seven sat herself on his knee.

Bishop, "Do you know the Lord's Prayer?"

Little girl, "Yes, every word of it."

Bishop, "Do you know the Ten Commandments?"

Little girl, "Yes, all of them."

Bishop, "Do you know the Catechism?"

Little girl, "Oh, I say dammit all, I'm only seven. The Bishop collapses.

Laugh, old girl, that's funny.

I kiss your adorable eyes. You know the sort of feelings you have about me, well multiply them by 10 and that's how much I love you. Hira Lal is back from his leave; I don't however in Calcutta have a Chuprassi¹⁴ at the club.

I have a sort of idea that Rs.152 a month, with the first allowance paid in on 1st March, ought to do **Violet** all right, with authority to draw cheques up to Rs.500 on my bank if necessary.

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

30th November, Calcutta, to Ida: My beautiful & beloved Darling, first of all a very happy Xmas & to all my darling's. I shall be thinking of you for certain & shall have to wipe my eyeglass at the time also for certain. I've written to Shakespear, as I fancy he must be out by now though no one has told me. It has warmed up the last day or two again, but quite nice however, I'm sitting writing before my bath in pyjamas. Just had a letter from Barron at **Chittagong**, he is very Scotch, which is funny, because Mrs B. is a merry little creature; you know her Father owns a broad in Norfolk.

Lisle hasn't told me whether he has passed his machine gun course, he is not a good letter writer, I wonder who he inherited that from. I have got very little work to do & feel very overpaid! Do you realise that it is less than 4 months before I start (*for home*), 16 letters including this one. I am told that the mail usually arrives in London on the Sunday, so mine will be the week before Easter. Now you ought to find out when the **Cheltenham** Easter holidays begin roughly. Take your pen & write now, then you'll know all necessary dates & can fix up a bundobast now not a fortnight before.

1st Dec. New month, hurrah! I'm going with this morning to the opening of the **Calcutta** Exhibition, a sort of small edition of the one at home at **Wembley**. No bridge last night & so I went to bed at 10:30 after doing up my accounts for the month, always an interesting job to me. As you happen to have a husband so constituted, you ought to leave all money questions entirely to me, you know I'm

14 An office messenger.

not mean; arranging a house you know I wouldn't dream of interfering with you.

3rd Dec. A lovely mail in yesterday, full of interest & a lot to answer. I think **Violet's** estimate of a little over £70 very moderate. Anyhow £100 is available at Cox. I should tell Cox to pay it into her account at Lloyds & let her run her own show. I think perhaps that might include money for the voyage. I was most interested in your house with huge woods. I wonder where it was.

Ernle must have just finished his exam. I shall be simply longing to know the result.

Now, look here, Xmas holidays will just be begun when this reaches you, so you will have settled everything for them, but Easter holidays is where I come in. Anywhere on the Riviera is too far away for the boys to come out for Easter, but **Paris** isn't. **Bobby** will have a month, **Ernle** only 10 days if at **Sandhurst**. Easter is on April 20. I shall arrive **London** April 13, **Paris** April 12.

5th Dec. No particular news, about level at Bridge, and none of my shares moving, funnily enough the rupee is up to over 1s. 5d. You never told me whether you asked Andrew for his account, you said you were going to & what his answer was.

Have you consulted a doctor at home about your shin is, showing him the x-rays, & how are you? I keep very well thank you, a little liverish while it's hot, when I thank goodness no more hot weather is in India.

Dec. 6. Now this is strict business, read sign & send the enclosed to Cox, now. Take a pen & do it now. You will then early in January know what I have there. My guess is £270. Now out of that has got to come **Violet's** say £100 & Boys' schooling & **Ernle's** fees if at **Sandhurst**, I know one is £65 for uniform & books & there is the regular payment in addition, I rather think it is £200 for each year; then there is his allowance £6 a month to arrange & also like **Lisle** he is to have £50 down, but do talk to him about this, it was such a pity **Lisle** frittering his away. They get 4 shillings a day from Govt. which they can draw on for cigarettes, soda water, jam &c. I shall send home (arriving end of January) my monthly remittance, & so I will February & March, but don't want it to be unnecessarily big; you see I have to pay 8 to 9% on my overdraft, so I want to use all the money I can in reducing it, so I only want to send home what is necessary. **Violet's** last allowance at home will be Feb. 1. £8. So don't forget every item you pass to Cox to pay & cheque you draw on Cox you must let me know; don't on this occasion make payments before they are necessary & don't let my account at Cox be overdrawn on which I have to pay interest, while yours is bursting full of money. Tell Lloyds to let you know how much your Trust money payment is about middle January.

Darling I adore you, heaps of love & kisses, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

You'll have to see about **Ernle's** clothes for **Sandhurst**, they give you a list of things they ought to have, it's the step from schoolboy to young man, but they especially tell you not to give too many clothes.

7th December, Calcutta, to Ida: My own adorable sweetheart, This week is unfortunate, slow steamer & the mail won't get here till Wednesday & they'll be a rush to answer everything by the following day.

I've got a little sort of wart on my head, under the hair, it won't go away.

I should make use of **Lisle** to tell you what clothes &c. **Ernle** will want at **Sandhurst**. He will be home by middle of January.

We are now having good cold weather. Yesterday I played golf & beat Allison, a pilot 2 up. I'm playing so steadily now.

Zohur picked up a miniature Delhi Durbar medal in the street, somebody has lost it. I must find out.

I have very little work to do, just now, so I come back here & lunch, though I'm really better if I don't lunch. Last night I was playing bridge at the Ducats, won 8/-.

10th. Dec. I've a jolly old nose cold, came on suddenly yesterday with a headache, the latter is better,

but nose running hard, makes me feel cheap & so not keen on writing.

12th. Dec. Recovering a little, still feel wormish, & much more inclined the bed than writing & I haven't gone to office, a regular chill, a violent cold, trots & slight fever. I had to chuck dining at Govt. House yesterday. I had a delightful mail; I think you will be spending Xmas at **Hele**; now that you have chucked the 6 months out of England idea to save your £55 income tax. One of the arguments for going to the S. of France goes. Anyhow I arrive at **Marseilles** April 12 & **London** April 13 or **Paris** as directed, but do please let me know well before I get to **Marseilles**, because it makes a difference what clothes one brings along. You were quite right to burn my novelettes! Very improper. However in a way they were done to my love for you & thinking of how we started **Lisle**. I'm very down at Bridge this month, Rs.80, I should think; too weak to write more now.

13th Dec. thank you so much, darling, I'm ever so much better; really quite all right. I slept on this morning till 7.30, never woke up when my tea came. I think I shall go to office this morning just for an hour. I love thinking of our meeting & wonder whether it will be on a **Paris** or **London** platform. Don't forget I hate not being met, as if no one cared a damn whether one came or whether one didn't. Another rather nice place to meet is **Dover** & then instead of rushing up to town one spends a night at the Lord Warden Hotel. Anyhow I shall arrive just a week before Easter, so we'll have those holidays to see the boys. You should find out now about when the Easter holidays begin and write to the Caps bursar Cheltenham. Then after the holidays I should like to go over & see **Margaret** for a good long visit a fortnight to a month, P.G.'s if you like, then we must see **Una & Mary & Gratnar**. Darling, I adore you, looking forward to having such a jolly time with you alone, only be content simple pleasures & all will be well. I'll somehow earn enough money for my beloved.

14th. Dec. better but not quite right yet, however I was at office yesterday. This afternoon Monty Butler is coming over the offices. I must write to **Kitty** that Govt. won't buy her house, although MacMunn strongly recommended it. I don't know what she can do now. I'm thinking of having another by in tea shares as there is a general feeling they will go up next month, the only snag possible, funnily enough, is exchange.

They put off the mail departure a day, so I'm writing on a Friday.

Adorable darling, however did I manage to get 6 children out of you, I must be very persuasive!

Just finished this old block.

Heaps of love & kisses. You will have the dear boys with you. I'm so glad they look after you. Love to them & to **Violet**, ever your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

I'm sure my pyjamas will be superb.

18th December, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, Yes darling, I did comment about **Ernle** going to **Windermere**, I said that one must do as the masters advise. They know what is necessary much better than we do. I am waiting "all of a sweat" for the result of **Ernle's** exam. You need not send a telegram through Lloyds, any post office & address, Ryder Surveys, **Calcutta**.

Now about Easter holidays, we are both talking at the back of our heads when we don't know whether Ernle will be at **Sandhurst** & what are the holiday dates at **Sandhurst & Cheltenham**; if you should find out to once (*sic*). If as I think E only gets 10 days, S. of France is out of the question, **Paris** is possible. **Claud** suggests our all going over to them¹⁵, this would be killing 2 birds with one stone & worth thinking of. He says the boys would love it at Easter for the birds nesting. My cold is still on, takes a long time to get rid of.

I've now bought all the shares I want to, & am Rs.17,000 overdrawn. Now I've got to watch when to sell. I am badly down at Bridge this month, can't hold a card. A nice mail in yesterday. Darling **Margaret** gave me 15/- to buy myself something for Xmas, very sweet of her.

