

The Diaries of Peggy R Bridges 1936 – 1997 Volume 1

[Transcribed by her younger son, Andrew, in 2020. Text in *Comic Sans* font is Peggy's; text in Cambria font, or in square brackets, is Andrew's.]

Peggy Rosalie Way was born on 1 August 1921, the only child of Reginald and Gladys Way. In 1936 she was living at her parents' home at 35 Gay St Bath, either above or very close to the family antique business¹. She kept a pocket diary for that year – though not every day – and also similarly in 1937 and 1939; the entries 'fit' the limited space available in these diaries. If there were diaries for 1938 and the early 1940s they haven't survived. The first 'main' diary – less constrained by fixed space for each date - is for 1942, beginning with some New Year Resolutions. The diary was kept on and off for a few months, then a new one was kept for a few months in 1944, and for further periods up to March 1945, both in blank notebooks.

In December 1946 she started again, fortuitously just a month or so before she met Michael Bridges, the man she was to marry on 15 March 1947, though her diary stopped again a month before the wedding, and resumed for just a couple of days after seeing him depart for India on active service as an officer in the then Indian Army. This completes Volume 1.

In 1958 Peggy again restarted keeping a diary for a few months – she was by then the mother of two boys, and the family was moving into a new home on Claverton Down, outside Bath.

From 1964, Peggy's diaries were more or less continuous until her death in May 1997. The family were living in Lyncombe Hill Bath from 1962-9, and then with both boys having left home Peggy lived at Beech Lodge St Stephen's Rd Lansdown Bath for the rest of her life from 1970 to 1997, her husband Michael having died in 1989.

January 1936 – Peggy was 14:

Peggy's 1936 pocket diary was brown, and small in size (area) but thick as it was a page-a-day. Entries were mainly in pencil, so it's rarely clear where there was or wasn't a full stop, and it's a bit random where I've put one in. From the start Peggy mainly used a simplified ampersand for 'and' but I've always typed 'and'. Otherwise I've tried to maintain Peggy's writing style – e.g. the headings were almost always split by the printed date, so words were usually underlined separately, and I've preserved that. Some of her spelling errors have been reproduced 'sic', but others – not many - may have been 'auto-corrected'.

Weds 1 January:

Pxxx[?] Children's Party We went in the morning to decorate the room for the party, when Mary had gone. Went and² practised for miming[?] entertainment. Party began at 5. Tea, films, firework, games. Father Xmas balloons home (for children), supper, parents, entertainment, competitions, HOME.

Thurs 2 January:

Ann Walker's Party (cancelled) Mummy had sore throat, went shopping with Joan, and watched badminton in morning. To tea with Pam and Joan in afternoon, went with

¹ The story of this business was described in Reg P Way's very successfully published memoir *Antique Dealer* (1956+)

² Style: Peggy always used a simple quasi-plus sign for "and". Whereas I have followed Peggy's spelling and punctuation as closely as my attention has permitted in every other respect, with my touch-typing I've always simply typed "and".

Pam to party, and Joan came home for evening (Cleopatra fares) Mrs Strudwick fetched Joan 9.15. I went to bed after supper.

Fri 3 January:

Mrs Osmond's. Wrote two letters and played with balloons until 11.00, went to GPO and then to Bristol by car. Met Paul and so to Long Ashton by bus. Talk by fire, dinner³, and walk. Mummy returned from Clevedon, so all had dinner together. Home, and a game of snakes and ladders with Dorothy.

Sat 4 January:

Ann Walker's Party. Went shopping with Mary and had awful headache all day. Miss Santo[?] and dog to Ford in afternoon, home, and to party at 5.30 won 2 prizes, home at 10.30 and having eaten a very great deal. Felt extremely ill and hot.

Sun 5 January:

I am ill. 2.10 AM, was sick, and slept with Mummy for most of night. Sick in the morning no breakfast. Slept and read in morning and had Bovril for dinner. Read and slept in afternoon. Toast for tea. Mummy packed parcels for Brownies' party. I read and watched, and later went to sleep.

Mon 6 January:

Jean Fortt's (cancelled) Up after a small breakfast in bed, and after a little work I went out with Joan shopping and had an ice (I thought it rather risky) went through park, and home to dinner. Games in afternoon and some of evening with Dorothy. Mummy went to Brownies' party came back with good plant. Listened to wireless and then to bed.

Tues 7 January:

Gladys Downton. Went up to Strudwicks in morning, and went for a walk with Joan. Home for dinner, and with Marjorie and Esmé to Keynsham. Went over Fry's and back to Downton's for tea. Had games in evening, and I won a prize. Home with Esmé, 8.45 and to bed.

Weds 8 January:

Miming Entertainment. Rang up Eileen Patten[?] in morning and went and fetched her for day. To Lyons, and games in morning, and to 'Bonnie Scotland' in afternoon. Was in mime in evening when Eileen had gone, all went well, and home to bed at 9.45.

Thurs 9 January:

The Mad Party at Argyle. Bobby. Work(?) in the morning and with Miss Hutchings to station, met Bobs. Home and we played until Dinner. Went to Barbara Santo's in afternoon. Fine time! Went to Mrs Davis' party as gypsy and Bobby and I won a prize. Mummy 1st and Me 2nd for pxxxle[?] Home at 10. Bed 10.40.

³ As was the convention at that time, Peggy called lunch "dinner" more often than not.

Fri 10 January:

Bobby. Jean. Fortt's. Woke at 7.45, and read for a little while. Stayed in bed for breakfast, and played there all the morning. Dressed for dinner and to pictures with Fortts to 'Baby take a Bow' and a Will Rogers film. Back to Hean's for tea, and after hide & seek in the dark went home at 7.30, and so to bed.

Sat 11 January:

Bobby. Browns Folly Walk Stayed in bed to breakfast and for most of morning up for early dinner. 2.30, Pam, Bobs, Dorothy and I went to Brown's Folly and we played hide and seek. Later to Miss Tillard's and home for late tea. Games in evening until nearly ten. Went to bed and read as next day's Sunday.

Sun 12 January:

Bobby Pamela's to tea. Mummy wrote the following:- **DID NOT MAKE MY BED** it's quite true I'm afraid. In morning did comps, and 'Bill' came in. Went up on 'Dumps' with Pam in afternoon, back there for tea. Games and to bed.

Mon 13 January:

Bobby Pantomime Stayed in bed for breakfast and rest of morning. Up for dinner and went to dentist at 2.30. Tooth stopped. Went shopping and home to do Patchcraft. Tea, shopping, and then at 7, went to the Pantomime, (Saw the jobs[?] I didn't see before) Home for supper, and to bed at 11.30.

Tues 14 January:

Bobby went home. In bed for breakfast, up, and after packing, Mummy, Bobby and I went by car to Bristol. We went to Jones's, and to Bobby for lunch. On to Weston,⁴ Bobby home, and us to Auntie Fanny where we had dinner. We stayed a little while, went to 2 shops and to Auntie Vera's. Home, and after tea read till 7.30, when did packing, and after bath, to bed.

Wed 15 January:

Pamela to tea Stayed in bed for breakfast. Worked, went shopping, went to to dentist, and had tooth stopped, went all round Bath for a magazine, came home fruitless. Tided cupboard and played 'shops' with Pam in afternoon. Hunt the Thimble after tea, and a paper & pencil game. She went home. I read and to bed to read.

Thurs 16 January:

BACK TO SCHOOL Stayed in bed in morning and up to dinner. Mrs Turner came. Mrs Davis took me to school⁵, and I showed her round the girls' side. We all talked and

⁴ "Weston" is sometimes Weston-super-Mare, as here – and there were many family and other connections for Peggy there; but sometimes it can mean Weston village, on the outskirts of Bath.

⁵ Sidcot, a Quaker co-educational boarding school, not far from Weston-super-Mare.

read in the evening and after reading we went to bed very tired indeed and had a restless night.

Fri 17 January:

UNPACKING We got up at 7.10, breakfast at 8. Beds. unpacking break form period, dinner. I just drowsed in siesta as forgot to take anything to do. Netball for two games (2:20-3.20). No school singing. Tea, English, French, and Harris spoke of his school, but I knitted. Reading, Bed.

Sat 18 January:

IT SNOWED We got up at 7.30 and breakfast at 8. We had lessons in morning. It snowed in the morning and went out in it in afternoon. Boys did a lot of sleighing. I did not feel very well. Felt better after tea - knitted and played balloons [with?] Rosalind in Xxx[?]. Bed.

Sun 19 January:

I WAS ILL Woke up at 1, awfully sick, so went to Wards for rest of night got up late, and after a little breakfast, did letter writing, then to Morning Meeting, knitted until Dinner time. Small dinner, went to Coombe and back. After tea knitted, and went to Evening Meeting (Kong[?] gassed) Bed.

Mon 20 January:

KING ILL Got up 7.30 Breakfast Lessons. Miss Naise took Geography Dinner. Siesta Games in gym as wet. Tea, prep and after seeing Mr Ore went to choir for first time with Jean Miller. We knitted and then reading. Heard that King was diminishing strength. To bed all thinking of king George.

Tues 21 January:

KING HAD DIED Got up and had breakfast. We heard that King George had died at 11.45pm. Eliza's birthday. Had a stirring assembly. Lessons. Break, lessons, dinner. Siesta. Heard there was no chance of Guides. Knitted. Lessons. Tea. Knitted all evening and at 9.00 heard Mr Baldwin talk about late King (very touching) Bed at 10.00-10.30.

Weds 22 January:

PROCLAMATION Got up. Had breakfast, and back for a little French[?] Went to hear Proclamation and back for second period and a test. Break, lessons, dinner, siesta, games in gym Guides been suggested to Stumpy Form period wrote 2 letters. Tea. Current Events. Prep. Turned the heel of sock am knitting. Xx[?] difficult. Reading and to bed.

Thurs 23 January:

FIRE DRILL Got up. Breakfast with letter from Mummy. Beds. Did room Lessons Break Art. Dinner Siesta with a Fire Drill. Started knitting a doll. Boys so bad in[?]

Geography French. Tea Prep Choir. Went on knitting doll. Supper with cake! To bed deciding to make a different doll and clothe it.

Fri 24 January:

AM MAKING DOLL Got up and made a little of another doll. Breakfast. Beds. Went on making doll and assembly. Lessons Break Lessons Dinner Hair Raking[?] Siesta Making doll. Hockey as R.I. Went on with doll School Singing. Tea. Lessons. Plaited hair of doll xxxx[?] English essay prep. Supper with cake (I didn't have any) Bed.

Sat 25 January:

UNLUCKY DAY Got up. Did my doll Breakfast Beds. Did more of doll. Assembly. Lessons Break Lesson. Dinner. Walked to field, then $\frac{1}{2}$ way to Shipham as no match, back and round island. Reported. Tea. Knitted vest for doll. Got $\frac{1}{2}$ hour punni[?]⁶ for making noise after lights night before. Supper Reading Bed.

Sun 26 January:

GOOD GAS⁷ Got up and went downstairs. Breakfast Bed Did a skirt for my doll Morning meeting finished skirt Dinner. Went along railway to wards. Wavering with Eliza Eileen and Jean Miller Started knitting scarf for doll. Tea Finished scarf. Evening meeting Good gas by Cuthbert Wigham with film. I knitted a bit of jumper for doll in bed.

Mon 27 January:

EXAMINED BY MISS HUNT Got up. Breakfast, Beds and clean towels. Stuck in autograph, Bobs sent me. Went and saw more of Mr Wigham's films. Missed. French and Assembly Lessons Break Lessons. Dinner, Siesta. Wrote letter. Netball. Knitted. Tea P.g. Choir. Supper. Knitted. Undressed Washing I and 4 others were examined by Miss Hunt. Bed

Tues 28 January:

KING'S FUNERAL Got up cleaned shoes Breakfast. Bedmaking. Made xxx[?] for doll. Assembly Lessons Break Lessons till 12.15 Changed Dinner. Went to hear King's funeral broadcast. Not time so only heard cortege Went to church and sat by font. Many stood. One sat on font Others on pipes Back by Shule Shelf [?] Tea Prep Rode[?] Embroidery. Supper. Reading. Bed. 5 of us examined by sister after tea.

Wednesday 29 January:

PLANNED CR COVER Got up, and to Breakfast. Beds Went out and gardened. Many bulbs appearing. Assembly. Lessons. Break. Needlework. Dinner. Siesta. Games I played hockey Miss Lloyd took it Knitted sock Form P. Tea. Current Events. Prep. Planned cover for C. Roon[?] with Eliza. Did embroidery. Supper. Bath. Examined. Bed

⁶ Seems to be slang for a kind of detention – “punishment”?

⁷ “Gas” seems to be slang for a talk or a speech

Thursday 30 January:

½ hour puni. Got up. Breakfast. Bedmaking. Finished Margaret's letter and gardened Lessons. Break. Art. Was given portfolio. Dinner. Siesta. Did ½ hour puni and Embroidery. Lessons. Tea. Prep. Choir and sung Chorale without conductor. Knitted. Supper. Form got to do room Reading Undressed and was examined. Bed.

Friday 31 January:

CELLO&PIANO ENTERTAINMENT Got up. Breakfast. Gas by Stumpy. Beds. Gardened[?] Lessons with Latin test. Break. Lessons. Dinner. Siesta. Games in Gym Washed hair, school singing. Tea. English for ½ hour. Hardy xxxx[?] played 'cello and Piano. Solos good. Together, dull. Supper. Undressed. Examined. Bed.

Saturday 1 February:

GOT NEW GARDEN WITH ELIZA Got up. Breakfast, Bedmaking. Knitted sock and went out. Assembly. Lessons. Break. Lessons. Dinner. Obtained another garden between Eliza and I. Other for myself. Gardened in spite of rain. Great for mucking about in mud. Tea Embroidery, danced in form room and knitted all evening. Dance was cancelled [because] late King. Supper. Reading. Examined. Bed.

Sunday 2 February:

MUMMY CAME DOWN Got up. Breakfast. Beds. Knitted. Wrote to Joan M Smith. Knitted. Morning Meeting. Went out with Mummy[?] Took John home Chicken do. Trifle and pears, cream Num num[?] Went along sands and to Auntie Dee. Talked. Ferne Lodge small tea. To Walkers' To school and paint boxes, tuck and plants. Evening Nesting. Sang Choral and Hugh Doncaster spoke. Bed.

Monday 3 February:

7.30 BREAKFAST AGAIN Got up at 7!! Breakfast. Beds. Pushed in plants Mum bought. Got in row with Miss Hunt. Assembly Lessons Break. Lessons. Dinner. Siesta, Hocky for ½ an hour as R.I. & L.H. Good game. Stuck in autographs. Grammar. Tea. Put in more autographs. Prep. Choir. Knitted. Supper. Reading. Examined. Bed.

Tuesday 4 February:

LIT. MEETING Got up. Breakfast. Beds. Knitted. Assembly. Lessons Break Science with exciting experiments. Dinner. Siesta. Neck which I hurt in morning made worse. Mucked about. Latin, English. Tea. Reported neck. Changed into lit Dress. Spot Examination. Prep. Lit. meeting with Rock xxxx[?] for supper, a play reading, bed.

Wednesday 5 February:

SCHOOL IN QUARANTINE Got up. Breakfast. Surgery put Iodex on neck as had a restless night. Beds. Cut out article from newspaper. Assembly. Lessons. Break Needlework. Dinner. Siesta. Played with chalk and blackboard, netball Form P. Tea Current Events Prep did embroidery. Supper. Reading Bath ALL examined. Bed.

Thursday 6 February:

WENT TO OBSERVATRY[sic] Got up. Breakfast. Beds. Got parcel from Mummy = Letter, xxx[?] and boot polish Went up for haircutting notice admitted. Lessons Tea Prep Choir xxx[?]to observatory with 3 others. Very interesting. Only saw school clock because too cloudy. Reading, examined, bed.

Friday 7 February:

SUPPER NEW WAY Got up after spot inspection (have it morning and night now) Breakfast Beds. Assembly. Lessons. Break. Lessons Dinner. Gas from Soggy about talking after lights. Siesta. Read. Played piano. Practised and played netball Embroidery. Tea Lesson. Prep Supper the new way. Reading. Examined Bed.

Saturday 8 February:

ROSALIND BACK Examined. Got up. Ran round playground 3 times for puni. Breakfast with letter Beds Assembly. Lessons Break. Lessons. Dinner. Gardening and improved our 2nd garden very much. Tea. Did embroidery. Supper. Reading. Still more hope of School Guides. No examination for spots. Bed Ros Back.

Sunday 9 February:

TO DAFFODIL VALLEY Got up No inspection (for next few days). No cold bath Breakfast as waiter. Beds. Did embroidery Letterwriting. Morning Meeting. Saw garden. Played chalk games on blackboard. Looked at old paper and cut things out. Dinner. Went to Daffodil Valley with Eliza and Eileen. Got daffs and home playing Truths and Dares. Knitted. Tea. Wrote notes Evening Meeting Good gas. Bed to read.

Monday 10 February:

DADDY'S BIRTHDAY Got up, washed, down, breakfast. Beds with card from Auntie Dee. Wrote letter Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Dinner. Siesta, Hockey as RI. Back, Mucked about, Lessons Kong took last $\frac{1}{2}$ of grammar. Tea. Prep Choir, Cut out things from newspaper. Supper. Reading and to Bed and looked at "Guide".

Tuesday 11 February:

HEARD GOING TO LONDON ON 17TH Got up Breakfast Beds Knitted. Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Dinner. Siesta and read, knitted more of doll's coat. Lesson. Tea. Talked Prep. Went on knitting. Supper. Heard was going to London to see Chinese Exhibition on 17th, and see other things. Very excited. No reading as a Science Soc. Meeting. Bed.

Wednesday 12 February:

LECTURE IN EVENING Got up. Breakfast with letter from Daddy. Beds. Did embroidery Assembly. Lessons. Break. Lessons. Dinner Siesta and read, hockey as RW Back and ate and orange Changed, Form P with lots of darning. Tea. Did more darning Prep till 6.45. Lecture called "Traveller in Balkans" humorous (not meant to be) Supper Bed.

Thursday 13 February:

NO LETTER FROM HOME Got up. Breakfast, no letter from home (strange) Beds. Leant history, Lessons Break Lessons(Art) Dinner Siesta with reading. Went to Seymours with Jean M. back, did embroidery, lessons. Tea. Prep Choir and sang Purcell's songs all the time. Very nice. Back. Embroidered. Supper. Room. Reading and to bed and read.

Friday 14 February:

VALENTINE DAY Got up. Breakfast and few people had Valentines. Beds. Anxieties relieved as a letter from Mum. Wrote PC home. Assembly Lessons. Break. Wrote Valentine for Priceless. Lessons. Dinner. Siesta. Watched netball from playroom. Played it. Washed hair. School Singing. Tea. Lessons. Did embroidery. Prep. Reading with Stumpy. Bed.

Saturday 15 February:

EXHIBITION GAS Got up. Breakfast. Beds. and clean clothes. Mucked about Assembly lessons. Break. Lessons. Dinner. Went up into Bedroom. Gas from Stumpy for not being out by 2.30. Went out and waited all afternoon for Eileen's people, didn't come. Went in. Tea. Embroidery Gas on Chinese Exhibition Knitted tec. Reading after supper. Bed.

Sunday 16 February:

OUT WITH AUNTIE DEE Got up. Cleaned shoes. Breakfast. Stuck in autograph. Letter writing. Embroidery. Morning Meeting. Out with Auntie Dee. Chicken and jelly for dinner. Sat down and read mags. Went up to Caterpillar with Mrs Vass, Auntie Dee and dog. Auntie Marny came to tea, and later went to Fern Lodge xxx[?] given 4 presents. All went home. Evening Meeting. Bed and lights out early.

Monday 17 February:

LONDON EXCURSION Got up at 6. Got ready. Breakfast. Got a charrie[?], and went to Bristol. Train to Paddington. Private bus to Exhibition. 1st look round and took notes. Went to Friends' House and had good dinner. Were last around[?], then walked to University Site. Taken round x[?] bus to Exhibition. Tea at 'Poplar'[?]. Tube to station and caught train to Bristol. Bus home, and told others of our adventures. Supper. Reading. Bed.

Tuesday 18 February:

HAVE A COLD Got up. Breakfast, Surgery to report throat and cough, had quinine. Bed and took blouse to Boys' linen Room. Stumpy gas xxxx[?] Lessons. Break. Science. Dinner Siesta and read, Hair raking. Wrote a bit of PC home. Lessons Current Events. Tea. Finished PC Prep Wrote gardening notes in book. Supper. Reading. Bed (Many people been sick, now 2 with mumps)

Wednesday 19 February:

ROSALIND ILL Got up. Breakfast, Surgery. Beds. Mucked about. Still many ill, 7 more down in night. Assembly Lessons Break Needlework. Dinner. Siesta. Knitted. Netball as GK. Ate orange. Changed. Form.P, and ink upset over many books. Tea. Prep. And Ros went to bed as felt bad. Mended scissors. Supper. Reading. To bed and Ros sick.

Thursday 20 February:

TO BED FEELING ILL Got up. Breakfast and no letter. Beds. Mucked about. Lessons. Break. Art. Dinner. Siesta and read. Sat and played with competition of 4 "grandmas" Lessons. Tea. Still having sascall[?] for cold. Prep. Did some embroidery. Supper. Did room roughly. Reading. Diana in bed so we went quietly. Felt ill.

Friday 21 February:

I AM ILL Woke up about 2, and was sick to sleep, and at 7 went to wards was given medi, which made me ill. Read. Had little breakfast. Down in time for 2nd period. Parcel from Mummy. Lessons. Break. Lessons. Surgery. Had piece of bread and water for dinner. Slept for siesta. Stroll to Coombe. Mucked about. School Singing. Small Tea. Lessons. Prep. Reading. Bed feeling tired and ill.

Saturday 22 February:

LIT PLAY Got up feeling much better, but rather weak. Think that illness is gastric flu'. Breakfast. Beds Mucked about. Assembly. Lessons. Break. Lessons. Dinner. Out for walk to Combe and got frogspawn with Eileen. Went to Soggie's room with D.B. Tea. Mucked about. Lit. Play, very good and funny. No supper No reading. Bed.

Sunday 23 February:

DINNER WITH GARRODS[?] Got up. Breakfast. Eliza made my bed, she went out to breakfast. Letter writing sitting next to Eileen. Mucked about. Saw Eliza about leave. Morning meeting. Went round garden and field etc. Dinner at Hale Farm. Walked over Sidcot Hill. Said Goodbye, and met Eileen. Embroidery. Tea. Embroidery. Evening Meeting with good gas by Trigger. Early bed.

Monday 24 February:

PUT SPAWN IN G.N.H.R. Woke up in night feeling ill. Better in morning. Got up. Breakfast Assembly. Lessons Break Lessons. Dinner. Siesta and read. Took frog spawn to Gen[?]Nat.Soc.Room. Games in Gym. Grammar. Thinking about joining Science Soc. Tea. Prep. Choir. Knitted German[?] way for a change. I had no supper. Reading and to bed.

Tuesday 25 February:

LECTURE ON MODERN POETS Got up. Breakfast. Beds. Knitting wool and letter from Mummy, so began knitting. Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Dinner. Siesta. Knitted. Lessons Current Events. Tea. Prep and Rowley told me off for answering a

question on blotting paper. Went to hear lecture on "Modern Poets". Was jolly good but rather "-la de da". Knitted. No reading. Bed.

Wednesday 26 February:

½ TERM HOLIDAY Got up. Breakfast. Went for "short" walk to Dolebury, around Blackdown, Widdy Valley, on to Oakridge Lane, Coombe. School. Knitted and Miss Dunbar[?] came and spoke to us. Dinner. In Siesta wrote 2 letters and did knitting. Got up at 4.30. Knitted. Tea. Knitted and danced all the evening. Some went to dancing lesson. I didn't. Going to eat brown bread for 'lent'. Bed.

Thursday 27 February:

FIRE DRILL Got up. Breakfast. Beds. No letter, but not expecting one. Called for lost[?] property. Knitted. Lessons. Break. Lessons. Dinner Siesta with Fire Drill. Knitted. Lessons Tea. Prep. Choir. Form P. and Miss Pearson played games on blackboard with some people. I embroidered. Supper with cake. Did room roughly. To Bed. End [or Enid?] feeling ill.

Friday 28 February:

DANISH ROUNDERS Got up. Breakfast with letter from Mummy. Beds. Sent off for gardening catalogue. Assembly. Lessons. Break with running round playground twice, cos I didn't go out in time. Lessons. Dinner. Hairwashing. Danish rounders netball Knitted. School surgery. Tea Lessons. Embroidered, Prep. Supper. Not much brown bread so not able to keep Lent. Reading. Bed.

Saturday 29 February:

MUMMY TOOK ME OUT Got up. Decide to drink water before breakfast for Lent. Breakfast with PC from Mum[?] Beds Knitted. Assembly Lessons Break. Dinner Change Eliza and I went out to Weston in car with Mum. Bought fruit biscuits and file for gardening notes. Tea at Birds. Walked to school. Put notes in file DANCE from 7.30 to 8.15. Supper in form room. Tidied up and went to bed.

Sunday 1 March:

KING'S BROADCAST Got up Breakfast Knitted Wrote letter home, Knitted. Morning Meeting. Knitted. Dinner. Kong gassed us on sitting in wrong places at table. Gardened and planted many things Listened to King's broadcast. Tea. Did gardening notes. Evening Meeting with Stumpy gas. Ate some biscuits. Bed.

Monday 2 March:

HORRID HOCKEY Got up Breakfast Knitted Assembly. Lessons. Break. Lessons. Dinner. Siesta and read Kim. Played first game hockey as R.I. Horrid, and had hit on foot. Ate orange. Changed. Knitted Grammar. Tea. Prep. No choir, so did embroidery, and ate an apple most of evening and made sure of poetry. Supper Reading Bed.

Tuesday 3 March:

TUCK BAN BROKEN Got up. Breakfast Knitted Assembly (started 2nd sock) Lessons Break Lessons Dinner. Siesta. Received 2 catalogues so Eliza and I planned flowers wanted for garden. Lessons. Current Events. Tea. Prep. Embroidered, and browsed through "Paul the Dauntless" Wonderful book. Supper. Tuck ban broken. No reading. Bed.

Wednesday 4 March:

LIT MEETING Got up. Breakfast Beds Knitted Assembly. Lessons Break Needlework. Dinner. Siesta. Danish rounders, then 3 sets played against each other in turn at Netball. I was D. Ate an orange. Changed Form P. Darned 1 hole. Tea. Prep. Went to Lit Meeting Discussion on which of 5 men should return home etc. Individual speeches. Bath Bed.

Thursday 5 March:

CAKE FOR SUPPER Got up. Breakfast with letter from Mummy. Beds Learnt history for essay, hoed garden. Lessons Break Art, Dinner. Siesta. Did embroidery. Lessons. Tea. Prep. Choir and practised hard "Non Nobis Domine" for Sunday. Did embroidery. Supper with cake. Had 2 pieces. Reading, and to Bed.

Friday 6 March:

GARDENED NO GAMES Got up Had 'Kim' fortnight, and first over $\frac{1}{2}$ way through. Breakfast. Beds. Undid some knitting. Assembly Lessons. Break Music Maths (with awful rotting gas from chemic. lab) Dinner. Siesta. Did gardening instead of games (Jolly good). Beautiful weather. Changed embroidered. School singing. Tea. Lessons Embroidered. Prep. Supper Reading. Bed.

Saturday 7 March:

LIGHTS WENT WRONG Got up Breakfast Beds Put my knitting right. Assembly Lessons Break. Lessons Dinner. To Shute Shelf, back via Callow. Picked xxxx[?] and palm Knitted Tea Did gardening notes. Lights fused. All went to school hall with candles. Lights all right as soon as got there. Danced and did more notes, Supper. Hymn[?] in playroom. Bed

Sunday 8 March:

MUMMY CAME DOWN Got up. Breakfast. Wrote on Board. Letter to Margaret. Did embroidery. Morning Meeting. To Weston With Miss Santo, then dropped her. Dinner Auntie Marnie's, journey to Kewstoke church, tea, pianola. Went picked up Miss Santo, back to school + [i.e. with?] pencils, wool and silk. Evening Meeting. Miss Whitwell gassed (Good). Miss Lloyd's sister played 'cello Bad [or Bed?]

Monday 9 March:

APPLE-PIE BED JOKE Got up Breakfast Beds Gardening notes Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Dinner after gas by Stumpy. Siesta. Walk to Coombe with Midge and Eliza. English, and missed 5 mins of tea (All IV') because naughty! Tea, Prep, after

gas by Bug. Choir Embroidered Supper. No reading. Bed. Diana and Enid into row for making apple-pie bed.⁸

Tuesday 10 March:

FIRE DRILL AT NIGHT Got up Breakfast. Beds. Knitted. Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Dinner Siesta and finished 'Kim' went to library got out 'Jonah & Co'. Lessons Tea. Fun with Lukins and Honoree. Prep. Embroidered. Played progress, ping pong with few others and Boosey. Musical Soc meeting. Supper. Bed 11.10 there was a Fire Drill.

Wednesday 11 March:

DARNED HOLES Got up. Breakfast. Beds. Knitted. Assembly. Lessons Break Lessons dinner Siesta and began Jonah and Co. Played hockey as RH till $\frac{1}{2}$ time then practised. Ate orange Form P. with gas from Soggie. Darned huge hole. Tea Prep Darned all evening. Supper. Reading. Bath and to bed.

Thursday 12 March:

HAIR WASHED Got up. Breakfast with letter from home. Bed. Had catalogue I sent for. Knitted and read catalogue. Lessons Break Art. Dinner. Hairwashing. Knitted Lessons. Tea. Prep. Went to choir and practised beginnings of Dioclesian chorus. Gardening notes. Got in row for making row (all of us) Supper Reading Bed.

Friday 13 March:

VERSE SPEAKING COMP. Got up. Breakfast. Bedmaking. Finished back of jumper. Had collect for tan and gym shoes Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Dinner Siesta Gardened Knitted and learnt Latin. School Singing Tea Learnt Latin. English. Went to Verse Speaking Comp. Eggy won. Nell, second. Miss Marriage as judge Prep. Supper. Reading . To bed learning Latin.

Saturday 14 March:

EXPLOSION GAS Got up. Breakfast. Knitted and swotted Latin. Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Dinner. Went to Vill⁹, bought comb and darning needle, then to Coombe mucked about with lead frog[sic] and got some ioced[?] Did tadpoles. Gardening notes Tea Notes. Lecture on 'Explosions' with experiments. Absolutely hot. Supper with cake. No reading. bed.

Sunday 15 March:

ELIZA AND I JOIN WITH HELEN Got up Breakfast Beds Wrote letter home, and sent away for 5 catalogues. Did gardening notes. Morning Meeting Stroll round garden with Eliza and Helen. Knitted Dinner. Along railway with Eliza and Helen. Did

⁸ My understanding of this, based on Mum showing me as a young boy, is that this is a pretty minor prank, of making the bed with the under sheet folded back up and over, so that you get into bed, but can't extend beyond half-way.

⁹ Meaning the local village, I think.

notes. Tea. Notes again until evening meeting. R.A.H. gassed, jolly good. To bed. Today, Helen Eliza and I decide to be all friends together.

Monday 16 March:

THINK OF |-|--|...| [sic: no idea] Got up. Breakfast with letter from Joan Cooper. Very pleased Tidied desk. Assembly Lessons Break. Lessons. Dinner Siesta Team hockey races. Hockey as G. Watched boys' sports. Ate orange Read paper. English Tea Prep Planned T.M.S ruled. Sung Dioclesian to Mr Orr in music school Wrote up T.M.S. rules. Reading. Went to bed making 'special badge'.

Tuesday 17 March:

LIT. MEETING Got up Breakfast Received mushroom catalogue (want to grow them) Beds Out and mucked about Assembly Lessons Break and helped Helen with new garden. Lessons Dinner. Siesta and received another catalogue. Gardened. Lessons Tea. Prep Lit Soc Meeting. Speeches about Chaucer's England. We had cake for supper at Meeting. Bed.

Wednesday 18 March:

SPRING AT LAST Got up Breakfast and 2 more catalogues. Beds. Beautiful day, so gardened Assembly Lessons. Break. Needlework Dinner. Siesta. Danish Rounders then watched Boys' Sports Heats. Read catalogues. Form P. Tea. Knitted. Prep. Gardening notes found a good book from library about gardening. Supper. Reading Bath Bed.

Thursday 19 March:

LETTER FROM JOYCE.W Got up Warm Not so sunny. Breakfast Letter from girl in New Zealand. Catalogue, and parcel from home. Beds Lessons Break Art Exam. Dinner Siesta To Seymours. Did gardening notes. (Geog in museum with Epodioscope) Tea Prep Choir with New Song. Started letter to Joyce Walker. Supper Reading. And to bed thinking of Cheni Exam.

Friday 20 March:

"AIR DISARMAMENT" GAS Got up. Breakfast Beds Revise Assembly. Lessons Dinner Siesta Went for walk with Helen to 'Star', and collected a slug, and 3 dead worms Saw to tadpoles. Lessons Tea. Lessons Talk on "Air Disarmament" with slides by Copper Johnson. Had no supper, then to bed.

Saturday 21 March:

EXAMS BEGIN Got up. Breakfast. Beds, rain Collect Revised Assembly Quite good Geog Exam Break Lessons. Dinner. Down to Seymours then to field and watched Staff v School match. Short walk. Helped Eliza pack. Tea. Wrote more of letter to Joyce Walker Spring cleaned Nat. His. Room with Helen. Reading, story, Bed.

Sunday 22 March:

MUMMY CAME DOWN Got up. Breakfast Beds Wrote up news on Blackboard. Wrote letter home. Did experiments in Nat. His. Room. Heard that parents coming in afternoon if fine. Altered leave Morning Meeting[?]. Did embroidery. Dinner. Walk to Callow. Mummy came, went round gardens to Weston, prime tea on old pier and to Anchor Head. To school, Evening Meeting. Quite good gas. Bed.

Monday 23 March:

ELIZA WENT HOME Got up. Breakfast with letter from Indian girl. Beds. Revised. Assembly. French exam. Break. Geom. exam. Eliza went home. dinner siesta, walked along Oakridge with Helen. 2 more with Mumps. Cleaned shoes. Revision. Tea Prep. Wrote Acceptance to picnic on Sunday. Supper. Reading Bed.

Tuesday 24 March:

MUSIC SOC. ENTERTAINMENT Got up Breakfast. Pulled clothes of Jean's bed and was gassed. Stumpy gas Assembly. Science (Theor) exam Break Science (Prac) exam Dinner Siesta. Down to P.D. for xxxx[?] History exam Tea Result of 2 exams. Prep. Wrote letters with Helen all the evening No reading as Musical Soc Entertainment. Bed.

Wednesday 25 March:

MRS GOBLE PLAYED Got up. Breakfast with letter from Eliza. Beds. Out in garden. Assembly and Miss Goble played her virginal. Had Latin exam. Break. Arithmetic Exam. Dinner. Siesta. Netball and Danish Rounders. Form P. Tea Out in the garden. Prep and revised for English. Wrote bit of letter, had more exam results. Supper Reading Bath Bed.

Thursday 26 March:

WEIGHING & MEASURING Got up Breakfast with letter from Mummy. More down to San¹⁰ with Mumps. Beds. English exam. Break. Weighing and measuring. ship wreck, wrote letter. Dinner. Hair washing. Down to vill. Played ball. Lessons Tea. Water [in?] library and outside. Read books in prep. Choir, listened to stories. Supper. Reading. Bed.

Friday 27 March:

EAR BAD Got up. Ear bad with soap(?) Breakfast. Surgery. Bed and letter from Margaret. Assembly. Read in Science and Latin. Break. Algebra exam. Dinner Siesta Gardened and planted seeds. School singing. Tea. We[?] read a story - English Played French[?] games. Made a brush and comb bag. Supper Wound string. Bed.

Saturday 28 March:

HAD FILM Got up. Breakfast. Ear better. Had assembly. Lessons (read in most of them) Break. Read. Gas about Common Room. Picked up books. Dinner. Cleaned shoes.

¹⁰ Sanitorium, I would think. Healthcare section in a boarding school

To Vill, sports and hockey, along road with Brenda. Back and cleaned shoes. Tea. Mucked about, film of Bristol Port Mucked about, eating as usual Reading and to Bed.

Sunday 29 March:

THE LABS TEA Got up Breakfast Beds Letters home, cleaned shoes and cleared locker. Morning Meeting and Shoe Collect. Mucked about Dinner. Left-Right walk for form. Prime tea with eggs in labs. Games, when all was cleared. Cheers for George xxx[?] Evening Meeting and Kong gassed. Had hymn 45 so was pleased. To bed excited.

Monday 30 March:

PACKING DAY Got up. Breakfast. Got M.O. Collect. Beds. Collect. Packed Collect. Mucked about and up to Art school. Dinner. To xxx[?] with others. Had prime time talking over "Guides". Mucked about. Grade 6 Excited [because] top. Tea. Mucked about. Went to Upper Vth entertainment. Supper. To bed. Helen told a story. Asleep at last.

Tuesday 31 March:

WENT HOME Got up at 6. Breakfast. Goodbye to 'x[?]eads'. Saw others off. Back and packed flowers. Into library. Home with Mummy. Voice got sore with talking in morning. Dinner. Hair cut. Talked to Dorothy. Up to games field, fetched Pamela. Home to tea. We all played games in evening, to News Theatre. Good Mickey Mouse. Grand National[?] Bed.

Wednesday 1 April:

TO PAMELA'S Began reading 'Little Women'. Up and prime breakfast. Unpacked trunk Mucked about. Dinner. Looked over exam papers and to Pamela's. Short walk in rain back and played tops. Tea. Played dogs. Went home at 7, and did a embroidery for all the evening. Mum Knitted. Supper all together and to bed.

Thursday 2 April:

CLEANED SILVER Read. Got up. Breakfast. Helped Dorothy. We were quick and I did all silver. Dinner. Sewed most of afternoon in lounge and wrote letter. Tea. Sewed and listened to wireless. Miss Gants came with dog. She went. Talked and had supper. To bed.

Friday 3 April:

DID ROOM Read. Got up. Breakfast Went out shopping. Painted 2 butterflies and a bird and put them on wall in bedroom. Dinner. Pamela and I made mess of bedroom wall. Mucked about. Tea. Listened to wireless. Did some machining for Dorothy. Talked as usual. Supper Bed.

Saturday 4 April:

TO NEWS THEATRE Read Got up. Breakfast. Bed. Mucked about on piano. Machined. Went out in town, Machined. Dinner. Went to News Theatre. Jolly good. Disney cartoon too short for me, though. Finished 'Little Women' in car. Mummy played golf. Tea. Home. Listened to 'variety on wireless. Bed.

Sunday 5 April:

TO WESTON S-MARE Read a book in bed, breakfast, got up. Went on [with?] my book. Dinner. Read. Went to Weston with Mummy. Talked. Tea. Went to see Aunties Dee in new flat below Auntie Marny. Jolly nice. Her puppy is a good sort. Home. Daddy came in from golf and club. Supper all together. Did hot water bottles. Bed.

Monday 6 April:

TO SOUTH STOKE Got up after reading book from J. Mcneil.[?] Breakfast. Read paper. Drew and talked all morning. Dinner. Went up to Pam's and we and Joan and Cinders went to Southstoke and got violets and primroses. Home Tea Cleared way. Played Treasure Hunts in evening until 7.45, then came home - supper. Bed. Policeman called at 1 AM about shop light.

Tuesday 7 April:

PAMELA & JOAN CAME Got up. Breakfast. Did odd jobs in house. Went shopping and bought a note book and seeds. Dinner. Wrote letter for Dorothy. Pam and Joan came and we went and played hide seek in park, took few photos. Back tea. Wiped up. Dorothy who felt ill most of day was better so played 'Treasure Hunts' with us. Had good fun. P & J went home. Bed.

Wednesday 8 April:

NEWS THEATRE Had nightmare and was awake for nearly an hour, so overslept. Up, late. Breakfast. Did odds and ends all morning. Dinner. Read in lounge. Went to 'News Theatre' and out to Saltford. Tea at Golf club. Walked round course with Miss John and Mummy. Home in car. Bought some fruit and vegetables[sic]. Home. Bed.

Thursday 9 April:

JOURNEY BEGINS Up early and caught train to London. Went to Victoria to leave luggage there. Spent morning in Harrods. Very small dinner[?] at Lyons. Bought a film. Bus to Victoria. Train after difficulties to Dover. Boat to Ostend. Sea rough, both of us ill, glad when we reached Ostend. We were last off boat. Customs. Train to Bruge[sic]. Supper in bed. Fell asleep.

Friday 10 April:

TOUR OF BRUGE[sic] We are staying at the Hotel Hubert (V.G.) Maid here couldn't speak English. We woke up early and lay listening to traffic for ages. Breakfast (drank Vichy water) Toured the town all today taking snaps. Trams very interesting. RC processions numerous and queer. We had a dinner, but no tea (they never do here) a supper and to bed.

Saturday 11 April:

TO BRUSSELS My V.P.K having been broken, Mummy gave me a new Universe[?] one, so anxious to take snaps. Breakfast. Train to Brussels. Taxi to Hotel Splendid. Dinner. Spent the afternoon in and out of shops. Cars not allowed to blow horns here. Had an ice for tea. Later home for supper and to bed early. Can't seem to get an appetite.

Sunday 12 April:

TOUR OF BRUSSELS Up. Breakfast. Tour round Brussels by charry. Saw very interesting places, and took snaps. Dinner. Went to Museum of Beautiful Arts. Some pieces excellent. Taxi to Café du Palais. Ice as usual, and listened to Paul Godwin's band. Home. Supper. Wrote some PC's to people. Bed.

Monday 13 April:

TO MUSEUMS ETC Got up. Breakfast. Went to Grand Place. Taxi to Museum of Antiquities (Pretty dull) but not so bad in the Indian room. Back by tram and walking. Dinner. Rested. News Theatre which was very good. Café du Palais. Good walk round to get an appetite for supper, but was not satisfactory. Supper. Packed. Bed. Read. Slept.

Tuesday 14 April:

BACK TO LONDON Got up early. Breakfast. Caught train at 9.9am. To Ostend. Have a queer pain in my neck. Quite a good but boring trip to Dover. Customs, ½ hour wait. Train to London. Taxi to Cumberland Hotel. Went up Oxford St. Back. Prime Supper. To flicks and saw Jack Hulbert at Kingsway. Bath. Bed.

Wednesday 15 April:

HOME EARLY Neck worse and a little swollen in morning, so went to Selfridges. (Mummy bought frock[?] and gave me a book, 2nd on this holiday) Taxi to train. To Bath. Taxi home. Bed. Small dinner. Doctor came to tell the worst. Yes, it was Mumps. Mucked about by myself most of day. Tea. Mum read to me. Asleep.

Thursday 16 April:

MUMPS IN PROGRESS A little worse today. Breakfast. Aspirin every four hours. Doctor came. Mucked about all the day with very small meals, such as jelly, ice cream and lots to drink. Mummy came late in evening but only in time to bring wireless up to listen for about 20'. Daddy came in. Slept.

Friday 17 April:

MUMPS GET WORSE Not such a good night. Mumps much worse. Moring doing odd things. Doctor came. Very small meals such as junket, jelly and ice-cream. Rather lonely, an get tired of things quickly. Glands ache after trying to eat for about 10 minutes on end. Good night's sleep.

Saturday 18 April:

MUMPS CLIMAX Could hardly speak this morning - couldn't eat hardly anything. Did very little during morning. Was sent book and game of woollen tapestry. Doctor came. Belgian films came. New medicine came. Bit better in evening, and talked to Dorothy (outside the door) for ages. Slept.

Sunday 19 April:

MUMPS BETTER CLOCK ON HOUR Much better today, though very wobbly on my feet. Slowly recovered all day and was able to do more, not so easily tired. Did competitions in paper, and jigsaw puzzles in evening with Mummy. Swelling went down very quickly today, and felt very fit. Not a bad night.

Monday 20 April:

BETTER STILL Woke up better. Had small nose bleed, but nothing much. Was able to eat some solid things today. Doctor not satisfied with the amount of medicine gone! Read the Bush Maid and other things mostly today. Letter from Eileen. Talked to Dorothy (outside door) Had a bath. Only 1 snap came out from film.

Tuesday 21 April:

UP, NOT DRESSED Was able to get up and sit on chair with dressing gown on. Painted a few pictures most of the day. Glands did not hurt at all today, so ate almost anything. Mummy came back from French nice and early. Did a jig-saw puzzle until time for bed. Slept.

Wednesday 22 April:

UP A LITTLE Did not feel like getting up much today. I felt too lazy, so stayed in bed and read etc. Mummy had a lot of mending to do, but when I eventually did get up in the evening in a dressing gown, she did a jig-saw with me. Slept.

Thursday 23 April:

DRESSED TODAY I was able to dress today and when a sheet had been put on the floor, I did three pastel drawings (a bottle, a rose, a bowl). Went downstairs for a little in the lunge in the evening. Dorothy did Brownie uniforms. I sat far away, and talked etc until eight. Bed.

Friday 24 April:

OUT IN CAR Stayed in bed this morning reading "Under two Queens" having finished "My Man Jeeves". Up for dinner, had it with Mummy. Out in car, for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour, as very sunny. Went Midford way. Vera came. Tea, cakes sent by Mummy. Ice from Miss John. Listened to Wireless. With Mummy all evening. Bed.

Saturday 25 April:

UP, NOT SO WELL Mummy bought me several magazines, and I read them all morning. Up, after dinner,. Talked etc with Dorothy in lounge all the afternoon. Tea.

All evening with her. Mummy went out. Funny depressed feeling all the time. Couldn't get to sleep till Mummy returned. Dorothy a dear to me. Had to have wireless on. Slept.

Sunday 26 April:

SAW NORTH RD. GARDENS After breakfast up, and out in car, called for Miss John, and up to cottage, took some plants out. To the electrician's garden in North Rd. Very interesting. Dinner. Took Dorothy home in car. Short ride. Tea. Another drive round. Home. Mucked about. Supper. Bed and slept.

Monday 27 April:

COTTAGE FURNITURE MOVED Got up fairly late. Nothing of importance in morning, except Doctor Lane. Just listened to wireless for schools then went to cottage to do odd jobs, as it is let, and furniture was being moved. Went home to tea. Looked at different magazines all the evening to amuse myself. Supper and to bed.

Tuesday 28 April:

TO BOURNE-MOUTH Up directly after breakfast. Drove off in car about 9.30. Horn broke so stopped at Salisbury. We had ices and looked at market. On and arrived at 1. Dinner on sands. Lay in afternoon, and went and listened to band after doing a little knitting. Tea at Bobby's. In park again, met Miss Camp and her son (don't know married name) Home after walk. Bed.

Wednesday 29 April:

NOTHING HAPPENED I didn't do anything of much interest today. Mucked about the house doing odds and ends in morning. Dinner. Dorothy stayed in today and after tea, I tidied quite a lot of house. Auntie Dee came to supper. Dorothy didn't go in for her cook badge although she was going to. With Mummy, then to bed.

Thursday 30 April:

TO BRIS-TOL We started off fairly early and went straight to the zoo. Luckily we met nobody, and only saw a few people. Very interesting. Mummy did a little shopping, and I bought a loom. Very excited. To "Little Thatch" for tea having had a dinner of rolls etc. Home and later to bed.

Friday 1 May:

TO WESTON S-MARE Having put off the doctor, to Uphill in car, chose lonely place in sand bank. Read and after dinner of rolls etc browsed and I did a little weaving. Tea t a quiet café (only ones) and after seeing Auntie Lil went home. We spent an evening in the house and later to bed after supper.

Saturday 2 May:

DOCTOR CAME Did odd jobs most of the morning. Doctor came and 'blew my ear out'. Dinner. Went to top of Batheaston with Dorothy. Played, picnic tea, played a little among the 'tunps'[sic] then walked to tram where we went home. Nothing of particular in evening. To bed and listened to wireless.

Sunday 3 May:

BEAUTIFUL WEATHER It was very fine today. Went into lounge and did comps. Dinner and Mrs Face[?] came. We took her up to Sham. Mum and I went for walk to Bathampton Rocks. Back made tea. Out and drove along the country lanes, back early. Got the supper for Daddy, then to bed fairly early.

Monday 4 May:

TO WESTON S-MARE We went fairly early and on arriving went on pier. It was very empty, nobody about at all. Mum and I went for a donkey ride!! Had dinner. Talked with Aunty Dee who came on sands. Played with dog. Drove down to town and back to Auntie Dee's to tea. Home early, I played with Dorothy. Bed.

Tuesday 5 May:

OUT OF QUARANTINE Did nothing of interest in morning (as usual) Went up cottage in car with Miss Hutchings. Took 2 mattresses. Tried to take bike home, couldn't. Want to sell it! Played. Tea. Played with Dorothy in Kitchen and in garden. Went putting in park with Daddy. 1st game he won +2 2nd game all square effort! Bed.

Wednesday 6 May:

TO PAM ELA'S Forgot to say Daddy had incostic neuralga[sic] (or something) Better today. To dentist's, and played with Dorothy much to her annoyance. Dinner. Saw to clothes after having haircut, and taking bike to Wallace's. To Pam's. Molly there. Tea, they did prep. Played horses[?] M. and I mowed lawns. P. did prep. They to bed, later I went home.

Thursday 7 May:

TO DOG SHOW Did nothing much in morning. Dinner. Molly came down, we went to Dog Show, jolly good. Came home. Tea. After a few games, Dorothy and I went to St Luke's Concert, Molly went home. Jolly good show, very funny Margaret sat with me half the time. Lipping time[?] Home.

Friday 8 May:

PAMELA HAS PUPPY Mummy went with Daddy. Stayed in bed, up to dinner with Dorothy. Up to Pamela's. Puppy, brown and white spaniel. 10 weeks old. Very sweet. Played in garden. Took puppy for run. Tea. Played. Went home and after going to cottage, went to News Theatre. Home. Bed.

Saturday 9 May:

BACK TO SCHOOL Up to breakfast. Out shopping with Mummy. Home and mucked about, checking things that were packed. Dinner. Finished packing. Went by car to school. Unpacked. Tea. Played rounders. Came in and knitted. Up to Art school to see John. Down and did more knitting. Supper out and to bed.

Sunday 10 May:

QUITE GOOD GAS Got up. Breakfast. Beds and letter writing. Out in garden to read. Dinner. With Rosalind Eliza and Helen to Callow, back 4.30. Tea. Went to Art School Did some printing cut out Embroidery. Evening Meeting. Went to bed, later to wards[?].

Monday 11 May:

I HAVE CHILL Got up better. Breakfast Surgery Assembly Lessons break lessons. Dinner Siesta and read Tennis Fitted for summer frocks Tea. Out in garden. Choir. Prep. Outside in the garden for final run round. To bed, and luckily fell asleep quite quickly.

Tuesday 12 May:

CHILL BIT BETTER Bit better today. Breakfast Beds Lessons Break lessons Dinner Siesta Lessons Tea Prep, Did knitting until bedtime. Supper. To bed and read more of my new book from library collect Freckles. Jolly interesting.

Wednesday 13 May:

GUIDE MEETING Up. Breakfast. Assembly Lessons PC from Mummy Dinner Siesta Guides. We chose Owl Patra [?] Emblem cleaned Nat.Soc.Room. Did knots and flags. Played game, chose yellow tie. Played tennis. Tea. Prep. Did nothing of importance, knitted. And supper. Bed.

Thursday 14 May:

FIRST DETENTION Up. Breakfast. Parcel from mummy. Lessons break. People judged gardens. Dot[?] Dinner Siesta. Went to puni for Bisto (R.Work), very annoyed. Lessons Did gardening planted seeds. Tea. Prep. Down in garden. Tidied pencil box. To bed and slept.

Friday 15 May:

LOTS OF GARDENING Up. Breakfast. Out in garden. Assembly Lessons Break Lessons. Dinner Did lots of gardening tying up leaves of bulbs, weeding pulling out odd bluebells, picking off dead flowers. School singing after practice in volley bxd[? – doesn't look like ball] Tea Lessons Prep Supper Outside Bed.

Saturday 16 May:

TO MAXWELL FOR 1ST TIME Up breakfast. Beds Out in garden Assembly. Lessons. Break. Lessons (Letter from J.C!) Dinner Cleaned shoes. Went for walk with Helen to

Max. Eliza was a ball boy. Tea. Properly lazy all evening with Helen, ate fruit which had from Cxxx[?] Played ball Supper Bed.

Sunday 17 May:

TO THE WALKER'S Up breakfast. Bed. Letter home. Did some weaving. Helen's parents came Morning Meeting. Introduced to Mrs Green etc. To Weston with John unexpectedly. Dinner. Talked. To Worlebury with Bobs. Back Tea. Home by bus, down in Garden. Evening Meeting (Stumpy gassed) Read round the garden. Bed.

Monday 18 May:

THUNDER STORM Up breakfast Beds Stumpy[?] collect Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Dinner Siesta. Tennis. Down in garden with Eliza and Helen. Tea. Did weaving with Helen in playroom Prep outside in playground. Supper. Had a story told at last slept.

Tuesday 19 May:

CHANGED TO KINGFISHER'S Up Breakfast Beds Out in playground Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Dinner Hairwashing Out in playground. Lessons Form P. Tea. Prep. Sowed on new Kingfisher emblems down in garden with Helen chatting. Supper and to bed. Helen told story.

Wednesday 20 May:

AIRIAL[sic] PHOTO Up breakfast Had stamp[?] beds. Outside, Assembly. Lessons Break Airial Photo, great excitement. Finished Freckles in siesta after dinner. Guides and made P.L. Very excited, and enthusiastic. Tea. Prep. Outside and played on volley board with Helen all evening. Changed Book. Bath. Bed.

Thursday 21 May:

MRS BISTO HAD BABY Up Breakfast. Beds Lessons Break Lessons Dinner Siesta and read Children's Gardens. Did trick on Helen's weaving. Lessons, Tea. Prep. Outside, wrote in Guide note book. Supper and to bed, arranged washday Gill[?] Had story Slept.

Friday 22 May:

GOOD TENNIS Up. Breakfast. Beds Out Assembly Lessons Break Lessons dinner Siesta and read. Down and knitted. Tennies for an hour back a rush change. School singing Tea. Outside Lessons. Outside and played Prep Supper. To bed, and prefect read story.

Saturday 23 May:

TO WOOLKEY Got up. Breakfast Letter from Auntie Beds Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Dinner. Hunt for Helen's shoes. Out with Auntie Marny to Woolkey Hole, on to Weston. Prime tea. Played a xxxx[?] to ice-cream parlour, back to school. Walked

round. Played on volley board with Helen Supper Bed backed Gill[?] showed shoes bed.

Sunday 24 May:

GOOD GAS Up Breakfast Beds Letter writing. Did some printing. Morning Meetin more printing. Dinner. To Wavering, stopping to go on the see saw and merry go round. Back, printed. Tea. Printed Evening Meeting with a good gas by Victor Murray Trained June[?] in bed slept.

Monday 25 May:

WEIGHED & MEASURED Up Breakfast Beds Out Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Dinner Siesta Weighed and measured. Played rounders Back bathe, lessons Tea. Had a rug given Eliza and I and Tess to do for C.R. Got on with it. Prep Outside, did rug. Up and trained Enid. Bed.

Tuesday 26 May:

HALF HOL IDAY Got up. Breakfast. Beds. Did rug. Assembly. Lessons Break Lessons Dinner Siesta Down to Vill with Helen, bought cotton. Back. Latin Form P. Darned stockings. Did more of dressing-table mat. Tea. Out to Seymours and up to Sidcot hill Back to dance. Quite Good Supper Trained Jane[?] Slept.

Wednesday 27 May:

SET -A TRACK Got up. Breakfast. Parcel from Mummy Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Dinner siesta Guides where we practised Tenderfoot, 2 Pxx[?] and P.Ss set a track, others followed, but went wrong. Tea Prep Did sewing and tried to finish my dressing table mat, couldn't. Supper. To bed. No bath.

Thursday 28 May:

NO ART ENGLISH Up Breakfast PC from home. Beds Outside. Lessons. Break Lessons Dinner Siesta. Did sewing. Lesson. More sewing[?] Tea Prep Went up to Art school to fetch rug. Eliza upset over[?] music misunderstanding. Did rug by myself all evening. No supper. Bed.

Friday 29 May:

TRIED GOB-STOPPERS Got up. Letter from Mummy and Daddy, heard about new cousin. Beds Did rug Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Tried 'Gob-stoppers' jolly good Dinner. Siesta Rounders and Tennis Back to school Sewing. Did rug Tea. Lessons Rug Prep. Did rug out of doors and[?] Supper. To bed.

Saturday 30 May:

ROW WITH HELEN Got up. Breakfast. Beds. Outside. Did rug Assembly Lessons Break Lessons dinner To Match, and we drew cricket, lost tennis To seesaws Played ball and to school. Did rug Tea Did rug all evening. Conflab with Parings[?] over Helen. Supper. To Bed. Bird in Bedroom.

Sunday 31 May:

DID RUG A LOT Got up. Breakfast. Beds. Letter writing. Got on with rug. Morning meeting. More rug. Dinner. Out with knitting with Eliza. Home and more rug. Tea. Did rug till evening meeting. Good gas. To bed in silence, worse luck. Slept.

Monday 1 June:

WHITSUN HOLIDAY Got up. Breakfast Beds Assembly Lessons Break Lessons till D. Did rug dinner No Siesta. Down to field and watched match. Back Rug. Mummy came out to tea, back and round gardens. Rug supper To bed, and slept after usual Stalky.

Tuesday 2 June:

F.LEWIS FAINTED Got up Breakfast F Lewis fainted. Did rug. Outside Assembly Lessons Break Lessons Dinner Siesta Down to Vill Up lessons Form P. Tea Outside Prep Outside and mucked about and talked. ate an apple. Supper Bed Trained Gill.

Wednesday 3 June:

TO SAN Up Breakfast Felt sick Beds To Surgery to San for day. Spent day reading. Dinner Tried to sleep Couldn't so at 4 o'clock went back to school and went in for Tenderfoot Test all passed Tea. Prep after doing nothing Bed Slept.

Thursday 4 June:

TO SAN AGAIN Got up Breakfast Went to Sanatorium And was very unhappy all day. Quite good meals. Read most of the time but felt very ill all day. Nobody thought there was anything the matter with me so rather upset.

Friday 5 June:

STILL IN SAN Just as bad but still managed to eat some food read books and did little Magic-Pics. Got up for a little time in the afternoon But didn't dress today. Spoke to little boy also down in quarantine.

Saturday 6 June:

MUMMY'S BIRTHDAY It was Mummy's birthday today. I had been able to write to her, and she rang up to know how I was. Felt better today and someone brought me some magazines to look at. Got up a little Bath and to bed early.

Sunday 7 June:

BACK TO SCHOOL Went back to school today but not to stay. Spent day in San reading Up mostly. Felt worse again and was very homesick. Back to school to bed at once. Was sick after lights so back to San at 10.

Monday 8 June:

DOCTOR CAME Breakfast and was sick again. Doctor came and said there was nothing wrong with me. Had to drink medicine. Letter from home read and got up later in day back to bed again for the night and slept soundly.

Tuesday 9 June:

BACK TO SCHOOL Went back to school in time for breakfast! Had to go out of breakfast Was sick. Lessons Break Lessons dinner very little. Down to vill. Dr Stimson's Tea Prep. Did nothing much and to bed feeling not too bad.

Wednesday 10 June:

SICK AGAIN Was sick before getting up this morning still sent on with Lesson Break Lessons dinner Guides were enrolled and we had games Mrs Verdon Smith told a story Tea Prep Did nothing much as far as can remember Bed.

Thursday 11 June:

BATHED WHEN SHOULDN'T Up feeling slightly better. Breakfast Lessons Break Lessons Dinner Siesta. Bathed in morning when shouldn't have. Didn't do much all day feeling rather heavy Tea Prep and did nothing much I think. Bed.

Friday 12 June:

KINNISH FAINTED Got up. Breakfast Assembly Lessons Kinnish fainted in Science and Break Lessons Dinner. Out for walk with Liza in rain Mum came. Out to tea, Cried in car in telling her about my 'complaint' she did what she could D. Elocution. Bed.

Saturday 13 June:

GENERAL MEETING Had a bad headache. 1 lesson G.M. Over to Gym etc Dinner Out with Mum and cousin to Gym and round school. Tea at Birds Heard was going home for 4 days! Diodesmans[?sic] Went home. Gee Whiz good egg. Bed.

Sunday 14 June:

OUT WITH PAM Got up after Doctor had been He said was ill (glands) 'stay home fortnight". Dinner. Rested Pam to tea. Out with her in evening with dog. Quite fun but still a headache had aspirin Bed at home.

Monday 15 - 18 June: no entries

Friday 19 June:

WENT TO MOLLY'S As far as can remember did nothing in particular in morning. Dinner. To Molly's Played in afternoon. To Mrs Erewood's. Back Tea Made 'roses' for Rose Day all evening and decorated the baskets. Home later and after supper to bed.

Saturday 20 June:

PICNIC TODAY Didn't do much in morning, but went to Claverton Down for picnic with Dor, Anne and Pam. Great fun climbing trees etc and playing with dog Very hot. Home early to play Scoop. Through park with Anne. Back Thunder storm. Pam home Bed.

21-23 June: no entries

Wednesday 24 June:

MOLLY TO ME Went out shopping in the morning and bought Molly's present Dinner. Molly came. Went out putting after a card game. Tea Then up to tennis Supper and stayed the night with Molly having seen all her presents.

25 June: no entry

Friday 26 June:

TO WESTON S-MARE Went fairly early to W-S-M with Mrs Power to Uphill end and after a horrid bathe lay on the sands Dinner Read. To Auntie's to icecream parlour, Mrs Power and I on pier. Made 2 Gramo records. And did other things. Tea at a café (all of us) Home Bed.

Saturday 27 June:

DOCTOR CAME Doctor came this morning. Dreading what he would say. However all was well. Out with Mum. Dinner. To Molly's Played in garden etc. Tea. Made roses the evening for Rose day.

Sunday 28 June:

MET MRS KINGSTON Did nothing in particular in morning. Dinner. Upstairs and I really can't remember what I did in afternoon. Tea. UP to golf course Walk with Mrs Power to Tenth with Mr Baster Walked round with odd [or old?] Mrs Kingston. Home Supper Bed.

29 & 30 June: No entries

Wednesday 1 July:

TO SCHOOL FOR CLOTHES Went out about 11 in morning met Mrs Power. There to dinner. Ripping. Talked all afternoon, then back home After tea went to Sidcot without Auntie, got trunk saw Eliza, Eileen, Ros etc. Had short chat. Went home, to L Grove H Home Bed.

Thursday 2 July:

TO BRITISH LEGION On tenterhooks all the morning as to whether Pam could come. She could, so with Mrs Power to Fete. Millions of things to see and go on. Same Rodeo riders we saw, and the Merry sprites. We came home. I wrote 2 letters while Pam did Prep. Bed.

Friday 3 July:

TO GUIDES AS USUAL Went out to get a book from Library in morning. Dinner. UPT o Mrs Strudwick's. Listened to Wimbledon on Wireless. Took Bang[?] out. Tea. Blind Man's Buff. Guides. 6 were enrolled (I sat out) Played games. Tram to old bridge. Met Mum. Bed.

Saturday 4 July:

PICNIC AGAIN Went for picnic again today. Met Moll and Pam in morning made arrangements. To Claverton by bus. Played in long grass Tea. Rained. Began home

Sheltered on wall. Home by tram to Pam's. Played blind man's buff. I home by foot at 9.10.

Sunday 5 July:

QUITE GOOD WEATHER Read my book all the morning. Dinner Stuck some photos in album Out and up Lai[?] also with Mummy. We read there. Home Little tea Up to golf course. Walked right round with Mummy had little supper. Home. Mrs Power etc came to supper. Bed.

Monday 6 July:

MUMMY TO LONDON In the house with Dorothy all morning Dinner with her. Did nothing in particular all the afternoon. Took Miss Hutching's tea down, To Library to get a book. Back home and read all the evening in the lounge with Dor. Bed.

Tuesday 7 July:

MAKE A "GRAND STAND" Out in morning with Miss Hutchings to Woolworths Library. Elsons, where Mr Elsom took great interest in me. Home. Made a 'grand stand' outside windows for plants, not very satisfactory but still. Tea. Did nothing much with Mum To Mrs Power's. Home Bed.

Wednesday 8 July:

TO BOURNE MOUTH Up at 6.30. Got Mum some tea. Up. Breakfast. Off Arrived. Down to sands After talk, bathed in fairly rough sea. VG. Soon back to hotel. Lunch. Back. On sands. Bathe in very rough sea. Soon back to tea. Talked until 6 Then Mum and I home. Supper Bed.

9-26 July - no entries

Monday 27 July:

CAME HOME I packed in the morning, and Betty helped. Dinner. Middle afternoon B. Aunte and I went to Paddington by bus. Auntie bought me some chocolate, home by train, met.

Tuesday 28 July:

EILEEN CAME Helped get ready for Eileen. Her father brought her roundabout tea time. I showed her her bedroom with mine next to Dorothy's. She had a bit of a cold, she told me. Went to bed.

29-31 July - no entries

Saturday 1 August:

MY BIRTH DAY Eileen was staying with me. Had cacti, films for camera, money, book, and several other things.

2 August - no entry:

Monday 3 August:

BANK HOL Can't remember what we did in the morning. Theobald's for dinner. Went to pictures in the afternoon, one was a thriller A film, Gotcha[?]. Came home to tea then.

4 August – no entry

Wednesday 5 August:

EILEEN HOME We took Eileen home and I had packed my case to go and stay the night with her. 'Hay making' in morning, to fair in afternoon, saw horses was good fun, then home and to bed.

Thursday 6 August:

WENT HOME More fun on the farm, tried to ride a horse. Drove Queenie part of the way to Iron Acton and back, they did tease me. Met Mum on Queenie when she came. Fun. Then home.

7 August – no entry

Saturday 8 August:

TO MISS HARBUTT'S Can't remember the morning. To Miss H. in the afternoon played tennis. I became very very hot. Little tea. Mummy to Kingsdown, I home with Dorothy by canal and later to bed.

Sunday 9 August:

FELT SICK Can't remember what I did in morning. Not much appetite for dinner rested in afternoon Round golf course in evening, nearly sick home, and straight to bed and to sleep.

Monday 10 August:

DOCTOR CAME Was in bed all day today feeling very sick and terrible headache. Doctor said due to sun on Saturday at tennis. Sunstroke was what I had and it would soon go.

Tuesday 11 August:

AWAY WE WENT Feeling bit better we were off but went slowly. At Woolacombe Mum and I couldn't get in at hotel booked for Saturday, so went in another hotel in ground floor room. So much better, bathed in evening.

Wednesday 12 August:

NOTHING MUCK[sic – MUCH?] Still at Woolacombe. Weather chilly and grey. In garden some of the time. People in hotel not at all sociable we find, except one person with a Newfoundland dog, she's awfully nice.

Thursday 13 August:

TO ILFRA COMBE Stayed in Woolacombe in morning I believe, to Ilfracombe in afternoon to see Charlie Chaplin in Modern Times. Had tea in a dairy place. Back for supper. Bed.

Friday 14 August:

AUNTY CAME Auntie Marny came today. After going to Ilfracombe we met her and she was in time for dinner. Game in evening where you had to get things on list in 1 hour. Fun.

Saturday 15 August:

MOVED HOTELS Went into Rathleigh Hotel today. Rooms like this [diagram]

Sunday 16 August:

PETER CAME Went for a horse ride with Auntie along sands in morning. Enjoyed it as first go. Peter came in afternoon. We had quite fun in the sand. Will not write my personal 1st thoughts on him.

Monday 17 August:

2ND HORSE RIDE Didn't enjoy my second horse ride half as much, man (different one) was very cross and spoke crossly to me and the horses Auntie and I got left behind. He was wild with us and beat the horses.

Tuesday 18 August:

3RD HORSE RIDE At the Rathleigh we had made good friends. Went with different man horse riding today now at 8-9am was better. Each time we went over the hills and back by the sand.

Wednesday 19 August:

SURF BATHE We got in about 2 bathes a day now, and nice long ones at that. The surf bathing we had every day and we had a surf-board each, who can go in the farthest?

Thursday 20 August:

SAW FILM I believe it was today, and if it wasn't then it was another day that it was wet so we went to Ilfracombe and saw a Jessie Matthews picture which was good tea in the dairy. Home.

21 August - no entry:

Saturday 22 August:

TO SAND BANKS Took us ages to get there from Woolacombe, we found Mr Mrs and the little Rutters on the sands. We bathed, back to tea. Mummy out with Mr and Mrs. E, J, and I read in bed.

Sunday 23 August:

MUMMY HOME After breakfast Mummy went home June, Brian Eileen Mr Rutter and I went to Bournemouth meeting.

24 August – 17 September – no entries

Friday 18 September:

BACK TO SCHOOL

19 September – 16 December – no entries

Thursday 17 December:

OUR "BIT" Got up Breakfast Beds. Packed as quick as we could having various meetings. Form P. Told our Grades. Dinner. Rehearsal of our entertainment. Tea. Entertainment Stumpy's supper. Ghost stories in library. Bed.

Friday 18 December:

CAME HOME Came back from school in train. Went shopping in morning. Wrote Xmas cards in afternoon. Mixture of things in evening then heard Mrs Davis had a baby daughter.

Saturday 19 December:

TO LONDON Went to London today very excited. Went to Selfridges first and bought many things and a film projector for my Xmas present from Mum. Dinner, Harrods. Saw Television for 1st time. Tea. Home.

Sunday 20 December:

PACKED PARCELS Bother, I've drawn on this page [which she had, presumably earlier in the year – just a doodle I'd say] Did a lot of packing, and Xmas cards today. All 3 of us played Monopoly. My first time I won. Went for walk with Dad in morn.

Monday 21 December:

FIRST BAD-MINTON Why did I draw here? [another presumably old doodle] Went to Children's Badminton for 1st time, was quite good. Helped post all cards in afternoon.

Tuesday 22 December:

TO BRIS TOL Went to Bristol today early after dinner. Had played badminton in morning. Never felt so stiff in my life as now! Like a dame of 90! Got a perfectly new rig-out for me today to go away in at Xmas. Look very chic.

Wednesday 23 December:

I GET FLU Get up feeling rotten with a headache Go to hair dressers then back to bed. Where I stayed for rest of day. Temp was about 99.4 and 99.2 all the day, still packed for the morrow.

Thursday 24 December:

FELT WORSE Was worse, so we couldn't go to Hove. We were upset. Was 100° today, so sent for doctor, he said it was 'flu' (which we didn't know before) so bed again all day had one Xmas present.

Friday 25 December:

CHRISTMAS DAY Woke up early and opened presents had absolutely lots of lovely things. Things to do, brooch, hankies, book, money etc and some chocs! Had a headache today. Temp 103.4.

Saturday 26 December:

BOXING DAY Still in bed with 'flu', Temp down, Mummy was with me more today, but sympathisers would call and keep Mummy down stairs. Mrs Power came. My nose bled. She was very kind helping Mum.

Sunday 27 December:

STILL FLU Not much sleep during last night. Blood clot in right nostril which was very uncomfortable and tickly Temp. around about 102° today I believe. Played Monopoly with Mum. I won again.

28-31 December: a mass of numbers, notes and diagrams, and one diary entry:

These are numbers taken down at the Chinese Exhibition, pity because I can't write diary but continued 'flu' in bed till end of year.

Finally, there is a brief financial account for the first three months of the year:

JANUARY

<u>Parents gave me</u>	12	0
School sub.	1	0
Games sub.	2	0
Ruler		4
Present	1	
School Sub		6
Dance Sub		1
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 11

Amount in hand	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 1
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FEBRUARY

	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 1
Lit. Sub		6
Gardners [sic] Sub		2
		<hr/> 8

Amount in hand. 6/5^d

MARCH

Comb		6
Needles		2
Ruler (not bought)		4

Isabel's sub. 3
Paper sub 3
End of term had.

And on a flyleaf, a calculation, and conclusion: 1 Belgian franc = 1.3716 pence

January 1937 – Peggy was now 15

Peggy's 1937 pocket diary, "The RHS Gardeners" one (Royal Horticultural Society), was slightly larger in area, but was a week-to-view, so a little less space to write per day. Some entries have been 'inked in' – there's no obvious pattern to why some not others.

Friday 1 January [*Printed in diary: "Dog and Annual Motor Licences renewable"*]:

Still had 'flu' Temp. 103.2 all day 102.2 at night

Sat 2 January [*A gardening tip printed every Saturday in diary, e.g. today: "When weather is favourable, and soil not too wet, plant Roses, fruit and other deciduous trees..."*]:

Temp down a little today to 102 about. Mrs Power came. Listened to wireless until about 10.20.

Sun 3 January:

Definitely better in morning though strain from cough Wrote in diary of last year.

Mon 4 January:

My clock came, very pleased with it. Doctor came and interested in my clock.

Tues 5 January:

Was getting gradually better today. Clock gains about 30' in 24 hrs.

Weds 6 January:

Molly's Party, but couldn't go. Still in bed Read most of time and little sewing.

Thurs 7 January:

I had to make the awful decision of whether to leave Sidcot or not. I decided to leave. Mrs Power came.

Fri 8 January:

Letter from Mr Palmer Was getting better. Didn't do much all day, felt lazy. Got up for short time in chair.

Sat 9 January:

Did sewing most of day, up in chair twice today. Listened to "In town tonight." Mrs Power came.

Sun 10 January:

Sewing in morning. Pam came in afternoon. Talked and played Pollyanna. Up for tea. Showed films, Pam went Played Monopoly. Bed.

Mon 11 January:

Sewing in morning. Up in afternoon. Played piano. Molly to tea. Played Monopoly. Bed at 6.30.

Tues 12 January:

Did sewing most of morning Up in afternoon. Pamela came played Monopoly with Auntie Dee too.

Weds 13 January:

Sewed all morning till 12. Up, Pamela came to dinner. Played monopoly. Daddy had neuralgia today.

Thurs 14 January:

Back to school. Yes it would have been, but I can lie in bed and think of the rest returning. Was sick 3.45am . Temp. Normal!!! all xxx[?] In bed all day. Temp 98.8 in evening.

Fri 15 January:

Woke up better. Temp 97.8. Wrote letters. Got up about 11.25 Went out in Botanical Gardens, short car ride. Wrote up Mummy's Guide songs. Played piano. Mummy banjo. Bed about 8.15.

