Letter 47

Semiramis Hotel.
Cairo. Feb. 19/16.

Dear Mollie –

It just seems impossible in spite of strenuous efforts on my part to catch up in the correspondent game – I'm always hopelessly behind & I am afraid I have been rather un-business-like. Could I live over the past few months again I would do differently – certainly I would have attempted some sort of book-keeping so as to be able to refer to all letters & parcels received, for my memory or lack of it is deplorable, & while I have carefully kept each letter until answered either by note or post card, was stupid enough to forget my answers might go astray – ~~I~~ With the result I can't remember how many letters I've had from who & when – etc. etc. & as I am constantly receiving letters with enquiries did I rec. a letter on such & such a date – I don't know where I am at, except as regards your mail. Certainly numbering letters is most satisfactory. Well a few days ago I received letter no. 39 from you & yesterday your mail quite took

(over)

my breath away – mine letters I think!
Nos – 30 – 31 – 32 – (33 had been rec. before) 34 – 35 –
– 36 – 37 – & 38 the other was really a letter
of Harry's which you had re-addressed.
Of course I am simply delighted
none of them were lost – but it is
disappointing one has to go so long
without news & then to receive almost
more than one can take in. It is
simply impossible to answer them at
all in detail. Was most interested in
Mr Builders letter & if you do hear
what requirement Stanley is in, do let
me know, for one never can tell when
we may be moved to France. Then there
was the enclosed letter from Annie –
nothing special there, except one glad to
hear Some are so prosperous these days
(Mac & Annie) – Was delighted to get
Uncle Bobs letter, he writes as he always
does, but simply can't understand
about Jean. Whether she has been
miserable in health after all the worry
& un-certainty of the past two years &
has felt neglected & hurt at not hearing
without realising it has really been
owing to the un-certainty of the past – I

don't know - but do feel badly about it all, & am most anxious to hear. Had I that I have an address will write immediately - Is there any chance of your inviting her to stay with you. I do wish you could make her feel she could make her headquarters with you, for I feel sure Uncle would not mind. How I would love to see her, but there seems little chance of that for some time to come.

I had a letter to-day from Mr Irvin to-day, telling me the organ had been sent, & shall answer it to-day or to-morrow. Of course it will be a splendid thing to have no matter where we go, & if we are planted somewhere on the desert, just as much of a god-send, as if we were still in Lennox. If only we had had it there how it would have been appreciated! The piano which occasionally was lent us for Sunday, was not an ordinary one with the legs broken off - but a diminutive affair built in a kind of box - It was a fearful tin-pan affair, piloted up in the sky, yet was always greeted with open-arms by all church-goers & helped the hymns along splendidly. Although these letters have all come in

a lunch I still put, the bi-weekly letter a better plan, since we are settled our mail may come more regularly. Of course I am awfully glad you got a small present for Annie from me & added my name beyond for Uncle Geo. but fear you have stinted yourself. I get badly rot remembering more at Xmas, but once started didn't know where to end, & of course could only send money, so decided to do nothing at all. As you say something queer must have happened about Dr Bill. We have heard nothing beyond the fact that there had been trouble, & a great deal of mystery in connection with it. Our rumour was that they had refused to go to the Dardanelles, since when the authorities had not sent them any patients. Of course some thing must have happened to cause so much inquiry but can hardly believe the latter reason. Curiously enough I had a letter from Mrs Lawson the same day that I see you were telling me of Lissie's death! And only after letting Mrs Simpson (you remember that Mrs Reddie knew her) what you had

said, did I discover that she came from Truro — knew the boys quite well & remembered my name Sallie, only naturally Sadie connected me with Truro. She is one of the enforcement girls, all of whom are Canadians. The Miss Hammond Tansy speaks of is also in this unit. I had forgotten about sending Miss Lawson that little gift. I didn't know Margorie had written a poem "Canada to England" but glad to hear it was thought well of. Must try & remember to enclose her letter home, etc. just the other day. As you say, it is most disappointing to think that for the first time in years, you are having so many quiet evenings & that I am not there to enjoy them with you. Never mind perhaps there are many a head yrs — so will live in hopes for that.