Viceroy coming round the office today.

15 Presumably at Ballyorney, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

19th. Dec. H.E.'s visit was I think quite successful, hurried as he only had ½ an hour, but he was nice & pleased. Just got your wire, "**Violet** sailing **Marseilles** Malwa 18 January." That was very sensible telegraphing, now I know when & where to address to her & can arrange date of my going up country & so can soon settle where you should address me. The telegram came in with my chota hazri, & I opened it tremblingly thinking it was **Ernle's** result. I'm being rather hospitable just now, a farewell dinner on tomorrow to the Coldstreams, 15 including myself, and on Sat. 22nd. A dinner of 6, Lloyds, Barron & the Sassoon's, whom Mrs Barron has asked me to be counter, Jews, he was in 9th Lancers, now in business.

20th. Dec. Today week I shall be celebrating our wedding day. I've got to think out my speech for tonight, I don't think I shall be humorous, too many Scotch present. M.O'C. Tandy has arrived & taken over from McHarg, who has gone to **Shillong**. I must have a tidy up of my table soon. I've got all my things now arranged so that I could finally pack up in 2 days easily, and I really like a tidy table, only tidied by myself!

Darling I adore you, our meeting is getting nearer & nearer, well under four months now. I hope to know as soon as possible where it will be. I imagine the holidays will begin about 3rd April. Now how would it be for the boys to go over to Margaret & we follow? I rather like that idea, then we should be there about a fortnight. Heaps of passionate love & kisses, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

The reason why I want your passbook book, to see exactly what balance you have on 31st December, before your 1st Jan. allowance is paid in, for my annual balance sheet.

23rd December, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, Sunday morning with my chota hazri came the telegram that **Ernle** had passed. I am pleased & feel 10 years younger. I'll telegraph congratulations tomorrow. It'll be another three weeks before I hear details, but I'm very happy. You know, darling, I really have had to give up a good deal (so have you) for the children's sake, amply repaid by success. Of their real love for us I think we are quite sure, and that too is a great source of happiness.

I'm so sorry one of my letters missed. I'm quite certain I've never not written; however we shall soon be together again & in for a topping time.

I think my farewell dinner to the Coldstreams was a success. I made a suitable little speech, your husband is rather noted that sort of thing. I shall have a big Club bill. I'm dining with Graham I.C.S. At the Bengal Club tonight, we shall talk Tea & Jute I expect.

English mail in this morning. You now had made up your mind to spend Xmas in **Paris**.

24th Dec. I can't get over it. I think of dear little **Ernle** all day. Of course you will see he is properly fitted out. You were quite right to get him his evening suit. Don't get too much until he has stopped growing.

Now about finance: you will tell Cox to start him an account & send him a cheque book. £6 a month is to be his allowance & he pays everything out of that, except holiday board & lodging. He is to get a present of £50 for passing, but I strongly advise you & he to talk it over & put it into War Savings Certificates till he wants it, he'll only fritter it away like **Lisle** did & he really will want it for the year after he is 21, when his allowance stops, or if he goes to India to buy a gun.

My dear, still I can't get over it, our **Ernle** in Sandhurst! I shall be frightfully interested to see it in the Times and I shall long to have the book of marks &c.

Now that we know **Ernle** has passed, we know he will only get 10 days at Easter, so South of France is out of the question for Easter; if therefore you yourself go down south you should move up to Paris or to **Margaret's** for Easter whichever you like. I won Rs.110.04 drawing a horse in the sweep for the King Emperor's Cup & lost Rs.52 of the races. I shan't go again.

I shall take a little interest in looking at the Honour's List on 1st Jan. & June are my last chances.

25th Dec. Xmas day & 2 days hence our wedding day. Fancy it was **Enid** & not from you that I heard you were letting your hair grow. I'm most interested; don't you yet understand that I love you so much that every mole or ingrowing toe nail or anything else about you is of the most intense interest to me. I dined & played bridge at the Bengal Club last night, won a little for a change. I have a lot of letters this mail, Wood, Mears, Renny-Tailyour, even Mrs Turner!

26th Dec. I've been persuaded to go to the Viceroy's Cup today, lunching there with the Wyllys. We played roulette after dinner, I lost 5/8. Another thing you've never told me is that you have a pain in your side; you should see a doctor at once & it makes me much more anxious when you don't tell me & I only find out through the Messenger Boy. I had a long letter from Mrs Cowie for Xmas, she said Col Cowie's blood pressure went up to 265 & then she called in Andrea (?) & He was most strict in diet &c. & it has come down to 220 again, but I'm always afraid he may die suddenly.

I send you my address list; if you lose it or don't keep to it I shall "cut your liver out" when we meet.

27th Dec. Adorable darling, many happy returns of the happiest day of my life¹⁶. I had another day at the races, entrance Rs.20 & Rs.35 in bets, I won one & lost five, mugs game, but it was rather interesting seeing the Viceroy's Cup day & all the swanky clothes. Heaps of love & kisses, my darling, ever your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

28th December, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, 12 at the top of my letter means that including this, I shall only have 12 letters to write, my last will be No.1 & this day 3 months I shall be starting from Delhi; aren't you getting a little bit excited or does the idea you stiff!

I shall not have my annual balance sheet out till I get Cox & Lloyds' passbooks, but I can see roughly what it will be. We've saved £1000 this year & increased our joint belongings to £6200, excluding your Trust money. That is not bad, considering we lost £200 in the Alliance Bank. Of this we shall require £2000 for **Ernie & Bobby** & that leaves us with £4200 of which I allot £2500 to buy & get into a house and the balance as a nest egg & to increase our income. In 1924 I hardly expect to increase our balance much, though shall be on full pay 27th Sept. what we should have done without our (*her!*) factory working & then your Trust income goodness only knows, so you see, you've helped substantially. I think we may both look back with pride on how we've managed.

Dec. 29. I had 6 sets singles at the Calcutta Club, won 4-2. I was playing well especially when in the last two sets the light got perfect. Have you learnt to drive a car yet, a Morris Cowley 4 seater will be about our style. I'm doing nothing today, tomorrow I'm away. Breakfast with Sankey (Mrs Longe's son) at Jodhpore Club, Tennis, Sassoon is at 43 Chowringhee, dine & bridge Bengal Club with Ferguson, & always (?); you see your handsome husband is in request.

Dec. 30. Mail comes in very soon, about 10. I generally write to you as I am now before my bath, I just put on an old coat & muffler. My dear, yesterday my new pyjamas arrived, most beautiful & quite right size (hope they won't shrink) ever so many thanks & a passionate kiss. Yesterday my luck turned at Bridge & I won 81/- reducing me from -201/- to -120/- which is better. Mike old has practically gone. I do wish you'd tell me more about yourself & your health; anything about you interest to me intensely.

1st Jan. For the first time I have been disappointed at not getting a K. I thought that if I was to get it at all, this would have been the occasion, my last in India.¹⁷ I'm very glad though I got cold stream a C.I.E., he deserved it well.

Today I'm going once more to the races, lunching with the Fraser Hunter's there. I had some good singles at tennis yesterday, beat Dunn 4 sets to 1. Yes, evidently one of my letters never arrived, as you don't mention getting one from Zohur, which I enclosed.

Jan. 3. I lost the usual 50/- at the races, thank goodness I haven't to go again. I was 144/- down at

¹⁶ Their wedding anniversary.

¹⁷ He was one of very few Surveyor Generals' not to be awarded a knighthood.

Bridge last month, my first loss for ages. I've written this week to **Port Said** to beat Violet. I think I make a mistake to sending you home advice as to where to spend holidays &c. you chop & change; now on Jan. 3 I don't know where you are spending Xmas. I warned you I make my plans long way ahead & stick to them & if you don't want to go on that date, I'll go without you.

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

Money Matters

This note is intended to try & help you in arranging payments &c to the benefit of both of us.

It is silly to be overdrawn in one of our accounts & pay overdraft interest thereon, when there is plenty of money in the other.

Our account at Cox is a joint one, that is you can draw cheques on Cox or order them to pay anything as you do for the school bills.

I don't want to send home more money than necessary just now as I have to pay 8% on my overdraft out here.

To know how I stand at Cox, you should at once write to them (I draft the letter for you) asking them to say what balance we had on 31st Dec. 1923, I guess about £340, & what payments & receipts they have added since payments will be probably **Ida** £60, **Violet** £8, **Una** £5, R.G.S. £2 R.E. Institute £2 = £77 plus any payments you have ordered. I shall have ordered none. Receipts will be nil, but I shall send home in January £120, this will arrive home to Cox about 20th Jan.

You have to allow for a payment of £60 to yourself on 1st Feb. **Violet's** will stop after 1st Jan. one (?).

Payments you will order for **Bobbie** the usual 2 bills from Cheltenham College & housemaster, but for **Ernle** only housemaster.

Then for **Ernle** you will have to pay (1) £65 for uniform, books.

(2) Fee, £200 a year I believe, you will be told that & whether you pay at once or half each term.