Saturday 16 January:

Margaret came to see me, very nice of her I think. Out from 11 to 12.45 Bought a book "It's Wonderful". In all the afternoon. Tea with Daddy. Mummy went to Weston for short weekend. Doctor came. Listened wireless. Bed.

Sun 17 January:

Got up for breakfast, In lounge all morning as wet outside. Did a crossword. Cleared out cupboards in afternoon. Mummy came back. Monopoly in evening.

Mon 18 January:

Got up at 11.20. Into park. Did my room. Stayed in in afternoon because wet. Saw some wallpaper for my bedroom. Decorator came. If I still want a bird in fortnight can have it.

Tues 19 January:

Got up for breakfast. Did room. Saw Mrs Power, and Mrs Davis's baby girl. Sat in lounge in afternoon. Margaret came to tea fun[?] till 8. Did camp fire songs.

Weds 20 January:

Enquired about budgies. Had morning lunch with Mrs Power. Pamela and Molly to tea. Sewed on some collar and cuffs.

Thurs 21 January:

Went for a walk with Mrs Power in the morning and went up to her for tea in afternoon. Took my sewing Home at 7. Played with Pam until 9 with Chemistry Set.

Fri 22 January:

Helped Mummy tidy the suit case place upstairs. Did my room as usual. Painted. Did my song book, and down town with Mummy in afternoon. Mrs Power to tea. Miss Harbutt came. Played piano Fxx[?]

Sat 23 January:

Did room washed 2 dusters. Cleaned shoes etc in morning. Pantomime with Pam in afternoon. Pam Renee, Dorothy and I played Scoop after tea. We saw Esme, Renee's sister. Supper. Played hide and seek in dark. Pam went. I to bed about 9.25.

Sunday 24 January:

Pretty well emptied my room in the morning ready for decorators. Read papers, and again after dinner. Went for walk with Mrs Sawyer. Had hair washed. Mrs Power came.

Mon 25 January:

They started decorating my room. Went with Miss Hutchings to Southstoke for xxx[?] Saw Bill. Did crossword in afternoon Mrs Sawyers to tea. Pamela came, we played hide and seek in dark.

Tues 26 January:

Mummy had sore throat so stayed in bed. Did a lot of housework in morning, sewed in afternoon. Monopoly after tea, Supper with Daddy.

Weds 27 January:

Sore throat better but stayed in bed. Shopping and with her in morning. Walk with Mrs Sayers, back there to tea. Home early etc Cooked supper.

Thurs 28 January:

Doctor came and said Mummy had gastric 'flu'. Still 4 budrigars[sic] in Kendals. Over to Bristol 12. Dinner at Harts[?] To Pantomime (V.G.) Home in thick holcha[?] snow.

Fri 29 January:

Snow about but it wasn't snowing. Ordered budgerigars and cage. To Pamela's to tea. Banger has grown . Took him for a walk, and slid down a path on a plank.

Sat 30 January:

It snowed thickly this morning. Cage came. Fetched birds. One got free in the bedroom. To Pamela's to tea. Saw Bones for first time. Rained a lot . Played Monopoly. Home to hear Miss Sants got the bird in.

Sun 31 January:

Read the papers most of the morning. To Crusaders[?] in the afternoon. Back to tea with Molly. Monopoly with Pam and Molly. Home. Daddy had a headache. Bed.

Mon 1 February:

Fortnight's up, do you want a bird Pegs? Got them thanks. Room finished in morning Auntie Marnie came, with Mrs Morris and Bill for tea. Home. Miss John came.

Tues 2 February:

Went to Clevedon with Daddy in morning. To Horts[?] for dinner. Read and made a brooch in afternoon. Room in evening.

Weds 3 February:

Cleaned perches and glass of budgies. Made felt covers for bells and light switches by bed. Went to Guides in evening. Given a bulb.

Thurs 4 February:

Shopping in morning. Miss Clements came in afternoon. Miss Blanford to tea. I went down with Dorothy. Mummy had people in on business. My clock broke.

Fri 5 February:

Mummy up at 11 We went shopping! Sorted out school books in afternoon. Tea. Gilbert kept wanting Dorothy to go out with him. Dorothy wouldn't. Miss Sant came.

Sat 6 February:

Sort of did odds and ends in morning. To Pam's in afternoon and out with dog. Tea. In alone with Pam in evening, we made card houses! Slept at Pam's.

Sun 7 February:

Up. Brekker, after odds and ends did some sewing, more card houses! Went home Dinner To Crusaders[?] Saw Marjorie Shipp. Pleasant chat together. Home tea & etc

Mon 8 February:

Started schooling with Miss Clements. Walked there and back. Got on fairly well Prep in afternoon. Let the budgies out and put them back again. Pam slept with me.

Tues 9 February:

Schooling getting on. Prep and shopping in afternoon. Mrs Sayers to tea. Prep Let budgies out in bedroom. Put them back Had supper. Bed.

Weds 10 February:

Daddy's Birthday. To school. To Bristol in afternoon To Ideal Home Exhibition with Auntie Marny. Brighter[?] New Theatre (Daddy too) HORTS Home.

Thurs 11 February:

School as usual. Nothing special in afternoon. Went to Guides. One girl fell down hurt herself and fainted. I took a game. Gutkxx[?] part in play

Fri 12 February:

No school because Miss Clement very busy. Helped Dorothy all morning. To see Laurel and Hardy in afternoon. Did sewing in evening.

Sat 13 February:

Went shopping with Mummy To Pamela's in afternoon. Out for a walk in park awith Molly taking Bang. After tea we played Monopoly. Supper. Bed.

Sun 14 February:

Up. Breakfast. After odds and ends we went to St Luke's church. I went home. Dinner To Crusaders Tea Did prep in evening. Supper. Bed.

Mon 15 February:

School as usual again. Went shopping in afternoon. Tea. Prep Pam came, I though she was staying but went at 8.30 to my surprise. Supper. Hour wasted.

Tues 16 February:

School as usual. Edna absent. Went shopping with Dorothy. Tea Did prep for most of evening. Little Monopoly. Had supper with Daddy. Bed.

Weds 17 February:

School Edna still not thee Went to sing song Lecture by Miss Taubett(?) Pictures Back We help a small party[?]

Thurs 18 February:

Edna came back today. Did prep in afternoon. Went o Guides in evening. Miss Isaacs came and chose people for the dance in the entertainment. Home.

Fri 19 February:

School Rained most of day Got some bird seed in afternoon Read the Guide mag. Cold developed. Miss Sants came.

Sat 20 February:

Cold little worse. Dorothy to a wedding. Dinner at Fortts[?] with Daddy. To Pams Tea Played Monopoly. In alone with Pam as Mrs Strudwick to theatre. Cold much worse. Bed. Learnt a prayer for morning church.

Sun 21 February:

Woke up Cold worse Breakfast Odds and ends Went home Mr and Mrs Brett came Dinner Talked Tea Monopoly I to bed Wrote read slept.

Mon 22 February:

Mr and Mrs Brett went. I stayed in bed all day with cold. Read etc Mummy brough me papers and "Sanders of the River" and "Bisanbo[?] of the River" Monopoly in eve.

Tues 23 February:

Stayed in bed till dinner. Up Dinner Played Monopoly out with Mrs Power, back there to tea. Did needlework. Mummy fetched me. Home.

Weds 24 February:

I bed till 11.15. Did room etc. Over to Bristol then to Mrs Osmonds. To Clevedon pottery works. Mummy gave me green jug. I bought an ashtray. To Mrs Osmonds Home.

Thurs 25 February:

School as usual. Trams went wrong so ran home in the rain. Never been so drenched. Dinner. Prep Miss Head to tea. Went to Guides. Rehearsed Play Home.

Fri 26 February:

Had taxi to take me to school, it rained so hard, also trammed home. To Molly's to tea after Elocution lesson. To play rehearsal, back to Molly's after wangle - eat stayed there the night.

Sat 27 February:

Got up. Went home about 11.30 Mummy bought me a silver watch for 10/- I have to pay 6/- some time. To Pamela's to tea. Molly there. For a walk, and played monopoly. Supper Bed.

Sun 28 February:

Snowed during the night. Not allowed to go to church because of sitting in wet things. Disappointed. Home. To Crusaders. Only 6 of us. Molly came to tea. Monopoly. Bed.

Mon 1 March:

Went to school as usual. Mummy fetched me. Dinner. Prep To see Trader Horn with Molly. Home. Pam and Molly to tea. Prep Played. Pam stayed night.

Tues 2 March:

Went to school as usual. Dinner. Went shopping by myself. Prep. Tea Prep Elocution lesson Wrote a letter to Joan Cooper, received her letter yesterday.

Weds 3 March:

School. Home Dinner. Had my hair done. Went to Auntie Laura's. Home, Tea Did Prep Down to Manvers St. Back, Bath and Bed.

Thurs 4 March:

School. Dinner. Read my Guide magazine. Did prep. Odds and ends with Dorothy. Tea. Dressed and went to Guides. I took roll-call. Rehearsal. Home.

Fri 5 March:

School. Dinner. Elocution Tea. Went to play rehearsal. Got to learn pages by next week. To Pa's and then home. Given keys.

Sat 6 March:

Went shopping. Did some prep. Dinner. To Pam's, she was playing a match. Molly and I listened to International Hockey match on wireless. Tea Pamela home. Prep. Washed up. Supper Bed.

Sun 7 March:

Odds and ends until we went to Church. Communion Service. Home. Dinner. To Crusaders Home, got tea. Played darts and read all evening.

Mon 8 March:

Went to school. Home. Dinner. Prep. Went to Mrs Davis, the baby is delightful and so fit. Home Pamela couldn't come. Did Elocution and Play.

Tues 9 March:

School. Auntie Dee came for half day. Went shopping in afternoon and bought pencils. Tea Did pre. We played darts. Auntie went.

Weds 10 March:

Went to school. Home. Dinner Did my prep. Marjorie Shipp came to tea. Went to pictures, darts etc Bed.

Thurs 11 March:

Went to school. Home. Dinner. Auntie Marny came. Did my prep. Auntie bought me some toffees. Tea. Had a headache so went to bed instead of Guides.

Fri 12 March:

Still a bit of headache. School Dinner. Elocution. Went to lecture on Seals and Seabirds at Pump Room. To Play rehearsal. Walked home with Betty Williams.

Sat 13 March:

Went and had photograph taken in morning. Went shopping. Did Dorothy's rug[?] Dinner Rug Prep Pam came xxxx xxxx xxxx after walking[? Very faint] Went up to her place. Took dog out, did prep. Supper Bed.

Sun 14 March:

Too wet to get to church once more. Most annoyed. Looked at newspapers. Home. Dinner. To Crusaders. Home. Tea. Mr Power came. Played darts. Bed.

Mon 15 March:

Went to school. Home Dinner. Did Dorothy's rug. Went out with her in park and town. Tea. Pam came. Prep. Let birds out for a time. Supper. Bed.

Tues 16 March:

Went to school. Went straight to Bristol. Berkley's to see caravans. To oculist to Brights for tea to oculist home and to bed as pupils were big and I couldn't read.

Weds 17 March:

Went to school. Came home Dinner. Went shopping was fitted for glasses. Home prep. Tea, prep, had hair washed.

Thurs 18 March:

To school. Heard hols begin April 13th (Crikey!) Home Dinner. Did prep and Elocution Tea Went to Guides. P.L.s took meeting. Went to Pam's for a while, then home. Supper. Bed.

Fri 19 March:

Went to school Dineer. Wrote letters. Listened to Grand National. Ego came fourth. Royal Mail first. Shopping got glasses. Tea. To play rehearsal. Home. Weaving Bed.

Sat 20 March:

Went to get my photo, it had been mislaid so I had another one taken. Home. Did my belt. To Pam's in afternoon Up in park. Tea. Went to News Theatre. Back did prep Supper Bed.

Sun 21 March:

Went to church. Home. Dinner. Crusaders. Miss Jarvis gave me Silk notes[?] Home Tea Darts Prep Piano Supper Bed.

Mon 22 March:

Went to school. Home and out shopping with Mummy. Met Mrs Davis and Mrs Power. Latter came home to tea, Auntie Laura also. Did prep and then to bed fairly early.

Tues 23 March:

Went to school. Went out with Dorothy in afternoon, Auntie Marnie having been for dinner. Thick snow in morning. Had letter from Gladys. Prep Bed.

Weds 24 March:

Went to school. To Stroud with Daddy in car. Home Tea shopping to News Theatre. Oxford won boat race. Bed.

Thurs 25 March:

Went to school. Given no prep. Home Dinner. Dorothy heard my play. Tea. Guides Practised play. Was given clothes for part. Saw Betty Cowan. Home.

Fri 26 March (Good Friday):

Didn't get up till ever so late. Molly came at 11. Went into the park, back about 12.20. Played Rolo Boko[?] Dinner. Played darts and charades. Tea To Molly's, had a ping Tournie[?]

Sat 27 March:

Played ping-pong. Downstairs about 10.45. Fetched my photo, it was quite good. Went to Red House. Shopping then home. Round Bathford golf course with Mrs Face and Mummy, which was very good. Home 10.45. Bed.

Sun 28 March (Easter):

Had 3 Easter eggs and 5/-. Did odds and ends in morning and fed Miss Sant's kitten. Went moss-cupping in afternoon. Mrs Power ill so stayed home. Played darts. Supper and to bed.

Mon 29 March:

Had to do a great deal of housework as Dorothy was away. Fed the kitten, and went Primrosing with Pam and Molly. To a Ballet performance. Tea. To Badminton played many times. Mrs Power sent me 4/6.

Tues 30 March:

A bit stiff. Went to school. Had an algebra exam. Dinner. Went shopping Tea. Went in car up to Weston Lance. Down past Miss Newton's. Wrote a letter. Washed hair.

Weds 31 March:

Went to school. Had a History exam. Had 58 for xxxxx[algebra?] I heard. Went to the corset specialist. Wrote a letter Home. Rehearsal.

Thurs 1 April:

I was caught an April Fool. To school for a literature[sic] examination. Had 55 in the History one. Home Dinner Odds and ends. Tea. To Guides and Rehearsal Home Bed.

Fri 2 April:

Went to school for an Arithmetic exam. Had 68 for the Literature[sic]. Home Dinner Had an elocution lesson. Tea. To rehearsal, and wore my paly costume.

Sat 3 April:

Went out shopping after errand to Marlborough Bldgs. Read in afternoon. Tea. Pam came. Let birds out. Went to theatre very good. Pam went home. I to bed.

Sun 4 April:

Odds and ends. Made a belt. Up to see Mrs Power. Mum fetched me. Dinner. Tried moulding with "Potta". Tea. Played darts. Walk. Bed.

Mon 5 April:

Went to school. Geography exam. Had 68 for Arithmetic. Home Dinner. Odds and ends. Tea, played a few holes of golf. Went to see Mrs Power Pam didn't come. Bed.

Tues 6 April:

Went to school. Had a Geometry exam. 66 for the Geography. Home Dinner. Odds and ends Tea. Shopping. Dyed a bag Supper Bed.

Weds 7 April:

Went to school. French exam. Had 46 for Geometry. Dinner Went shopping with Mrs Power, back there to tea.

Thurs 8 April:

Started learning stocks and shares. English exam. Had 71 for French. Home Dinner Odds and ends Tea. Went up and saw Pam. Guides with a rehearsal Heard no camp Home.

Fri 9 April:

Went to school. Most dull today as Edna broken up. Home Had elocution. To Pam's to tea. Pam's gastric flu better. Joan was there. Went to rehearsal.

Sat 10 April:

Went shopping Dinner Up to Pam's We xxxx[?] went out to try to sell tickets and got wet through. Home. Joan thee still of course and Anne Walker also. Pam and I went in rain to the rehearsal. Home at 8.15. I went to the theatre.

Sun 11 April:

I let the budgies out. Went down and saw the tortoise Miss Sants gave me. Fed it. Did gardening. Dinner. Read, Went up Lansdown, back. Tea Bed.

Mon 12 April:

Went to school. Home. Dinner. Prep and practised the play. Rung up Marjorie Shipp Tea Went to dress rehearsal it was absolutely terrible. Couldn't be worse. Home.

Tues 13 April:

Broke up school at 12. Mummy in bed. Went to Gladys with Marjorie. We played crib, snap had a chalk chase Tea. Sorry, whist. Released sardines and then home at 7.40.

Weds 14 April:

Did many odd things in the morning. Went with Miss Hutchings to fetch some eggs in afternoon. First performance of the play. Fairly xx[?]

Thurs 15 April:

To a Geographical film in the morning. Wrote letters etc in afternoon. 2nd performance of play. Much better than first.

Fri 16 April:

It was the 3rd production. All people I knew went. Did it fairly well. Had to show people to their seats. Home very late.

Sat 17 April:

Up early, at 8.7 train to London. Toured shops 3.10 train to Ipswich alone. To Mike's house where I settled in, and looked round about the house. Modern but nice. Fair size garden. Sweet dog.

Sun 18 April:

I was very clumsy today continually upsetting thing. Otherwise OK. Went to Felixstowe. Cold and dull all the day.

Mon 19 April:

Went on moors with Mike. Climbed tree. Went to town in afternoon. To pictures to see Head over Heels in evening.

Tues 20 April:

Poured all today, went to Clacton, and in amusement centre won 2 prizes Home for tea at 4.15.

Weds 21 April:

Mike to school. To town with Auntie. For walk in afternoon. Games in evening.

Thurs 22 April:

Read and wrote a play for an entertainment we intended to do Saturday. For walk in afternoon and took Cloey. Rehearsals for play in evening.

Fri 23 April:

Went to town in morning. Went with Auntie to Per Bridge Circle in afternoon and read Tea. Games. To see a school play. VG.

Sat 24 April:

Beautiful day at last. Rehearsed in garden all morning. To the moors in afternoon and took Cloey. Climbed trees. Home Tea. Mummy came. Did entertainment. Supper. Bed.

Sun 25 April:

Breakfast then came home which took most of the day. Walk with Mrs Power in evening. Unpacked, Bed.

Mon 26 April:

Went and fetched Eileen, went shopping and was SWIZZED by a "photographer." Went for picnic in afternoon. Let birds out.

Tues 27 April:

Went shopping. New birdcage came. Auntie and Bobbie came. To Zoo in afternoon. Home by bus. Let birds out. Bed.

Weds 28 April:

Let birds out. Went to Fortts with Mrs Power. Let birds out again. Dinner Went to pictures to see "Chick". Eileen went home.

Thurs 29 April:

Went to Oxford for day. Met Paul* (*Osmond[P's footnote]) Dinner at Stewarts. Went round colleges. Tea in Paul's room. Home Wrote a letter. Supper. Bed.

Fri 30 April:

Didn't feel very well today. Helped with spring cleaning, rested in afternoon. Felt bad in evening so bed about 5.30, after reading for a while, slept.

Sat 1 May:

It was a chill on the liver caught from a draught in Mum's car Better. Up 10.30. Odd jobs. With Daddy to view a sale. Picnic on way. Home after tea in Stroud 6-8 odd jobs. To theatre.

Sun 2 May:

Bit better today. Went up on golf course a practised a little. Dinner. Did birds. Crusaders Tea Went up to Mrs Power's. Home Odds and ends. Bed.

Mon 3 May:

Worse again. Stayed in bed until nearly tea-time. It thundered. Pam came to tea. Played cards. Let birds out.

Tues 4 May:

Better. Got a library book about G Robey. Had my first golf lesson. Rather disappointed. Nothing right.

Weds 5 May:

Had to do shopping and got dinner. Read etc in afternoon. To tennis in evening.

Thurs 6 May:

A golf lesson, got on better. Odd jobs dinner To dog show with Pam and Molly. Fell down. Home Changed Pam's to tea. Guides Learnt first class. Home.

Fri 7 May:

Odd jobs most of morning. Out to dinner. Decorated house and arranged Gay St shop. Went to Soroptomists[sic] with Mummy. Went shopping home. Odd jobs.

Sat 8 May:

Elocution at 10. Went shopping. Went to Molly's in afternoon. Went down to tennis. Tea there. Stayed there went and fetched Bang[?] Played with dogs. Back to Lou's[?] Pam home at 8. Went in there. Supper and at last bed.

Sun 9 May:

Breakfast. Dusted etc. To church. A Coronation service. Home. Dinner. To Crusaders Miss Settle came and spoke, sorted cigarette cards. Finished bowl.

Mon 10 May:

Odd jobs The bussed to Saltford for a golf lesson Dinner. Betty and Aunt came at last. Walked and talked. Tea. A ride. Supper.

Tues 11 May:

Betty's birthday. Wet all the morning and afternoon. Went shopping Dinner. To Bristol Shopped Tea Met Daddy in New Theatre. Dinner at Hort's. Home.

Weds 12 May [printed: Coronation Day Bank Holiday in diary]:

Whoopee. Went and saw Civic Procession which Mum was in. Dinner. Listened in. Went for a ride I went in procession. Home Saw fireworks. Bed about 11.10.

Thurs 13 May:

Betty went with Mummy to Cheddar etc. Stayed home. Let birds out. Dinner. Went to Miss Spear. Shopping. Tea. To New theatre. Guides. Home.

Fri 14 May:

Went for tour with Bets, Auntie and Daddy. Saw Mr and Mrs Davie. Dinner at Maynards in Taunton. Home for tea. Tennis in park with Bets. Washed hair. Supper.

Sat 15 May:

Went shopping. Bought summer uniform. Went to Miss Spear's. Shopping Dinner Wrote all afternoon. Tea. Walk on Brown's Folly hill. Home. Supper. Played Animal Vegetable. Bed.

Sun 16 May:

Odds and ends. Went for a walk with Betty. Dinner. For picnic with Loves and Strudwicks Home. Icecreams. Played with dogs. Supper. Bed.

Mon 17 May:

Went for picnic in the Cotswolds. Found some lovely woods. Went to Cheltenham about 3. Tea. Shops. Home. Read. Supper. Bed.

Tues 18 May:

Went back to school Edna had left. Home to dinner. Stayed in shop and did homework then sewed. Tea Auntie and Betty came home Odds and ends. Mummy won a cup!

Weds 19 May:

To school. Dinner. Went to Longleat. Tea. Did prep and sewed. Rang up Miss Spear because I forgot engagement.

Thurs 20 May:

School. Home. Dinner Went to Miss Spears. Bought a mag. Prep. Tea. Guides Miss Conyngham was there and passed a bit of First Class I passed! Me, only one in summer uniform.

Fri 21 May:

School. Home. Dinner. Relations went home. Mummy had ribs pain again. Bought some seeds and planted them. Tea. Odds and ends. Made supper of asparagus. Bed.

Sat 22 May:

Had elocution. Odds and ends. Dinner. Met Pam to go for a Guide hike. Found there was no hike so we two went alone. Got fire to go at last. Cooked rather rich food so was sick later in evening.

Sun 23 May:

Sick again so after little breakfast did not go to church. Went home. Dinner. Did some lessons. Molly to tea. Up Lansdown Home and Bed feeling better.

Mon 24 May:

Mummy took me to school in car. Dinner Wrote and did lessons. Read. Tea. Excused Divisional Church Parade. Changed book. Read. Bed.

Tues 25 May:

Mummy and Daddy went. Lovely day School. Home, Dinner. Prep and went to 'News'. Up to Molly's after tea. Saw Ivor.

Weds 26 May:

Wet today. Went to School. Dinner Shopping. Prep. Tea. Finer so walk with Molly. Bed.

Thurs 27 May:

Went to school. Dinner at home, Dorothy and I did some gardening. Everybody laughed. Prep Tea Guides. Back to Molly's. Supper Bed.

Fri 28 May:

Went to school. Dinner. Gardened Tea. Went up to Molly's Played Tennis, came back. Supper Bed Learnt Elocution.

Sat 29 May:

Breakfast Elocution did prep Went for walk Dinner Went for a hike to Southstoke with Guides and Molly, Lit fired cooked. Game. Sing Song. Took Bang for walk. Slept at Pamela's.

Sun 30 May:

Went to Church. Dinner at Loves. Crusaders. Tea. Games in evening Bed after adventure with mouse.

Mon 31 May:

Went to school. Had a cold. Dinner out with Mrs Power. Up to Molly's. Took Bang for long walk. Home. And supper. Bed.

Tues 1 June:

Went to school. Home to Dinner. Went out with Dorothy. Tea. Up to Love's took Bang out. Home. Supper and Bed.

Weds 2 June:

Went to school. Home for dinner Out shopping. Tea. Mummy and Daddy came home. Went out Did prep Supper Bed.

Thurs 3 June:

Had a cold. Duke of Windsor married today. Stayed in bed in morning and wrote a story. Dinner Out in park. Typewrote little of story. Guides. Home. Supper. Bed.

Fri 4 June:

Went to school. Back Dinner. Out in the garden Did some typewriting. Tea. Read. Odd jobs. Learnt Elocution. Went to bed after supper.

Sat 5 June:

The DAY at last. Train at 11.34. Arrived at Wembley at 3.20. Marvellous to see the London Guides' Displays and to see Princess Royal and Lady Baden-Powell. A few faints and fits. Left 9.30 Arrived home 2.30am. Bed.

Sun 6 June:

Mummy's birthday. Stayed in bed till about 11. Bathed and dressed. Pam who stayed night left. Picnic with Auntie and Moira[?] to Priddy. Bathed. Home. Prep. Bed.

Mon 7 June:

Went to school. Home Dinner. Wrote letters and various other things. Tea. Went out to library To Golf course to fetch club Prep on Lansdown. Home Bed.

Tues 8 June:

School. Home Dinner Did lessons. Went up to play golf with Mrs Power. Had slight laryngitis through shouting on Saturday. Bed feeling bad[?]

Weds 9 June:

Woke better. Throat became a little worse through day. School, Shopping and prep. Golf with Mum, in evening.

Thurs 10 June:

Went to school. Dinner. In the garden as a lovely day. Did gardening and prep. To Guides. To Baxxx[?] for a test. Home in a terrible thunder storm. Supper Bed.

Fri 11 June:

Went to school. Dinner. In the garden to make Alexander[?], Roses, Prep. Took birds there but in soon as cats annoyed us. Pam and Molly to tea. To Baths and Home.

Sat 12 June:

Had my hair done. Elocution out shopping. Home dinner Up to Pam's. Out in some fields. Back to tea. Down to the tennis courts to watch and play about. Bavisan[?] told me I was to be P.L. of the Red Rose. Went to M6ME finals. Back to Pam's Bed.

Sun 13 June:

Got up. It was raining so we were annoyed. Odd jobs. Home to do prep. Dinner To Crusaders. Became sunny so after tea to golf club. Looked after Betty Vale. Home Prep Bed.

Mon 14 June:

Went to school. Home Dinner. Did my prep. Up to the tennis court. Tea there with Pam. We went to the Baths. Got Rally snaps OK. Home Bed.

Tues 15 June:

Went to school Home. Read most of afternoon then tea, followed by prep and more reading quite an enjoyable as Daddy doing this Supper Bed.

Weds 16 June:

Went to school. Home. Strawberries for dinner. Read and did prep. Tea. Went to See Head over Heels again also Crime over London. Bed.

Thurs 17 June:

Woke up feeling none too well (Catarrh Cold) School Home dinner. Read and did prep. Bretts called. Went to Guides. Pam is to be my 2nd in July. Camp fire. Home Bed.

Fri 18 June:

School as usual. Home. Dinner. Went shopping. Made some lemonade. Tea. Did some prep. Went up on the golf course for few holes with Mummy. Home Bed.

Sat 19 June:

Had a headache and toothache. Got up. Elocution Out with Mum. Prep. Up to Pam's and took dog for walk. Up to Combe Down Soroptimists Fete. Tea. Elocution and Marionette shows. Auctions. Back to Strudwicks, another walk. Bed.

Sun 20 June:

Up and after odd jobs to church with Pam alone. Long service. Went to Longleat in afternoon. Found nest of 5 birds also wonderful tree. Home and to bed.

Mon 21 June:

Went to school. After keeping shop for an hour as Mum and Dad away. Dinner. Practised life line throwing. Prep to library. Tea. To Baths with Guides. Home.

Tues 22 June:

Went to school. Home. Dinner. Dorothy and I went for picnic but late start to Bathford. Showery. To Miss Porters Home.

Weds 23 June:

School. Dinner. Went to Bristol to Picture Exhibition. Dull. Home. Prep Supper Bed.

Thurs 24 June:

Went to school. Home Dinner. Note to say Margaret or Beryl would not be at Guides. Did flowers Prep. To Guides Southstoke and Oddown came. 1st C of H. Home.

Fri 25 June:

School. Home. Belly[?] had come. Dinner Went and helped some Blind Rangers change trains. Home Prep and Elocution. Tea. Walk with B. on Bathampton Rocks. Home. Supper Bed.

Sat 26 June:

Mummy went early. Clock fell on my head. Elocution. Dinner, after shopping etc Went for walk. Home Tea Made a doll between us and dressed it. Mummy rang up to say arrived Harrogate at 3. Supper. Bed.

Sun 27 June:

Dressed doll and made another. Dinner. Crusaders. Tea. Went up on links for a walk with Betty. Tormented with flies. Home. Supper. Mum rang up. Bed.

Mon 28 June:

School. Home. Dinner. Prep Out shopping with Betty. Tea. Went to the baths with Guide. B. watched. Home. Supper Bed.

Tues 29 June:

School. Dinner Out for a walk in park and saw British Legion things being prepared. Tea. Prep Walk round town, home Supper.

Wed 30 June:

School. Home. Dinner. Stayed in most of the day. Washed hair. Went to Guides. Started Red Rose Patrol with me Leader.

Thurs 1 July:

School Home Dinner Prep Walk with Betty. Home Tea. Prep Mummy came home unexpectedly. Supper Bed.

Fri 2 July:

School Mummy told Miss Clements I had to leave to go to Technical School so as to pass Matric. next year. Dinner. To B.L. Fete. Fun there. Tea Met Mummy Home Supper.

Sat 3 July:

Breakfast Elocution went out shopping with Bets We led a blind girl from bus opposite to one at Grand Parade For picnic to Longleat with Pam. Great fun. Home supper Bed.

Sun 4 July:

Auntie Marny came. I did prep all the morning. Dinner Crusaders Betty was enrolled as a Guide Tea Long walk out Weston way Supper Bed.

Mon 5 July:

School Home Dinner Betty went back to London. Prep Did a pastel[sic] of a collie dog (Not bad) Mum lost a golf match Supper Bed.

Tues 6 July:

School Home Dinner Practised. Heights and distance Prep. Pam came to tea. Baths Many tests, decided to go in for corp[?]camp[?]

Weds 7 July:

School Home Dinner Did pastel[sic] drawing Tea. Up on golf course. Home Supper Did prep Bed.

Thurs 8 July:

School. Home Dinner Prep. Read. Tea. Went to National Sweet Pea Show. To Baths. I was to be definitely in team. Up to Guides for ending, helped clear up. Home.

Fri 9 July:

School Home Dinner Prep. Went shopping after tea for necessities for tomorrow. Home Odds and ends in evening Supper Bed.

Sat 10 July:

Odd jobs Elocution. Went shopping and heard of track for afternoon's rally. I would miss. Went to Yeovil in afternoon for competition. Terrible. Weston 1st Taunton/Yeovil 2nd Bath 3rd Wiviliscombe[?] 4th Tea Home in Miss Macasbs [?] car Tennis Courts Supper Bed.

Sun 11 July:

Got up and after usual odds and ends to church. Raining today. Dinner Went to Crusaders home for tea. Read, prep and looked through microscope.

Mon 12 July:

Went to school Dinner. Went and spoke to Major Castle about future schooling. Talked to Dorothy. Tea. Let birds out Prep. Knitted. Supper. Bed.

Tues 13 July:

Tank leaked in the night. School Home Dinner. Went to Portishead with Daddy Home Tea. Let birds out. Helped Dorothy. Prep Supper Bed.

Weds 14 July:

School. Gladys came to dinner and tea. We went for a picnic Bitten terribly. Home Odd things Gladys went home. Supper Bed.

Thurs 15 July:

School. Thunder storms all day Home by 'Silver Sail Dinner Bites much worse. Read and slapped bites all afternoon tea No Guides as foot too big. Bed early.

Fri 16 July:

Daddy went for holiday. Stayed in bed all the day until tea time because my bites were too big. Went for ride with Mum in the car. Home Supper. Bed.

Sat 17 July:

Up. Elocution. Went shopping alone. Dinner went to Weston. In New Simmering Bath. Rapturous. Back to Auntie's to tea. Went to "Show of Shows" in evening with some others. Back to Auntie's. Bed.

Sun 18 July:

Up late. Breakfast, Over to pool and bathed with Suzanne. Dinner at Miss Watts. To pool again. Up to Moira's lent on Uphill for tea. To Suzanne's. Bath Bed.

Mon 19 July:

Got up early and raced back for Bath. School Dinner Made some lemonade and did some prep. Tea Talked with Dorothy and Edna. Prep. Bit of pastell[sic] work. Bed.

Tues 20 July:

School. Miss Cleghorn went to Bournemouth. Did pastell work after dinner. Up to Pam's for tea. Heather won top Book Comp Prep Tennis Dogs for walk Home.

Weds 21 July:

Went to school. Home Dinner. Did my prep. Tea. Went to Pam's and took dog out. Guides. We were bottom in game. Must be better soon. Home Supper Bed.

Thurs 22 July:

Went to school. Dinner. Went down to the shop to help cut out new backless dress Started sewing it. Tea. Mrs Power came. Sewed To Mrs Power's. Back Sewed Bed.

Fri 23 July:

Slept on lilo[?] $\frac{1}{2}$ night. Not satisfactory so to bed. Up, and to Miss Clements for last time. Pathetic farewells. Dinner Sewed Tea. Sewed. Made lemonade and learnt elocution Supper Bed.

Sat 24 July:

Got up. Quite nice morning. Odd packing. Elocution. Saw Gladys who told me she had School Cert. So pleased. Went shopping. Dinner Off to Beer. Arrived and settled the caravan. Couldn't find any cutlery etc Tea Looked at shops Sent 2 P.C.s. I bathed Supper Bed.

Sun 25 July:

Got up. Breakfast with other Guides. Odd jobs, then sun-bathed until Aunty and Moira came. Dinner Siesta. Went for cold bathe. Tea. Dickinsons came. Walk Home Bed.

Mon 26 July:

Mummy went early. We had breakfast. Odd jobs, went into village. Dinner. Laid down all afternoon. Tea. We went for a walk along cliffs. Talk. Supper Bed.

Tues 27 July:

Got up having slept alone in tent. Auntie went early. Breakfast. Moira and I went down town. Bobs arrived with Auntie. Dinner. "Sketched" Tea. Went for a walk with Moira. Supper. Bed.

Weds 28 July:

Up. Bobs and I cooked breakfast. Moira Bobs and I went to the Castle Rock for the day taking lunch. Back at six. Good supper Bed.

Thurs 29 July:

Up and to village. Wandered round. Lobster lynch on the beach. Went to Sidmouth. We bought 2 2nd hand books, but had to throw them away. Tea. Back Played teniquoit[?] etc Supper Vill. Bed.

Fri 30 July:

Up. Breakfast. To village and received an autograph sent for 2 yrs ago Went for a track leading to bend. Dinner. Rested and played. Tea Began packing up Supper Bed.

Sat 31 July:

Up early. Went to Weston at last. Round town then read in Auntie Fannie's garden. Dinner. Spent afternoon with Bobbie and had tea there. Mummy fetched me. We went to the "Black Tulip" and "Banjo on my knee" Both good Home Bed.

Sun 1 August:

My birthday [16th]. Had £1 in money, chocolate, cake, beach bag, films, pencils, stationery, photo in frame, cards, surf-board to come. Pool in morning. Rested in afternoon. Tea. A walk. To Pavilion for orchestra.

Mon 2 August:

Went to pool in morning, bathed 12.15-1.15 because less crowded. Dinner. Wrote letter. Tea. Went for evening picnic with lots of people on Caterpillar. Home.

Tues 3 August:

Came home early (Really home this time) Unpacked and odd jobs in morning, same in afternoon. Daddy came home, having hit a sheep on the road. Tea. Knitted Up Lansdown. Home.

Weds 4 August:

Odd jobs in morning, shopping etc. Dinner. Went to a Brownie picnic with Dorothy. Tram. Walk to Warleigh Common[?] Tea, Games, walk back to tram. Saw Brownies home. Home ourselves.

Thurs 5 August:

Tidied my drawers and cupboards and fetched my snaps Not bad ones dinner. Started packing for holidays. Did odd mending wrote and thanked Uncle John for Bath salts received in morning. Tea. Birds out. Ride. Home.

Fri 6 August:

Shopping and odd jobs in morning. Mummy came home not well. Dinner. Heard that Mrs Davies had died. Mum asked to go to Beer and look after children. Not feeling well said she wouldn't Tea. Shopping Eileen came.

Sat 7 August:

Up at 5. Mummy better so starting at 6.20 headed for Mawgan Porth. Mummy's conscience was strong, and wanted to turn off to Beer and "do her duty" now she was better. We didn't however. Dinner outside Honiton, stopped before Okehampton arrived at 12.20. Down to beach. Up. Dinner. To Newquay Back, Bathe, Played, back to supper. Played, then went to Hotel Holiday show. Bed.

Sun 8 August:

Played on beach. Bathed and I was stung on the toe very badly some kind of fish. Never felt anything so painful Better by dinner. Played on sands in afternoon bathed, read, up for supper. Read.

Mon 9 August:

Beach in morning and played and bathed. Dinner. Down to the the few shops. On sands and played teniquoit[?]. Later it rained. So back to hotel. Tea. Read until supper. Ping-pong, played piano[?]. Bed.

Tues 10 August:

Thick mist lasted till eleven. Down and bathed Back for dinner. Down on soft part of sands. Tea in café. To Newquay to buy some books. Back for bathe Supper Bed.

Weds 11 August:

Mummy nor Eileen felt too well today. We went to Fowey on to Pridmouth Picnic lunch read shrimped bathed[?] Tea Saw the Grotto Back to Mawgam Porth Dinner Saw a conjuror Bed.

Thurs 12 August:

I felt ill in the night. Better in morning. Breakfast Played on approach course. Down on beach. Bathed. Dinner Went to Newquay to see Jack Hulbert in Take my tea[?] Tea there. Back for a bathe, Supper, xxxx[?] [darts?] Bed

Fri 13 August:

After breakfast down on beach, I had made a visit to the post office. Bathed Back for dinner Beach to read in afternoon. Tea. Read. Bathed Up for supper. Darts Bed Read.

Sat 14 August:

Up earlyish Breakfast, late post so starting delayed. To Exeter, but stuck in 3 mile long queue for 1½ hrs outside city. Dinner at 3.30. Pleased to see Uncle John and family for 1st [?] time. Back for dinner darts Bed.

Sunday 15 August:

Breakfast. Tennis. Waited for papers which did not come. Down on beach and met Dickensons. Bathed. Back for dinner. Beach to read. Tea. Read Bathed with Mrs Dickenson. Up for supper. Darts etc.

Mon 16 August:

Breakfast. Went to Newquay. Explored little village churches. Wet day so after dinner went to see "Lloyds of London" in Newquay. Good but sad. Tea. Home Walk .Supper Read Darts Bed.

Tues 17 August:

Wrote. Went to Treyarron Bay with Dickensons. Bathed. Dinner. Read paper. Bathed in surf. Tea. Cornish Arms[?] Back home Dinner. Read. Darts Bed.

Weds 18 August:

Waitress fainted, then down to beach and read. Bathed. Dinner Read and slept. Tea. Went for a walk in woods near Mawgam. Supper Read Darts Bed.

Thurs 19 August:

Breakfast Got ready then off to Treyarron Bay with the Dickensons. Bathed in pool Dinner Shopped I found a necklace and took it to the café. Sunbathed. Bathed. Tea Took photos Home Supper Danced Bed.

Fri 20 August:

Got up. Breakfast. Maid was back again. Went to Cavern Concert. (Not too bad, very wet.) Home for dinner. On beach. Bathed Tea on beach Back for supper Entertainment Bed.

Sat 21 August:

Packed etc. Down to garage. To Redruth in steps. Quite good. Back to Mawgam Porth for post and a bathe, Refresher, then began journey HOME Bodmin for rolls. Moor to eat. Honiton for tea. Home 7.30. Begin work once more.

Sun 22 August:

Am going to get 8/- on Saturday if I work this week so all the morning worked Dinner Fixed small cage onto big one after letting birds out. Walked round golf course. Home Birds in.

Mon 23 August:

Up and did lounge. Breakfast Worked hard all the morning Dinner. Odd things in afternoon. Got tea, had it, put it away. With Miss Sant to see garden. Thrilled[?] Showed Mummy. To Miss Tucker's, Whitings Home.

Tues 24 August:

Worked hard in morning. Rested in afternoon. Tea. Mum and I went to Woolard, back to the cottage to see garden and make notes of tools. Home.

Weds 25 August:

Worked in morning. Dinner. Rested and went shopping in afternoon. Tea. Went up and read in car on Sham. Home.

Thurs 26 August:

Michael and Peter came. Played Escalade in the cellar all the morning. Dinner. Escalade again. To News Theatre. To Sailing pond after tea. Back for Escalade. M and P went. Found 2 purses I had lost.

Fri 27 August:

Went shopping Bird equipment arrived. Worked. Dinner Went to Holly's. Enid and her dog were there. Tea. We went to see "Dominant Sex" and Sinner lake[?] all at the Beau Nash. Home.

Sat 28 August:

Went shopping. Came back and did a little housework. Dinner. Dug up plants and went down to the new garden. Tea. Worked there hard all the evening. Dorothy came back. Supper at home. Bed. Talk with Dorothy.

Sun 29 August:

After breakfast. Down to garden with Miss Sants. Worked. Mum came later. Home for dinner. Took Dorothy down there. Mum and Dad came later. Tea. Worked Home.

Mon 30 August:

Bobs and Pat came over. We went round town and had an ice. Back for a game of Peggity[?] Dinner. Went to "Gold diggers of 1937" and "The Isle of Fury". Home for tea and more Peggity. They left. Bed.

Tues 31 August:

Tidied in cellar. Talked to Dorothy. Dinner. Down to garden with Dorothy Men brought us the boat Pxxx[?] was mended. Back for tea. Went to garden alone. Miss Sants came. Home at 9.

Weds 1 September:

Talked to Dorothy then went shopping taking £12 5s and arrived home with right change. Horse show with Pam and Joan Saw Iris Fhoday. Home for tea. Peggity. To garden. Pam and Joan went. Home with Mum.

Thurs 2 September:

Went to dentist and hear I have got to have a plate. Shopping. Home to do odd jobs. To Pam and Joan's to tea in the afternoon Guides in the evening. Red Rose to edit. Mag. Party to be October 9th etc Home.

Fri 3 September:

Made lemonade. To Baths with Pam and Joan. Great fun. Home to do more lemonade Dinner To Bobby's. Tennis and odd games Tea. Climbed trees, Supper. I went home. Letter from Canada. Bed.

Sat 4 September:

Had to do shopping in morning, back to get Michael's bedroom ready Dinner In with Dorothy all the afternoon. Michael came Tea. To "Bulldog Drummond at Bay" and "Under your spell".

Sun 5 September:

Played Monopoly in morning Dinner To the garden to do some work there the, another game of Monopoly. Tea there Home for cinematograph[?] Bed.

Mon 6 September:

We journeyed to Warwick with Daddy. Bought some plus. Had dinner. Home through Cirencester. Bought ices there. Monopoly. Cine Supper.

Tues 7 September:

I have a cold. We did some shopping in the morning. To see "Please Teacher" in afternoon. To garden in evening. Home early to bed. Monopoly[?]

Weds 8 September:

Went to Weston with Mrs Power. To pool. Watched. Bathed. Dinner Watched. To icecream Parlour on pier for some fun. Home. Bed.

Thurs 9 September:

Out a little but it rained all day so we spent morning drawing in the cellar. Heather Shipp came to tea. We all played Monopoly Tea. I went to Guides. Pamela wasn't there. Home Supper Bed.

Fri 10 September:

Up. During shopping fell heavy. Home and we did painting. I had a bath and to bed to cure the cold. Dinner Made aeroplanes. Tea. Pastel work. Supper.

Sat 11 September:

Elocution. Went and had plate put in to push in 1 of my teeth. Dinner after mucking about in cellar with Mike. To Camp 7½ miles out of Bath with other PLs in Dad's car. Rounders. Tea. Walk. Fun. Home by walking and bus. Supper Bed.

Sun 12 September:

After Michael went, it seemed strangely lonely. Let birds out after going to garden and dinner To Marjorie Valis. Heather was there. Tea Games. Home. Supper Bed

Mon 13 September:

Out shopping the whole morning with Mummy. Dinner. Made lemonade in the afternoon. Went to rehearsal of Patrol Stunt in evening. Washed hair Bed.

Tues 14 September:

Start school. Went to school. Prayers. Lessons Had purse stolen from cloakroom. Dinner Afternoon lessons Home New lock on door. Did jig-saw. Supper Bed.

Weds 15 September:

Purse found in form room, it wasn't stolen! Lecture in front of school on carelessness Absolutely miserable all day Mr Osmond came in evening.

Thurs 16 September:

Went to school and had a moderate morning. Dinner. Afternoon lessons. Rushed home to do my history and a map for Guides To Guides, Games, First Class Dodgeball Taps Home to bed.

Fri 17 September:

School as usual. Dinner School again in afternoon with Gym and extra French. Tea at 5. Did some elocution then prep till about 9. Listened to wireless. Supper Bed.

Sat 18 September:

Wrote out elocution. Had elocution. To Dentist's. Went shopping and home. Did prep. Dinner Pam came Down to the garden and picked in some apples (for Miss Sants we found up the end) Up for tea. Listened to wireless all evening. Pam went home after supper We went to Variety Home.

Sun 19 September:

Helped Dorothy and did some prep in morning. Dinner. Read . To Crusaders. Home for tea. Went to Batheaston Eventually out in a boat we're thinking of buying. Gardened Home Bed.

Mon 20 September:

School as usual ending with swimming It was quite fun. Dinner. School again. Tea. Little prep. Went to Mildred's house for rehearsal Home to do prep. Supper Bed.

Tues 21 September:

School. Was a fire alarm. Dinner Afternoon lessons and extra French. Home for tea. Row on river with Miss John and Mummy. Mr Hutching came. Supper Bed.

Weds 22 September:

Very unhappy as Mummy and Daddy have gone for their 3 weeks in London. School. Home for dinner. English. 1 game of tennis back for P.S[?] because of rain Tea Prep all evening. Supper Bed.

Thurs 23 September:

School as usual during morning and afternoon To Guides, thence to rehearsal for Oct 22nd. I was too short for Richard 1st so made James I and have to speak Scotch!!!

Fri 24 September:

School as usual in morning School in afternoon with gym and swimming meeting in the middle of English Home to tea Wrote a letter and did prep all the evening. Daddy home Bed.

Sat 25 September:

Learnt elocution. Elocution. Dentist Round shops. Talked to Dorothy. Dinner. Up to Pam's and there, cards, tea, walk back and I to rehearsal of plan with Lorna. Finished at 9 and back home and eventually to bed.

Sun 26 September:

Breakfast. Did some history, I am ashamed to say. Dinner. Crusader's Tea To garden and back to do, I am afraid about 2 hrs of French. Supper and to bed.

Mon 27 September:

School. Watched little swimming there was. Dinner. A lesson then to swimming Gala. Home for tea. Then camp. Went to First Class for only $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour, back, fun, bed.

Tues 28 September:

Went to school in morning as usual. Dinner Again in afternoon and stayed to extra French Went shopping Tea Knitted Prep. Supper and to bed early to read.

Weds 29 September:

School Tennis as very sunny Was doing prep all the evening. Bed H & T[?]

Thurs 30 September:

School. Again in afternoon. Tea with Dorothy. Prep. Amused ourselves by doing sums!! Went to rehearsal and what a rehearsal! Back. Bed.

Fri 1 October:

School Again in afternoon. Tea. Had xxx[?] lots of prep so got on with it. Letters from Michael and Joan Cooper. Daddy home. Bed.

Sat 2 October:

Miss Head had a cold so no elocution. Shopped. To dentist; had hair cut. Did prep. Dinner Up to Pam's Went for a walk. Tea. Went to first house of Palace, then rushed to a rehearsal. Back to Strudwicks' to sleep.

Sun 3 October:

Went to new Bartholomew Church. Only chairs to sit on as yet. Home for dinner Prep. To Crusaders and up in Miss Croser's[?] car. To Heather's. Tea. Odd things Home.

Mon 4 October:

Went to school. Swimming was great fun. Lessons in afternoon. Home for tea Did Arith. Pam came. I went to Cadets. Home. Prep. Bed.

Tues 5 October:

Missed 2 French books. Lessons. Dinner Art and extra French home Tea. Books still missing, Expected Miss Head but she did not come. Did sewing. Tired so bed early.

Weds 6 October:

Went to school. Miss Dingle gave me my books. Surprised because not cross. Tennis in afternoon. Tea. Did prep all the evening.

Thurs 7 October:

School. Dinner. School Home and eventually went to Guides in winter uniform. Was invested as leader unexpectedly 36 points for magazine entries. Rehearsal.

Fri 8 October:

Went to school Dinner and afternoon lessons. Home, and did odd things, wrote a letter to Mummy. Daddy came home. Mummy has a cold Supper.

Sat 9 October:

Had elocution and went to dentist. Did prep. Dinner. At last got off to Pam's with all my luggage. Went for walk Back to have tea and do some prep Went to our party. Our patrol stunt went off very well. Back to Pam's to sleep.

Sun 10 October:

Did lessons in the morning. Home for dinner. Went blackberrying in afternoon. Tea. Went to Church Parade in evening. I was escort to Company Colours. Home. Bed.

Mon 11 October:

Getting colder. School and swimming. Dinner. Afternoon School. Home for tea. Pamela came and we did homework all the evening. Supper. Bed.

Tues 12 October:

Went to school. Dinner afternoon lessons With Mrs Coates to be fitted for James I. To palace with Mrs Power. It was broadcasted.

Weds 13 October:

School English. Tennis in afternoon. Letters from Mummy and Michael. Washed my hair. Did my prep. Bath and bed.

Went for a walk to Bathampton after breakfast. Dinner. To the Joint Crusader Meeting Home for tea. Prep Mrs Power came. Went to bed.

Mon 25 October:

Went to school. Didn't swim. Afternoon school. Home for tea. Sorted cigarette cards Did my prep. Cuto out the materials for the blouse for needlewoman's.

Tues 26 October:

Went to school Art in afternoon. Tea. Did my blouse all the evening. Mrs Power, Mrs Sayers and a friend visited.

Weds 27 October:

School as usual. No games Went to bird-show. Bought a small book. Home and did prep. Supper and bed.

Thurs 28 October:

Went to school in morning and afternoon. Went to Guides in evening. Were 2nd in a game. Quite an enjoyable evening. C of H. Home Bed.

Fri 29 October:

Went to school in morning and afternoon. Went to Crusaders in evening and started knitting a baby's coat. Home and did some French prep. Bath Bed.

Sat 30 October:

Went and saw Miss Abbot's aviary. Elocution. Shopping with Mummy Did odd jobs. Started pair of knickers for needlewoman's. Dinner. Sewed Prep. "Editors chat" for mag. To Pam's. Sewed and taught Paddy First Aid. Bed.

Sun 31 October:

Went to St Luke's Church (Litany) Home. Dinner. To Crusaders. Back to Pam's for tea. Did puzzles in the evening. Home. Bed.

Mon 1 November:

It was half term. Shopping and pep in morning. Went to garden with Dorothy in afternoon. To Arts and Crafts Show Pam came. Cadets. Bed.

Tues 2 November:

Pam went. Went to school in morning and Art in afternoon. Put a branch in the bird's cage. Sewing. To Grey Owl. It was very good. Bed at 11.

Weds 3 November:

Went to school in morning and tennis in afternoon. Home to do prep. Practised heights and distances. Supper Bed.

Thurs 4 November:

Went to school morning and afternoon. Made tarts in dinner hour. To Guides in evening. Fun prodding apples and popping bags. Home.

Fri 5 November:

Went to school. On way to school in afternoon ran away from Williams. Was fun. Passed Height distance and time in evening.

Sat 6 November:

Elocution. Went to library. Shopping with Mummy, home. Prep all afternoon. Pam came to tea. Played card games and consequences Went to Palace. Good. Went home for keys, no one there so on to Strudwicks.

Sun 7 November:

Didn't go to church. Short walk. Got keys from club and went home and cooked dinner. Dinner. Miss Hamilton talked to us at Crusaders. Mrs Power came.

Mon 8 November:

To school. Baths. Home to dinner. Met Girda and Margaret Hull. Down without seeing Williams. Afternoon school Home did prep all the evening. Bed.

Tues 9 November:

Went to school. Ran away from Williams in a sweetshop on the way home. Afternoon school and notes from Williams. Tea. Sewed and painted. Baviaan[?] came. Bed.

Weds 10 November:

Went to school. Tennis in afternoon. Very cold. Went home. Tea. Mrs Sayer came. To reference library with Girda. Home. Prep. Bed.

Thurs 11 November:

Went to school. Listened to wireless for 11 o'clock service. There was a great disturbance. Later discovered a lunatic started shouting. Guides.

Fri 12 November:

Went to school. Dinner. School and gym Home. Tea Did a little painting. Went to Crusaders to do knitting. Home Washed hair. Bath. Bed.

Sat 13 November:

Elocution. Went shopping with Mummy. Came back, Doris[?] was home. Helped cook the dinner. Dinner with Dorothy Prep all afternoon. Tea when the Davies came Talked. supper Mary and I to Theatre others to Palace.

Sun 14 November:

Breakfast Having slept in the study. Odds and ends. Walk from Bathampton home. Dinner. Another walk over Brown's Folly. Home Tea Games Supper.

Mon 15 November:

Went to school. Didn't swim it was too cold Home to Dinner. Davies went. Afternoon school Home. Pam was expected but didn't turn up. Cadets. Prep.

Tues 16 November:

Went to school in morning and afternoon Got my history book from Cleavers[?] Tea. Made a patch for needlewoman's badge. Supper Bed.

Weds 17 November:

Went to school. Daddy stayed in bed with cold. Dinner. Went to school No tennis. Too wet. Tea. Prep most of the evening.

Thurs 18 November:

Went to school. Dinner. Williams caught us up in afternoon. On coming home from school, boy pulled my hat off twice in street. Tea Went to Guides Home Bed.

Fri 19 November:

Went to school. Dinner. Afternoon school. Tea Sat and talked to Dad until 8 o'clock. Mr Power and Mr Clark came. Mummy went out. I went to bed.

Sat 20 November:

Up Breakfast Elocution Out shopping. Home. Dinner. Went to Pam's. Out for walk with Molly and Betty Bedwell and Pam. Tea. Did some sewing. Molly came to arrange who we are having for our party. Home at 8.30. Bed.

Sun 21 November:

Went for a walk with Mummy. It was a beautiful frosty morning. Dinner. To Crusaders. Home. Tea. Did my prep Supper Bed.

Mon 22 November:

Went to school. Home dinner. Afternoon school Heather was absent all day. Stayed to hear story of French play. Pam came. Prep Bed.

Tues 23 November:

Morning school Heather returned in afternoon. Tea. To Mrs Davies to learn cooking for badge. Fun there. Home.

Weds 24 November:

Went to school in morning. Fun at French play in afternoon. With Molly to Pam's to tea. Prep etc. Home.

Thurs 25 November:

Went to school. Home for dinner. Terrible history test today. I made some awful mistakes. Foggy. Guides P.L.s took meeting. Home.

Fri 26 November:

To school in morning and afternoon. Tea. Got ready and went in for cook's badge. Had electric cooker. Miss Eby passed. Home. Bed.

Sat 27 November:

Elocution early. Out shopping. Home. Prep. Dinner. Prep all afternoon tea, prep To Pam's prep supper and to bed. Mrs Strudwick was at Bournemouth so we were alone with Mrs Wilkins. Good fun.

Sun 28 November:

Up late after fun in bedroom with dog. To Miss John's. Back for breakfast Prep. Walk with dog. Home Sewed Crusaders. P and M came to tea. Arrangements for party etc.

Mon 29 November:

Went to school Home for dinner. Afternoon school. Tea. Pam didn't come to sleep. Prep all evening. Heard Heather's grandfather had died. (H & R).

Tues 30 November:

To school. Home for dinner. Went to school again. Tea. Bit of pastel work. Sewed all the evening. Bed about 9.30.

Weds 1 December:

Went to school. Home and Heather came to dinner. Afternoon school. Tea. Prep, out in car. Home. Bed.

Thurs 2 December:

Went to school. Home for dinner and worked furiously for needlewoman's test. Afternoon school. Tea. Guides. Miss Baker came. C of H. Home Bed.

Fri 3 December:

Went to school. Home to sew and sew. Dinner. Found there was a small cut in my blouse. Afternoon school. Sewed again. In for test. Believe I passed. Home. To bed, tired.

Sat 4 December:

Mummy went to London. Elocution. Little shopping. Took my swimmer's badge and passed. Home for dinner. To Pam's eventually. Took dog for walk. Tea. Prep etc. Molly came in. Listened to wireless supper Bed.

Sun 5 December:

Mrs Strudwick not too well. About 11 went for a walk with dogs and molly I walked home. Dinner. Crusaders. Molly came to tea. Coveo[?] came about 6. Played. Went.

Mon 6 December:

Went to school. Home for dinner. School again in afternoon. Exams. Today funny without Oxford people. Daddy had teeth out. Pam came.

Tues 7 December:

Went to school. More exams today. Again in afternoon for Art. Home for tea. Shopping in evening. It snowed. Bed.

Weds 8 December:

Went to school for more exams. Again in afternoon. Gerda and Jean came to see us. Had hair done in evening. To the theatre to see "The Young Idea" by B.O.S.

Thurs 9 December:

Had a bad throat and kind of headache. Went to school Two awful exams. Dinner Afternoon school. Guides in evening. Acted an accident. Quite successful evening. Home.

Fri 10 December:

Miss Hamilton Stayed in bed all day as I had a bad throat still. I painted Xmas Card Wrote and read all day. It was a lovely lazy day.

Sat 11 December:

Although I was much better I stayed in bed so didn't have elocution. Wrote read and painted today too. Also listened to wireless. Mummy went on stocking trail. Consequently I didn't go to Pam's for night.

Sun 12 December:

Got up after breakfast and went with Mummy to Aunty Laura's back to pack stockings. At Crusaders I read the portion. Home. Tea. Washed up. Packed parcel and supper. Bed.

Mon 13 December:

Went to school again Exams over. School in afternoon. Tea. Went shopping. Back to be fitted by Miss Newton Pam had a sore throat didn't come.

Tues 14 December:

Went to school in morning and again in afternoon. Tea Was fitted by Miss Newton again. Gilbert kept ringing bell to get a kiss from Dorothy. Joke!

Weds 15 December:

Went to school in morning and afternoon. Went shopping with mum. She gave me 2 budgies for Xmas we took 1 home. To Manor St. Home. Bath. Bed.

Thurs 16 December:

Went to school. Home to find Juliet had arrived. Afternoon school Tok my autographs for a hobbies exhibition. To Guides in evening. First Class Test. Pam ill.

Fri 17 December:

Went to school. Mixture of a morning. Received reports. To school in afternoon to be entertained. Home. Pam came to tea. To Palace. An escapologist. Home Bed.

Sat 18 December:

Still had a cold (worse) so stayed in bed, and read etc. Dinner Read and watched the budgies they are very amusing. Mummy had her pain again. Tea with her. Pastell and listened to wireless. Bed fairly early. Uncle Reg ill. Not coming for Xmas.

Sun 19 December:

Got up late in morning. Dinner. Didn't go to Crusaders. Did odds and ends. Knitting packing, mending, writing etc. Rather a monotonous day.

Mon 20 December:

Spring cleaned the bird cage. Shopping. Iced a cake in the afternoon and in the evening was with Dorothy. Pamela came after badminton and slept the night.

Tues 21 December:

Shopping. Dinner. Wrote camp songs for Guides and played with Daddy's steam engine. Dressmaker came today (unable to come Mon) Packed presents etc Bed.

Weds 22 December:

Went shopping. Home to do birds etc. Dinner. Decorated the cellar. Mrs Sayers to tea. Guides in Parish Room. Home.

Thurs 23 December:

Went to Cheltenham with Daddy. Saw a budgerigar flying loose. Jolly good dinner. Home. The post/coat[?] is enlarging. To see poor child. Home etc Bed.

Fri 24 December:

Very busy indeed all morning delivering parcels etc. Dinner. Decorations Impatience Arrival of our relations Tea. Went to Gladys's party.

Sat 25 December:

Opened presents. Was very lucky: - books, crackers hankies, money, gloves, scarf, calendar, stationery, bath salts, diaries etc. Played in cellar. Dinner Walk. Played again Tea. Entertained and played with our parents.

Sun 26 December:

Wrote letters. Hills to Bristol. Mrs Davis called. Dinner when Hills returned. Played on and off for rest of day. Parents out in evening. Bed.

Mon 27 December:

Peter ill. Played with Mihael in morning. Peter little better in afternoon. Walk with Hills except Peter. Tea. Hills Ways Loves Strudwicks to Palace Panto. All home. Supper Fun-12.

Tues 28 December:

Sorted new cigarette cards. Round shops. Did pastelling. Practised new songs on piano. Dinner. Odd jobs for party. Tea. Gladys came. Pam Molly and my party. Jolly good.

Weds 29 December:

Dorothy away. Daddy in bed. Worked hard in morning . Up to Mrs Power and for a walk Tea there. Saw Mary F.F. Home. Bed upstairs.

Thurs 30 December:

Worked hard again today. Sorted my cigarette cards differently. Dinner Wrote letters and knitted. Tea Knitted. Guides Few there. Funny evening. Home.

Fri 31 December:

Worked all morning Dinner at Colmers. Went to Gladys's by bus. Played cards. Tea. To Bristol to see Oh! Mr Porter (Will Hay) Back to Gladys's home on bus. Bed.

There is no 1938 diary. The 1939 diary is a Charles Letts's Girl Guides Diary, again pocket sized, and a week to a view, but with 60+ pages of info for Guides.

January 1939 – Peggy now aged 17

Peggy still lived at home, but had a 'trainee' job doing psychological testing at Stoke Park hospital in north Bristol (a 'mental handicap hospital', an institution accommodating nearly 2,000 patients), working alongside Miss West who supervised her. I infer that references to 'North' 'South' 'Ivy Lodge' or 'Elm' refer to institutions that were either part of or close to Stoke Park – 'Hanham Hall' was certainly a satellite hospital run as part of the same institution.

Sun 1 January 1939:

Auntie Marnie staying the weekend. Church. Walk with the Johns. To bed early to read.

Mon 2 January:

I tested a little boy. Went to badminton in the evening and had several good games.

Tues 3 January:

Miss West's car was being mended so we went by bus. I tested a boy with hydrocephalus.

Weds 4 January:

Pamela was ill, so I went alone to the Poor Children's party, and we had a marvellous time with plenty to eat.

Thurs 5 January:

Tested a north country girl today who talked all through the test and sang the Lambeth Walk and Chestnut Tree! Miss West had a puncture in her car.

Fri 6 January:

Not very busy so did shorthand most of day and awful shorthand at that. Shopping in evening.

Sat 7 January:

Bobby came. Went to see Will Hay in Hey Hey USA. Mummy's Guiders part in evening.

Sun 8 January:

Auntie Marny Bobs Mum, Miss West and I went for a walk near South Wraxall. Totopoly in evening.

Mon 9 January:

Tested a very dull girl from Bath(!) Shorthand showed little improvement. Badminton. Heather not back.

Tues 10 January:

Went to first 2nd year French lesson with Margaret. It was more interesting than before.

Weds 11 January:

Did a typing speed test in afternoon. Went to prize giving and got my school certificate in the evening. Saw Heather.

Thurs 12 January:

Tested a boy for Gloucester Committee in the morning. Went to badminton in the evening. Heather was there.

Fri 13 January:

Tested a boy in the afternoon. Began Brownies again in the evening. Managed better with only 12 of them.

Sat 14 January:

Took Margaret and Gerda for a walk up Combe Down in the rain. News Theatre in the evening.

Sun 15 January:

Went to the Abbey. Walk with Heather in afternoon Tea with her. John Dickinson was there. Brought home.

Monday 16 January:

Tested a quiet boy mentally 6.4. Went to badminton. Miss West finished Mummy's jumper.

Tues 17 January:

Tested a boy who refused to speak throughout test although he was quite old.

Tested a little girl. Went to French in evening. May go in for an exam!

Weds 18 January:

Bad shorthand. To Rangers in evening and did "Indian Queen", "Morpeth Rant"
"Gloc.&meet" Picking up sticks "Newcastle". "Huntsman's Chorus" and "Durham Reel"
"Haste to the wedding xxxx"[?]

Thurs 19 January:

More bad shorthand. Tested a girl who stammered very badly. Heather had her
plaits cut off. 1 court at badminton owing to matches.

Fri 20 January:

Took Brownies and then went on to the 10th Argyle Guide party. Enjoyed it and had a
good supper.

Sat 21 January:

Walked round golf course with Mrs Sayers Mummy and Miss West. Miss West came
back to tea. News Theatre in evening.

Sun 22 January:

Did some biology charts. To tea with Heather at the Dickinsons. Played ping-pong.
Home to do more biology charts.

Mon 23 January:

Gloucester Committee. Sprained my ankle at badminton and was furious[?]. Was
taken to Dr Scott Reid's to be bandaged up.

Tues 24 January:

Didn't go to French in the evening although I did the prep. Typed out The Guide
notes and a recipe for Clara.

Weds 25 January:

Snowed today. Went to Rangers and we had several good games. Was tested for
emergencies. Home by 9.30.

Thurs 26 January:

Mrs Hughes away. Went to a lecture by Dr Frazer Roberts on "The investigations by
the Burden Record Trust on the Intelligence of Bath schoolchildren"

Fri 27 January:

Clara has put her shoulder out twice and will have to have an operation. Tested boy
M.P. 4.1. Brownies and new Brown Owl came. Home.

Sat 28 January:

Went shopping by myself. The twins came and we went for a walk. Tea. Games.

Sun 29 January:

Went to church. Answered letters. Went up to Heather's and knitted till time to go home. Card trick.

Mon 30 January:

Started walks for Rangers Test. Went and watched badminton - did not get playing. Miss Seaward broke a tendon.

Tues 31 January:

Helped the Professor with the index for his book. Went to French in the evening. Margaret was not there.

Weds 1 February:

Index work again. Was enrolled as a Ranger. Learnt 2 knots towards making a lanyard. Miss Davies came.

Thurs 2 February:

Tested a woman we thought would be M.P. but proved 6.6+ Clara is now in hospital so stayed late at badminton.

Fri 3 February:

Did my first Porteus test on the woman I tested yesterday. She proved to be over 12 mentally! Brownies in the evening - rowdy as ever again.

Sat 4 February:

Had my hair done. Shopping Went to Gladys's and met the Deas's there. Pingpong Talked.

Sun 5 February:

Went to church with Heather. Walk with her in afternoon. There to tea. The Dickinsons were there. Home about 8.

Mon 6 February:

Had a quiet girl to test who was 6.6. Beautiful day, so went out in dinner hour. Badminton.

Tues 7 February:

Went to French in the evening and we decided to go to a French film on Saturday. Home Supper Bed.

Weds 8 February:

Went shopping after tea. To Rangers. Nokes[?] game and practised making lanyards. Now know 4 knots.

Thurs 9 February:

Went to badminton in the evening. Mummy left early. Fed up because only had 3 games.

Fri 10 February:

Took Brownies in the evening in the Guide room. Went to see 'Pride & Prejudice' upstairs afterwards.

Sat 11 February:

Went to French films with Margaret. Out to Hospital with Dulcie in afternoon. Wilts Div: Training.

Sun 12 February:

Stayed in bed and read. Helped Mummy. Walk with the Sayers. Sorted out Brownie 'games'.

Mon 13 February:

Tested a girl who was 4.6 mentally and who was also a bit mad. Went to see "The Lady Vanishes" in the evening, it was good.

Tues 14 February:

Went to French in the evening with Margaret. Very boring day on the whole.

Weds 15 February:

Went to an 'At Home' at G.H.Q. in the evening Quite good fun really. Getting really enthusiastic about Brownies.

Thurs 16 February:

Went to badminton in the evening and played 9 games of badminton having stayed late. Home to a bath.

Fri 17 February:

Daddy had a bit of a cold. Miss West came to tea. To Brownies Gave them nature books. Brown Owl has the 'flu!

Sat 18 February:

I am stiff. After work, walk on golf course and shopping. Down to garden. Miss West came to tea and stayed the evening.

Sun 19 February:

Stayed in bed till late, Up to do odd jobs and lay the dinner. Upset gravy over my Ranger uniform. Heather's to tea. Guides Church Parade in evening.

Mon 20 February:

Went to badminton in the evening and had four games so not so pleased as last Thursday.

Tues 21 February:

Had to help Miss Grace with new admissions. Went to see Private Life of Henry VIII in evening instead of French.

Weds 22 February:

Tested a girl from North who was 5.4 mentally and a boy (1.7). Thinking Day meeting at Rangers.

Thurs 23 February:

Tested a talkative girl today. Went to badminton in evening Felt a cold coming on.

Fri 24 February:

Cold came but went to work and tested two brothers from South. Didn't take Brownies in the evening. Bed early.

Sat 25 February:

Stayed in bed all day. Did a crossword puzzle. Mummy bought me some botany books.

Sun 26 February:

Stayed in bed again. Got up at teatime and played skittles as Mr Sayers came and Mrs Power.

Mon 27 February:

Tested two more boys in the morning. Badminton in evening - shouldn't have gone!

Tues 28 February:

Went to French although Margaret didn't go - some weak excuse. Inspectors next week.

Weds 1 March:

Went to Rangers in the evening and read through the play and did country and morris dancing.

Thurs 2 March:

Went to badminton and I stayed late Quite good games Mummy went to a Guide do.

Fri 3 March:

Did a [shorthand sentence?] Have definitely [shorthand word?] so am furious. Took Brownies and went to the training.

Sat 4 March:

Shopping. Got tea for training, and Betty and I went to training in evening.

Sun 5 March:

Went out in Auntie Marnie's car. Helped get tea at HQ and we all stayed to the training afterwards.

Mon 6 March:

Miss West has herpes on the face - draughty floors at HQ Went to badminton - only 3 games.

Tues 7 March:

Went to Hanham in afternoon. Home early so up to South Wraxall from primroses French later - inspector there.

Weds 8 March:

Mrs Hughes on holiday Went to Rangers in the evening and we had games country dancing and a rehearsal of the play.

Thurs 9 March:

Went to badminton in the evening. Only four of us there so had some good games and a single - then home.

Fri 10 March:

Went to Brownies in the evening and played numerous games. Not many there Home to supper and to bed.

Sat 11 March:

Gladys came Went to see 'This man is news' and home to eat. Pencil games with Mrs Sayers and Miss West in evening.

Sun 12 March:

Went to church Did a little dressmaking. Up to Heather's to tea. Home to supper at 8.30.

Mon 13 March:

Tested two boys from South today. One had hydrocephalus. Badminton in evening. Didn't play many games.

Tues 14 March:

Went to French in the evening Margaret wasn't there. Suppose she has a cold. Home 9.30.

Weds 15 March:

Went to Rangers in the evening and we rehearsed the play and did country dancing Miss West took me home.

Thurs 16 March:

Tested an idiot from Ivy Lodge - rather difficult to handle. Badminton in the evening. Supper.

Fri 17 March:

Went to Brownies in evening and on to see "George & Margaret" at the Theatre. It was very humorous [sic].

Sat 18 March:

Had my hair done in the morning. Went to tea with the Sayers and saw their puppy.

Sun 19 March:

Undid the dressmaking I did last night and did some more while cooking the dinner. Heather's to tea. Did a lot of knitting.

Mon 20 March:

Tested a fairly bright imbecile from North. Badminton tournament in evening. Mrs Strudwick and I won 2 and lost 3.

Tues 21 March:

Went to see Marion in the evening. Marvellous the things he does. But I'm not going to believe it - it's impossible.

Weds 22 March:

Tested a Mongolian idiot of 5 in actual years, and a boy from Ivy who kept saying "Eh?" Rangers in evening, Miss West has to have her top teeth out.

Thurs 23 March:

Miss West had toothache. Tested a boy who talked almost unconsciously about going back to school again. Helped the Professor with the digitograph.

Fri 24 March:

Tested a girl from North who had a head the size of a baby at birth although she was nearly 10. Saw a cross-section of a brain. Brownies later.

Sat 25 March:

Out shopping with Mrs Power. Clara came for half day. Weston Training.

Margin note: Tested 30 up to and incl: March 25th

Sun 26 March:

Went to the Abbey. Did dressmaking then up to Heather's and knitted until 8. Home.

Mon 27 March:

To work by bus as Miss West came straight from Wedmore. Tested a boy from Ivy - 5.9 mentally. Badminton in evening.

Tues 28 March:

Came out to Stoke as usual. Went to French in the evening. Exam not far off.

Weds 29 March:

Went to Rangers in the evening and we rehearsed hard for the play.

Thurs 30 March:

Tested a girl in the hall in afternoon. Went to last badminton evening and had many games.

Fri 31 March:

Tested a Mongol from North in morning and a boy from Elms (retest). Brownies in the evening Home and knitted.

Sat 1 April:

Out shopping etc with Miss West, then met Mummy. With Daddy in afternoon. Parry to tea.

Sun 2 April:

Sewing most of the day. Mummy and I up to play a few holes with Miss West in early evening. Tea. Talked.

Mon 3 April:

Tested a girl. Home to tea. Supper later Went to bed.

Tues 4 April:

Down to West Side in afternoon and made 4 tests. Home. Went to last French lesson.

Weds 5 April:

Went to Rangers in the evening and practised the play only I did my lanyard Can't say it was very interesting.

Thurs 6 April:

After work, went to Bristol We met Mummy and later I caught the Exeter train. Arrived safely. Baby John sweet.

Fri 7 April (Good Friday):

Walk to Herbrook in the morning, and to Trobridge in the afternoon with Auntie Jo. Beautiful sunny weather.

Sat 8 April:

Went to Bickley Castle in the afternoon in the car. Beautiful place. Passed the Fisherman's Cot.

Sun 9 April:

Went to Belstar[?] in the afternoon in Uncle John's car. It is a marvellous place. Remember it in time of war.

Mon 10 April (Easter Monday):

Bathed dog. Went to see "That certain age" in afternoon. Helped in bar later. Two drunks annoyed me.

Tues 11 April:

Took dog for walk in morning and made a blister on my foot. In town in afternoon Home by train later.

