

105, Roe Lane  
Southport  
Tel: 8521

12-4-1941

Answered Apl '41

Dear Dorothy  
a/c Execs MA Harger  
a/c Execs N A Harger

I enclose

2 accounts of cheques for your signature and please let me have them back by return.

I have attached slips where necessary to direct you

I have been the whole day up to mid night on this job - so please give it your immediate attention.

Anything may happen you know at any minute!?.

I enclose a letter and snaps from Charlie. Post them back with the accounts as I send them on to John.

I was over in Wallasey last week and saw John. Parts of Wallasey are in a shocking mess. In part it looks as if they had had an earthquake.

You remember John's place Moreside Road? 2 adjoining houses on the opposite side each had a bomb in their front gardens, gardens about about 14 feet wide, both fronts were wrecked and John's house only about 40 yards away had only a small window broken.

Warren Drive had a land mine down in the road and most of the houses on both sides for about 100 yards were in a shocking mess.

This is the aristocratic past

We came along it just before visiting John's (about 300 yards away) But you won't remember it!

We had them over here last week, they dropped 4 bombs in Birkendale.

One in the garden of a house just opposite Smedley making a huge crater say 20 ft across and 15 deep. Roofs and windows of 3 adjoining houses wrecked. Smedley lost most of the front windows I counted over 40, 2 in the Drawing Rooms and 2 in the Lounge and all the others except the top bedrooms, you know this place well.

Another dropped in Waterloo Road on the grass verge it exploded after some hours making a similar crater but no windows were broken and no damage except to the road, water and gas pipes.

If a bomb gets well down in sand before it explodes it is so blanketed that it does little damage that is why we get landmines, they explode on the surface and wreck everything round about.

It was a landmine that wrecked Virgil Street property.

I could not find out what became of the Tenants (I think you asked about them?)

Well! It is a terrible business the way things are shaping we are in for a long and very trying time. I don't like the look of it just now.

Have you had any bombs near you?

Yours sincerely

Joe

105, Roe Lane  
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22-4-1941

Answered Apl 25 '41

Dear Dorothy  
a/c Execs MA + NA Harger

I enclose 2 certificates for your own tax return. After squaring up the NA Harger income I find with the last quarters rent statement we have a debit account to Venmore's for the quarter March 1941 of £8.6.1 and MA Harger of £3.1.8. With some of the property demolished it will take some time to get on the credit side again.

I think that I should have kept say £10 in each in reserve and not divided the whole income? But it's done now!

My property has been on the debit side for over a year. How does mother's stand? Since writing you last we have had another raid. On the 15<sup>th</sup> 3 bombs were dropped just off Roe Lane about 600 yards from here at 1am in quick succession. It was very alarming, I got Tim up and we sat under the stairs for over an hour, but nothing further happened. They shook the house, I thought we were in for a real blitz. You know you think that the next one may be a direct hit on your own house when we can hear planes over head. It is quite alarming I assure you. Have you had any experience of a near hit?

They made a tremendous mess in Park Road, Rawlinson Road and Brenton Road. All close together, one house got a direct hit killing 4 old people, a doctor 80yrs old his wife 76yrs and 2 others over 60.

The vicar of All saints and his wife were injured in another house and hundreds of windows were smashed, you will have some idea of where this is?

We have no shelter here.

By the way things are shaping at the moment I am afraid we are in for a very rough time. I enclose the 2 last rent statements they are, of course, the 1<sup>st</sup> quarters of the year 1941. Please let me have them back as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Joe

PS Can you get all the cigarettes and chocolate that you want? There is a great shortage here.

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May 9<sup>th</sup> 1941

Dear Dorothy

How long is it since I sent you the duplicate of the Schedule D M.A. Harger + 2 Summary rent? I presume that you must have got them?

Why haven't you returned them?

I want to put them back in the a/c books and get them away in my safe. Don't you realise what is going on round here?

It's not necessary to write! - Just return them! You might be the busiest person in Denholme!

I enclose a letter from John which may interest you -

I have been to Liverpool several times lately. I was there today, we can only get as far as Waterloo on the railway and go by LMS bus to Exchange Station. There was a queue about 500 yards long at 10.30 this morning but I got a lift on a motor lorry with about 20 others to London Road. The wrecks and smouldering fires on the way were awful.

You are familiar with the main streets in Liverpool!

Lewin's is burnt out, also Blacklers, another big place opposite Lewin's and all that block right round into Lime Street.

Further down from opposite Coopers in Lord Street right up to the Queens Monument all burnt out.

(Including the Church House) and right down South Castle Street, beyond the Monument down James Street all burnt out. On the opposite side of Lord Street a large part of the buildings are burnt out right round into Castle Street including the Jewellers in the Crescent and the Kardomah Café and right on down Cook Street all gone. The Town Hall had a bomb on the side passage on to the Exchange smashing most of its windows including the clock face.

I thought it had been burnt out at first sight.

But the damage all over is simply dreadful. It is now 11.20 and Tim & I are expecting the alert to go off any minute for the 8th night in succession, it lasts about 4 hours. Send on the papers.

Joe