(3) His allowance £6 a month, that might begin from 1st Feb. with say £10 out of his £50 as a starter, the balance £40 invested in War Savings Certificates in his name.

(4) His outfit bills.

You ought also to know how you stand at Lloyds, and of course there will be **Violet's** outfit.

You ought to be able to write out to me & explain how we stand at Cox at the end of January & what still has to be paid, then I can decide how much to send home in March.

Don't forget you get your Trust income credited at Lloyds middle January, do take a faint interest in the amount.

6th January 1924, Calcutta, to Ida: My adorable Darling, I wonder if you really are going off to **Monte Carlo**, how perfectly thrilling. Do send me an address there for letters, you will get them so much quicker & I shall long to hear all about your adventures. I do hope you will enjoy it, because I want to go out there myself with you. You will see first-class tennis, as all the cracks will be there, including Suzanne, Mrs Covell, Mrs Barron & all the French cracks. Explore & find out what are cheap places to live in near where things are going on. I was playing golf with Brandsby Williams yesterday & he said he was going to spend 2 months at the golf place near **Monte Carlo**. Although I said in my last I thought I made a mistake in advising you where to go for holidays, because of course when my letter gets home things have changed, still for Easter I should say S. of France out of the question because **Ernle** only gets 10 days. **Paris** quite possible if you have found a nice cheap place there to live in. **Margaret's** also quite possible, the boys would love the new (?) birds nesting, they could go at the beginning of the holidays or at least Bobby could about April 5. I arrive April 13 & you & I & Ernle could go over together, whatever you like. If we were in Paris,

then we should go over to Ireland¹⁸ as soon as possible after.

9th. Jan. Mail in late Tuesday & only a pencil scrap from you, boys just arrived, next week I shall hear all about the **Sandhurst** result. Denis Campbell came & had a talk with me, his mother is at this address: Mrs R.H.Campbell (Nellie you call her), Savoy Hotel, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, Alpes Maritimes, France (you know Dick her husband died last year). Denis says they are at a very nice hotel, cheaper than those at **Monte** & you go in there by train if you want to. Write to her & arrange a meeting. I've had two games of golf lately, won both, played quite well, consequently I'm quite fond of it again.

I send you my annual accounts as far as India is concerned, & I've got Cox's pass book & only want Lloyds to make up the whole lot. It was rather a below I found I had £100 less at Cox than I thought, entirely my mistake. From the beginning of last year I counted in a reaim (?) leave (?) twice, however £120 went home this mail. You had paid **Violet** £50, after which there was £196 in hand on 18th Dec. including £100 I sent home in December. I wonder if you could manage without your Feb.1 or March 1 allowance, if so write to Cox & told them not to pay & if you do here are 60 kisses for you, if you can't never mind.

I am writing to Nellie about Denis, so for heaven's sake don't be slack but right at once as she'll know you are in the neighbourhood.

10th Jan. Mail day. Darling, poor Zohur has written to you again do answer it & send him a chit. Heaps of love & kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Page.....

s Office. File No. of 192
(RS.)

1923

Serial No.	Description	Amount	Balance
	In hand 1 st Jan. 1450.7.4		Remittances home £1140 16,817.15.10
Pay	35,783.5.0	Spent in India	14,865.3.3
J.G.	3,787.12.0	Invested in India	37,258.4.0
Miscellaneous	3,589.0.8	Do do	270.2.9
Interest	2,742.2.3		
Bills owing	1,509.15.0	Overdraft 31 st Dec	- 17,376.16.7
	51,834.11.3		51,834.11.3
<u>1922</u>			
	In hand 21 st Dec 2,564.7.4		Remittances home £500. 6,070.3.0
Pay	48,749.2.2	to Dr. Sule	11,625.15.0
J.G.	3,109.9.9	Spent self.	17,333.5.6
Interest	1,724.14.7	Invested in India	17,677.3.9
Bills owing	142.9.0		
Miscellaneous	866.7.9	In hand 231 st Dec	4,450.7.4
	57,157.2.7		57,157.2.7
<p>Notes. I drew Rs 13000 pay in 1922 for in 1923. and 6 was granting Rs 15000 and refund for family pension of 11,000.000. Miscellaneous generally means for sale of things. Bills very heavy in 1923 Interest on investments has increased by Rs 1000.</p>			

18 i.e. to Margaret's.

Investments in India on 1st Jan. 1924

		Permaned at
200 Pouch Rice coal @ 10½ Rs.	2100	14
100 Hooghly stone @ 27¾	2775	34
12 Bengal coal @ 643/8	7722	826
500 Campfire testles @ 4/4	2187	8½
100 Brand. Brand. Life Policy @ 62	6200	152 56
200 Dablon Tea @ 22¾	4575	18½
200 Halki Tea @ 23¼	4650	19
100 Gorb. Tea @ 22	2200	17½
200 Bismuth Tea @ 27¼	5450	26¼
200 East India Tea @ 15	3000	14 3/8
25 Chandypore Tea @ 163/4	4075	152
200 Pussimung Tea @ 16/8	3300	16¼
200 Rukma Tea @ 13/12	2750	13½
100 Saferi Tea @ 21/4	2125	20
200 Tirrihana Tea @ 21/8	4300	19¼
25 Central Cakes @ 99	2475	94
25 orient jute @ 17½	4475	183/4
25 helical jute @ 278/	6950	252/8
	71,307	
less overdraft	17,396	
Total on 1 st Jan 1924	Rs. 53,913	= £3594 @ 5/14 p/pee.
Compared with on 1 st Jan. 1923	Rs. 39,555	= £2637 do.
increase during year in India	Rs. 14,358	or £957 @ 5/14 p/pee.

See only tea in the above list which are not good as Pouch Rice & Campfire testles, all prices are at market value on 1st Jan. 24.
 There is also Rs 25000 held in Alliance Bank.
 See above only refers to India, money in England will be made out when I get pass books for Co. & Co.

11th January, Calcutta, to Ida: My beloved Darling, Look (10). I'm coming home quite soon; no news I'm just scribbling before my bath, not that you deserve it because you never answer a single question, so I just give it up, but it makes life much duller than it would otherwise be, & cramps my style!

12th Jan. Besides the wart on my head which I paint, I have a stye in my eye, in fact two. I should love to have a stab at them, because they have lovely white heads. I've been corresponding with Shakespear. He writes stiffly as if they were business letters, he said he was going to **Bombay** to meet his wife & **Violet**. This mail from home is very late, don't get it till Tuesday, a slow boat & a heavy storm in the Mediterranean. I wonder if you were in **Paris** for the floods. I'm so longing to hear all about the S. of France. You will have so much to tell the, follow my plan & write a bit most days.

16th Jan. Mail came in yesterday, quite a long one from you, but Darling I was so distressed you had flu & just at Christmas too. Yes, you are quite right, my face had a broad beam of delight when I got your telegram about **Ernle** & I casually mentioned the news to other fathers. I see Colonel Wood's son passed into Sandhurst fairly high. The Thillier boy failed for Woolwich the second time, three out of the first five for Woolwich were from Cheltenham.

I played tennis yesterday at the Saturday Club men's four, but the walls were dirty, so I couldn't see well & played badly. I've been asked to dinner at the Institution of Engineers annual dinner on 5th Feb. I have to propose the health of the Institution & as the Governor will be there I shall have to work up my best speech. I'm so glad you've bought £100 War Savings, quite right, you've always had more than that in hand, so you will find you are not a bit short, as you'll get your Trust money in middle of January. Don't you agree that for Easter the S. of France is out of the question because **Ernle** only gets 10 days, so you must either come up to Paris early in April, **Bobby's** holidays begin about 4th April, or go somewhere in England or to **Margaret**, only make up your mind & let me know; for one thing it affects my packing for the voyage & what I bring across France in the clothes line. I am only taking my ticket to **Marseilles**. Poor old **Lisle** writes very unhappily about missing you for his leave, but it's all very well, one can't do everything & as you see for last year I got you £60 Income Tax Recovery & there will be the same if you are out of France the same amount this 1923-24 year. Have you calculated the time out?

Ida, this is important, you should explore places like **Beaulieu** near **Monte Carlo** to find cheap but good place, where you can come into the big place by train & gamble & see tennis &c. One wants to have plenty within reach going on & yet one can't compete with the millionaires of all countries who collect there.

17th Jan. Mail day. Just written to **Ernle** & **Lisle**. I now have my chota hazri when I call for it & so often sleep on till 7.30, one morning till 8.30! I do hope you have met the Minorskys, the sort of thing I would fix up if **Bobby** is keen would be for him for Easter to live with the Minorskys & talk French; they are sahibs badly off. I'm very excited to know where you & I will meet. I day dream of that months before, so tell me. The Gare de Lyons platform at **Paris** or where? & remember you must tell me in your letter to the **Port Said** at least your exact address for a telegram from me from **Marseilles** on April 12. C/o agents no good, too much delay. Heaps of love & passionate kisses from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Don't worry about money, we shall be all right. I'll come home with my pockets full of gold.