Weds 12 April:

Started work again and tested a little boy from North. Rangers in the evening and practised play. Wonderful weather.

Thurs 13 April:

Tested a girl from North, and a boy from West Side. Daddy had bronchitis so stayed in with him in evening.

Fri 14 April:

Tested another girl from North. Brownies in evening. Brown Owl not there so took 8 Brownies with impromptu programme.

Sat 15 April:

Out shopping Clara came back. Walk. To "La Chauve Sonoris" with Mummy and Miss West. Bed late.

Sun 16 April:

Went to Church. Experimented with knots in afternoon and we met Auntie Marnie at the Minors Arms. Home for supper and earlier bed.

Mon 17 April:

Gloucester Committee today. We had our semi dress rehearsal for the concert. Play not so good as it ought to be. Home late.

Tues 18 April:

Had the dress rehearsal in the evening. Not half so good as it should be.

Weds 19 April:

We had no Rangers today. Went to Bradford with Daddy and Mrs Power in the car. Mummy not too well.

Thurs 20 April:

Mummy in bed with rheumatism so couldn't come to the play. Went off fairly well. Home very late.

Fri 21 April:

Felt more at home on the stage tonight. Should think we'd done well financially but the concert is not good.

Sat 22 April:

Shopping in morning. Went to Gladys' in afternoon. Walk Tea Darts. Ping pong Home with a cold.

Sun 23 April:

Stayed in bed to try and cure my cold but it was persistent. Read most of the day.

Mon 24 April:

To work and tested an idiot from Hanham. Gave an hour's lecture on the M.P. in afternoon. Took a French exam.

Tues 25 April:

Did my lanyard in the evening. My cold made me feel pretty rotten. Bed at last.

Weds 26 April:

Adjji went in to F.F.H. [Forbes Fraser Hospital?] so wasn't at Rangers. We did country dancing but without much result. Did the hulla game. Home. Bed.

Thurs 27 April:

Mummy in bed having caught my cold. Miss West had her operation. Tested a Mongol. Miss H fetched me Sat with Mummy.

Fri 28 April:

Did a Porteus test on a boy, and helped a little with the Binet. Miss H fetched me. Brownies. Home again to sit with Mummy.

Sat 29 April:

Went to finals of Western Drama League. Hereford won. All very interesting and good.

Sun 30 April:

Did my lanyard most of day. We fetched Miss West from F.F.H. in afternoon. Made a knot chart in the evening.

Mon 1 May:

Tested a girl. Wet day. No May Day dancing at Stoke. Adjji to tea, and stayed most of evening. Still looks ill.

Tues 2 May:

May Day celebrations at Stoke Park. Did a lot of filing in the morning. Had hair done, Went on errand to King Edward Rd.

Weds 3 May:

To Rangers in evening and as Lieut: couldn't come Adjji had to, and taught us our country dances. She said they were better I'm stiff. Adjji looked depressed.

Thurs 4 May:

Mrs Hughes and I did 3 columns of head measurements etc Heather came to tea Miss West came in evening to do printing. Fortunately better.

Fri 5 May:

Tested a boy from Ivy who was difficult to interest and an idiot in North. Took Brownies and then went to Bond St to help decorate "Guide window".

Sat 6 May:

Helped with Guide window in Bond St Twins came to tea. They have passed their 110 in shorthand!

Sun 7 May:

We went to meet Auntie Marnie. Walked. Made up a X-word in afternoon. Up and sat in Daddy's car on Lansdown.

Mon 8 May:

Tested a girl who was slightly mad. Violent so had to be careful. Went to a speed class in evening. Quite a nice mistress.

Tues 9 May:

Made a retest on an Ivy boy in afternoon. To tea with the twins. Joan didn't come, so no tennis. Putting instead.

Weds 10 May:

Tested a girl from North. Divisional Church Parade in the evening. Practised country dancing afterwards.

Thurs 11 May:

Went up on Lansdown in evening with Mummy and Miss W. Latter and I went birdsnesting afterwards.

Fri 12 May:

Went to Brownies in the evening and then in for folk dancing comps. Grand evening. We were 3rd.

Sat 13 May:

Met Miss W in town. Home. Down to garden To Palace in the evening Bed late.

Sun 14 May:

In bed in morning. Hymn Festival in afternoon. Church Parade at St Luke's in the evening.

Mon 15 May:

Went to shorthand in the evening. Went on to see "Kate + 10" again with Mummy and Mrs Sayers.

Tues 16 May:

Not busy. Felt shivery and had a headache all day. Tennis with twins and Joan in evening.

Weds 17 May:

Stayed in bed and got a bit better. Mrs Power came in the evening.

Thurs 18 May:

Still stayed home. Got up at tea time. Made a chart for Brownies in evening.

Fri 19 May:

Went back to work but wasn't busy. Brownies in evening. Several passed their hopping[?]

Sat 20 May:

Mummy and I went down to the caravan. Nice weather.

Sun 21 May:

Cold gradually went in lovely weather. Home in the evening. Very sunburnt.

Mon 22 May:

Went to shorthand and on to rounders. 8.30 Adj and I went upon the golf course. Home later.

Tues 23 May:

Tested a girl from South who was MP 6.6 Could do a Porteus. Played tennis on Lansdown. Met a German refugee.

Weds 24 May:

Went to Miss Davies for an at home. Listened to Empire talk. Not very interesting.

Thurs 25 May:

Did my first Binet at Hanham. Betty came and she and I taught some Brownies to darn and sew on buttons.

Fri 26 May:

Work as usual. Brownies in the evening. Betty and I walked up Lansdown.

Sat 27 May:

Went down to the caravan. Grand weather. All set fair. Drove the car.

Sun 28 May:

Good weather. On the beach on and off. Went to Portland Bill in morning. Nice day.

Mon 29 May – Whit Monday Bank Holiday:

Adj and Mrs Sayers turned up. Still good weather Bathed in afternoon. Marvellous day.

Tues 30 May:

On the beach in the morning. To Seatown late in afternoon. Walk on cliffs. Home and arrived about 9.

Weds 31 May:

Did a Binet on a new admission. Played rounders in the evening. Home fairly early.

Thurs 1 June:

As soon as I got home I bought some material for a blouse and started making it while Bets made a bolero.

Fri 2 June:

Did a Porteus on a slow girl. Played the rounder match at Chilcompton and we won undeservedly(?)

Sat 3 June:

Went to Bristol. Home and did my blouse down at the garden. Home with Bets about 9.

Sun 4 June:

Finished my blouse Out for a picnic to Iford in afternoon. Wrote some letters. Knitted.

Mon 5 June:

Shorthand in the evening, It was terrible. Home and altered a frock Did more dressmaking Betty went home.

Tues 6 June:

Did a Porteus test Had my first driving lesson and went Keynsham - Bitton Ciseter[?] Pucklechurch - Gloster Rd - City Played singles with Joan.

Weds 7 June:

Went to Rangers in the evening and we planned 2 programmes for evacuated children. Practised rounders.

Thurs 8 June:

Did a Binet test. Had another driving lesson in the evening. Town Warminster Rd - N.St.Philip - Bath - more town.

Fri 9 June:

Did a Merrill-Palmer test on a Mongol from North. Brownies in the evening - Stop Look Listen.

Sat 10 June:

Driving lesson. Ice with Mrs Sayers and Adj. Out with Adj. in afternoon. Saw dragonflies. Up on golf course later.

Sun 11 June:

Went down to garden, then onto Abbey by myself. Out to Mrs Sayers n afternoon. Went for two walks with dog - North Stoke Home.

Mon 12 June:

Went to shorthand. Home and wrote up my nature diary for Ranger badge.

Tues 13 June:

Had a driving lesson, then came home and went down to the garden. Home.

Weds 14 June:

Went to Rangers in the evening after taking 2 Brownies. Programmes and Country dancing.

Thurs 15 June:

Mummy and Daddy came home. Went down the garden in the evening. Home and sewed[?]

Fri 16 June:

Did a Porteus in the afternoon. Went to Brownies. They are getting worse again.

Sat 17 June:

Had a driving lesson. Saw Princess Royal and Lord Harewood. Sewed.

Sun 18 June:

Gladys came Talked. Sewed. I drove a little in the evening. We took G home.

Mon 19 June:

Went to shorthand. Came back and sewed and knitted until suppertime.

Tues 20 June:

Had a driving lesson then went to the pictures with Joan. Saw Robert Taylor and Robertson Hare.

Weds 21 June:

We did first aid followed by Rounders practice at Rangers Quite good fun.

Thurs 22 June:

Adj and Auntie M are going tomorrow to Skye. Taught some Brownies knots at home.

Fri 23 June:

Went to work by bus. Not very busy. Driving lesson instead of Brownies for once.

Sat 24 June:

Drove Daddy to Wick in the pouring rain.

[In margin: 30 tests March 26th - &includ: June 25th]

Sun 25 June:

Went to Church then in garden. I drove Mummy in the car in the afternoon.

Mon 26 June:

Tested two M.P. grades from North. Busy most of the day typing etc.

Tues 27 June:

Did a Porteus test then busy and to West Side in the afternoon Tennis.

Weds 28 June:

Busy all day. Played rounders against Bridgewater in evening at Weston-S-Mare. Lost 12-9½. Good game.

Thurs 29 June:

Down to West Side again in the afternoon. Driving lesson in the evening. Daddy came.

Fri 30 June:

Quite busy in the morning. Walked down to West Side and worked there. Home by bus Brownies.

Sat 1 July:

Went to the Zoo with the Brownies in the afternoon.

Sun 2 July:

Went to Church in morning. Typed and wrote stories[?] most of the day. Knitted.

Mon 3 July:

Tested an epileptic from Central. Went down to West Side again in afternoon. Shorthand.

Tues 4 July:

Tested a boy from Ivy - no good and a Mongol from North. W Side in afternoon. Bus home. Tea Tennis.

Weds 5 July:

Test a girl M.P. then Binet and Porteus. This took most of the day. Played progressive ping-pong at Rangers!

Thurs 6 July:

Did a Porteus test on a boy from Ivy in afternoon having done an M.P. on a boy from South in morning. Brownie rehearsal.

Fri 7 July:

Went down to W. Side in afternoon, and bus home. On to the Brownies rehearsal at the Pavilion.

Sat 8 July:

Shopping in morning. To Camp in afternoon and it rained hard. 8 mile walk in the evening. Uncle John came for a week.

Sun 9 July:

Went to Holy Communion. Ramble in the morning. Huge dinner. Rest hour Tea. Cleared up and home 9.30.

Mon 10 July:

Attempted to test a girl from Central - she was hopeless. West Side in the afternoon. Shorthand and to pictures in evening.

Tues 11 July:

Went down to West Side in the afternoon. Played tennis with Joan in the evening. She won 6-3, 5-7, 4-2.

Weds 12 July:

Tested a little boy from North. Weird girl came in the afternoon we all laughed at her. Sang "I'm for ever blowing bubbles" To Mrs Hughes to tea. Country dancing at Rangers.

Thurs 13 July:

Tested a boy from Ivy Lodge. Walked round golf course in evening with Uncle John Home and knitted.

Fri 14 July:

Tested a boy from W Side (retest) with acute echolalia¹¹. Filled in G.I.C. forms. To Assembly Rooms with Uncle J in evening. Packed.

Sat 15 July:

Went to Mawgan Porth. Choked jet on the way. Bathed in afternoon supper at Beach café. Good weather. Bed early.

Sun 16 July:

Surf bathed. Down on beach most of time. Walk in Carmanton woods in evening. Supper.

Mon 17 July:

To Newquay for a 'Treasure Hunt'. Stayed till late afternoon. Home and painted surf board. Supper.

Tues 18 July:

Indoors until evening as it rained. Learned Belothe[?] Walked towards Bedruthan ships. Supper.

Weds 19 July:

Fine all day. Into Newquay to meet Auntie Carrie. It then rained.

Thurs 20 July:

¹¹ noun: meaningless repetition of another person's spoken words as a symptom of psychiatric disorder.

2 bathes today. Went to Treharne Bay and walked to Constantine Bay.

Fri 21 July:

Went to Fowey today but it rained, so went to 'Wuthering Heights' in St Austell. Home.

Sat 22 July:

Rained so in most of day. Didn't bathe.

Sun 23 July:

Bathed. Bedruthan Steps. Picked flowers. To Mawgan. Home to a supper. Bed.

Mon 24 July:

Bathed and saw a seal. Went to Pridmouth. Had a wasp sting. Back to supper.

Tues 25 July:

Went to Treyarnon Bay and bathed. To Padstow. Back to supper.

Weds 26 July:

Went to Treyarnon Bay. Aunties Carrie's friend came. Ver hot. Good weather. Got brown.

Thurs 27 July:

Saw Will Hay in "Ask a Policeman" at Newquay. Bathed.

Fri 28 July:

Went for a walk on cliffs. Saw "3 smart girls grow up" in evening. Back to supper.

Sat 29 July:

Went home today. Car broke down on Bodmin Moor. Deep fog. All OK at last. Saw Davies.

Sun 30 July:

Stayed in most of the day. Met Mrs Power and Auntie and I sat in car[?] with her in evening.

Mon 31 July:

Auntie Carry went and Suzanne came. Went for long walk in afternoon. Home to supper.

Tues 1 August:

Had 25/-, Book token and phot in frame, and book. Saw "Huckleberry Finn" and to twins to tea.

Weds 2 August:

Made buttons in the afternoon. "Rangers"(!) in evening (just a chat really) Back to Adj'i's and then on home about 9.

Thurs 3 August:

Made a belt with Suzanne in morning and afternoon, walk in evening back to do charts etc.

Fri 4 August:

Did more charts etc after driving to Bradford and back. Suzanne went home. To see "Yellow Sands".

Sat 5 August:

Shopping and met Miss West. Twins came to tea. Stupid conversation followed.

Sun 6 August:

To Church. Dean of Bradford preached. Hike in afternoon - St Catherines. Walked right home.

Mon 7 August:

Met Vera Mrs Sayer's niece. Picnic in afternoon on Bannerdown Walked from Nettleton to Castel Combe. Home.

Tues 8 August:

Went to Weston with Vera Adji Mrs Sayers and Mummy. Bathed went for walk. Home in time for supper.

Weds 9 August:

Started work and practised driving before I went. Went to hairdressers Home.

Thurs 10 August:

Still busy filing today. Stayed in with Clara in the evening and sewed till supper.

Fri 11 August:

Tested a new admission from W Side in afternoon. Went and knitted in the car while Adji and Mum played golf in evening.

Sat 12 August:

Shopping in morning. Peter came and down garden later.

Sun 13 August:

Went to Weston for the day and bathed in pool. Home early and to garden.

Mon 14 August:

Tested an idiot from North. Had a driving lesson in the evening - nothing right.

Tues 15 August:

Took my driving test and passed but told I drove too fast! Home pleased. Knitted.

Weds 16 August:

Went to Vancouver Boys' Band with Peter in evening. Very good Some of the music a little dull.

Thurs 17 August:

Still very hot. Peter went home. In the evening I went in car to Hinton Charterhouse and walked back alone. Saw Molly Love.

Fri 18 August:

Tested two brothers from South. Went for a Brownie picnic by the canal. Home to supper.

Sat 19 August:

Saw Mrs Power's nephew. Thunder storm Twins came to tea. Heard band again in afternoon.

Sun 20 August:

Went to Weston for day in Adj's car. Home and then Adj took me to Ford where walked but it thundered.

Mon 21 August:

Tested two boys from Ivy. Mrs Sayers to tea Knitted most of evening Mummy went to Foxlease.

Tues 22 August:

Terrible storm followed by very busy and terrible day. Tested a little boy from North and boy from Ivy. To Mrs Power's and saw Joseph again.

Weds 23 August:

Tested a girl from Dower and in the afternoon and idiot in North. Picked pears down in the garden.

Thurs 24 August:

Did a retest in the afternoon on a girl from Dower. To Dentist, and on to Mrs Power's. Joseph still there.

Fri 25 August:

Tested an annoying creature from Ivy Lodge and a girl from Dower Political situation bad. Aunty Mary and Betty down. Brownies.

Sat 26 August:

Had my hair permed. Knitted in afternoon Drove car to garden. Crisis slightly eased.

Sun 27 August:

Went to the Abbey. Crowded. Knitted in afternoon, and did the Sat: crossword. Went for a walk.

Mon 28 August:

Tested two boys from West Side. Mrs Hughes back. To Dentist Practised typing.

Tues 29 August:

Typed all day as there were 20 new admissions in all! Went for a walk on Lansdown and drove the car.

Weds 30 August:

Tested two M.P.s and one Binet and Porteus Busy all day including lunch hour. Dentist Bought a hat. Pastelled.

Thurs 31 August:

Tested 3 M.P. girls Went up on Lansdown and for a walk, then drove car alone.

Fri 1 September:

Tested two M.P. boys and a Binet. Mummy met evacuated children. Germany bombed Warsaw.

Sat 2 September:

Made curtains and went shopping. To Gerda and Margaret's to tea in park.

Sun 3 September:

WAR!!! Knitted. Met evacuees at the station and did general work for rest of the day. Most people calm.

Mon 4 September:

To be kept on at Stoke until Professor is ordered to keep only essential staff. Tested a mad girl who kissed the filing cabinets.

Tues 5 September:

Mrs Hughes away with biliousness. Tested an idiot at North. Typing practice in afternoon. Drove in evening.

Weds 6 September:

Began learning Miss George's work. Shorthand in afternoon. Shorthand and typing in the evening.

Thurs 7 September:

Tested a boy (Binet-Porteus). Measured my self my qmpe[?] and V.C. again. Walk, shorthand and typing in evening.

Fri 8 September – no entry

Sat 9 September:

Went to Mrs Sayers to tea. I drove the car there. Home fairly early.

Sun 10 September:

Went to Church – several went out too hot.

Mon 11 September – no entry

Tues 12 September:

Tested a boy in the afternoon – M.P.

Weds 13 September – no entry

Thurs 14 September:

Tested a girl from South MP & B-P. Helped Miss George again.

Fri 15 September:

Still worked with Miss George. Betty applied for a job as mother's help and got it.

Sat 16 September:

Went out shopping. Down the garden in the afternoon and knitted Odds and ends in evening.

Sun 17 September:

Did A R P in house and finished my cardigan in the evening. Mr and Mrs Sayers visited us.

18-23 September – no entries

Sunday 24 September:

Cycled in the morning and to Church Parade in the evening. Wasn't stiff!

25 & 26 September – no entries

Weds 27 September:

Did astronomy and A R P at Rangers tonight.

28 & 29 September – no entries

Sat 30 September:

Went shopping and met Adj. Went out to Grosvenor in afternoon to see Betty's protégées.

Sun 1 October:

Went to the Abbey in the morning. Knitted nearly all the afternoon and evening.

Mon 2 October:

Test two boys M-P in the morning – old admissions from W Side Mrs Hughes has a bad cold.

Tues 3 October:

Did a Porteus test in the morning and a Binet-Porteus in the afternoon. Misses Gold came after supper.

Weds 4 October:

Miss W and Mrs H to high Court. Prof: Rugglergates[?] came. Rangers in the evening - country and morris dancing. Betty came.

Thurs 5 October:

Very little doing at work. Switched someone through on the phone. To the Mikado (film) in the evening with Mum and Adj. Too many 'encores'.

There are no more diary entries in this 1939 diary. However, some of the remaining pages have odd notes in, some of which look like a list of songs that were sung round one of the summer camp fires. The memoranda pages at the end include notes of the ranks in the three armed forces, one list in shorthand, and some notes on things needed for First Class badge, it seems.

No more diaries until 1942

January 1942 – Peggy now aged 20

By this time Peggy was working at a Day Nursery, part of the wartime provision made so that mothers could be in employment in support of the war effort.

There were six “New Yr Resolutions” on the first flyleaf:

- 1) File nails twice a week
- 2) Cold bath twice a week
- 3) Hot bath at least twice a week
- 4) Try to extend the Guiding¹² spirit
- 5) Try to listen more
- 6) Try to extend my field of knowledge and¹³ appreciation for good things

On the Memoranda page there was also a list of Christmas presents, ticked off, probably to represent when thanked - presumably by letter:

Christmas presents

1 smock, 2prs knickers, Book, magazines etc	Mummy
1 smock, this diary	Daddy
Book, powder puff, bath salts, stationery	Auntie Iris
Book token, stockings, bath salts, talc:powder	Auntie Marnie
Book sub: for Guider	Miss West
Book token	Mrs Sayers
Nail brush	Pam
Hankerchief [sic] and powder puff	Molly
3 hankerchiefs	Joan
Scarf	Joyce
2 hankerchiefs	Mary
Book token	Bobby
Tooth brush	Suzanne
6 bright hankerchiefs	Aunty Vi
Small diary	Mary Keys
Large engagement diary	Jo
Pocket diary	Betty Nelson
Bath salts	Mrs Davis
Hankerchief	Shirley

Must also write to: Eileen, Betty Wills, Eliza, Miss Cooper, Gladys, Miss Duoreo[?]

¹² Peggy had remained within the Girl Guide movement, and in 1942 was still a Ranger, for older Guides, ages 18+ I believe.

¹³ Style: Peggy always used a simple quasi-plus sign for “and”. Whereas I have followed Peggy’s spelling and punctuation as closely as my attention has permitted in every other respect, with my touch-typing I’ve always simply typed “and”.

Thurs 1 January - Thursday:

Felt a bit more at home in the Nursery today after working there for four days. Michael (aged 3) was very interested in watching the gas come on in the Ascot. Morning usual routine. Spent afternoon boiling nappies and cleaning the mangle. Sister had a cold. Several of the children have colds and two away with mumps. Sister went early. I cleared up and looked after Janice (aged about 18 months) until her mother came at 5. Home and to badminton. Mrs Sayers came and watched. 6 games.

Fri 2 January:

Cold bath. Filed nails. Disinfected the lockers at the Nursery. Short dinner¹⁴ 'hour'. Took the children out in the afternoon. They all got very muddy. Half way home we found that one child's glove was missing. Having run all the way back to find it I discovered that the other child in the pram had it. Rather annoyed. Had to go to Guildhall to collect salary. All arranged for monthly payments so agreed, but asked them to let me know what I was going to get! Bought present for Jo. Did Savings Group¹⁵. Went to Palace with Mum Auntie M¹⁶, Joyce Lindrea and Mary. 'Serious' parts funny and vice versa! Bed about 9.45.

Sat 3 January:

Washed four blankets in the morning in the Nursery. Couldn't seem to work quick enough. A short dinner 'hour' again. Posted a small present to Jo (rather late as her birthday was the 1st). Afternoon was hectic. Last child went at 8.15. Molly came for me at ten to five. I showed her round and then we queued for 'Underground' at the Beau Nash [a Bath cinema]. Auntie M and Miss West¹⁷ came as well. Got in after 35"¹⁸ and pictures and news interesting but rather grim. Back to Molly's afterwards where Mummy and Daddy were playing bridge. Nearly fell asleep. Home in taxi about 11.35.

Sun 4 January - Sunday:

Up latish. Washed up breakfast things as Mrs Head left yesterday and no sign of a new housekeeper as yet. Mummy cut my hair so as to make it a slightly different style. After dinner Joyce called and when Mary¹⁹ had arrived as well we went for a short walk. Joyce went soon after tea and Mary and I made charts for the Brownies. Mary asked me to come to Lancashire with her for one summer holiday. Said I'd love

¹⁴ As was the convention at that time, Peggy called lunch "dinner" more often than not.

¹⁵ I infer that Peggy had taken on a regular financial admin duty on behalf of some group, but we're never told who!

¹⁶ "Auntie M" was Auntie Marnie, Peggy's mother's younger sister, a "spinster", formally Miss Marjorie Walker, also known as "Jerry"! Later she was to live in Rivers St, Bath, with Miss West, from my earliest memories of her until her death in 1993.

¹⁷ Miss West, a professional woman and close friend of the family, became Marnie's 'companion' for the rest of their lives.

¹⁸ Style: Peggy seems to have used both " and ' as a shorthand for "minutes".

¹⁹ Mary might be 'Mary Barker', a onetime friend mentioned to me by Peggy as I was growing up, but I have no separate information about her, and I have no recollection of her actually making an appearance during my lifetime (since 1951).

though have no notion where I'll be by the summer.. Mary will do nursing if she is called up, but I can't decide what I'll do. I don't think I'll be able to go to Cambridge in October as arranged²⁰. Auntie M not well all day. I had hot bath 9.30.

Mon 5 January:

Everything seemed to go wrong at the Nursery this morning. I let some milk boil over and was generally absent-minded. Got on a bit better in afternoon. A Mr and Mrs Fox have taken our top flat in place of the Pomeroy's. Felt most of the day that I'd like to be in the Land Army. Went to badminton where Joan told me that she had applied for her release from the Bank to join the Land Army. 3 or 4 of us have decide to go to the Badminton Dance on Jan:23rd. Mary and I decided we'd like to choose 4 others and go and man an AA gun in Wales. We planned it all. (Completely mad!) 5 games and home soon after 9. Filed my nails. Bed about 10.30.

Tues 6 January:

Had a cold bath. 12 children in the Nursery today and life so-so. Left about 10 past 5. Had tea then did some washing. Joyce called in about 6. After an hour's chat Miss West called and we talked, then she went out with Auntie Marnie. Betty²¹ came as arranged about 7.30 to agree a parcels for Poor Children's Party. She went about 8, then round to Joyce's for supper. We studied Palmistry from a book of hers. Great revelations! Much laughter. I am apparently going to marry at 27 and have two children who may be delicate and my husband will have high morals etc!! Home at 10.15. Bed 10.30.

Weds 7 January:

Felt very depressed, Child kicked bowl of water on floor when I was washing her. Went to Queen's Café for lunch after which Mummy and I went to Labour Exchange to know if I shall be allowed to go to Cambridge next October. They didn't know. Mummy all in favour of sending in application but I not so keen as very restless and would like to join the Land Army tomorrow. Absolutely fed up with everything. Bought pr of stockings and gloves to soothe feelings. Spent 20" in P. Office filling in form for mislaid Christmas parcel. Packed up parcels for Poor Children's Party at Rangers and I felt better as we discussed the Ranger Competition which is wood carving a Noah's Ark. Also discussed the Services and decided unless we were called we were doing just as good work outside. Fire-watched at the Church.

Thurs 8 January:

²⁰ I know nothing else about Peggy's apparent acceptance at Cambridge University – she never mentioned it to me – and I'm fairly sure that she never actually went there in the end – see 16 April diary entry.

²¹ I have no idea whether or not this Betty was the same person as the Betty Wills who Peggy did see increasingly frequently as a good friend during her later years.

Ice on the roads today. Didn't do so much as usual wrong today. Sister had her ½ day today instead of Saturday. Home about 5.30. Set a card to Lorna for her 21st birthday. After tea got ready and went to badminton with Mummy. Had 4 games then home just before 8. Had a hot bath and read magazines until supper. Read a little after supper. Mummy very excited because I'm going to the Badminton Dance on the 23rd and has been looking at dresses in shops and made a hair appointment at Pattinson's. Do not feel as grateful as I should. My hands are sore, hard, and chapped a little so going to Vaseline them. Dead tired.

Fri 9 January:

Had the job of carrying 6 pints of milk from Co-op Milk Dept, near the station, to the Nursery in a wartime carrier bag which was split. Nearly burst myself but broke no bottles! Washed 3 blankets and scrubbed a wooden 'side' in the wash room. Took 3 children out in the afternoon. Home for tea just before 5, did Savings Group and then out with Joyce to Pictures to see Charles Boyer and Margaret Sullivan in "Back Street". We were supposed to be sorry for M Sullivan – the girl who was in love with Boyer the married man, and followed him everywhere – actually she made me sick, but nevertheless it was a good film. Also saw an animal film – "Wise guys". News was of Churchill in America. Home and to bed early at 9 as tired & slight sore throat.

Sat 10 January:

Cold bath. Had to register in the middle of the morning for National Service. They saw my Identification card and asked me a few questions and then gave me a form to fill in and return later. In the afternoon everything went wrong with the children. David had diarrhoea all over his bed, Michael fell off his tricycle and scarred his nose, Barbara made a pool in the corner of the room and also nearly swallowed a wheel off a toy. I went on to the Guide – Ranger Party which followed the Poor Children's at 5. We ate till we could eat no more of trifle, jellies, biscuits sandwiches and buns. Marvellous where the food came from – and lemonade. Afterwards we played childish games and a good time was had until Auld Lang Syne at 7.30. Home, read, hot bath and to bed.

Sun 11 January - Sunday:

Had my breakfast in my dressing gown. Was thoroughly lazy and spent about an hour getting up in front of a gas fire. Filed nails. Sorted out some clothing then downstairs to chat with Auntie M and Moira (here for the day). About 2.50, Mary came and we set out to find some wood for 'wood carving'. Auntie M's bicycle had a puncture so returned for Miss West's. We got very cold. Went to Lambridge and then back to the garden where we chopped off a log. Home to tea just after 5.

Listened to the wireless and conversation Guidish until Mary tried on a blue lace evening dress of Mummy's as she doesn't like her own, and I am wearing a plain navy taffeta at the Dance. Mary went at 8 and I attempted some 'wood chipping'. Washed up and to bed at 9, tired.

Mon 12 January:

Finished reading 'Consider the Lilies' by Stephen Lister. Distinguished myself by scorching a nappy this morning! It was very cold and until the afternoon many of the pipes were frozen up at the Nursery. Had to work late unexpectedly and didn't get home until nearly 6. Did the blackout then went down to the Corridor for Mummy and we went to the Free Library where we met Miss John and she came back with us for a bit. I had 'tea' about 7 and decided it was too late to go to badminton. Worked for Readers Badge, listened to the wireless and read Lear's Nonsense Rhymes which I got with part of my Xmas book tokens. Went to bed with hot bottle about 9.30.

Tues 13 January:

Cleaned the table and one of the 'sides' during the morning. Had dinner at the Queen's Restaurant with Auntie M and saw Mrs Downton and Edgar there. Cleaned all the enamel ware and the other 'side' in the washroom during the afternoon. As it was only Johnny's 2nd day at the Nursery he didn't want to go to sleep after his dinner like the other children so whispered a long story to him. Silence during tale followed by a burst of crying then silence again and sleep at last. Home at 4.30 today. Did some washing. Mary came we fitted evening frocks then listened to the Brains Trust²² on the wireless. Supper, and she went about 9.50. I had a hot bath and to bed at 10.30 (Kuala Lumpur fell yesterday).

Weds 14 January:

Snow fell during the night. Had to help with the peeling of the 20 potatoes for lunch this morning at the Nursery. We had 14 children. Cleaned the mangle. After dinner there was the washing up then did some shopping and tried to sell my microscope without success. I sold 10 of my school books for 5/-²³. At 4.30 Mummy and I rushed round wildly trying to find a pair of evening sandals but stocks were very low. Came home and read the 'Guider' until 7.10 when went to Rangers and 6 of us did 'wood chipping'. When I got home Mary Keys was there. She was much the same as 5 or 6 years ago – very nice etc. Not such a semi-god as many of the service girls. Bed.

²² This weekly radio programme, and by the time of my childhood a TV programme, continued to be a highlight of Peggy's week: a panel of about 3 eminent 'thinkers' discussing some issues of the day – not party political – in a polite civilised fashion. For my brother and me – and Dad too – it caused a groan when Mum sat down to watch it on Sunday afternoons.

²³ "5/-" means five shillings – this was a common way of indicating shillings.

Thurs 15 January:

There were 15 children at the Nursery this morning and all crying because of the dreadful cold. Many of the pipes and cisterns were frozen up. Mary left Bath at about 11 after Mummy (needless to relate) had shown her the Roman Baths! Had to work till 6 in the evening then went to the Forum with Mummy and Auntie M to see 'Shepherd of the Hills' a technicolour which was not interesting and you couldn't understand the words; also another American film called 'The Great Awakening' about Schubert, but the American accent and the over-acting of the emotional parts made many people laugh at the wrong place. The music was lovely. Home and firewatched²⁴ until just after 12 and woke Auntie M with tea. Bed 12.15

Fri 16 January:

Had an interview with Major Castle this morning and he said he would give me a recommendation for University for me. Scrubbed the table and 'sides' and did a lot of laundry work today. Still doing many things wrong and children play me up more the other helpers, but the busy-ness suits me and I'll improve (we hope!). did the Savings Group, read and then went to Folk Dancing – alone as Mary was changing billet. Miss Lewin-Harris took the class and was quite critical which was better, and we learnt 'Never love thee more' and 'Nottingham Swing' as well as dancing ones I knew such as 'Jargason'[?], 'Hull's Victory', 'The Spaniard', 'Cumberland long and square eights'. Heard there's to be a party on Feb:27th. Home, supper and to bed about 10.

Sat 17 January:

Received the recommendation from Major Castle. Scrubbed the wood-work and washed part of the wall also cleaned the mangle. Mrs Jennings the voluntary cook was on to me about different things and sometimes I don't know if she's cross or joking. I was laundering practically the whole afternoon. Dashed home at 5.40 with some blankets for airing then to pictures with Pam and Molly and eventually saw 'The Ware Case' with Clive Brook and Barry K Barnes which was very good; 'Prelude to Flight' – a gliding film that I've seen before, and 'Workmates' – about pit ponies and miners, which was very instructive and interesting. The news was of our 2nd Libya campaign and of troops at Singapore preparing to fight the Japs who are getting so near. (Poor Uncle John²⁵) Home, a short supper and to bed to read at 9.

Sun 18 January - Sunday:

²⁴ Firewatching was a civic duty during the blackout at night to reduce the risk of air raids or their consequences.

²⁵ John Way, I believe, mentioned in Reg Way's book, who in due course was captured by the Japanese and died in captivity.

Went to Holy Communion. It was very slushy in the streets and I forgot to take a torch which was a pity as it was very dark as well. Only a small congregation. Maslin[?] was with Auntie M for the weekend. Did some mending and read but was generally lazy all the morning. Of course there was table-laying and washing up as usual as still no housekeeper. Tried on some of Auntie M's folk-dance records after dinner. Pam came at 3 and we kitted. John²⁶ came in to tea and told us as usual of the RAF boys getting drunk every night and the terrible living conditions, lice etc, but none of them looks much the worse for it! Was rather lazy all the evening. The 'flat' people took up their abode. Pam went about 9 and then Joyce came in to supper. Went to bed with a hot bath about 10.

Mon 19 January:

13 children at the Nursery today. There was a new child called Wendy who was very upset but should soon prove to be very sweet. Our young termigant[sic], Beatrice, was kept busy during the afternoon with making a scrap book. I went to the Guildhall with the accounts etc. 5 of the children had diarrhoea which gave me slight headache. Left work at 4.30 when it was snowing and it continued all the evening. Mummy and I tossed whether we should go to badminton – it was 'tails' so we stayed at home. I darned a stocking then typed a letter to Major Castle and made my application to Cambridge. I received an interesting letter from Jo. After supper at 10.10 I rang up Mary and after hearing her news asked her in tomorrow night and told her of the Guiders meeting on Thursday. Finished '39 Steps' by John Buchan. Bed about 10.30.

Tues 20 January:

About 1-2 ins of snow was frozen on the paths and roads in the town today. Had a vivid dream about Uncle John last night and I am worried over his safety as the Japs are so near Singapore. Didn't feel up to par all day – am afraid it's indigestion. Last child went about 6 so left soon after and Mary came down about 6.30 having walked down from Combe Down there being no buses as the roads are like glass. We had a meal of burned sausages and then Mary fixed some lace to the evening dress Mummy is lending her for the dance. Afterwards we did each other's knitting to give ourselves a change and discussed Brownies and Ranger badges. Mary borrowed my Wellingtons and left our house at 9.55. To bed at 10.20.

Weds 21 January:

Felt much better today. (Probably on the strength of a ½ day.) After dinner I did Savings Group accounts, and purchases as usual; also bought my ticket for the dance. At 4 I went to Pattinsons for my hair appointment. Everything was very 'a la'. 'What

²⁶ John Walker, from Gladys's side of the family.

kind of shampoo would Madam like?' etc. Came out looking absolutely ravishing! After tea I heard from Captain that we shouldn't be fire-watching tonight so rang up Betty and told her. Staggered up through the frozen snow on foot to Rangers with large log under one arm, and called in at Pam's on the way to collect my torch and give a message to Joan who had just heard that she's passed her Home Nursing the same as Mary and I. At Rangers we 'wood-chipped' and Lorna cut right through her skirt, stocking and into her leg (Poor Lorna, just like her! – meant kindly). Mary and I walked home. Bed 10.50.

Thurs 22 January:

It was been too cold lately to have a cold bath. It was colder still this morning and how to get up I didn't know. I told myself that I ought to be thankful for a gas-fire to dress by. There were only 10 children at the Nursery today but the work was hard as the cistern was frozen up which entailed many journeys with pails of water over a path and grating covered with ice owing to a burst pipe. Left work at 6 and as Guiders Meeting was cancelled Mary came and we arranged a Brownies programme for her on Saturday, did a cross-word, ate and for the most part indulged in the comfort of a lovely warm fire. Mary went about 9.20, but Daddy her his supper and we sat up until about 10. Mummy went to bed about 7 with a sore throat.

Fri 23 January:

Everything thawed but a pipe burst at the Nursery so the water was turned off at the main until it was mended at dinner time. Water had to be carried in buckets etc from the Club opposite. Everything very difficult. Went to the 'Queens' for lunch with Auntie M. Mummy stayed in bed all day. Home in afternoon at 4.45 and after tea did savings Group then Mary came and we got ready for the dance – a most unfortunate dance. As soon as I arrived my buckle broke and after about ½ hour spent in trying to mend it went home for another pair of shoes. Mary and I both danced a good bit in both the Paul Jones' and other dances but otherwise there was nothing doing. No more good dances without partners we decided. Mary came home and slept in the lounge. Bed at 12.

Sat 24 January:

We got up early so that Mary could have breakfast and leave by 8.00. Had time to help wash-up before going to work today. Mummy stayed in bed again. 10 children at work. Went to the Queens Restaurant for dinner about 12.45 and was back to relieve Sister by 1.15. As usual there was plenty of washing to do in the afternoon. Didn't leave work until 6.15. Went home, then to Free Library to change my book and home again to sort out my Savings Group forms etc. Had lots of things to do but

didn't do any of them! Joyce came about 8 and came up in Mummy's bedroom as Daddy had some friends in the lounge. Supper 9 and then Joyce went and Daddy and I to bed about 10.

Sun 25 January - Sunday:

Mummy got up today. During the 9 o'clock news they announced that it was now permitted to let people know that during the last fortnight England had experienced a cold spell! There had been snow in some places! London had had 22° of frost (Bath had 17° I believe)²⁷. Read and knitted during the morning. After dinner I helped wash-up and clear up the kitchen then knitted until Mary came and we fetched some bread from the Pump Room, then walked round town and home to hear the Brains Trust at 4. Got the tea and cleared it away, and Mary and I did some 'wood chipping' and then looked through Mummy's chest of odd materials. Mary started to make a blouse (of a small piece of plaid material) with magyard[?] sleeves, and I began a petticoat from a white Greek dance frock I had for the Stuart Masque & Fayre in 1935. Mary went at 9.30. I to bed soon after.

Mon 26 January:

Cold bath. Heard from Cambridge. Application in order. It was dreadful as we had 20 children today! Terrible scramble for dinner and afterwards helped take them out. One child fell down the steps and made his nose bleed. It became gradually colder during the day. Left work at 4.45 and after tea grudgingly changed and went to the Pavilion for badminton (calling at P.O. on the way) only to find everything shut up so home and rang Mary to warn her. Finished my petticoat I began last night and listened to the wireless, also did some washing. Miss Davies rang me up to tell me of a girl who had experience with Brownies and would be willing to help Mary for 2 months until she went back to Plymouth to take a Pack, and until the Pack could meet on an evening when I could take them again. Sounded a good idea. After light supper, hot bath and to bed.

Tues 27 January:

Wrote letters to Joy Gauntlet (the prospective Brownie helper) and Jo. There were 18 children at the Nursery. 2 new children had dirty heads so inspected lice and nits for the first time, also had to take Freddie, the little boy's temperature in the dinner hour as he had a headache. There was a heavy fall of snow in the morning but it all thawed by the afternoon. Sister went early but Freddie became worse and had a temp: of 103° eventually, and breathed very fast. Being sure it was Scarlet Fever, I disinfected everything and isolated him. His mother was quite unconcerned and said she'd 'just give him an aspirin'. Home at 6.30 and had not bath and gargled etc

²⁷ On the Fahrenheit scale, standard at the time, with 32 degrees being freezing point, the standard way of describing how cold the weather was, below freezing, was to say "x degrees of frost" for x degrees Fahrenheit below freezing.

only to find later, in a book, that the symptoms seemed more like pneumonia. Mary came and we did our First Class work and had supper. Still worried about Freddie but Mummy's sure he's only teething! To bed at 10.30.

Weds 28 January:

Received a letter from the P.O. saying Mary's parcel could not be traced. Mummy had a letter from Uncle John in Singapore written in November before the Japs declared war. At the Nursery Angela was taken to the Clinic re her 'bandy' legs, Michael had a spot which was subsequently diagnosed as impetigo, and I went round to see Freddie and he was alleged by his mother to be quite well again after aspirin and hot milk but a letter from school says that he should have been there. To the Queens for dinner, went to P.O. re Savings then to pictures with Mary and saw 'He found a star', Vic Oliver and Sarah Churchill which was funny and spectacular, also a 'cowboy' called 'Ride on Vanquo' – trash. There was also a good M.O.I. film – 'Rush Hour', and News. Walked to Rangers later and passed a little First Class. Interesting meeting and we all sat round and laughed a lot which was a great relaxation. Home at 10. Supper to bed.

Thurs 29 January:

There was a lot of washing as usual today (mine included 61 handkerchiefs, 14 towels, 7 flannels, 6 nappies, 3 prs of knicker 2 blankets) 3 other helpers did washing as well. They didn't come for Bobby Pettifer until half-past-six, I was annoyed and let his father know. After tea I subsided into a chair and listened to the wireless. I had a sore throat and took tablets for it. The news these days is not very good, our 2nd campaign in Libya is not going so well and I have an idea we shall lose Egypt before long in spite of our advance as far as Benghazi, for the 2nd time. The Russians have advanced in the north and south. The Japs have landed in New Guinea and other East Indies and are only 25-50 miles from Singapore in Malay. Went to bed early (about 9)

Fri 30 January:

At work I received my first salary – a receipt which I have to cash at the National Provincial for £4.12.7 for the month (a lot less than half the salary I was getting at Stoke Park²⁸.) The brainier the work the more money, but the more work you do the less wage – wrong system I'm sure. Short dinner 'hour' and left work altogether at 4.50. Felt I wanted to let off steam and chuck something out of the top window but managed to use self-control!! Did Savings Group, and to Country Dancing with Mary after which felt much better as we laughed more than we ought to have done over one or two rather queer people, and became worn out. Learned 'The Slip'. Mary has

²⁸ The hospital in north Bristol, where Peggy had once worked, at least in part in a learning capacity, under Miss West.

to find a billet by next Sunday until at least 31st March. Mummy sold our piano today. Joyce at home for supper. Bed.

Sat 31 January:

Cashed my receipt at the Bank and also bought a photo of a group taken at the Nursery Christmas Party. The nursery caretaker's billetee's daughter has developed mumps. Only 8 children today and heard that Bobby Pettifer is leaving to go to school. In the afternoon I let Beatrice help me do some scrubbing of beds and she also turned the handle of the mangle for me. Bobby's father didn't come until 6.25 but brought 2/- for Sister and I to 'buy ourselves some sweets'! Home and found some material in the chest, cut up an old pr of knickers as a pattern, ironed both out and then instead of continuing with this, read, and listened to the wireless until supper. After supper I drank lime and we chatted. Auntie M has not been too well last few days. I have a bit of a cold but not too bad. Mummy is better. Bed 10.30.

Sun 1 February:

It snowed during the night but thawed early this morning. Finished reading the Gospel of St Mark. It was a relief to find it was Sunday when I woke up this morning! After washing up the breakfast things and cleaning the sink I tried to carve my bear for Rangers. Mummy tidied the study. Auntie M stayed in bed all day, had no breakfast a little lunch and an 'invalid' tea although she felt quite well. I wish I could understand her. I could never work hard all day tomorrow like she has to on that! 'Wood chipped' again in afternoon and listened to the Brains Trust. The Sayers and Joan came to tea and afterwards we did a crossword and played Newmarket. We had a pool of half-pennies. I started with 6d and ended with 1½d! They went at 7.45. I started an essay for Reader's Badge. Supper. Bed 10.

Mon 2 February:

Not too good a day at work as I was told off for several minor details especially by Mrs Jennings. A good lunch hour and then took Angela unexpectedly to the Orthopaedic Hospital for an X-ray of her legs. She was very good and everything was very interesting. The other child there was very upset and I had to help hold her down on the table. Just as Angela was going to be done her mother arrived and 'took over' which was a little disappointing. Later I went to the Chronicle office to advertise for an evening job. Mummy and I went to badminton soon after 6. Saw Heather who is selling up the contents of her grannie's house and joining the WAAF, Kay, Pamela, Joan and Mary who is still hunting for a billet but she may stay on longer at the Day's if nothing turns up. Had 6 or 7 games, then home just after 9 as felt rather tired and a little full of cold. Supper. To bed.

Tues 3 February:

There were 19 children at the Nursery. At 12 o'clock the new little boy and twins arrived. Michael began by giving me several resounding slaps on the head and as I had one twin in my other hand I could only hold him from running out of the door again so he bit me and kicked me. Sister had the other twin. Help soon came from voluntary helpers. These children cried a good deal, were under-nourished, had poor circulation and tight elastic into the bargain! They were dirty and their mother – a nurse!!! Last child went at 5.50. Tea. Learnt some of Macbeth towards Reader's Badge. Mary and Joy Gauntlet came soon after 7.30. We arranged Brownies programme then Joy went and Mary and I went to the Little Theatre (8.30) and saw Will Hay and Claud Hulbert in "The Ghost of St Michael's" which was very very funny – and daft of course! Walked ½ way home with Mary then home and bed 10.50.

Weds 4 February:

Cold bath. Felt thoroughly miserable as Mrs Jennings called me a 'villain' for not carrying down her kettle yesterday and I being worried asked 'but that's not my job is it?' to which she went off her handle and gave me a lecture for about 5 minutes. Later I heard her tell 2 of the other voluntary helpers that 'Miss Way was only willing to do her own work' etc – after all I've done for her, and what if she is voluntary, I don't get so very much! Home to find Mummy had arranged an interview with Miss Holme whom I eventually found at Manvers St having been to Milbrook first, and I start evening classes in Economics tomorrow. There was 1 answer to my advert: - sitting with an invalid, which Mummy won't allow. I bought a blue long-sleeved woollen frock and pr of rayon pyjamas for next winter and wrote a picture card to the Brownies. Later to Rangers where 7 (which included Captain) of us did Country Dancing. Home about 10, still feeling I am ashamed to say, very depressed. Bed 10.35.

Thurs 5 February:

There were 20 children at the Nursery and we did washing and boiling both in the morning and the afternoon. I did everything I could to help Mrs Jennings and she was just about civil – I'm afraid that's all. As Sister wants to go to the Theatre tomorrow she asked if I would go early tonight and stay tomorrow which I was quite glad to do, and after tea Mummy and I hurriedly changed and went to badminton until 7.10 by which time Mummy had had 4 and I 3 games and she went home while I went to Economics. There were only 10 of us at the class and I knew 3, one of which was Miss Benson, who talked a lot to me – not only before and after the class! The subject was 'Distribution of Wealth' and was very interesting. I like it and as always I liked Miss Holme. Home about 8.40. Read. Bed about 10.

Fri 6 February:

Felt much happier today. Mrs Jennings began by telling a worker that 'I was only too willing to carry one of the children but wouldn't carry anything for her!' (I smothered my anger.) Later, Sister was talking about the helpers and I mentioned this misunderstanding with Mrs J and she said was not be bossed by her etc and later still, told me that she thought I was getting on very well at the Nursery. I also told Mrs J that I really would help her with anything and she answered in a sarcastic manner but admitted that she had been short-tempered. (It's all very petty and silly – in wartime too.) Stayed on until 5.50. We had 21 children. There was a lot of washing. Home to do Savings Group, tea and on to Country Dancing with Mary. Miss Lewin-Harris came. We laughed a good bit and I danced with Mary mostly. I wish now I had been more sociable. Mary came home to collect some Brownie equipment. Bed 10.20.

Sat 7 February:

It snowed during the night and it was bitterly cold all day. There were only 12 children at the Nursery. Everything went fairly serenely and all the children were gone by 4.55 but as my work was not done I did not leave until 5.30. Went straight to the Library to get 2 books and then home and read until 7.20 when Mummy came in and as Daddy had got some eggs from Uncle Jack, who keeps hens at Ilminster, yesterday, we had poached eggs and then we went with Pamela to see "The Case of the Frightened Lady" with Phyllis Neilson-Terry and Keith Helder at the Theatre. It was acted very well but I was disappointed in the plot. When we got home John was there. He has been promoted to Flight-Sergeant (13/- a day) and is moving to S Wales. Joan called for Pamela. John went. Bed 11.20.

Sun 8 February:

Did not wake until 7.40 and then read until 10 o'clock when I had breakfast in my dressing gown, washed up then got up. I wrote up the Brownie Log book and pasted some new games into my Games Book. About 2.45 I walked up to Pamela's and she Joan and I went for a walk with the dog up through the Park, down into Lyncombe, up Fox Hill, along and down the Wells Road. As usual Mr Strudwick talked in a sarcastic tone about different things and about Mrs Strudwick which caused me great difficulty keeping a straight face! I feel very sorry, however, for Mrs S – she doesn't look and in fact is not at all well, and I in her state of health phobias are to be expected. On the 6 o'clock news they announced that soap was to be rationed – 3oz toilet or 4oz washing soap p.w. per person. Listened to wireless and home 8.30. Joyce was there. Supper. Bed 10.45 with hot bath.

Mon 9 February:

We heard today that Singapore Island had been invaded and that there was heavy fighting in progress. I had a great deal of work at the Nursery including taking the accounts to be audited. In the afternoon Miss Lawrence and I took 7 Children out in the Park. Beatrice and Teddy whose father was killed at Dunkirk and whose mother is nobly working at munitions are going to 'boarding school' – or a 'Home' on Wednesday. This will probably do them a lot of good. I shall miss them although they are terrors. After work I bought a book for Mary in place of her Christmas presents which were lost in the post. Mary came about 6.30 and we made out a Badge Order, cooked and ate some supper and then played silly games with pencil and paper. Was very tired. She went 9.45. Bed 10.15.

Tues 10 February:

Many of the children were ill one way or another with some uncertain kind of gastric trouble. I left work in the evening about 6. We have far more washing now, and the trouble is not so much the getting things clean but getting them dry. This morning I had a letter from a girl with whom I exchanged cigarette cards 3 years ago, to say she has some more. I shall make the exchange if I have anything to interest her. It was Daddy's birthday today and Mummy gave him a shirt and Auntie some hankies, in spite of coupons, and I gave him some cheroots. Uncle Scottie gave him a book and Auntie Iris some golf balls – almost unheard of. Joyce came round in evening, we did mending, sewing and listened to the Brains Trust. Miss West came in later. Supper. Visitors went. Bed 10.30.

Weds 11 February:

Not quite so many children but we had one new little girl who was very good. Got off punctually at dinner-time. After dinner I wrote Miss Wright re the exchange and also sent off the Brownie Badge order. Mummy and I went out together. It was very cold. I bought "An Outline of Economics" by Chapman, 2nd hand at Gregory's and did the Saving stamps etc. Mummy paid my fees for Economics after I had filled out a form. At home Daddy gave Mummy £1 to buy one of 3 books she had seen and then gave me 10/- as he said it wasn't fair to give her money when I was so hard up. (Now have 32/- till end of month) I wish I was earning more. Went to Rangers with Mary and we discussed future affairs and had a tree competition. I was given 3 of the badges I have won lately. Home. Bed.

Thurs 12 February:

There were not many children at the Nursery today either, so we were able to catch up with our drying, do some mending marking and general cleaning also a little shopping. Left work at 5.50. After tea I washed 8 pairs of stockings and sewed on one of my Guide badges. (I have now 8 junior and 4 senior badges besides Guide 2nd class, also very nearly have Ranger 1st class and Probationer badge ordered but has

not come yet.) Went to Economics class and it was very interesting like last week. I old Miss Holme I thought I understood it but it was difficult to say as yet. At home Miss West was there and in an 'uncertain' mood and pestered Auntie M. "Why won't you have some supper?" etc which does not annoy me as I like Miss W too much – it upsets me, she can be so nice. Supper, hot bath and to bed.

Fri 13 February:

Still not many children but one or two of the ones that came had this gastric complaint that is about. Heard this morning that the battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau escaped from Brest yesterday and returned to a German port. Many of our planes went out but with little success (the visibility was only 3 miles) and we lost 5 Swordfish, 20 bombers and 16 fighters. Singapore city is still hanging on. At work I seemed to be washing all day and by the time I got home my back ached somewhat, but I felt quite happy. After doing Savings Group I went to Country dancing – alone as Mary was firewatching at work. Had to dance with the 'queer' girl. We did "Jack's Maggot", "Christchurch bells", "Touchstone", "Cumberland Long 8", "Hunt the Squirrel", "Nottingham Swing". I took a little sugar and marg for the Party. Home. Supper. Read. Bed.

Sat 14 February:

Had a form from the WVS asking me to let them know how much voluntary work I am doing etc. At mid-day my dress came from "Mary's" but Mummy unpacked it and found a very small hole in the middle of the front so instead of congratulating me on my choice as I had hoped she rung up the shop and said I should have to get it changed. Also, I received the cigarette cards from the girl I had heard from. After work I went to the Reference Library re Public Health Badge but became interested in a book on the London School of Economics. Called back at the Nursery at 6 then home and sorted out cards until 6.50 then rushed and got ready for Theatre. Saw "Merchant of Venice" with Jean Forbes-Robertson and Frederick Volsk which was very good. Went with Pam and Mummy, Pam and I met Semple in the bar at the interval – he's not a bad man, a bit 'arty'. Home. Maslin came. Bed 11.20.

Sun 15 February:

Read in bed. Up about 9 for breakfast. Spent the morning sorting cigarette cards and started a jumper in the unrationed wool I bought about last July. After dinner we all washed up. Auntie M was in bed with a headache until half-past three when she got up and went out with Maslin. At about 2 I finished mending an overall and sewed the other badges on my Ranger uniform then set out to walk to the Sayers. It was beautifully fine. Was supposed to have met Joan but we missed each other. Mummy and Daddy came at 4.30. After tea we heard that Singapore had fallen. There

followed a long discussion on politics and Mr Sayers was very pessimistic (I don't think that attitude will get us anywhere). We played Newmarket and I won 1½d! Home 8.15 and listened to the Mr Churchill's speech at 9. Supper and bed 10.45. Singapore fell.

Mon 16 February:

Received a card of registration from the Ministry of Labour and National Service. There were not a great many children at the Nursery but quite a lot of work. It was very cold. In the afternoon I took three of them out for a walk. Hilary aged 3 can sing "Hey little hen", know her age and altogether is very intelligent I think – I love her. Before going to badminton I saw Heather who came in to tell me she was leaving Bath on Friday to go to Gloucester to start her training. She is taking up Meteorology in the WAAFS which I think should be very interesting. Had 6 games at badminton where I met Mary who changed her billet yesterday and seems quite happy about it. Wish I knew if I am going to be called up or not, although I'm not really unhappy. We are worried about Uncle John. Bed 10.30-11. (Sent off blouse and gloves to exchanger today)

Tues 17 February:

Mrs Farmer does make me want to laugh. She repeats everything she says at least 6 times and fusses round so. The twins are still away as the father has mumps, and we heard this afternoon that Angela will not be able to come for a bit as her mother is in the Isolation hospital with ? Diphtheria. Bobby's brothers didn't come for him until nearly 6 instead of 4.30 which caused us a little alarm but Bobby didn't mind! John is funny – he's cheerful all day until his mother is due to come when he 'goes quiet and sulks!' Home to tea then wrote an essay for Economics and listened to the Brains Trust while I did some 'wood-chipping'. If I am going to Cambridge I must get some more money so resolved to write a book in secret. It must be original but not over-ambitious. I hope and pray I finish it and get it published. To bed about 9.45.

Weds 18 February:

Mrs Jennings went off the handle again and was guilty of a lot of slander in connection with me which made me have to go into the lavatory for few minutes as I could not help crying and I felt (and apparently looked) very upset all the morning. Before going home I told sister that I couldn't stand it and she was very kind and said 'she'd see about it' and 'not to worry'. Went out shopping in the afternoon after doing some wood 'chipping'. After tea I went out again with Mummy. Today I feel so fed up I wish we could move house to some quite fresh town or 'Do SOMETHING'.

We were pleased to hear from Auntie Jo that Uncle John is in Batavia²⁹ now and is relatively safe. I walked up and called for Mary. We planned the Ark at Rangers and talked about the Youth Week and things in general. It was rather dull. Only 5 of us. Home and bed at 11.

Thurs 19 February:

To work to find that Sister had spoken to Mrs Jennings who, as before, said she'd been little 'touchy' and 'I was not to worry'. She was civil to me today. We had a new baby called Betty yesterday and today a little girl called Patricia came for the first time. (We now have 2 'Pats') Marion has had earache the last day or 2 so is going to the Clinic tomorrow. David has a septic chilblain (I think he will be slightly M.D. when older – he is almost a Mongol) Had a letter from Jo at lunch time. In the evening I left at 5.45, home to tea, then read the paper and listened to wireless until 7.15 when went to Economics and had a lecture on Profits but as consumed 3 sweets, do not know as much as I should on subject – and there's to be a debate next week! Home. Supper. Bed about 10.

Fri 20 February:

Was very pleased to receive a long letter from Shirley today, together with some S African cards. It was terribly cold all day. I had a lot washing. Washed 3 blankets, q pillow case and 2 large towels in the morning and in the afternoon 2 of us were doing washing, rinsing and mangling continuously from 2.30 until 4.45 when I went home. My hands were spreathed and three fingers of my right hand were so badly chapped that they were bleeding. Listened to wireless then did Savings Group. Went to Library to change my two non-fiction books for 2 more. On to Country Dancing and met Mary there. Danced "Flowers of Edinburgh", "Bonny bonny Breastknot", "Shrewsbury Lasses", "Hunsdon House", "Dargason", "Hull's Victory", "Nottingham Swing", "Cumberland Square & Long 8s", and "Never love thee more". ½ way home realised I'd forgotten my shoes to back for them. Bed at 10.

Sat 21 February:

Received another latter from Shirley written Jan 11th (16 days later). There were a good few children at the Nursery for a Saturday. One of the helpers failed us over the dinner hour so I took my lunch 'hour' from 12.10 until 12.50 so that Sister could leave punctually at one. It snowed a little today. Colin's father was ill and his mother had to carry on in the shop alone so she didn't come for him until 5.50 but I was in no hurry. Kathleen was not too well. Home, had tea and read then Moira came. I went and met Pam and we went to the Theatre with Mummy and saw "The Witch" by the

²⁹ Now Jakarta, Indonesia. At that time capital of Dutch East Indies, shortly to be conquered by the Japanese so not safe!

Old Vic Company (Jean Forbes-Robertson and much same cast as last week.) It was a weird play from the Norwegian but clever, well-acted and I quite like it. Home, supper and to bed 10.10.

Sun 22 February - Sunday:

When I awoke my clock said 7.40 and I thought I was too late to go to Communion but as it was Thinking Day I decided I must hurry and get there somehow. Luckily my clock was a few minutes fast so as I moved quickly I got to Church in good time. Very few there (About 28). It was very cold today. Did some mending this morning. Moira came and chatted with Auntie M. I also washed some underwear and my Guide uniform. After dinner I read and Mary came about 3.30. We talked and knitted and sewed. Both felt rather fed up with life. Mary would like to start a poultry farm with me! She is a little homesick. Neither of us is quite sure what we want. In the end we both decided that we ought to thank our lucky stars we had no real worries, sorrows or hardships. Went for walk after tea, listened to wireless then Mary went at 8.45 and I had hot bath and to bed.

Mon 23 February:

Received a National Savings Journal (About 4 pages!) this morning.. The pipes were frozen at work and so w had to fetch water from the Club opposite. At dinner time I took a case of mine to the Nursery to act as cash-box until a new key is fitted to our cash-box in place of the lost key. There were only about 12 children today. At 2 Sister surprised me by asking me if I'd like a half-day as she is having one Friday. I just took a school-child (aged 6) out for a sharp walk and then left at 2.45. I pressed my Guide uniform, washed a lanyard etc. Read. Took some tea to Auntie M. Started queueing for "Barber of Seville" at 5.40. We started by being about 5th or so but friends joined the people in front which pushed us back a bit and then when at last we got in, a detachment of soldiers was occupying the whole of the front of the amphitheatre! Mary and I were annoyed, so also were the others who had queued, but the show was good and we could see quite well. Home 9.35. Mummy Auntie M and Miss West went also.

Tues 24 February:

We had 11 children at the Nursery and although we began with water, in an hour or so there was a burst pipe which put us in the same conditions as yesterday. It was all rather hard work. I began my lunch 'hour' at 12.15 and was back about one. I did washing all the afternoon. We heard that Kathleen has been taken to Hospital but have not heard the diagnosis. Miss Lawrence and I left work at 6 and I hurried to the Theatre where Mary was keeping a place for me in the queue. We got seats in the middle of the second row of the gallery practically next to Charmian and Paula. We could see the stage very well but not the orchestra. It was "Rigoletto" tonight

with Margaret Collier as Gilda. Very good, but I don't like Verdi's operas – too cheerful! Mrs Fox went with Mummy and Miss West as Auntie M felt ill. I have developed a cold.

Weds 25 February:

Went to work in spite of my terrible cold. There were a good many children there. The water didn't come on until dinner-time and so we still had to fetch it from opposite. My cold was very heavy in the afternoon so I dosed myself with Influenza Mixture to try to cure it. Betty came about 4 and we talked until tea-time. My inside was upset as well. I had sewn on my shoulder-knot and Leaders stripes ready for the Ranger Social tonight and was looking forward to it but my cold was getting worse and I felt rather giddy so really couldn't go and Betty went off alone just after 7. I did black-out and went to bed. Took my temperature and it was just over 100° and my head had one of those splitting head-aches, accentuated when I moved. Mummy brought me Bovril about 10. (Auntie Laura came to tea.)

Thurs 26 February:

My temperature was down to 99° this morning but Mummy didn't think I ought to go to work as I still had a 'flu'-ish headache and thick cold. Stayed in bed all day. I did very little in the morning but read just before dinner. Read all the afternoon and had a bath in the evening. Finished reading "How to write a book" by Cecil Hunt, but have skipped one or two pages of a few of the chapters. Have decided to write a tale about a Ranger Company in wartime introducing thoughts on re-construction that I have thought of. Have planned a little of it. This evening Mary rung up to know if I'm going to the C Dancing Party tomorrow. Don't know yet. – Stiff neck, headache, sore throat etc.

Fri 27 February:

Stayed in bed during the morning and attempted a few problems from a Puzzle book and also started to write my book. I wrote about 7 pages. In the afternoon I took my temperature again and it was 8 points below normal. I got up about 3.30 and sat in the lounge reading a book on the Operas. After tea I took my temperature again but it was still 6 points below normal. However, I decided to go to the C Dance Party – I felt fine. Miss West came at 6.40 and I tried to persuade her to come but she wouldn't. I went with Mary. We had "Bonnets so blue", "Flowers of Edinburgh", "Bonny breastknot", "Soldiers Joy", "Greenwich Park:", "Jack's Maggot", "Norfolk Long Dance", "Morpeth Kaul[?]", "Cumberland long and square 8s", "Hunsdon House", "Christchurch bells", "Winster Gallop", "The Tempest", and "Circassian Circle". There was a good supper. Home and bed 10.10.

Sat 28 February:

Went back to work. Sister Critchley was having some extra holiday so was not in, and Mrs Campbell (a trained nurse) was taking her place. Everybody said I still looked ill but I didn't feel at all bad – it was just catarrh. Mrs Campbell put me in charge of the babies all the morning which was very kind as it was beautifully warm up in the top Nursery. I had dinner at the Queen's with Auntie M and Maslin. Back at 1.45 and Mrs C went. Did washing practically whole afternoon. Ironed some handkerchiefs and succeeded in burning m finger. Disinfected all lockers. There were other odd jobs so did not leave until 6. My chest and upper back was very tender with strain of continually blowing my nose to get rid of catarrh! Did wood-chipping and listened to wireless. (There have been big changes in Ministers during last week – 'more action and more power over the people' seems to be the slogan) Bed early at 9.

Sun 1 March - Sunday:

My cold was much worse again this morning and my temperature still below normal. It was very cold out so Mummy went down to the Abbey Churchyard and met Mary to let her know that I wouldn't go to the Abbey with her as I was worse, and to ask her to tea to go out with Betty should she want a walk. I did wood-chipping. Maslin was here to dinner. After dinner I read and Mary came about 3.15 and we chatted. Betty didn't come until 4.15 which was too late for walk anyway. We listened to the Brains Trust. After tea we played Pontoon (with imitation money), Rummy and Newmarket with spills. I heard that there is to be a Ranger camp at Whitsun and that Mary and Betty included my name on the list for me. Rita and Miss West are going too. Very thrilled. Mary went 8.30, Betty 9.15. I to bed to read 9.20.

Mon 2 March:

Mrs Critchley rung up to say she thought she had mumps and wouldn't be in today. When I arrived at the Nursery there were three new children, not trained person in place of Mrs Critchley and I was in rather a mess. The voluntary helpers were very kind but I still had so many things to do I didn't know what to do first. In the afternoon Dr Weston came and appointed Mrs Stanton in place of Sister. I was glad as I like her and I think we'll get on alright together. David has septic chilblains, Betty has one lot of body ringworm and the two new children have impetigo. Altogether we have 17 children. What a day! The accounts took us a long time to fathom. I naturally didn't leave early. Left at 6. After tea I settled some of my Savings Group accounts and did woodchipping finishing carving the 2 bears. Bed latish – towards 10.30.

Tues 3 March:

In the morning I did roughly my usual work and there were about 15 children. After dinner I went round to the Internal Audit Dept to try and settle up our accounts as we were in rather a mess. I received my salary cheque for February. It was £3.12.5 which I did not think was anything to rave about! Mrs Stanton and I both stayed until 6. One child has been asked not to come again for a bit as she sounds as though she has Whooping Cough. Everybody says I look tired and ill but I don't feel too bad – just worn out with my cold and cough. After tea I had a hot bath listened to Brains Trust and bed at 9. Am seriously thinking of getting something in the form of a uniform as feel very slovenly in a smock at work.

Weds 4 March:

I am writing this on Friday March 6th as I have been feeling too ill to write. I went to work but had a bad headache. I went and fetched my money from the bank then at 11.30 I asked if I might go home as I felt so rotten. Mrs Stanton who has been saying I have been looking bad for one or two days was quite anxious for me to go. My head became much worse during the afternoon and I was sick. Mummy thought it was an attack of acidosis but I felt it must be migraine as a result of going back to work too soon after 'flu'. My temperature only went up to 100°. I had aspirins, an enema castor oil, cold compresses and was made hot in a blanket but I felt no better. Once more I had to miss Rangers.

Thurs 5 March:

I never want another day like today. The night went very slowly. I had an aching pain behind my eyes and a splitting pain in my head every time I moved or coughed. The Doctor came at 10. He examined my pupils, my throat and my chest. He said I had influenza again and the catarrh had got congested in my head. He prescribed M&B [?] tablets. I was much worse in the afternoon as my head pained more and I could not keep the tablets down. I kept being sick. Mummy sat with me and read to me which was good. The time went very very slowly. Miss West had the day off and spent it with Auntie M who hasn't been too well herself. Joyce came in this evening. Her mother has died and she is travelling north tomorrow. I felt slightly better by night-time. Daddy slept in my room and I slept in his bed.

Fri 6 March:

Felt much better this morning. My head only hurt when I coughed or got out of bed and I felt I would like something to eat. The Doctor came and said I was much better but I was to take it easy right over the week-end.. I spent the day reading doing problems and cross-word puzzles and listening to the wireless. The Japs claim to have captured Batavia in Java and are wearing out the Allied forces there. Again we are anxious about Uncle John. There is more talk about women conscription and I wonder what will happen to me. If I can't go to Cambridge I wonder if I can go on at

the Nursery? Auntie M and Miss West register tomorrow with the 1906s [?]. Auntie M told me that Margaret Barker came into the shop with a message from Mary to know if I was ill and was I going to Country Dancing to which Auntie M gave suitable answer. Once more unable to do Savings Group – I'm going to be in a mess.

Sat 7 March:

I wrote two letters today – one to Jo and the other to Shirley. The Doctor came again and said I was to stay in bed over the week-end and as Mummy says I cannot get up and go straight back on Monday it looks as though I shan't be returning until Tuesday. In bed I thought of all the things I had always longed to have a day off and do, but now that I have all day, I don't want to do them, with the result that I listened to the wireless, read, played patience or simply did nothing. I would wood-chip some more animals if I had some more wood. Mummy bought some stamps etc so that I could do something with the Savings, also Miss Gold sent in some money. It was apparently very cold outside today.

Sun 8 March - Sunday:

Stayed in bed all day again. I read Guiding books, wrote a silly piece of doggerel about the Ranger badge, also read the Sunday papers. Mummy had a cold today, but she was busy in the house all the morning and went to the Pump Room Canteen in the afternoon. Daddy worked very hard practically all day down at the garden³⁰. He brought me back some small pieces of wood to do some more wood carving with, in the evening. Auntie M went to visit Auntie Fannie in Hospital. When she returned she said she had a pain behind her right ear, and could not feel her right thigh. I don't know what can be wrong with her. Miss West came in and she and Auntie M sat with me until 8.15. Mummy went to bed early. I heard from Miss West that the Ark is progressing and there were 6 Rangers on Wednesday. Warmer and west wind today.

Mon 9 March:

Had a card acknowledging the exchange I sent off some time ago. Played patience in bed and got up about 12 when Doctor came and having pounded my face and slapped my back he told me to return to work on Thursday but after persuasion agreed to Wednesday. Out shopping with Mummy after dinner, met Mrs Stanton who said Mrs Farmer now had mumps and she had several new children at the Nursery. I went to Labour Exchange and after having been passed from one person to another and referred to in files, and enquiries having been made to the Head Person in Bath, I was advised to continue with my plan re University so the approximate hour I spent there was to good purpose and was pleased. Mrs Brown gave notice today and for reason at all the afternoon 'woman' didn't turn up so there was extra housework for

³⁰ Here, and in later entries, "down at the garden" seems NOT to mean simply 'gardening'. I don't know the layout of the Gay St premises, but I take it to mean moving from the 'flat' to the 'shop', and possibly there was a store or workshop in between.

us all. Auntie M has a cold. Listened to wireless. Rang up Mary but she's apparently away from office! Bed 9.15.

Tues 10 March:

Got up in time for breakfast. Afterwards I did a little housework then wrote and entered for a competition in Housewife magazine called Burning Questions. Told no one as Mummy thinks it's a waste of time to write when you might be reading. The questions I put were regarding films for scholars, Day Nurseries after the war, and how to quicken my reading speed. Later I went up to Mary's and she has the 'flu', stayed with her until 12.5 then returned and we had lunch at the Queen's. Changed my books in afternoon but it was bitterly cold and when I got home I had a little neuralgia and didn't feel too good. Fell asleep. After tea I listened to a play on the wireless, washed up tea things then listened to the Brains Trust which was quite interesting. Had supper and went to bed at 9.30 but did not feel at all grand and hope it's warmer tomorrow.

Weds 11 March:

Went back to work and Mrs Stanton kindly told me that I wasn't to do any washing or to go outside at all as it was so cold and wet. I was told to stay in the downstairs rooms. I did a spring-clean of the washing room and afterwards didn't feel too well so was annoyed with myself. Helpers have been short so Miss Lawrence has been coming morning and afternoon as well as looking after her own house – all voluntarily, and the same goes for Mrs Stanton who has a flat to manage too – that's war-work! Home to dinner at 1.40 then to hairdresser's at 2.15 and on to "Mary's" to fetch my frock. Mummy wouldn't let me go to Rangers so I rang up Betty and we thought we'd risk the others turning up. We both went to Guider's meeting next door re combined service, Youth Week and Training Camp. Miss West came in to get some shoes from my house. Bed with headache 9.30.

Thurs 12 March:

Did not do quite such active work at the Nursery today. I cleaned the combo, did some mending and re-organised the large wardrobe in the reception room. I finished work by 5.45 but stayed on with Mrs Stanton eating some tea I had brought with me, until 6.35 when I went to the Guider's Training at the Oldfield Schools. Miss Rosalie Hacon was taking it and it was session on Home Emergency Service for Rangers. There was a lot of long message carrying, difficult compass games and competitions, morse reading and maps. There was a discussion in which it was explained this this HCS was not only a pre-Service training, but one to toughen us,

make us able to go on with monotonous jobs, be healthy and have an alert mind. (Strikes me I need it badly) The standard is very high. Home and bed 10.

Fri 13 March:

Felt decidedly better all day today. Did washing all the afternoon. Mrs Stanton let me go early – about 4.30 so that I could go home for tea and then do the Savings Group. This I did, and was able to ‘catch up’. I then dressed and went to the Guider’s Training and met a new Guider as arranged and introduced her to several people. From my point of view the Training wasn’t half so good as last night. I learnt some new Brownie test games but we practised judging heights and distances which I’ve done a lot, and we had a game on knowledge of the Movement which was not much help. Mrs Davis talked rather much and when the Trainer was speaking too, which was embarrassing, but she can organize and get things done – more than the other Commissioners can do – some of them! Home and bed.

Sat 14 March:

There were only 8 children at the Nursery today but we had no help until 12 so the work was quite hard. I felt rather irritable all day. Luckily Mrs Stanton decided not to have her ½ day so I was able to leave at 5.10 in time to reach the Oldfield Schools punctually for the evening session in Training. We drilled in threes and afterwards we had a discussion and learnt some English and International songs and games. Mary Margaret and Betty were there. Mary was better and afterwards at 7 we went for a walk round the houses and up Beechen Cliff telling each other the news, when we suddenly got caught in a storm. Mary hurried home and I rushed down over the Cliff but arrived home very wet so a hot bath, supper and to bed early to read at 8.15.

