

2, Church Road,
Northenden,
Manchester.

28th December, 1939.

Dear Mr and Mrs Jones,

Greetings from Manchester. I hope that this letter finds you both in good health and that Margaret is still thriving with you. Thank you again for taking her in and for showing her such kindness in such troubled times. She told me in her last letter that you have all had bad colds. I suppose that this is typical of the winter months and I hope you are all much-recovered. We live for her letters and she writes in such detail. She has told us of your vegetables in the allotment and how she is learning to knit.

My purpose for writing is a sombre one. Manchester has suffered three days of horrendous bombing, similar to the Blitz experienced in other parts of the country. My first priority is to ensure you that we are all safe here and there are no casualties. Many famous landmarks in central Manchester have been wiped out and the landscape is scarred and barely recognisable. It brings a tear to my eye to see the Palace Theatre a shell of what it once was. Men have put their own lives at risk in saving others. I am sure that you have read of this in the newspapers and seen pictures of the devastation, caught on camera for the world to see. Hitler is raining down the bombs but he will not quell the Manchester spirit and as long as the heart of the North continues to beat, they will never see us surrender.

Please reassure Margaret of our safety and tell her we think of her constantly. How is she doing at school? She showed such promise here back in Northenden.

Our heartfelt thanks again,

Claire and Matthew Rigby