18th January, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, Look quick, darling up above (9) including this one & I'll (*sic*) be the 10th. I watch the tennis tournament yesterday, Okound (?) beat L.S.Deane 6-4, 6-3. Couchman has got through two rounds. My styes popped & are all right, wart on head still there.

20th Jan. Sunday, but mail late again. Watched rather good tennis yesterday, Capt Meyer beat Kittagawa (?), the second best Jap. Please as a treat may I watch good tennis once a year. I think its most fascinating; there was a good Ladies single too, Mrs Bertrand who won last year only just beat Mrs MacKenna. My only excitements ahead are today week I'm going in for a golf handicap, spending the day at Tollygunge and on the 5th Feb. I have to propose the health of the Institute of Engineers at their annual dinner.

21st Jan. Mail came in last night, you had just arrived in **Paris** & so were rushed & I didn't get much. Till you get out of the habit of leaving letters till the last day, you'll never be a good letter writer, however I must be thankful for what I get only it would make life jollier if I knew that within 6 weeks of asking a question I should get an answer. I'm afraid too you can't have been 6 months abroad in the financial year, so you will lose the £60 Income Tax. You want me to be at home to look after these things, but for God's sake don't be "independent"; I warn you that way misery lies. You are a perfectly charming person except when you are "independent".

I see from the papers Yolande MacKinnon is engaged to Capt. Gough 2nd Gurkhas and that she &

Andrea are playing at **Allahabad**, she has developed into a first class to player. **Violet** will have started by now. I've written to **Port Said & Aden** to meet her, & will write to **Bombay** & send money to meet her. I think Rs.120 a month will suit. You know in **Simla** living out at **Mashobra** (?) rickshaws come pretty heavy & I want her to have a good time. If she doesn't marry we must put by something for her each year, it would be wicked of us to leave her to a life like **Una & Mary** after we have died.

22nd Jan. Hi! Hi! I must have been grumpily when I was writing yesterday, never mind I adore you. I'm playing tennis over at the Fort today. I wish you had given me your S. of France address so that I could have written direct. Poor old **Lisle** is very sick at you all being out of England for his leave, but he is like you in changing his plans & not letting one know.

No excitements in the share market, steady, but I've had some nice dividends. I shall quite miss looking at the daily list of share quotations in the paper.

24th Feb. I send you another copy of my address list in case you've lost the other one. I'm asking **Enid** to send me newspapers.

North wind blowing & quite cool again today, makes life more worth living. It worries to me to feel that if you had only given me a banker's address anywhere in the S. of France as I told you this letter would have run off their straight from **Marseilles** & now it has to go all the way to London. When I get home all my plans are going to be made 6 months ahead.

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

24th January, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, I posted my letter to you this morning, but had to start again in order to put **(8)** as soon as possible, **(0)** will be your adoring husband. A parcel arrived today with an evening tie, darling, how sweet of you, & a lot of **Ernle's** exam papers, most interesting, very different from my young days.

26th Jan. I've written to Mrs Lewis to enquire about their chalet in Switzerland, they let it I know. No harm done finding out about it; then I'm told Ireland counts as abroad for income tax. I'll make our plans after the Easter holidays, but you must make them for the holidays now & let me know at once, **Paris, Margaret** or **Hele**. Don't haver just decide.

29th. Jan. I had a most delightful mail on 27th. Letters from you all up to 10th Jan. from **Paris**, and you answered lots of questions & told me details of what you are doing; then there was **Ernle's** photo, his exam results, with their school reports and the College Class List. Altogether so much that I've hardly had time to digest it all. The present most important thing is to decide about our meeting. Easter; it seems to me out of the question you're waiting in the S. of France, because **Ernle** only gets 10 days; these are the alternatives, decide which you like, 1. Easter in **Paris, Bobby** go over by himself & stay with the Russian Consul or Minorsky till we arrive.

Ernle come over for his 10 days.

You come to **Marseilles** & meet me there. I arrive 12th April early morning & then we go up to **Paris** together; it's not worthwhile my going 5½ hours **Marseilles** to **Monte Carlo** & then back at once, the **Monte Carlo** train passes through **Marseilles**.

2. Easter with **Margaret, Bobby** goes over by himself, you as above meets me at **Marseilles** & we pick up **Ernle** in town & go over. Important for you to know at once when does **Ernle** have his vac. I didn't sleep very well last night, it's just doubtful whether one wants a blanket or not.

Jan. 30. Evening. What does **Bobby's** class master refer to when he says **Bobby** oughtn't to be so childish? How do you like the enclosed news in a nutshell of your accounts for 1923. I got a wire from Cox (I wonder if you told them to send it) saying I was £139 overdrawn, don't worry, I expected that owing to the £100 mistake I made at the beginning of last year, my fault entirely. If you can help by telling them not to pay your Feb. 1 or March 1 £60 so much the better; if you can't never mind I'll send home a good whack in Feb. and March. Truth to tell I hardly expected **Ernle** to

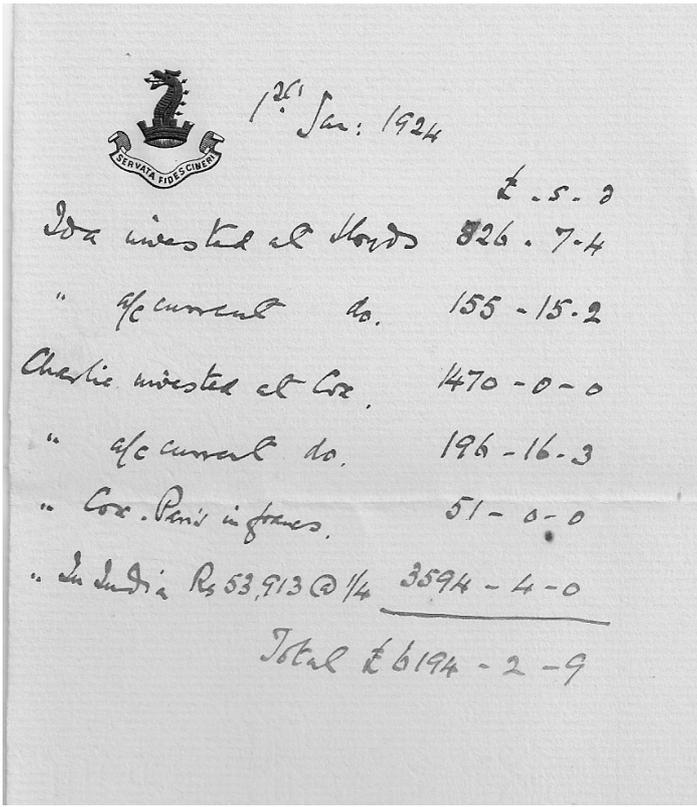
pass into **Sandhurst**. You wonder why I was "all of a sweat", well my dear so were you. I've just ordered myself a pair of new brown shoes. I'm chucking most of my old shoes & boots, they're pretty well worn out. I wasn't far out in what I thought you & I had together £6194-2-9 on 1 January 1924, not so dusty. I send you a copy of my account.

I spent a good hour or more studying **Ernle's** marks at **Sandhurst** & his exam papers too most interesting.

I shall be most interested to hear about **Monte Carlo** & the S. of France generally, the prices & the result of your exploring for a place for you & me next winter. It will be rather jolly being just you & me, except for holidays. Read my letters twice for the important bits; for instance wherever we meet **Marseilles, Paris** or **London** you should tell me where I'm to go if I don't find you on the wharf or platform and if not at **Marseilles** your actual address so that I can send you a telegram to **Paris** or **London**. **Ernle** will have plenty with his £6 a month to run himself. You were quite right to tell **Lisle** to come over & you would pay all expenses. You see it is a little hard on the boys our not having a house. Darling I adore you. The numbers on my letters are like the 10 little nigger boys.

Jan. 31. How I envy this letter, it will be in heaven in your hands. Darling I adore you; I'm so looking forward to having a topping time with you; heaps of love & kisses, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

8 little letters all to go heaven, one went off there and then there were —. Supply the missing word, answer will be found on the top of my next letter.



1st Jan: 1924



Ida invested at Leeds	£ 5. 0
" of current do.	826. 7. 4
Charlie invested at Cox	155. 15. 2
" of current do.	1470. 0. 0
" Cox. Paris in France.	196. 16. 3
" Cox. Paris in France.	51. 0. 0
" In India Rs 53,913 @ 1/4	3594. 4. 0
Total	£ 6194. 2. 9

1923 Trust	Jan. £209.14.0	July £176.3.3	£ 385.17.3
Dividends			25.11.1
This is after paying Income Tax.			1923 £411.8.4
			1922 £264.9.10
			1921. £336.16.1
			3) £1012.14.3
Average.			337.11.5

In addition I have recovered income tax £85.42.11, £63.0.3 + £60.13.0.

Always very satisfactory.