In regard to the photographs — they are colored by Col. Williams — not colored photography. Wish he do them well? Your letters make me realize, in spite of my hasty rambling epistles how much I leave out, but in this kind of life everything seems topsy-turvy, it is difficult to do anything regularly.

I think later on I did go into detail regarding the water. but if not will leave it until I get home. Of course the officers were able to have hot-water in the a.m. as they all have bath-men but as we had practically 2 and a half 3 all they could manage was giving us a pint of cold water once a day & sweeping out our rooms. However we didn't fare badly, once things were in running order. I'm glad you didn't realize our taking difficulties for the articles you spoke of would have been of little use. Everything was so open & the public so in lot of it, it would have been impossible to simplify it. After a time we had a brilliant idea, & used old biscuit boxes, which were easily emptied & could be frequently substituted, consequently needed little cleaning. It is wonderful how one can live under same circumstances. As a result of this we are finally dwelling still in the un-limited bliss & hot water!

Our X mas decorations sounded most attractive, & the dinner luscious. One can not wish good things can be repeated.

Something has gone wrong with my pen, expect it needs a cleaning so will say Au-revoir for the present, & continue in the p.m. as I am going out in a few min.
Forgot to say the missing letters are mentioned (17 & 18) stated to be 16 & 17 & both turned up as I told you before, in Cairo! So was I think the missing letters I have all turned up -
Muldred was so vexed when she rec. this week a letter from Hall & Robinson, saying they had not sent the flowers. Of course the realmis it was her own fault but when writing had visions of the letter not turning up till the end of Jan. or later & in that event thought it would not be worth while - but only 2 days late!! However as she says she should have put it differently. She sent quite a large order, one for you - but I only joined in the one for Charlie.
Can't understand about Col. Williams Cable. will mention it to him when next we meet. At present he is in Alexandria.
Evidently Trigger mentioned that the cable sent from Jerusalem a fish, I was fortunate enough to have money returned. It is too

long a story to tell, but the officer who had undertaken to send it, forgot, & later refunded - as we knew for a fact about this time that other cables sent had not been received. I thought I had told you this before.

The fascination clock you are wondering about, was the one quite building by her family she brought over from Canada, under her care. While in London some of the girls collected the necessary funds & gave her really a beauty. Surely I must have told you about it. However this always seems so much to write about, that am afraid I skip a good deal.

I have no idea who put that in the Evening News. I imagine it is just one of those ~~things~~ times when some one has been a little indiscreet & taken upon themselves the right to publish what was probably meant to be said personally to friends. However such things will happen!

So sorry to hear Bunch has had such a miserable cold. Of course lying on that cold floor was disastrous. I do hope he is feeling better.

The parcel of bun-buns & candy arrived

to-day but the candies were not in such good condition as in the large boxes so you were right after all.
Everything has to be in either a tin or wooden box seemingly, if it is to arrive in good condition. It would make your heart ache to see some of the girls parcels — We have I think been most fortunate. The candies although mushy were quite eatable — even though dug in a land of plenty as regards most things, there are no candies like those made at home. There is one shop here that makes delicious things but so far we have not indulged & don't intend to, they are so expensive.
Anything that can be re-packed so far away, for we are almost sure to be landed in a deserted spot & these extras are going begging so much. The dear little candles are sweet.
Well I think this brings me to the end of answering the principal items in your letter. Hundred thanks I am thankfully that so often writing, but to re-read your numerous letters also takes time, & I am not over-quick anyway.

Although I think this enough for one letter especially as I have some maps to enclose, will try & start another letter first to give you sort of a diary as to my doings. During our last few weeks on Lemnos I failed writing except to you, for there was so little one could say – now it is a case of there being too much – it seems we are never satisfied.

Always love. Yes Love you are getting my epistles more or less regularly. Hoping Uncle is feeling better & much love to you both

Ever Yours Lovingly Lottie.

6 prints enclosed of photos taken on Lemnos