Sun 15 March - Sunday:

During the morning I wrote out my new songs and games and read magazines. In the afternoon I called for Betty and we walked off through Lambridge and across the fields to Langridges. When we were only a few 100yds from the Lansdown road Betty took me to a farm for tea and we each an EGG. We walked home down the Lansdown hill and got back at 10 to 6. Mary called and we went to the Training in mufti. It was interesting, we had games and discussions for and about Rangers, and Miss Hacon gave us a talk about Guiding in India and told us news that had filtered through from European countries. Guides were carrying on in Spirit anyhow. She talked to us about the first Promise and the Law. The Training finished at 9.10 and I came home. Bed 10.30.

Mon 16 March:

There was a new child at the nursery who had been in the Plymouth blitz. She had impetigo ear and partly because we half isolated her all day, she cried without ceasing. I was busy. Doctor came in the dinner hour. The children had so much dinner it took them about an hour to eat it! I got off at 1.35 and returned at 2.5. Miss Lawrence and I did washing all afternoon and agreed We'd be pleased when Sister returns as although Mrs Stanton is good at catering and gets on well, she has no sense of time, and does not share the work rightly. Home 5.55 and on to badminton (about 7 games) Auntie M is probably going to live with Bobby³¹ above the Corridor shop soon. Mummy would like to move to very small flat as not help available but Daddy isn't budging. I wonder what will happen, as things can't go on as they are, Mummy'll get worn out. Bath and bed.

Tues 17 March:

The side of my cheek was slightly swollen and I think it's owing to my cold. Didn't feel at all grand most of the day and Mrs Stanton annoyed me very much. At dinner time I received a letter from Joyce and she is returning to Bath on Thursday. In the afternoon Miss Lawrence I and did the washing and I also scrubbed the toy box in the Nursery while she got the tea. I went home at 5.50, had tea and then darned two pairs of stockings. We listened to the Brains Trust on the wireless. At nine 'clock I had an egg for my supper and went to bed as quick as possible as had a sore throat and didn't feel at all well. It's a blinking nuisance. We're looking for a flat near us - hope we find one.

Weds 18 March:

Letter from Shirley. Work went fairly well. Home to dinner at 1.30 and afterwards I did my Savings Group accounts and went to the Post Office. I was firmly convinced that I must make myself neater at the Nursery so I hunted about town seeing how best I could do it using few coupons and little money. In the end I bought a white rubber backed apron for 4/6 and 3 coupons, and a pair of puff nurse's cuffs. Bought a snood for my hair. Mummy is going to make me two dresses like Guide camp overalls (3 more coupons) which is kind of her when she's so busy. Auntie Laura came to tea. Mum and I opened and took out clothes from the 'invasion cases'. I walked up and called for Mary and we went to Rangers and did wood-carving – rather fed up with it. Only 5 Rangers. We broke down laughing during Taps[?] which was disgraceful. Home and bed.

Thurs 19 March:

³¹ This is the first mention of Bobby/Bobs/Bobbie, formally Miss Barbara Walker, niece of Gladys Way and 'Marnie' Walker (daughter of their brother Cecil Walker), and therefore Peggy's first cousin. She was artistic, but worked for most of her later years in an architect's office in Bristol, while living in Weston-super-Mare. She never married, and died in 2019.

During the day besides doing ordinary routine work with the children, I boiled rinsed and mangled 10 blankets; boiled and rinsed about 50 handkerchiefs; washed and rinsed several articles of clothing, scrubbed and disinfected the combo: scrubbed the table and tops of wooden 'sides' and slab in reception room; swabbed floor of wash-room with wet mop; swept day nursery; washed up tea things – this is in addition to washing and 'potting' the children, washing children's mugs, disinfecting, bed-making, dressing and other routine jobs. As I also helped wash up at all 3 meals at home today and did black-out as well, it may be no wonder that by 7 o'clock I had a nasty head-ache. Went to Night Messenger's meeting at 7.30. Bovril for supper then to bed as felt rather rotten. I find other messengers are on about 2 ½-night shifts a week and I'm on 4 whole nights! Hope there's no raids or invasions!

Fri 20 March:

This morning we washed Jackie and Wendy's hair. Jackie was very good but Wendy screamed and Mrs Stanton had a dreadful job with her. At 11 o'clock I took David to the Health Office to a Clinic in order that his chilblains could be treated. The nurse looked about 180, wore a white coat almost down to her ankles and was really rather terrifying which I felt was poor for a clinic – but there's such a shortage of nurses. David had copper sulphate and cod liver oil on his foot, but he was quite good and only cried a bit. Home to dinner 1.45 and back 2.15. Did all the laundry by myself (About 22 towels, 18 flannels, 15 bibs, 4 nappies and 1 large towel) Left at 5.15. Home to tea then did Savings Group, washed up tea things and on to Country Dancing. Mary was there. (Hunsdon House, Row well ye Mariners, Shrewsbury Lasses, Maid's Morris, Cumberland □ 8, Hull's Victory, Corn Kigs, Nottingham Swing etc) Home to supper, bath and bed.

Sat 21 March:

We washed Richard and Jeannies' hair this morning. About 11 Miss Lawrence came in with some bad news: one of the babies' mother had died on Tuesday and police were investigating the cause of her 'sudden illness'. We knew the cause – she was expecting another child and because she was poor she did not want another on any account. What a tragedy! I shan't forget it quickly. After dinner I took a note to Joyce then back to Nursery and did washing all the afternoon. Mrs Critchley called in at 5 to say she would be back on Monday. She looked better. Mrs Stanton took a ½ day off. Left work about 5.20, home to tea and learned that Jim Leas[?] long reported missing was now known to have been killed. Joyce came to await telephone call. Went to see "Mercenary Mary" a musical comedy of the 1920 odds revived. Not amused – mostly! Home supper, bed.

Sun 22 March - Sunday:

Looked up and called for Mary and we went to St Luke's Church. Very nice service I thought. Saw Joan Edwards and of course Miss West, also Lorna[?]. Walked down some way with Miss West and then walked home. Maslin was in to dinner. There was a cold east wind so wrapped warm and walked to Oldfield Road where I met Mary and prowled round Oldfield district and found the whereabouts of 3 or 4 Rest Centres for Messenger work and caught a bus back to the Guildhall. Mary came back to tea and afterwards we made out a Brownie programme for Tuesday evening. (At last we have planned an evening when we can meet to the convenience of all.) Later we discussed the possibilities of several Ranger badges and then she went at 8.30 and I laid the supper and went to bed to read. Mummy is making me a frock for the Nursery out of an old serge coat.

Mon 23 March:

Mrs Critchley was back at work. She thought Mrs Stanton had been very good but rather extravagant and made many unnecessary changes. Mrs Stanton also turned so I had two 'bosses' who gave me different orders which was rather difficult. Mrs Jennings now thinks she has the mumps so Mrs Stanton did her job. Dinner at 1.10 and back at 2. Out in the park with the children in afternoon and they would talk with dirty old men in the shelters instead of playing in the sun. Off at 4.45 and home to tea, then to badminton where I played 8 sets and so by 8.45 I was dead beat. Mary was there and three of her friends also Pamela and Kay. Mrs Strudwick looked very ill. The Ladies Finals were played and Mary Crombie and Denise French won. Home supper bath and bed. War news – Japs still advancing in Burma and bombing N Australia. Russians regaining their own land slowly.

Tues 24 March:

There were 14 children today so we were kept quite busy. Left work at 6.10, dashed home and changed and went to Brownies. The children seemed to have grown and appeared to be worse scamps than ever – calling each other 'twirps'[sic] and clambering on the beds in the shelter. Very few of the games went well, and they saw no reason why they should learn Semaphore, although they were better when I explained that First Class Brownies must have test which proved they were First Class and Semaphore besides being a lot of use in war-time was something which to be learned properly required keenness and endurance. I went home, had some tea and listened to the Brains Trust which was very interesting tonight. Washed up and had supper then talked for some time and to bed.

Weds 25 March:

Daddy had a letter from his Aunt Dolly who said she would commit suicide if he didn't send her some money. I went to work – Mrs Jennings has tonsillitis and not

mumps. During the afternoon I did Savings, bought a pair of gloves, fetched some buttons for Sister and took some shoes to be re-creped. Home and re-sewed on my badges on my Ranger uniform. Tea, did black-out and to Ranger Social. We danced Christchurch bells, Haste to Wedding and Durham Reel. We did a ball team game and a tongue-twister team game. Then FOOD and a discussion about Rangers' relation to WAAF and ATS cadets. Should all Ranger Companies turn into WAAFs or ATS cadet corps? – No. How many of us were on war-work so would not be joining the Services? About 90%. How many did other war-work? Practically all. Were we content with H.E.S. and let the cadet corps be quite apart from us? Yes. (You cannot be keen in 2 organizations, and we prefer Rangering under its new adequate training scheme) Camp fire. Home. Bed.

Thurs 26 March:

Mrs Stanton was still very over-powering but apparently she was told yesterday that she would not be given a job in the new nursery so she told me that she would go into munitions in June. She and Sister had a slight quarrel over one of the children. It was a lovely day and 2 children were taken out in the morning and all of them in the afternoon. Finished work at 6.5 and rushed home to tea, read the newspaper, washed some stockings and then on to Free Library and to Economics where we had a debate on "Should women have equal pay to men if they are doing equal work?" Many interesting points arose and although it became difficult to choose we ended all in favour. Home to supper and to bed. Firewatched 12-3.00am. There were a couple of sirens before 12. I slept through them.

Fri 27 March:

It was pretty well confirmed that young Betty has the whooping cough. Her aunt burst into tears when she heard, as home conditions are difficult and there are other hardships. I felt so sorry for her. Mrs Stanton is leaving at the end of next week. It is a shame after all she had done for and given to the Nursery but at the same time we are all becoming very irritable owing to her company. We had a new baby called Derek. Help was short and there were many to tea, also it was our big wash-day so Sister asked me to stay later which, as it was necessary, I was pleased to do. Left 5.20, home to tea and then did Savings. Back and washed up, read magazines, did black-out and to Folk Dancing. Mrs Couch took it – Hull's Victory, Cumberland □ 8, Big Set, Shrewsbury Lasses, Trip to Paris, Bonny Breastknot, Thady you gander[?]. Home to supper. Bed 10.15.

Sat 28 March:

10 children at the Nursery today. I had my lunch hour from 12.15-1.15. The Babbages couldn't come in the afternoon so Mrs Stanton stayed on. I did a lot of washing, helped feed the children and did the lockers. Pamela called for me soon after 5.30

and I left at 5.50. Home to find Michael³² had arrived. We had a good tea of cakes and watercress, jam, dough cake, plain cake and malt bread (war time!) then I dashed off to a Country Dance Party at Bathampton with Mary, while others went to the Theatre. There was a competition mid-evening which we got right but several others did too so still don't know who'll win the Saving Stamps. We danced "Piper's Fancy", "Durham Reel", "Cumberland long and square 8s", "Soldier's Joy", "Valeta", "Palais Glide", "Old Mole", "Hunsdon House", "Greenwich Park", "Dressed ship", "Jamaica", "Dashing white sergeant", "Newcastle", "Morpeth Rant[?]" Home on the 9.45 bus and reached home 10.20. Supper talk and bed.

Sun 29 March:

The King spoke over the wireless last night and today was a National Day of Prayer. Michael stayed last night and this morning we talked about social conditions after the war in which both of us are interested but have different views. Michael's views are almost completely Communistic while although I agree on many points, I think Christianity should have first place, and the family life should not be broken up too much. Michael left and I went to the Abbey with Mary and the Archdeacon asked us to be more united, to strengthen not only our physical but moral armament and to 'watch and pray'. Home to dinner. Sorted, out, tidied and put away some of my clothes; had tea and then saw to my stockings and did Savings Group accounts. Auntie Marnie went to Weston³³ all day. Mummy and Daddy went down to the garden this afternoon. Bed 9 o'clock.

Mon 30 March:

There were only about 12 children at the Nursery today but I seemed to be in all day. Sister wrote a letter in the afternoon, to be read before the Child Care Reserve Committee later today. It proposed that the top flat at the Nursery be taken over so that we could take on some of the kiddies on the long waiting list we have, and instead of the caretaker who lives there we could have a daily cleaner. Also Sister suggested that her deputy be appointed. The new Nursery has at last been begun. Home at 4.40 and after tea I read and merely sat - just for a change! Mr Turner called at 7.15 and I managed to give the wrong message from Daddy - always did misunderstand people. Mummy went with Auntie M looking for adjacent caravan sites and we had supper at 8.30 when Daddy was with Mrs Turner in the lounge. Bed about 9.

Tues 31 March:

³² Almost certainly Michael Hill, a cousin of some sort of Peggy's. Later he was one of my two godfathers.

³³ "Weston" almost always means Weston-super-Mare. Gladys's family had had a business there, certainly during the First World War, and family-and-friends connections remained. But Bath also has a Weston 'village' (now almost a suburb) - the likely location when Peggy says she has "walked" there!

Had a letter from Eileen and at midday one from Jo. I left work at 6.5 and had a quick tea and hurried to Brownies calling for Jean Harris on the way but she was still in quarantine for Chicken Pox so went on. Had 7 Brownies and we went on an 'adventure', then returned to the shelter to have 3 singing games and a semi actions game. Ended at 7.45 with Taps and then tested Mary Hancock for skipping which she passed. Doreen Frost brought a handkerchief for the Nursery that she had hemmed which passes her a test towards 2nd Class. I hurried home to hear the Brains Trust on the wireless. Read magazines, had supper and to bed about 10.

Weds 1 April:

During the morning I had to run up into the park with macs and umbrellas to meet one of the helpers who had taken three children out for a walk and it had suddenly begun to pour. When I found them the rain stopped. After dinner I changed some collars with Mummy, did Savings at P.O. and visited 5 Brownies homes re absenteeism or uniform, then bought a pair of nigger astrakhan gloves and home to sort out Brownie equipment. Did Savings Group as this Friday is Good Friday. Joyce came round. Went to Rangers. 5 eventually turned up but we did nothing – absolutely nothing. True it was a small number, but there are observation games, mapping, compass, message carrying, signalling etc where a small number is an advantage. Miss West can be excellent – oh I wish she would be! We were furious. Home and bed about 10.45.

Thurs 2 April:

Mrs Stanton did not turn up today as she had a sore throat, and I don't think she will be coming any more. I worked hard at the Nursery and did the Friday's big wash to make tomorrow a slack day. They were rather late coming for John so I didn't leave work until 6.25 and arrived home to find Doreen Rolfe and Diana Greenaway on the doorstep. It was, of course, as arranged. I hastily ate my tea and tested Diana who passed her recruit test, and Doreen's semaphore I reckoned was good enough for First Class. When they went, I sat down on the lounge and Mummy came in and Mrs Fox came down to have a chat with us. Went to bed about 9.30 and there was some gunfire.

Fri 3 April:

According to the wireless there were some damage and casualties in the south last night. Went to work as usual but we tried to make it as slack a day as possible. Drank some coffee out of a chipped enamel mug and Mrs Jennings and Mrs Robinson both told true tales of how people they had known had died from swallowing a small piece of enamel consumed in almost the same such way – Didn't feel so well! Mrs Mees and Sister kindly did the small amount of washing to give me a change. I did ironing and got the teas in the afternoon. Home 4.30 and washed my hair. Mrs Fox came down

again and Joyce came round. There was a short warning and we had gunfire and bombs quite near – hope not in Bath as I'm on Messenger duty. Supper and to bed 10.30am.

Sat 4 April:

Went to work as usual but didn't feel very well and at about 9.30 had a bilious attack. I told Sister and she suggested that I ran an errand for her as the fresh air would do me good. Went round to the Corporate Property Dept for her. When I came back I still felt ill so she sent me home until 1, which I did but returned having been sick twice more, was put in charge of the children who were supposed to be resting and Colin, but had to call Mrs Jennings 3 times as I was so ill and when the Savages arrived they sent me home. I rung up Sister and she agreed with the idea. Went to bed. There was a warning at 4.30 which lasted about 1½ hrs . Went on being ill until late at night. Must be something wrong with my liver as I have felt irritable and yawned all day.

Sun 5 April – Easter Sunday:

Was much better this morning. Had a piece of toast for breakfast. Read all the morning then up for dinner when I had some greens and a little meat. Mummy took me out to Betty's after dinner and then ran us to the bottom of Bathampton rocks where we walked up and over to Claverton Down and down the North Road. After tea we sat and talked, did crossword puzzles and look at photographs. We were very discontented about Rangers but could think of no remedy. I was astounded to find that Betty only has £2.2.6 nett income and a 25/- billet fee and 9/- for midday meals, she saves about 1/- to 2/6. Out of what's left she has to buy toothpaste, soap etc besides clothes and evening classes etc. Marvellous I think.

Mon 6 April – Easter Monday:

Daddy has given me a small sorry netsuke³⁴ of a chicken. I shall keep him for my mascot I think. Mummy and I had dinner early at 12.15 and then went to the Odeon to see William Powell and Myrna Loy in "The shadow of the thin man" which was quite good and few short films – a Donald duck called "Early to bed", "Man-i-cured"(rather silly) and an advertisement for Oxydol which was a film showing Vic Oliver called "Arresting Characters". All astrologists in the papers foretell that from now on we are going to have the upper hand in the war and win by the autumn, but not so soon I think – the Japs still in Burma, have raided Ceylon; Germans massing troops in S.Russia. During evening I began to make a puppet with object of selling it to make money. Joyce came in – she is moving to Bristol.

³⁴ A 17th century Japanese miniature sculpture (I had to look this up – it was a new one on me).

Tues 7 April:

At work we had a new baby called Hilary who will, I think, turn out to be quite a nice little child. During the day we had several heavy storms and two of them were thunder ones. The thunder seemed to shake the house but not one of the children seemed to take any notice. We were prepared for screams and tears but not even the most nervous was frightened. I feel it must be the war. Sister showed me how to use a baby's respirator. Left work at 6.5-10 and rushed home, changed, called for Jean Harris and went to Brownies. We had 8. They made paper houses (about 2insx1in) then had 3 rowdy games. Jean hurt her chin and knee on falling. I gave a minute talk and then after a prayer I enrolled Diana Greenaway. We did a singing and semaphore game, then Taps. Home and listened to Brains Trust. Bed.

Weds 8 April:

Went to work as usual in the morning. We were short of helpers for the afternoon so I offered to come in. Went home for dinner and returned at 2.20 to see if they wanted helpers but they didn't seem to as it was wet and the children weren't going out. It dried up later so went to the Post Office and changed £84 of Joyce's into Saving Certificates also bought the stamps. I opened a Post Office Savings Account (for Cambridge) with £15.5.0 leaving me with about £1 until the end of the month. I looked round the shops with Mummy, went shopping myself and home to tea. Went on with my toy. Mary Keys turned up about 8 and spent the night. I still think she is very nice and unspoilt by the Services.

Thurs 9 April:

It was quite hard work all day and I seem to find it all rather more than I did at first. Mrs Jennings keeps telling me that I look ill which is a little depressing. I'm OK – as Mummy says, I just want a tonic. Everybody is much the same. Went to the Queen's for dinner. Left work in the evening at 6.5. Home to tea. Auntie Marnie and Miss Chamberlain over for the day. Mary rang me up to say she was back from her leave and was going to Country Dancing tomorrow. Miss Russ called in with Mummy on the way back from a meeting³⁵ and I fixed up Mary and my Reader's Badge test for next Wednesday. Wrote Miss Doel, Mrs Morris re Doreen Rolfe and Eileen. Supper and to bed.

Fri 10 April:

Wore no stockings and only ankle socks for the first whole day this year. I did not find it cold so will continue to do so unless it becomes chilly again. Was washing for over ½ hour in the morning and for 2¼ hrs in the afternoon. Sister couldn't have arranged it in many other way though and I practised saying to myself my 50 lines of

³⁵ Probably the Soroptimists, as Gladys (my Gran) told me herself she was an attending member when living in Bath.

Macbeth for Reader's Badge while I washed! The news is not too good – we have had some bad luck at sea and the Japanese have control of nearly all the Philippines. Tea. Showed a caller round shop. Savings Group. Washed and changed and to Country Dancing and met Mary. We did Maid's Morris, Draper's Maggot, Cumberland long 8, Queen's Jig, Jack's Maggot, the Spaniard, Guidman of Ballangigh, all 2 or 3 times. As Double summer time came in last Sunday the evening are very light. Home supper and bed.

Sat 11 April:

Sister's mother came down for the weekend. I went to dinner at 12.20 and was back by one. As the children were sleeping alright I was able to get on with the washing and boiling and finished in good time. Jeannie's head was dirty again so later I raked it and found some 'livestock'. Hope I haven't caught any! Left at 5 minutes to 6 and home and had tea, read paper, then changed and met Mary and we went to a Country Dance class at Bathampton under Mrs Oakie³⁶. We did Picking up Sticks, Durham Reel, Soldier's Joy, Althea, Spanish Jig, Hey Boys, Rufty Tufty, Dargash, Cumberland long and □ 8s etc. there were only Mary and I and 2 men from Bath so it was OK. We definitely had tuition and Mary I were told off once or twice. Home about 10. Bed.

Sun 12 April - Sunday:

Woke up about 8.10 and slowly got up. At 9.45 I seemed to have no lunch ready in my rucsac[sic] and hadn't had any breakfast so rushed around and met others at Guildhall at 10.15 all serene. The walk was not too long but done in too short a time really. I am confirmed in my belief that Mary's heart is not all it might be – she was easily out of breath and went slowly up most of the hills. I felt sorry for her but didn't like being near the end. However we were first to get home. We went Widcombe, Combe Down, Monkton combe, Upper Limpley Stoke, Farleigh Hungerford. Arrived 12.30, left 2.20 and back by 4.30. (Only 3 minor blisters) Refreshed, then went to St James' Church which was very 'Low'. Vicar is very nice but stammers. Why do I dislike chapels and Low churches? Have a nasty feeling that it's not because I think they're wrong, but that I'm reserved and merely brought up otherwise.

Mon 13 April:

It was a beautiful day again today. We had 15 or 16 children, one of which was new little boy of about 2 called Johnny but I wasn't very 'struck' on him. We were short

³⁶ I'm 99% confident that this would be Mrs Oakey, who was or shortly became headteacher of Bathampton Primary School for many years, and who came out of retirement to teach me at Widcombe School for several months in 1961-2. She was memorable to me for many reasons, including for her enthusiasm for Country Dancing.

of helpers most of the day. I left work at 5. Home to tea. Tried to do my hair in a different style with it fixed at the back in a slide as even a net snood doesn't keep it tidy. Arranged the Brownie programme for tomorrow and started a letter to Shirley. Washed up tea-things and had supper. Auntie M and Mummy went caravan site hunting. I am still very keen to have a tent somewhere although everyone in the grown-up line is rather damping. War news has not been too good of late as India is still unsettled, we lost 13 fighters in a Channel sweep yesterday.

Tues 14 April:

A lovely day again. I did washing and boiling before dinner as well as after, today, and even washed four or five blankets in the evening. I left work a minute or two after 6 and rushed home. Changed, Barbara called for me and we called for Jean Harris and on to Brownies. A Jumble Sale was to be held in our Shelter so we went into the Park for our meeting. Everything was quite satisfactory. It was a grand evening. We had a new Catholic Brownie called Angela and she seemed keen and a nice child. After Brownies I went and visited the Lartains[?] again and they promised to come, also Mrs Witham. (Her house ought to be condemned – dark damp and smelly) Home and Miss West was there. We talked and listened to the Brains Trust until supper. Bed.

Weds 15 April:

Yet another lovely spring day thought slightly colder. After dinner at the Queen's I went home then did the Saving and bought some tent re-proofing stuff with green stain and a brush ($\frac{1}{2}$ gall) which cost 7/-. Home again and read Macbeth. Auntie Laura came to tea. At 5.10 I got into uniform and at 5.50 went to the Reference Library for Miss Russ to test me for Reader's Badge. Didn't do too well or too badly and Mary went in afterwards and did quite well. She sounded as though we had passed. It was 7 so we walked up to Rangers (met Miss West going to the Guider's meeting on the way.) Mary called in at her house. 4 of us found the tent and accessories and used up all the 're-proofing' on about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the tent! Left just before 10. Home Supper Bed.

Thurs 16 April:

Still good weather. Mummy and Auntie M went to Weston for the day so I got my own dinner. Home in the evening just about 6. Read newspaper then cycled to the Free Library and changed my books. Have just read "A Provincial Lady in America" by EM Delafield. Went on to Economics. There were only 2 of us but Miss Holme was kind enough to give us a class. When at home Mummy greeted me with the news in the daily paper which seemed to make it clear that I should not be allowed to go to

Cambridge. I felt very miserable. All sorts of alternatives come to my mind of which the Land Army again came to the fore-front – but it's no use worrying! Bed.

Fri 17 April:

Quite good weather again though it spotted with rain during the afternoon. Sister, on being told of my probable misfortune regarding University, said she hoped I wouldn't leave until we had been in the new nursery for about a month which will probably mean the end of July. I rushed down to Halfords and bought some more green re-proofing mixture. Left work in the afternoon about 5. Tea. Did Savings. Washed up tea-things then walked up to St Luke's and 4 of us painted the rest of the tent. We finished up by doing caricatures and sketches on it which is 'blotting' out made dark patches that I do not think will dry out. We acted like kids but it was fun! Home. Supper. Bed.

Sat 18 April:

Had a lot of extra jobs so went to lunch from 12.15-1 and then got on with them from 1-2. Luckily 1 of the helpers did the ironing for me. We had very few children so they were all gone by 5.10 and I left at 5.25. After tea I read and changed ready for the Theatre to which I went with Mummy and Pamela. It was "The Immortal Garden". Many people thought it was very good but without being irreverent I thought it was 'soft'. It is not my conception of the spiritual existence hereafter – no play could be everyone's, therefore I think it very foolish of anyone to write a play on this subject. It made me want to laugh and yet I don't think I'm a pagan! Supper and bed.

Sun 19 April - Sunday:

Got up latish, breakfast at 10, washed up, then met Margaret in Holloway and we called for Mary. Rita met us inside the Church (St Luke's). Quite a nice Service. Miss West was not there. Saw Baviaan[?] who was home on leave, also Lorna was there. Walked home discussing camping with Margaret. After dinner Joan and I cycled out to St Catherines and picked primroses and violets. We took out reas with us. It was quite fine but it blew up cold later on. Joan had to get home to do some sewing in connection with her ENSA shows, so we returned about 6 and I had a bath and washed my hair, then read, supper and bed. Had enough flowers for auntie M and my bedroom also the Nursery. Auntie M had Maslin for the day. Parents golfed and gardened.

Mon 20 April:

Took some flowers to work. We had 2 new children. Anne is just 3 and a very nice new child, not at all spoilt and very independent. Colin is 1yr 5mths and extremely

active. He climbs everywhere and needs all one's attention. In the afternoon I finished my washing early and at 3.25 went over to the Square and helped Miss Lawrence with the children until 3.45. Left work at 4.40. After tea I read the newspaper then went and called for Jean Harris. She came up to my house and I tested her for her Recruit test which she passed. Later I listened to "Women and War" on the wireless which included the W.L.A. I still think I shall join even after considering the disadvantages if Cambridge doesn't materialise.

Tues 21 April:

I was asked to come earlier in the morning as I have been getting later. I apologised. We had 15 or 16 children at the Nursery. Sister and Miss Lawrence left early so I was left in charge and what a game! I didn't leave until 6.10 so I rushed home to find Barbara on the doorstep so I sent her on. Changed and hurried to Brownies calling at the library for a book reserved for me on the way. There were 14 or 15 Brownies which was nice lot compared with our usual effort. Jean Harris was enrolled. Jean was lost afterwards and I spent some time looking for her. When I saw her, she ran away again. Home and listened to the Brains Trust. Letter from Jo. Supper and Bed.

Weds 22 April:

It was touch and go whether I should get my half-day today as the voluntary helpers were not many in the afternoon, but as it clouded over, Sister decided to only send the children over to the Square, so I had my ½ day. Read, then went shopping with Mummy and bought a pale blue heavy linen summer Utility frock for 34/8 but have not paid for it yet. We met Mrs Sayers and Joan. Home. Tea. I went out again and walked round the shops, bought the Saving Stamps. Walked to Rangers where we pitched the tent and took it down again then TALKED as usual, but asked Miss West to plan a thrilling meeting next week. Margaret and I walked home. Supper. Bed.

Thurs 23 April:

Work was as usual in the morning. During the lunch hour I cleaned and pressed my uniform. At 3.20 in the afternoon I took 2 babies out for a short outing in the park which was change for me too. At 6.15 in the evening 1 child had not been called for so Miss Lawrence kindly stayed on and I rushed home and changed and met Mary and the Pack in Old King St at 6.30. All but 1 (14) were there so very pleased. We marched to the Abbey but as usual couldn't hear the band very well. The Service was good. It was raining when came out so a mad rush for home. Later went to a sing-song practice at Walcot Hall then home supper and bed.

Fri 24 April:

A typical wash-day! That's all. There was a cold east wind all the day but the sun shone as well so warm in sheltered places. Went to the Queen's for dinner. Miss

West had the day off so she spent most of it with Auntie M who is going back with Miss W for the weekend. Home in the evening about 5 and after tea did the Savings Group, washed up, changed and met Mary at Country Dancing. Miss Lewin-Harris came and we learnt "Argeers[?]", "Bonny Broom" and "The Round" also danced "Maids Morris" and "Fourpenny halfpenny farthing". Home about 9.15, supper and to bed intending to write out the new dances but they seem to have gone clean out of my head.

Sat 25 April:

Great mishap! Was washing in the morning when 3 latecomers arrived so had to relieve sister in the Nursery. Quite forgot about the washing. Was obliged to stay in the Nursery until 12 and helped with dinners, made beds and rushed with Sister off to the Stores at Norfolk Crescent. On returning we found an awful smell of burning and a pail of about 30 hankies had boiled dry in the cellar. About 8 were any good at all. Took 30' only for dinner. Worked very solidly through the afternoon and didn't stop until 5.40 when went home and made 10 hankies for the Nursery. A man came to see my microscope but it wasn't good enough for him to buy. Mary Margaret Rita and I went to Bathampton to the C.D.class. We learnt "Juice of Barley (?)", and also did "Althea", "Soldier's Joy", "Hey Boys", "Goddesses", "Epping Forest", "Steamboat", "Cumberland □ and long 8s", "Rufty Tufty". Home supper and bed.

Sun 26 April - Sunday:

Last night we had a blitz on Bath. 11.20 the brutes began. After the first All Clear I went to the Registry Office and after an hour was sent to the Health Office and then in hours time [sic] returned home. Later I went to Russell St to call a surgeon. 2nd raid followed. In morning Miss West and Auntie M came home. After dinner I went up with Miss W and Mary and I helped salvage her house which was in an awful mess with glass and plaster all over the place. After tea at Mary's, Mary Margaret Barker and I went to Twerton to look up a friend of theirs and the damage we saw was dreadful. I didn't get home until 9.30 and Mummy was worried. Miss W spent the night with us and Mummy and I slept in the cellar. Many people left the city.

Mon 27 April:

Last night there was another raid which started many fires and a bomb hit the Assembly Rooms and another the Francis Hotel just below us. I spent most of the time with my ears blocked and mouth open as the air was full of whistles and bangs. An unexploded bomb fell just below and behind our house. A bit of ceiling came down in the showroom. Sister spent the day at St Martin's. Mothers kept coming in to say they were homeless. At least 8 of 18-20 families are bombed right out. One mother was in tears. There was no gas and during the night there had been no electricity. In

the evening we cycled up to the caravan but it was rather badly damaged. During day received pc from Suzanne, and letter from Eileen. Slept in the car 8 miles out.

Tues 28 April:

Only 3 children once more but Sister came back into the Nursery. About dinner time (ours) we took the children to the Guildhall, caught a bus and went out to Bathford. On the way we noticed that Kensington district was badly damaged and I was worried about Betty Nelson. When we arrived at Sister's lodgings we were both given a good dinner of soup and sandwiches then Sister and Mrs Mees amused the children while I tried to sleep in the sitting room. After tea we returned about 4. In evening Mummy and took an old lady out to Keynsham Institute. Home and up to caravan to sleep.

Weds 29 April:

Sent a letter off to Jo. There were still very few children at the nursery today and Sister and I were rather bored. In the afternoon she sent me round to help at the Sedan Chair which was attempting to deal out light meals. I did a lot of washing and wiping up. During this time Mummy told me that authorities had heard 'our' bomb ticking and we weren't allowed back in our house so was rather worried. Met Mummy in the WVS about 6. After conflag with Daddy decided to go to Weston SM (Mummy and I) like Auntie M had, and after ringing Sister set off with 1 case Daddy had daringly rescued and arrived about 8. Supper and bed.

Thurs 30 April:

During the morning Mummy and I went to the hairdressers and then went to Centre Café for dinner where met Bobby who was away from work recovering from a form of dysentery. In the afternoon Mummy met Auntie Bunny and I went with Auntie M and Bobs round shops and on pier to just sit in the sun. Met Mummy auntie B and auntie Vera, Auntie Doss and Suzanne at the Centre Café and had a good tea. Afterwards we went on the pier again and on to Ice cream Parlour. When I got back to Risecroft I had a rotten tummy ache which didn't go even in bed until I had a couple of aspirins.

Fri 1 May:

Auntie M went up to Bath to open the shop and later we met Auntie Jack and rest in a café for coffee. We also saw Jill who is now about 11 and is growing very much like Granny Walker. We had two telegrams after dinner so Mummy and I went home. Mummy had bought some galvanised iron to cover the roof of the caravan. When we got home Daddy had some friends coming for the night so Mummy and I decided to go up to the caravan for the night. The fuse had been taken out of the bomb and it

has been disposed of so all relieved. Wrote a long letter to Shirley Vincent. Supper. Up to the caravan and to bed.

Sat 2 May:

Good weather continues. Sister spent most of the day doing WVS work. I had only a few children in and after dinner they all were called for. Miss West called in and took suitable interest in the charges during the morning. I went home to a late lunch just before 2. Daddy, Mummy and I went down the garden and didn't come home until about 6.30. It was simply lovely down there and I did feel I'd like to be in the Land Army. During this evening we heard that the Japanese had captured Mandalay and Lashio – 2 places on the Burma road. Some British and Indians are cut off. Went up to caravan to sleep.

Sun 3 May – Sunday:

Although it was a simply marvellous day I spent it indoors as I felt I must straighten out my room. I did, and also changed things round a bit. Put the bed against the west wall and the chest of drawers inside it. Altered pictures, and brought out some photographs. It looked quite nice when I had finished and my new cupboard Daddy has given me made more room to keep things. I went through my stack of pen-friends' letters and kept only one or two from each and all photos and most cuttings, then gave the rest to salvage much against my inner will. Re-organised my desk. We went to the caravan to sleep.

Mon 4 May:

Wrote a letter to Eileen. Went to work and there were only 5 children and no water or gas. Took the children out with Mrs Mees in the morning and in the afternoon. Mrs Ashford and I helped carry equipment over from the Health Dept. Now no hope of the new nursery until this autumn so using the new beds blankets etc at once and we hope to take over the top flat here. In the evening I went with Mummy and the Fox's out to Saltford and they hired a caravan there. Home and Mary called and we talked. Up to the caravan to sleep as 3rd raid on Exeter has made Bath panic.

Tues 5 May:

There were 6 children today and I took them out in the morning with help. During the afternoon I was in alone except for baby at the top of the house asleep when a kettle which I had put unsteadily on the methylated stove upset it all and there were flames on the floor and table. The water in the kettle extinguished the floor fire but the table caught. Tried smothering with plates but no avail so used Sister's rubber apron nearby while I rushed for a kettle of water in next room. All extinguished in end but poor apron! Received a letter from Jo during day. In evening went to Brownies and there were 9 of them to my surprise. Played ball games in the park. Mary and I talked. Listened to Brains Trust and up to caravan.

Weds 6 May:

(Corregidor³⁷ fell today.) I came back from the Nursery about 9.30 and found family in an awful flap. Daddy was rushing off to Fowey for a holiday and catching 10.25 train from Bristol! Took the children out for a walk. During my half day I straightened up the Savings. Received a letter from Barbie who is on 7 days' leave down at Fowey with Uncle Scottie and Mary had rung up to say she was spending the night with us. I cycled to Rangers 1 after talking we had to carry a message for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile and 2 Guides stopped us on the way as distractions. Cycled to the caravan and Mary was there. Still absolutely lovely weather.

Thurs 7 May:

I cycled and Mummy and Mary drove home. At breakfast I received a letter from Mr Rutter asking me if I would do Land work at his farm. I should receive my board and lodgings free and £1 a week. I'd get Sundays free but must be prepared to do anything on the farm during the week. I was very excited and during dinner hour wrote back to say that subject to confirmation from Cambridge and release from the Day Nursery etc would like to accept. Mummy thought that as regards land work it was very good but seemed to wonder if I should continue with clinic work etc. The thing to do is to rise above what everybody else thinks and do what I know to be right. I want experience of country life. Finished 'Hospital Nurse'. Went to Library. Read Callers and bed.

Fri 8 May:

Went to work. Mrs Robins came to help us this morning. We heard that they were going to blast down the rest of the Francis Hotel so after they had had milk we took the children out and via Milsom street to the park. Actually the demolition people decided not to use dynamite in the end and merely pulled the masonry down. In the afternoon I took some washing home and started on it but returned by 3.30 so that Sister could find the children in the park and take some photographs. In evening did Savings Group. After supper Mummy and I went to the caravan by cycle. Read & bed.

Sat 9 May:

We cycled back into the city this morning and it was bitterly cold. After breakfast I went to work and there were only four children in. I took them out in the morning. In the afternoon I was left with 2 and all the washing and washing up with one jug of water. Both children were called for by just after 4.30 so home and hung the washing on the line then had tea and changed my things. Miss Seawright called at 6.30 and Mummy and Auntie M soon came back and we started off for Weston. On

³⁷ The "Gibraltar of the East", a fortress in the Philippines taken by the Japanese after a 5-month siege against fierce US/Filipino resistance to complete the conquest of that country early in 1942

the way we saw 2 stray horses and told the farmer. Arrived about 8. Bobby came round and Miss Chamberlain. Supper and bed. Had a letter from Cambridge.

Sun 10 May - Sunday:

There was a mock invasion of Weston during the night so we heard many pops and bangs. We didn't get up until 12 and after dinner Bobby and Pamela Brown called for me and we went for a walk in the rain to the "Little House" on the Bridgwater road and had tea, then walked back again. Pamela told me about the Land Army clothes – 2prs dungarees, milking coat, mac, coat, hat, breeches, 3prs sock, shoes etc with renewals in 3 or 6 months. Was very excited about this. I wrote a letter to Daddy and then had supper. We talked then at 9 o'clock we listened to the Prime Minister on the wireless. Bed about 10.

Mon 11 May:

We rushed home from Weston about dawn by car. Hurried breakfast then to work. Left early for dinner-hour and hurried to Labour Exchange now at Drill Hall and they advised me to write them when I may be able to join the L A but as I made preference for Services I should stick to it. Stayed late in evening for Sister. Home and wrote Dr Weston re resignation and Labour Exchange. Later went into Beck-Austin for amusement. He told me I should do nursing or any job where I was doing something for others, that there would be a change in 6 wks, that I shouldn't marry the first or second man I met but would marry in about 2 yrs and should have to go abroad. I was very healthy though slight throat trouble later. Mummy went in too and had a long time. Supper. Bed.

Tues 12 May:

It is just like winter again – rain and cold. There were 6 children at the Nursery but with Mrs Jennings away helping at canteens etc it was quite hard work. The new baby that came yesterday called Anne is settling down very well. Jeannies' sister was 20' [minutes] late collecting her tonight so had to tell her off though didn't want to as family have been bombed out, are billeted in Weston and the poor girl lost her way in walking in to the city. In consequence of this I rushed home and to Brownies in mufti. Brownie meeting highly successful really with 11 Brownies (1 new one) 3 are evacuated and 2 absent. Mary and I walked up to see Barbara Walker – she is safe. We talked a lot. Home to find Miss West and Auntie had been to Beck-Austin with success. Listened to wireless. Supper and bed.

Weds 13 May:

There were 6 children at the Nursery. We ran out of nappies as there was nowhere to dry them when they had been washed and we had 4 babies which meant about 16 – 20 nappies a day. 2 children came in about 12.45 and I had to cope which meant I

didn't get home to lunch until 1.35. Dinner. Went shopping. Got back my re creped shoes and was quite pleased. Bought some stuff for mending clothes (Mendshil[?]) and some shoulder clips. After tea I had a bath and went to Rangers. Mary was supposed to be taking the meeting but no one turned up except Miss West so we three went for a walk and discussed psychic matters and ghosts to the conclusion that we weren't mean to meddle with those things etc. Back to Miss West's house then home and bed.

Thurs 14 May:

6 children came to the Nursery today. There was a fair amount of washing to do in the morning and I took 2 of the children out in the park for 40 minutes. After dinner I scrubbed out some boxes and got the tea. Dr Weston called in and thanked me for my letter which I took as having been accepted and reminded me that it had not been signed for which I apologised. Left well before 5 and home to tea. Just before 6 Mummy and I went to the Beau Nash to see "The Patient Vanishes" – quite a good thriller, "the 2-faced woman" with Greta Garbo and Constance Bennett – not keen on it. Home and Miss West and Auntie M were discussing flats. Supper Bed.

15 & 16 May

[blank]

Sun 17 May - Sunday:

Cycled down from the caravan fairly early in the morning. Changed and walked up and called for Mary and we went to St Luke's Church. Curate of St Marks conducted and preached the Service and sermon. I walked home and prepared my tea in my haversack then after dinner met Marion and Mary at the Guildhall. It was doubtful weather but we decided to go on the river and it rained after we had rowed 400 yds. We sheltered (?) and ate our tea then returned about 2½ hours later and walked home where we played card games. Mary and Marion left early and I made a game for the Brownies to play. Had supper and went to bed.

Mon 18 May:

We had 10 children today, 6 of which were babies. At midday a bus conductress came with a child. She had been blitzed out of house, was separated from her husband, very hard up. Her sister who looked after her child was called up and the conductress was going to be turned out of her job if she didn't go to work so I offered to take the child for a few nights until she went to a Home. Margaret was 1yr 5ths and very good. I took her bed and few belongings home with me and she came at 5.30. She was bathed by me and put in my bedroom. Mummy longed to spoil her in many ways but I wouldn't allow her to. Knitted listened to wireless. Supper bed.

Tues 19 May:

Took Margaret to work with me. She loves porridge and doesn't seem to touch toast or crusts. Left work in the evening punctually at 6 and handed Margaret over to Mummy. Got ready and went to Brownies. We had Ruth and Jull helping us and they were going to be Tawnies when I go on the Land. There were about 11 Brownies and as 5 were away and 2 are evacuated we felt quite pleased with this. It was quite fine so after inspection we went out in to the park. The meeting was quite successful. Home in time to listen to the Brains Trust, then supper and to bed very quietly in order not to wake Margaret like last night.

Weds 20 May:

Took Margaret to work. After dinner I went round to Jolly's and bought a belt type of corset which is smart young and comfortable all in one. Quite the best I have ever bought and it was only 21/- as it was Utility. Bought the stamps for Savings and wandered round town generally. Home to tea and back to Nursery to fetch Margaret. Brought her home and gave her supper and put her to bed. Went (rather on the late side) to Rangers and Mary took the meeting which was very interesting with a puzzle, a few games and camp-fire. We still discussed the tent idea and Miss West suggested the Miss Harpers fields at Grosvenor. Walked home. Supper. Bed.

Thurs 21 May:

Went to work with Margaret. Did a lot of washing. During the dinner hour Mrs Lambert did nearly all the afternoon's washing which was very kind and as soon as I returned I was sent to the Labour Exchange for the interview for which I had been sent notice. Now, I thought, everything will be settled for the Land Army, but not so. Although there is a large demand for Land girls, I made preference for Services on my registration form so Services it must be or stay where I am. I left broken-hearted and returned home for 45' before going back to the Nursery. I cried bitterly. Left Nursery at 6 and put Margaret to bed. Started writing to Jo. Rung up 2 people. Mrs Sayers called and talked. Supper. Bed.

Fri 22 May:

Margaret was sick most of the night. I went to work without her and I felt rather ill myself all the morning – probably the weather. Sister fetched Margaret about 10.30 and she and her mother set off for Denewood Grange soon after. It rained about dinner time and I felt a little better. Home about 1.40 for lunch and back again about 2.20 and straight round to Dr Weston's to ask if after all I might stay on at the Day Nursery and he said that he would put forward the suggestion that I became a Nursery Assistant at salary of £120!! I mustn't be too optimistic but I'm

walking on air. Fetched mended shoes. Home. Later to Country Dancing and Mary seemed pleased to hear news and wanted to 'flat' with me and Bobby. Home.

Sat 23 May:

It would be nice if Bobby Mary perhaps Joan and I could have an unfurnished flat together. Can't help planning it though it may never come off. I worked very hard at the Nursery all day. Just after Mrs Farmer had gone in the afternoon there was an air raid siren and I had to cope with 3 children. Desmond's mother came hurrying up and helped me. When we arrived in the shelter Sister turned up and Raymond and Richard were fetched. All clear went about ¾hr later and I left work all together at 6.15. Home, rea[/] round to Alfred St with a message then packed and we all went up to Mr Dickinson's house in the North Road, where we are going to stay for a week. Lovely house but horridly done out to my mind.

Sun 24 May - Sunday:

Got up and had breakfast. At about 11 o'clock I walked down to St Mary's Church to meet Mary and we walked back to the house via the canal and Lydney bdgs. I showed Mary the house and then we wandered back to Gay St, discussing the flat or house we hope to have. Had dinner then went into Victoria Park and met the other Guides for the Youth Procession and Service in Parade Gardens. Many turned up and although it had been showery it stayed fine for the Service. Home afterwards to tea, then up to Mary's house and on along Greenaway [sic] Lane and called on Betty who is much much better. Walked up to "Teresia". Read and had supper about 9. Read then bed.

Mon 25 May:

There was a warning during the night and so we all got up but went back to bed with clothes on when the All Clear went after 10 minutes. Didn't wake up till about 8.30. It was very wet and blowing a gale. Mary went off to Whitchurch for the day and I walked over to Pamela's. We went for a short walk instead of the cycle ride we had planned. Back to her house for dinner. Played cards in afternoon. Left at 3.55 and walked back to "Teresia" for tea and wrote to Jo, Mr Rutter and the Labour Exchange, then kitted and listened to the wireless. Mary came back at 9.45, and the Fox's came sleep as their caravan was leaking. There was a short warning in late afternoon.

Tues 26 May:

Got up fairly early and Mary and I walked into town which took 15-20 minutes. During the dinner-hour I went to Jolly's and Fortt Hatt and Billings re flats or houses. One in Sydney Place £125 3 bedrooms etc which Mummy went to view in the

afternoon, but I wasn't struck on the district. Auntie M and Bobby are now going to live together so it's just Mary and I and perhaps a few others. Went to Queen's for lunch. After work I went to Brownies and we held some of the meeting out in the park. Ruth and Jill finished it while Mary and I went to a very dull Guides meeting. Miss West was there. We discussed Guiders camping training. Home, up to "Teresia", 'Uncle Roy' came Supper. Bed.

Weds 27 May:

Walked to work as yesterday. Did washing in the morning and helped take the children out in the afternoon. During the dinner-hour I took a message to Mary's in Milsom St, collected my coat and bought a return ticket for Weston. Left work soon after 4.30 and went to several estate agents re flats without success, also took messages re savings this week. Home to tea and then read paper and prepared Ranger meeting. Bussed to Rangers. Margaret and Lorna were there to begin with and Mary and Rita came on from Guides later. The programme was intensified morse in many various ways followed my folk-song singing. [sic - by for my?] Mary and I walked home via Greenaway Lane etc. Supper and bed.

28 and 29 May:

[On these pages Peggy had clearly originally recorded the events of 21 & 22 May, and then subsequently copied them to the correct pages. With there being no room left, the two entries for these two dates are very brief]

28th: Did weekly wash etc, Bath, library, then painted etc

29th: Went to Weston etc [I assume Weston-Super-Mare]

Sat 30 May:

By car to work. We had some equipment sent round from Norfolk Crescent which we unpacked, checked and restored under "Mary Allen's". Had a quick dinner and back to the Nursery to work very hard all the afternoon. Mary came at 4.30. Last child left soon after 5.30 and at 5.50 we left work and home and then down to Avon St re flat but it was let and then back to a high tea. Afterwards we went off to see a flat at Larkhall and walked out there only to find it also was let. Bussed home, and then up by car to the North road for supper. After supper read and later to bed.

Sun 31 May - Sunday:

We didn't wake up until late and didn't get up until after 10. We had breakfast and then went by car down to Gay St. Mary soon after started to walk back to her billet and I walked half way with her. After dinner I did renovations on my clothes. About tea-time we went up to Teresa and after tea I did sewing and knitting while Mummy and Daddy did gardening. I listened to the wireless. 1000 or more planes bombed Cologne and the Ruhr last night. This is history! We lost 44 planes. Bobby arrived by

train about 7.45 and Daddy brought her up by car. We had supper then talked and I knitted until after 10. Bed.

Mon 1 June:

Came in early and I went to work as usual. Bobby started work in the Union Street branch of the Admiralty. She seemed to like it quite well although the work was more routine than she was used to. Home to dinner and back for the afternoon.. We were not too busy at the Nursery so left punctually at t 4.30 and fetched my Ranger brooch from Gibson's. They charge 3/- for new pin and attaching a safety chain, and bashed in the red enamel into the bargain. Home and Angela Wilson came to pass her recruit test, and soon did. Mary rang up re flats etc. but nothing any good in the paper today. Up the caravan.

Tues 2 June:

After weeks of rain, it now looks as though the weather is clearing up. The glass has been going up gradually. Last night over 1000 bombers bombed Essen. The Germans bombed Ipswich so we are waiting to hear from Auntie Iris. During the afternoon I cleared out and scrubbed the play-box. Dr Weston called in for some straw later. Miss Lawrence and I left at 6.15. I dashed home and changed for Brownies. I enrolled Angela and then I took an observation – memory – health game while the Tawnies set a cotton trail so sweets in Sixes. This took so long that after test work we had to go. Mary came home and we wrote 3 letters to flat owners. Supper. Up to caravan.

Weds 3 June:

We went to Rangers in the evening and there were about 7 of us and Lorna took the programme which was an extensive Morse etc one. We heard that Miss Harper could not let us have her fields for a camping owing to some cows which were calving but suggested about 3 other places. I walked back to the caravan after Rangers which took me the best part of an hour and it was rather lonely.

Thurs 4 June:

Set out in the evening to find a camping site and visited 2 private houses and eventually fixed up at Bathford only to return and find out that Miss West had visited Denewood Grange and thought it most suitable so we decided on that and Miss West rang up Miss Harper who is going to put the idea to the committee and I cancelled the Bathford people.

Fri 5 June:

Went to Country Dancing in the evening and we leant Adson's Saraband, American Running Set and Scotch Cap and also danced a few other dances. Miss Lewin-Harris was there. Caught a bus to Combe Down and I walked across the top to the caravan.

Sat 6 June:

Rita and Mary came and helped me at work in the afternoon and I took photos. Went to 'Twinkle' in the evening with Pamela and Mummy. It was Mummy's birthday. Mary and Rita met us out and they and I went up to Mrs Fox's caravan which she has lent to us for a week while they are away.

Sun 7 June - Sunday:

Rita, Mary and I got up rather late, had breakfast and then walked to Claverton Church. It was very nice there and we met Mary Thomas who asked after Rangers. We walked back to the caravan over the fields to dinner and then walked to Bathampton weir and after sitting in a field there with CROWDS of others we had tea at the Old Mill Café and into town on a bus. Rita went home, and Mary and I went to Parade Gardens and listened to a band, then to the station to meet Bobby. Back to Gay St and all 3 of us up to caravan.

Mon 8 June:

We went to see a flat at Grosvenor today but with no success as the rent was 2 gns [a "guinea" was one pound and one shilling] and they would allow more than 2 of us to share it. There was a bedroom, a sitting room, and a kitchen with a bath in it and a lavatory. Partly furnished. Home rather disappointed but Mary is going to come to my house and we are going to live independently there.

Tues 9 June:

Had my half day today and did shopping. At Brownies I passed several Brownies for 2nd class tests and the meeting went quite well. Afterwards Mary and I went out to Denewood Grange and fixed up with the matron about the tent site etc then we came back and up to the caravan to sleep.

Weds 10 June:

After work which I left at 6.15 I rushed home and had a very quick tea, then changed and hurried to the Guildhall and caught a bus which took me to Guides by 6.50. I had my photographs printed which were not so very good and I showed them to Rita and Mary. The Guides were hopeless. About 60 of them run wild almost the whole time. On to Rangers about 8 and Margaret took the meeting. It was good introductory morse, knowledge of Bath, tracking, First aid and observation. There were 8 of us which included a new girl-Guide from Walcot company. Mary and I walked up to the caravan afterwards.

Thurs 11 June:

Sister Critchley was away so Mrs Mees Miss Lawrence and I took over. The day was fairly successful except that the children broke one of the wooden 'sides' so I put a table in its place. 3 new children came who were quite good. In the evening I didn't

leave until gone 6.30 as Rosy was so late fetching Jeannie. Rushed home and had some tea then caught a bus up to Mary's and met Rita and went to fetch the tent to take it to Denewood only to find it wasn't there! After about 1½ hrs investigations we found that Daphne Sendell (blitzed out) had it. We looked out rigging for lats and Mary and I went home and up to caravan.

[Gap]

Sat 20 June:

Brownie Picnic. We went on to a British Restaurant for supper then home and did our rooms.

Sun 21 June - Sunday:

Concentrated on our rooms in the morning. In afternoon Rita Betty and I went by bus to Box and walked to Colerne then back through fields and then went on to top of Bannerdown. By road to Batheaston but buses were full so we walked back to Bathford where we caught the last bus home.

Mon 22 June:

Tobruk has fallen. The Germans are in Bardia. Three new children at the Nursery. Mary and I were tested for Local Govs and passed also we heard we had passed our Readers badge.

Tues 23 June:

June flew up to Guides and then I took a photo of the Pack and we went out in the Park.

Weds 24 June:

Rita took the Ranger meeting. There was a new Ranger called Brenda who seemed very nice. Paula was enrolled.

Thurs 25 June:

Mary moved in our apartments I helped her carry cases.

Fri 26 June:

Went to the Guiders Training Camp at Bathford. Mummy went to Fowey 3 o'clock in the morning!

Sat 27 June:

The Trainers came and we had a grand day.

Sun 28 June - Sunday:

Did what we liked all day. And home in the evening about 8. Weston-S-Mare was raided last night.

Mon 29 June:

Weston-S-Mare raided again last night. 2 new children at the Nursery with total of 16. Heard that the new Nursery is soon to be re-started.

[Nothing more for 1942 (or 1943), though an interesting cash account for Jan-July '42 was kept, plus some ideas re "Reconstruction" - post-war?]

Peggy Way's Cash Accounts 1942 (Jan - July)

<u>Credits</u>		£	s	d	<u>Debits</u>		£	s	d
January					January	Transfer			9
1/1/42	In hand	7	11	-		Jo's present		1	4½
7/1/42	For keeping shop		2	6		Insurance stamps		5	6
14/1/42	2 nd hand school books (10)		5	-		Pr of imitation hogskin gloves		7	6
		7	18	6		Pr of fashioned hole[?] stockings		3	11
						Pictures (twice)		3	-
						Colmers		3	8
						Pictures (twice)		2	8
						Country dancing		1	-
						Pr of evening sandals (5cs)	1	1	-
						Dance ticket and expenses		5	5
						Church		1	-
						Evening frock from Mummy	1	12	6
						Pictures		1	6
						Country dancing			3
	Income	7	18	6		Photograph of Nursery children			7
	Expenses	4	18	10½		National Savings		5	-
						Bus fares etc etc		2	3
	In hand	2	19	7½			4	18	10½
February					1/2/42	Cambridge Savings	1	-	-
1/2/42	Brought forward	2	19	7½	2/2/42	Advertisement for evening work		2	-
1/2/42	Salary for January	4	12	7	4/2/42	Longsleeved winter frock & alteration	4	2	6
11/2/42	For skirt sold to Mummy		6	-	"	1 pr of 'silk' pyjamas		14	9
11/2/42	Present from Daddy		10	-	9/2/42	Book as Xmas present for Mary		3	6
23/2/42	For sale of 'prints' discovered by me		4	-	11/2/42	Present for Daddy		3	6
					"	2 nd hand Economics book		3	6
					18/2/42	Cotton wool		1	8
					"	Woolworths		1	4
					"	Cleansing cream		2	3

	Income	12	1	10½		Theatre for month	3	-
	Expenses	10	19	7		Church for month	1	-
						Other small expenses	5	11½
	In hand	1	2	3½			10	19
May								
6/5/42	Brought forward	1	2	3½	13/5/42	Re-creping shoes	7	6
	Salary for April	4	14	-	"	Mendahol	1	-
	Present from Daddy	1	-	-	"	Shoulder clips	1	0½
					"	Seamen & Boatmen Friendly Society	2	-
					"	3 buttons for my suit		9
					17/5/42	Church	1	-
					"	Binky's wedding present		6
						Jolly's	1	1
						Hair ribbon		6
					22/5/42	Shoes heeled	1	9
						On the river	1	-
						Return ticket to Weston	4	10
						Coat alteration	1	6
	Income	6	16	3½		Safety chain etc for badge	3	-
	Expenses	3	2	8		Savings for month	3	-
						Other expenses during the month	12	3½
		3	13	7½			3	2
June								
1/6/42	Brought forward	3	13	7½	3/6/42	2 prs of camiknickers	15	10
	Salary for May	3	11	-		Elastic		9
						Boots	2	8
						Camera film	1	8½
						3 prs of shoelaces		9
					9/6/42	2 mugs & 2 bakelite mugs	5	4
						Pr of stockings	4	11
						Church	1	-
						Church		6
						Camera film & dev & print	3	3

	Income	7	4	7½
	Expenses	3	19	8½
	In hand	3	4	11
July	Brought forward	3	4	11
	Salary for June	3	14	-

Mary's present	7	11
Miss West's present	3	6
Betty's present	1	2
Savings 3 weeks	3	-
Comb in Case	2	6
Country Dancing for month	1	6
Other expenses for month	1	3
	3	19
		8½
Present for Shirley	5	-
Stamps	2	6
Ice		4
Hair ribbon		11
Church		6
Country Dancing (2)	1	-
Linen frock	1	14
		8

End of monthly Cash Account in 1942 Diary, except, also recorded:

Savings separate from National Savings:

1/1/42 £3-0-0
1/2/42 £1-0-0
10/3/42 £2-0-0
1/4/42 £2-0-0
8/4/42 £7-5-0

Lastly in the 1942 Diary:

On final two flyleaves, two more topics, "Cambridge clothes" and "Reconstruction ideas"

Cambridge clothes:

3 pink vests, 2 prs corcelettes, 3 petticoats, 5 prs of knickers, 10 prs of stockings, 2 day frocks, Navy Gore-ray skirt, 2 or 3 jumpers for G-r skirt, 1 navy cardigan, Check coat and skirt, 2 jumpers and 1 blouse for check skirt, Purple coat, 3 prs of pyjamas, 1 bedjacket, 1 dressing gown, 1 pr of slippers, 1 evening frock, 1 semi evening frock, 2 prs of evening shoes, 3 prs of day shoes,

Reconstruction ideas:

Suggestion that all mothers put their children of 1yr – 5yrs in Day Nursery from 2-5.15 when the mothers could do their shopping and come home and rest unhindered while the children would be taken out and back to Nursery for tea. Nursery to be run by one or two trained nurses and a class of schoolchildren aged 15 to 16. Girls' school lessons: Arithmetic, Geography, History, English, [Latin crossed out], Physiology and Anatomy, Frist Aid Home Nursing & later, Mothercraft, Housecraft, Citizenship, Physical Training, Science (Starting with Nature, then Biology...Chem & Physics), Art.

Detached houses near each other but with about ¼ mile of garden at the back and backing the whole street a large park. Most windows of home at back overlooking these gardens. Gardens to be divided by thin wire, wire-netting or low Somerset walling. Practically no garden in front – in fact none, just a wide pavement and green belt before road. Save postmen.

[Sketch diagram of proposed street design]

End of 1942 Diary

A restart - in June 1944

In a plain lined A5 size notebook (priced 6d), bound with brown paper, the first 8 sheets had been used for learning lessons on human biology / nursery duties. Then the diary starts.

Tues 6 June 1944:

It was Mummy's birthday and I gave her a petticoat I had made from a nightgown, pyrex casserole and several odds and ends such as book token, custard powder etc. When I arrived at work - 9.30 Sister said it sounded by wireless which I hadn't heard this morning as though we had invaded, and everyone was complaining about the planes in the night which hadn't kept me awake. I dashed out to look at the gasworks and there were no Home Guard outside, so assured everyone there had been no invasion. Soon after 10 Matron came and told us it was true. We kept ringing up New King St where there was a wireless to know the latest news throughout the day. Peacock Sister and Beryl came to supper and we played Monopoly. We listened to the King at 9 o'clock. Somehow this new phase of the war seemed very close indeed, much nearer than Dunkirk ever was. [?!?!] Every scrap of news was lapped up. Italy Burma and the far East faded out of the picture. Michael³⁸ was practically sure to be in it.

June 7th, 8th, 9th ----- [blank]

Sat 10 June:

Didn't know what to do with myself in the afternoon when I was off, so just sat in the lounge and read. In the evening we went to a musical comedy called "Gay go up" which was bright but I didn't get much enjoyment from it. Pam told me that she had only just heard from her Airborne who had written a week ago. He was in the invasion, and she was just hoping for the best. Felt very sorry for her.

Sun 11 June:

All Rangers met at Old Bridge to march to St Mark's. It was rather a dull service for a Youth one I thought. The Bishop of Bath & Wells preached but there was not a smile on his face and I didn't come away inspired in the least. After dinner we went to Canteen and Mrs Davis seemed to play nurse as she spent most of the time either making toast for a sick American soldier, or holding the hand of a middle-aged lady who had a pain "under her pinny" and Mrs Davis had great pleasure in giving us a detailed description of the woman's last operation and of the further one she was going to have. Edna (RC) Mrs Davis (NC³⁹) and self had a grand argument re religion. She (Mrs D) said that the Mr Dann was looking round the Church when he was

³⁸ Michael Hill again, I assume.

³⁹ I'm taking RC to be Roman Catholic and NC to be nonconformist - probably Methodist, as entry suggests later.

supposed to be praying. She didn't believe in "rattling" off a Creed which people didn't believe in anyway. You don't believe in "the Resurrection of the Body" she said, and I had great difficulty in convincing her that the Body meant the soul. She also laughed at the way the Rev Dann bowed to the Bishop when he went to the Pulpit. I resembled this to saluting Lady Baden-Powell etc and other times when respect is paid – she still thought it all daft. We went to Oldfield Park Methodist Church in the evening, and the march down from the Bear Flat was very funny. Little boys etc running along side and Rangers chatting to their friends that they passed. At the Church there was a large congregation all assembled outside to watch us. Such a contrast to the morning. Mrs Davis had to get up and tell the congregation about Rangering. The sermon was rather personal, anecdotes told introducing people in the congregation.

Home in Mrs Davis' car.

Mon 12 June:

Rangers was at 7 o'clock so could not get to Business and Profession at Women's club though would have liked to as Miss West was giving a talk on her profession(!) and I would have liked to have put her off (unkind?). Revi Blow[?] came and spoke to us. He was tall thin and rather a milksop but quite nice. He couldn't keep still one second which was rather distracting but perhaps I'm being rather critical. He gave a sermon which would have been ideal for a lot of "roughs" but several Rangers came up afterwards and said "Did he think we were a lot of heathens?" He spoke about "following Christ" etc etc as though we, in spite of our promises, hadn't thought of it before!

Talked about camp the following week and played some games. Organised discussions on homework and most of them thought only 1½ hrs work, 2 subjects and others thought no homework but work set to do on own on Saturday morning at school – quite an idea.

Tues 13 June:

After work went to Jean Carter's to supper. Very nice modern house at the top of Park St Furniture very "ye olde" but simple and very nice indeed I thought. Jean has a very nice bedsittingroom at the back with a view over to Beechen Cliff. She has tons of very learned but interesting books and I had a good nose round before going down to supper. Miss Stone (billetor) said we'd met before but had to admit I couldn't remember. I was at a party of Yvonne Lewis's (must have been about 8 or 9 yrs old, not more) and she was there too. She was interested in my work as connected with Dr Barnardo's. She was kind and quite pleasant – a bit strange but I

liked her. Jean and I played our pipes after the supper of pie, spinach, strawberries and cream, cake and coffee. Home about 10.

Weds 14 June:

Betty met me from work and we went out to Bear shopping and I walked ½ way home with her. Parade of Rangers from St James Memorial Hall to the abbey where the Rev Hamilton spoke. He was the best I've heard during Religion and Life week. I heard him once before at a broadcast service in Argyle Church. Afterwards we all went back to the Hall for supposed discussion and eats and I sat by Beryl and Peacock who were there with lots of other "youth". It was very crushed and we had to keep getting up and down to pray. I was sitting on the stage and every time I rose I went up into a shroud of curtain which did not make me feel the more earnest in my devotions. Still the 2 speakers here were really good and we felt "moved" enough at the end to take home a card saying we would like to know of anything done to follow up "Religion & Life" week.

Thurs 15 June:

After work Beryl and I went down to the Parade gardens to listen to an RAF band. It wasn't very pleasant as it was cold and kept coming on to rain, however did a fair amount of knitting.

Fri 16 June:

Betty's birthday and I took her a book as couldn't think of anything else suitable (4/6 series called "The Londoner") Came home in the evening and spent whole evening packing for camp only to get a phone call at supper time cancelling it all. Fed up to the teeth, though I see Mrs Davis's point as it is rather cold.

Sat/Sun June 17th & 18th:

Marvellous day! Hoped Mrs D would go after all but no such luck. 11 o'clock however, Ruth phone me and asked me to go with her. Rang up Miss Tillard's when I got home and all was OK. Rang up Jean to tell her not to come to Corston tomorrow but to Bathford, and she just said she'd come and camp as well so that was fine. We met 3.15 at Guildhall, bussed ut, pitched, went wooding, had tea of strawberries etc etc. Did some piping and semaphore, went and rung up Mrs D and piped "Good King Wenceslas" to her, back to supper, made a big bed outside and pinned everything in place. Undressed in the tent and dashed into bed. Good night's sleep but it was rather chilly when we woke in the morning so up at 7.30 and we were sitting having cooked breakfast at 8. We washed up, then washed ourselves. Went for a very nice walk right up over the top and back through 'Sally in the woods'. We cooked and had

dinner at 11.30 and an hour later escorted Jean to the bus. When back in camp I intended to knit but it was hot and I had eaten heavily so slept until 3.30 when Mrs and Mrs Couch came to visit us bringing another cake!! After tea we went with them to the bus then back and packed up. We went and saw Miss Tillard who returned today from a month's rest. Home a bath, supper and on firewatching. I was quite sunburnt.

Mon 19 June:

Was just dashing out to go to Rangers at 7 o'clock this evening when met Miss Harper and Mummy in car outside. She seemed to think there would be a job at Denewood for me if I had passed, but said she thought I wanted "babies". Having seen the staff I didn't want to go to Fairfield much now so had to convince her that I'd just as soon have toddlers – "it was just that we hadn't had many babies at the Nursery and I would have liked experience with them." This proved to be the wrong thing to say as Mummy had just told her how short staffed we had been lately and described me with babies all round me wanting attention all at once!! We had Mr Wills for a lecture at Rangers then we went to the Police Station and Detective Inspector Coles gave us an interesting talk. For once Mrs D was reasonably well behaved. Out at 9.25 so home and not to dancing as arranged.

Tues 20 June:

Thought I was very clever in the morning as bought 2 yds of black light waterproof material which I am going to use for a lightweight groundsheet. In the evening I packed camping kit into my rucksac and found I could get everything on my back - tent, sleeping bag, waterproof bucket, tin for food, gilwell etc etc including extra nightwear to make up for no blanket. Must add I shouldn't have been able to walk far though! After supper Onions (Harry) came and I managed to put him off until next Monday at dancing – am thinking of mentioning a few imaginary boy-friends to put him off.

Weds 21 June:

Beryl was back from new King St. Spent the whole evening tapering my hair in lengths something like Mary used to have it, to make a change. Washed it.

Thurs 22 June:

Went to a talk with Mummy at the Pump Room. It was by a Captain who was wounded in the invasion and it was very very interesting. Took present up to Miss West.

Fri 23 June:

When I got home from work I wrote letters and then changed my book at the library. Went on to Country Dancing at 15 Oldfield Road where Mrs Skinner lodges.

Jean Caster didn't turn up and there were only 7 others altogether. Mr Skinner was the one I could really talk to: the others were the 'parting in the middle flat-chested' type or in other words, typical folk dancers. We were given tea afterwards and got home about 10. Why don't sensible people do folk dancing?

Sat 24 June:

The camp for this weekend was cancelled and I went up to Betty's on the way from work. Home and wrote letters etc. Went shopping and down to see Daddy at garden. Read in evening.

Sun 25 June:

Got up and went to early Service. Did a bit of cooking for Mummy while she went to Church. Guiders Patrol at 2.30 and Betty, Jean, Adars[?] and Rita turned up – also Margaret Stock but she couldn't stay. We caught a 3 o'clock bus to Norton St Philip. Had tea at the George where we must have been the life and soul of the room as we held animated conversations on the history of the place and each one of us had a different version – not to mention arguments over the family tree of Charles II and his ancestors! The tea was grand as we had lettuce sandwiches, bread butter and jam and cakes. We went over the 13th century Church and then went for a walk until our bus was due and Jean and I lagged behind, sat down in a ditch and played our recorders till the others came back. Heaven knows what we looked like! Jean also had purchased a new instrument called an ocarina but hadn't found how to play it yet. We were home by 6.30 but we didn't do much in the evening.

Mon 26 June:

Went to Business and Professional Women's Club where I sat next to Mrs Davis and heard Dr Forrester Brown talk on "Posture and the physical environment of children". Thank goodness Mrs Davis was well behaved. The talk was quite interesting. As Mr Wills unexpectedly couldn't come, we had to improvise a meeting at Rangers. I had to take a new girl home as she was on Probation. Felt desperately sorry for her and feel so glad that our girls are all so different – feel that we're definitely doing some good.

Tues 27 June:

Sat down and pegged away at the mackintosh cape in the evening. How I kept my temper I don't know – at least I didn't, I shouted and hit the machine though completely alone!! The cotton kept breaking so I loosened the tension then I found that when I had done a row of machining it looked like crochet-work underneath and had to be done again. The underspool kept running out and it would be a long time

before I noticed it. I caught another part of the cape in the seam on two occasions – altogether it was just one of those evenings ‘sent to try us’ and I didn’t come through with honours! Harry came at supper time but Mummy went down and put him off for me. He apparently wouldn’t dance at all the last half last night but stood opposite the door waiting for me to come – poor chap!

Weds 28 June:

Went to the Forum in the evening with Beryl and saw the “Hound of the Baskervilles” which was very good and “4 Jills in a Jeep” which was so positively awful that we came out in the middle. Felt very depressed as that sort of silly film gets me down. There were crowds in the cinema simply killing themselves over ridiculous antics done by Hollywood stars in a soldiers camp over her - positively impossible things!

Thurs 29 June:

Bought myself a book on judging character by handwriting and contrary to my arranged plans. I studied it all the evening and found it very good and true. Unfortunately I find from my handwriting that I’m lazy in action though not in mind and not very generous, but I’m pleased to see that I have a sense of humour, am clever, inventive, intuitive, and fond of the out-of-doors especially trees! At supper time Miss Harper rung up and offered me the job at Denewood and asked me to give in my notice. Very excited.

Fri 30 June:

Gave in my notice today and everything was OK though I did have to stick to my guns as regards still having my fortnight’s holiday. I won the day however. In the evening Beryl and I went to the Theatre and sat in the Gallery to see Bernard Shaw’s play “Mrs Warren’s profession” which was very good indeed and for the most part well acted. Home and rung up Miss Harper to tell her I could start at Denewood on Aug 1st. She was a little cross as apparently I had disturbed her from the news however all was well. Mrs Davis also rung me up and cancelled the Ranger camp because it had rained all the week but said she would take me to Denewood on Sunday. Very bucked.

Sat 1 July:

Visited Grace (girl on Prob:) and told her camp was cancelled then up to Betty Nelson as Miss West can’t do Canteen tomorrow at Girls hostel and wanted Betty to do it. Betty could. Home and down garden with Daddy who said he wold only be a minute but he was ages and I picked the peas. Got my new ration book. Home.

Sun 2 July:

Went down to meet Mrs Davis at the Guildhall but she was 25" late and it was so wet and there were so many soldiers sheltering by the corridor it was by no means pleasant waiting. Denewood looked a bit depressing in this weather, it smelt strongly of Jeyes and the children were most unfriendly. However I liked the staff – what I saw of the, and took an optimistic view of things. Home to tea and Betty called later and both went to canteen at Walcot. It's a very small kitchen there for the six of us that worked in it and we were none of us what you would call rakes. So what shouldn't have been hard work was tediously long and I was glad to go about 9.30-10. I walked back to the hostel with Betty and she told me that Audrey Poole who used to be cook at the Nursery is under-warden at Onslow and Milestone hostels – she's still as hopeless as ever apparently – poor soul.

Mon 3 July:

Miss Russ came and took the Rangers for a tour round Bath and I thought it was very interesting but many of the Rangers were bored. There were 22 of them there and only 3 (Esme Munro, Mary Woodcock and Winnie Hoey) away. Felt very pleased about this.

Tues 4 July:

Went straight up to Betty's from work and we planned our holiday out on the lawn. Home and I helped Mummy do some blackcurrants then packed my case ready to send off in the morning.

Weds 5 July:

Staggered down to Bond St with my case and managed to sit down with a crash at the bottom of Gay St! In the evening I went to a rehearsal for the Scout Pageant. We have to sing Land of Hope and Glory in 4 parts also "Abide with me". I don't know how many of us were crammed into No C shelter but it was a goodly crown and by the time we'd been singing for over an hour the air was anything but fresh. Terribly bored.

Thurs 6 July:

Went to a Guider's meeting at St Michael's hall and sat next to Margaret and Rita. Spent most of time trying to tell Rita about Denewood in undertones. The meeting wasn't very lively. Talked to Sister Boshier and Joyce Love afterwards. During the day at work we had had an inspector from the N.S.C.N. and she seemed quite nice – we wished we'd had her for our 'practical', but she said our results wouldn't be out for another week.