Inside are your accounts for 1923. I think you have done very well. Your expenditures added up as I have for each month is interesting. You have invested £100, well done. It may interest you to know you income for the last 3 years

1921. Trust	Jan. £146.16.6	July £171.3.11	= 318.0.5
Dividends			18.15.8
			£ 336.16.1
1922 Trust	Jan. £115.2.1	July £128.15.1	243.17.2
Dividends			20.12.8
			£ 264.9.10

P. T. O.

Ida's account		at Mayo for 1923	
1 st Jan. In hand	£ - 5 - 0	Binder tickets string figures	£ - 5 - 0
Trust	41 - 10 - 3	Repro letter box	39 - 5 - 6
Jan. £209.14.0 + July £176.3.3	385 - 17 - 3	May £127.11.7	5 - 17 - 8
Dividends	25 - 11 - 1	June £95.17.4	313 - 8 - 11
Miscellaneous deposits received	13 - 15 - 4	July £104.1.8	297 - 6 - 5
from C. £31-12-0 for sale of clothes + £60. for 8 months.	511 - 12 - 0	August £140.8.1	206 - 5 - 3
		Sept £62.16.9	1.0.0
		Oct £49.5.11	1.0.0
		Nov 19.1	1.0.0
		Dec £21.0.3	1.0.0
		Mistake 2 months	1.0.0
		In hand 31 st Dec 1923.	55.15.2
			1038.18.11

P. T. O.

1st February. U.S. Club, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, Do look up there (7), aren't you a little bit excited & look at the date to, next month I sail. I was out late playing bridge at the Ducats last night, however I slept till 7.30.

2nd. Feb. I was examined by the Royal Commission on the Services yesterday, very short. Lord Lee very pleasant, reminded me we were at Cheltenham together. I was photoed for my passport in the office, rather good I thought; then I'm going to Bowne & Shepherd to be photoed at the request of the Provincial officers, to be enlarged; then the Head Engraver Mr Scallan, quite an artist in etching, has exhibited in the Paris Salon, is making me sit to (*sic*) him for an etching on copper. So my old mug is in great request. Violet should be in **Cawnpore** today. Mail reaches here tomorrow. I've just been looking at the photo of **Ernie**, his face has changed a lot, he looks to have a thick upper lip & isn't such a Jap.

I do hope you are not worried about money, old girl. You will be alarmed by the overdraft at Cox. But it doesn't worry me one bit, when I have a Rs.17,000 one out here & the interest on the one here is probably 9% & at Cox only 6%. I'm sending £120 home by this mail. You see I like to have as much money as possible invested, heat large balances doing nothing, but one is caught when two things like **Violet's** outfit & **Ernie's** going to **Sandhurst** occur suddenly.

Shall I go to **Ernle's** Taylor? I'd better start with a summer suit. My Norfolk jacket has worn out at the elbows. I shall bring it home, but only for home use, garden & so on. By the bye, for my first 6 months my leave pay will be over £200 a month, then I retire with a bump to £900 a year, which is £75 a month. How much are you going to help me with?

I shall be keen to know what is the annual payment for **Ernle**. I'm sending back to Cox & Lloyds' pass books & telling them to make up to 7th April & send them to such address as you give. Will you send them a postcard each presently, so that when I arrive we shall both know how much we've got, it makes a lot of difference to my enjoyment to know that.

Feb 4. I'm like Sherlock Holmes, solving a mystery. No letter from you this mail & I thought this was the bustle of getting **Violet** off, but I got a letter from **Violet** posted the day after she got to Bombay in which she said, "They (meaning you & the boys) left the day before I did"; so I've written to **Cawnpore** to ask her where you've all gone to; I fancy it was back to England to see **Lisle**. My dear you do keep me on the hop. I had two long letters from **Margaret & Enid**, the latter says what reads like 'athlete's' heart, from doing too much after your enteric. I'm so glad **Enid** told me. You ought to have done so. However, I'll look after you when I get home. I can quite understand your rushing back to see **Lisle**. I wonder whether you are in town or at Hele or where. I've got to learn up my speech for tomorrow's Engineers Dinner. I propose to leave here on 26th Feb. reach **Cawnpore** 27th, leave on first March & get to **Dehra** on 2nd March. How would you like my passport photo? rather good I call it. I've got a 2 berth cabin on the Kaiser-i-Hind, I don't know who my companion will be, it will be an inside cabin I expect, as its 1st class C.

5th Feb. Yes, I expect that was it you bolted back to see **Lisle**, (I wonder how much leave he gets) and I think that was quite right; of course it is only economical going to France if one goes for some time. You'll find all my plans cut & dried & all you have to do is to do what you're told to do. How will you like that? I wonder whether you have chucked the S. of France altogether or whether you'll go later. How little competition there is nowadays to get into the Army, for **Sandhurst** 132 got in & only 55 failed. There used to be 700 fellows & up for **Woolwich** 50 got in & only 16 failed; when I passed there were 200 candidates for 40 vacancies.

I met Capt Barker, that flying fellow who was shot down & captured by the Afridis. He was axed & is a tea planter now.

Feb. 7. **Violet** says she has £7-10-0 in English & some French money which she will hand over to me. Cox gave her Rs.150 at Bombay for her ticket to **Cawnpore** but Shakespear insisted on paying, so she has that in hand & says "don't send me any allowance at present". She is like all our children, not greedy. I love what you say of the boys. Heaps of love & a rain of kisses, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Seven little letters to write, left me in a fix.

One goes off to day & then there were —.

Missing word will be found on the top of my next letter.

Tell Wells angrily to send their bill to you.

3rd February, Tempé¹⁹ to Charles, Gratnar, North Bovey: My dear Charlie, Many thanks for your letter & for being so kind as to send me the beads. But alas & alack they have never fetched up! Isn't it a calamity, I am dreadfully disappointed. I suppose someone must have backed them. But all the same thank you very much indeed for sending them. We are so looking forward to seeing you soon and Charlie please do come & stay with us. Persuade **Ida** to do so, because you see we can take you all four in. I mean you & **Ida & Ernle & Bobbie** for all the holidays. I rather believe **Ida** has got first refusal of Hele Farm but we would so much prefer you all to come here if you will only do so. Do come. Because when you once settled down we shan't easily be able to get hold of you I expect. We were so disappointed at the change of plans at Xmas when the Hele idea was abandoned. But we were delighted at getting **Enid & Neil** for Xmas itself. They came in the

afternoon & stopped the night. We all liked Neil to. **Wilfred** is with them all this moment in **Plymouth** as **Neil** sent him a while to come & see the Devonport Services & Air Force Rugger match & stop the night. No sooner had he started there, another wire came from Enid saying, "Neil has flu, perhaps wiser not to come." However he had gone beyond recall & that's that. And he sent a wire to say he was returning tomorrow night (Monday). Anyhow I am so glad he will have seen the match though I hope it won't be too much bother for **Enid** with **Neil** seedy. They have very kindly asked **Margery** to go & stay with them before long. We suppose **Lisle** is probably their now as **Ida** wrote she was leaving /n **Monte Carlo** on Friday lasts. It sounds very dashing! It will probably be nice & warm to. It is rather freezing here today. How delighted you must have been at **Ernle** passing. It must be such a relief. I wonder how he is getting on at **Sandhurst**. I have a nephew **Hardi** Parsons at **Camberley** and have asked his wife who is very nice to be nice to **Ernle**, **Hardi** is not now a Sapper, but Signal Corps – instructor or something. His father – my brother **Harold** – is actually coming to pay us a visit at the end of the month with his wife. He has never been here yet & hates the country unless he has actually playing golf or croquet, so I do hope he won't be bored stiff. I shall have to eake out someone to play golf & show (?) him at **Chagford**. He has just retired from the War Office & taken a house at **Fleet** near **Aldershot** so as to be near some men.

Returned from Sedmon (?) to where I stayed 9 days with Mrs Duff, when she left us we had a gorgeous motor drive over to **Lyme Regis** where we have some friends – it's a very fine coast. **Charlie**, I suddenly thought how about **Tenby** for you to live in. Everyone says it's so nice, heaps of tennis & dances – very pretty country & every kenly (?) There is even a **Tenby** week & people go from all over the place. So that if **Violet** is there should not be dull. I am so glad she has this lovely chance of another trip to India. It is lucky – & in such very comfortable circumstances. She must be well on her way by now, or I suppose she must have arrived. I wonder if you've met her yet! No time for more & do come & stay with us it will be so disappointing for **Wilfred** & for all of us if you don't & I am keeping a bottle of sloe gin fee you!

Much love from **Margery** & myself. Joan is in London & though working is much enjoying life.

Your affect sister **Tempé Ryder**.

Please don't bother about my wire! **Violet** said she would try & get it.

8th February, U.S. Club, Calcutta, to Ida: My own sweet Darling, look up there (6). The weeks are really flying. E.A. Tandy is down for a week, although he talks too much. He & Mrs T have always been rather admirers of hours & our children. I heard from **Violet** that you had gone back to London to see **Lisle** & to buy **Ernle** his outfit for **Sandhurst**. That's quite right. What dear boys they all are.

