

3175^a Alford av
St. Louis
Mo
U.S.S.

My Dear Effie & Donald.

I just received a letter from Mary
in Baltimore, to night, and she informed me about the
hard blow you received, about your Boy. it came to me
with stunning force. I was going out to register here
for home defence, but I only wish that they would
take me for active instead, we should have cleaned
them out 25 years ago. and it would have saved
the fine young manhood we are losing to day.
over here we think the R. A. F is the finest bunch
of Boys that there is, my heart bleeds for you all
and may God bring comfort to you in this your
great hour of trial. I have writt quite a few times
but have received no answer, so am sending
this air Mail, I am not going to write much just
now my heart is to heavy. when they hit you Effie
they hit me. for I always loved my little sister,
I will not be so long in writing again
Kate and I are well.

With Best Love.
your Loving Brother
Willie

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

Wm J. Stoddart
3175^a Alfred Ave
St Louis Mo
U.S.A.



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs & Mrs Donald McLean
Police Inspector
Elwin side
Lenlithgow
Scotland



2727 Baylurn Ave.
Baltimore Md.
Jan. 7th 42

My dear Effie & Donald.

I really do not know how to begin this letter of deepest sympathy to you. My heart is so full that to try & put it on paper I could not; as every word is mixed with tears dear sister & brother. It would not do you any good, it is you we are thinking on. These sad & trying days. So all we or any one can do is commit you in prayer to the safe & comforting shelter of our God. May he comfort & strengthen & sustain you with that Peace which the world cannot give, neither can it take away. There is so much I feel I could say. or could I? if we were only within reach of each other, but maybe it is just as well for after all no one can ever really enter into moments like these in parents' lives. Besides the things we remember are too precious to ourselves alone.

Thank Effie for me for writing me as often
as she has. & for that one the censors
returned to her. I wish they'd let it
come this way instead. I'll write her
one of these days. but somehow I
have not got my 1942 enthusiasm full
steam ahead yet. I felt I kind of
let down the bars. for this first week
but I'll catch up again I hope. Andrew
has been home for 3 or 4 weeks. & thinks
he'll have to turn his attention in
other fields for a while as buildings
are held up for want of material, we
were thinking on visiting some friends
this week. Mr Mebra is a scotsman & is
in a line of work. that Andrew thinks
he'll try & maybe could get a little idea
about it. only Mr. Me is in the office, & Andrew
would be on pipefitting. however it's pretty
cool to-day & might be rather cold on the
water to-night & we have an all night
sail down there as we wanted to take
the car with us. otherwise we'd go by
train, I thought we could drive down
but Andrew thinks now that we can't
buy any new tires or cars we'd better
save on this one as much as we can.
Oh. I just remembered the President was

speaking at 12.30, I meant to listen & now
it is 1.30, & the radio is right beside me here
Oh well I'll hear it on radio they usually
make a record. but I like to hear him your
Prime Minister has & is with us. he is a great
man. Our youngsters are all O.K. at present.
Tennis has been deferred owing to important
work. defense which he does. but is not quite
sure if it is final as he got a telegram
telling him to arrange to have all his personal
business wound up & to get to a certain place
at earliest convenience. he has it gone yet -
it is awfully hard to break up their pretty
little nest so soon, but well. God knows
best & He will be with him no matter where
he goes. I've been sort of playing truant from
Red Cross did, it go yesterday either. I've knitted
up all my wool on sweaters for British but
will get some more to-morrow. & make a real
start for new year. but this new year we
must step softly we have entered it in tragedy
& who knows how we'll leave it - but again
we put our trust in the Lord. whose help we
had in ages past our hope of years to come.
a shelter from the stormy blasts our Eternal Home
now I'll close dear Effie, & Donald, trusting
this finds you both strengthened & a little
brighter as the days go on. The youngsters all
send their heartfelt sympathy to you all & ours
you know is added. May God bless you all & keep
you safe for one another. Yours affectionately & lovingly
Andrew & Mary & Family

I won't say any more. but you know how deeply we feel. we did n't know where he was & often wondered when we heard on radio or read in paper about different attacks we say wonder if Charlie would be in it & Addie or Len's our thoughts always went to our young nephews & cousin. Somehow we felt we knew Charlie best. thru his letters to Effie & his snaps. Oh one just wonders where & when it will all end. but there surely can only be one ending & that will be victory for the Right. & that God will bring us His own time & way. all we can do is to be faithful in prayer. that He may hasten that day when Peace will once more reign throughout the whole world. & mothers hearts may not be torn in sorrow & anguish, quietly borne while they carry on day by day. I had Willie's letter written & ready to be mailed when I got Effie's letter, so I enclosed a note telling him he was awfully upset, but told me he had written you a very few lines, I just could n't right away. Effie but you're always in our thoughts. You had a brave boy & one you're proud to have even for so short a time, we wonder if there isn't any possibility of him having come down safely.



10 Napier Road
Poona B.P.
India
6th March 42

Dear Donald and Effie

Effie's airmail letter just came this morning it was dated the 12th Dec, last, mails are very erratic. The letter distressed me greatly I had been worrying much of late, since I had the last P.C. from Charlie, about the boy I am clinging to a hope that he may be in France or Germany. But Effie's letter did not give me much hope. His friend seems to think He went down with His plane in the Channel. My heart goes out to both of you and your dear children at this time of trial He was a lovely man, a real gentle man, and yet I think there is hope of him still being with us for he may be in France or Germany a prisoner of war. We will wait and see but if the sea hath claimed, all my heart goes out to all of you in real heart felt love and prayer the man who died for all of us that in Him all of us might live in His sight. and as your daughter Effie says to me let us trust God, For He doeth all things well, and may be God hath need of Him there. God bless both of you His parents. and the sisters and the wee man

Allister, God keep Him.

For Myself I have begun this year better than that last year. I am better and still carry on altho I am all alone again. My young folks went Home to America. The burden is too heavy for me now. I long for the Home Scenes My heart revolves around the place of my boyhood. I would like a little cottage somewhere around the old place,

Had a nice letter from Baltimore with all the news. Harry's Girl wrote me a nice letter. Glasgow has been silent for a long time so I don't know what it is doing there.

Some time ago Young Primrose the son of Revd Primrose of the Scottish Church here was killed in the Frontier so I had to go pay my respects there. He took it very nicely. He is one of our relations and like the Kelly folks especially Sandy. So this war brings sorrow all around and it is at our door here now. Now I will close with love to all of you. In Psalm 91. God The

Eternal remains and abides
Your Affect, Brother

P.S. Had a letter day after Effie's from London. Keith Smith, raised in my Home just twenty years ago. His Mother writes to say He was posted missing last August. Sorrow all round.

Tom

FROM
REVD THOS STODDART
10 Napier Rd
Poona



(Contents English)

Mr and Mrs McLean
Elwyn Side
Linlithgow
Scotland