Fri 7 July:

Went to library in evening and changed my book then went the Reference Library and read the Nursing Mirror. Home and washed my hair.

Sat 8 July:

Set off from work at 2.15 and got Bristol and 3.20. Eileen arrived at 3.50, we had a drink at a nearby shop then set off. At Brockley we bought 1lb! of cherries and 1lb of tomatoes and consumed the lot. Arrived in Weston at 7. We had had a heavy wind against us from Rowberrow onwards. After supper I rang up Mummy to say we'd arrived safely then went to a Dance at the Winter Gardens. Fair amount of partners but danced mostly with a man in his late 30s who was very nice but rather a queer manner (why do I always get them?) Home soon after 11.30.

Sun 9 July:

Poured with rain so we didn't go to Church but read magazines. Went for a walk in the afternoon as it cleared up and listened to the band in Grove Park. Wrote letters and played the pianola in the evening.

Mon 10 July:

Went shopping in the morning and we both decided to buy materials to make some sandals the pattern for which was in a magazine. We started them in the afternoon and went to the Winter Gardens in the evening where Uncle Cecil had given us a pass for the week. Fair amount of partners – nothing special. Home soon after 12.

Tues 11 July:

Wrote letters and made my sandals in the morning. Bought a descant recorder in afternoon for 10/6 so very pleased. Visited Auntie Jack and Auntie Doss and was given 3 eggs. Went round to Auntie [???] but she wasn't in, however, I got the address of a farm at Brent Knoll from Mr Greenland as Betty had written to say that the Biddisham hostel couldn't take us on the 24th but the other hostels are OK. Rung up the farm when I got in and everything was alright so wrote straight off to Betty to tell her. Went to Knightstone in the evening – it was a great rush as supper didn't come until 8 and we had to be there at 8.20. We did it, however but the meal kept telling me throughout the evening that it didn't approve of the treatment it was given! Suzanne came as well, but I noticed she was quiet and when we came out her face seemed puffed and highly coloured. Home about 10.30.

Weds 12 July:

Went shopping and had photo taken [and] in the afternoon to the Pictures to see "Buffalo Bill" and "Henry's little secret". The films were both quite good and the latter was rather funny. Late home for tea but it was alright. Twas fairly fine so we went to watch bathers in the pool. I didn't feel too well and whilst reading

everything suddenly went dizzy, however, I was OK in a second but had a bit of a headache. I asked Eileen if she would go to the dance alone in the evening but she didn't want to so I asked if she would mind if I came and sat and read. That was OK so I did this. I smoked and read and would have enjoyed myself but many people seemed (quite naturally) amused to see me - apparently - spending 5/- to come in and read!! Although buried in a book an RAF officer came and asked me to dance. I didn't accept as had all Eileen's things with me and explained I wasn't feeling all that good so wasn't dancing tonight. On way home about 12 o'clock Eileen wouldn't hurry and walked closely by shelters and seats obviously trying to pick up Americans. I'm amazed how she has altered. She succeeded in picking up 2 Americans at the top of one road and we chatted to them all the way home. They asked us to go for a walk with them but I knew Miss Watts was waiting up for us with a drink and wouldn't have contemplated the idea anyhow: so I said I was going on in and she could come when she wanted to. (I had the key of the door; I shall never leave it with "the other person" after the Polish affair.) She had to be fetched in in about 15' time by Miss Watts.

Thurs 13 July:

Letter from Mummy to say she would meet us at Kewstoke at 12 o'clock if fine as she had a car pool job there. It rained like nothing on earth so sat in and did odd jobs. She rung up at dinner time to say that she couldn't stay the afternoon and see me. We went to the pictures to see "Uninvited" a very good spooky film and "Around the World" which was positive trash! To tea with Auntie Vera and a friend of hers at the Centre Café. Went for a long walk. Supper. Went down to Go on the pier but it was just closing. Eileen was all for just hanging about but we'd already been picked up by numerous undesirable males so I suggested heading for home which we did. We listened to Miss Watt's history of the period when she was in hospital, for nearly 2 solid hours then went to bed.

Fri 14 July:

Went shopping and bought Rita a pipe as she had sent a hurried epistle and 10/- asking me to get one/ I got it in a different shop and one identical to mine only cost 8/4 was I annoyed! Called on Auntie Jack who gave some small presents including some elastic for Mummy. Visited Auntie Bunny. To coffee with Auntie Vera and heard Suzanne had measles. Went to a Palmist called Professor Burgess and he was quite good. He told me I was born in Bristol and my lucky towns were Bath Torquay and Sydney in Australia. He said I'd recently had a rise in salary, and I would have rise in position next year (thought I'd definitely failed my exam) and a complete

change in job the year after. Said I was going abroad. Said my father was fat and I should become so too unless careful with diet. Told me I was run down and in need of a holiday and needed iron and calcium. Said I should have had 3 affairs and there was a goy wanting to marry me now but he wasn't good enough for me (thought of Harry). Said I should be married at 25 to a mid-dark man taller than me engaged in some business or other. I should live a long life and even be a widow with 2 girls and a boy. Asked me if I was in an office or munitions and when I said neither he said I ought to be a nurse. I told him what I was and he said he couldn't understand how I liked it as I obviously hadn't much patience which I admitted was true. He said I ought to take lessons in bookkeeping and aim at a job as a receptionist or he said he thought anything to doing with books would be good! Lastly he told me to take up elocution to improve my self-confidence. At dinner time Beryl rung me up to say I'd passed my exam and I was very relieved. She has passed too.

Went by cycle in the afternoon to visit a friend of Eileen's. After tea we went and waited to see Madam Roma another palmist. We unexpectedly had to wait 1½ hrs! She wasn't very good really. Said I'd be married before I was 20, so told her I was 22 and she said I could have been married at 18. She said I'd have another proposal at 24. I was very popular with the boys and I mustn't flirt too much!!!!!! She also said I was run down, and had been working too hard! Said I should meet a man whose initial would be W or L and one with a different accent (how amazing!) I was probably going to a dance tonight where I should have a kiss and a cuddle and meet either W or L. As regards a job she said I should do something in connection with sewing etc or nursing and when I told her what it was she said I was suited to the job but would get married before the end of my training (didn't tell her I'd already finished it). Supper then to dance. Mixture of partners then met a nice RAF boy who I sat with and danced for over an hour while Eileen did jitterbug with American and sailor alternately. It grew very hot so when my RAF went at 20 to 12 I got our things and went and sat on the balcony while Eileen in the last dance (an excuse me) collared the sailor. Suddenly an American came and asked me to dance so I daringly left my things and we went round the floor once then it was God Save the King. The American came to take me home and Eileen was coming too but when she got to the hall someone picked her up (I thought it was the sailor) and she told me to go on and she'd catch us up. We went home and he's quite the best American I've met up to now and he said I was the first intelligent girl he'd met! He was a journalist and his father and two brothers were doctors. He came from Boston and had been over here only a few months. He asked me to send him some of my verse so wrote his name and address on an envelope with aid of matchlight. We smoked and waited 20" for Eileen

but she didn't turn up. He started running his lips over my brow etc and I didn't like it so told him to stop 'that sort of stuff. We English girls didn't like that sort of thing' (though wondered for how many I was speaking!). Said goodbye later and went indoors. His name was Bill Frothingham so the Palmist was right about the W! I waited with Miss Watts for a long time and then went to bed. I was nearly asleep and it was 5 & 20 to 1 when Eileen came in and she'd been with the American. She said she was sure she could keep all men in their place if she wanted to so there was no harm in it. Assured her she couldn't and though didn't say so, I wish she'd been to Sex Lectures.

Sat 15 July:

We aimed to start home at 9-9.30 but Eileen was so long we didn't get off until 10. We went like mad. Stopped at Brockley and bought some tomatoes then on and I didn't stop in Bristol. Arrived at the Nursery at 20 to 1 and read the general report on the exam then home.

Went down the garden in the afternoon and helped pick in blackcurrants. After tea I wrote up diary and to sleep early as rather tired. The camp which the Rangers were going on this weekend was cancelled and although Rita and Jean and I were going along we decided at the last minute it wasn't fine enough.

Sun 16 July:

Got up late and washed my hair and wrote letters. Wrote more letters in the afternoon, then Rita came to tea. We laughed a lot when we tried to play our pipes together. Walked to the Old Bridge with Rita and posted my letters.

Mon 17 July:

Rene and Peacock away from work so hard going, and it was very hot – 15 babies. Went to meet Kathleen Newman and Barbara Steward at 7 as they were coming to Rangers but they didn't turn up so on to Rangers where there were 17 which included two new girls from Denewood Grange (one was a girl from Walcot Rangers and there had been a row about this). We had PT and about ½ or more of the company did PT including myself. I think I did very well. I was surprised to find I could do handstands, handstands over someone on all-fours (with help) and somersaults backwards over people's arms, vaulting over people on floor etc and the exercises weren't very strenuous. We had discussion and talked then home. We hope to camp at Denewood on July 29th!

Tues 18 July:

In answer to an advertisement I went up to Devonshire Bdgs and managed to buy 10 headsquares and 11 aprons for 30/- which was very good indeed. Several more answers to my advertisement came in.

Weds 19 July:

More aprons and puffs came. I answered a letter from Alfred St and bought 3 more headsquares. Home and marked a large amount of stuff.

Thurs 20 July:

To Betty's to tea and we made last minute plans for our holiday. Home about 6.30 and another woman called with some aprons. Didn't like them so only bought 3 rather delapidated [sic] belts from her as they were my size. Make a cake for the Nursery.

Fri 21 July:

Last day at the Nursery. We heard over the wireless at 7 this morning – sensational news, there is a revolt in Germany, Hitler has been nearly killed. At teatime I was told to go and have tea, and while I was eating it and had a large mouthful of bread and butter Matron and the whole Staff walked in (Rose looked after the children) and Matron made a very formal speech to which I tried to make suitable reply but only managed to spit crumbs, so sat down again and tried to swallow my mouthful. They had given me "The New Testament in modern speech" bound in Morocco, A Prayer book in leather, "The English People" (10/6 book) and a 10/- record token. (Couldn't decide what they thought I was – a religious maniac or confirmed sinner – but was very pleased anyhow.) On the way home, ordered some flowers for Matron and bought cigarettes for Sister and Book token for Peacock for Beryl and I to give. Packed for the holiday had supper and just before going to bed remembered I should have gone to a Rangers in Council meeting and was very cross with myself for forgetting. (Early in the evening I changed the prayer book for "In the Steps of the Master" and "Youth Club Epilogues" at the SPCK.)

Sat 22 July:

Had a row at Hillman's re the Guide & Guider so going to order from HQ in future. Betty was late for the bus through no fault of her own so caught another bus an hour later to Stratton. Walked some miles and had our sandwiches in a Roman camp. On to Gurney Slade for a drink then walked over Maesbury Camp and on by road and footpath to Croscombe. Had tea and to the Hostel which was a pleasant old house. Went for a wak and round the Church before supper. Afterwards there was country dancing downstairs but Betty and I went on to bed. We had walked 10½ miles. There were 10 in our small room the window was only about 24x12 so it became very stuffy. Just opposite to me was none other than Mrs Robinson, the pop-eyed talkative

economics "student" and she and some others broke all rules by talking loudly for long into the night.

Sun 23 July:

Were surprised this morning to find that the Warden of the hostel was a clergyman and he hadn't seemed at all like on the night before – in shorts, open shirt etc. His wife was very nice and he had an amusing little boy of 5. We set off at about 9.30 or so to walk into Shepton Mallett where Betty had a service at 10.30. We took some time to find Betty's church, then I went for a walk round the town until being fed up with American's [sic] remarks of "don't break your back" and "fancy carrying packs for fun" I went to the Parish Church where the clergy were quite young and the Service was very nice. Betty met me out and we set off. We soon stopped for dinner – our sandwiches were made of homemade cream cheese, haggis [sic] and lettuce which were very nice. We stalked birds – at least I did, and then walked on getting a drink at Pilton. We meant to get tea in West Pennard but finding it rather early we walked the next 2 or 3 miles to Baltonborough and there couldn't get a thing, so literally staggered on to Butleigh but there we could only find a tap, so made do with water and a little chocolate. When we got to Ivythorne Hill we went some way out of our way finding the Hostel, but finally found in on the top of a hill with marvellous views. It was shaped like a chalet and the lady warden seemed very nice. As a contrast to the previous hostel there was only one other girl in our dormitory and we had windows on two walls and two doors opening out on to a balcony on a 3rd wall so fresh air wasn't in it. The only snag here was the lack of water. The lavatory which was so small that you practically had to sit down before could shut the door was not to be flushed unless really necessary. There were 5 men (2 from Wigan who were very nice) and one other girl staying the night so we were a small party but very happy. Having done 16½ miles today with a 10½lb rucsac we were very tired so to bed early again.

Mon 24 July:

Breakfast at 8 and after duties we walked via Street to Glastonbury left our rucsacs at the station, bought our tickets then went round St Benedict's church, Glastonbury Abbey ruins and St John the Baptist church – all very interesting. The dinner in the Abbey Gate café was very good. Caught our train which was late to Burnham and were disappointed to find the tide out so couldn't bathe. Had a very good tea then basked in rather hot sun on the beach. Later we walked to the farm at Brent Knoll stopping for a drink in the village. For supper we had soup, fried egg etc, custard and real cream after which I felt very sick unfortunately and had a sleepless night on a double divan with Betty (she slept OK). 8 miles today.

Tues 25 July:

Set off early and walked to Winscombe where we found we couldn't get dinner and were very upset; we managed to buy ½lb brawn, ½lb tomatoes, 1lb apples, lettuce, 2 Hovis, 4 cakes and a drink which had to last us until tomorrow tea time! We had dinner very near the old school then started our walk across the Mendips, having gone wrong several times our path came to a "No road" sign followed by "Don't pass here if red flag flying" and it was. We luckily saw some men who told us it would be alright, so on and next we sank inches into thick boggy clay and taking 10 minutes to cross this we then had to cross a pond by stepping-stones, praying that every plane which came by was not going to practise shooting! When we passed the next flag we sat down and had tea and then it began to rain and we had to put on our marvellous capes. I think we were feeling //[[break straight into next book]]// rather strung up for when we saw each other in our capes we both laughed till we nearly cried. We struggled on however, and I felt a small blister coming under my left big toe probably owing to my shoes becoming wet. When we got to Burrington we found the hostel was 2 miles away right up a hill. I could almost have sat down and cried but we went doggedly on and eventually arrived and certainly the hostel was in a wonderful position with good views. I had a top bunk and lay down the wrong end of it so that I went to sleep looking out over Blagdon lake and hills beyond. We had salad for supper and then went to bed, again rather early as we had walked 18 miles today.

Weds 26 July:

Didn't leave the hostel until 10.15 as got up late and had to get our own breakfast – I had fried dried egg and Betty had Welsh rarebit. First of all we walked ½ mile up the hill and then found we couldn't get any further – wired off for targets so despondently we walked back and went a much longer way round by road through Charterhouse and down through a place called Velvet Bottom where it was very nice except we passed through a place marked "Danger – this rifle range not to be used" and later came upon a notice "Unexploded 68 grenade" however it didn't go off when we passed and when we were nearly to Cheddar gorge we had dinner. We walked down the gorge and we suitably impressed by visits to both caves. We had tea at a tea-garden, then went down to visit the church to wile away the time before the train went. I cleaned my shoes in the waiting room, then we caught the 6.7 train to Wells and attempted to see the Cathedral but it was closed. We had good walk round and some cider which was rather rough and made us feel we were walking in a dream afterwards! We waited in a queue for the bus and got a seat back to Bath. Betty had strained her back rather, but if felt a bit better this evening. When I got home Auntie Vi and Auntie Iris were there and they looked just the same as ever and very cheery. They listened very patiently to the story of our long hike.

Thurs 27 July:

Went early to have my hair permed. I don't like having this done nowadays as the hairdressers are so rushed they are rather irritable. You are moved from waiting room to 'perm' room, to waiting room, to washing room to drying room. You don't get clean towels and they hurry through everything. At the end you are charged 3gns and you wonder what you pay for! We all went to the 'Sedan Chair' for dinner and it was very nice. Auntie Iris and Auntie Vi payed [sic] for us and gave me 10/- as a present so was very bucked. I showed the Aunts my things in the afternoon then Mrs Selman came to tea. They all talked about their old acquaintances and then when Daddy had gone to the Club they all talked about the 'change of life' and how it had affected them. I knew Mummy would be shocked and I notice she didn't say much. I was rather amused especially when Auntie Iris said "Peg will be learning something" Oh yeah, I thought! Auntie Vi and I saw Mrs Selman off back to Bristol and the latter said I must go over and see Pam some time so promised I would, though I bet I'll put it off for a time. Rita, Mrs Davis, Jean and Beryl rung up during the day. Beryl said she was going on a Child Care Reserve Course (Supplementary Wardens!) on Aug:14th and wanted me to go with her. I told Mummy and she was very keen so I've got to rush round tomorrow doing millions of things and feel very nervous about it.

Fri 28 July:

Went down to the Education Office and couldn't get in touch with Miss Tann there so rung her up and the next thing I had to do was to get a form of entrance so dashed over to Bristol and up to Cecil Rd, got a form after having an interview with a person in the Nursery School Dept. Back to Bath and to Nursery to get further particulars. Rung up and made appointment with the Matron and then went out in the afternoon. She was very nice about it all and said I could go on the course so home and sent form off and wrote letter. Odd jobs in evening and Beryl and Peacock called.

Sat 29 July:

Packed up very hurriedly for camp then went out with my aunts. After coffee in Fortts and a little shopping we went up in the Botanical Gardens until dinner time. Said good bye after dinner to Auntie Vi and Auntie Iris and met the rest of the Rangers down at Argyle. We had an awful job balancing all the things on the trek cart and had to carry several rucsacs and hang buckets on the side! Rita Mrs Davis and I walked behind while the rest pulled the cart. We were loaded up and they were miles ahead of us, but we caught up when they stopped, as they had to, every now and then to pick up this and that which had fallen off. We had no sooner arrived and started to put the tent up than it began to rain and this storm was followed by a

violent thunderstorm. The waters just poured through my tent and Mrs D's leaked. Mrs D said we had better go home and after the storm consulted the girls; they, however, wouldn't hear of it as were beautifully dry.

[end of pencilled entries – restart on new page in ink, with new heading(s)]

Nursery Denewood

Friday (4th)

Flo lost for about 20' from chicken run. In house.

Saturday 5th

Michael tried to throw himself over wall. Put to bed. Children brought earth in house and upstairs. Billie on main road. Barbara on main road. Several children in greenhouse eating tomatoes. Several ate berries and leaves. Bobbie drank some ink and got it all over him. I had inky hand when visitor came so hit it behind a flannel when hand offered. Billy had lipstick all over everything. Tony fell off bicycle and cut his lip open. Boys put cotton reel down bath plug hole. Flood in boys' bathroom. Bobby put bucket and all cleaning materials in bath ready for June.

Sunday (6th)

Boy found stuffing stones up Jojo's behind. Locke found 8 shillings missing from pocket – children were seen with some money yesterday. Put girls to bed. Maureen screamed for ages because she couldn't have 2 sweets. Tucked Rose in 100s of time. They broke a mug. Water all over floor. Flo refused to be tucked in and screamed.

Monday (7th)

Benjie and Billy got up in Sister's room and spread a 5/- pot cold cream all over dressing table, used some chilblain ointment and Benjie plastered Iodex all over face and in ears. Children screamed and had an awful time at night with them.

Tuesday (8th)

Children 'rested' on blankets in rose garden. Merelay to hold two each down and the rest ran wild and down in the trees. Fed up. Sent letter for release and saw Sister. Awful time with boys after cocoa.

[no more entries in this book; then a restart in a hardbound exercise book]

1944

Sept.29th

As Mary has asked me again to keep my diary once more I have condescended to do so until I get fed up with it. My laryngitis turned into nasal catarrh overnight so felt pretty dummy all day but am still enjoying being back at Park Lane. When I got home

at about 5.30 there was a letter from Mary so sat down and answered it with 12 'sides' although I owed several other letters. At 7.20 went off to Rangers in Council. There weren't very many Rangers there – about 12 or so I should think and as all of them knew about it either by PC or at the meeting I felt this rather poor. We got through a lot of work, however, and among the plans were Oct 15th Quarterly Ranger Church Parade at Walcot, PT display for own funds Dec:4th, Indoor Weekend camp with Midsomer Norton Rangers, H.E.S., Country Dancing etc etc. Pam Waters (aged 22-3) has asked to come back to Rangers. Mrs Davis put it to the Company. There was no reply, so I got up and disapproved. I said I didn't want to be mean, but if you gave in for one, you'd have to for others and the Company would grow older which was not the policy of the Movement. The Rangers agreed. Rita said she felt awkward about being Lieutenant when Pam wanted to be but although I liked Pam I said to Rita I didn't feel sorry for her as there was plenty of Guider work which she had refused, and she had never attended Rangers or teas [?] regularly enough for her to have been very keen on it. Home for supper and bed.

Sat 30 September:

Cold looser today. In the afternoon I changed and wandered round the shops which was fun. I bought some dyes and some starch substitute then went back and did some washing and tried to dye my green jumper nigger but not successfully I'm afraid. Tea, then it took me a good time to get my hands unstained again and ready for the Theatre. It was the "Brontës" and it was very sad really but an enjoyable play. Molly Love changed seats with Mummy – she tells me she is still in Bristol and for another 1½ yrs but she seems to like it. Just as we were coming out we saw Joyce Love and Boshier. I smiled and asked how they were and Joyce smiled and was quite polite but even when I made conversation about the play Boshier seemed very 'cold' and I felt rather hurt. Either this incident or the play stupidly made me feel rather depressed when we got in, still, after supper and washing up I went to bed to read.

Sun 1 October:

Mummy brought me up breakfast in bed which was lovely. Read then got up about 9.45, did some tidying up in my room, some ironing, some washing up and laid the dinner. Helped do the beans then went up and wrote out Christmas present list. After dinner and washing up, got ready for GP [Guide(r) ???] but did not get into uniform. Betty came and as only Rita was coming as well, we took some bones up to Auntie M for her cat and brought my records and umbrella down, then we set off and walked up and called for Rita as arranged. Mrs Smith wasn't well. We all three walked to Englishcombe via E. Lane and back by Haycombe and down by West Central

School catching a bus back to town at Ascension church. For some reason or other we felt 'all in' when we got back. We had just begun tea when Ada came. She hasn't been well and we didn't expect her. She had a very nice new coat and skirt. After tea we had several records on – not Arthur Askey – and then held a continuous conversation on very varying topics from Rita's Company and the generation of present day schoolchildren in general to the fact that most men invalided out of the navy are done so because of nocturnal enuresis – I simply couldn't understand this at all! It has been decided by Betty and I alone when the others had gone that GPs should in future be a ramble, tea, and a discuss-while-you-knit all the evening – the organiser to set the ball rolling on an interesting debatable subject, also for individual character training a resolution for the month to be carried out by each member e.g. give up swearing or silent grace at each meal etc etc also suggested by the organiser. Betty is running the next one on October 29th.

Mon 2 October:

Had a lovely nightmare about finding a 5th Column plot whereby V2s could be attracted to Bath and the whole town would blow up, and tried to find a policeman to tell about it as it was the 11th hr, and could only find a 'special' who thought I was playing a joke, and wouldn't do anything! On 7.30, I was alone in the baby room with 12 tweenies and 3 babies until 9.30 and had to make feeds for the day for 3 babies on different feeds, prepare and give breakfast to 3 children and give hot milk and C.L.O. [cod liver oil?] to all of them. As Sister was away naturally everything Nurse and I did was wrong by Matron but on the whole it was an enjoyable day. Daddy was in bed with a cold but was only a codger. Went to B & P [Business & Professional, probably] Club at 6.15 and after notices there was a debate on: "Is it possible for a married woman to have a full-time career?" Mrs Hall spoke for this going into great economic details of the more money earned, the more purchasing power there was which meant more production and consequently more labour [therefore] married women could not be taking jobs away from single girls etc etc but I did agree with the person who spoke against it and even decided against before I heard either speeches or any opinions. The 'against' won. At Rangers we had about 20 and about 30 did PT and I did H.E.S. with 7 of them. Pat & Joan have joined us and turned down Seas [???⁴⁰] Pam Waters turned up tonight, she's very nice but I still don't feel she ought to be here. Home and to bed. It's nice to have fairly bright lights in the streets again.

Tues 3 October:

⁴⁰ As the diaries proceed, it becomes clear that "Seas" always refers to Sea Cadets, which had a unit in Bath, it appears.

On at 9.30 and Matron was here all day today. The new baby is being treated like a morasmic [?] with all the fuss and both she makes about its feeds and bath, whereas it is perfectly normal! In the evening I was alone from 4.30 onwards and it was a game rocking Delia with the foot while starting to feed Barry at 5.30 and keeping a watch on the other children as well. I could have done with 6 hands but to my surprise nothing I did seemed to be radically wrong, contrary to Nurse and Pat's experience last night. Left just before 6.30, dashed home to tidy up and met Rita at the Theatre, we went in the Amphi for Gallery price and Rita asked whether I'd mind if I met anyone I knew! (Must have created a wrong impression somewhere, I think.) Mrs Smith joined us in the 2nd scene. The play "This was a woman" with Rosalind Fuller was excellent. It was the story of a woman who not really having enough to do and feeling rather insignificant found she was powerful and decided to use her power in evil ways and so in a very crafty way she separated a marriage, and killer husband. Needless to relate everything comes alright in the end. Home to find Daddy in bed and Mummy on a C.P. job but she came in at 10 and we went to bed.

Weds 4 October:

Matron at Grosvenor nearly all day. Getting a bit fed up of the girl's Yank expressions – addressing you as 'hon' or 'sweetie pie' and at every 2nd breath saying 'you kidding?' or "serious, hon?" or "what's the story, morning glory?" Perhaps I won't be so sorry to leave Park Lane after all! Food is very good at present: real butter for tea and salad most days. Today we had cheese pudding, currant malt loaf, butter, milk (enough to drink a cupful) bath buns bought by Pat and chocolate roll bought by Rene also pears brought by Rene. I felt very full when I left at 4.30. Went shopping. Home, then Daddy and I went to the Autumn Show at the Pavilion, there were very big onions and beans 17 inches long (inch bigger than Daddy's) also very big parsnips. Tried to guess the weight of the some honey, then bought a recipe book for Mummy. Home and started making some Christmas presents. Supper and bed.

Thurs 5 October:

Did some odd work before going to the Nursery at 9.30. Matron must give the children dough and sand to play with while we're trying to bath and feed the babies! In the evening I was on alone after 5.30 and everything was fine till David was found dirty in his pram. I took him out, washed him up, sponged over his shoes, put on Nursery pants and hurriedly put him back in his pram as it was Barry's feed time. Was in the middle of feeing Barry when David was fetched and was found 'up to his neck' again! Matron was furious and very cross with the child and the mother. The child then upset the bowl of water on the floor which made things worse. Matron then found the he hadn't been dirty again it was simply the remains of the last

accident in the bottom of his pram, under the pram cover, and had played with it, so, in front of the mother I 'had it' thick and heavy for not cleaning up properly!

Dashed home at 6.30 and met Rita at St Michael's church at 7.15 in uniform and we went to the ATC canteen. When we arrived we found all the preparation was done so we had to sit and apart from serving about 4 odd chaps, there were no customers until 5 past 9 – I was very glad I had taken my knitting. Rita and I were not impressed with the canteen. The tea was made in an urn at 20 to 8 and not used till 9 o'clock for the most part, and the tea bag was put in before the water boiled. We only used about 1/16 of the urn and had to throw the remainder away. The tea cloths were filthy and so were the cloths for washing up and floor. The sandwiches for the boys were horrid. We bought some and the bread was dry and stale and the fillings either jam or mixture of jam and marmalade (horrid) or meat which tasted like cats. We were treated like 16 yr olds and they kept asking us how we like our training etc and we tried to make it clear that we were Officers but without success! We should have felt impressed when an inspector from the Air Ministry was taken round and introduced to us and he took our names down, but I'm afraid it was lost on us, were just amused. Rita wouldn't till the end and it was nearly 10 o'clock when we left, me with a quart of milk (bought) for Ma. I walked a little way down town with Rita then home for a little more supper and bed. My hands are very rough tonight.

Fri 6 October:

Peacock's birthday and we gave her a novel, a book token and some hymn music for the recorder as a joke. Matron told me off because I had only given cornflakes to the babies for breakfast and apparently did the wrong thing by saying that 'that was what they'd always had – cornflakes or M.o.F etc' as Nurse and sister have been told to give them egg etc etc (which I was quite ready to admit was better) and had never done so! Anyhow Nurse tried to make out that there was no time to cook egg etc which was stupid because it was quicker to scramble egg than make MoF but this led to Matron demanding the duty list and saying she would make it out in future! I was on alone until 9.30 this morning and in a typical hospital manner Matron gave me no praise or recognition of managing alone all this time in the baby room – merely criticises the breakfast. Fed up! She should make out a diet sheet if she wants one. If we used bacon or egg for breakfast off our own back it would be wrong, oh..... Left at 4.30. Had to get down to the grocers for Mummy, then did some Christmas card work until about 6.15 when Mrs Pointon came back from Soroptimists escorted by Auntie Marnie and I was supposed to entertain her till Mummy came home. She was talking to Auntie Marnie and in course of conversation said what good work the Youth clubs were doing and how e wanted more!! I couldn't resist a smirk at Auntie M

who said "They are doing excellent work, but it is very difficult to find the right person to run them these days" – I wondered what she was getting at. Mrs Pointon and I talked and talked when Auntie left about religion, youth clubs, social services, nurseries, and her children, nursing etc etc. Mummy came in and Miss Gold then at about 9.30 Mummy met Miss Walton off the train from Torquay and Daddy came in so we had supper and later tea. We went to bed (I in the front sitting room at the top of the house as another person from Torquay is due in at Bath at 11.30 and she's sleeping in my bedroom.) Mrs Pointon is sleeping with Mrs Walton. Mrs P is from Plymouth and is rather nice. She has asked me down to stay with her when ever I like. She has a married daughter abroad, son of 20 just got his Medical degree and another daughter on a science course having just got school cert:

Sat 7 October:

Heard to day that I was going to be in the Toddler room at Grosvenor on Monday and that a very sweet girl who came to help a year ago at the nursery is now Probationer and in that room so felt that I was looking forward to it. (I'm always disappointed when I look forward to things though.) Matron was very nice today and took me into her confidence saying how she very much wanted a trained person at Grosvenor now, who would help this girl etc. I was surprised at this change of treatment but naturally very pleased. Home at 2.15 and out shopping. Came in and made Christmas cards until 8.30. Mummy had some of her visitors in at 5 then they all went to the Theatre and home at 9.20. Daddy and I had a row over the fire. I had honestly purposely let it get low because of wasting fuel (I was in the kitchen) and there were only 2 or 3 lumps of coal which I thought it best to keep till about 9 o'clock, and of course Daddy wouldn't believe this tale and kept saying I'd let it out. After I'd got really cross and we'd changed the subject we co-operated very well in seeing that everything was set for supper. Miss Stone from Exeter has taken the place of the two from Torquay and Mrs Pointon is still here. Miss Stone works in a clinic I think. She's quite nice – in fact there's nothing you could dislike about her, but so full of flattering remarks! To bed about 11-11.30 and set my hair with some foul smelling wave set I found in the bathroom cupboard.

Sun 8 October:

Got up and had breakfast in dressing gown then took about an hour to dress in Ranger uniform, said farewell to Mrs Pointon and Miss Stone then off and met Mrs Davis at the Abbey. Miss Macnab soon joined us and off we went to St Philips for the dedication of colours ceremony. I was very wicked indeed: we were sat in the front pew but one next to Mrs D and Mrs D was in a naughty mood. The curate – a proper Uriah Heep – annoyed us terribly and explained everything to the congregation as if it was 3 yrs old which made things very humorous. The sermon was

directed directly at Rita & the Company, I laughed so much at one thing or another that I expected at any moment to be asked by the curate to leave the church. I shall certainly never let myself be seen by St Philips congregation again – they must be shocked! On the way down town I tried to get in a 'dig' at Miss Macnab for Rita and Mrs Davis helped by explaining what difficulties there were but Miss Macnab just showed surprise, and she won't do anything I don't expect. Anything I said after my behaviour of which she must have been aware, wouldn't cut much ice! Canteen at the Pump Room at 2.10 – just after 5.30. Grace kept having long talks with Yanks instead of doing the work which was rather difficult – she's the one I had to take home the first few weeks from Rangers, so I was naturally a bit worried, especially as I believe she met them again when she left and they certainly weren't a desirable lot. Rita asked me if I cared to go to Church again in the evening and I said I'd like to, so after we'd taken then surplus sandwiches to the hostel we went home and on to the Abbey. Outside we met a young boy in Rita's office called Allen who came in with us. There weren't a great many there, but it was a very good service and enjoyed it immensely. Allen was walking most of the way home with Rita so went straight home. Mr Bunt called and talked for about an hour then went, and we had supper and went to bed.

Mon 9 October:

Started work at Grosvenor and the children (17 toddlers) were quite good and nice children. I was soon told by Mrs Smith that I had to see that Betty did her work properly – she was lazy and lost no time at leaving when the clock struck the hour when she was 'off'. As regards laziness, I saw no signs of it today, and as for leaving punctually I couldn't blame her. She was inclined to be doing ironing at the wrong time etc but knowing this sort of fault was a failing of mine I had a soft spot for her! Mrs Clarke, Mrs Bevan (voluntary) and myself took them up to Alice Park in the afternoon – I was responsible for 6 but they were really very good. The evening reminded me of Harington once more, for as several staff were off I had to keep going up and down stairs doing odd jobs, shutting up, sweeping and mopping 3 rooms and a landing, hanging out clothes to dry until 20 to 7 when I raced home, changed and went to Rangers. I hoped Rita would be able to go to an Abbey Youth Weekend next week end with me but I stupidly forgot her Guides and riding and it was of course impossible for her to go. Knowing how I disliked the 'breakfasts', and the thought of Michael John puts me off going on my own and of course it's Ranger Church Parade Sunday evening! We had HES while the others did PT. There were 20 all together. At 20 to 9 we had singing and I helped turn the pages for "Jesu Joy of

Man's Desiring" for Elizabeth Bryant but kept dropping the music or turning over at the wrong second which made her rather annoyed, but although she tries very hard, she's not a patch on Barbara. Chatted a bit afterwards and heard that Jean has gone into hospital under observation so rather upset. Went home to find that I'd forgotten to post the letters from Mummy in my effort to be punctual for Rangers AND remember the skirt, tie and woggle for Grace, so again upset. To bed feeling rather down.

Tues 10 October:

Quite an uneventful day really with a walk to the Park in the afternoon. In the evening two minutes before I was due off, one of the younger toddlers decided to do a packet in his trousers which was of the messier sort and kept me 15" late. I accidentally on purpose forgot the instructions in the 'early chapters' and called him everything under the sun but used great self-control by not expressing my feelings by smacking his behind! No sooner home than Beryl called to exchange keys and we talked for a while. When she had gone I wrote six letters, by which time it was supper and after the meal we had a smoke and to bed. In odd moments at work I have been kitting some socks for Roger (Nurse Evans' little boy in the Nursery).

Weds 11 October:

On at 8 and went by bus today. I was glad I did as it turned out to be a very wet day with a heavy gale. Was about 15' late leaving in the evening having had an uneventful day. The children were in all day owing to the weather and Matron came for the morning. Mrs Bishop and indeed all of them make me laugh, as they 'lead Matron on' at dinner time and kick each other under the table. I finished doing and putting up the children's motifs in the cloakroom today, and took some torn pages home to make fresh books for them. When I got in in the evening I changed and decided to spend a leisurely evening doing the coat of my suit I'm making. Half way through the evening I stopped to do the blackout, wash up the tea-things and smoke a cigarette. Things went fairly well and I got the main seams etc machined and the collar tacked on – pressing as I went – in the approved manner! Thoroughly enjoyed myself although all alone and was sorry when I had to stop and lay the supper. After supper we cleared away and I teased Daddy in bed, he having gone on to bed about 10 minutes before Mummy and I. To bed myself about 10.45.

Thurs 12 October:

Managed to do a lot towards the children's motifs today at one time or another. Life seems very placid and good fun at this Nursery, also the rooms make it more home-like. At the moment I like it here better than Park Lane. In the evening I wrote out a duty list for Betty leaving out one or two of the duties I think unnecessary that we

did at Park Lane and putting in "mending" which I think far more essential and it always gets left, and putting in the washing of overalls as a duty and not an extra. I said tables should be scrubbed and chairs just washed for the longer the varnish stays on the better. Mrs Smith agreed to all this. Betty thought it was alright and we agreed to give it a week's trial. Home by 6.50 and I did my catering work finishing it by about 8.25 and had a smoke. The water is being turned off in Bath tonight from 8-6.30 am and this will continue every night until further notice owing to the shortage of water. It makes little difference to us owing to our storage tank. Went to bed at 9 o'clock without supper as I think I have a bit of a chill - anyway I didn't feel hungry. Mrs Smith made some lovely bread today and I brought ½ loaf home for the family. Mrs Davis has written to ask me to let the Rangers know of the Church Parade on Sunday so sent off 11 PCs before going to work. I now have to bet up a hod of anthracite nearly every day or Daddy won't carry all the coal - admittedly it is a lot, but the hod is rather heavy!

Fri 13 October:

Matron out at Beaufort East today full of indoor nature and aquariums which was funny as Mrs Clarke and I had only just been discussing growing mustard and cress etc. Dr Weston came in the afternoon. I was off at 4 and when I slipped in to get my clothes etc Dr Weston in talking offered to take me into town. Very nice of him but it was 4.35 by the time we left and I was supposed to be meeting Beryl at 4.20! It was pouring with rain and blowing great gusts so was really very glad of the lift but poor Dr Weston's car had been damaged by the blitz and it was like sitting under a sieve! Met poor Beryl wet and cold outside Theobald's and we had a good tea of teacakes and 2 cakes each and talked a good bit. Beryl has her Child Care Reserve card today and I haven't heard. Feel sure I've passed, however, and am only hoping my card hasn't been mislaid somewhere. Posted a letter for Maron and went to Caters with an order for her but it was closed. Bought some seeds in Wards then walked home and Beryl went back to the Nursery to do some distempering. Energy! I went home washed up the tea things, did blackout then made 11 books out of old books by binding with string and sticking pictures over torn covers etc and two scrap books out of a loose leaf book and a baby note-book Mary gave me from the things Anji gave her. Again felt rather sick and Mummy thinks I ought to wear stockings now and that's the trouble, so will mend some over the weekend (Perhaps). Have a small boil on my right hip which doesn't hurt very much but is a nuisance. Supper, a smoke and to bed.

Sat 14 October:

Went down to Caters, back up to the Silver Thimble to fetch a toy for Mrs Smith and get some coloured cottons for the children's blanket motifs (very rare now.) On to work and met Pauline in the bus and we called in at a shop in Grosvenor to get some ribbon (also scarce). Being Saturday there were only 17 children altogether. Did some ironing during the morning with the gas-iron and the fumes were so dreadful that I had a headache for the best part of the day. Only 3 of us and Mrs Wheeler from 12 to 2 so it was quite hectic owing to the varying ages of the children and the number of rooms and stairs. Swept and mopped our room and the bathroom, and locked up. A new baby was still not fetched by 2.20 so I (martyr!) offered to take him home and consequently had to push a pram up Claremont Rd to Fairfield Rd at the top of the hill only to find that the road of my destination was half way down the same hill exactly where I had asked someone the way and although they were obviously a nearby resident, they hadn't heard of the place. (Admittedly there was no name up.) Under Mrs Smith's instructions I was going to save no words in telling off the mother good and proper so I had composed a beautifully irate speech which changed itself into an apologetic muddle of words when the very worried mother rushed to the door thinking her son must be ill or something, saying she was really very sorry she honestly hadn't been told the Nursery closed at 2 and she had only just got back from work anyway! I got home having bought my chocolate ration for the month at 3.20 and darned 7 pairs of stockings – some having to be patched which shows how bad they've got. Tea. To the Theatre where Mummy sold her ticket to an Airforce bloke she saw in the Foyer. He certainly was very nice indeed. Flight Lieutenant Tucker his name was and he was quite interesting to talk to. He was interested in water colours and had been to the City of Birmingham Orchestra that afternoon. The play "Arsenic and Old Lace" was alright but it was American humour. It was not really as silly as Ralph Lynn and Robertson Hare shows which can make me laugh, and yet it certainly was not straight. Although it got better as it went on, I didn't like it very much. No sooner home than Miss S Gold came to say Essylt [?] had had an electric shock and had we any bicarb:. Mummy gave her the bicarb and I told Miss Gold to give her some hot bicarb to drink as well as putting it on the burn as I'd read somewhere that it was good for shock. Supper, a smoke and to bed. (Pamela didn't come to the Theatre tonight as her Jim was there for the weekend so Joan came.)

Sun 15 October:

Things always happen to me! I got up with a beautiful headache I had had last night and felt sick as I have on and off since about Wednesday. My boil was very painful. I mooched about looking and feeling like death warmed up. My temp. was a good way below normal. Did manage to knock up some cakes for Mum and at 5 to 1 went to bed

again. Didn't have any dinner and slept. Had 2 apples for tea. Of course I had to miss the Quarterly Ranger Church Parade and I was very fed up as I'd been looking forward to it for ages. Could have cried when I heard the band leading them up Milsom St on the way from the Old Bridge to Walcot Church. I finished reading "Burma Surgeon" and started "In the Steps of the Master" then just lay as didn't feel at all well. Cuddly rung up to say that lots of our Rangers turned up but only 6 Seas and I St Luke's with their 2 Lieuts. Wonder why Adji didn't go. The Bunts and Bobby came to tea so was alone all the evening.

Mon 16 October:

Went to work from 8-5 but did not feel well all day. We had 22 toddlers in but Jean Colman was back from holiday and so things weren't too hard with the four of us. Home about 5.20 and Mum dressed my boil. Changed, went to Pip for Mummy and on to B & P where the Mayor spoke on Civics which was mostly stuff I'd done in "British Constitution" and wasn't very interested. On to Rangers and 13 did PT and 7 came with me and did Health charts, discussed emergencies in groups and then each one in turn gave a description of a day's work in her job. The seven were Kathleen Smith (9-2.15, cake-maker, 2gns), Kathleen Dimond (helped her aunt billet 4 A.C.Ps, a bedridden old lady and her boyfriend(!)) Edna Brice (9-6 or later, junior in tracing office and she goes over in Indian ink what others do in pencil, makes tea and runs errands) Kathleen Newman (9-5.30, helps fitter in Elizabeth Proud, makes tea and runs errands) Vera Perry (Night duty Denewood Grange, 8/6 per week 8pm-8am, one late night and one night off a week, no time to rest during the night) Beryl Faulkner (Day duty in baby room at Denewood Grange, 7-5 with 3 hours off, 8/6 per wk) Jean Bethell (Bank clerk £105 pa, 8.30-3.45 or 5.30, or 11pm twice a year – different booking jobs.) Rangers is going to be twice a week in future – voluntary cultural activities (PT at present) on Fridays and true Rangers on Mondays. Home. Supper, Bed.

Tues 17 October:

My C.C.R. certificate came this morning so was very pleased about this especially as Matron wanted to send me out to Denewood in the lunch hour to see if it had come there and I didn't feel I could face the place. We had good fun among the staff today and we're nearly all going to a dance either tomorrow or the next night. I felt much better today and my boil was less painful though Nurse remarked that I didn't look well! Taught the children a number of new songs today and we did a lot of singing because it was very wet. Home about 6.45 and Rita called for some Child Nurse notes. Did a little washing then sat down and read and listened to the Brains

Trust. Supper, a smoke and bed. Under Nurse's orders I'm having Castor Oil and Epsom salts on my boil – seems as good as anything.

Weds 18 October:

Work went as usual today. Matron told Jean Netherwood (who starts hospital work in a week's time [bracket omitted] a little poem which went something like this: "There's a home for tired nurses above the bright blue sky, where sisters never venture and Matrons never pry (can't remember this part) ... they live eternally." There was a pause while we laughed politely then Nurse Evans who had shown no sign of amusement said "yes and I know another version to that" and we all roared, while Matron looked suitably shocked! Matron said that the Labour Exchange have been ringing up and saying that Pauline Hunt (16) was not doing enough work per week. No complaint is made about us – the rest of the staff and I'm sure Matron's got the wrong end of the stick and that Pauline's doing too much. 16 yr olds are only meant to do 44hrs I think. I told Maron this and also that we did longer hrs than Bristol Nurseries but of course it was of no avail and she has now found out that we at Beaufort East are doing 8-12 or 9.30-2pm instead of 8-1 on Saturdays and has duly altered the lists, which is a pity! When I got home I found that Mummy had had a talk with Drs Scott Reid and told him several symptoms I've had recently and without seeing me at all (which I think extraordinarily clever!) he says I'm very anaemic! (Poor Ma, she doesn't get much thanks for feeding me so well!) Any how I have two huge bottles of Scott Reid's usual iron-mixture which Mary and I have consumed before on certain occasions and I have to take a tablespoonful 3 times a day for at least 2 months and if I'm not cured by then I should be killed! Filled out an income tax return, read the paper, some magazines and books. Cut out Mummy's Christmas present. Supper. A smoke and to bed.

Thurs 19 October:

Went shopping and on to work at 9.30. Betty or I now take the 9 just-2yr olds in the little room on their own for simple play and sense training which the children have from 9-10am as when they are all together 24 or 26 is a lot in rather a small space, and the little ones need a lot of watching and spoil things for the 3 & 4 yr olds. We have planted some grass seed, beetroot seed, conkers, mustard and cress and a bean for the children to watch grow in the room. We hope to plant bulbs in the one unused grate. One of the children left at 1 to attend a wedding supposed to be coming off by special licence at 2pm. The children didn't get much sleep as nearly all of us were hanging out the window of the toddlers room at the back, to see it as it was at St Saviour's Church. We had been for a walk in the park and had tea by the time it did

come off however – it was postponed till 5pm! It was a white wedding and the bride looked very nice! John Bartlett broke Margaret's glasses today and Nurse had the unpleasant task of telling her mother. Home about 6.50 and Beryl called for her laundry I had brought in. Did a lot of knitting (red jumper I've unpicked and reknitted) and listened to the Wireless which was very painful as the oscillation was terrific and always seemed to occur at the crucial moment! Washed starched and ironed a cap and some puffs for work. Read the newspaper. Supper. Bed. Haven't felt sick at all today for the first time for a week but although my boil's really getting better, the dressing became loose today and has rubbed the place raw and made it very sore.

Fri 20 October:

On at 8am this morning. Nurse had had earache all night and wasn't feeling too good, she excelled herself at dinner however: We went through the first course without a word being said except an attempt by me at conversation which fell flat, then Nurse in being asked by Matron at pudding time if she like semolina said "I don't like any sort of "-lina" and Matron said "thank you" and we all remembered her name was Helena (she pronounces it He-lina). Nurse said "I made a catch answer then, didn't I" and Matron blushed and laughed a little. I didn't know how to control myself and Jean Netherwood opposite me was nearly popping too. On another occasion at dinner Jean kicked me under the table – it was awful! On our walk this afternoon round the roads at the back the Rev: Hutchinson saw us and had a talk with me, asking questions about the children. Left a little tale and met Mrs white and Brian on the bus. Got off at Walcot St and bought some nails and screws for mending toys. At the Paragon I met Audrey Lyons and had a short talk with her. Learnt that Richard is now in Italy but having had tough time he now has job behind the front. Was disappointed to hear that he had dropped in rank to Lieutenant for the time being. Home and did a little towards Ma's Christmas present. Did some blackout and washing up then wrote a long letter to Mary and started one to my penfriend. To bed. My boil is better today.

Sat 21 October:

Did toy mending at work until about 10.30. Didn't manage to mend much because the screws either fell straight out when the toy was wheeled across the floor or else I couldn't get the screw more than half way in. Nearly all the nails I hammered in went crooked, and the children didn't waste time in telling me this which didn't improve my temper! After doffed I dashed into town for some cream paint and turpentine. Back at 11.15 and intended to paint the whole wooden strip for pegs in the cloakroom but

the only brush there was too small and so had to be content with covering the numbers which looked very patchy. Helped wash the children then washed the rest of the paint in the cloakroom. Under the alterations Matron has made this week in the off duty I shouldn't leave until 1pm but Mrs Smith let me off at 12.30 instead of the old 12 o'clock as I was going to Bristol. Went to the Fuel office for Mrs Smith. They had really closed so I wasn't exactly welcomed. I had to ask for a form and being a fuel office, asked for one for coal and to my surprise they said "I expect it's a utility furniture form you want"! Well I walked out with one of those – and must admit I felt a bit of a fool. Had an early dinner and changed. Was in the bus queue just after 1 o'clock. I said I would be at Pam Selman's at 2.30 and leave her again at about 5. Well I think I waited 5 buses – I rather lost count, and when I did get on a single-decker at 2 o'clock I was sitting, very fortunately, on the right hand front seat and could see our front door, when to my amazement I saw Michael⁴¹ walk up and ring the bell. This just finished it: I said "Excuse me" and squeezed myself out of the bus with people thinking I was either ill or off my cracker, and rushed home. I couldn't ring up Pam as I had lost her telephone number so sent a telegram. "Late off duty, bus queues impossible. Writing." and sat down to coffee with Mike. We went to the Forum and saw "The Man in the iron mask" – an old film we hadn't seen and it was very good. On the way home I managed to slip in and buy some cigarettes for Mike in exchange for the pictures – he wouldn't let me repay him in cash. Got some chocs and Cooltip⁴² next-door and had tea. Washed up, did blackout and off to the Theatre. Mummy sat in an odd seat. It was "They came to a city" by Priestley and acted by the Malvern players. We all thoroughly enjoyed it except Mummy who thought it too 'whimsy'. Pam and Joan came back to supper. Bed about 11 but I was very tired. (I forgot to say that at about 2.30 this afternoon Mrs Davis called to see me and told me an awful tale about Grace Knight, our Ranger on Probation. She went to the Church Parade last Friday but was out with men afterwards until 1 o'clock. She left Rangers very early on Monday, having returned the skirt she leant me and paid a coupon and money for her scarf and didn't get home till 2 o'clock, so Mrs Davis was rung up by Grace's aunt. On Thursday night she didn't come home from work and when she was not in by 11.15pm her aunt went with a torch to Victoria Park to look for her and found her on the grass with her knickers off, her blouse mauled, and, as Mrs Davis said, 'one man having his turn and the other waiting'! Mrs Davis then had to go and talk with the aunt and it has now been decided that Grace is going back to

⁴¹ Almost certainly, cousin Michael Hill

⁴² Yes, a brand of cigarette at the time – Google it.

Bridgwater on Tuesday – to go into a ‘home’. She is also going to be medically examined! Mrs Davis and I had a good laugh over it. Another thing which made me roar was that Mrs D told me Grace’s uncle is Ted from Bathampton!!!!)

Sun 22 October:

Read until about 8.45 then up and took Mike’s breakfast up to him. Had my own breakfast and read, then washed and dressed. Mike and I had a smoke then went for a walk – as usual – in the park. Back for a wopping dinner of roast beef, parsnips, brussel sprouts, roast and boiled potatoes followed by blackcurrant pic and custard – quite pre-war. Did washing up then down to the Pump Room to give Miss Tullock the key for canteen. Cursed myself for eating so much dinner as had my old pain – not too badly – and was terribly afraid I might faint on poor Mike as we came home, I felt so hot-and-cold! Mike felt very full also so we both collapsed on the sofa and after a quiet read of the paper lapsed into our usual fierce discussions which seem to always centre around ‘sex’! It’s all quite interesting but proves a little embarrassing at times! Bobby came at 4. We did a few match stick and coin tricks etc then had high tea in the dining-room but our appetites were not exactly ‘camp’ ones! Soon afterwards Mike had to go and Bobby went to see Auntie Marnie who for the last about 3 weeks has had a sort of ringworm on her foot which has become septic and given her great pain necessitating her staying in bed. Mummy and I went to the Pavilion to hear Frank Titterton Margaret Eaves and Rawrcz & Landaur who were absolutely terrific! I could have listened to the latter all night! They played light classical music and played it to perfection. Home and didn’t have any supper as felt I’d had enough for 1 day! To bed to read.

Mon 23 October:

Wrote a letter then to work. Took some chocolate for our lunch and a parsnip top to grow in water for the children. The new cleaner didn’t turn up so I scrubbed the stairs down from top to bottom. Matron came and was her usual sweet interfering so and so! We didn’t have first dinner till a quarter to two. Miss Clarke had to go into the clinic for her 6 monthly examination for TB at 2 but was back for tea. We had another new child today up in our room which makes 27. Before we’ve finished there’ll be 30 there, I expect, in a room space less than ½ of the toddler room at Park Lane! Before we left tonight Nurse Evans was telling me of her Spiritualist experiences which made me feel very ‘goeey’. She has ‘got through’ to her husband, held spirit’s hands, heard their voices, seen things moving, and seen ectoplasm even in daylight and touched it. She is positive her husband ‘comes to visit her’ and will help her out of difficulties. I suppose spiritualism has given her great comfort in her

grief. To Rangers where Grace Knight was present to my surprise – in uniform. We had a lecture on stars which was very interesting. Boshier and Joyce Love turned up and Boshier was quite nice to me this time, though I didn't bother to speak to her much. Best news of all was that Jean Carter was back but she does look pale. No one seems to know what's been the matter with her. We all (Joan Webb, Jean, Rita & I) had a discussion on spiritualism and we came to no real conclusion except that we thought there must be something in it but that it was wrong to meddle in it! Walked home with Jean and Yvonne. Supper and smoke and to bed. Had a dry dressing on my boil for the first time.

Tues 24 October:

On at 8. Rather uneventful day except perhaps that Nurse and Pauline made a chair rock by placing their hands on it. That's just electricity though and no spiritualism. We had a good laugh about it! Nurse said she'd send a spirit to tap 3 times on my bed tonight – she better not! Jean Colman came back with me at 5.30 and washed and set my hair for me – she brought her own drier etc. We had a drink and smoke then she went home at 7.30. Mrs Davis rang me. I changed into a jumper and skirt, read the paper, smoked and listened to the Brains Trust. After supper we looked at a Bath & Bristol Directory of 1797. At 35 Gay St there was a Mr Harris and the house was a lodging house probably for visitors taking the waters. There was a coal merchant in at the Golds, and next door a grocer (probably their private residences, Daddy says) while at 36 there was another lodging house and at 37 an attorney. It was all very interesting with a result that we were a bit late going to bed – 10.35.

Weds 25 October:

Mrs Smith rang me up to say that Sister would like to come to the Dance with me tonight. Several B.E. [?] staff were coming but for unavoidable reasons could not now do so except Connie Clarke who was going with her Canadian boy, so I was the only one. Dyed a pair of shoes navy – also managed to dye my fingers which worried me considerably all day. It was Jean Netherwood's last day and we presented Ashdown's Nursing Handbook (15/-) to her as a parting gift while Matron did the usual formal speech and the usual farewell sentence was printed in the book! After tea Matron caught me telling Jean Coleman that even if we had time to scrub the stairs down, we wouldn't or we would never get a cleaner (the last left us a week ago and Matron says the staff can do the cleaning because she can't find another one – but she's hardly tried at all!) At 6.20 Matron called over the banisters "I'm going now" and Nurse and I said goodbye, waited a second or two then started putting wet clothes in the airing cupboard for the night which meant breaking 2 rules – wet clothes in airing cupboard, and electricity on all night! Guess our surprise when 5 minutes later

Matron was seen outside the area looking down at us and telling us to hurry up! Nurse nearly collapsed as she had been shouting and swearing up the stairs etc. Neither of us feel we we'll be able to look her straight in the face on Friday and we're both on late again too! Home and as I opened the door I could smell the shoes I dyed in the morning – the smell pervaded the house! I couldn't wear those, so I raked out another old pair. Sister called for me about 8 and we went to the dance – my finger nails still showed traces of dye! Well Sister and I certainly had a nice sit-down, the dance was not crowded by any means and the Americans were not allowed out of camp that evening which certainly improved matters in one way though it meant that there simply weren't $\frac{3}{4}$ enough men to go round so we neither of us were invited for a dance the whole evening. The only time I danced was during an excuse-me. We left at 10.30. It had been very nice to see Sister again and have a nice long chat and smoke if nothing else.

Thurs 26 October:

Matron rung up twice during the morning and asked Mrs Smith how the work was going and mentioned that the stairs wouldn't need doing as she done them the evening before – going to prove that she definitely heard what I said. Am I worried about tomorrow? Betty has gone down to help Nurse in the Tweenie room where there are 10 children (all in) leaving 3 of us to cope with 26 children (24 in) upstairs 8 of which are under $2\frac{1}{2}$. It's all fun, though, and nothing could be as bad as Denewood! Nurse and I left at 5 and we came in together. Read a book on social work Mummy had received from Lady Ravensdale or someone. Went upstairs and listened to the wireless and did a lot of my red jumper getting within $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of the neck from below the armhole. Mummy did darning and seemed to me to be either not very well or to have something on her mind, but maybe it was imagination on my part! Betty rung me up during supper to say that she couldn't take Guider's Patrol as she was working and on C.D. but would call in about 5. She has written to Guide HQ for suggestions for discussions and had a very interesting letter back apparently! Bed to read a little.

Fri 27 October:

Quite a hectic day at work – seemed to be up and down stairs all day. Helped Jean scrub the paintwork in the toddlers room from about 10.30-11.30. When we'd washed the children and put out the beds, Matron came up to serve dinners and what a mealtime! She shouted at one child after another and all the slow ones were shaken and smacked on the head. One child was in a dreadful state (Peter Brett) and I surreptitiously took away his plate although there was some meal left, however, Matron found out and forbad him his pudding – I said I thought the meat was a little

tough but she wouldn't have that! Afterwards there was a dreadful fuss about the beds being too crowded and I felt like saying – 'whose fault is that?' but she made us take all the tables and chairs out on to the landing (5 tables and 25 chairs) to make more room. We had dinner at 2 o'clock and we were all nearly laughing the whole time especially when she served us about the amount of pudding you'd give a 6 mths baby on our large white Gov. plates – Mrs Wheeler had to leave the table and get a hanky, she said afterwards she would have burst if she hadn't made some excuse and got up! Miss Clarke and I got the children up alone, and took 12 of them out – the rest stayed in the garden with Jean. After tea I dressed all the children single handed, tidied and mopped the top Nurseries, cleaned up a dirty child, mopped the changing room, did the drying up for the children and staff tea things, brought in and sorted the washing, and washed up the baby's feed utensils. Nurse and I successfully wangled to miss the bus Matron went home on, had a smoke and caught the next. I went to the reference library and got the address of the secretary to the Natural History society to which I think I should like to belong. Home and wrote to her. Changed and went to supposed Ranger PT to find it was singing. Rita and I felt in rather naughty mood. We sang Brahms' Lullaby (Rita and I groaning 'seconds'), Jesu Joy of man's desiring, and Lillie Burlero. Went home with Elizabeth Young and Esme Murray. Supper during which I talked my head off in none too unusual manner!

Sat 28 October:

Sent off a form to Keating for Rangers and to work at 8. Mended a clothes horse and put hooks and motifs on it for 6 towels and flannels for children in the bathroom. After coffee I tidied and swept the cloakroom, ironed the overalls – how I hate the heavy 'fummy' gas-iron(!) helped mop the top Nurseries. Took chairs and table down to Tweenie room and took lunch. Swept and mopped that room. Left about 1.15 and home to dinner. Washed up then washed and changed and went shopping with Mummy. Bought a couple of Christmas presents then back and did some knitting while Mummy tried to make some lamb-skin mits out of floor-polishers! Helped get tea. Mummy went to the Theatre and I finished the front of my jumper, sewed up the seams, pressed it and started on the sleeves. Washed up the tea things and laid supper also did a little towards Mummy's present. I was only thinking today how much better I've felt since my tonic, but tonight I felt sick again so at 8 o'clock I decided to have my first bath for over a fortnight (owing to boil) and got to bed and read. Did this and took my temp for interest to find it 97 – can't think why it's so low! Read in bed then to sleep.

Sun 29 October:

Got up early and went to Holy Communion. In assuring Mummy I was better I took my temp but it was still 10 points below – I don't know! After breakfast I made a den out of the top sitting room for G.P. by taking up my charts etc to put on the wall and taking up Guide and other literature. We took everything of value from the room! Mummy and I went down the garden and I had to sweep the leaves off the lawn which took me over an hour. Home and with 'bits and pieces" I took with me, made an indoors garden for Jane which I shall add to before Christmas. Laid dinner and changed. After dinner I did some knitting then Edna Jean and I went for a short walk – to Widcombe church, but unfortunately it was locked and we had to return having only read the porch notices and the tombstones. Betty came about 4.50 and stayed an hour, explaining her letter to GHQ and the answer she had received. We decided to discuss "Guider's uniform (post war)" as suggested, at the next meeting. Joan and Margaret came about 5.20 and Rita about 6 o'clock from work. Jean and I played our pipes and we all did our knitting sewing or darning. During this we discussed very varied subjects, but most of the topics turned into reminiscences and roars of laughter – so much so that our tummies ached. Jean told me about her illness which even specialists can't diagnose – she's had sudden temperature, sudden persistent pains in the abdomen, severe headache, diarrhoea, constipation and nausea in turn and she' lost over a stone. She doesn't look very well now, and apparently feels tired. In hospital they tested everything they could apparently, and found her sinuses and stomach were the only things not quite in order and she hasn't had catarrh or stomach pain!! Sound like a subject for Miss West to me! Rita and I are going to a lecture of the Abbey Youth Fellowship on Tuesday, and if we like the people Margaret Rita and I may join. All left about 9.20. Supper Bed. (Forgot to say that Betty and I were sitting on the bed at G.P. and I got up for some bread and butter and when I sat down we propped it up with an ottoman!)

Mon 30 October:

It was very cold today. Four of the smaller toddlers spent ½ the time downstairs under a new arrangement today so with 5 out we had only 17 upstairs (1 a schoolchild in because of ½ term). Matron's manner was the same as usual and there were the usual tense moments when we died to laugh. Poor Matron, what she has to put with! She rang up just about 5 from Park Lane to say our Diplomas had arrived at last, but – just my luck – mine was inscribed in print "This is to say that Lilian Way ..." so I suppose it will be a few more months before that is put right! Matron also said she wanted Dr Weston and the committee to present them to us!! Left fairly punctually at 6.30 and dashed home to change. Beryl called with my Diploma and glad to see it looked quite impressive! Called at Nurse Evans' with a load she'd left behind at the

Nursery then on to the Hallowe'en party at Rangers. The guides ran it but the place was crowded out. We 'ducked' for apples and got one each - even if under false pretences! We Black Nagged and played 'arches'. We had all fourth food and paid 6d so at this point we sat down and had a darn good feed. After this Jean, Joan, Pam Waters, Ruth Couch and I went on strike: we went behind a screen so that we weren't roped in for the next games and later went downstairs and played the fool with each other. We then found all the left-over food and made use of some of that! When we heard them all singing we returned and at about 9 the affair was over. Home with Jean. Looked at some old children's books Daddy has got.

Tues 31 October:

Had my letter to the Nat Hist: Soc: returned today with name unknown' on it so after work which I left soon after 4 I went to the Ref. Library and after referring to several books they told me they could give me no further information so decided to let the matter slide. Home and Miss Hutchings was there to tea. She is now engaged to one of the Harbutts. She had a very nice sapphire (?) and diamond ring. When she had left I practised on my recorder ready for tomorrow night's playing with Jean. Soon after 7.20 Rita arrived and we went down to the Abbey Youth Fellowship and Club to a talk on 'Fitness for Youth Leadership". WE said we'd tell Margaret Jenkins what we thought of it! Well we crept in and asked two young females in a kitchen which we came across if we could come to the talk and were immediately ushered into canteen' where there were Keating, Hopley, several young boys playing ping pong and two or three "terribly terribles" which pounced on us at once. The leader was an officer in the GTC and I'd seen her at the Abbey (opposite me every time at early Service). She talked our hind leg off for ½ an hour, and I confessed I had been to 'breakfasts' in the past but And I was told I MUST come now as they had the GREATEST FUN! Sandwiches cakes and coffee were thrust upon us and everything was just 'too too'! Molly Hardwick was quite the most human! Later we adjourned to another small room and although I was assured that there 80 at least in the Fellowship alone there only seemed to be an audience of 20 at the talk and about 40% of those were visitors! The talk was surprisingly mostly about physical fitness and at times proved a little embarrassing as the club was mixed, but it was all what we knew already. Every now and again our GTC hostess looked round to see how we were enjoying ourselves and took great care that she herself wore the correct expression for the moment! When questions began to be asked at the end Rita and I looked at our watch and finally murmured (as one or two others had) "...catch a bus" and got up to leave which was a signal for GTC to rush to the front, take a programme of Fellowship activities from the table and push it into

our hands as we left – in considerable confusion. Well at least we'd got rid of arranging to meet her for 'breakfast' on Sunday which I could see looking up any minute! Rita and I got outside and burst out laughing. We'd been so good and looked so interested it was a wonderful relief to just roar all the way to the Guildhall. I asked Rita what I could do to compensate for taking her to such a dreadful 'do' but she just laughed. What a life! I was a bit disappointed as I should have liked to join the younger set at the Abbey and take part in parochial activities. I don't think I could put up with people like tonight though! Had ½ orange for supper – a great treat these days.

Weds 1 November:

Was placidly reading in bed this morning and congratulating myself on a nice long read when Daddy suddenly shouted out from downstairs "Aren't you ever going to come down Peggy?" and told me it was 10 to 9. Well, I was rather cross at not having been called but had a 3 course breakfast, washed, dressed, cleaned shoes, and made my bed and left the house at 10 past! Can't say I felt the better for it! We were paid today and I got £14.3.6 which is something like a pay packet – for once I feel I've been paid my due! Things were very hectic tonight but off punctually and straight home. Cooked myself a kipper and after my supper I changed and went up to Jean's where I had coffee with Miss Stone. Jean showed me some of her new books especially her astrological one. I argued with her over this subject for a bit though I have always been interested in it and in the end I thought that if she who has apparently done a fair amount of science and maths thinks there's something in it, maybe there is, anyhow I borrowed one of her books. We played our pipes much more successfully than usual using 2 descant recorders. Left about 9.45.

Thurs 2 November:

As numbers have risen in the toddler room, so has the noise they make. I don't know why, but where ever you go, large numbers of toddlers leads to hooliganism and shouting which is a bit difficult to manage – still nothing like Denewood I'm glad to say! Betty, our newest pro., had always been reputed to be rude and lazy – neither traits having been noticed by me. Today however, on two or three occasions she was quite cheeky – telling me I could do some ironing and as good as telling me off for something I didn't do anyway!! I suppose she was trying to be funny but I should like her to try it on Mrs Smith and see what happens! Jean Colman and I get on very well and we have good fun but she doesn't understand the needs of the children and chooses to do the chores just when Clarkey and I need her most! I can remember

what happened to me on the few occasions I did this at Harrington Place under Mrs Critchley! Home and did my catering work after which I tried to do some astrology but it's terribly complicated with masses of calculatory tables, 'houses', signs, ascendants, aspects tables polarities and etc not to mention the blinking symbols for all the constellations and planets which are very difficult to remember. Helped get supper. Daddy was out. Bed.

Fri 3 November:

The day went as usual really – complaints from Matron as always but we laugh about it all and have good fun! Straight from work to an 'officers' meeting with Mrs Davis and Rita at Argyle. After this about a dozen Rangers turned up and sang a number of songs. Brahms Lullaby went much better this week. Walked home with Ruth Cluett talking about and noticing the positions of star constellations. Mummy and I rendered an excellent duet of Brahms Lullaby to Daddy in bed, after supper! Practised my pipe in bed for a bit. There's lots of heavy stuff going over tonight – on and on!

Sat 4 November:

Scrubbed the stairs down and mopped passages and cloakroom during morning otherwise things were quite slack. When I went down for lunch they all told me I looked like a walking ghost and I began to wonder if I really was ill – they've told me this sort of thing so many times. Left fairly punctually at 2.15 today and Mrs Smith gave me a currant loaf she had made. Went shopping and besides Christmas presents I bought some 2 part songs in Milsoms for Jean and my recorders. Home about 4.30 then down to the Theatre for the tickets. Started Rita's Christmas present, then helped get and clear away tea. At the Theatre it was "10 little nigger boys" which was a good Agatha Christie thriller. The murderer was the obvious person really and the plot was very simple – for Agatha Christie – consequently very few people I should think saw through it! It was cleverly acted but I've seen better. Adj. [Anji?] was down in the stalls with Mrs and Mrs Cook and another MAN, naturally she was all girlish!! (Puss puss.) Supper and to bed where I practised my pipe for a short while. (Jean Netherwood came to visit us today and seems to like hospital – in with a good set of staff, and although straight on the wards didn't seem to mind the sordid side.)

Sun 5 November:

Woke up about 7.30 and went straight on with Rita's present in bed. Mummy kindly got my breakfast and I only had to go down and fetch it up. By 11.00 I had practically finished Rita's present – at least as much as I could do at present – and

as Mummy had gone to church I went on with her present. At about 11.40 I lit the oven and later put in the meat also saw to the lounge fire, then Daddy who had been in the bathroom for nearly an hour came down and I went up and had a luxurious bath. Dressed and laid dinner. After dinner and washing up we all sat in the lounge and I knitted my red jumper though I felt I ought to be darning! We saw a big parade go by at about 2.30 and we felt so sorry for some of them who looked really sodden owing to a dreadful storm we'd had at 2. At 3.30 the two Bunts came with toy materials fetched from Aunties Marnie's. They partly made two American cloth horses and I cut out and finished a little red skiva lamb. Auntie Marny [sic] is having a toy sale on Thursday week in connection with the B & P Club and each member is supposed to produce one toy – I've now done mine! Mummy is making her famous felt balls and has made a good ½ dozen already. We went up to the Bunt's house about 6.30 and I did more knitting while we drank and smoked a little and listened to the wireless – a spelling bee, and some gramophone records. Home soon after nine. I made a faux pas – an insult to Mr Bunt or rather Colmers, half way through the evening so didn't open my mouth much again in case I said anything else awful. I wish I had tact! The stars were grand tonight – it was beautifully clear. It would have been grand for fireworks, I wonder if we'll have them again after the war? Straight to bed, having taken my iron tonic which I take religiously 3 times a day. The cold and sore throat I have had a suspicion of the last few days seems to have vanished since my bath and numerous drinks I've had today so feel very pleased.

Mon 6 November:

Did the preparations for my morse game at Rangers between 6.30 and 7. Up at 7 and ironed some caps before breakfast. At work before 8. Betty was again very rude to me today – telling me I hadn't opened the back door when I had and using my paper for her fire when she could have found some for herself. Matron came in and was in a fairly good mood – surprising as she had been up practically the whole weekend with a neighbour dying of cancer. We spent the whole dinner having the effects of cancer on the internal organs described to us in great detail. This evening Jean happened to go into the tweenie room to fetch a child and being round about five Betty just walked out, shouted "Goodbye" cheerily to me on the stairs and in a second had her outdoors things on. She had previously told Nurse to hurry up and relieve her as she was off at 5, so Nurse naturally too as long as she could!!! Mrs Smith heard about all this and caught Betty just as she was leaving. She was given the biggest telling-off I should she'd ever been given. If ever a girl wanted taking down a peg Home just before 5.30 abd cgabged ubti /rabger things. Daddy's gone to bed with a cold and Mymmy has a luncheon in Bristol tomorrow and

won't be able to go if Daddy doesn't get up. It's all very difficult. Went to B & P where Major Hopkins the prospective candidate for Liberal party gave a talk on 'post-war work under the Government, for women' which was fairly interesting. On to Rangers and we had drill, my morse game, notices, lecture by Mr Davis on electric part of H.E.S and Jean came in and talked about maps which was made very interesting but Rita and I were naughty and laughed so we went upstairs to a certain place near Mr Coggan's vestry and then came downstairs again, visited the Seas and in for the closing which Rita took. A message given at the beginning was heard at the end of the meeting. It was pouring with rain when we left so put my beret right over all my hair to keep it dry and walked home with Jean talking recorder music and astrology. Supper and practised recorder for ½ hour in bed.

Tues 7 November:

Did some knitting in bed and got up about 7.45. Mummy had to cancel her engagement as Daddy didn't get up. Bit of housework then out and bought myself a new good called "Training the Toddler" and I managed to read a good bit of it at odd moments during the day. It was quite a good book for a mother but it abhorred nurses and nurseries so made me rather cross. Betty was better mannered today after telling-off which was a good thing. David Tainton was out today. His neck was swollen like mumps yesterday because a stone was thrown at him in a park during the weekend. It is apparently worse today and the Dr has told him to stay home. John Perry is still out with gastric trouble (he was very sick on the landing on Saturday just after I'd scrubbed it!) Jimmy Dunn was quite well all day but was suddenly very sick at teatime – it must be this gastric 'flu' that's about. Left the Nursery punctually at 6.30 tonight and home to change and have supper and at 7.40 Rita called for me and we trooped up to Jean's and Riata was introduced to Miss Stone who asked Rita if she was W.C. (meaning woman clerk) and I didn't know how to control myself! We played pipes – mostly Jean and I as Rita was naughty and hadn't practised. We also did a bit of astrology. About 9.15 the music stopped, Jean fetched tooth glasses and hoiked a bottle of cider out of the wardrobe and we had a drink and some Canadian chocolate and a biscuit. Every now and then we blew our pipes so as everything didn't sound too fishy!!! At about 9.45 we both left and I was just turning the corner by the gate and looking up in the sky saying we must study the stars when I bumped crash into someone and when I apologised they said nothing to me but in a frightfully frightfully Oxford accent called "Leave the door for me Jean" and we both realised it was Jane, just back from Abbey Youth Fellowship. She is Miss Stone's other billettee and a nursery school teacher. I've always missed her before as she has been away on holiday. Rita and I are sure we're going to wasn't to

laugh at the party tomorrow! Went to bed soon after I got home. Had two letters today.