14th Feb. & its mail day & this is all that I have written, why? Because I've been having some late nights & sleeping late in the morning when I generally write to you. Then Tandy has been here & I've been busy in office & finally I only got the week before's letter from this mail, but I had a jolly long one from **Lisle** telling me a lot about you. You know he is a young man of quite sound judgement. I've got things made for various boxes & have got and old clo (?) heap in my cupboard, have all my papers in order & could pack in 24 hours. Andrea won the Allahabad singles & Yolanda MacKinnon (engaged to Capt. Gough 2nd Gurkhas) the Ladies, the latter alas won ladies doubles, but the two were beaten in the semifinals of mixed, against good players. He is not good in mixed, always takes too much as you know. I wonder if you've seen any tennis in the S. of France. It is still quite perfect weather here.

In office & here came your letter addressed Charleville Hotel, **Mussoorie**, absent minded child. However I'm very happy with it now I can answer it.

Yes, **Bobby** is doing very well, he just wants a little bit of a push and improve his French & he'll get Sappers. You were quite right to decide on S. of France, & get out of the cold, I shall love to hear how you like it.

Don't worry about money, we are perfectly all write. I'll square the overdraft at Cox before I come home. It was entirely my fault, making the mistake of £100, shows I'm getting old. For the first 6

months while I'm on leave I shall get about £220 a month & will have a good time. My tea & jute shares have started to move up again & I am full of confidence. Don't sell out your £100, we shall be perfectly all right. What a glorious time we shall have just you & I, too lovely for words. I think you have managed excellently, it is difficult to arrange holidays. I'll write excellent advice & suggestions about Easter as soon as I hear definitely you have gone to S. of France. Look about & explore for a fairly cheap place, near one of the big places. Mind you go up & introduce yourself to Mrs Covell (her husband is with her) & Mrs Barron when they are playing tennis.

You were quite right to pay for **Lisle's** board & lodging.

Heaps of passionate love & kisses, you adorable darling, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Six little letters to write, if I'm alive.

Of goes this one and then there's only – .

Missing word will be found at the top of our next issue.

Now, if you write anything in answer to this, I can't reply to it, the male in reply brings me.

11th February, Lilian Lewis to **Colonel Ryder**, Allendale Hotel, **Rangoon**: My dear Colonel Ryder, Thank you so much for your New Year wishes; you must be awfully glad this year will see the last of your many journeyings in India!

I will tell you what I can about the chalet. I'm afraid it's not v. accessible, that is ½ hr. by train along the Rhône Valley (fr. **Montreux** on Lake of Geneva) & then 1½ hrs. up in the mountains. It reminds me of **Dehra & Mussoorie**, on a milder scale, the lower slopes are covered with vineyards & the chalet is among pines 3,400 ft above the Lake. A magnificent view down the Rhône Valley when one gets up to the chalet & the Savoy Alps to the right. We are in **Vand** (?), Just near the Savoie frontier and all the peasants talk French. There is now a motor diligence in summer wh. Must make short work of the climb. It is too isolated to live in, in the winter as **Forbeyrier** (?) is qt. A small village & no one goes there for sport, tho. we get plenty of snow on the slopes.

Villars is the nearest sports place to us, 2 stations further up the valley. My husband's people let the chalet for 3 guineas a week (or it may be 2½ gns.). The accommodation is living room, kitchen on ground floor, largish drawing-room, & closed Veranda. 2nd floor (& one small bedroom, really Maud's (?) room), one large bedroom & 3 small -ditto- & bathroom. 3rd floor, large garret above. Electric light & water laid on, also telephone (we phone to Montreux for stores & they come up by post next day.). The bath water is heated by wood calorifire (*sic*) in the bathroom, coal is much too expensive to burn. The cooking is also done with wood. We had an excellent "bonne à tout-faire" who is now married, & lives in the village. I'm sure she wld. come in & help, but of course you wld. want a resident maid. The servant question is not so acute over there & I expect Mrs Lewis senior! cld. find you one. If you really think of going there, will you write to her, as they really leave the chalet while down on the Lake of Geneva & I expect wld. live there, if they let the chalet to you. It's not expensive to run, one lives v. Simply that. The milk & butter are scrumptious, also cheese. We used to have old-fashioned "high-tea" as meat is also expensive & usually veal, it may be better now. The meat also comes by post, no butcher nearer than **Aigle** or **Montreux**. The natives eat awfully little meat & think one doesn't mind much, when the other produce is so rich & good. Honestly, I don't I think you'd find v. much to do there, it's such a small place the walks round our lovely, & yr. boys wld. probably enjoy the skiing slopes if you went in winter. Unless you went prepared for a quiet time & "rest cure", I think you wld. enjoy it much more down by the Lake, in civilisation. Of course there is the diligence now, otherwise it's too strenuous going up & down to **Montreux** often. I cld. easily write & tell Mrs Ryder anything else, but this is rather a "young guidebook" any way!

Mr Hardwicke Lewis, Maison Falquier, Veytaux, Vaud, Suisse. Wld. give Mr (?) any particulars. I am sorry not to have written sooner but yr. letter was waiting for us, when we got in from the Delta **chart & I were out there for 5 weeks on the boat. It was lovely down by the sea just a sort of blue

Lagoon place, but not so nice among the mud & mangroves of the Virebis(?)! - Clinton is now waiting for the photographs to be taken! You were right when you told me how fascinating Burma was. Please remember me to Mrs Ryder and with kindest regards to yourself, Yrs. Sincerely, Lilian Lewis.

I do hope we shall meet you some time at home, even if it's not in Sussex! Address for chalet! La Forbettaz, **Forbeyrier**, Sur/Aigle, Vand (?).

Dear Colonel²⁰, I will add a little more information about chalet. You get up to it from **Aigle** Station by hired carriage (& cart for luggage). The motor diligence is useful for running up & down to **Montreux**, which you would certainly want to do occasionally. We used to have people staying in the chalet & also friends at the small pension (1 minute walk), otherwise it would be terribly dull, as no one is likely to come to **Corbeyrier** unless you make up a party. The bigger hotel has reopened now & there may be more people coming, but it was quite "dead" when we were there not long after the war. It cost us for 4 people (excluding nurse & cook) about £30 a month, without rent & drinks (the latter we didn't have!) but including everything else, on a simple scale. I would advise going to **Montreux** for a bit, where there are hotels of all classes from Fr.7 "pension" terms, upwards, also English Club & Library. You could have a look at the chalet from their in the day. Montreux & the Rhône Valley winter resorts are poor for winter sports if you want them, you should go (*to*) the Oberland, or Grisons (Engadine etc.). Please forgive this scrawl. Yrs sincerely, H. Lewis.

15th February, U.S. Club, Calcutta, to Ida: My own adorable beloveds Darling, Look up top (5). In your last you had just got my first numbering (12) I think. Isn't it lovely to think 5 weeks after you get this I shall be kissing you.

I do hope you have gone off to **Monte Carlo** & are enjoying the warmth & gaiety & then you'll know all about it & be able to take me there next winter. What a lovely time we shall have. This 9 months extension although it meant separation has been very useful. It has put our finances on a much better basis & you will see we shall be quite comfortably well off. Then it enabled me to get on this tea investment which continues to do well & if I get this 6 months leave on full pay I shall be able to pay for **Ernie** & **Bobby** all this year out of income & so only have to run **Ernie 2** & **Bobby** for 4 years out of capital, that means £1500 instead of £2000.

Lisle's letter amused me, he said our being overdrawn at Cox was my fault, not yours which is quite true, he says you are very economical, on the other hand he doesn't approve of your idea of a house in Sussex. 2 or 3 bedrooms & 50 acres he says is your idea. We must see if we can't be near the estuary of a river for his sake. I've just got out a map of England to study the Dorset coast, between Hampshire & Devonshire. My last day here I unveil a War Memorial, attend a garden party got up by the Provincial Officers & in the evening am being a good bye dinner by the Survey Officers & their wives at Firpo's & taken to the theatre afterwards. It's very nice of them.

Feb. 17 (Sunday). I was out this morning playing golf at Tolly, played very badly as I had a headache, but I've got a delightful English mail yours of January. 31. Just off to **Monte Carlo**, I'm so glad you went Darling, do hope you have a good time. Mind & explore for a nice place for us next winter. The alternative is to do Swiss winter sports. Thanks for letting me know all the details about Cox & his overdraft. I'll fix that up all right, all my fault, but don't you worry and you can have your £60 each month all right. Don't you stint yourself, darling. You've got a wealthy husband who adores you.

19th. Feb. Darling, I send you on Mrs Lewis's letter about their chalet, interesting as a possibility. It would be good for learning French, lovely scenery, cheap but (?) dull, only possible in the summer not winter. This I'll settle, the only thing you have to settle is Easter holidays and I'll give you my views on a separate piece of paper.

You will be glad to hear that since first Jan. my shares have gone up over Rs.2000 & have paid 950/- interest in the meantime. I've had a nasty headache for the last 4 days, in spite of a cascara,

20 Added on the same sheet by Mr Lewis.

neuralgia about the left eye & temple. I had a letter from old Sher Jang, that fine old surveyor, he is in Persia, retires next year. He says he is going to erect a gateway to his garden and asks permission to have my name carved on a stone for it. Zohur is very pleased with your letter & Chit asked me to send his salaams & then murmured shyly a long thing about God looking after you & so on, which I gracefully acknowledged. Everyone likes my photograph, so I do hope you will.