Weds 8 November:

Thought I'd show Jean Colman how things should be done today, so washed the overalls myself and nearly rubbed my fingers raw. It took me nearly 1½ hrs, then I put them in cold water and as there were stains in them, added a little soda to the water though I knew this would fade the colours, and gave them a jolly good boil. After dinner Jean came rushing up to me to show me what I'd done – all the colours had come out and run into other overalls – you never saw such a mess! Jean laughed and laughed but I was very cross with myself. I apologised to Mrs Smith who didn't worry much, but when Matron was told she told me she'd stop my next month's salary. I apologised, but although she wasn't very cross she didn't give me any sympathy. All Jean could say was "Well they are clean"! Didn't feel very well and had a headache. Tony Payne was not well today and had a temp. of 101°F. Home about 5.30 meeting Mrs Smith (Rita's mother) on the way and she seemed very well. Had a wash and changed, then read the paper and played my recorder. Rita called for me about 7.30 and off we went to Jean's birthday party. There were 'Dicky' (a friend of Jean's from work) Jane, Joan Webb, Rita and myself. We sat down to a meal and I didn't feel at all hungry unfortunately for there were the following things in this order: sausage roll and/or fish tart, chocolate trifle, strawberry trifle, birthday cake, jam tarts, Jean's mother's cake, cheese straws, coffee and sweets and dates. Well the strawberry trifle was a huge helping and I felt pretty sick by the time I'd finished for some reason or other, so by the time I'd had some birthday cake which I couldn't refuse, I felt awful and decided it was politer to refuse "mother's cake" than have some and have to leave the room! We played "Pounce" (or Devil's patience) the rest of the evening and soon felt better. The evening ended with stool [?] of repentance [sic] and I got home about 12. Poor Rita had a long walk before her and fears of missing her father as were so late. "Dicky" was a jolly soul, and Jane turned out to be much better than we expected in fact rather nice – just a bit sophisticated perhaps but quite human and not at all "pi". We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening I think.

Thurs 9 November:

Had small meals today and feel OK now. 2 others of the staff felt sick like I did last night and put it down to the savoury (onion) rissoles and large amount of steamed pudding we all had at dinner. It probably was. Answered an advertisement for

cigarette cards but only offered 6/- for 1200 so don't expect I'll hear any more. Took some little jars and snap closure lids to the Nursery to paint for a doll's tea set. Started painting in the children's rest time but didn't do much because every child has to have a drop of Endrine dropped in each nostril every day for a bit and we do it when they are in bed. It takes ages getting round the lot and it's an awful 'perlaver'! The weather is definitely colder. It snowed and rained yesterday, but today the sky was clear and the sun shone. We took the children in the park in the afternoon. Home a bit on the early side (20 to 7) and Daddy had gone back to bed, though his cold isn't too bad thank goodness. Wrote two letters, then darned and pathed (mostly patched) stockings, had supper and then darned and patched again until 10.30 but even so only did 4 pairs. My stockings are in an awful state! I have bought a short-sleeved Braemar navy jumper to wear with my green costume – when I finish the coat – and being Utility it only cost 13/5 yet you can see it is all wool and not a mixture like my clover Utility cardigan which has lost all its shape. Mummy was in tonight doing toys for Auntie Marnie's sale.

Fri 10 November:

Had 3 letters – one an invitation from one of the Rovers to a sort of social next Wednesday. It was Pongo (or Jack Holloway) and I think he's such a twerp – I suppose Ipm the only firl who would be soft enough to do him the favour of being his guest. As he will be pretty well running the show, though, I'm hoping I shan't be with him much! Asked permission to take up some sand for the children (my 7 2yr olds) this morning and they loved it as a change from plasticine, dough or water, though the mess was rather terrific. Matron came storming in about 11.20 this morning saying that the children had left their toys all over the garden instead of tidying them away etc etc but she cooled down as she found I had been doing "movement to music" with the children and my recorder. She asked them to do some more for her to watch and they all co-operated very well to my great relief. Went on painting the doll's tea set in the few spare minutes there were. Peter Brett who has been miserable the last 2 days or so, on and off, awoke from rest rather feverish and though Matron said this was Peter's usual nature – unbalanced and very sensitive, I thought I'd take his temperature and naturally Matron was not too pleased to hear that it was 102°! A telephone message came to say that Leone Candy had mumps so Imogen and Susan will be away in quarantine for a bit. Jennifer and Tony Payne, also David Tainton are still away. Home and did the black-out then did some knitting and a little recorder practice. After supper I rang up Mrs Davis to apologise for not going to PT because I didn't feel like it, to find it was singing as Mrs Oakey was ill so was

sorry I'd missed it. Rita rung up earlier in the evening and mentioned she'd had an adventure going home on Wednesday night – she would tell me the details on Sunday. I'm longing to hear, but meanwhile, could kick myself for leaving her to go such a long way by herself.

Sat 11 November:

Spent the morning doing ironing and continuing with the painting of the doll's tea set. Only worked with the children from 12-1. Dashed home to dinner. Sat and knitted in the afternoon. After tea, I helped put away, then did a bit of recorder practice till 7 o'clock. Washed and changed, then off to the Theatre to the second house of "Twinkle". Mr Bunt and Daddy came with Mummy and I. Jim came with Pamela and I met him for the first time. He has a typical north country face and was good fun, but judging by the things he thought funniest in Twinkle, I should think he was rather shallow minded – but I may be wrong! Mr Bunt came back for a drink and as usual was full of 'the great Mr Bunt' – this time it was when he was on the stage of a theatre, singing solo and had two encores! I'd just like to have heard him! Supper and bed.

Sun 12 November:

Didn't wake up till 9 o'clock. Fetched my breakfast then had a quick bath, did some washing and ironing. Wrote five letters then dusted the lounge. After dinner Mummy and I went to canteen. To our surprise Grace turned up to help and promptly got off with 3 American 'drunks'. She 'said a proper goodbye' to us as she said she was leaving for Oxford early in the morning. If she knows what she's going to, I'm afraid she'll run away, and it was rather a worrying fact that she went off with two of the Americans after the canteen! Rita was also at canteen and described her experience of last Wednesday when an airman followed her from the Co-op to the top of Holloway and when he became really too 'fresh' and she couldn't bear any more, she hit him on the head with her umbrella and he fled – fortunately. Rita's father met her on the Bear Flat. I felt very sorry for Rita – she said she felt so awful after all the things he'd been saying and the way he had held her that she didn't know what she was doing and I can sympathise with her as I felt similarly about my famous Pole. It is several days before you can laugh over it all! We took only 27/- at the Pump Room today and left with Jean at 5.30, went to the Hostel then Rita went home and Jean and I went home and practised recorder until 9 o'clock. Jean had a lot of new music and we're definitely improving but I'm still not half as good as Jean. Supper, a chat, then Jean left at 10 o'clock. Bed.

Mon 13 November:

Opened up the Nursery this morning. Beryl called for her aprons. Life was quite hectic as there were only 3 of us on until 9.30 and I had to get the breakfast for toddlers and babies (different things) get cocoas, tea for ourselves, and babies' feed besides lighting a fire and generally trying to organise things! I forgot to bring my pipe today so I invented some sort of exercises and things in a story or acting sort of way e.g. stiff like pokers, swaying and growing like trees, cycling, horses, leaves swirling across the room (very heavy leaves I'm afraid) and they seemed to enjoy it all quite well. In the afternoon I took four of the children over to pick some privet berries and laurel and they arranged some of them for the table. Matron came in for two separate periods today. She went to her neighbour's funeral at 2.30. Jean and I managed to get everything settled up at work before we left soon after five and caught the bus together. On the way home I bought some hooks (Mr Morley cut them and made them as I wanted them) and eyes on screws for a sort of train I'm hoping to make for the children. Had to darn 3 holes in my stockings before changing for Rangers and rushed to B & P a bit late, to hear Mr Jansson on "Holland" and described anecdotes and speeches of Queen Wilhelmina showing what a lovely character she must have. On to Rangers where Clare Allen and Elizabeth Young were enrolled and Mr Hopley read beautifully an exquisitely worded prayer and gave alight but inspiring talk. I DO think he's nice but I still think it's a pity he believes in Adam and Eve and them being the first humans – 4000BC too! We joined in with the Seas who were learning National dancing with a Miss Bolton, then left early with Mrs Davis and Jean Carter. After supper I went to bed and did a bit of recorder practice. (On reading today's entry in this diary I've come to the conclusion that I've never seen anything so disjointed and badly expressed in my life!)

Tues 14 November:

Sorted out a few things for the children, got the coal up as usual, then found Mummy who had kept a place for me in a queue for shoes at Revels. Wasn't very struck on the shoes but had to buy them having waited 50" to buy them – brown suede brogues. 15' late for work but Mrs Smith was quite alright about it, in fact interested to see my shoes. Did movement to pipe music (?) with the children during the morning. Finished the doll's tea set. Nurse was still away in London at her Court case. Jean Mrs Robinson and I were the only ones left on after 5 but as always when short-handed we rushed madly round and finished earlier than usual. Last child went at 6.15 and Mrs Robinson went about ¼ to, and Jean and I caught the 6.20 bus. (I hope I've locked everything up alright and turned off all the lights and fires.) Hurried home and had a small supper, changed and went up to Jeans at 7.30. Joan

Webb was there to supper, primarily to see Miss Stone. After coffee, Jean and I practised away on our recorders, and Joan joined us later. Walked along Julian Rd with Joan and then I went down Russell St and home about 9.25 in time for another nibble of supper and nearly 2 hours talk with Mrs Power who had come for the evening. In spite of her successfully avoiding the Labour Exchange and all manner of work for about 2 years she seems to have been ordered by the Doctor to have 2 months' rest, she's had injections and heaven knows what! The amount of things she's managed to acquire in one way or another lately is terrific – 3 dozen oranges, yds of linen, drinks etc etc . While listening to her I half finished another toy for Auntie Marnie's sale. Bed.

Weds 15 November:

Opened up this morning and was alone till 8.30, then there was only Jean and I and Miss Clark until 9.30 and all I can say is that I hope we don't have another morning like it! It's not even like Park Lane where you can keep an eye on two rooms at once at a push, there's so many stairs at Beaufort East! Matron brought in a few salvage things for toys, also a pair of scales her husband had made for the children. Miss Clark took six children to make Christmas cards while I took the rest for movement to "music". We had dinner punctually, got the children up at 2.20 and went in the park. Patrick Kelly managed to disgrace the party very badly and Jean and I had to retire with him to do the best mopping up operations we could! Unfortunately he was "my" child and I had to own him on the walk back to the Nursery 'mid loud laughter from the other staff. Off at 4 and caught a bus into town and looked round for some book-ends for the staff to give Mrs Smith on her birthday but saw nothing I liked. Got £1 out of P.O.S.B. which Daddy paid back when I got in and he told me I worked the hardest of the family which although not true made me feel very pleased with myself and I valued this remark – coming from him. Messed about, sorting cigarette cards out after having tea and washing it up. The house was very cold as even the central heating had gone out and it's cold weather. At 7.50 I went into social next door by invitation of Jack Holloway (Pongo) and as the evening went on I thoroughly enjoyed myself as we played some really good games, tricks and stunts and Pongo left me alone mostly. Two of the Rangers and Peggy Reid were there that I knew also some Rovers' wives and girl friends but it was a change to be in company where men exceeded women and was surprised to find some really 'mennish' men there that I hadn't seen before. Was the last girl to leave – at the very end just after 11.30 but even now at 12 o'clock I can still hear the men down there messing around.

Thurs 16 November:

Went out about 9 and looked in several more shops for bookends for Mrs Smith but without success. Nurse didn't turn up so Mrs Smith kindly stayed on till 6 o'clock tonight as I was on alone after 8 and there's such a lot of mopping to be done in this nursery. During the dinner hour I put the hooks in the bricks and partly painted them ready for the sort of train I'm making. There was a wedding this afternoon which looked lovely and another spectacle was the large formation of bombers which took off and landed at Colerne during the early afternoon. It was frightfully cold all day and the children only went out in the garden in the afternoon. The children were rather naughty all day and seemed to do everything you asked them not to do. One child broke the tea pot spout, and even Mrs Smith said she was worn out after looking after them all for about 10 minutes so there were one or two people besides myself who thought the 'devil' was in them today! Caught the 6.20 bus home and having read the paper and Picture Post, darned a couple of pairs of very holey stockings and laid supper. After supper I saw Daddy's 'pastel' of Bodinnick which so far as it is done looks very good. To bed about 10.15.

Fri 17 November:

Nurse returned today. Started painting a new tea set and finished the 'train' in odd minutes. The rain had come in all over the floor through open windows during the night. All the staircase walls had condensation on them. The whole house seemed damp and everyone's house is the same except people like us at home who have central heating. Children very noisy again today. Dashed into town and bought some book ends for Mrs Smith's birthday but think I'll have to pay 3 times as much as I had intended as extreme haste caused me to spend 16/11 instead of the suggested 10/-. Home and during the evening finished my red jumper. Mrs Williams came and told me Mrs Davis had had just the same complaint as I had 10 months ago – a sort of indigestion which causes pressure on the heart, only she had it for much longer and kept fainting and had to go to bed. I'm glad I'm not unique in this complaint but can sympathise greatly with her and am glad to hear she's better now though having the same medicine as I had. She moved her furniture into her Greenway Lane house today (it rained all day too) and she will let it furnished for the duration I expect. Rita came about 7.15 and we chatted and arranged a programme for Monday evening. Had supper about 8. She left about 9.15 to catch a bus. I went to bed about 10 to read some poetry.

Sat 18 November:

Nothing special happened at work. I had rung up last night to hear how the three girls had got on with their 'practical' and heard further particulars today. They had a very nice examiner and didn't feel stumped over anything that was asked though

they have apparently since realised that they haven't answered very well. Off duty punctually and bought some recorder music on the way home. Spent afternoon and early evening making 4 jig-saw puzzles, mending and making several books and making a sense-training game with a box of coloured counters. Changed and Ria came about 7.20. I practised my recorder till she came, then we went to the Scout social at St James's Memorial Hall. We thoroughly enjoyed it as we had several partners for the dances of which it mostly consisted. Met a Rover from Hornsea who was very nice, also a young girl from Austria and I'd just said to Rita how typical she was of young Berman girls we'd had often at Sidcot when in the course of conversation it turned out she'd been to school there from 1942-44! In an 'excuse-me' dance I was excused and being used to this I went to sit down when a voice suddenly said "Oh please don't sit down" and I realised it was another man not a girl who had excused me! Wonders will never cease! Rita and I were surprised to find how well the Rovers and their friends danced – it was all very enjoyable. The social finished and we left soon after 10.30. Rita went home with the Rangers who live up her way. We both decided we'd had a grand evening.

Sun 19 November:

Woke up to the noise of Sea Scouts who had evidently spent the night next door, I should think. I lay in bed and did the necessary preparation for tomorrow night's meeting. Later wrote some poetry – waste of time, really, then got up and had a nice luxurious bath, did a little mending and then dressed. Mummy made some mincemeat this morning and Daddy took Bobby to Bristol with him to get some odd things from a lady over there and also visited old Mr Davey, Bobbie's grandfather. I wrote three letters then laid dinner and wound some wool. Bobby came to dinner, then after clearing away, we went and looked at Daddies' [sic] purchases which included a Noah's Ark with 200 animals, 150 different tops, over 100 little boxes and some odd games etc which all proved very interesting. Mummy went to help Miss Russ with the preparation of an exhibition of children's books and Bobby went back to the hostel for a tea dance, but Daddy and I played around with these tops (I should never have believed there were so many different kinds!) till it was 3.45. Daddy slept and I started my Ranger jumper. About half an hour later we went and sorted out boxes until Mummy came in and we got tea, had it and cleared away. I practised my recorder, then we looked at the Noah's Ark. Mr Bunt called for us about 6.15 and we went up to his house and as usual 'the great Mr Bunt' was the subject of all conversation. I knitted solidly. At 9.15 we came home by car and after supper did some more knitting till about 10.45 by which time I had reached the armhole of the

first side so was very pleased with the progress. I don't know what's wrong with Daddy, he simply won't think of having a party at Christmas, he says he doesn't feel in the mood and had apparently told Mummy he thinks he'll peg out before then! (I hope he doesn't as I've bought him a pullover and some gloves as a Christmas present!)

Mon 20 November:

John Perry was 'alive' today – 16 in his head which caused much hilarity till Matron came on the scene and she of course wouldn't believe I'd done his head properly the week before – she seems to be always out to find something wrong! Poor old John he had to have a sassifrasse (?) cap on and he felt such a fool he wouldn't go up with the rest so spent the day in the baby room and in the evening when the children came downstairs he got under a cot to hide himself! We started having sense training from 11.30 -12 instead of singing and having the latter at night which Miss Clarke thinks will work well. I took a op which Daddy gave me to work and the children loved watching it. Left at 6 and dashed home and changed then on to Rangers and Rita and I took the meeting – opening Rita's talk on cooking hot stimulant in 20", Morse for half an hour and my "no morsers" learnt 16 letters, flower pot team game (with pieces of paper) observation cum knowledge of neighbourhood game where I learnt more than I taught them I think (!) and as Barbara Christopher (the girl chose to finished the meeting was away) I finished with a quickly chosen prayer (after having spent most of the weekend trying to find poetry or prose suitable!) Taps. We only had 12 tonight but it was a dreadful night so can't wonder. The Seas had a social and even they didn't turn up very well. Had a chat with Groves who amused us with her talk with Adji. They have a new recruit at St Lukes so now have 4 Rangers but only ½ hr programme as they go on to Carol practice and so only either Hetty Adji or Lorna have to go each Friday..... and so it went on, and she's starting to take the Guides on Wednesday evenings. In our Company we had a new one from Denewood tonight, but our 'wayward lass' has gone to Oxford, our 'deaf & dumb' has left as she found it too difficult, Kathleen Dimond's gone back to Clevedon and there are several which havn't been for about 3 months despite frequent PCs and letters and are therefore now crossed off the register so we now have 26 active Rangers and four attached members – 3 for reason of examination study and the fourth has taken up nursing at the Mineral Water Hospital. Supper and bed.

Tues 21 November:

Heard today that Jennifer Payne probably has mumps. Jimmy Dunn was in but had bad discharging ears poor kid. Also heard that Rene has gone home with ?mumps – it will be awful if she's ill for the theoretical. Jean Colman had her 'day off' that is promised to us all before Christmas in order to do Christmas shopping, so things were a bit hectic but we managed quite well and I missed her in a way as she's nearly always so cheerful and can see the funny side of everything. We did some painting of toys in the dinner hour and together with Mrs Robinson we took the children in the park in the afternoon. Home about 5.45 and having read the paper I changed and Mummy and I went to the Ballet Rambert at the Theatre. Everyone seemed to be there – Auntie Marnie, Adj, Jean Carter, Dickie, Groves, 6 from Denewood Grange, Jean Harris (ex Brownies) Betty Powell (ex Ranger) and Moggie (one of the Rovers) – all in the Upper Circle! The Ballet included Swan-lake (Act II), the Fugitive, Death and the Maiden, and Gate Performances and it was all very good I think they were better last time or else they hadn't got used to the smallness of the stage yet. Jean caught us up on the way home and we had a small chat. Daddy's getting rather depressed these days and talking of selling Whitehouse at Fowey!

Weds 22 November:

On at 8 this morning and had the usual difficulty with the Tweenie Room fire! Jennifer's mumps was confirmed so we are keeping an eye out for further outbreaks and Janet, Margaret, Pat and Dorothy have seemed ill at different times of the day. We wrote out lists for children's party presents. We have five each and as I had what was left, I've got Clifford (M.D.⁴³), Valerie (always has nits, and whines) Nicholas, David Sullivan (a very naughty boy, not yet two, but up in our room) and John Bartlett (very nice); haven't decided what I'll make them yet. Jean and I felt in a non-workish mood all the afternoon. Matron only looked in on us today and visited Mrs White as Brian collapsed suddenly at the Nursery yesterday and is in bed with a high temperature. It was rather close and wet all day today. Home and having read the paper, I altered the back and made and inserted the sleeves in my green coat I'm making to go with my newly made skirt. Didn't feel very well and as usual took my temperature. (I seem to be taking it a lot lately, but it's only because it seems to be doing rather strange things) This time it was lower than it's ever been – 96.4, I simply can't understand it, after all the iron too, but it's only when I'm tired I feel ill so shan't worry. Did a little knitting and laid supper. Had a lovely supper, but Daddy still seems depressed, and to make matters worse Auntie Laura came today to ask if she could have the top of the house as she was desperate. Her landlords who live in

⁴³ I'm pretty sure this means "Mental(ly) Defective", as was the terminology at the time.

the same house as her keep coming home drunk and hitting her and being objectionable and she is threatening to commit suicide. Her relations can't or won't have her. Mummy of course wants to have her and so do I (not that we like her company at all) but Daddy says he couldn't bear her at any price. I don't know what we are going to do. Bed. (Mummy has bought me some new navy shoes which are very nice.)

[End of exercise book, except for: list of girls with dates of birth 1931-5, and some notes re language and a cross-section of the mouth/throat area – I'd guess that this, with the poetry carefully written out before the restarted diary, all dates from school days, and then Peggy frugally used this 'old' exercise book in 1944]

[New book is a 1938 Year Book, a USA one. Some pages, including all of January, torn out, and then some notes from a course for a "Child Nurse" – very prescriptive – then diary continues]

Thurs 23 November:

Woke up early and did some knitting finishing the front and starting the back of my Ranger jumper. Got to work 20 minutes early, had a very ordinary day and left 20 minutes early in the evening in order to get to the Palace by 6.30, which I did and arrived wringing wet as the rain just teemed down. (Heard Rene definitely has the mumps.) The Palace show was really quite good and included a large team of young boys 11-14 years old I should think, and they were very goodlooking youngsters and sang well but couldn't help thinking it was a shame to have these boys in relatively cheap shows like these and getting them to sing modern love songs. In the second half they did a Sherwood wedding and had a "bishop" carrying out the ceremony with the sign of the cross etc and the boys sang Ave Maria in Latin – it would have been excellent in the right place but was sacrilege in a show like this where the curtain went down and straight away on walked the dirtiest comedian in the cast! Home and read a magazine, wrote a letter. To bed directly after supper. It was American thanksgiving Day today and Winston spoke at the Albert Hall.

Fri 24 November:

Nurse came in with Roger and he had swollen glands so when Mrs Smith came she went off home with him as it was obviously mumps. Mr Shore rung up to say Betty had 'flu' so together with the Pro. we're due to have and havn't got yet, we were 3 short today and I went into a new room – the Tweenie room where everything was fresh and took the place of two staff. Mrs Smith helped me with dinner and putting to bed otherwise I was single-handed with 9 Tweenies till dinner time, then 10, and from bedtime onwards 13 owing to the four from upstairs that come down. It was all fun though. It was very close today, and I got hot working. Home just before 5.30 and rushed to wash and change then walked up to the Bear Flat. A drunk of some mad man careering down, hit me off the pavement but I arrived on time. We went up to the Boy's School en masse but I rather felt Groves didn't like the Rangers being there and I think she was a bit rude. Cap didn't turn up and I was so afraid I'd have

to take a game. Rita and I were just getting bored with it when they had Colours and I fell in the Rangers behind the Seas and stood in front as Groves did, not realising what I was letting myself in for. Every time an order was given Groves repeated it and then I had to and there were lots of 'shuns' and 'stand at ease's and then I had to walk up and salute the Sea Cadet officer. Then we had 'aft right and left turn' and we all got it right(!) There was God Save the King while the colours were hoisted, 'inwards turn' and 'dismiss' (rt turn) and the Rangers were bricks, they all did it right. It was a dreadful ordeal as so many were watching. Cap turned up later and we had a good old chat. She is better from her illness but not bursting with health. We all (Cap. Rita, Joan, and myself) left at 10 to 9 and Joan and I caught a bus home. As I was walking from the Parade Gardens home, I was caught up by a man (civvy) who tried to 'get off' with me but I didn't speak so he kept saying 'Are you deaf?' and when he got nothing out of me went on, thank goodness. It's getting worse and worse at night now. In, and as Mrs Davis said 'coat and skirt for you tomorrow, Pegs' I said I'd get out ye olde overall as I hadn't a coat and skirt so having sewn on accessories and partly pressed Mary's old overall, I found two or three tears and holes forgotten were there so had to take the star and cords off and sew on to my overall, press it and re press my Ranger tie Guide fashion. Lick-washed and brushed my hat, pinned in my badges then fell into bed.

Sat 25 November:

Hectic rush most of the morning and I did washing nearly all the time and rubbed my fingers raw. A prospective Pro came to look round and Katie Bradshaw when she doesn't recognise you, wasn't in it! She is now in a residential nursery but I shouldn't think she'd done a day's work in her life really. Of course she may turn out alright if she comes. A group of Air Force stopped outside the front during the morning – pity the laundry was at the back – they were rather nice and Pauline and Jean make dates with them! Dashed home at 1, and changed, had dinner, wiped up and Mummy and I went off together to the Annual Guiders Meeting. Very poor attendances Reports were interesting and Miss Latter came and gave us a talk which was very natural and interesting on Guiding opportunities. Rita and Mummy and I went to the Art Gallery and helped from 5 to 6.30 collecting up the books from the Exhibition of children's books which has included by [means "my" I think] little "infants' library" and my "illustrated grammar" – both 19C. Hurried home and changed, the Mummy, Bobby, Rita and I went to the Ballet Rambert and this time it was Lady into Fox, Façade, Czerzyane(?) and some musicals. All very clever but very modern with usual queer garments and colour combinations and dreadful music for the most part. Bobby seemed rather quiet. Home, supper, read the Nursery Journal then to bed. Daddy

has cut out a picture from the Times which includes Whitehouse at Fowey, but after great excitement on my part, I found it is still the dot on the landscape it is on the other photos.

Sun 26 November:

Woke up at about 18" to 8 and was at Church at 5 to, which I think pretty good. Home and washed and pressed a cap and Rangers tie, had breakfast then did a catering paper. After this I collected together a few gifts to send to a Dr Barnardo's stall and turned Mary's 'calendar from her pash' into one for next year. After dinner and washing up I changed and tidied, dusted and heated the Guider's Patrol Den at the top of the house but didn't feel very well. As it was pouring with rain we decided not to go to Langridge church as arranged but stayed in and invented a pantomime to be held on February 2nd. It is to be Cinderella – up-do-date and we hope to 'take off' a number of personalities and things such as modern ballet and Arthur Askey songs. Rita is to be Cinderella, Betty and Ada ugly sisters, Jean Prince Charming, Edna Buttons and myself fairy godmother. Margaret wasn't there or Joan but M will probably be 'mother' and Dandine and Joan will be the Demon King or equivalent. At 6.30 we had a discussion on future uniform and Betty took notes to send to HQ. We want no changes for Brownie excepts more uniform headgear. HQ blue, shaped overalls for Guides with pockets in skirt, PL badges on breast like Pack Leader's badge, necks like camp overalls so the tie can be worn on or off, ties as at present, old type belts, berets with Guide cloth badge. Shoulder tabs. Rangers to wear berets with cloth Ranger badges, grey viyella shirt blouse with shoulder tabs and long sleeves for winter and rolled up in summer, with grey pullover if very cold, and a navy flared skirt with patch pocket. Tie as at present but with metal Guide First Class on blouse instead of tie. Guiders to wear same overall as at present but it is suggested that one of a heavy material exactly the same should be introduced for best occasions and for Commissioners etc. The hat should be changed to a navy blue Sea Rangers type of hat with County Badge in front and ranks shown by bands and not cockades. We also wanted a uniform sling bag for Rangers and Guiders. Jean and I did a bit of recordering. They went home, I had supper a smoke and to bed. Feel better now – the laughing at G.P. must have done me good!

Mon 27 November:

After breakfast there were household duties then I packed up my diary I'm sending to Mary. To work where we're still 3 short and Matron was on the war path telling Jean off because of the dust in the Toddler room. Poor girl she's always cleaning it too! I had 11 Tweenies in the morning single-handed but when it became 15 in the afternoon I had Mrs Bevan to help me. Heard the Jean Netherwood has appendicitis.

Left on the early side in the evening, home and on to Rangers where we went to the NFS station which was most interesting – seeing me slide down the pole and the switches which open the big doors, warm all the engines, ring the alarms, turn on all the main lights in the building, and the clock which although electric will automatically change over to battery if there is an electrical breakdown. Back to Argyle and a little way home with Joan. Rita Edna Joan and I had still discussed the Panto we're getting up at odd moments during the evening. Home to supper and bed.

Tues 28 November:

Still being short we were very busy today and didn't feel in a workish mood at all – none of us did. It was freezing cold yesterday and quite warm rainy and a high West wind today so perhaps the weather is to blame. Went into Milsom's on the way home and bought some music for recorder but when I got home Jean rang up to say she had a cold and couldn't very well play so had to postpone my visit to her billet for practising. Put away the tea things, the practised my recorder on my own. At 8.15 I went up into the lounge and while listening to the Brains Trust I knitted up to the armhole of the back of my Ranger jumper. After supper Mummy and Daddy fired words at me for spelling in preparation for the Bee tomorrow night. To bed. (It may be sheer imagination but I still keep getting spasms of feeling ill – it is a nuisance.)

Weds 29 November:

Matron in today and was she! Looking for trouble all day and springcleaned the top room. Mrs Smith and I were let off after dinner to go and see the Toy Exhibition at the Art Gallery which was very good indeed and we are going to have some of them which is even better. Back by 2.45. When all was finished I got down and washed the Tweenie floor on my hands and knees and gave myself a gorgeous headache. The Tweenie room is about as big as our lounge[?] which is big but not all that, it's doing it at the end of a hectic day which crowns everything. Home on the 6.30 bus, changed and to the social at Argyle where there was a spelling Bee between Young Argyle, Over 20 Club, and the Rangers. Esme Murray, Clare, Rita and I were our team and the words we seemed to have were awful. I had "euthanasi/ea", "narcotic", "Bairnsfather" (proper name round) "vapour" (15 seconds limit round) "Who was Dornford Yates?" (GK round) "hippopotamus" and "w(h)ortleberry" and I made 2 mistakes out of the 7 – as shown above. Over 20s won with 24/28, Argyle 19½/28 Rangers xx[18 and two-thirds]/28 so it was quite close between Argyle and ourselves and all great fun. Mr Coggan was chairman. After this we had tea and biscuits and musical bumps where I was 4th and Esme Murray won – out of about 40. Then we played blowing the ping pong ball from egg cup to egg cup down a line which was easier than I thought it would be. We finished with the first verse of "The day thou

gavest..." and Mr Coggan said a nice little closing prayer. Rita and I came away having enjoyed the evening. We were almost converted to Congregationalism but I pointed out that all of C of E were not like Abbey Y.F!!! Home to an empty house as Mummy's gone to Chippenham to start a Standing conference there and Daddy's playing skittles; to bed.

Thurs 30 November:

Mr Churchill is 70 and it's St Andrew's day, otherwise for me it's just the same as any other day except that my fortune for the day as given in the Mail came true and I had continual setbacks – my fire went out 3 times I had two very dirty children, and on the whole everything went wrong. Peter Brett now has mumps – I wonder how many more will go down with it? Mrs Soames went up in the air because Sandy has lost a pair of long grey socks at the Nursery – she's going to see Matron. Let her. Home on the 5.20 bus and I read the paper, did a spot of ironing and darned two pairs of stockings then Jean rang up to say her cold was better so had supper changed and went up to her house. Miss Stone Jane and I had a discussion on Nurseries and Jane said how lucky we were that we had 5 staff (and we have 8 when all are there) to look after 40 children whereas there are 2 to look after 25-28 at her Nursery School but I tried to point out to her, that nearly 50% of her children were not under 2 as ours are, she hadn't got to wash floors, paintwork feeders, napkins, overalls, do bits of cooking etc and at quite busy portions of the day we have only 2 staff on and not the supposed 3. I'm afraid I rubbed it in. She said she had marvellous toys for her children and we can't even get a box for our toddlers to push round. I think I ought to aim for a job under M.O.E. instead of M.O.H – or is an easy life really as fun? Jean and I played our recorders, drank cider out of the toothmugs and ate shortbread from South Africa. At 9.45 when I left I had to carry 4 cider bottles home – 2 full and 2 empty and as I couldn't get them in my bag I had to borrow one of hers, so that with my bag, hers, handbag, umbrella and recorder stuff I was heavily laden and glad when I got home. Passed a 'drunk' on the way and he had no sooner rolled past me and he was sick which was very unpleasant – he made so much noise about it. I cricked my thigh at musical bumps last night and all day today it has been quite stiff. Perhaps PT tomorrow will improve it. Bed.

Fri 1 December:

Mummy set off for London early this morning and so I had to get breakfast and managed to do some other odd jobs including the sending off two cards. Arrived at work to find Janet Young now has mumps and Mrs Smith, although in, has obviously a touch of the gastric flu that's about. Matron came in and proceeded to go quite mad,

sterilising this separation that etc till Mrs Smith told her what she thought of her and they had a stand up row. Of course the damage is done now and where she is making rules that tweenies and toddlers must never mix which will be very difficult early in the morning and late at night now we're short-staffed, the same tweenies and toddlers often come and go on the same bus and use the same bathroom! We were all so mad today after being told we none of us had any sense and heaven knows what that we didn't know what to do with ourselves. I only had the 10 Tweenies all day under these new rules of course, so it should have been easy but unfortunately Tony Spearpoint had shocking diarrhoea and I had to keep clearing things up during which time someone else would spread porridge all over the table or upset the cocoa and play in it. In the end I put Tony to bed. I marked the pots. (Nurse didn't give them individual ones before.) At dinner time Billy-the-Bull swallowed a meat bone and went purple so in the approved manner I heaved (age 20mths, 3 stone) him upside down and thumped him, got my fingers bitten but got the bone out to my amazement (never thought this F.A. treatment sounded any good!) He was perfectly alright. Everything happened today, though; I squeezed my finger in the door, knocked a piece out of another finger in pulling up the lift and pricked myself hard twice with a safety pin. My hands are rather chapped too as there is no hand towel in the bathroom and I've had to wash my hands a lot today – I must get one up tomorrow. The only good thing that happened was we were paid!

Rushed home, changed, laid supper, to Rangers and we rehearsed Brother James Air in the Church. PT was cancelled as Mrs Oakey has gastric flu, so Mrs Davis, Miss Groves Rita and I went to the Sedan Chair – all was fine until Ethel Owen and two other Wrens came in and joined us. The two Wrens were very nice but Ethel Owen annoyed me as usual. We had good fun though and Mrs Davis wasn't too naughty. Home about 10 past nine, had a bit more supper with Daddy then to bed. Poor daddy has had sciatica in one of his legs for a few days now and it's still pretty bad. He says he's made about £50 today, though, so is not depressed. He has also made up a lot of doggerel about Mr Bunt and himself which I expect he enjoyed doing. Bed.

Sat 2 December:

Up to do the household duties and get breakfast. To work by nine and as only had 4 Tweenies, two of which went to bed, I spend from 9 to 2 spring-cleaning the Tweenie room. Scrubbed every bit of paint including the toys and boxes, then got down and washed the floor once more. I am now sure that the room is twice the size and not the same size as the lounge! We then heard that Mary Harvey (one of the Tweenies) has the mumps so perhaps the Toddlers and Tweenies may now mix! I only hope I shan't have to begin all this sterilising and disinfecting on Monday or I'll be browned off. We got away on the 2.20 bus and Jean Colman and I did some shopping

together, pushing and shoving and hanging on tight to our bags which contained our month's pay. Home about 4 and tried to sort out some Christmas presents, got tea for Daddy and I and cleared away and laid supper. Changed for the Theatre and Betty Nelson called for a minute or so's chat and to return some knitting needles. The theatre and Joan and I sat upstairs in our usual seats while Pam sat with her mother. It was "Junior Miss" and quite funny. It was about what I suppose was a typical American family where everyone is rather rude to the other and the girl of 13 goes to Dances, but it was human in many ways and I enjoyed it very much. Home expecting to have to spend an anxious four hours or so waiting for Mummy's return from London, Joan having just told me that she heard 5 V2s drop in a weekend and remembering Nurse Evans' and Mrs Power's descriptions of sleepless nights owing to flying bombs, Mummy had, however, come back on an early train and was waiting for Daddy and I. She seems to have enjoyed herself and had a full 2 days. She's been to the Houses of Parliament for a debate, to the Palladium, to Grosvenor House for Lady Astor's reception and had a meeting all day today. Cooked myself some supper. A smoke and then to bed.

Sun 3 December:

Woke up quite late, got up and had breakfast then had a bath, did my room and dressed for Rangers. It was a pouring wet windy day so we didn't have a proper parade, but marched quickly to Argyle from Old Bridge. It was an enjoyable service on the whole but our singing of Brother James' air was a bit thin. Many of our Rangers didn't turn up – I shouldn't think we had more than about 15. Mr Coggan was very interesting. He still talk down to you but I suppose there's something wrong with everyone. What upsets me more is the ugliness of Argyle church and the absence of an altar in this type of Church. Home for dinner and changed, cleared away and up to Jean's by about 10 past 2 where we practised recorders till about 4.30 and Groves joined us just after 3 and we taught her a bit and she was amazingly quick at picking it up again (she hadn't played hers for some years). We had tea with Miss Stone where we had rose hip jelly (rather like honey and very nice) home made bread and shortbread. I left about 5.45 after a smoke, and home, changed into an old skirt and I did a little knitting then Mummy had a Christmas present list which we discussed after which we made several small presents. I went on to bed at a about 8.30 as I felt a bit tired and it's generally quite late by the time I get there these days. I have been feeling more than ever today that I would like to really belong to a church. If only Argyle was C of E I would got there but I don't agree with non-conformalism. If only the people at the Abbey were not so high 'fallutin'

and if only the clergy at other churches such as St Michaels and Christ church etc didn't look so 'parsony' and narrow minded. I wish I wasn't so particular.

Mon 4 December:

Opened up at work with Pauline. One or two extra children were out today but not apparently owing to mumps. It was a quiet day – only 8 in my room and help at busy times. Finished the back of my Ranger jumper in the dinner hour. Just as I was leaving, the firemen came with some lovely toys for the Nursery and we were all thrilled and bagging them for our individual rooms. Home and made up a game for Rangers. Changed and went to Rangers where Rita and I opened in the usual manner, played my games – each team was given a list of 8 pieces of information to be found from books I had brought, before the other team. As an impromptu Rita then ran two games from our Ranger game book, which proved quite successful. Mr Coggan and Mrs Davis came then and we had the enrolment of Vera Perry and Eileen Whale. Mrs Coggan said a prayer and spoke to us – mostly on how to behave with boy-friends! It was all quite pleasant, however, and when he'd gone we had Taps and then Groves and Joan came in and we Guiders chatted for some time as usual. Jean had gone home early not feeling well – poor soul. Home, supper and to bed.

Tues 5 December:

Bought a book called "Battle for Health" which was very interesting. To work and had a pretty normal day though Tony Dix had diarrhoea. The Tweenies had some of their new toys and were very thrilled. Pauline and I left on the 6.20 bus, went to the Reference Library just for 10 minutes then on to the Pump Room where I met Rita and we and the others Nursery folk sat geotherm for this Nursery School meeting. Lady Allen who spoke was very good indeed and urged the opening of new nursery schools. The only thing that annoyed me was she kept referring to the wartime nurseries where the staff are untrained, there is little equipment and too much emphasis on 'health' made – typical remark of someone on the education side. In general I suppose it's true but of course it annoyed all of us. The talk was followed by "Double Thread" a film which I saw before on the course. Met Mummy afterwards and heard she'd managed to get back from Weston in time to hear and see it all. Home to supper and later to bed. Daddy's sciatica turned into a sort of group of spots looking like herpes yesterday which turned out to be herpes zoster or shingles and Dr Scott Reid says they won't clear up for 6 weeks so Daddy is sure he'll be in bed for Christmas. He's still up at present.

Weds 6 December:

Matron came in today and was in a heck of a mood. She thought she'd run everything like the film we saw and she started off by telling me off about pot covers not being used, then made the toddlers fetch water in jugs And throw away their own water when washing; then she created about the condition of our cloths, then the condition of our basins and jugs and why hadn't the head tray been put away? and would I please paint the said tray as it looked disgusting? Upstairs and created because the mumpy blankets hadn't gone to the laundry (admittedly legitimate grumble), made the children fetch all their plates etc. was abominably rude to all of us until Mrs Smith's Irish blood could stand no more of it and she told Matron that we were working very hard, 3 staff short and what do we get? No praise, just grumbles that this and that was wrong. Matron said she wasn't blaming Mrs Smith but Miss Clarke; but Mrs Smith merely said she would see Dr Weston herself on Friday! This obviously put the wind up Matron and off she went. She didn't come down to dinner with us but turned out the office wardrobe and gave work to Mrs Robinson and Mrs Bishop. (Mrs Smith had to tidy it all up again in the afternoon.) Late however, she 'toadied' round and was as sweet as pie and when she was showing a prospective probationer round at teatime she introduced us and said 'we worked by hard even though Matron grumbled a bit sometimes!' What a woman! And was I glad to get off at 5. Stayed in and did a catering paper. The Misses Dickinson came and I showed them a mirror as arranged, which they bought. Mended some under-clothes, washed up tea things and laid supper had a light supper myself then a hot bath and to bed about nine. Once again I don't feel too good tonight but it's probably only indigestion.

Thurs 7 December:

Work was pretty uneventful except that Matron gave Mrs Smith a half day (and we all said we'd know what to do in future if we wanted any time off from Matron). It will do Mrs Smith good. She says she had a temperature last night and felt very ill. Matron gave me a small set of shelves from the Toddlers' room for the Tweenies room which will help to keep this room tidier. After tea and dressing children, I washed the floor, then went down and washed the overalls and other odds and ends belonging to the Tweenies so by the time we left I felt rather tired and when I got in I decided to be lazy – I read magazines, did about 3 inches of one sleeve of my Ranger jumper and practised on my recorder. After supper we all listened to "Appointment with Fear" on the wireless but I didn't think it was very frightening... It's funny but it's only now I'm beginning to solve the story of Denewood: Joyce Love is the real casue of the trouble. When ever anyone came to the Nursery likely to

break up or interfere with her friendship with Boshier, she started work – hence the sudden departure of Matron Whatley with the note left referring to “that Love girl coming between you (Boshier) and I” and the slander made about me spreading defeatism and doing no work. Boshier’s a fool to take it all in and to think her so marvellous But Boshier’s not really as bad as I thought at first and Joyce Love is a good deal worse. She knows that Boshier and Shanny don’t get on very well so she doesn’t bother to slander her, but I was a fellow Guider and staff nurse, and Whatley was old friend of Boshier’s..... we certainly live and learn, and my experiences there make me very glad to be working at Grosvenor in spite of Matron and other little upsets.

Fri 8 December:

On early and Pauline and I had the usual rush with fires and breakfast and all the kids coming in and I had a dirty one to clear up. We weren’t in too much of a muddle, however, which was fortunate as to everyone’s surprise Matron walked at 9.30!!! (She is never seen before 11 or 11.30) She found a few faults then started changing equipment round, making the toddlers clean spoons as per film, when they should have been having cocoa – not as per film! She made them wash up and wipe their own mugs after they did eventually have cocoa, and I can distinctly remember her telling me not to let the toddlers wash up mugs as they could not be sure of making them clean – at Park Lane! Dr Weston came with Matron from Park Lane at about 4.15 and consequently I did not get relieved until nearly half past 5. Mrs Smith and Matron and Dr Weston were gassing away when I left. Home and put away the tea things and did the blackout then started to dress a little celluloid doll about 4 inches long which I used to have in my dolls house, for one of the 5 Christmas tree present we have to make but didn’t progress very well it was terribly fiddly. Rita was going to come and practise recorder but she sent a note to say her mother had erysipelas which is terrific bad luck. Rita has taken a day’s leave to look after her. Went to PT and there were only 8 of us and Cuddly didn’t stay. Quite enjoyed it but like the exercise more than the gym part. It would be OK if I could sit and knit for this part, but if I don’t actually do the stuff I have to be a frog for leap frog and when I was the fourth or fifth part of the frog and some hefty Ranger tried to leap over 5 or 6 backs at once I didn’t come off so well. [Diagram sketch added here] They either sat on my neck or bowled me clean over. They also did handstands over my back while I kneeled on all fours and Elsie said she’d try to give them no support under their back. I was to brace my back and make it as high as possible and mustn’t fall over or it would spoil their handstand, so it was “wong!” and my whole being seemed to jar – was I

glad of my 6 bottles of iron?!! Home with 3 of the Rangers and Sheila McEwan said goodbye as she was going back to London. Home, supper, a smoke, a chat and to bed.

Sat 9 December:

In early again. Am getting quite friendly with the old man and his dog who stand at the bus stop about the time I am there on 8 o'clock mornings. Only had 5 Tweenies and Pamela (8 yrs old school child) in, so found time to scrub the tables and chairs and high chair, polish them, to do the washing that had accumulated and wash the floor before getting the children ready for dinner. Pamela is only 8 I know but she's as much use as a brick wall. I asked her to look after the 5 while I had my coffee (Mrs Smith agreed to this) and in about two minutes I was told that 'all the Tweenies are playing in the bathroom!' They are no sooner returned to their room when she lets them throw lots of toys out of the window and just tells me when I come back 'that they're awful, they will throw the toys out of the window!' They will I agree but they don't get a chance to throw many out when I'm around, it's a long way down to pick them up! Jean and I caught the 1.10 bus home and I'm very excited to think I've got my day off for Christmas shopping on Monday so won't be going back to the Nursery till 9.30 on Tuesday! After dinner I went out to do a little shopping but it was very cold and terrifically crowded in the shops so soon came home and sat eating chocs by the fire. Darned and patched 6 pairs of stockings. Tea. Changed and went to the Theatre which was "Candlelight" a modern interpretation of Der Fleidermaus which Charles Heslop. Opinions varied. I thought it was very funny in many places: Daddy who came (a rare occasion) was bored and his shingles caused him some pain I think; and Mummy thought it one of the worst plays this year – not because the acting was poor but that the plot was so thin and everything turned out as you expected. This was a fact but it didn't worry me because I felt it was meant to be like that, and the acting was very clever. Home, supper and I went on to bed about 10 before the others.

Sun 10 December:

Stayed in bed until about quarter to 12. [...then a blank gap of about nine lines' worth on her page, or about four lines on this one – I'm guessing rubbed out as the whole diary here is in a light pencil. Then starts mid-line...] Things went wrong – we couldn't get any milk from Hands as usual so had to have tinned milk from the Hostel. We found our cigarettes had gone mouldy and although there were only Rita Diana and I with the Sorops [Soroptimists I assume] we sat down most of the afternoon as we only sold 50 teas. Round to the Hostel with Rita, with some left-overs at 5.30 then home and after a chat with Daddy we looked up erysipelas in the Nursery manual and it seems that Rita ought to be in quarantine! Mrs Smith is better and Rita hopes it won't break out anywhere else. Scott Reid is

her doctor but she was a new case to him and he didn't give her any sympathy or interest and didn't say if he was coming to see her or not so she's a bit fed up with him I think. Rita and I then met Mr Smith and we went to Argyle Church where the choir sang most of the Messiah during the service and it was thoroughly enjoyable and made me even more sure that I like Handel and Mozart best of all musicians. It might have been more enjoyable if we had had air cushions – it was as bad as the gallery at the Theatre. I hope churches of the future will have seats as comfortable as the cinema – why not? Home, a little supper and to bed fairly early.

Mon 11 December:

My day off! Betty called for me at 9.20 (meant to be between 8.45 and 9am, but still) and we caught a bus to Bristol and spent the morning in shops having elevensies [sic] at Fortes and dinner at Bernis – both nice. Betty bought a collar and some coupon free white wool-silk stuff for knitting into underwear for herself, an RC Missal for her sister and a calendar. I bought a square rust scarf with a map of England on it and ships and aeroplanes etc on it and a compass which makes it rather fun, but it cost me 9/4 and 1 coupon! I bought a navy feather buttonhole for Pamela and a book containing synopses of operas and lines of music from the operas which I thought Jean would like. After lunch we went to see the Portal House but wern't [sic] able to see over it and as at present only ticket holders (councillors etc) are allowed in. I was not impressed with the outside – they look like a caravan with no wheels and extended both ends. They look far worse even than the Admiralty hutments! Home by bus early in the afternoon and Betty went home. I went out shopping with Mummy but only bought a model aeroplane for John – it cost me 7/6 at Common's. Mummy wanted me to buy a brooch at Dickinson's but though we spent some time there I didn't like any of them so left without one. Home for tea then changed, to B & P where a Mrs James spoke on the Economic History of Bath. It didn't interest me and I could have fallen asleep till he began answering questions at the end then he was quite entertaining. I did however study Miss Campbell's research book on post-war careers for women she is compiling which was most comprehensive. On to Rangers where we had carol practice and I did quite a lot of knitting nearly getting up to the armhole of the first sleeve of my Ranger jumper. Afterwards as the speaker for the evening couldn't come, we each described our work to the others and this proved very interesting. Taps, then home, supper, a smoke and to bed.

Tues 12 December:

Just an ordinary day with Mrs Smith away with a day off. At teatime, however, we were rung up to say that she had gastric flu and would not be in for some time. Left on the early side at night and home to find my cigarette card catalogues had come

and that I have sets catalogued at £3 and £2.10 and that several at 27/6, 25/- 20/- and 15/-. I have lots of cards catalogued at 6/1, 3/- and 1/6 each and a larger number not in the catalogue at all so was rather excited and feel I shall sell some of my cheaper sets and odds while the prices are high in case they drop at the end of the war. Supper. Read the Guider in bed. Mummy and Daddy showed me two beautiful brooches and it was difficult to choose which one to have. I chose a lovely royal blue enamel French brooch with gold frame and a picture of a goddess on it. It really is super.

Weds 13 December:

On early. It was foggy and very cold. Jean and I worked very hard straightening out everything as we expected Matron and the new Pro about 9.30. At about that time Mrs Wheeler realised we hadn't got the fish and rang up Park Lane to ask Matron to bring it in and was told that Matron was ill in bed!! We were all amazed, then I'm afraid we all jumped for joy before calming down and showing signs of sympathy and wondering what was the matter. Matron has been known to come to the Nursery with a high temperature and 'flu' so what can be the matter with her now, I can't think. I must be pretty serious. Miss Peacock came with Dorothy the new Pro who was quiet on the whole, but when she did speak she nearly shouted at the children, shook them and seemed short-tempered and she was bit bossy with Clarky. I don't think we shall like her much. Rather the Betty type. We heard during the day that Mrs Smith has been very ill with gastric-enteritis, temp: 103°F and very weak – almost in a coma! It must be a dreadful complaint. We laughed an awful lot at dinner and ate terrific helpings which was great fun but very greedy. Caught the 5.20 bus home and did Xmas presents till Rita came soon after 7.15 then we went to the Youth Hostelling Association social and film at Walcot Senior School. Unfortunately as the cinematograph was AC and the School DC we couldn't have the film but we had a good Brains Trust or Mental Cricket game where the men formed on team and the ladies the other and asked each other questions. The men won by a short head. Walked down to the P.O. with Rita and then home, Got myself a little supper, then to bed. Daddy was playing skittles and Mummy went to the Girls Hostel for the evening.

Thurs 14 December:

Too tired tonight to write much – Ordinary day with a walk in the park in the afternoon where I met Mrs Walls and her baby girl. Caught the 6.20 bus home and finished Jane's miniature garden by painting the box, (I had planted 4 different varieties of seeds this morning) and making a little house out of some bricks and corrugated paper. Mummy gave me a little doll to put in the garden, that had come out of the dolls' house she sold recently. Finished Rita's present and packed up two other presents. Supper, a smoke and to bed.

Fri 15 December:

To work at 8 and eventually found I was the only one on and at 8.30 Dorothy came on and was new to the ropes so not so much help as any of the others would have been and everything was a rush. Did I have a bone to pick with Nurse when she came on? Jean Netherwood came in to help Pauline just for the day as she was bored on her 14 days convalescence after appendicitis. Matron came in but said she felt a bit shaky – she had a haemorrhage or something like that. Mrs Wheeler had a half day and went in to see Mrs Smith who is eating a little for the first time now, so couldn't go home with Mrs W for the cigarette cards she has, as arranged, so will have to wait until Monday. Dreadful dinner hour when I kept nearly laughing. Some airmen who regularly practise driving outside our Nursery picked some holly for us to decorate the Nursery, so together with the few chains we hung up a day or so ago we're getting quite Christmassy. Did 'music' with the children with aid of my pipe this morning. In the park in the afternoon. Off at 4 and did a little shopping then home. After tea I practised my recorder, laid and made supper for Rita and I for 6.30. At 7.10 I had mine and Rita arrived at about 7.20 having had to work late. She had her supper and we got up to Jean's about 8. Groves didn't turn up as arranged but we didn't get on so badly. Rita's improved since last time but can't play up to time yet. After coffee with Miss Stone and Jane, we went home about 10.15 and I walked down to the Forum with Rita as it was very noisy in town. I was nauseated by the number of drunks I saw and you have to be quite clever to miss them! Home and to bed.

Sat 16 December:

Mrs Wheeler had the morning off so we had quite a busy time and the usual arguments with the rude lazy Betty! Matron came and did some of the cooking. Off and caught the 2.10 bus. Michael came and I cancelled my arrangement to go with Rita to the Walcot Methodist Nativity play at the Pump Room in the afternoon and the Abbey one in the Abbey in the evening. Instead I went home and washed and changed. Michael went down the garden and back to tea which I got and put away. Mummy was helping Auntie Marnie at the shop. I had a splitting headache all day which aspirins wouldn't relieve. Rita came about 6.30 and we sat talking and smoking until 8.45 when we had supper and escorted Rita to the bus in the pouring rain. Will it ever stop raining? We've had tons of it lately! We certainly needed it of course. Michael Mummy and I talked till about 20 to 12 and I nearly fell asleep and Mummy and I suffered from 'itchy feet' – they were so tired. It was quite interesting really.

Sun 17 December [misrecorded as being 16th for a second time]:

Up and Michael and I had breakfast in our dressing gowns in the kitchen and had a discussion on religion and the 'after life' which is a difficult subject to sound convincing about to a person like Michael. Cancelled the arrangement to go to St Mark's Church with Rita. Finished addressing Christmas cards. Michael and I chatted and laid dinner. After dinner we played Devil's Patience and I didn't go up to the Westwood Nativity play with the others as arranged. We expected Bobby to tea but she didn't come. After tea the GPs came and we read through the Panto Ada has written, added to it, and chose several records for different parts of it. Jean and I did a pipe duet † the family and Michael seemed impressed! He caught the 7.30 bus to Devizes. The 5 GPs left at 9.30 and I cleared away, had supper and went to bed.

Mon 18 December:

Did a few odd jobs before going to work. Took the children out in the morning and afternoon which was very nice – till we returned from the afternoon one to hear that Matron and left the Nursery in an awful rage because everywhere was untidy – why were staff shoes left in the staff cloakroom-office? (She put them in the laundry!) Why this and why that? I had a lovely time with David Sullivan who had bad diarrhoea several times during the day and had to be kept in bed with a nappy on. John Perry also had to cut his head open in the Park!! All of us were cheesed off and glad when it was 6.30. Put my ranger things on and caught a bus to the Cleveland Bridge then walked to St Mary's Church and met Jean Edna and Rita and we walked up to the Eventide Home. 3b turned up which was marvellous even for Seas and us when it's such a dark wet night and at the top of Bathwick Hill. We sung all the well-known carols and had tea. Ruth Rita and I chatted to an old lady of 90. When we left we walked down to Bayfield and sang some more there, then Groves took Rita and I to the Sedan Chair and we had some very nice sandwiches and coffee. Home about 9.45, more supper, a smoke and to bed.

Tues 19 December:

On early and things went fairly smoothly. Janet Young came in with no note to say she was fit and she obviously still had swollen glands so sent her home again. Took 'dancing' to my pipe with the children in preparation for the sort of display they have to give the mothers at the party after Christmas. Matron rang up to say we are definitely closing on Friday night till Thursday morning so we are all very pleased. Connie and I went out shopping for the staff between 2.15 and 2.45 in the village which was a nice break. The children went in the garden and we cleaned the room and Jean and I felt none too well. Jean was sick at the teatime and I had a dreadful neuralgia between dinner and tea and was glad when we were off at 5. Home and after sitting by the fire reading and washing up the tea things felt much better! Mummy and I went to the Conservative Association. Discussion at Pitt House at 7.30

which was on the Post-war Insurance plan, tonight, and although the Speaker wasn't a good orator and didn't know his subject all that well, the discussion following his talk was very lively and some of the people present were quite interesting. We had nice coffee and biscuits too. Home for 9 for supper, a smoke and to bed.

Weds 20 December:

Did some odd jobs and to work where Connie was on holiday so took her place. It was foggy today and the children were miserable out of doors so took them in after 10 minutes or so. Had a huge 2nd dinner and consequently only tea to drink at teatime. Matron was in but in a fairly good mood. Left about 6.20 and caught a 3 bus home. Read a Housewife till 10 to 7 when Jean and Rita came and we caught a bus to the RUH. [Royal United Hospital] Young Argyle, the Over 20s and the Rangers were singing with the harmonium in the Hospitals. We started at 7.30 in the Women's Medical at the RUH, went on to the Men's surgical and Medical then to 3 different wards in the Orthopaedic and 3 more in the Forbes Fraser (about 27 carols in all) so by the end our throats and feet felt they wanted a rest! The patients were very cheery and I was surprised to see Don Harrison in the Men's Surgical (RUH). The Orthopaedic children were very lively and although I agreed with Jean they were a pathetic sight I felt very sorry for the Nurses – I bet they're a handful (the children I mean). Rita went home by bus with Clare, and Jean and I walked along the Weston Rd so that I could deliver Betty's present and so to our respective homes. We had enjoyed the evening very much and all had good fun. Bu this time I was hungry and glad of a good supper which I had when I got in. Daddy had had an awful van journey today with two near accidents in the fog. Everybody is perturbed at the US Army setback in Belgium and hope it is only a temporary affair.⁴⁴

Thurs 21 December:

On early and we all felt rather tired, non-workish and had the beginning of the Christmas spirit! It was a wet muggy day contrary to yesterday. I washed all the overalls after dinner so that they'll not be left dirty over the holiday. Mrs Smith came and visited us and she looked much better. Although Jean was not due off till 5.30, she had finished the work and Nurse felt in a good mood as an RAF friend had come to visit her, so we both left the Nursery about 5.15 and came home. Jean washed and set my hair for me and dried it, the left about 7.0. Just then we had telegram to say Michael's leave had been cancelled and he couldn't come for Christmas as we had hoped. I feel very sorry for for him – I bet he'll be cheesed off as he calls it. Made myself some supper and then soon after 7.30 Jean Carter came to practise recorders for Saturday night carols. We tried playing some from memory

⁴⁴ Battle of the Bulge, 16 Dec – 25 Jan, the last great offensive attempted by Germany in WW2.

and Jean transposed *Good King Wenceslas*. She and I both had sore throats and think we're in for colds for Christmas which is cheerful. Having finished my iron I have started taking calcium (my own idea) as it did me a lot of good once before in connection with the trouble I had last Sunday week! Jean left at 9 and I had a hot bath and went to bed.

Fri 22 December:

Wet muggy day and none of us felt workish. I still had a sore throat and a little ulcer in my nose which didn't improve things – Nurse suggested I stopped breathing! Matron came in for dinner but left soon after. Mrs Smith called. Nurse left at 4. We were not early going and I locked up and turned off everything I could think of and several other things besides! Home with Mrs Wheeler's cigarette cards and spend the evening trying to find the catalogue prices of them. Daddy was interested in them but had expected them to be older than they were. They were sets or near sets c1908-1916 and I found them very fascinating I think I shall offer as much as £5 for them and I hope Mrs Wheeler accepts. To bed about 10.30. I was going to do the Christmas cake this evening but when I got in Mummy had just finished doing it!

Sat 23 December:

Spent the first half of the morning chasing after Mummy taking her shopping home and chasing after her again. Did a bit of shopping on my own then home to do some more packing up. After dinner and washing up I walked up to Bear Flat and delivered presents to Joan and Pamela. Then bussed to Odd Down. We did charades with the Guides till about 4 then gathered up the toys they had made and went to St Martin's children ward. They had a lovely Christmas tree there and the Nurse was very nice. We were delighted until we were asked if we'd mind not staying as there was a little boy very very ill and his mother was there at the bedside with another nurse and was weeping bitterly. It upset Rita and I rather. Went back to Rita's and had some tea and she mended her mother's watch while I played on my pipe. Just before we left at 6.45 Mr and Mrs Smith returned from their day at Swindon. Bussed down to Argyle arriving about 7 and there were about 9 of us Rangers including cuddly and Jean Carter, and 1 boy friend! We sang outside private houses in Henrietta St at first, then went on to the Guildhall which was very fruitful, to the Parade Gardens where an American joined in with us and breathed beer etc all over Mrs Davis which made us laugh! From there we went to McIlroys, the Sedan Chair, Wood St and ended up outside our house. Jean and I joined in with the pipes with some of them. We counted up just before 9 and we had collected £2-6-0 for St Dunstan's in the afternoon when Mr Coggan's lot went out with the harmonium, which was marvellous I think. After supper I had a hot bath and went to bed. Jean and I both have nasty colds. Rita goes to Portsmouth for Christmas tomorrow.

Sun 24 December:

Actually felt like getting up this morning so got up about 8 got Daddy's breakfast then had my own. Sorted out some cigarette cards then went for a walk with Daddy and delivered Beryl's present. Home and made some shortbread for Daddy. Bobby came to dinner and then went on to visit relations in Bristol. I went on sorting cigarette cards then caught the 3.45 bus out to Mrs Sayers to tea and Pamela came as well. She gave us a marvellous tea of tinned apricots and finished up with Christmas cake. I had had lots of dinner and by the time I'd struggled through the cake with almond icing (Which is fatal with me anyhow) I felt rather sick! We chatted a good bit and Pam went at 6.20 or so to meet Jim in town – I think she will hit it off with him before long. They are very thick. I came home on the 7.25 bus and coincided with Bobby's return from Bristol so we sat and she had a little refreshment and I smoked over the fire for half an hour, then she had to go to catch her bus. Mummy and I packed Daddy's presents and Mummy went up to Auntie Marnie's with hers. After supper of which I had practically nothing as still felt so full, I went on to bed and I have a pile of parcels by my bed which although if they were opened would make me sleep better tonight, will remain unopened until early in the morning as I have had such excellent training in self-control!

Mon 25 December:

I had a terrific number of presents – too long a list to enumerate here and I opened them about 6 o'clock! Got the morning tea and watched the parents open their presents. Did a bit of lino cutting (present) in bed and got up about 11 or so. Hoovered Mummy's room then did more lino-cutting till Bobby and Auntie Marnie came for dinner. We had a lovely turkey and all the extras also a Christmas pudding. I read a book on Youth borrowed from Mr Sayers. Didn't feel too grand most of the day and at teatime decided it would be nicer in bed so went, read and to sleep about 8.30 I should think. Mummy and Daddy went up to the Dickinsons and met an American and Peter Dickinson – a naval captain of about 25 which I should naturally have like to have seen if I'd been feeling OK and not red and stuffy about the nose!

Tues 26 December:

Wrote several 'thank you' letters in bed. Got up and after a few odd household duties, did some cigarette card sorting and did the same in the afternoon. Felt better today but not too grand. Rang up Jean to ask her to stay the night but she said her cold had turned into a sort of 'flu' and she wouldn't be able to come to the Panto with us as arranged so we gave her seat to Pam's Jim. The Bunts and their 2 relations called for us just before 6 and we went all together to the Panto. There

were 10 of us and about 14 in the Strudwick party so we practically owned the centre block of the dress circle. "Jack and the Beanstalk" was very good indeed as a variety show but the jokes and some of the ghostly scenes (skeletons walking about) and the horrid fearsome giant didn't seem very suitable for children. The Bunts and Sayers came home afterwards and had supper, and then some games including the 'initiation of Colonel Popoff', charades, and a memory game. When they all left at about 1am Mr Bunt's car was found to be frozen and had to be pushed to a place to be left the night. Meanwhile Mum and I did the washing up and got the family a cup of tea before their long trek home. To bed about 2am.

Weds 27 December:

Read in bed. It was very very cold today – a white frost, and people's pipes were frozen up. Ours were OK luckily and we kept a night-light in the lavatory to prevent any freezing during the day. Mr Bunt came in to say that he and Mrs Bunt had not been well during the night. Daddy didn't feel well either, had no dinner or tea and retired to bed about 2.0. After doing some clearing up this morning I settled down to my cigarette cards. There's an incredible [sic] amount of work in merely housing properly a few cards. Went on with it during the afternoon and evening until about a quarter to 10 only stopping when the Golds called in for tea and to write 2 'thank you' letters and wash up the tea things. To bed about 10 or so.

Thurs 28 December:

Very foggy and freezing so buses were late and slow. Pavements very slippery and people walking in the roads. Betty couldn't have shut the back gate when I sent her up on Friday night to do so, so the garden gate was open all the holiday which didn't please Mrs Smith! We had 13 toddlers only so were able to get some mending and ironing done. It was very very cold and the buses stopped their services for about 4hrs till the fog lifted. Matron rang up and said that 3 of us could have 2 extra hours off so Dorothy Betty and I went off at 3pm. The others will have early days tomorrow and Saturday. Home and sorted cigarette cards till supper time with the exception of about an hour when I helped get tea and the Golds came. Don't know if it's tiredness or what but about 8.30 I felt sick as I have on lots of occasions before, - it's rather queer. Had my S.U. card from Miss Cooper who wished me Prayerful New Year Greetings! Edna sent in the Pantomime script. Heard they've had flying bombs in or near Manchester so a bit perturbed.

Fri 29 December:

Had a letter from Mary and was relieved to see she did not mention any V bombs so hop she hasn't seen or heard any. Wrote a letter to Adj. then to work and it was

bitterly cold. The children were difficult to keep happy because the fire was dull and many of them wouldn't be induced to play energetic games but sat crying complaining of the cold. Must say the trees from the window looked really beautiful when the fog lifted – they were a gorgeous white. Only had 12 toddlers today. Jean went off early. Jean, Nurse and I are going to Ascension Hall tomorrow night for a New Year Dance. If it hadn't been so cold we were going to Bathampton but it is cold weather to walk so far afterwards, and slippery along there too so although Jean was going to spend the night with me she and Nurse wanted to go to Ascension and I have made arrangements to call for Nurse and go there with them though I'm not keep on the idea as I know Ascension Dances are packed.

Mrs Wheeler said her husband would accept the £5 offer I made for the cigarette cards so was rather thrilled though £5 does seem a lot for some bits of cardboard! Mrs Smith and I walked home as buses were a bit irregular, consequently rather full and the roads are like glass – we felt safer on foot and indeed we got nearly to the Cleveland Bridge before a bus passed us – bung full. Matron told us today she had spent the Saturday before Christmas laying out a man and told us several details while we ate our dinner which highly amused the lot of us, she also said she was throwing a party for the staff at Park Lane on Jan 20th and would invite men from the YMCA or Toc H if we didn't bring our own partners, so perhaps it will be quite fun. The children's party is to be on Friday. When I got in I took the newly purchased cards out of the book and sorted and counted. I have 5 complete sets catalogued from 50-80 shillings each and several other sets with only one or two missing. Nearly all the cards are catalogued at 1/- or more each and there must be over 1000 so hope that the £5 I am paying for them is not too crazy and price to pay. Bed.

Sat 30 December:

Read in bed. Only 8 children at work so after washing the nursery floor cleaning the cloakroom paint while the other Pros did other cleaning had tea and sat down by the fire till nearly 12 O'clock when the 3 of us fed the 6 tweenies and toddlers upstairs, and dressed them. Had dinner and took our time over it and it was not 1 by the time we had finished, even. There were 3 staff left on from 1-2 so Nurse smoked with Mrs Wheeler in the office and I wrote out my part for the Panto, while looking after the children who were left. As always the case when we're waiting to go, baby Michael wasn't fetched till just gone 2 and it was 2.20 before we got a bus into town. Home and spent the whole afternoon and evening finishing sorting my newly purchased cards. I have found I have 6 complete sets and there are one or two cards I can't find catalogued. I had arranged yesterday to go to a dance at

Ascension Church but I thought it would be packed and Mum's not keen on the idea so we decided we'd go to the Palace. I cancelled the arrangement and said we were going to the Palace and Mrs Wheeler was going too. When I got in this afternoon it was to find there were no available seats at the Palace so I shall have some awkward explanations on Monday! To bed straight after supper. The weather thawed a bit this afternoon but tonight I am afraid it is freezing again. It was 19° below FP in London on Xmas day.

Sun 31 December:

Read in bed finishing SPB Mais book "Youth after the War", went down and got and ate my breakfast then read the Guider in bed till just after 10 when I got up, and packed up a parcel of books and papers which have to be returned to Wobey Hall, made Daddy's bed and then a pudding for dinner. Daddy was bought a new grate for the lounge and the fire runs beautifully now making the room nice and warm. After dinner I wrote 3 or 4 letters and 2 PCs then went to the GPO with the family's letters. We planned a charade for tonight, had a cup of tea and read the papers. As the ice had thawed a little Mrs Bunt was able to fetch us at 7 in his car and take us up to his house where we had an acting game then had a lovely supper of cold duck, Christmas pudding, trifle, mince and apple tarts and cheese straws. We finished with a Grande [sic] Marnier liqueur which I rather liked. From then till 11.30 we had a game called "salted almonds", charades and a question and answer game rather like 'consequences'. At 11.30 we listened into the wireless until 12 or just after and we drank the toasts proposed by Robert Donat on the wireless and a few of our own. I had a Bronx (orange gin and water). During the evening I also had a ginger ale and soda and lemon, so felt my inside must be rather a mix up though didn't feel at all queer or giggly! (More than usual anyway.) We sang Auld Lang Syne, Myrna (Mrs Bunt's sister) played some Beethoven then she played some carols while I accompanies her on my pipe! June and Mary demonstrated ballroom and jitterbug dancing but although many of the steps seemed OK they seldom seemed to be with the music, still Mrs Bunt thought they were simply marvellous! We left must before 1.30am and Mr Bunt kindly took us home in his car. Fell into bed.

Mon 1 January 1945:

Feet were frozen in the night. At work at (and had a queer day at work. Matron's new rule of mothers taking the children's gloves hats and scarfs to work and not leaving them in the cloakroom was enforced. I had to put up a contraption for hanging our sweeping brush up. Nurse raised the roof in our nursery at 12.30 because I hadn't aired the toddlers' blankets and I raised the roof back at her resenting her interference, but calmed down when I found how right she was when

she put one by the fire. She then came down to earth and admitted she wouldn't have thought of it if she hadn't just warmed a blanket for one of her Tweenies and found clouds of steam come forth! We put all the blankets in the airing cupboard in the afternoon and Mrs Smith was very nice to me about it. Pauline told me that Ted had waited in the road by the dance hall for about an hour on Saturday night thinking I was going to be at the Bathampton dance and was very upset not to have seen me. "He's very sweet on you" Pauline said. – I do get them! Tried to make some butterscotch under orders from Mrs Smith but wasted 1lb of sugar because the result tasted terribly burnt and yet I had stirred all the time in an aluminium saucepan on a very low gas and the pan wasn't burnt at all! Even Mrs Wheeler the cook, who was with me at the time couldn't understand it. More difficult moments but again Mrs Smith was very nice. Nurse has back pains today and didn't look at all well. She says she's going to get pleurisy and I really wouldn't be surprised knowing how damp her house is. Home, and had a chat and read the paper, smoked, listened to the wireless, had an early supper and to bed. (The dance at Ascension Hall was cancelled on Saturday so glad I didn't go. Connie Clarke came back today.)

Tues 2 January:

We had 21 toddlers today and we mended the soft toys and washed the dolls clothes. Nurse gets more and more vulgar and I felt fed up with it at dinner time. It annoyed me because Mrs Smith and Mrs Wheeler laughed at her and then when she's away they remark how nice it is not to have so many rude jokes etc going on. Nurse kept criticising the work done in our room in the afternoon which made Jean – not to mention myself – furious. Glad to be off at 5 or soon after. When I arrived home Pat arrived from Weston and Bobby was there. (Pat is on leave from the Navy) I had a 2nd tea then a cigarette and changed. Walked up to Rita's and Mrs Smith got me some more tea and a biscuit! We walked along together to Mrs Davis's new house in Greenaway [sic] Lane. We were shown over the house then met the other guests – Mr Norman Wills, Mrs Wills and Barbara, Mrs and Mrs Bevan, Mrs and Mrs Silcox (Mac's parents) and Mrs and Mrs Dawson. We had a sherry, then sat down to a huge supper – soup and rolls, huge hors d'oeuvre consisting of lettuce, cress, pickled cabbage, chopped veg in sauce, eff, spam, tinned lobster, sardine, sausage meat, gurkin [sic], carrot, celery, tomato and probably some more but I can't remember, then some trifle and homemade cream, and biscuits and cheese for which I had no room! We then had several party games, some brainy, some otherwise and Rita and I both won handkerchief prizes. There was a geography happy families and we had to collect a town, the river it was on, and the country. Mrs Wills was making all sorts of

remarks about his river so knowing it was in the same country as Florence I was brave and asked for it amid loud laughter. Later when I had obtained "Italy" as well I said I'd hoped I'd finished but "Is Florence on the Po⁴⁵, 'cos I don't know?" What a fool I was, I never thought, and Mr Wills kept teasing me about it and threatening to bring it up at the Rangers lectures! This went on after coffee we bundled into Mrs Davis's car and they dropped me at York St. I walked up through the town and my shoes made an awful noise. I didn't see a soul – it was 10 past 12!

Weds 3 January:

Pat went early. Work went pretty ordinarily but Nurse was rather out to criticise our room as yesterday. Tomorrow, a staff nurse from Denewood who wants to train as a Pro in a Wartime Nursery because she is untrained is coming to look over the Nurses, and I'm rather anxious to see who it is – it can't possibly be Joyce Love can it? Left work after 6.30 and it was pouring with rain. Walked up to her house with Mrs Smith then on to Jean's where we had supper with Miss Stone and the talked, looked at books and piped. I was rather tired so left at 9.30 and walked home. I have a sore heel and also an aching wrist which wakes me up at night – I twisted it a bit at PT some time before Christmas and in using it and doing wringing and other things it seems to be getting worse. Jean said her brother did the same thng and it got so bad he couldn't catch hold of anything and had to go to hospital to be strapped up – cheerful! She also says that dicky gave a blood transfusion yesterday after a cold and is away from work ill today – of course I must have a cold and be going to give a transfusion tomorrow at 2! Mummy has found from a map that Florence is on the Arno and not on the Po – I was not such a fool last night!