Feb.21. 5 letters to be written, glad they're not more.

Off goes this one & then there's only –.

The missing word will be found on the top of our next issue. Oh! Darling isn't it too scrumptious for words. I have a sort of feeling I'll see you standing on the wharf at **Marseilles**. Instead of reducing my overdraft here, I've just told my broker on Shakespear's advice to buy 500 Somcastipur (?) Central Sugar at about 8/12/-. **Violet** sent me a message from him to buy, as they've had a very good year. Adorable one I adore you, beloved I love you, to your little faults I'm blind & always am your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

I'll send Mrs Lewis's letter next mail, which will be posted at **Cawnpore**.

19th February, U.S.Club, Calcutta:

This is merely a dissertation on plans for the Easter holidays. When you get this you will know the facts better than I do, that is dates of **Ernle's** vacation (10 days I think) and the date of **Bobby's** holidays beginning, probably April 4. One thing seems to me obvious, that it would be ridiculous for you to make the long journey from the S of France by yourself a week or so before I have to do the same journey by myself. Also it would be a long trek for me to go say to **Monte Carlo** just for a day & then come back through **Marseilles**. We shall get home in time for **Ernle**, but will miss 8 days of **Bobby's** holidays. I think therefore that you should settle to come over to **Marseilles** & meet my steamer & we will travel up together. All you would have to do is to make a temporary arrangement for **Bobby's** first 8 days, that is practically he would go to the Easter holiday place where ever it may be 8 days ahead of us. If you meet me at **Marseilles**, you should let me know as the arrangement by the mail addressed to **Aden** & also in case that misses also to **Port Said**. You should make Cox's Shipping Agency why you date of expected arrival of the Kaiser-i-Hind, I feel pretty sure it will arrive on the afternoon of Friday, April 11. It did so last voyage I noticed and the boat now leaves **Bombay** 2½ hours earlier. They know at **Marseilles** as soon as they near our of leaving **Port Said** (4 days from Port Said to Marseilles).

If there is a hotel at the **Marseilles** Ry. Station (find out), it's cheaper to go there, saves taxis & one can get into the train easier.

If you meet me, you must beforehand let me know this sort of thing, "If you don't see me on the wharf go to such and such hotel."

Have enough money for yourself. I'll bring another myself.

Before I go on remember this, if you have made other plans I shall be quite happy.

Locality for Xmas holidays. There seem to be four alternatives:

1. London, dull for the boys, they want to bird's nest that Easter, I want to get a few clothes started, but hate London until I have decent clothes, rule London out.
2. Devonshire, i.e. Hele Farm, **Gratnar** or **Enid** convenient in many ways, we must go there sometime, we'll do that later, rule Devonshire out.
3. Paris, boys, **Bobby** is especially learn French, convenient to us halfway between **Marseilles** & **London** (you could probably ask Minorsky to have **Bobby** till we arrive). Paris counts as out of England for income tax.
4. **Margaret**, the boys will like this pest, **Bobby** can go ahead. We've got to go there sometime. It counts as out of England for income tax, **Ernle** could join us bold **Ernle** in town & go over with us. We are killing 3 birds with one stone, seeing **Margaret**, giving the boys a good time & avoiding

income tax. I vote for 3 or 4 with a preference for 4.

I rule out staying in the S of France for Easter altogether as it is too far for **Ernle** for such a short time as 10 days & the boys wouldn't care for it. So you see all you have to do is if you decide on Paris; 1) You & I travel up to **Paris** together. 2) Arrange with Minorsky to have **Bobby** till we arrive. 3) Tell **Ernle** to come over on his own. 4) book rooms at your **Paris** hotel from about 12th April, say you will wire exact date.

All if you decide on **Margaret**; 1) You & I travel to **London** together. 2) Tell **Margaret**. 3) Send **Bobby** over on his own. 4) **Ernle** joins us in town & we 3 go over to Ireland together.

In either case Ireland or Paris we come back at the end of **Bobby's** holidays.

Quite simple, decide on one or t'other or any other plan you like & have it all cut & dried. You would have to send **Bobby** a cheque for expenses, £5 & tell him to give an account.

I shall come along with a couple of suitcases, sending the rest of my kit to **Plymouth** & asking **Enid** to take charge.

It would be a comfort to me to know at **Port Said** exactly what is arranged. It is of course possible you may have arranged to travel with Muriel Barnard.

22nd February, Calcutta, to Ida: My own adorable Darling, Look at that nice number above (4). It has been dreadfully sad, Dunn, a great friend of mine was drowned yesterday in the river above **Calcutta**. He had only 3 weeks ago been suddenly promoted for the heads of a lot of men in his service, Education, to be head of it, promotion from Rs.1500-Rs.3000 & he wired home the news to his wife (no children I think) & was so happy & now drowned. He was crossing the river sitting on a chair in a boat & upset. I've got my 2nd box packed & took away a suitcase & bag full of old things to Mrs Ducat to give away.

I've given Zohur a watch cost 25/- (really 37/8 in the shop, but I got through my instrument office) & had his name & mine engraved on it. I said it was from you, he is very pleased & is going to write to you. He was with the Bradshaws (9th Gurkhas) for 6 years.

24th Feb. a delightful mail, your first letter from **Monte Carlo** & you seem happy & enjoying life & of course your being admired & that's nice, you adorable darling.

My room is all sort of half packed. I leave on 26th & will post this from **Cawnpore**, my first step towards you.

I was out playing golf with Denis Campbell & gave him breakfast at Tolly; I was playing beautifully! won easily.

Hot weather coming on. Chil the kite, bobbly bird & so on. I've got the fan going slow.

Your letter is really proposing what I want, so unless I hear to the contrary this is what I imagine will happen.

1. You write to Cox or P & O, send them cost of a telegram & tell them to let you know when the Kaiser-i-Hind will arrive. I think it will be Friday afternoon April 11. You come over to **Marseilles**, dump your luggage at the Terminus Hotel & come & meet my steamer or if I don't see you on the quay, I'll go up to this station, dump my kit at the Terminus Hotel & meet your train. I see a good train leaves **Monte Carlo** at 10:30 am about & gets to **Marseilles** at 5:5 pm. Then we'll stop the night there & go off by 8:45 am, gets to **Paris** 10 pm & we reach Victoria 10:17 am Sunday morning or we can catch one of those 18:32 or 18:46 trains for **Marseilles** if we like. I should prefer one night in bed with you, most improper!

2. Tell **Lisle** to come up & meet us on Sunday. We will wire him our train.

3. **Bobby's** holidays beginning early April. Send him a £5 cheque & tell him to find his way over to Ireland.

4. Find out when **Ernle** gets his 10 days & probably he could meet us in town and we three go over together.
5. I think you & I had better stop a day or 2 in town just for me to get some clothes started. I have enough with me to carry on over in Ireland.
6. When you've made up your mind whether we will stop a night in **Marseilles** (I think we had better), write & take rooms in your **London** stopping place.
7. Inform **Kitty** of our plans & ask her & Ena to dine somewhere with us say on Monday 14th (if we stop in **London**) it is important to let **Kitty** know & not hurt her feelings, she was so good to **Lisle**.

Now I'll tell you about my luggage, two packages, uniform case in its crate & old green cabin trunk go from here later on. The luggage I have with me at **Marseilles**, I'll send round by sea to **Plymouth**, **Enid** to keep these or send them to **Wilfred** if she has no room. I'll come across with a couple of suitcases. I propose chucking my old green one & getting a nice new one at **Cawnpore**.

Write to **Margaret** & tell her your plans & ask **Claud** to make out instructions for our journey.

The boys will return to **Sandhurst & Cheltenham** on their own. As this will be our one visit to **Margaret** in the year, let you & I stay there a month, it is much cheaper paying few visits & long ones. Then we'll go back to town for a week or so to fit me out, then we'll go to Devonshire, Gratnar²¹ & **Enid** combined say for a month. I send you **Tempé's** letter, perfectly sweet. You see they & everyone else do want us, get that into your head & kick out the idea that you're not wanted, perfect rot. We'll spend summer holidays in Brittany & altogether have a glorious time.

Your answer to this, I'll get at **Aden**. All will be well & perfectly delightful, but take care of yourself & your dear little heart, it's mine you know.

When we get to town will visit Lloyds and Cox & see what we've got, don't you worry about money, leave all that to me.

We have got darling children, thank you ever so much for them.

28th Feb. Arrived yesterday. **Violet** met me. She looks happy & cheerful, but no colour. We've been talking a lot & I've heard any amount of interesting news of you all. Heaps of love & kisses adorable darling from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

Four little letters to write, all from me.

When you get this, they'll only be –.

Missing word will be revealed in my next.