Thurs 4 January:

On early and 2 fires to light. 24 toddlers in so quite busy. We went for a walk and when we were back washing for dinner lo and behold the S.N. from Denewood did come and it was Joyce Love. Mrs Smith saw through her and said that if she came to work here there would be no need for her (Mrs S) to stay as she would obviously want to boss the concern. I think Matron was taken in by her. Anyhow Matron told her to try and get in at Bristol as we had no vacancies and she said she preferred residential work (I don't know how she knew she did!) and I think that's what she'll do. I hope she does, for I know the Frenchay and Downend nurseries will 'put her through' it! At about 10 to 2 I left the Nursery to go form my blood Transfusion and although it was previously arranged that I should come back to work from 4 to 6.30,

⁴⁵ Peggy was unlucky, with a 'toilet-humour' type double-entendre. "Po" was also a common pronunciation when referring to the "pot", i.e. chamber pot, on which a person might sit in order to urinate or defecate.

Matron told me not to return as I was supposed to be off at 5. There were very few at the Pump Room, where I had to go, - they had called a large number but the response was very poor. I went in at 2.20 and was out by 3. There were no screens or anything this time and they didn't seem to bother to help you on to your stretcher etc as before. The nurse and Dr asked me if I was quite well to which I answered 'yes' and then the latter looked at my eyes. The nurse I had was quite chatty and I felt OK though after the rest, when I got up I did feel a bit swimmy [I think] They gave us no ferro-sulphate tablets this time just told us to drink extra. Went home and sat down and dozed till tea time, but my wrist ached worse than ever today so after tea I took the plunge and went up to Scott Reid. He said I'd strained a tendon and strapped it up. He said he thought I ought to have some more iron but I said I felt much better but was now taking calcium and why, so he told me to continue with calcium. Home, washed starched and ironed a cap for tomorrow's party then went to bed about 8 o'clock to read.

Fri 5 January:

Took some presents for the Christmas tree to the Nursery. We had 25 (full number in) and 3 of us took 18 for a walk in the morning round Worcester Bldgs and Brook Rd. After dinner and rest the children went out in the garden and we had muddling time preparing the toddler room for tea. Matron was very fractious. We had very short time to get the 25+3 young schoolchildren ready for tea and spruce ourselves up. Visitors began to arrive. After tea the children had to be kept quiet at the table for a while and be potted in groups which was a bit difficult. We had teas in relays. By about 10 to 5 we were all assembled in the Tweenies room for under the Christmas tree. The children sang carols and a number of songs non stop. Matron hadn't forgotten the children's 'dancing' and told me to get my pipe! By this time there were Dr Weston and Dr Blackett, Miss Wilkinson (head of Nursery Schools in Bath) and lots of mothers there. There was an awful moment when I couldn't get my pipe to work, then we commenced with 'walking' (the children's shoes were left on and they merely stumped round drowning the music!) Next they did some running and then some skipping. They lay down and did some 'cycling' and then some 'bunny hopping' but what with the tree, their mothers, their shoes on, and Miss Clarke, Jean, Matron and I all telling them things the result was rather a muddle and to a Nursery School person used to the 'proper thing' it must have been the funniest thing she ever saw! I went up to Matron and said it was better when they had their shoes off and Miss Wilkinson looked across and said "Oh yes definitely". She seemed very nice, and Matron told me afterwards that she has asked if I was thinking of becoming a teacher, and Matron said she thought I would consider it if I had a chance of a good post!! (Matron has been quite concerned about the future of those

of us likely to continue with Nursery work after the war.) Father Christmas duly arrived and the presents were given out. About 8 children cried and I felt very sorry for the fireman (Father C) as it's awful when you're trying to please children and only manage to do the opposite. Mr Jenkis made a short speech then gradually everybody left and we cleared up. Connie and Jean who were going to a dance stayed to lock up and we all caught the 6.30 bus home. Home and washed up tea things then 7 out of the 8 of us held a Panto rehearsal. We didn't really cover a lot of ground but got on quite well. they left between 9 and 9.30 after cider and light refreshments. Supper and to bed.

Sat 6 January:

On early at work. We only had about 14 toddlers. The other 3 took them for a walk while I washed a part of the Nursery floor, took down the decorations and sat down and did some mending. As I didn't know the time I was about 20 minutes late leaving but hurried home, had dinner then washed and changed. Mummy went on and I came on alone later to the meeting at the Pavilion where Lady Apsley was chairman and Vernon Bartlett the speaker on International affairs. I like the chairman very much. I thought Vernon Bartlett was a very easy speaker and what he said was very interesting but I don't know that I exactly agreed with some of his suggestions. Although he is an independent he seemed to have very slightly 'left' views to my mind. Miss Harper proposed a vote of thanks and Mummy seconded it. I hurried on home (it was about five) got tea for the three of us but Mummy had tea before coming home and Daddy said he didn't feel like any because it was now so late, so sat down and ate and drank it all myself! Listened to the wireless then got ready for the dance. Jean Colman called for me at 7.35 and we went down and caught a bus up to Ascension Hall. It was rather like a Bathampton dance – no Americans or jitterbugs and therefore very nice but we neither of us got many dances. We met Nurse and her boyfriend there. Jean and I danced together for a bit. Left when the dance finished at 11 and my taxi came and picked me up and then called for Mummy and Daddy who were at the Loves for the evening. Home, a light supper and to bed about 12.

Sun 7 January:

Read 'World Digest' in bed then got myself some breakfast and ate it. Back to bed to read the newspapers for a bit and finally got up, made the beds, addressed some letters to 4 Rangers and laid the dinner table. After dinner and wiping up I did some knitting till 3.25 when I got ready and went to the station to meet Jo off the train. It was 20 minutes late but we just caught a Newbridge bus and were out at Mrs Sayers soon after 4.30. We had a lovely tea and a nice long chat on politics the war etc etc and then at 7.20 Jo and Mr Sayers saw me on to the Bitton bus, home. Mr

and Mrs Bill Dickinson, Uncle Roy (Mr Hellings) and Peter Dickinson came at 7.30 to supper. Peter Dickinson was meant to be a young naval captain but this morning turned out to be quiet lance-corporal! Anyhow I thought he'd be just my sort but my work, when I did meet him, his handshake was as weak as anything and his chin the same. His mentality, if normal at all, was even slower than mine (which is saying something) and consequently made me laugh a lot – in fact if he'd had a north country accent I'm sure I would have found myself saying "Take him away, Ramsbottom"! We had a good party though, with our thought-reading trick which they did not see through, 1 minute impromptu speeches, "salted almonds" and a trick of Mr Dickinson's. I felt deeply in love with Susie Mrs Dickinson's dog – it's a lovely animal. They left about 11.30 and we went to bed.

Mon 8 January:

Felt very flat and not at all like work. Just as I got off the bus escorting 2 children Mrs Sylvester ran out of her house by the Nursery to say that an hour or so earlier Christine had caught her nightdress on fire and had burns on her legs. Another mother took the children and I went in and saw Christine who had tannifax [?] on her burns. I told her to get Bicarb and possibly methyl purple from the chemist and later see a doctor, also keep the child in bed and I would send Matron across when she came. During the morning Connie and I took 9 of the children for a walk – the others stayed in because it was cold for the smaller ones. After dinner I went into town and as I was early went over to Comers and bought 2 caps. Returned to the Guildhall and met Beryl and Matron and in we tripped to the Child Welfare Committee where there were about 18 round a very large table. Mr Jenkins read a lot of palaver about us and the Nursery in general and presented us with our NSCN diplomas. We then made an exit. We had had to wear our uniform which made things even more difficult. Back to the Nursery with Matron who called to see Christine only to find that the Dr had not liked the look of Christine and she had been admitted to hospital! Left about 6.30, home and changed then on to Rangers where we had a long Rangers in Council. There were quite a good number there. Home to a very nice supper and to bed.

Tues 9 January:

On early. I snowed in the night and there was a cold east wind today. Connie and I talked about the 1yrs emergency course for teachers which is being talked about. We would like to go on it and want to find out further particulars. We took 14 of the children in the park this afternoon. Off at 5 and home to write a long letter to Mary, make and eat my supper and get ready to go out with Rita when she called at 7.45 (she is working late this week) We walked to the Walcot Senior School where the YHA social is held and arrived about an hour late but I don't think we missed

much. There weren't a great many there – 9 girls and 5 boys. After tea and buns, we paid our 3d and then had a quick thinking 'towns' game and then a memory game about what I put in my rucsac, and lastly a shopping game rather like musical chairs which was good fun. We left soon after 9 o'clock. Home, a smoke and to bed.

Weds 10 January:

Wrote an airmail to Shirley. At work at 9.20 and helped clean the room keeping the children in. Matron came just before dinner. Out to the park with all the children in the afternoon and as Roger got his precious lambs wool gloves dirty we staff got into a row for that from Nurse when we got back and I was rather cross, but it all blew over later. Off about 6.20 and home to find the paper marked "Good old codger" and there was lots about Beryl's and my Diplomas. Changed and went to the Argyle party for Over 20s Young Argyle and the Rangers. We had some good games and a snack supper. For 1/6 a quarter the Over 20s Club have excellent speakers (Laurence Housman, McInnis, a novelist, and a magistrate as examples) every or every other Wednesday evening and the programme includes organised games and finishes with a hymn and prayer. Rita and I have met some nice people and have decided to join! Home soon after mine. Light supper and to bed. (One of two people have rung up congratulations on the Diploma so feel quite important!)

Thurs 11 January:

On early and got a lovely fire going in our top room. Miss Peacock rang me up to tell me where to write to join the Nursery School Association (Bristol branch) and Connie and I are going to send our subs off. Matron came and weighed all the children about dinner time causing a slight muddle. Jennifer Payne was sick and the bulb of the thermometer snapped under her arm when I was taking her temperature. It was 96.4°F (with another thermometer) and Nurse said anything below 98.4 was normal. Of course I couldn't disagree with a hospital nurse but Jean stayed in with 9 children in the afternoon and Dorothy Connie and I took the others out but there was a bitter east wind. Jean has started a series of colds through the staff of the nursery and today mine began. Really felt rotten and was glad when it was 4 and I was off. Bought a thermometer to replace the one I broke and some little books for the children. Gave a quick look round for books to get with my tokens but saw none so home to tea and out just to get some cinnamon and quinine which Mummy insisted I bought. I had kept tonight free for my catering and other correspondence but as every time I coughed or raised my head a cannonball seemed to bump against the inside of my skull and I felt stiff down my neck and back I decided to give it a miss and have a hot bath and go to bed early and read, which I did.

Fri 12 January:

Felt really lousy but as only had a slight temperature thought I 'd better go to work. Wrote a PC to Ada and posted it on the way to the bus. Didn't do very much work all day I must admit and took Cinnamon and Quinine. Matron told Jean she would take my temperature so when I saw her I said I felt much better! Home and had my supper then met Connie outside McIlroys and we went to a Public Meeting of the Fabian Society. 3 films were due to be shown but as they turned out to be rather long, we only saw "Children in cities" which was an extremely good film about 3 boys who broke into a pawn shop, their homes, their trial and how each was psychologically treated, also showed how youth organisations and games fields were helping to keep children out of crime. After this Dr Oldham, a Reading University lecturer who I have heard about a year ago, spoke on delinquency and her talk consisted, as usual, of anecdotes about her 'patients', but it was very interesting. Didn't leave till about 9.30. Miss Peacock and Beryl were there. Home, a chat and to bed.

Sat 13 January:

Did ironing most of the morning. Was very full of cold. Off just after 2, did a bit of shopping then home and read by the fire. The bell rang in the middle of the afternoon and again before I could get downstairs. When I opened the door there were two American Red Cross Girls there. Were we open on Sunday? What a pity, they had seen some things they liked and wanted to look round. Could they just have a quick look-round now? I'm soft! I remembered how the Americans grumbled about English hospitality and let them in. I suppose they were 10 mins or 15 mins looking round and didn't buy a thing. Everything was cute but that's as far as it got! Mummy answered the next door bell to find she had to answer a questionnaire for the July Express! Lovely afternoon! After tea I felt pretty awful and finding I had a temp again I had a bath and went to bed and to sleep. Mummy brought me up 2 hot lemons and I definitely felt better when I woke up later.

Sun 14 January:

There's not really much to write about today. I stayed in bed all day and read. Felt fairly OK except when I had to get up when I felt rotten and found it amazingly hard work just to do my hair in order to go down to dinner in my dressing gown. Had a temp of 100° that's all. Missed going to Canteen which I was sorry to do as we had some 60 wounded there as visitors of the Mayor. Have decided not to go to work tomorrow after much thought. Will be very upset to miss the Ranger party tomorrow night.

Mon 15 January:

Didn't do much except listen to the wireless during the morning. Started to embroider a tray cloth for Mummy in the afternoon. Mummy came up and chatted in

the evening. Still had a slight temp and a headache. Neither ill nor well but thoroughly fed up! Missed the Ranger party so even more fed up!

Tues 16 January:

Mrs Davis called early in the morning and stayed having quite long chat with me about the party. There were 40 there and equiboy to girls all except about 2, but the wounded soldiers couldn't come so I personally was not so sorry I missed it although they sounded as if they had great fun – Mrs Davis said they did nothing but kissing all night! Mrs Davis gave them a lovely hors d'oeuvre and trifles (one of which Mummy made) for supper and they wouldn't finish up the party till 10.15 but when they did the boys helped the girls and the room was straight in 5 minutes. They want another party soon! Mrs Davis also told me the tale of Joyce Love.... Boshier came to see her one day to say what should she do, because the new Sister at Denewood insisted on Joyce leaving at once! I don't know what Mrs Davis said but apparently Joyce did leave at once and as there were no vacancies in Bath she is going to Bristol to train and will return to Denewood when trained. All I hope is that she goes to Downend where they put her through it and she won't be able to boss her seniors around there! It seems evident, though, that the Sister wouldn't stand for this favouritism business, I'd like to meet her! She and I could shake hands!

Dr Scott Reid called and told he was surprised to hear that I didn't know that Rome was on the Tiber and didn't I know that London was on the Thames, Glasgow on the Clyde etc etc so I privately cursed Mrs Davis. He said I had flu and must stay away a week. Wrote a PC to Rita. Finished reading Morton's "In the Steps of the Master" and also read "Listening to the Orchestra". Missed the Conservative discussion on Education which I very badly wanted to go to. Listened to the wireless – it was a very good brains trust. Had a letter from Auntie Tommy.

Weds 17 January:

Read "Wonders of the Sky" a book on astronomy Rita gave me for Christmas then spent most of the day reading "Red Surgeon" by George Borodin, a new book which is a biography of a Russian surgeon and mostly consists of excerpts [sic] from his own diary. It is very thrilling. You can imagine seeing it on a modern film and you would come out and say to yourself – 'just like all films absolutely impossible!' But actually every detail must be true and when you remember this, you cannot help deeply admiring the Russian people and feeling very very sad. The German atrocities are scandalous but the sacrifices of the Russians are even more so. I finished the book in the afternoon. Rita called in the dinner hour for a gramophone record for the rehearsal tonight of the Panto which I shall have to miss. She brought me a sweet

little bunch of flowers which made me feel a real invalid, but it was very naughty of her. Had a rotten headache all day and still the slight temp (99-100°). Mummy didn't go to Hostel Canteen tonight but sat with me and did mending.

Thurs 18 January:

In the morning I did a new kind of crossword in the 'Leader' and managed to complete it so was quite pleased with myself. Mummy and Daddy went to Minchinhampton for the day to a sale so Mrs Ward brought me up my dinner for which I had no appetite. I did feel better however and my temp was down to 97 so I dressed and went down in the lounge. Wrote a few letters. Auntie Marnie called about tea time and I got her a cup of tea. The parents came home about 20' later. It had been a dreadful afternoon with a terrific gale and rain storms yet still very cold. Auntie Marnie went. About 5 I suppose it was I didn't feel so good and decided to go to bed. Found I had a temp again. To sleep and slept almost without break till breakfast time next morning. Had arranged to go to Peggy Lowes with Rita tonight but of course had to cancel that!

Fri 19 January:

Started to read "They were sisters" by Dorothy Whipple. Saw Bobby in the dinner hour. Without finishing the above book began "Yeomans' Hospital" by Helen Ashton in the afternoon. Went down in my dressing gown to the lounge for tea although my temp had gone up once more. About 7.30 I felt much better and when Mummy returned from her meetings she played a pencil and paper game with me. Took $\frac{3}{4}$ gr calomel⁴⁶ to try and get rid of the germ or whatever it is I've got. To bed about 9.30. (Jean was to have done my hair tonight.)

Sat 20 January:

Finished "Yeoman's Hospital" and was not so fond of it as I thought I should be. Dr Scott Reid called, walking straight up to my room without ringing the bell! He told me I was getting on OK but to stay in bed over the weekend. Gave me some more medicine. He didn't see Mummy although she was in the shop all the time. Mummy rang up the Nursery and told them I wouldn't be back on Monday. It snowed today. Mummy and Daddy went to see Auntie Laura in the afternoon as she hadn't come on Wednesday and Mummy had found out she had the flu. She was better, however. I came down to the lounge in my dressing gown and looked at some new magazines about tea time but soon afterwards I didn't feel at all well and went back to bed and

⁴⁶ mercurous chloride, a white powder formerly used as a purgative.

to sleep pretty solidly until breakfast time the next morning. I wondered how the Staff party was going off.

Sun 21 January:

Read the papers and began reading "Life is my adventure" by Barbara Mullen which is a very interesting and amazing story of a young Irish girl in America. About tea time I went down to the lounge in Dressing gown although I didn't feel very well. It must have been about 6 that the headache I had had all day got worse and I felt sick and shivery so went back to bed with a temp of 100.8° and must say I felt it was more like 105! My head was terrific and I would feel everything beating 19 to the dozen. Eventually fell asleep.

Mon 22 January:

Temp was down to 96.6 this morning and felt quite alright. Spent the whole day reading and listening to the wireless finishing "Life is my adventure" and starting "Blue Silver" by Victor Bridges which is a very ordinary detective yarn. Mummy bought a temperature chart for fun this evening. My temp was up to normal tonight but don't think I felt as well as I did this morning really.

Tues 23 January:

Felt alright again today and indeed my temperature was normal all day. Read in the morning finishing "Blue Silver" also listened to the wireless. Got up in the afternoon and did some catering work also studied some of my cigarette cards and found I had another set catalogued at £3 from the big collection I bought recently. Bobby came in about teatime and stayed until 7.30. I felt tired and didn't do much in the evening but listened to the Brains Trust and go to bed.

Weds 24 January:

Read in the morning and finished "They were sisters" which is an extraordinary novel about ordinary people. It's extraordinary because although nothing very startling happens throughout, there is something vitally interesting in every line and the descriptive parts are so original and well-written. Got up for dinner after the doctor had been and said I wasn't to go back to work till Monday and given me yet more medicine. I had reams of news from Mrs Davis including notice of a Ranger Guiders meeting on Saturday which I must be better for. Bobby came to dinner and stayed till 6.30, sewing. Jean, Joan Webb and Cuddly rang me up in the afternoon which made me feel brighter and I also rang Rita up. It seems for one reason or another we shall have to postpone the Panto a week. I started making the sandals I was going to make at Christmas and was alone from 6.30 to 8 when Mrs Davis called and we chatted for an hour. Went to bed directly after supper and was quite tired.

Thurs 25 January:

It snowed again in the night and was a very cold day. I read and slept during the morning and got up at dinner time. Matron rang up soon after and told Mummy to keep me at home until I was really well as they had measles and whooping cough at the Nursery. Did some more towards my shoes (finishing one) and then persuaded Daddy to have a game of rummy which he did but I won every rubber 100-0 or 100-7 so he wasn't too happy. Bobby came about 4 and joined in until teatime. After tea Bobby and Daddy left in turn and so I practised my pipe till Jean arrived about 10 past 6 and after a chat we played pipes. We expected Rita but she didn't turn up – she did say she might not be able to manage it – so we had supper about 7.15, then back to play our pipes again, had some coffee and finished up by practising being a horse which we feel we must include in the Panto. I'm the front legs and she's the hind ones and we practised jumping over a cushion which was very difficult but must have looked funny. I'm going to make a head with the aid of my gas mask! We rang up Betty to find out if Feb 9th was possible for her and she said it would be better than the 2nd so I think we shall definitely postpone it the week. Jean left about 9.30 and I went to bed later. Felt much better today though had no appetite. The medicine I've got is simply dreadful and seems to paralyse [sic] your mouth.

Fri 26 January:

Really didn't feel very well today – for one thing, just as I closed my diary last night I 'cricked' my neck and it still pained this morning so much that I couldn't move my head to either side or far up and down! I sat up in bed and spent most of the morning making a horse's head. I gave up the gas mask idea as felt so suffocated and in the end evolved head out of pieces of old stocking and finished it except for its features. It was very cold last night and this morning the temperature having dropped to below 15°F (coldest since 1940) and as I felt rather cold by the time had made the horse's head I dozed till it was 12.30 then got up. Still hadn't any appetite. Read nearly all the afternoon and at 6 when Mummy had gone to Soroptimists and Daddy to the club I played my pipe playing some music from the Messiah which Jean had leant me. Mrs Davis called about 6.45 and talked for about half an hour. She showed me some shoes she was beginning to make like mine and asked me questions about the making of them. When she had gone to the Youth Council's plays to which I also had an invitation but couldn't go, I played my pipe till about 8.30 when Mummy and I listened to the wireless and I went to bed without any supper. Felt rather fed up with myself as there was catering, my shoes, the horse's head, mending and heaven knows what I wanted to do but just felt I couldn't! I find playing the pipe a

very satisfying occupation when you're not feeling well, and Jean apparently thought so too for she piped the whole time she was on sick leave back in the Autumn I think.

Sat 27 January:

It was even colder last night – down to 12.2°F, but I didn't feel so cold in bed. Lay in bed and read the January "Child Education" and felt I might like to take the Froebel Kindergarten (generally children 5-7) exam for which Cloughs run a correspondence course and to my surprise Mummy was all for it – anyhow I think I'll write them and find out but I shall have to hurry and finish my catering course! My neck was much better today and this was a good thing for if no other reason it means I can drink up my medicine quickly – it's very difficult to drink it up quickly without tipping your head backwards. Got up about 11.30, and having put on my boots, 2 scarves and a thick coat went for a stroll round the Milsom St area and managed to buy a comb at Jolly's. Only stayed out about 20', home and tidied my room before dinner. After dinner Daddy and I washed wiped as Mummy caught the 1.45 bus out to visit Aunty Laura – I locked the kitchen door to make sure that Daddy stayed and helped me! – after this we sat by the fire and I copied out the music of an aria from the Messiah so that I shall have it when Jean has the book back. When Mummy came back about 4.30 I got the tea and after reading the paper I played my pipe and later listened to the ireless till Jean called for me and we went to the Ranger Guiders meeting at Argyle and 7pm. We discussed the Ranger Guider's Training, Ranger-Rover hikes, Hockey, Combined Ranger effort for GIs. Post War pre-enrolment test and H.E.S. (as per "Guider") and Country dancing with the view to having a really big Country Dance with an orchestra at City of Bath Girls' School on April 20th. Miss West is going to be MC and get out a list of dances which every one must learn before hand. (This is all the result of my discussing the subject with Mrs Davis and saying how sorry I was that Country dancing was not popular like ball-room dancing when much of it – Hokyhiky[?] – is much the same.) Left soon after 9. Home, supper a smoke and to bed.

Sun 28 January:

Did some catering and read the paper in bed then Mummy came and pulled my bedclothes off at 10.45 and as it was still frightfully cold I had to get up. I was told to clean the den, so up I went and dusted the furniture and floor and tidied up, also did my bedroom. Downstairs and finished my catering and wrote a letter to enquire about the other correspondence course. Piped for short while then it was dinner time and I'm glad to say that my medicine or something is making me feel a little more hungry. There was chicken today. Helped wipe up afterwards then round about 2.30 Betty Rita and Edna came and I told them about the Ranger Guider's meeting

because they had been unable to go. Ada rang up to say she had gastric flu and Margaret rang up to say she had a cold. We're all worried that one of us will be ill on the night! We ran through the first two scenes 3 times, wrote a letter to Hiker enclosing a notice of the paper, then made out a programme and a list of props. When Jean came we made her sing the Siamese National Anthem (O wot an a Siam) before we would give her her tea (which she had dropped here at 1.30) because she had been skating instead of coming punctually to the rehearsals a dutiful member of Guider's Patrol! After tea Jean and I went downstairs and after some practise came up as JIM NEIGHSIUM HORSE which created a stir if nothing else and they consented to have him in the panto so we had to practise walking to the tune of Black Nag – which we thought appropriate!!! We practised the last scenes then went right through the whole thing. It doesn't last very long and we want to pad it in some way. I took Ada's part today as well as my own. The crisis seems to be when Rita has to sit on the horse and Margaret will have to pull the curtains quickly if a disaster is not to occur! They all went about 9 o'clock and I washed up our tea things. I must say we worked hard – at least I felt we had as I had had to be Service one minute, then ugly sister the next and the front legs and head of a horse the next! Felt very worn out and went to bed directly after supper having filled the family hot water bottles.

Mon 29 January:

Got up fairly late after reading papers and magazines and tidied up the den then did my room and sat in the lounge playing my pipe. After dinner and washing up I tidied my drawer in the lounge and did nothing very special till after tea when I put the tea things away and changed for Rangers. It was now snowing quite fast. When I arrived at Argyle, there were only Rita, Cuddly and about 6 of ours so we joined the approximate 12 Seas for their party. Only 3 of their males turned up and their food was apparently not half so good as ours was, but we managed to have some very good fun with the games and finished up with the ceremony of the "Crossing the Line" and of course we 'did' Cuddly who made everybody roar and she said in an undertone to me "Oh don't make me laugh I've wet my knickers"! Frayney whispered the same thing to us when she came up and set us all laughing. Jack Holloway and quite a nice looking new Rover called in just as we were leaving. Jean walked home with me and I was in about 10. Straight to bed and must admit the games had worn me out!

Tues 30 January:

Went back to work and there were a few hints about 'anyone if they went to a Dr could get time off but we carry on' etc but on the whole the atmosphere wasn't bad. Rene has apparently been throwing her weight about and altered a lot in the top

Nursery for no real reason so I was glad when I found she was away with bronchitis catarrh, and proceeded to alter back several of the said things! Tony Payne was very "eyey" today and I spend the whole day inspecting him for a rash which never revealed itself but at 5.0 he looked so bad I decided to separate him and his temp turned out to be 101.2F. David Sullivan went down with measles exactly 11 days ago so.....

We had two WAAFs at the Nursery today – they stay a week then two more come. Doreen and Joan seem very nice. They are just getting social work experience or something – neither of them want to do this work after the war. Left at 6.20 and Mrs Smith and I walked all the way in. The snow which had become about 4ins thick began to thaw early this morning and the slush is terrific and quite treacherous in places. I called in at the GFS Hostel in Henrietta St and left a note and a couple of my books for Ada to read in case she wanted something to do. Home then straight out with Mummy to Conservative Discussion Group where Councillor Berry spoke on Housing and he was very go-ahead and it was an interesting talk. Home where Daddy was grumbling about "us getting mixed up in politics". He maintains that you should leave that to the politicians and be happy and free!! I was surprised that he, who has read so widely, should appear so ignorant, but told him he'd better have a dictatorship because they didn't want citizens to poke their nose into the policies of the heads of the State there! To bed about 10.

Weds 31 January:

On at 9, and Mummy went to Taunton today. I received my particulars of the Correspondence class but it looked like rather a lot of work for 3 years in all so Connie and I decided to ask Matron about this one year's course that is supposed to be coming off. We changed our minds when she came in, however, for she was in an awful mood, taking up the stair treads to dry them, telling us off for having the electric fire too near the inside of the guard (hadn't any of us any common sense? - to which I said 'no' in a low tone and made Jean giggle) taking us all into the office and after a dreadful silence when I don't know how I didn't laugh, telling us not to discuss Nursery matters in the front of Violet (MD girl) – 'didn't we nursery nurses etc think ourselves a little above her?' (to which I should have like to have replied 'yes, but much of our work is the same!') and she stopped all mopping once more, so altogether we had a 'lovely day'. Dr Weston came about 4 after we had been doing singing games with the children for an hour – under instructions – to 'quieten them down' for the whooping cough injections! Was glad to be off at 6. Home and wrote a letter, cleared away Daddy's dinner things and laid the supper. Edna Jean and Rita were all that could turn up so we did no acting but Jean, who went to the Panto last

night was full of ideas and proceeded to suggest tons of things – some of which were very good indeed and some though good absolutely impossible! We just talked ‘padding’ and ‘props’ all the evening and Betty called in much later. I’m beginning to think that we shall be doing the whole Panto for the first time on THE night because everytime we meet for rehearsal we add some more! Rita and Edna left about 9.30 and the other two about 10. Had supper with Daddy then went to bed. Mummy is due home about midnight.

Thurs 1 February:

I arranged with Connie not to go to Woodwork class with her as at first arranged because it’s my only free evening of the week and the class is crowded and the master doesn’t want any more students, so Connie is going with Sister and Peacock. Matron came in and was sweet as pie. We were given our cheques. After dinner I went into to change them and was glad to get back to the Nursery as didn’t fancy the coming back with so many notes in my bag! Home soon after 6.30 and I studied the evening paper for about an hour for it had the Bath Plan in it and it was of course very interesting. Naturally it will take years to achieve these alterations but if they really set to work even if they did have the dwelling houses to do also, I’m sure they could finish it in 10 years. Knowing Bath I should be surprised if they got any of it done any-when! Everything is quite drastic (not designed by a Bath man!) but very good indeed. The river is opened up completely with promenades, boating station weir-side café, lido on the Recreation ground, new concert hall roughly where St James’s church was, big bus station south of this, a cultural centre in the Guildhall block and the Civic centre in Royal Crescent. A big Health Centre and RMWH in the Avon St district, and big arterial roads bordering the city instead of passing through the centre. Of course there are many other changes but those are the main ones. After looking at this I finished the ‘head of the horse’ for the Panto, had supper, a smoke and to bed. Everyone is very excited because the Russians seem to be only 45 miles from Berlin! (John Bartlett went home with a T of 101.2 tonight looking exactly like Tony did. Tony although nearly delirious has not produced any spots yet.)

Fri 2 February:

On early and lit two fires. Connie didn’t feel well today, I should think she has a touch of gastric flu. Patrick Kelly also wasn’t very well and had swollen glands. Matron was in of course and acting very efficiently to impress the WAAFs. As Mrs Smith was not at lunch I had a hard time keeping the conversation going. Helped clear a drain in the back courtyard during the afternoon and some child decided to drop a heavy metal wheel out of the toddler room window which fell so close to me

that it 'shaved' my leg. Can't imagine what would have been left of me if it had come in contact with my head! Home at 5 and had just read the paper when Jean arrived and having collected props etc we went to Argyle. Everybody eventually turned up and Yvonne is going to be an extra behind scenes. We took down curtains and generally put things ready for ages. In fact it was nearly 8.30 when we began really rehearsing! Of course we didn't get through all of it, there wasn't time by the time we'd taken everything to bits! About 9 o'clock there was great excitement as the 'dimming' switch started shorting because of a loose screw and started sending forth a blue flame and getting hotter and hotter. In the end I fled (in a loose mac. dreadful untidy hair etc.) to the top of the house and found a man who came and put it right! At 9.30 three of them left to catch buses but we went on for about another half an hour. They say that bad dress rehearsals make for good shows but ours just couldn't be good. We took great care in seeing everything was switched off and put back as it was and locked up then went home. My feet were very tired tonight and Mummy said I looked very tired. I felt just as though I'd been Youth Hostelling! Supper and BED.

Sat 3 February:

To work at 9 and Connie (who was better today) and I (Jean had a weekend off) only had 6 toddlers. We went for a walk finding a new route to Alice Park through Larkhall village and back just in time for dinner. Just after Connie left Margaret Hole burst out crying and coughed up some of her dinner so I turned her round to sit in front of the fire as I knew she had cold and thought she was probably not hungry. I thought it was rather hot but when I found the very beginning of a rash behind the ears I took her straight downstairs and Mrs Smith found she had a temperature of 103.6°F and although her mother was sent for post-haste she was very ill by the time she left. It was really amazing because Christine and Roger appeared more ill than she had all the morning. Off at 2 and home and changed. Mummy and I went out shopping and bought a few small presents for Daddy, some recorder music and changed one of my book tokens for a novel by a Russian journalist called "Black night and red morning" and it's very exciting. After tea I studied my "Cigarette Card News" and did the Acrostic in the Leader with Mummy's help. Spent the rest of the evening playing my recorder. Laid supper and helped wipe up afterwards. Daddy consented to listen to my recorder for a short while then went to bed about 10.15.

Sun 4 February:

Read in bed. Had breakfast in my dressing gown and then had a bath and washed my hair. Mummy went to Church so I made the beds and tidied the lounge then laid the dinner and put the meat on. Daddy had done the vegetables and washed up. Nothing new, but once more I didn't feel at all well and ran a slight temp. Didn't have much

dinner read all the afternoon and had only a little tea. Nurse called to say Roger was ill in bed and although he hasn't a rash he looks as though he is going to have measles and she won't be in tomorrow. Finished reading "Black night and red morning" and although it was very light it was exciting and quite well written. Washed up the tea things and changed. Joan and Jean called for me about 6 and we went to Argyle. There were a great many Rangers there. A new girl called Betty Ford came and she looked very nice and smart. Poor old Rita had to sit in front on a chair and read the notices. Jean Joan Cuddly and I sat in the front row. Cuddly was rather naughty as usual, talking, passing notes and trying to get Rita to come and sit with us. Fortunately I didn't feel in a very giggly mood. Mr Coggan gave a good talk on "The Christian Church". Home and had a little supper then went to bed about 8.30 to read a little while.

Mon 5 February:

On at 8 and Betty was on with me. Miss Clarke didn't come in as she had been sick so there were only 4 staff besides Mrs Wheeler, and the 2 new WAAFs weren't allowed to stay as we had so many cases of measles reported during the morning: Clifford, Alan Fletcher, John Bartlett, Nicholas Buse, Roger Evans, and Dorothy Davis (tweenie) and I only had 9 toddlers but was single-handed of course. I got some painting done with the new blue paint I bought on Saturday. In the afternoon when Mrs Bevan came I washed all the small wooden toys and apparatus in Lysol as Matron had directed. Off at 5 and banked some money and bought some more paint at Woolworth's which, when I got home, turned out to be 'for outside use only' and had a horrid smell, so in case the smell is poisonous as I believe some green paint is, Mummy is going to try and change it for me. Read the paper and changed and went to Rangers where we had a First Aid talk by Miss Mould and I could have murdered Mrs D because Jean Joan and I were passing notes and not listening, when she decided that I should demonstrate a certain bandage of which I had forgotten the exact method. I did my 'dumb and dreamy' act and it must have worked because Miss Mould said she'd do the bandage and I acted as patient. She also did pad and flexion on my arm and I had to demonstrate same on her thigh – not so easy in front of highly amused Rangers watching Miss Mould lying on a table showing large expanse of knicker. Next we had a discussion on the reason for the fall of birthrate and ways of highering it. Lastly we had some singing. The whole meeting was held with the Seas. A new girl came with Clare Allen – she has been a Guider. Home to supper and to bed.

Tues 6 February:

Bought some paint and a book with my book token before going to work in the pouring rain at 9.30. Only had 9 children in again. Pat was out but we had Delia

Meacher[?] in from Park Lane as she's a measles (Roger Evans) contact and they haven't got measles there. She was a terror and when in her cot in the staff room managed to open a nearby drawer and when we came up from dinner was sitting among thousands of nails tintacks hooks books pieces of ribbon etc! We now have 17 case of measles as Jennifer Hiscocks, Jennifer Pinkerton, Peter Brett and Patrick Kelly were reported as having it today (so they say, though I can only think of 12). Home soon after 6.30 and Betty was there – doing her darning. The others soon arrived and we had our last rehearsal in the lounge. We timed it and it seemed alright for time. We've altered a few of the addition bits and I seem to have to help teach a song that I don't know at all! Oh heaven help us all on the night!! We finished before 9.30 and took home lists of props we have to bring. Supper and to bed. Pat is due here about 11 and is staying the night Mummy is waiting up for him.

Weds 7 February:

On at work at 8 o'clock Mr Colman rang up to say Jean had flu and wouldn't be in but at 10 o'clock lo and behold she arrived! She stayed all day in no state for work and giving her germs to one and all, and as we only had 10 toddlers and a WAAF to help me, and she had done the 'extra' work the day before, I wasn't very pleased with her even if it was a noble thing to have done. Matron has told her not come in tomorrow but she says she's coming. She was silly too – she took her temperature under her tongue with a thermometer previously used for children with measles and which had not been as yet disinfected properly! I shouldn't be surprised if she doesn't get measles actually as she's never had it. Matron and Mrs Smith went visiting today and we heard that Tony Payne, Janet Young and Christine Brook had measles. Sandy went home early with a temperature and is sure to develop it. Christine Sylvester also seems off-colour. There is only Vivienne in our room who can possibly have it now unless any of them get it for a second time. We went for a walk in the afternoon. Home and wrote a letter and PC laid the supper and played my pipe. I was in alone as Mummy was away at Gloucester all day, and I felt a bit miserable. Started to write to Mary, then Jean came and she helped me with my props and we finished with pipe-playing. We practised the horse and this caused much hilarity. Mummy was not expected back until 11-12 or even tomorrow morning but at 10 past 9 in she walked! Jean left soon after 9.30 and I had supper and went to bed.

Thurs 8 February:

The children seemed to get on my nerves today – I could have screamed at them and Jean felt like that too. Heaven knows what it will be like when we get them all back. Brian Worrell wasn't well all day and went home with a temperature of 101.8 so perhaps he's another measles case. Valerie Moss who has been away some time has it

now. I did some more painting of tins and sense training apparatus. Rene was expected back but did not turn up. The last child went at 6 so was home early and having read the paper made some shortbread for Daddy then finished making props and put everything ready for tomorrow night. I dread to think of it! Boshier rang up to say she was bringing some Corston Guides to the Panto. I no longer think we shall have too small an audience. Oh if only I hadn't got to sing. Now that it's such a public show I feel awfully nervous. Had a smoke and chat after supper till about 10 past 10, then went to bed.

Fri 9 February:

Spent a dreadful day paying frequent 'visits' and feeling very sick. I was frightened to death about the Panto. Took the children for a walk in the afternoon, otherwise it was an uneventful day. Caught the 5 o'clock bus home, collected the things together and Jean called for me. Betty, - due at 5 - didn't arrive so we went on leaving a note. Jean and I looked like nothing on earth with gramophone, horse, numerous flags and poles, scout hat, two suit cases, shopping bag and my hold-all! We went into Hodders to try and get some eye-black but without success and were stared at so; we didn't try anywhere else. When we arrived we set out about 100 chairs and set the stage and made all arrangements. Betty arrived about 6 to my relief and everything was OK. Lots and lots of people came - mostly Guides and they had to get in some forms as there weren't enough chairs. We were very punctual starting. I sang without any gulps or 'cracks' but was apparently out of tune! The next scene went off alright and Sloth and my 'bit', but Betty wasn't ready for the 2nd scene really and there were terrible scrabbles when Buttons was sent out for things which just couldn't be found. Betty had a very hectic time changing for the HES ballet and was still in the middle of changing when the record began! She went on and forgot to stop chewing gum (as per Ugly Sister) which amused us all. We were late in the record coming off the stage from the ballet and thus I was left with no time at all to change back into fairy godmother so Rita had to 'sleep' for ages before I appeared and it was such a breathless scurry that in the middle of the scene I finished a speech in the middle and Rita made something up and Yvonne whispered something from the wings at me. I said this line although I knew I had left a bit out and went on from there. None of the audience noticed a thing thanks to Rita's presence of mind. I dashed off and did an extremely quick change into the horse and the horse was a great success. Betty gave a GIS talk and then we had the collection which together with programme lds came to £5-2-0 and naturally we were amazed especially as quite 85% were Guides! Barbara played in the interval. The next scene was OK and then Joan and I got the audience to sing and that was a great success. The last scene went off quite well but

the epilogues could have been better because we said the final couplet before singing and so when we began to sing they started pulling the curtains and Joan kept bobbing out from behind them and I stayed completely obscured from view. – which was probably a good thing! They raised the curtain for God Save the King and we were ‘caught’ on the stage in anything but a tableau. Thank goodness I felt too nervous to giggle much in the Panto. Ada and Betty had made up most of their parts and said each other’s etc etc. but nothing noticed apparently. We cleared up and were home by 9.30. Betty came in for a drink. Daddy gave a further 10/- to the result so we have £5-12-0 now. Mrs Williams has suggested that we send up the play to HQ as she thinks it’s good! After supper I packed up Daddy’s present, had a nice bath and retired to bed about 11.

Sat 10 February: Daddy’s birthday.

Had rather a restless night as was so excited about the Panto and re-acted it over and over again! I was relieved it was over but also felt very proud of myself because Mummy had said she didn’t think it would ever come off and I was determined to prove she could wrong for once! It was an extremely funny day today as regards weather – I was on early and got shrammed⁴⁷ waiting for the bus on the corner. The morning was sunny and clear but there was a north wind. I sat in the Tweenie room with precisely 3 children and did mending the entire morning and as we had the windows open for fresh air purposes I was still very cold. Jean and I were let off at 12.30 as there was nothing to do. Home for dinner, then about 2 o’clock it began to hail very hard. There was a thick coating of hail over everything. Then there were vivid flashes of lightning followed of course by deafening thunder claps. After this the hail ceased and there was a terrific snow blizzard? Mary Bunt called with the duck for tomorrow’s dinner. We all sat by the fire and read and dozed – every time I ‘dropped off’ in the chair my head would drop suddenly, my mouth would fall open and I’d wake up, which was annoying, but about 3.30 there was a ring at the bell which turned out to be a cigarette card collector called Mr Smallman of 20, West Close, Whiteway. He had advertised for cards in the paper and I had replied because I had 6,000 odds, 36 mint sets and 18 inferior sets for sale which I was going to advertise myself when I could find the energy. Well to cut a long story short he gave me what I asked for the lot - £7 and we were both pleased with ourselves. He was a nice man and told me a lot about the trade. Betty Nelson called for her case at tea time. After tea, I cleared it away then spend the evening listening to the wireless and knitted about 9 inches of the 2nd sleeve of my Ranger jumper. Supper and to bed with

⁴⁷ Not a term I recall using in my own West Country childhood, but: Online dictionary: “(dialect, Southern UK) Of a person, cold (in temperature); [shrivelled](#) with cold. *There was a bitter wind and she looked shrammed in her thin dress.*”

a hot water bottle. The snow has melted but it's cold and clear and we expect more snow.

Sun 11 February:

Woke up about 7 and did my catering paper in bed. Mummy brought me up breakfast on a tray which was very nice, then I read the Sunday paper and got up just before 11. Since we've been rehearsing for this Panto and I've had flu, my bedroom has been gradually accumulating more and more muddles so I tidied them all away and tidied my wardrobe, cupboard and a couple of drawers. I tidied the den, then went downstairs and spread out the cigarette cards using the three drawers made empty but the ones I sold. Next I dusted the lounge, wiped up and put away breakfast things and laid the dinner table. After dinner we went to Pump Room canteen and Rita and I did sandwiches for about an hour and a half talking about the Panto nearly the whole time! Cuddly Rita and I served the 18 wounded soldiers which came from Tewkesbury. They were American but quite nice. It was their first time out for several months, for most of them so they were quiet and very polite. It's a pity but Americans seem to improve when they're sick! We weren't too busy and spent much of our time watching the Drama Club rehearsing "I have been here before" in the Concert Hall. After washing up, Rita and I took the food round to the Hostel, we went home for about half an hour then we paid our long promised visit to St Mark's church. For some time I've felt I must 'belong' somewhere and if I can't find anywhere else I'll go to Argyle soon. Mummy will be upset if I do, though, and there's a lot I don't like about Non-conformatism [sic] even if Mr Coggan and many of the congregation make up for a lot! Well there weren't many at St Mark's and the Rev Dann was not there. The new curate was rather nice, however, and the visiting clergy was a missionary and had quite a sense of humour when he spoke of his experiences in India [sic]. At the end, we bought a Parish Magazine and read it under numerous street lamps through the town! There seemed to be a Youth Fellowship, Communicants' Guild etc etc and Rita even suggested we joined the choir but I said I couldn't wear the hat at any price! We found that the Youth Fellowship prepares bandages for China but we couldn't find anything else about it! We laughed as we thought of ourselves sitting in the Vicaridge [sic] rolling bandages! No, we wouldn't join anything just yet but we'd give the Church a really fair trial, we'd go next Sunday morning. We think we're going to like it. Rita caught a bus home and I went home, read the entire Parish Magazine – serial story and all – then had supper and went to bed about 9.

Mon 12 February:

Went to the POSB⁴⁸ then on to work. Connie was back Nancy and Barbara (last week's WAAFs) had of course left. Barbara had been a very nice neat little WAAF and Nancy wanted to take up Nursery work in a residential nursery after the war, but I wasn't so fond of her. We have Gwen and Rhoda this week and they come from London or nearby. They are G.F.S-ish rather stolid and not the typical Service-girl at all but I like them all the more for it. Gwen who is up with us doesn't speak at all unless you speak to her! In between seeing to the 8 children we had in the toddler room we did painting and finished mending the overalls. Rene didn't come back as expected so I was on (officially) along from 5-6.30, but the WAAFs' truck was late fetching them and in fact I left them in the Nursery at 6.15 after I'd done all the locking up etc and told them to slam the door when they left. Caught the 6.25 bus home, read the evening paper, changed and to Rangers. We only had 10 but we did marching, then a group discussion on Laws, a health quiz game, a report by Esme Williams on the Portal house and suggestions for housing by other Rangers. I took the game whereby you stand in a circle and I call out "2 potatoes, 4 spills, 3 cloves 1 rice grain – no:2" etc etc. we had a discussion on the difference between good manners and courtesy and then the Seas joined us and we sang "The Cow" (Midsomerset) – 2 part song. It's quite nice. Taps and home with Ruth and Gwen. During the day Matron called me into the office and took certain particulars as she was going to see Mr Hoyle about this teacher's 1yr course and find out if Beryl and I are eligible. She is also going to get us on a Supplementary Course in April she thinks. I was thrilled, but didn't think it was the appropriate time to ask for a holiday in March! I found out afterwards, however, that Mrs Smith had told her I wanted a week in March and she hadn't been very pleased! I'm rather worried and also think there's no hope of March 3rd off now. To bed about 10.30.

Tues 13 February:

On at 8 and Dorothy and I spent an hour with the fires this morning because there were not sticks dry. Rene came back today so there were 5 of us (with the WAAF) looking after 8 children and so I got them all doing Nursery knitting and Connie did some panting. Our WAAF – Gwen, doesn't say a word even today and I can't get her to start a conversation. She is unfortunate in having a large nose and Jean thinks it extremely funny. When Jean laughs I must say I can see the funny side and it's difficult not to giggle myself. Today being Shrove Tuesday we had pancakes and real lemon juice. 4 of us took the children out in the afternoon and I bought a small cake in the village which we 4 divided in the park and ate! Home and then I was off. Home

⁴⁸ I'm guessing Post Office Savings Bank

for my coupons then out and bought some silky striped dress material and a pattern. After tea I arranged and cut it out. Mummy doesn't like the material very much but everyone else does. Went to the Pump Room with Mrs Gould, Mrs Davis (Cuddly) and Rita to see "I have been here before" by Priestley. It was acted by the Bath Drama Club. I saw the play before the war at the Assembly Rooms but had forgotten a lot about it. I don't believe in Priestley's theory of reincarnation exactly, so am not keen on the play but the acting was very good for amateurs and we did enjoy it. Jack Holloway was there and introduced his friend "Harry". Home for a late supper and to bed.

Weds 14 February:

Fetches the fish on the way to work and when I arrived I knocked over the staff room electric fire and broke the element! Next I used one of the white buckets for cleaning paint and Mrs Smith had had her washing in it and didn't like me tipping it out. She was cross at first but when I apologised made out she was only pretending to be cross! Conny was late in as she had been to the Dr with a rash which the Dr said was an after-effect of her 'flu'. We took the children for a very long walk as it was a simply lovely day and collected some catkins. Jean and I and our 4 children got ahead of the other 3 with their 5 and got home some time before them but they had met a nice gentleman who had given the children oranges! Jean and I stayed in in the afternoon (I felt I couldn't move after a terrific lunch) and we kept the two 2yr olds in with us. After tea most of the staff went off and I sat and went on with the Nursery knitting and had done on and off all day finishing one sock and doing about 3 inches of the other. The WAAFs went and I sent Dorothy off early. I got off about 6.15 and when I got home, read the paper, and did some tacking of my frock. I seem to have managed to cut out $\frac{3}{4}$ instead of short sleeves and 2 instead of a simple front which is rather a waste of material – but no harm done! Jean came about 7.45 and we played pipes till 9.30 when she went home and I had supper. Mrs Davis rang me up. Bed. (I have two 'gatherings' on two of my fingers which is a nuisance, but must say I'm regaining my lost energy and feeling fairly full of beans!) The Russians are about 30 miles from Berlin, Budapest has fallen and we are pushing eastwards from Nijmegen. Michael [Hill] must be fighting in this area.

Thurs 15 February:

On at 8 and Betty and I had quite a game with the fires. We decided to have a miniature indoor garden for the children and Connie and Jean went out to get some earth from the garden opposite (as ours is all grass) but the owner was out. A lady in the bus queue however told them to come to her house at 18 Brooklyn Rd at 2pm. We took the children for walk. Matron called in but dashed off to an appointment with

Mr Hoyle at 12. After dinner Jean Connie and I set off with buckets to fetch the earth. Jean and my bucket had "FIRE" on them and Connie's "Bath Day Nursery". We were in fits of laughter all along the road. The lady was very nice and we managed to keep a straight face while we were there, then came the long journey home, (for we found that 18 Brooklyn Rd was about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away). The buckets were heavy and we laughed and laughed. Rene came back from a journey to town with some seeds. We reorganised the toddler room. Off at 5 and home to do my dietetics (catering – dietetics) and some sewing. Pat came later and is staying the night. To bed about 10.

[Last entry in this notebook, though various miscellaneous notes follow. There follow two small "3d Memo" cashbooks with further February entries. Then the final book is a small hard-bound plain note book with some 'packing' checklists in it, with the first entry of 28 February.]

Fri 16 February:

Mummy went off to London for 2 days and Pat went off to camp about $\frac{1}{2}$ hr afterwards (8.15) so I had several breakfasts to get all at different times. Did a little sewing before going to work where we all painted the doll's house. Rene brought me some cigarette cards. Matron came and gave me a little news of the courses for teachers but said she hopes to find out more. Nial Mangon and David Steward went down with measles. Matron and Mrs Smith visited measles cases and we took the children out. At tea-time a little man came to the door and called himself a Mr Simpson – surgical shoemaker and said he wanted to give a message to Matron. I had him in the office and when he started on his family history etc I knew something was up. I kept trying to bring him to the point but he gabbled on about a marvellous job he was starting tomorrow, but eventually asked me for 1/6 for lodging money and he would pay back 3/- tomorrow! I said he must see the matron if it was the Matron he knew and if he was really hard up he could go to the Police Station! To my amazement I got rid of him quite quickly. When Matron came back she of course said she'd never heard of him, in fact he spent the evening calling at all houses in Beaufort E. I believe! Home about 6.30 to find Daddy in bed with gastric 'flu' so having seen to his needs and taken his temp. I looked up my cards and they're quite good value. I had a splitting head but had to go to Country Dancing as Mrs Davis wasn't sure of being there. Jean called for me and when we arrived Lottie Wills was there and taught the dances. There were about 6 Rangers and Seas, Rita, Jean and I and about 6 Scouts. We concentrated on a few dances and Lottie taught quite well. When I got home Miss Stone rang me up to know if I could come and take Country Dancing at St Saviour's Youth Club on Tuesday evenings and I'd get paid by the Education Authorities (11/-)!!!! I said I thought I could, under mutterings of 'if I'm good enough' and now wonder what I've let myself in for! Oh for some sleep!

Sat 17 February:

Woke up about 5.15 and didn't sleep again as was afraid of not waking up. Got up at 7 did fires, got up coal, got breakfast. Daddy's temp. was normal and he got up. To work at 9. There were only supposed to be 2 children coming in but 7 came. We didn't do much work. I finished some socks for the nursery and started another pair. We got off soon after 1.30 (Connie and Mrs Wheeler had been given the day off.) When I got home Mrs Davis had rung up to enquire who was going to the Malthouse canteen for some big function there and Clare hadn't let her know if she and Dorothy were going or not so I dashed there. Two GTCs were cutting doorsteps for sandwiches and spreading unmelted marg. on so I 'showed 'em how' (I don't think) till Norma Webber (Junior City Council Mayor) and some friends came, followed by Cuddly, who having squashed Norma flat in a piece of conversation, called me to go out and I needed no second bidding! We met Clare and Dorothy outside (they had telephoned when Cuddly was out) and we walked down to town together resolving to help Keating no more – he always arranges for too many helpers apparently. Home and sorted out my cigarette cards, got tea and cleared away then spent the evening making my frock. Got supper and we had just finished when Mummy arrived. We were relieved to see her back. V2s are awful in parts of London. We chatted and smoked. Daddy seemed definitely better. Bed.

Sun 18 February:

Woke up about 7 and did sewing in bed. Got up and had breakfast, cleared away and washed up. Bathed and dressed then went to St Mark's Church – alone! It was a nice service but Major Castle was there and I didn't know if I was meant to know him or not which was awkward, and Lorain was there and as I thought she would probably ask why I was there, I avoided her also! Home and laid up and did some other odd jobs. Dinner, changed and soon Ada, Joan, Jean and Rita came but Ada couldn't stay as she had to go out to tea and anyhow had a bad ankle. Jean also had a bad ankle so we didn't go far but went up Lyncombe Hill and across the fields and back by Perrymead. Jean and I piped and Lorain met us and said "thought it must be Guides with that filthy row"! We weren't pleased! Further on we picked some catkins. Home for tea and Yvonne came. After tea we listened to records. Rita read us different bits from "Campcraft" and we made future arrangements but strayed from the point on several occasions! Yvonne went off to a Scouts' Own next door and we nearly joined her as we were invited but didn't in the end as Yvonne didn't come out and whistle for us, as arranged, if the service was not going to be long and if it hadn't already started. Jean and Betty left soon after 9.30, others left earlier for buses. (Betty hadn't been able to come till about 8.15) A smoke and to bed.

Mon 19 February:

On at 8 with Rene and usual palaver with the fires. Only 11 children in altogether. We went for walks morning and afternoon. The new WAAF is a chain smoker and not nice at all. Her name's Barbara. She doesn't like us and we find her very dull. Matron came in and told me a lot about Beryl and Peacock writing different places and goodness knows what but I wasn't any wiser when she'd finished. [sic] Later I asked for my holiday and she wasn't very pleased saying that I should just come back then go off on the course she was still trying to arrange for me! (I said Whoopee under my breath). There was a pause, then I asked for March 3rd off and this she would give me willingly out of my 14 days annual holidays so I've got that, but my week's holiday is still only provisional – it's very hard. Dr Weston came in the afternoon and saw some measles cases that were brought in. When I got home I rang p Peacock who had seen Mr Hoyle and she advised the 2yr course but I then rang Beryl and we sent off for an application form for the 1yr course and I read the Circular she had dropped in for me – it is quite comprehensive and I feel sure we are both eligible [sic]. Went to Rangers where we had a chat then Rita and I crept through the Upper Hall while a Red Cross meeting was on to get some crockery as props for a play (our name was mud) which the Bath Council of Christian Youth did called "Everyman 1945" and it was quite well done but can't say I think it would move anyone who was – say – an atheist to be saved! We finished by singing for the Midsomerset. Home, supper and bed.

Tues 20 February:

Had a letter from Mary saying she was ill and there was an alteration in her time of coming down here. I collected up a couple of books, scribbled a short letter and sent them off to her. Took the children (14 today) to Grosvenor Bldgs and we picked some palm and chestnut buds and took a few flower plants from the bank outside of a blitzed house. In the afternoon I stayed in with one child and washed the floor and put up some nails for brushes aprons etc while the others went out again. Nurse went early and Rene and I walked into town at 6.15. I met Connie and we went to the Nursery Schools meeting and Beryl and Peacock had saved us seats. Matron came also. Dr Weston spoke on Wartime Nurseries and Miss May (from Fishponds Training College) spoke on Nursery Schools etc and was not antagonistic about Nurseries at all as Lady Allen had been. I met Mrs Horton there. She has applied by form for the Emergency Course but has not been interviewed yet. She thinks she will be soon, and is fairly sure there is to be a School for this Course opening in Bristol – but when? She is impatient herself! Beryl and I still seem to be going for the Supplementary Course at Easter. Home in time for supper a smoke and bed.

Weds 21 February:

On early with Rene. It was quite cold again today. Took the children for a walk in the morning and I managed to buy some lemons for Mummy. Matron was in and last night's meeting had made her in quite a good mood. Our WAAFs are still awful – practising jitterbug up the garden path and ours doesn't do any work. Violet was sent home early with her baby as he wasn't well. It's probably measles and that will mean 3 weeks without a cleaner! Our room was scrubbed today and we did the paint so it was nice and clean. We did more painting in spare time. Went in the Park in the afternoon and Denewood children were there. After tea I helped do the washing up then went home on the bus with Rene. When I got home I cleared away the tea things did the blackout, washed some clothes then turned out my underwear drawer and put out the mending (which left 2 summer vests and a silk slip, only , left in the drawer!) Mended a pair of pyjamas, BB and 6 pairs of knickers also a pair of woollen socks. Laid the supper. After supper and a smoke when we listened to the wireless and couldn't find any station we liked, went to bed.

Thurs 22 February: [These next 6 entries, in their own small 3d Memo book, are in a pencil that is even harder than usual to decipher]

Thinking day⁴⁹, and I tried to bear it in mind all day. There was a special Children's Hour on the wireless devoted to it but I was unable to hear it. To work where we expected Miss Tann all day and tidied everything up and behaved very well, but she didn't turn up! Out, morning and afternoon and the WAAFs still spent their time talking of jitterbug and spending hours in the lavatory smoking and making up. Rene and I left at 6.20 and I dashed home before going on with Mummy to the Ballet Joos to see the Prodigal Son Le Bosquet and The Green Table. Miss West and Auntie Marnie came with us and we saw Rita and some office friends Miss Groves and other people we knew there. Had a short word with Riata in the interval. The Prodigal Son was clever but I didn't like the music – modern and tuneless. I had seen this before. Le Bosquet I didn't follow the story of but it was quite nice. I loved the Green Table – it was very clever and the music although modern was fitting[?] and did have some tune. Home for supper and smoke and bed.

Fri 23 February:

On early and Rosie[?] and Dorothy were on with me. We took the children for a walk in the morning. Rene took her children quite a long way to visit someone and didn't get back till late. Matron didn't seem to mind. After dinner I started making doll's

⁴⁹ "World Thinking Day, formerly Thinking Day, is [celebrated](#) annually on 22 February by all [Girl Guides and boy Scouts](#). It is also celebrated by Scout and Guide organizations ^[1] and some boy-oriented associations ^[2] around the world. It is a day when they think about their "sisters" (and "brothers") in all the countries of the world, the meaning of Guiding, and its global impact." - Wikipedia. No, I hadn't heard of it before either.

house curtains. It rained so the children stayed in. Off at 5 and home. Did some mending, cleared away tea and did blackout. Went to Rangers folk dance. Rita and Jean weren't there. There were only about 10 (as the Scouts had a party) and the whole evening was spent in learning Dargash[?] and Ruffy Tufty which was very boring and I thought of all I could be doing at home. Must say Cuddly made me laugh, though, and we had quite good fun. Lottie took the class as Elsie didn't turn up. Home at nine for supper and a smoke. To bed at 10.30.

Sat 24 February:

On early and as there were 3 of us on and only one fire to light and 9 children in altogether we weren't over-worked. The others arrived at 9 except Betty who must be ill, and Mrs Smith who has the weekend off. I scrubbed down the stairs, did some shopping for Mrs Wheeler and Nurse, then Connie and I made several visits to different shops taking a few children each time and managed to get 4 orange boxes, some rubber tubing and promise of some old tyres and more boxes next week. We came home rather late – just 12 o'clock – very pleased with ourselves to find Nurse and Mrs Wheeler quite annoyed. Rene had found a job to do upstairs and not to the other children ready for dinner and Jean and Dorothy had been sent off to the fish and chip shop and of course the Royal Nurse Evans couldn't possibly do any work so consequently there was a mad rush for a few minutes. Everybody went to dinner and 'muggins-me' had to feed wash and dress the children to go home. Got off punctually at 1, however, and glad I was to leave too! After dinner I sat down and mended solidly till 5 o'clock when I got tea and Mummy and Daddy came back from the garden. Changed and went to the Theatre with Auntie Marnie and Adji[?]. In my haste I put on too much hand lotion (smelling of lavender), and scent, and I'm sure poor auntie Marnie was nearly sick sitting next to me! Next I lost my bracelet in taking off my coat at the Theatre and had to spend both intervals grovelling under the seat! I found it eventually but was furious with myself as my intention had been to be as sophisticated as possible to surprise Miss West, but instead of feeling superior I felt terribly humiliated!! The ballets were seven Heroes (pleasant) Le Bosquet, and Pandora (awful music but clever mimings) Home for supper then had a bath which I lay in until the water was so cool I had to get out. Bed.

Sun 25 February:

Got up at 8.30. Breakfast, dressed and got my lunch ready. Down at the Guildhall by 5 to 10 to find the hike had been postponed till 10.30, so waited with a couple of others and got very cold, There were 9 Rangers and 7 Rovers and we walked at the usual terrific pace up Holloway and Entry Hill, on to Southstoke and then the trouble started – we kept going slightly off the track and we had to cross railways, climb embankments, wade through mud; jump millions of streams and climb through a

hundred and one wire fences. In one farmyard the mud and manure was so thick we had to lay down a ladder and one Rover held our hands while we walked the length of the ladder – no one fell in! Betty Ford (a new keen Ranger) ricked a muscle high up in her thigh in running down a hill and spend an agonising $\frac{3}{4}$ hr getting to Hinton Charterhouse and yet didn't let me know till we were nearly there. She was gulping back the tears and I felt ever so sorry for her. She said she felt an awful fool in front of the boys. At Hinton we sat in the Stag[?] Inn and consumed our lunches and glass(es) of cider. We saw Betty on to the 2.7 bus home and she felt better she said, then we went on past Hinton church and across more muddy fields to the top of Limpley Stoke, down into Monkton Combe across the fields to Brass Knocker Hill, along the top road and down Bathwick Hill (14 $\frac{1}{2}$ m) It drizzled with rain all the afternoon and all our hair came out of curl and our legs were terribly splashed with mud. We were back at Argyle at 4.15 and Mrs Davis had a lovely tea for us. We made ourselves tidy then tow of the Rangers and Betty Nelson had to leave but 4 other Rangers and Rita joined us to go to Church. It was a lovely service and Mr Coggan gave a really inspiring sermon. I told Rita that it was no good I should have to join Argyle I thought, as I could not find any Church of England in Bath where the spirit of the Congregation was so sincere or the service so inspiring as it always is at Argyle. The people I've met there are ordinary and very friendly. Rita said she couldn't bring herself to leave C of E but she liked Argyle immensely. I said it would be an awful break and need consideration but I would try and find out the Congregationalist doctrine and if I agreed with it, well..... Home, a nice bath and to bed to read.

Mon 26 February:

Lovely day! On at 9.30 and Mrs Smith was away as Nurse was throwing her weight about. Miss Tann made an unexpected appearance and Matron arrived just after her. The children were by this time (10.30) having free play so we (staff) showed books to small groups and generally tried to look busy. Miss Tann seemed pleased and admired our garden and doll's house. When she went we were just congratulating ourselves and looking at the books she had brought the children when Matron came up in a fine mood and said Connie must 'organise some singing games, there had too much wild running round, - it was just the same at Park Lane, always noisy when Miss Tann came etc etc' and Connie completely lost her temper and told Matron she was trying to turn the children into machines and I for once kept my temper but sided with Connie and tried to reason with Matron. Connie in the end was told off for her exhibition of temper she promptly replied that 'she would leave the place'! Matron had to leave the room to see a visitor, but when she came back she was sweet as pie and told us we could have as much money as we wanted for different toys, and could

go off into town any dinner hour and buy things, the children were congested in our room and the floor made the noise sound worse than it was etc. In fact we were almost offered a holiday – but not quite! Jean caused more rumpus by reporting that she has had 6 coupons and a lipstick taken out of her bag and Rene and Mrs Wheeler have lost money and of course we all suspect Violet but she's away at the moment so can't do anything about it. In the afternoon Connie and I took 4 children into town and bought some toys and came back. The others went to the park. The two new WAAFs are Barbara (with a dark mop of hair very red lips and painted nails but quite nice) and Diana (from Kenya, very nicely spoken and also an excellent worker) are very different from last week's. Two Commanding officers visited them at tea time. Matron put up a clothes line in the evening (to our amusement) Home, changed and to Rangers. There was a new girl there from Newquay and about 10 others only. We had a Thinking Day ceremony and decided to become an International Friendship company with (?) Scandinavia? [?] This was followed by singing and Rita and I did very valiant work as Altos(!) – against the entire Company! Had a chat with Mrs D afterwards about the Congregational Church – I bet she tells everyone about it! Home, supper, played a bit of recorder. Bed.

Tues 27 February:

Took the children for a walk in the morning and one of my children saw her granny in Batten's and consequently cried during the rest of the walk. We met a slightly demented old dame in one road who asked us if we knew that if we put a worm in a hole in the earth it comes up again! She carried on quite a long discussion on the said worm until our self-control broke down and we had to move on for laughing! In the afternoon we went to the Park. Home at 5, shopping on the way. Played some new pieces on my recorder, did some more of my new Ranger jumper then off to a Nursery School meeting and was the only one from the Nurseries. We elected officers etc and it was all over by 7.40, so hurried home (being followed twice) and rang Jean Carter up for a long chat. Altered the neck of my old Ranger jumper. Supper and to bed. [End of second 3d memo book]

Weds 28 February 1945:

Received my form of application for the Emergency Course for Teachers this morning and filled it out – before I went to work. Saw some grape-fruit arrive in a shop (first since they went off the market) and was told they weren't for sale – till the next day. Later in the day I found that 4 of the staff had bought them at this shop (as I had mentioned it) and the shop had now sold out. I was very bitter about this. Jean and I were told off for not saying goodbye to Mrs Smith last night. We were surprised to see Matron in before 10 o'clock. Took the children out and collected 6 tyres from the Tyre Service Depot for them to play with. When I got in

Matron told me off about the electric fire I broke a week or so ago. I apologised but added that it still worked but if she thought it must be mended I'd pay for it. She was still very cross with me but refused to let me pay for it which I thought very unreasonable. Out in the Park in the afternoon but it rained and wasn't pleasant. The WAAFs though quite nice girls let the children (even the 2yr olds) run about where they please instead of walking properly when we're going to and from the park. It gives Connie and I the 'willies'. Made the children a story book during the day. Off about 6.20 and home to finish off the form, and do a little recorder playing. I expected Rita for practising too but it turned out that she had to go home after work. We went to the Art Gallery to sell programmes of the Plan of Bath (instead of listening to Laurence Housman at Over 20 Club, to our annoyance) and had to sit through endless speeches. Inf fact Rita left about 9.10 and I left about 9.25! Supper and to bed. We were paid today and was relieved to see that my cheque was as much as £11+ in spite of a deduction of 10 days sick leave. Of course no income tax has been deducted yet – I don't know what I'll do when I have to pay all the back debts!

Thurs 1 March:

To work early. Managed to buy a grapefruit during the morning. When Mr Eades said he had two lots for sale the 2 WAAFs and I simultaneously asked for them. One of them paid and to my surprise picked up the 4 grapefruit for themselves. This was too much, I wasn't going to be sat on so asked if they could spare 1. Sorry, they were afraid they couldn't. Mrs Wheeler immediately sold me one of her 3 she had bought this morning which was very good of her. Everybody was amazed at the selfishness of the WAAFs. I dare not go home without grapefruit again today as Daddy thought I was soft yesterday! Connie and Nurse spent nearly the whole morning in town cashing the cheques and Connie went in again in the afternoon to rectify a mistake in hers. Nurse lost 10/-. Rene and I did the washing up after dinner. Got the children up and they played in the garden. Off at 4, home for tea. Miss Stone rang me up to my surprise at about 5 to say that Jean's brother had been reported killed in a flying accident. I felt so sorry (although I never saw him). I did not know what to do for about 10 minutes. I couldn't imagine how Jean would take it. Eventually I went on packing for the weekend and started cleaning my shoes. Jean Coleman came at 6.30 and washed and set my hair. She had no sooner gone when Jean Carter came as arranged for recorder playing. She had obviously been very upset but seemed bright enough now. We played solidly for an hour and a half and decided which music to take. The she told me how Miss Stone had broken the news to her that afternoon and all that happened, and what she planned to do – go home or move her mother

down. She had a headache so left about 9.20 and I had supper, finished my shoes, washed out the sleeves of my cardigan and went to bed.

Fri 2 March:

The day had come at last! Last minute jobs were done and I trotted off to work in full uniform, rucsac and haversack feeling a lemon. Spent the whole morning trying to assure the staff that Rangers were not the same as the Band of Hope, and endured much mocking! Felt rather irritable with the children although very excited myself. The taxi came at 6.20. Gave Matron a lift into town. Was first at the station but Joan Jean and Rita soon turned up. Rita's mother came to see us off and gave us lots of advice about going to bed in good time and seeing the carriage door was properly shut. Betty did not manage to get the train. We arrived at Taunton, and walked to Bishop Fox's School which took about 15". We were given a lovely reception and our supper was kept hot for us. Our beds were kept for us and after a camp fire we got into bed. There were getting on for 20 of us sleeping in a big Art Room of stretcher beds. I was between Mrs Quartley and Rita and Cuddly was at the foot of my bed. There was no much noise etc. I only dozed all night.

Sat 3 March:

It was stuffy in the bedroom when we got up but soon found it was frosty outside. I was in D patrol and was asked to be leader but I declined and we 'drew' and Cutcliffe won. There were Thompson, Lily Banks, Betty Nelson (when she came about 11am), Staley, and Jackston Barstow in our patrol as well. We did the de-black-out. After breakfast there was a drill session, then mapping and compass and a game on this. During the rest of the day we had open discussion, woodcraft national and country dancing and a camp-fire. It was all thoroughly enjoyable except the camp-fire which was 'taken' by the Musical Adviser for Devon who couldn't pitch, sing or do anything as far as we could see! She taught us masses of "good" camp fire songs – so many that I now know none of them! The trainer was cross about all this, and I must say cuddly was most self-controlled and only once did she let off steam by bawling "apple trees in bloom" in the Hungarian round. It was very funny! The food was very good throughout the day. The school building was done in 1939 and is the best and most up to date I have ever seen. Our patrol did washing up at dinner and tea, then we changed duties again. Bed about 10 and slept much better.

Sun 4 March:

4 RCs got up the same time as Joan, Rita and myself. We 3 went to the Parish Church for Communion. It turned out to be an Anglo-Catholic Service and Rita and I nearly exploded at the beginning at all the ceremony that went on. The Service was quite different in parts and we hardly heard a word throughout. When we got outside Joan and I agreed that that decided it – we preferred Non-Conformist

Church! After breakfast we packed up everything, took down beds etc and swept the floor. We then had inspection. Mrs Hall, the trainer is very nice. She congratulated me and I didn't hear many who were praised so my chest and head swelled slightly! After this there was a simple but very enjoyable Guiders' own and then outdoor game and open discussion. After dinner Jean and I played pipes. (We were to have played at campfire last night.) Next session was one on Health and then one patrol did a sort of sketch and then ours and the other 2 had a debate on whether a 5/- tax on bicycles would be a good thing and prevent accidents and through a misunderstanding I had to second Betty Nelson's opposition at a few minutes notice, and make a 3 minute speech which I didn't find easy as actually I was in favour of the motion. It all went off OK, though. After tea we Bath people left and Quartley, Rita, Jean, Joan, cuddly Betty and I had a carriage to ourselves. We sang and properly let off steam all the way home. I hated going home because of the thought of going back to work. Home, a chat with Mummy, supper and to bed.

Mon 5 March:

Went to work and spend a very ordinary day. Finished a murder story that Mrs Smith had lent me called "Death on the Medical Board" by Josephine Bell. Off at 6 and too Roger home for Nurse Evans who had had a blood transfusion at 4. Dashed home to get ready for Rangers, called for Rita at the Reference Library and went on to Argyle to have a talk with Mr Coggan on Congregationalism arranged for us by Cuddly. He was very nice, concise and lent us a book each. At Rangers Rita and I took nearly the whole meeting – inspection, first aid, game, expression game, conversation in pairs game, then a discussion on specialisation in Rangers. We had a sketch like we had done at the training then the Seas joined with us for singing. I went home and casually remarked at supper that I had leanings towards Argyle and thought of leaving C of E. – It was just like an explosion, my father became very irate and said "You know what happened to Bobby, well, the same stands for you, if you join 'chapel' you can get out, I'll have nothing to do with you." My mother tried to make out he didn't mean it but I knew he did, and to make matters worse he started being furious with Mummy and accusing her of introducing me to 'chapel' people. It was too much I just cried and cried. Daddy went up to bed and Mummy told me to do what I wanted but no more was said. I went to bed about 10 and read Mr Coggan's book. I was even more convinced that the Congregational Church was right, but decided that for the present, at least, I could not think of joining or 'things might happen' at home! I had a simply dreadful pain in my tummy but gradually it went and I fell asleep and dreamt dreadful nightmares about Mr Coggan and Daddy all night.

Tues 6 March:

Still no letter from Mary, and Rita and I are very worried. On early at work and went for a walk with the children in the morning. Mopped the floor in the afternoon. The new WAAFs are very nice – 'Tricia and Mary. Janet Young was sick at dinner and had a temperature of 101 after rest. I expect it is only a chill. Off at 5, and home. Still felt worried about last night's incident, and for the first time, I think, in my life I had a sort of tummy ache at the thought of coming home. I told myself I was foolish, however, Daddy had probably forgotten all about it and perhaps he'd had a lot of whisky last night! Anyhow I got home and sat down to write up my diary for the weekend. Read the Nursery Journal and evening paper, then wrote a PC and two letters and listened to the Brains Trust. Laid and had supper. Went to bed straight afterwards as I felt rather tired.