28th February, Calcutta, from Zohur to Mrs C.H.D.Ryder: Respected Lady, I am most respectfully beg to bring to your ladyship that I am very glad on receipt of your kind letter containing with one Certificate. I always praying to God for your long life & prosperity, but I am in a great sorry how I will will leave my such a good master. I always praying to God for long lives & properties of Baleas & Miss Sahibs & I am very glad my master gave me one watch & I hope my master will give me a Service to some other places under army Sahib I may be supported by your honor mercy as I am & my wife & children are well. They gave you unlimited salaams. Kindly favor me with a letter when my master will remain in England for remembers & I am to be very glad & I shall ever be grateful, Thing (?) co. Zohur Ahamud Bearer. Mozuffernagor mahalla haya Bass, c/o Sirajuddin, Jomoder, Ry Servant, P O Mozuffernagor.

3rd March, Dehra Dun, U.P., to Ida: Miscreant, jade & hussy, I told you to address last mail to **Cawnpore**, but none came, avaunt (?) I love thee no longer.

I left **Cawnpore** yesterday after a very jolly 4 day stop, Shakespear's charming & **Violet** very bright, though no colour; however we talked a lot & I heard all sorts of things I hadn't heard from you as for instance Theberton sold & you may get £200, a pearl bought from **Chucky** for £3,

21 The home of his brother Wilfred & Tempé

afterwards valued at £12, you've started doing your hair up.

I'm staying with the Cowie's for about 10 days & then moving over to the hotel; it's ever so much cooler here than **Cawnpore**. They had a hailstorm here 2 days ago, which has rather wrecked the flowers. Mrs Cowie says she knows most of their names now, but not so good as you. She got your letter from **Monte (Carlo)**.

5th March. Very disappointed, I thought you might have addressed to Calcutta, but nothing has come. I've just written out instructions to **Lisle, Ernle & Bobby** what to do, on the assumption which I hope you won't change that you meet me at **Marseilles** & we travelled together to **London** & get there anyhow on Sunday 13th April.

Lisle. I've told him we will wire to him from **Marseilles**, date & train we arrive **London**, but you must tell him beforehand, where we shall be staying in **London**. He could come up for the weekend or just for Sunday & meet us.

Bobby. He must find his way over to Ireland, you should send him a cheque for £5 & tell him to keep an account & **Margaret** should send him over instructions how to go.

Ernle. I've told to write & tell you when his 10 days begin and when he has to be back, because the date of our leaving **London** probably depends on him.

I only want a day or 2 in town just to do some shopping, start my tailor & so on. Ask **Margaret** for full instructions for our journey to her. If we have everything cut & dried beforehand, it is also simple, but I know nothing about the journey to Ireland. I don't even know what port one leaves from. It will be topping seeing dear old **Margaret** again, it's 3½ years since I've seen her or **Ernle & Bobby**. I shall move over to the hotel here on the 15th. The Cowie's as usual quite charming, Jean is staying out with the Tandy's in **Simla** till July, David they haven't heard of for 5 weeks, thank God our boys aren't like that.

Only 3 letters to write, all of them to you.

Off goes this one & then there is only –.

See top of next letter for the missing word.

Darling, aren't you excited. The answer to this letter should be posted to c/o Commander P & O Kaisar-i-Hind, **Port Said**, Egypt & don't post late. Heaps of love & kisses to my adorable darling, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.

14th March, Dehra Dun, to Ida: My own beloved Darling, and this I hope will be the last & a week after you get this I shall be kissing you at **Marseilles** my adorable wife. How lovely it will be. It will be the greatest pleasure possible to me to take all troubles off your shoulders & to love you & give you as good a time as I possibly can. My leave has been sanctioned, so I shall draw a bit over £200 a month for the first 6 months. I was a little nervous whether this would be sanctioned, as the new concession leave after 55 is only being given in exceptional cases, though of course mine was a very strong one. Then yesterday I had a telegram from Peart whom I had advised to buy Somactipur Sugar (when you get a good tip passed it round to your friends after you've done your buy) saying they were now at 12. I bought at 9, profit to me Rs.1500 (I bought 500). Today I see Chandypore Tea, suddenly jumped to 225, I bought 25 at 152, profit Rs.1800, so you can imagine I'm a bit excited. Keep quite cool my dear, but what it really means is this (but remember I'm feeling a bit optimistic).

1) my pension after paying income tax £780, it will probably be reduced shortly to £740.

2) your money after paying income tax £330.

3) my private income. This is at present a fluctuating some, but taking a conservative estimate & putting aside £1500 to run **Ernle & Bobby** till they are 21, I shall have an income from investments of quite £400 a year.

4) add £740, £330 & £400 a year & you get £1400 a year; this is of course before buying a house,

but if we bought a house for £2500, we should still have a clear joint income of over £1200 a year, clear of income tax, that's not bad is it? Certainly £150 better than I worked it out a year ago, & if things go on well, it will be a bit better than that.

Just be patient about settling down for one year and I will deliver the goods & we shall have a jolly year too. As you will gather I'm optimistic & full of beans.

Now about our meeting; these are only ideas, you will arrange. Probably it would be sound for you to come over to **Marseilles** by the day train on the Thursday, on arrival telephone to P & O & ask what is the latest news of the Kaiser-i-Hind & when it will arrive & then settle whether we stop a night in **Marseilles** (never mind about attention! I can put that off) or catch a night train & book seats. We will travel whatever class or sleeping arrangements Muriel usually does. Anything you arrange will be delightful. I shall not (*be*) long over customs, I shall have 2 suitcases & a roll of rugs & coats &c. in a strap.

March 16, Sunday. I moved over to the hotel yesterday. I've got room No. 1. the end one Club side. Nobody you know here I think. Darling, just got yours ending Feb. 27, I like your cheek saying you write longer letters than I do. All plans seem panning out excellently. Poor me I'm just beginning to starve & castor oil tonight & tomorrow night. I'm only being a martyr to science, Walter wants to see what has happened to those marks which he thought were stones.

I'm so glad you've met Mrs Barron, she's a deer & full of life & fun, watching tennis or with me cricket or football is most fascinating because one knows what ought to be done from playing oneself & it's nice to see good strokes.

I shall be delighted to escort Muriel, but of course I'd sooner go just by ourselves. I shall certainly not go by the P & O Express, it's crowded & a waste of money. I'm pretty busy, not with office work as with the odds & ends of paying bills & fixing up things. By myself in a room in a hotel I have much more time. Yes, let's stay at the Grosvenor as we pass through town. **Margaret** says she is going to write you full instructions about the journey to Ireland. Yes, that's quite right, Charlie's wife must look smart & I does husband to. They can't stay long enough in town for me to get clothes made, we'll just start them. Any old things will do for the wilds of Ireland. I've got 3 suits of sorts, must get a new hat. I have a feeling my boat will get into Marseilles on the Thursday afternoon, perhaps the wish is father to the thought, they can easily, then they dawdle along, little thinking you & I want to be together.

I shall land with about £20 in my pocket. **Margaret** is so happy at the idea of our coming over to her. I heard from her this mail, full of excitement. I gave Mrs Cowie my photo, they both thought it very good. I send you on Manifold's letter, such a nice one. It will be so funny next week having no letter to write, quite dull. I've told Cox, Bombay to send next mail to **Delhi**.

I've seen Andrea a couple of times; he doesn't look well, after his appendix was removed he insisted on leaving hospital after a week, only resulted in his having to go back again. I doubt his representing India, he is not keen, as I think he'd like to represent New Zealand some day. The tournament was off here not enough entries, so now they are having next week and American sealed handicap of games. Did you see Cook (Finance) had gone off with Montagu Webb's wife and there was a double divorce.

18th March. I was X-rayed to-day. The two marks just as before. Walter quite satisfied & says he doesn't think I shall be worried at all. I had my mole dug out. Whow! It hurt, though they put in a local anaesthetic, however that will be all right. My hair had to cut ½" all round, hope it will grow a bit before we meet.

I was perfectly prepared, cast the royal & Epsom salts did the trick right royally. In spite of it I played in the tournament yesterday in the doubles. Berry & I scored 7-1 against Glennie & Gwyn, 4-4 v. Yolande & Col Stewart, 2-6 v. Ross & Quarry. In the singles I scored 6-2 v. Berry & 1-7 v. Quarry. I don't think it will finish before I leave, but one gets a lot of tennis. How nice of Mrs Barron to give you a racket. Just been having a field day at my writing case, getting everything in

order.

19th March. I post a day before mail day to be quite certain. My head (the wart) doesn't hurt that all, it heals very rapidly. I played 5 more sets yesterday Thompson for-4, Clutterbuck 7-1 & Niblett (no use) 8-0. I forget the doubles, but I have to play 5 sets a day.

The Cowie's & I are being given a farewell dinner by the Survey at the Club on Friday. I'm dining with the Gwyns tonight & the Cowie's on Saturday. I enclose her letter, she is always charming.

Thus ends, my darling, the long series of letters I've written you, I hope for ever, & we shall always be together loving each other even more & more. Heaps of love & kisses, my precious, from your adoring lover & husband, Charlie.