Weds 7 March:

Washed starched and ironed 3 caps before collecting the Nursery fish and going to work. We went for a walk this morning in two parties and both of us were rather late in but we 'caught up' alright. In the afternoon the children were weighted and all except Pat Biffen had gained. Patrick Burton has a temperature; watery eyes and spots inside his mouth so we're afraid he's in for measles now. Janet was better again today, but I think she has whooping cough and that's the trouble. Left quite early and home where I read the paper, pumped up and dusted my bicycle, spring-cleaned my bureau and after supper had a smoke before going to bed about 10.

Thurs 8 March:

Cycled to work and it only took about 4 minutes to get there which saves a lot of time compared with the bus. Had to light all 3 fires as there was only Mrs Smith on. For a walk by the Radway with the children in the morning I bathed and treated Davis Sullivan for scabies on the feet before dinner [sic]. After lunch I washed the overalls. Off at 5 and home where after reading the paper I wrote 3 letters and an Air letter and went by bike to the 'General' to post them. Chatted to Miss Gold and mummy when I got home then Miss Gold left and I had a very luxurious bath before supper. (I heard that Milk of Magnesia and cold cream mixed is very good for the face so decided to put this on after my bath. As I found we no M of M I mixed some Birley's with some cold cream instead – I expect an alkali does – and I hope it does the trick!) After supper we had a chat and smoke. Daddy asked me if I'd given up the idea of 'chapels' – he hoped so. I said I was letting the question simmer, but Mummy quickly called the subject taboo and we talked of other things. Bed about 10.

Fri 9 March:

Went shopping then cycled to work. I too 4 2yr olds out by myself during the morning in order that the others could go farther with the rest of the children. This

scheme certainly worked quite well. I went up Claremont Rd and seeing some lemons in a shop I bought them back in my pockets! (Gave one to Connie as she had a cold.) Jennifer Hiscocks and Janet Young were sick today and seem to have heavy colds. It may be gastric 'flu' or perhaps an after effect of measles. Delia Meachin was also found to have ringworm! What a place the Nursery is! Cycled home with Mrs Smith. Read the evening paper, cut my hair a little and got ready and went to Country Dancing. Elsie Oakey was very good indeed at leading us, and taught us all properly, praising individuals etc. Although I knew all the dances we did and some of it was boring, I enjoyed every minute of it really because you knew that Elsie appreciated good timing, phrasing etc. and any effort was worth while. Mrs Davis and Rita heard of the 'Chapel' episode and advised me to do anything to keep the peace. Mrs Davis's conservatory caught on fire in the middle of Weds night but they worked marvellously and kept it under control so that it didn't spread to the house. Home to supper. Daddy showed me a trick with a lemon, then we had a chat and smoke and went to bed about 10.15.

Sat 10 March:

To work early and it was foggy cycling along the road. Cleared two grates, got tea, then spent the whole morning knitting knickers for the Nursery because there was nothing else to do – 9 children and 3 of us to look after them up in the Toddler Room. Roger was sick last night so it must be a definite complaint the children have. Mrs Smith gave me a currant loaf she had made and then I left at 1 and cycled home to dinner. It has been a lovely holiday for Jean Colman's week – beautifully clear sunny days, and when the fog cleared about 12 o'clock it was just as nice today. After dinner Mum and Dad went down to the garden and I sorted out some clothes to sell, did some mending then did some more towards my green coat I started in November or thereabouts – have only the sleeves, shoulder pads and button holes to do now. Got the tea when the parents returned, and soon afterwards got ready and went to the Theatre with Mummy to see "The Dog Watches" which was a well-acted comedy farce. I like it quite well for what it was. Home to supper and later to bed. (Mummy sent a telegram to Mary this morning – No letter, may we expect you Monday? – Before dinner the answer came "Arriving Monday". By the afternoon's post, however, there was a letter to say she had no idea we were so perturbed about her illness, she had been busy, too. She was coming on the usual train. We were relieved by this news, and I know Rita will be, tomorrow.)

Sun 11 March:

Woke up early and did both my dietetic papers in bed finishing before 9.30. Had breakfast in the kitchen in my dressing gown then got up and arranged Mary's room

putting blankets to air and taking up books and flowers. Miss Gold came in to say she had had a burst pipe and when I went back in to see, the mess was simply awful – all over the back of her shop. She showed me some grey pure wool which she had and I promptly bought a pattern and 10oz to make a cardigan which I badly need. Laid dinner and after dinner I made up a game for Tuesday's party. (Margaret Jenkins called in before dinner, by the way.) Went to Canteen at the Pump Room and Rita and about 6 other Rangers came – there was no wounded party today to cater for. Elizabeth Bryant took our photo, outside. Left about 5.30 and Rita came home. We decided to go to Argyle for the evening service and I carefully said nothing about it to Daddy who was in the lounge. It was a very nice service indeed and a Mr Harold Johnson took the service as Mr Coggan was away. Rita and I felt absolutely in love with him! Mr and Mrs Smith came, but were just too late to be able to sit with us. They enjoyed it too. Came home and did some knitting. Mummy had spent the whole evening doing booking and couldn't make the books balance. Laid and had supper and nothing was said by Daddy though he saw me go out with Rita and must have known where I'd been! Went to bed directly after supper.

Mon 12 March:

Didn't sleep very well upstairs in Mary's room. On at 8. Went for a walk with the children in the morning. Jean came back from holiday but had the earache. Two new WAAFs called Marjorie and Winnie came and were 'signals' girls. They don't seem too bad. In the afternoon John Bartlett had diarrhoea and Janet Young ran another temp so I stayed in with them and did the floor. There was a tiff between Connie and Nurse and the whole Nursery was talking about it when I left at 4.30. The pettiness of the Nursery gets me down at times. Home and made a trifle for tomorrow's party, changed and went to Rangers where we had a Rangers in Council and planned so many camps and parties and concerts etc I'm quite addled! Did a bit of singing then Rita and I left early and met Mary at the LMS. The train was quite punctual. Rita came back and had supper with us all and stayed till her rather called for her about 10.30. Mary was taller and – she says – heavier but otherwise just the same. Her accent was a bit broader but as long as we understand what she's saying I suppose it doesn't matter a ½d. To bed quite late after washing up.

Tues 13 March:

Had breakfast in bed and got up at 9.30 and was practically ready when Beryl called for me 15' later and we went to Dr Weston to have our Supplementary Course forms singed and these we duly dispatched. To work by 10.10 and out for a walk with the children. A nasty atmosphere in the Nursery and I tried to avoid the gossip that was going on. Out again in the afternoon as it was a lovely day. Off at 6 and home to

prepare for Guiders Patrol Party. There were 13 of us counting Mary, and Mrs Carter who came as she was staying with Jean. The games we played didn't seem to go with a real swing but Cuddly 'pepped' it all up for us. We had a big meal of sandwiches, sausage rolls, trifle cake etc and drank cider and lemonade but we were very good and sang "For health and strength" before we started! All left soon after 10 and Rita stayed and helped Mary and I do the washing up and some of the tidying before her father called for her. Mary and I sat down at 11 o'clock and had a cigarette then went to bed. It had been quite a successful evening.

Weds 14 March:

Had breakfast in bed and got up at about 8.30 and was at work at 9. Went out for walk in the morning. Matron came and was in a queer mood. The reason was disclosed after lunch when Connie was called into the office at 1.50 to have a talk with Matron for – it turned out – her uncle had been to see Dr Weston and told him that Connie was unhappy. Connie was there until 3.15. Meanwhile the other 3 of us took the children out by the river. Just by the gate leading in to the first field Jennifer Hiscocks fell over and caught her forehead on a spike of the gate so I had to render first aid as there was quickly blood all over her face and hair. I lay her down and used my cap (being the only thing that was white and clean that I had) Rene took her home and the WAAF and I returned with the 14 other children but were met half way by Connie and Rene who came to help us. I left my cap pins behind in the grass. Jennifer was alright when we got home. Rene kept losing the heel of her shoe all day so borrowed mine to go home, but was so unused to low heels she said her feet ached a lot when she got in. I was called in for a long talk with Matron all about Connie before going off and I endeavoured to say nothing at all and pointed out that all the trouble was unnecessary and petty and any forms of interference in the top Nursery should in most cases be taken with a sense of humour – it was just that Connie was unused to criticism which we trained folk or people in training were accustomed to. Home and Mary and I had a taxi to Bathampton to a Young Farmers Dance. It was very enjoyable really and we were amused by one very fat girl with the shortest skirt invented and another who has so thin a voile frock that you could see everything through it. We left at 12 and walked home. Bed.

Thurs 15 March:

Up early and to work. Still the topic was Connie but I tried to say as little as possible and anyhow I felt fed up with it all. I stayed in and gave David Sullivan another scabies treatment in the morning but went out with the children in the park in the afternoon. Home and spent the evening knitting listened to the wireless, playing my recorder and doing an Acrostic in the Leader. Mary had been to Bristol with Mummy today. Daddy came back from Torquay last night but I didn't see him

till tonight when he showed me a service he had bought for use at Fowey. Supper, a smoke and to bed.

Fri 16 March:

Did some shopping and met Jean Coleman in town,. Bought a book for the Nursery. Went to Huntley's to try and get some ice-cream and they hadn't got any. On to work and we kept most of the children in during the morning as it was doubtful weather. Had a headache all day. Matron was in and in a fairly good but efficient mood. I had my programme for the Supplementary Course in Bristol today and it looks very interesting. In the afternoon we went to the Park. The children were in the garden till we went home. Home at 6.30 and changed and Mary and I went to the Ranger Social at Argyle and we had games, country dancing, supper and singing and it was quite enjoyable. We stayed to help clear up afterwards. Home about 9.45 and talked till nearly 11. Bed.

Sat 17 March:

To work and we took the children out – Connie and myself took our 4 along the canal as far as the signal box. Knitted while waiting for the children to be fetched. After dinner Mary called for me, I showed her round and we left with the others at 2 and we left with the others at 2 and we went for a walk through Larkhall and up to Little Solsbury where we had a picnic tea. We returned via fields to Batheaston where we caught a bus home. Mary washed my hair for me and I tied it up in a scarf to go to the Theatre later with Mary, and Rita who had attended a Guide training at City of Bath Girls' School all day. The Theatre show was The Desert Song which was good in parts but I don't like musical comedy much. Saw Rita on her bus, back to supper to bed.

Sun 18 March:

Mary and I stayed in bed in the morning reading and dozing. I fetched the breakfast up early at 7.30. We dressed about 12 or so in time for dinner. After dinner Rita called for us and we caught a bus to Hinton Charterhouse, walked via Pipehouse to Monkton Combe where we sat in the woods and had tea. We walked on to Claverton and met the other Rangers for the Quarterly Divisional Church Parade there. Mr Hopley conducted the Service and it was quite pleasant and included an adult baptism. This of course was too much for Cuddly who made us all giggle. We walked back along the main road. Rita went home to fetch her luggage for tomorrow and came down to our house at about 11. Bed.

Mon 19 March:

Up very early and after breakfast we all 3 caught the 7.32 train to Mangotsfield, changed, sat on our cases in the corridor to Gloucester then in a carriage to Birmingham. Had a seat again in the next train to Crewe where we had dinner in the

waiting room and had a good seat on the train to Lancaster. I did a lot knitting – R.front and part of sleeve of my new cardigan. We got our emergency ration cards in Lancaster (Mary and I) while Rita wrote PCs to her people and one to Mummy for me. We caught the bus to Wray and when we arrived it was raining so amused the villagers by opening my case and changing my shoes, and then we set off up the 1½ mile lane to Alice's. It is a lovely valley but very lonely. We sat up till gone 11 playing rummy after a high tea and supper. Bed, Mary and I shared a double bed and Rita slept on the floor on a mattress.

Tues 20 March:

After breakfast and a talk with Teddy who is about 18 months old, we set off at 11 o'clock to catch the bus to Lancaster, We met Mrs Croft on the bus. Caught 12.20 train to Preston. I felt a bit sick and didn't feel much better after a doubtful meat pie on Preston station. Got the next train after 30' minutes to Manchester where we signed on at the YWCA hostel then had tea at Finnigan's and went out the M.R.I. with Mary. It is a very austere hospital and Rita and I thought Mary very brave to devote her life to working in it! No doubt it is modern and very well-run however. Rita and I left Mary to have an hour's lecture and caught a bus back into town and got lost, but we found the shops very interesting, had an icecream wafer (first for some years) bought a few things and managed to find our way in time to meet Mary at 6.10 and we ran along to the Opera House for the 6.15 show – "The Frog" by Edgar Wallace with Gordon Harker acting in it himself. We were amazed to find we could just walk in to any price seats and we had very good ones for 4/6. The play had marvellous scenery and was very good indeed. We went back to the hostel about 9.30 and had some supper, then sat up till gone 11 talking. Bed and Rita and I slept in a lecture room on divans and Mary went up in the dormitory. We thought the prices very reasonable – 5/6 b&b for Rita and I and 3/6 b&b for Mary.

Weds 21 March:

Excellent breakfast, then some hurried shopping before catching the train at 10 to 10 back to Lancaster. There was some lovely jewellery in Manchester – I was dying to buy some but didn't. Knitted in the train. We got back to Alice's by about 2 and after dinner we went for a walk with Teddy and Alice over the fields and took back some wood. Ned came after tea (Bill's 16yr old brother) and we played cards till nearly 12 o'clock. Bed where we three all slept in one bad and Ned slept in Rita's bed in the airing room.

Thurs 22 March:

An early breakfast then Rita and I took Teddy for a walk while the family set off to a wedding at Morecambe. Teddy missed his mother but was quite good. Got back to the farm about 9.30 and then we packed up dinner for Ned and put Teddy to bed after his drink. Rita practised her recorder and I knitted. Dinner. I spent the afternoon making up a competition for the Ranger party while Rita wrote letters and Teddy amused himself. We got tea and Ned came back about 4. It was then that we found there was not water and Ned had to go up into the woods and unblock the main pipe. All the cooking we had had to do on the range. There are no electricity or gas or oil stores at Alice's. It was all good fun, though. We couldn't bath Teddy as there was no hot water and of course he shoes to do a packet in his trousers just then. We had just got him to bed when Alice came back and Bill followed a little later. Mary and her father came in the car about 8 and after a short time we packed up and crammed ourselves into the car (4 of us and 4 cases and 2 bags) I felt pretty nervous as we came down the narrow lane bordering the back but when we got on the road we seemed to swerve all over the place and Mr Croft said he thought there was something wrong with the steering. I never thought we'd arrive at Marybank alive, but we did though we arrived in style for had just turned into the farm lane when there was a crash and Mary's side of the car went down – the back wheel had come off! Must say it's a long time since I've been so thankful. After a lovely supper we heard a dreadful explosion which we thought was a V bomb but which we later heard was a munition train which had blown up several miles away. We played rummy till about 11.30. Bed where Rita and I slept together.

Fri 23 March:

Breakfast in bed then up to catch the 10 train to Ingleton where we met Lucy and back to her home for an early lunch then we set off and walked to Godsbridge and Wethercote where we looked over a church and saw a couple of potholes and a cave where there was a very tall waterfall. We walked up to the top of Chapel-le-dale to catch a bus back to Ingleton but it didn't come so we had to walk back. We must have walked 12 miles in all.

No more entries, though most of remainder of note book unused. Front and back inside covers have checklists for packing. Back cover:

To Mary's

Coat & skirt, shortsleeved navy jumper

Honey coat, navy shoes

Pyjamas, Grey skirt, Longsleeved jumper & cardigan. Walking shoes

2prs stockings 2prs socks. Apron. Washing things.

End of 1945 diary

Another new start: December 1946:

Sat 7 December 1946:

Exactly a week ago since I made the decision to go into the shop and not to take the year's teaching course in January. Mary assures me that I'll get over it but I still feel awfully guilty about it yet not sorry as the conventional life of the college would be quite unbearable and why should I spend two years shut up with people five years my junior? As regards the one year course – I may have enjoyed it and would certainly like to work but since I've been home I have realised how happy Daddy has been when I go down in the garden with him, show an interest in the shop etc and this would not be possible if I went on with teaching. Perhaps I'm weak that I like 'peace' so much, and really think that shop life will be quite interesting and salary good so I've just fallen! Time will tell! Went shopping with Barbie⁵⁰ this morning meeting Mary and Vera who are still wondering whether to stay an extra week or not. All played cards in afternoon hand in theatre in evening to see Phyllis Nielson-Terry in *Beggars Union*. Someone ought to tell the poor misguided woman that she is no longer a young woman who can trip around the stage or stand about in cami-knickers. She could be excellent in a serious 'wise old woman' part but was simply ludicrous in this none too excellent play.

Sun 8 December:

A Sunday, and Barbie brought us have breakfast in bed which was very pleasant. Bobbie was in London for the weekend. Got up and washed breakfast things, carried up coal, did laundry and washed my jumper and cardigan and laid dinner. Spent afternoon doing home work. Mary came in for an hour after tea and came again bringing Vera after their supper. During supper I had an argument (friendly) with Barbie over films. I said that the moral of American ones was wrong as it made many badly educated girls think that riches and glamour were the things to aim at in life, but Barbie didn't agree with me.

Mon 9 December:

Mummy went to Weston for day. I sent off presents to Shirley and a stocking of toys to Mrs Ladds for the Christmas good turn scheme. Went out shopping with Mary and Vera and came home early-ish to get dinner. Went with M and V to the forum in the afternoon and saw the Marx Bros in *Night in Casablanca* which was funny in places. I left early at 4:15 and went home and got tea. Mr Keevil has fixed our beautiful carved mantelpiece. It will take me a long time to get used to it because it is so high and by the time it has its two Chinese vases on either side it is

⁵⁰ Barbie was a different cousin from Bobby/Bobbie/Bobs. Whereas Bobbie Walker was the daughter of Peggy's mother's brother Cecil Walker, Barbie was the daughter of Peggy's father's sister Vi Keys (née Way). Later, Barbie married Bill Little, had a daughter called Belinda ("Binnie" as a child), and moved to Fowey from Manchester when I was a teenager.

a very overpowering I think, but still. Barbie and I went to Miss West at 5, for an hour's shorthand. Back, put tea away and I started a study of English porcelain by making notes on Derby. Mary and Vera came over for a chat from eight onwards. I knitted my two-ply pale blue jumper I am doing on size 10 needles. Supper and a bath then bed.

Tues 10 December:

A cold murky day. Mary and Vera left of this morning and after having a coffee etc saw them off at the L M S⁵¹ about 12. In the afternoon I did home work. Continued steady of porcelain in the evening by writing notes on Chelsea Bow and Worcester. Learnt a number of dates and names but have no idea what the actual ware looks like and could not identify examples shown me at supper. Bobby was in for the night.

Weds 11 December:

Made the dinner. Went to view a sale and shopping with Daddy. Out again with Mummy in the afternoon I picked up a few Christmas presents then took Jane Davis to a Savings Secretaries party. It was not what I would call a well-organised as there was a lot of hanging about, but the conjurer (Mr Taylor) was marvellous with the children especially as I think they were very undisciplined— Kept getting up, calling out very loudly and were so near to the poor man I cannot think how he did his tricks! Tea was quite nice. All the children were presented with a Christmas card with five shillings in saving stamps in it. Jane was extremely good but her comparative seriousness and her great confidence rather amused me. I think she enjoyed it. She is still in the nicest child I know. I saw her in a taxi to take her home but on calling at her father's garage saw Charlie Leonard and had a very short chat. Later in the evening went to the Over-20 club where we had a quiz in two teams which was great fun. Made friends with a Danish girl called Inger who is very nice indeed.

Thurs 12 December:

Wrote 2 letters, made pudding. Met Rene for coffee, shopping. Valerie came. Got dinner. Valerie and her friend came or a short chat. Wrote 3 letters. After tea did up a few parcels then went to YHA meeting where met Mary Frayne. It was a gramophone record evening - very nice records . One girl brought a 'request' which the was Soviet Fatherland song and we all tried to keep a straight face! The man who gave the recital was very nice.

Fri 13 December:

Made pudding. Made an autograph book for Mummy to give away as a Christmas present. Went to Library. Got dinner. Finished pair of slippers for Mary. Tea. Went

⁵¹ I assume Peggy means the 'London, Midland and Scottish rail' station in Bath, known once as Bath Queen Square and later as Bath Green Park, now a shopping market area. Trains went mainly north from here, and a few due south to Bournemouth.

to shorthand at Miss West's with Barbie. Back for a while then went to carol practice at Argyle. Home at 8 and Bobbie and I played gramophone records and I studied and wrote up notes on Plymouth porcelain. Supper, a long chat before bed.

Sat 14 December:

Went shopping with Barbie and Bobs. Came back and did little packing up. Barbie heard from the chiropodist that her bunion cannot be healed which is naturally upsetting. I made some biscuits for tonight's supper, after dinner, and also made the Christmas cake (forgetting to put in the precious glace cherries). Went to the YHA party at Batheaston Hostel. Very jolly crowd there and had some excellent games and dancing for which there was no lack of partners (Did two old fashioned waltzes straight off, which I thought was quite an achievement) The party ended about 1 with much kissing under mistletoe, and the men pinches girls' pyjamas. One boy looked very amusing in mine! Got them back eventually and at last got the men out of our dorm so that we could go to bed. Didn't sleep very well.

Sun 15 December:

Up 8.45 for 9 o'clock breakfast. Packed our rucsacs and swept the dorm. Set off at 10.30 and walked via St Catherines to Cold Ashton. Had our sandwiches and some tea in a country café then walked back to the hotel again via the Swainswick valley, up and across the Gloucester Road again and up over Little Solsbury. Arrived back at the Hostel about 3.20 and got home before 4. After large tea, sat by the fire and stiffness began to come out in the top of my thighs (caused by the quick strenuous walking!) and though the spirit was willing the bod was not strong enough to make me go to the Messiah Service at Argyle and the carol practice afterwards. Barbie's friends, - Mr and Mrs Locke - came at 7 and stayed until just gone 10.30. They were very nice but I had to keep on knitting or I'm sure I should have fallen asleep. I was very tired after the walk.

Mon 16 December:

Very cold last night and today. Had my perm done at Mackways. Macdonald system this time and was very pleased with it. Spent afternoon packing Christmas presents. Went to Carol practice in evening but before I went while I was knitting and studying porcelain the police rang up to say there lights on in the shop etc and were very cross. I apologised but on going down to put them out found they weren't on, so rang the Police to say they must mean next door. I was glad it wasn't us as the Police were very annoyed saying it was an offence of the bye-laws and severe waste in these times of electricity shortages.

Tues 17 December:

Mummy had a perm so I made the dinner. Had a 10/6 book token from Miss Peacock for my help at the Nursery and was thrilled to bits and went out and got a book about a London family in 1870-1900 which should be very interesting. Afternoon spent in doing home work. Rene came in the evening to supper. Knitted.

Weds 18 December:

After breakfast did ironing, made two bath mats from one huge one, knitted, prepared baked apples for dinner and laid up in dining room as 7 for dinner. Went out with Mummy, in afternoon and she bought a dress remnant and we bought 2 gramophone records – waltz from Tchaichovski's String Serenade and the music from Les Sylphides. Both wizard. Home for and Barbie and I went for one last shorthand lesson with Miss West taking her a book token for her trouble. When I got home I decided not to go to the Social at Over-20 Club so did some work until supper time. After supper we played records until 10.30. It was a bitterly cold wind today.

Thurs 19 December:

Went out with Mummy and bought 2 records of the Lancers and another of airs from the Messiah. Made some pastries, finished Barbie's mitts for Christmas and packed them up. Did home work in the afternoon and Mrs Stadwick came to tea. She seemed not too well or happy owing to her recent separation from her husband. Went with 9 other Argyle folk carol singing at old people's houses – Mr Cook of Hayesfield Park, Mrs Cook of Oldfield Rd, someone in Bloomfield Av: Mrs Eyres?, Mrs Adams of Bloomfield Rd and Mr Horne of Greenaway Lane. Got over £1 for St Dunstan's. Mr Davis fetched Mrs Davis, Peter Wills and I. We took Peter home and promptly got a puncture so Mrs D and I were asked until what wheel was changed. Had 2nd lot of tea of the evening. Was taken home and after another supper, listened with Barbie and Bobs to Rawscz [?] and Landauer on the wireless.

Fri 20 December:

Went shopping doing errands for Bobs Barbie and Mummy. Went out to Snow Hill to get some pastries walking, and on coming back bought a watch case for 4/6 in a shop. Daddy says I may get 15/- for it so pleased. Forgot to say I spend half an hour polishing the mantelpiece thing morning. After dinner Barbie left for Fowey and I made Bobs' peg-bag for Christmas and also made up a "poem" to go with it. Got tea. Made up some doggerel to go with Mummy's present then went down to Argyle for Carol singing but no one was there after 10 minutes so met Mummy in the Ref: Library and came home. Read book until supper time. After supper Bobs wanted me to play records but said I would tomorrow night instead as felt tired. Feel miserable (nobody-loves-me sort) and a failure today, and must jolt out of it tomorrow, because it's silly.

Sat 21 December:

Wrote letters and posted them, and sent off books I had made to the Nursery. Changed library book. Home and made a pudding and plain cake for trifle. Mummy was out in afternoon so sewed up most of her jumper for Christmas. Knitted. After tea made 3 books for Nursery. We tried some gramophone records but the blessed machine wouldn't work properly and even the wireless half of it went wrong so we had to give it up as a bad job. Bobby spent evening making a blue toy elephant! Got supper and to bed later. Have definitely eaten too much today – my stomach says I'm going to have a night-marish night.

Sun 22 December:

Bobs and I went down, got breakfast and had on a tray in bed. Read and got up about 9.30. Washed up, made pudding etc. Spent about 15" polishing the mantelpiece but although I was being very careful I suddenly broke off a little bit. I apologised, but Daddy was naturally annoyed. He stuck it on again but I was very upset and went upstairs and didn't do any more. Spent afternoon with cigarette cards. Went carol-singing in the evening but when Daddy found out at supper time it was the Argyle Church he wasn't at all pleased. I enjoyed the service, though. I met Pauline Hanlon there who was at Fishponds College with me. It reminded me of it all again – I do wish I could get rid of this silly guilty wicked feeling about the affair – it gets me down at times.

Mon 23 December:

Went shopping. Home and packed up Mum and Dad's presents. Got dinner. In afternoon, Dad and I went out in car delivering parcels and collecting clumps from the garden. It was very wet. Got in about 4. After tea I did 'cigarette cards' working on my type collection and housing each card in bags of transparent paper which I made with the aid of staples. I should have gone carol-singing at the Hospital but as I knew a large number would turn up and I wouldn't be letting anyone down I didn't go. Bed about 10.40. Daddy seemed to have an attack of diarrhoea.

Tues 24 December:

Christmas Eve and very excited. After breakfast I did the washing. Mummy and I went out shopping meeting Auntie M for a coffee at the Bernina Café. Got back and stewed pears and made custard for lunch and went back to the butcher's for meat. Mummy took Mrs Sayers out in the car in the afternoon. Daddy and I sat by the fire reading and later did cigarette cards. Got tea and Miss West came in for a few minutes. I had a short tea. We started the Christmas cake and everyone thinks it's very good so was quite pleased. It is nice and moist anyway. Mummy and I cleared

away tea things, stuffed and trussed the turkey, made a trifle, whipped some tinned milk for over 20 minutes until a mock cream was made, got supper. We listed and rearranged the Christmas cards. Went to bed latish.

Weds 25 December:

Good intentions of going to early Service were not carried out as we awoke too late. Bobs and I went into the parents' room and we all undid our presents. I was terribly pleased with mine which included stockings, books, flannel hanky, 2 hair brushes, cigarettes and lots of other things. It was about 10.30 before we went downstairs having had breakfast off a tray and having washed and dressed. There were little things to do like putting up the holly, laying the table etc. Misses John came about 12.15 and Mr John later for a drink, then we went down to their house for a drink. Mrs John's sister and a friend came. We thought them very amusing like 2 E M Delafield characters. The dinner was wizard. Poor Auntie M had a cold and didn't come but Bobs took her up some. Bobs's cold is bad too. Read and listened to wireless in afternoon. The King's speech was good – calling for courage to carry on under the continued difficulties. The tunes from Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs and Christmas with children in different parts of Europe were very sweet but a bit touching. Cup of tea, then got ready and went to the Loves for the evening. We played whist, had a grand feast then played games till gone 1. It was very enjoyable. Home and bed.

Thurs 26 December:

Mum and I went downstairs and got breakfast on trays then we had it in bed. Mum and Dad went down the garden and I did my quarterly turn-out and change-round of my room. I condensed things considerably so that my chest of drawers could go up into the spare bedroom and books could occupy the shelf of my curtained cupboard. Washed up breakfast things and got dinner. Cleared my bedroom then sewed new collar and cuffs on my evening dress. Read for a while. Tea. Wrote 12 thank you letters then had bath and went to bed.

Fri 27 December:

After breakfast I made a mince pie then we moved the showroom round and Hoovered the floor. Joyce Lindrea called just as we were having coffee. She stayed until dinner. After dinner Daddy took Joyce to Trowbridge and Bobby and I made decorations for the showroom. Mummy had a deep bath and mended my evening frock. At 8.15 I went with Mrs Davis and party to a dance. It was a pity there 4 women to two men, but Mrs D didn't dance a great deal and I was with Walter [Davis, I think] most of the time, only dancing with other people in the Paul Jones. I only remember sitting out 2 dances but asked if I might rest instead as my feet felt a bit tired. There was icecream and drinks but no 'food' there much to the

disappointment of the Davis's. The dance finished at 1 and we drove the other 2 girls home (4 of us in the back) then they took me home. I had enjoyed myself quite well but I did envy all the girls I knew at the dance with their own proper partners! The floor was bit too slippery too – but I enjoyed myself really more than most of the dances I have ever been to.

Sat 28 December:

Got up and had breakfast latish then did some ironing and started work on the equipment etc for the party games. Mummy and I went out to the Café Royal for dinner which was very nice. More party organisation in the afternoon. Bobby and John (her boyfriend) came in to tea. Mummy did not feel at all well and went to bed for about an hour. I changed. The guests began arriving about 7.30. After drinks we had a hand-shaking game with silver coins circulating and this was certainly very popular and started the party off well. Other games which went well were “feeding the baby” and “famous people in a ring and each was to remember who is on their right and left”, “weekend case” game, “forfeits” etc but the dancing and games to doing with the dancing did not got so well because people could not be made to understand fully all that was to happen and dancing was congested, gramophone a bit contrary and music not loud enough. Mummy gave us marvellous food – ices trifle, fruit salad, sandwiches, eclairs sausage rolls (made by Cuddly) etc etc. When they all left just after 1 am we sat and talked for a short while. John had seemed very nice I had thought but now Bobby and he sat “canoudling” – he stroking her hair and I was rather disappointed in him as there's nothing I detest more than slobber. I must say all the men at the party were very kind to me and I was never left out of anything and was kissed several times – in fun of course. To bed about 1.40. Mummy felt a bit better.

Sun 29 December:

Awoke about 8.30 and Bobby and I got breakfast and we had it on trays in Mummy's room. Bobby laid and lit fire and left with John for a Christening at Weston S Mare about 10.30 I got up and started on clearing up. Mummy came down about an hour later. She felt better today. We worked hard at washing up, sorting, carrying things back upstairs etc until dinner time. Moira called for a few minutes. Daddy put away the drinks then went to the Club. We had poached eggs on toast for dinner – which quite demoralised Daddy for a Sunday dinner! Afterwards we did a bit more tidying away then read in the lounge. I made up a teaser to send into The People and spit on it for luck, hoping it will win me 10/6! Got tea. Afterwards I did some knitting and read until, I suppose, about 7.30 when Bobs and John came in and we chatted until it was time to get supper. I now have Bobby's cold. It is a funny germ, you keep

sneezing or wanting to sneeze the whole time but your nose seldom gets really blocked up neither do you feel as awful in yourself as with an ordinary cold. Your nose keeps bleeding slightly too. After supper I had a nice bath and went to bed earlyish.

Mon 30 December:

Cold better today. After breakfast prepared Jo's bed, did laundry then took down the Christmas cards and cut our pictures from all the magazines and talked to John until Bobby was ready to go out with him. Earlier Bobs and I had an argument over Christenings. She said she thought they were all bunkum et etc and I tried to stand up for them. – though admitted that I certainly did not agree with the very set, old fashioned and even ridiculous Church of England service. Went out shopping. After dinner I read and knitted for short while then met Jo at the station. We looked round shops then came home for tea with John and Bobs. Jo and went off directly after tea and saw the film 'Piccadilly Incident' with Anna Neagle and Michael Wilding. I thought it was really quite good. A short chat before and after supper then to bed. Daddy has a cold and is very miserable about it.

Tues 31 December:

Got up and got breakfast – Jo and Daddy had theirs in bed. Mummy and Jo came out early with me after puddings were prepared, to get a navy jersey suit which I got at Jollys⁵² for just under £7 and 14 coupons. I am very pleased with it though I don't think it is quite so nice as the one I bought at Simpsons in the autumn. Jo and I went on round shops and back later to knit for a short while before dinner. The doctor put Daddy on penicillin to cure his catarrhal cold. He examined Mummy and said he could find nothing wrong with her so it must have been a sort of internal chill she had. After dinner Jo and I set off and walked through the park visited the Nursery taking a few 'books' I had made and on via Weston village to Mrs Sayers. The Sayers came with us and we caught a bus home for tea. Mrs Sayers eye was better but she could not see properly with it. After tea I played a lot of records then we chatted and had a very heated argument with Bobby who was the only one in complete favour of the new Health Scheme. I never did like the Civil Service Scheme and another one for doctors seems terrible – it will be so tied up with Red Tape, so impersonal that any slight good it may do by making all people the same type of patient will be more then undone by the bad things it will bring with it. I am all for decentralisation in the country's government. I saw Jo on to a bus at Kingsmead for the station. Mr and Mrs Sayers left about 8.45. Went to bed about 9.30.

⁵² On my own recollection, Jolly's was definitely Bath's upmarket department store, in Milsom St. Close to it was Colmer's, also a department store, which if not owned by John Lewis (I don't know) was of that level.

Weds 1 January 1947:

After breakfast I stewed some plums, made a custard, a mince pie and a madeira cake. Bobby and I went out shopping. We knitted in afternoon and I darned about 8 pairs of stockings. Got tea and put away etc We then got ready and after a drink and chat with the Misses Gold we went to the Sedan Chair to supper and Miss West and Auntie Marnie joined us. It was an excellent meal, then we all came home and chatted and played a few of the sedater sort of party games. The visitors left soon after 10 and we went to bed just after 10.30. Daddy was better and got up today. The news today was that Mines are now nationalised. I have no particular objection to this step except that it will mean many more Civil Servants i.e. people in dull heart-breaking jobs. At least I see no reason for the widespread celebrations which are going on at the mines today.

Thurs 2 January:

Did odd jobs round the house like polishing ironing making custard etc. then wrote letters. Had hair set in afternoon and 2 Lone[?] Guides – Romola and Denise Walker came to tea. Romola had been to the High School and Sidcot before her present school and so we had common ground for conversation and chatted solidly until 6.45 when I had to rather rudely ask them to go so that I could change for Mrs Davis's party. I was worried about Mummy today as she still has a pain all the time. We thoroughly enjoyed the games at the party and ate such a huge meal that I literally ached. Met a very nice lad called Michael Bridges. He was quiet but seemed rather a dear. Home about 12.30.

Fri 3 January:

Mummy still felt ill and so stayed in bed for the day. Got breakfast, did coal, went shopping directly after breakfast. Fetched my bike from the cycle shop, took Mrs Sayers out to coffee, did some more shopping then home and got dinner. Cleaned Barbie's room, read and knitted till time to get tea. Barbie arrived about 5.30 and we chatted solidly till about 8.30 when it was time for her to unpack and me to prepare the salad for supper. Bobby went to London early today. Mummy looked a bit better tonight I thought.

Sat 4 January:

In the morning Mummy got up though she wasn't much better I thought. We did a lot of odd jobs preparing for our visitors and Barbie left for London for the weekend. Got dinner. Soon afterwards Mike⁵³ arrived and we chatted in the lounge. Mrs Power arrived just after tea and then later Mike took me round to the Green Tree for a

⁵³ I'm 99.9% confident that this is Michael Hill again, a cousin though I'm unsure how (which 'side' of Peggy's family). He was later one of my two godfathers, but whom I rarely if ever actually met, though he sent me presents and I wrote him 'thank you' letters every birthday and Christmas.

couple of drinks – we talked our heads off until just before nine. We found more than ever before that our tastes are practically the same. I have become a bit more liberal and he is not at all ‘socialistic’ now. I can really say that I even felt very much in love with him – but I suppose it is really rather silly to fall in love with one’s cousin. We came back to supper, chatted afterwards and to bed. I feel a different person tonight. Seems amazing what bit of pleasant male company can do!

Sun 5 January:

Helped Mummy generally and Mike and I went up to Auntie M’s with some things which had to be returned to her. We had a turkey for dinner. In the afternoon we sat by the fire and I knitted then finally fell asleep for a while. Daddy took Mike to the Club in the evening. I finished the sleeve of my jumper.

Mon 6 January:

I started in the business today. Not busy at all. In the evening Mike took me to see the film *Great Expectations* with John Mills and Valerie Hobson. It was very good indeed. Home about 8 and made supper for Barbie who had returned from Hove not having had anything to eat since breakfast. Supper and to bed late sleeping on a mattress in Bobby’s room.

Tues 7 January:

I was let off from the shop to have a coffee at the Bernina with Mike at 11. After dinner I knitted in the lounge and played cards with Mike listening for the shop bell. Felt rather guilty about the cushiness of the job but it was very nice. After tea Mike took me to the film *The Overlanders* – a really excellent natural yet thrilling Australian film and *The Bride Wore Boots* with Barbara Stanwyck and Robert Cummings which was the usual fight – kiss-and-make-up, fight – kiss-and-make-up American comedy. Very funny in parts but the theme was monotonous and the 2 children in it enough to make anyone retch. We went for a drink afterwards at the Green Tree. Home and chatted till quite late. Slept on a mattress in Mum and Dad’s room!

Weds 8 January:

Nipped out for a coffee with Mike at 11 again. He had to go home (Mrs Power abo) – [?] – on the 12.20. Business was very slack again. I polished a lot in the morning but only had one letter to type so spent rest of afternoon writing my own private ones! Barbie and I chatted after tea. I knitted then went to Over-20 Club where Mrs Boardman was speaking on “Revelation of Life in the Underworld” and it was a very interesting lantern talk on Beetles. Home for supper and to bed – in my own room! I found an old sampler done in 1838 today in the drawer of a chest in the shop, so

polished the frame and I was allowed to have it, so nailed it up in my room. I am very fond of it.

Thurs 9 January:

Busy in the shop this morning dusting polishing and stock taking. After dinner Mummy Auntie Marnie and I went out in the car and we shopped in Trowbridge, and Devizes and also delivered a table near Potterne. I bought a small wooden watch case to sell in the business and also a couple of small unframed pictures for my room. Home later for tea and had a telegram to say Auntie Carrie⁵⁴ was coming roughing so moved my clothes up with Barbie, load supper and then off to YHA meeting. Josie and Dorothy described their respective working party trips to France and Norway last summer. It was very interesting indeed and I do admire them. Home and Auntie had arrived so we chatted quite bit before going to bed.

Fri 10 January:

Fairly busy with one thing or another in the shop this morning. Mummy and Auntie Carrie went out to dinner. Typed a probate valuation in the afternoon. The evening was spent in odd knitting chatting etc. We made some marmalade. Had a bath after supper and to bed.

Sat 11 January:

Went to Bank and paid a bill at Griffiths. Morning went rather slow. Barbie went to London for weekend. After dinner Mummy took Auntie Carrie for a ride in the car and incidentally Winnie Ayres and myself to Shepton Mallett where we had tea and walked to Croscombe Hostel. There were 26 of us the party. I thought the Warden was a smashing man. His wife too, was very nice too and a good cook but almost a cretin in looks and as he was very tall and she was extremely short and fat they made a funny couple. The games went off quite well. To bed about 12.30 or later.

Sun 12 January:

Terribly stuffy when we woke after 11 of us had slept in a very small room with only a hole in the window for ventilation! Join the YHA for fresh air! After breakfast and duties we walked across fields and lanes to Wells where we had our sandwiches in a place called Glenhurst. The dear old lady there gave us tea. Afterwards we walked by a round about way into the centre and Winnie and I caught a bus home. After tea I knitted and put on records. To bed earlyish after a bath. My feet had got very went today but I soaked them in hot water when I came in.

Mon 13 January:

⁵⁴ I was never sure who Auntie Carrie was, though she was around in my childhood. "Auntie Dee" was definitely just a longstanding lifetime close friend of Gladys, Peggy's mother, and Auntie Carrie could be another similar friend... or not – I don't know!

Auntie Carrie left. Dusted shop and did odd jobs. Out on errands in town in afternoon. Tried everywhere to get a pattern for 2 ply baby's frock – not too lacy, but couldn't get one so will have to adapt another. Mrs Sayers came to tea. Went to Rene's for the evening and I started the baby's frock for Beryl, Rita's sister. Rene was very sweet and I enjoyed the evening. Mrs Coppins gave me tinned peaches which were very scrumptious. We played with the kitten. Home on the 10 bus and to bed.

Tues 14 January:

Hoovered shop, washed dusters. Did some shopping and had my photo done (Polyphoto – 48 for 5/-) at Colmer's for my passport. Mummy tried to teach me something about Queen Anne and William & Mary chairs but she makes me feel "camchulian" [?] and felt in a very bad mood. After dinner she took Bobby back to Corsham for the beginning of her second term so I was alone all the afternoon. Did some cleaning and typed a letter for her. Few customers called. Spent quite a long time studying and found it very interesting doing it on my own. After tea, went to post and home to do knitting for a short while then home work until supper time. Daddy asked me a few "antique" questions some of which I guessed correctly. To bed to read about 10.

Weds 15 January:

Spent day in shop quietly - polishing etc. Someone bought a watch-stand I had put in the shop for 6/- profit so was quite pleased. Auntie Laura came. Spent early evening knitting and doing home work then went to Over-20 Club and heard Peter Bessell giving a talk illustrated with records on Bruckner and Mahler. I can't say I was enraptured – in fact I nearly went to sleep. I must say, however, that Peter is a prolific speaker, and did his subject justly. Home to supper and to bed.

Thurs 16 January:

Did a little shopping then spent morning alone in the shop as Mum and Dad went to a sale. Spent a long time trying to clean a tallboy and it seemed to be more smeary when I'd finished than at first. The parents came back just in time for dinner. Spent afternoon doing home work while they went down the garden. Met Barbie at 4.30 and we went to the Forum to tea and saw the film *A Matter of Life and Death*, a Command Performance film starring David Niven and Kim Hunter. It was very unusual – I liked it. The other film was a very amusing one with Joan Davis playing the main part. Home about 8.30. At 9 I had to ring Mrs Davis and found I had to go to Chippenham with her, Edna, Clare and others to start a Ranger Co there next Tuesday. I did not sound very enthusiastic and in actual fact I was rather disappointed as wanted to hear Philip Hopkins the Liberal candidate for Bath

speaking to the Over-20 Club on Tuesday next week. At supper I was cheered by winning a 6d bet as to the date of the Black Hole of Calcutta. To bed.

Fri 17 January:

Thrilled to bits today as sold two quite large items completely off my own bat. We cleaned the tallboy again and made a better job of it. Mr Bird came in and had a cup of tea at tea time. Bobby came for the weekend. Had a heart-to-heart with Barbie who is feeling very 'down' – I had been rather worried about her. Unless things improve I'm afraid she may have a breakdown. It is difficult to help her. Spent rest of evening doing home work. Supper and to bed.

Sat 18 January:

Bobby took me out to coffee. I had to some shopping then back to shop for rest of morning. In afternoon Mummy and I went to Frome. Nothing much there but we went to Mr Coombes' who was a fanny old chap with long white hair who was not anxious to sell a thing. We bought some bits of lacquer but Daddy thinks they're rubbish! Home to tea. After cleaning up our purchases I did home work.

Sun 19 January:

Barbie got our three breakfasts and we had it in Bobbie's room. After very much discussion etc Bobs and I decided on a walk and caught the 11.20 bus to Winsley; we walked via Avoncliff (pub – Crossed Guns) to Westwood where we ate our lunch then on to Farleigh Hungerford Tellisford and Woolverton where finding the bus was not due for over 30 minutes we walked back to Norton St Philip. Bussed home then found we were locked out, Miss Gold hadn't a key so we eventually ended up at Auntie Marnie's where had tea and cake then on home with her key and in to find Daddy had been in all the time but asleep! After tea I did knitting, Bobs read and Mummy did sewing – also listened to the wireless. Had a bath then to bed.

Mon 20 January:

Went with Daddy to view a sale today. Was worse off for knowledge when I came out than when I went in for what I thought were French fakes Daddy said were genuine Bow and some Charles II and William and Mary chairs were really Victorian copies – I don't know! Mrs Davis called to say that Michael Bridges wants to be introduced to me and take me to the pictures. I was really thrilled. How lovely to be taken out! I hope I like him and I don't do anything silly! Rene came in the evening and I did some knitting. After supper we listened to the gramophone. I was frightfully tired tonight and not a very good hostess I'm afraid.

Tues 21 January:

Michael Bridges rang me up and after rather a stunted conversation we arranged to go to the pictures on Friday. I am looking forward to it. Several customers morning and afternoon. Mrs Davis called for me at 6.30 and picking up Edna we went to Chippenham to run a new Ranger Company's first meeting there. I heard a lot more about Michael and by the time we got to our destination she had practically married me off to the poor bloke. I ran a couple of games and Mrs D did, and we chatted and being home about 9. Mrs D took us to the Hole in the Wall for supper which was very nice.

Weds 22 January:

Didn't sleep at all well last night – anybody'd think it was an operation on Friday and not an outing with a boy-friend – it really is very silly of me. We were busy this morning moving in new things. Fairly busy in afternoon. Talked with Barbie most of evening and read a bit. Although I enjoyed it, felt I'd wasted the evening as have so much knitting, mending writing etc I should have done. To bed about 9.

Thurs 23 January:

Very quiet morning. Vary cold today. Had my hair done in the afternoon. Mr & Mrs Lazarus (distant cousins of ours) and her mother came to tea. I didn't have any tea as had had a headache since this morning and didn't feel too good. When the visitors went we charged for the Pantomime party the Bird family had asked us to. 2 Vegenins removed most of my headache and I felt OK. The Panto was very good. We had a drink in the interval and when we got up to the Birds' house afterwards another drink, so having had no tea I was glad when were allowed to eat because I was beginning to feel that my equilibrium apparatus was showing signs of breaking down. There was certainly a good spread of food. Mr Elger spoke to most of the evening. I met Mr Ayer for the first long period. He seems very nice and yet somehow I can't quite make out what he's like. His father wrote the music for the "Bing Boys". We played with a little doll with hinged legs which danced on a platform by jiggling the platform and not the doll [diagram here]. Home I suppose about midnight.

Fri 24 January:

Very slow today with not much business. Didn't feel at all hungry today, which I said was due to the cold but Daddy said it must be excitement about tonight! I met Michael as arranged at 5.40 and he took me to the see the film Carnival at the Forum which was quite good but we didn't like the girl (Sally Grey I believe) in it. The other film was a silly American thing. He then took me to the Sedan Chair where we had a simply grand supper of chicken and icecream. There was no [haelalms? -altered] in the conversation in fact he was very interesting. I asked him in home for a drink

and he left about 10.30 after a chat with the family. I liked him and hope he will ask me out again very soon.

Sat 25 January:

Terrible night as so excited about the previous evening I hardly slept at all! Usual Saturday work in shop. Later Michael came in, had a chat and made arrangements for this afternoon. At 2.30 he called for me and we went for a 2 hours walk to Weston village and had a good old chat. He seems to hold the same religious political and other views as myself. Home to tea. Afterwards he told us more of his Army experiences and I put on some records. His music likenesses seem to be much the same as mine too. At 7 he said he must leave to look after his sister who was visiting his home. I sat up for another hour only then to bed to read.

Sun 26 January:

Didn't do much except odd jobs and read in morning. Mike called for me at 2.15 and we walked up over Sham Castle round back and down getting on frightfully well. When we got into his house [either Arden Lee, top of Bathwick Hill, or Dunsford Place on Bathwick Hill] I met his father and mother who were especially nice as they did not gush over me and made me feel very much at home. Later in the evening his sister Mary came in and she was very nice too. The lodger John Jockin came in later and he wasn't a bad sort, I should think, but the kind who could never be serious for two seconds on end. After supper Mike took me home in the car.

Mon 27 January:

Was sick in the night and had not appetite today so stayed in bed till afternoon. Auntie Laura came. Mike came after tea and we chatted all the evening. He became 'serious' towards the end and said how terrified he was of my suddenly giving him up when he had got very fond of me and asked me hesitatingly what I thought of him. I said we had very much in common and that was an excellent thing. Poor boy, I still find it difficult not to be slightly 'cold' with men and wish I could get out of it. As he comes up to all my very high ideals, I cannot understand why I don't feel a strong physical affection for him as I had at one time for Miss West, but I hope this will come with time, and anyhow the passion I had for Miss West⁵⁵ certainly did me no good and did not last. To bed about 10.30.

Tues 28 January:

After breakfast I tossed as to whether I should get up or not and the penny fell 'tails' – get up. So get up I did and viewed a sale with Dad and went down the garden

⁵⁵ Earlier diary entries and footnotes described that Miss West became the lifelong companion of Auntie Marnie, Peggy's mother's younger sister, and that previously Peggy had worked with Miss West as a trainee at Frenchay hospital, Bristol. The "passion" mentioned here is never mentioned anywhere in Peggy's diary, except here, but she did mention to me once in my late teens that she had at one time in her early life "had a crush" on Miss West.

with him. After a hot drink at home I fetch my Polyphotos which turn out pretty awful and then made a savoury flan for tonight. After dinner I read a few stories from a book. These were people which were very good, also looked after the shop and did a few letters. Got tea. Mike came about 5.30 and after a chat we played Monopoly. He annoyed me occasionally by his slowness, but I realised that it was because his mind was more on me than on the game! After supper, Mike and I were left alone. He was very quiet and I tried to make bright remarks until at last he asked me what my reaction would be if he told me that he was getting more than fond of me. I said I was very pleased, but 5 days was very soon to be “getting serious”. He agreed ... but then the parents came in and after a drink he left and Mummy and I had a short chat before bed. Where could I find a man on this earth who came up to my very high ideals as well as Mike, and yet why don't I feel in love with him?

Weds 29 January:

Got up and worked in shop till 12 but felt so sick by then, I went to bed. It was a freezing cold day with a snow blizzard. Mrs Davis called on me and I discussed Mike with her which made me feel a lot better. Slept a very little while in afternoon then got up for tea. Mummy rang Mike up to say I wasn't to go up to his house tonight as it was so very cold. Mike came down just before 6 and we played gin-rummy. Again, poor Mike's mind was definitely not on the game. Barbie kindly got supper for us in the kitchen and then we all put it away. Upstairs for a bit of a chat with Mummy till she went down for supper and Mike and I were left alone. We quite a heart to heart then he left just after 9.

Thurs 30 January:

Still very snowy and cold. Made a chocolate cake and helped remove snow from pavement. After dinner Mike called for me in a taxi and went to his house where he showed me his “exchange” electric machine and tested my resistance to electricity! We went for quite a good walk across the top by Sham Castle walking arm in arm to stop each other from slipping. After tea we had quite a talk both agreeing that we'd like to take things seriously but if we found after some months we just had to give each other up, well, it was just too bad, it was a risk we would have to face. Mike fixed up a pick-up from the wireless on the portable gramophone and we listened to some music by Spike Jones and – to the sublime – Gounod. After supper we listened to Sylphides and then at 9.15 Mike walked home with me. Mike had given me a lovely lot of Japanese silk⁵⁶. I didn't know how to thank him – I haven't had a gift like this from a man before. I feel so thrilled tonight and only hope it is not too good to last.

⁵⁶ Note: Michael had in late 1945 been part of the Allied army of post-war occupation of Japan. This episode of his life is largely unknown, except that my understanding is that at some point he was invalidated back to the UK with depression.

Fri 31 January:

We cleared the snow from the pavement and I scraped salt over it which made my hands very painful with the cold. Wrote 2 letters, washed some dusters and some glass. Mike came in re some photographs, and also said he'd like to teach me wireless! After dinner worked in shop for a while, then did some shopping commissions and bought myself a couple of wireless books. Bobby came in to tea. As Rene rang up to postpone my supper visit until Tuesday I tried to learn some facts from my wireless books and couldn't have been more fogged! Mummy asked Miss Gold in. To bed about 9 to read.

Sat 1 February:

The YH weekend at Duntisbourne Abbott is cancelled therefore spent morning working in shop and going to bank etc. Also took my silk material to Elizabeth Proud's to have an evening dress made of it. Called for Mike at about 2.30 and we went for a walk having a snowball fight on Claverton Down! We had a nice time. Got our own tea then sat chatting until about 7.30. The parents and John Jockin came back from an OG [Oxford Group?] meeting and we had supper. Short chat and a few records afterwards then Mike took me home. (Mike also practised dancing with me before supper.) I suppose it was reaction from a pleasant afternoon, but during the evening a terrible feeling of depression came over me and doubts about my being suited to Mike entered my mind. He loves me I know, and so it is selfish and wicked of me to think like this. I told him on the way home we must find some common interests – music, photography, nature or something. We are going to build a wireless together, but at the moment all he wants to do is to sit by me and say nothing. Of course I quite understand how he feels and it is very nice for a while but oh how I pray we can get over this difficulty! Mummy was most encouraging when I told her about it and said it wouldn't last – the difficulty I mean.

Sun 2 February:

Helped with housework in morning. Mike came about 2.30 and we chatted, had a game or two of table skittles then chatted again and he kissed me for the first time (since Mrs D's party). Tea then we talked with the rest of the family until 7.15 when we went to post then on to the BR to see some films but there were only a very few youths there and Mrs Davis said she wasn't going to stay so Mike and I decided to go for short walk before returning home and listening to a few records before supper. Daddy has a bad throat and we think it must be the beginnings of 'flu! Mike left about 9.30.

Mon 3 February:

Daddy was a bit better today but stayed in bed till the afternoon. Quiet in the shop today. Mike called on me during the afternoon. He fetched me in a taxi at 5.45 and we went to Captain Jones in Widcombe and had a dancing lesson. Considering Mike had forgotten everything I think he progressed wonderfully in the hour's lesson, though when we tried at home in the showroom we just couldn't it at all! We played skittles until supper. He left about 9.45.

Tues 4 February:

Daddy stayed in bed today and Doctor came and said he had a chill. Mike called and talked with me for about half an hour. In the afternoon our window cleaner demonstrated his marvellous memory. He can tell the winners owners prices etc of pretty well all the famous horse races there have ever been, tell you car registrations, dates in history etc – in all thousand and upon thousand names or figures. He said he practised memorising them as he cleaned the windows. He certainly was amazing. Went to Rene's to supper. She was very interested to hear about Mike and it was interesting to hear from her that her clairvoyant friend said that I was going to marry, and quite soon! Most other things foretold by this person have even in surprising instances come true, so perhaps there's still hope for me! Left about 9.45, home and chatted with Barbie for a short while before going to bed.

Weds 5 February:

This is a very IMPORTANT DAY. Not because I had my passport photograph taken in the morning and because Mike called and I went out to do some shopping with him. Auntie Laura came but it was a dull afternoon. At 5.45 Mike called for me in the car and we went to dancing class and got on quite well. Came back to Dunsford Place for supper then Mike demonstrated his amplifier in the cellar but it was an important day because Mike and I had about an hour's heart-to-heart and he asked me to marry him to which I answered "yes" if we thought the same in some months' time. He agreed it was early yet but we had learnt a lot about each other in the last 10 days. He took me home in newly pitched snow at about 9.30 -we kept slipping but we both felt we were walking on air! Goodness, I only pray it lasts I just couldn't give him up now.

Thurs 6 February:

What have I done to deserve as much happiness as I've had today? Spent a fairly dull morning in the shop then washed my hair just before lunch. Mike came at 3 and we went for a walk out Weston way and back to tea about 4. Left again at 5 for dancing class. Tonight we got on very well at the waltz. We walked back to Dunsford Place to supper and Mrs Bridges showed me some water colour sketches of the

Kashmir country done by her grandfather in 1873-4 which were most interesting and excellently done. At 8 we went up to the lounge and had a heart-to-heart until 9.30 when he took home. We love each other very much.

Fri 7 February:

Very dull day in the shop. Mike called for me in a taxi at 10 to 6 and we went to dancing class getting on really very well tonight and doing the slow foxtrot for the first time together. We walked home, looked at magazines, had supper and chatted until about 10 when Mike left. I suppose I was tired – I felt a little bit depressed again tonight. Could shake myself for feeling like it as had felt so very much on top of the world all day thinking how lucky I am to have Mike's companionship.

Sat 8 February:

Dull morning again though did go out on errands and to have a quick coffee with Barbie at about 10. After dinner I set off to Mike's house and by the time I got there the keen east wind was dropping and fine snow was falling. Mike and I chatted and we told Mike's character by his handwriting. After tea we ploughed along through thick snow to dancing class and got on very well – back through the snow to Dunsford Place for supper. I borrowed a pair of Mrs Bridges's stockings as mine had got wet. After supper Mike and I chatted again for about 1½ hours then he took me home and the snow was very thick. He pleased me greatly tonight by telling me some of his army experiences and also about how much his religion meant to him through them. I have never had anyone so sweet to me as he is. I just pray we can make a 'go' of it. If only these feelings of incapability and depression wouldn't keep coming over me – still, feel full of beans tonight!

Sun 9 February:

Bobs and I got breakfast in the kitchen. Barbie wasn't well and stayed in bed during the morning. Bobs and I had some records on then dressed etc and got dinner. After dinner Mike came and we chatted and did a header crossword before tea. Afterwards we listened to records and the wireless and did some dancing in the showroom. We chatted and read magazines and were very pleased to find that we were 18½ out of 20 in a questionnaire on "Are you in Love?" in Reader's Digest. After supper Mike and I washed up and put away then joined the others for a cigarette before he left at about 10. Bobby and I talked aimlessly on until 11.30!

Mon 10 February:

Daddy's birthday. It was quiet in the shop. I went out to Fuller's to pay a bill. In the afternoon went to Elizabeth Proud and was fitted for my dance frock. It is going to look very nice I think. Cousin Michael arrived about 5.20 and we had tea. My Mike

came at about 6. It was very dull till about 7.30 as we sat round trying to make bright conversation and it fell flat. I could have screamed. We tried one or two parlour tricks, then thank goodness Daddy came in and we had a very jolly meal. Afterwards was brighter. Mike left about 10.30. I went to bed and read a bit before going to sleep – in spare bedroom.

Tues 11 February:

Very quiet and dull in the shop. Cleared some bronzes and that's about all. It was icy on the paths and roads today. Mike left about 2. He said he liked my Mike very much and was very pleased that I had met him – told me to go ahead. Auntie Laura called. My Mike came about 5.30 and we chatted till 6 when we had a highish tea then bused out to the Sayers. They gave us a very enjoyable evening with records etc and we talked quite hard. We left about 5 to 9 and Mike came back to my place till 10. I gave him my 1942 diary to peruse.

Weds 12 February:

Spent most of the shop time in typing out a lecture on faking by Daddy. Mike called in the afternoon. Went up to his home at 6.30 and after a chat we had supper, a further chat and then went to a dance at the Pump Room. Terrible types there but it was an interesting evening. We walked a long way home I suppose about 11.30 and talked about when we should think of becoming engaged.

[GAP – they were married on 15 March 1947, with Michael due to resume his service as a Major in the Indian Army from 3 April]

Weds 2 April:

Felt I must re-start my diary today because of need of some form of solace which the writing of it gives. It is exactly three months since I saw Mikey for the first time and today I had to leave him in London. Tomorrow he sails for India. This morning when he went to his Depot I sent a card to Southampton to him, and then feeling thoroughly 'on edge' travelled up to Oxford Circus and went to a News Theatre. The main film was about car-speeding in Los Angeles and a lot of it consisted of pictures of mangled corpses etc sad relatives and the like – as a warning to motorists, but I felt steadily more depressed. When I got back to the hotel and really was nearly at the end of my tether, but Mike came just in time and never have I been so thankful for a gin and orange. Waded through part of lunch. During the afternoon we just sat, neither of us feeling we could face a picture or anything like that. We talked very little. After tea we went to the station and having an hour to spend there we had a drink. Mike was very nippy in getting me a corner

seat when the train came in. I never thought it would be so terrible leaving him – his face Thank goodness all my carriage occupants went to dinner and I was able to carry out surreptitious mopping up operations till the old self-control found its feet at about Reading. Mummy met me with a taxi and so home – but when I caught sight of our wedding presents again it was all too much so had to creep up and have a good howl before I could come down for supper. Had a bath and to bed early – can't help thinking of Mike and missing him. I know he's feeling as bad as I am.

Thurs 3 April:

After a morning of unpacking shopping etc during which I felt in a complete daze and periodically dissolved into tears, I went out with Mummy in the afternoon in the town. After tea, Mother and Mary rang up and had a long chat, then I wrote 12 thank you letters thus 'finishing' Mike's side of the family re wedding presents. Now as I get into bed again I feel very depressed. Mary says the first few days are the worst, though, so here's hoping. Am wondering if Mike has sailed today – it's very cold and wet.

Fri 4 April:

Good Friday – started an inventory and account book of household things, in bed. Mummy brought breakfast up to her room and I had it with them – in tears, having read a dear little letter from Mikey written the same evening we parted. Wrote more letters when I got up also put presents away. Got dinner. Embroidered in afternoon then went up to Mother's for tea. It was very pleasant and I embroidered. At 6.30 I collected bits and pieces from Mike's room – pathetic little things. – sometimes I wish I wasn't so sentimental. Mother drove me home and I read Mike's P.O.W. Log book. Got supper and went to bed directly after the meal feeling very miserable. Keep wondering where Mike is by now and how he is.

[End of Vol 1. No more diary until October 1958]

Notes: As Mum described it to me, when I was a teenager, although she had wanted the pair of them to 'take their time' before marrying, Michael's conditions of service in the Indian Army meant that if they were 'only engaged' they'd be separated for months after his return to service in India, but if they were married he would be able to secure a passage out for her to join him much sooner. Therefore they had had a 'rushed' wedding after all, in Argyle Congregational Church, Bath, on 15 March 1947, very much a post-war 'austerity' event, followed by a short honeymoon in a hotel in Brighton.

In the event, the coming of Indian independence meant that Michael was offered a transfer to the British Army – although this episode was never described to me, I deduce that his transfer brought him back well before August 1947, and that Peggy never had to travel out to India.

Some 'repeat' entries, covering birthdays and Christmases:

Saturday 1 August 1936 (15th birthday):

MY BIRTH DAY Eileen was staying with me. Had cacti, films for camera, money, book, and several other things.

Sunday 1 August 1937 (16th):

My birthday [16th]. Had £1 in money, chocolate, cake, beach bag, films, pencils, stationery, photo in frame, cards, surf-board to come. Pool in morning. Rested in afternoon. Tea. A walk. To Pavilion for orchestra.

Tuesday 1 August 1939 (18th):

Had 25/-, Book token, and photo in frame, and book. Saw "Huckleberry Finn" and to twins' for tea.

Notes:

Peggy lived in Bath, but often visited aunts/cousins in Weston-super-Mare – as in 1937.

"25/-" means 25 shillings, the monetary equivalent of £1.25, though of course in value you could buy a lot for a £1 in those days.

Some of Peggy's Christmases / New Years in late teens / early adulthood

1936 – aged 15

Friday 18 December – returning from boarding school:

CAME HOME Came back from school in train. Went shopping in morning. Wrote Xmas cards in afternoon. Mixture of things in evening then heard Mrs Davis had a baby daughter.

Saturday 19 December:

TO LONDON Went to London today very excited. Went to Selfridges first and bought many things and a film projector for my Xmas present from Mum. Dinner, Harrods. Saw Television for 1st time. Tea. Home.

Sunday 20 December:

PACKED PARCELS Bother, I've drawn on this page [which she had, presumably earlier in the year – just a doodle I'd say] Did a lot of packing, and Xmas cards today. All 3 of us played Monopoly. My first time I won. Went for walk with Dad in morn.

Monday 21 December:

FIRST BAD-MINTON Why did I draw here? [another presumably old doodle] Went to Children's Badminton for 1st time, was quite good. Helped post all cards in afternoon.

Tuesday 22 December:

TO BRIS TOL Went to Bristol today early after dinner. Had played badminton in morning. Never felt so stiff in my life as now! Like a dame of 90! Got a perfectly new rig-out for me today to go away in at Xmas. Look very chic.

Wednesday 23 December:

I GET FLU Get up feeling rotten with a headache Go to hair dressers then back to bed. Where I stayed for rest of day. Temp was about 99.4 and 99.2 all the day, still packed for the morrow.

Thursday 24 December:

FELT WORSE Was worse, so we couldn't go to Hove. We were upset. Was 100° today, so sent for doctor, he said it was 'flu' (which we didn't know before) so bed again all day had one Xmas present.

Friday 25 December:

CHRISTMAS DAY Woke up early and opened presents had absolutely lots of lovely things. Things to do, brooch, hankies, book, money etc and some chocs! Had a headache today. Temp 103.4.

Saturday 26 December:

BOXING DAY Still in bed with 'flu', Temp down, Mummy was with me more today, but sympathisers would call and keep Mummy down stairs. Mrs Power came. My nose bled. She was very kind helping Mum.

Sunday 27 December:

STILL FLU Not much sleep during last night. Blood clot in right nostril which was very uncomfortable and tickly Temp. around about 102° today I believe. Played Monopoly with Mum. I won again.

28-31 December: a mass of numbers, notes and diagrams, and one diary entry:

These are numbers taken down at the Chinese Exhibition, pity because I can't write diary but continued 'flu' in bed till end of year.

Finally, there is a brief financial account for the first three months of the year – she'd been at boarding school for most of that year (1936) – this is in pounds, shillings and pence (£sd):

JANUARY

<u>Parents gave me</u>	12	0
School sub.	1	0
Games sub.	2	0
Ruler		4
Present	1	
School Sub		6
Dance Sub		1
	<u>4*</u>	<u>11</u>

Amount in hand	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>
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FEBRUARY

	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>
Lit. Sub		6
Gardners [sic] Sub		2
		<u>8</u>

Amount in hand. 6/5^d

MARCH

Comb		6
Needles		2
Ruler (not bought)		4
Isabel's sub.		3
Paper sub		3
<u>End of term had.</u>		

And on a flyleaf, a calculation, and conclusion: 1 Belgian franc = 1.3716d (pence)

*4 shillings and elevenpence, nearly five shillings – 25p cash equivalent.

1937 – aged 16:

Mon 20 December:

Spring cleaned the bird cage. Shopping. Iced a cake in the afternoon and in the evening was with Dorothy. Pamela came after badminton and slept the night.

Tues 21 December:

Shopping. Dinner. Wrote camp songs for Guides and played with Daddy's steam engine. Dressmaker came today (unable to come Mon) Packed presents etc Bed.

Weds 22 December:

Went shopping. Home to do birds etc. Dinner. Decorated the cellar. Mrs Sayers to tea. Guides in Parish Room. Home.

Thurs 23 December:

Went to Cheltenham with Daddy. Saw a budgerigar flying loose. Jolly good dinner. Home. The post/coat[?] is enlarging. To see poor child. Home etc Bed.

Fri 24 December:

Very busy indeed all morning delivering parcels etc. Dinner. Decorations Impatience Arrival of our relations Tea. Went to Gladys's party.

Sat 25 December:

Opened presents. Was very lucky: - books, crackers hankies, money, gloves, scarf, calendar, stationery, bath salts, diaries etc. Played in cellar. Dinner Walk. Played again Tea. Entertained and played with our parents.

Sun 26 December:

Wrote letters. Hills to Bristol. Mrs Davis called. Dinner when Hills returned. Played on and off for rest of day. Parents out in evening. Bed.

Mon 27 December:

Peter ill. Played with Michael* in morning. Peter little better in afternoon. Walk with Hills except Peter. Tea. Hills Ways Loves Strudwicks to Palace Panto. All home. Supper Fun-12.

Note: *"Michael" here was her cousin Michael Hill

Tues 28 December:

Sorted new cigarette cards. Round shops. Did pastelling. Practised new songs on piano. Dinner. Odd jobs for party. Tea. Gladys came. Pam Molly and my party. Jolly good.

Weds 29 December:

Dorothy away. Daddy in bed. Worked hard in morning . Up to Mrs Power and for a walk Tea there. Saw Mary F.F. Home. Bed upstairs.

Thurs 30 December:

Worked hard again today. Sorted my cigarette cards differently. Dinner Wrote letters and knitted. Tea Knitted. Guides Few there. Funny evening. Home.

Fri 31 December:

Worked all morning Dinner at Colmers. Went to Gladys's by bus. Played cards. Tea. To Bristol to see Oh! Mr Porter (Will Hay) Back to Gladys's home on bus. Bed.

January 1942 – Peggy now aged 20

By this time Peggy was working at a Day Nursery, part of the wartime provision made so that mothers could be in employment in support of the war effort.

There were six “New Yr Resolutions” on the first flyleaf:

- 1) File nails twice a week
- 2) Cold bath twice a week
- 3) Hot bath at least twice a week
- 4) Try to extend the Guiding⁵⁷ spirit
- 5) Try to listen more
- 6) Try to extend my field of knowledge and⁵⁸ appreciation for good things

On the Memoranda page there was also a list of Christmas presents, ticked off, probably to represent when thanked - presumably by letter:

Christmas presents

1 smock, 2prs knickers, Book, magazines etc	Mummy
1 smock, this diary	Daddy
Book, powder puff, bath salts, stationery	Auntie Iris
Book token, stockings, bath salts, talc:powder	Auntie Marnie
Book sub: for Guider	Miss West
Book token	Mrs Sayers
Nail brush	Pam
Hankerchief [sic] and powder puff	Molly
3 hankerchiefs	Joan
Scarf	Joyce
2 hankerchiefs	Mary
Book token	Bobby
Tooth brush	Suzanne
6 bright hankerchiefs	Aunty Vi
Small diary	Mary Keys
Large engagement diary	Jo
Pocket diary	Betty Nelson
Bath salts	Mrs Davis
Hankerchief	Shirley

Must also write to: Eileen, Betty Wills, Eliza, Miss Cooper, Gladys, Miss Duoreo[?]

⁵⁷ Peggy had remained within the Girl Guide movement, and in 1942 was still a Ranger, for older Guides, ages 18+ I believe.

⁵⁸ Style: Peggy always used a simple quasi-plus sign for “and”. Whereas I have followed Peggy’s spelling and punctuation as closely as my attention has permitted in every other respect, with my touch-typing I’ve always simply typed “and”.

Thurs 1 January - Thursday:

Felt a bit more at home in the Nursery today after working there for four days. Michael (aged 3) was very interested in watching the gas come on in the Ascot. Morning usual routine. Spent afternoon boiling nappies and cleaning the mangle. Sister had a cold. Several of the children have colds and two away with mumps. Sister went early. I cleared up and looked after Janice (aged about 18 months) until her mother came at 5. Home and to badminton. Mrs Sayers came and watched. 6 games.

Fri 2 January:

Cold bath. Filed nails. Disinfected the lockers at the Nursery. Short dinner⁵⁹ 'hour'. Took the children out in the afternoon. They all got very muddy. Half way home we found that one child's glove was missing. Having run all the way back to find it I discovered that the other child in the pram had it. Rather annoyed. Had to go to Guildhall to collect salary. All arranged for monthly payments so agreed, but asked them to let me know what I was going to get! Bought present for Jo. Did Savings Group⁶⁰. Went to Palace with Mum Auntie M⁶¹, Joyce Lindrea and Mary. 'Serious' parts funny and vice versa! Bed about 9.45.

Sat 3 January:

Washed four blankets in the morning in the Nursery. Couldn't seem to work quick enough. A short dinner 'hour' again. Posted a small present to Jo (rather late as her birthday was the 1st). Afternoon was hectic. Last child went at 8.15. Molly came for me at ten to five. I showed her round and then we queued for 'Underground' at the Beau Nash [a Bath cinema]. Auntie M and Miss West⁶² came as well. Got in after 35"⁶³ and pictures and news interesting but rather grim. Back to Molly's afterwards where Mummy and Daddy were playing bridge. Nearly fell asleep. Home in taxi about 11.35.

Sun 4 January - Sunday:

Up latish. Washed up breakfast things as Mrs Head left yesterday and no sign of a new housekeeper as yet. Mummy cut my hair so as to make it a slightly different style. After dinner Joyce called and when Mary⁶⁴ had arrived as well we went for a short walk. Joyce went soon after tea and Mary and I made charts for the Brownies. Mary asked me to come to Lancashire with her for one summer holiday. Said I'd love

⁵⁹ As was the convention at that time, Peggy called lunch "dinner" more often than not.

⁶⁰ I infer that Peggy had taken on a regular financial admin duty on behalf of some group, but we're never told who!

⁶¹ "Auntie M" was Auntie Marnie, Peggy's mother's younger sister, a "spinster", formally Miss Marjorie Walker, also known as "Jerry"! Later she was to live in Rivers St, Bath, with Miss West, from my earliest memories of her until her death in 1993.

⁶² Miss West, a professional woman and close friend of the family, became Marnie's 'companion' for the rest of their lives.

⁶³ Style: Peggy seems to have used both " and ' as a shorthand for "minutes".

⁶⁴ Mary might be 'Mary Barker', a onetime friend mentioned to me by Peggy as I was growing up, but I have no separate information about her, and I have no recollection of her actually making an appearance during my lifetime (since 1951).

though have no notion where I'll be by the summer.. Mary will do nursing if she is called up, but I can't decide what I'll do. I don't think I'll be able to go to Cambridge in October as arranged⁶⁵. Auntie M not well all day. I had hot bath 9.30.

Mon 5 January:

Everything seemed to go wrong at the Nursery this morning. I let some milk boil over and was generally absent-minded. Got on a bit better in afternoon. A Mr and Mrs Fox have taken our top flat in place of the Pomeroy's. Felt most of the day that I'd like to be in the Land Army. Went to badminton where Joan told me that she had applied for her release from the Bank to join the Land Army. 3 or 4 of us have decide to go to the Badminton Dance on Jan:23rd. Mary and I decided we'd like to choose 4 others and go and man an AA gun in Wales. We planned it all. (Completely mad!) 5 games and home soon after 9. Filed my nails. Bed about 10.30.

⁶⁵ I know nothing else about Peggy's apparent acceptance at Cambridge University – she never mentioned it to me – and I'm fairly sure that she never actually went there in the end – see 16 April diary entry.