17 Jan: 41. Dearest Vell Rho' I have not written often I have thought of you & your life. You can read of ours but I do have to imagine how you are? Well? or ill? troubled or anxious. With my own young face & form; that I could wish more Enjoyed. It is a pity to get old & lose Sweetness. Your picture mind too. We have Enjoyed our time with you so much. You & the Dogs Stand out as Wonderful How is Mrs Melon & your daughter who came here? How are your Girls I wonder if more are Married? We have had very Cold. I have just had My Son wife & little girl & Son here. They came for a week & were here 3. with Mumps. So fortunately only the little girl had it; it was lucky. I was V. hard at work as I have now only the one Maid I have had 4 years. I do the Cooking & all Else I can. I like it but I am old to learn to Cook. The War made me. No nice Cooks could be had in Private houses They were ever aspilt & unpleasant face. I find I am much happier without a Cook in the house always Cross & unwilling. Where as I only want to do the best I can. I only wish I knew "how" More- I have had to pick up all I know & never seen it done. As if you Keep a Cook, She never lets you see her Cook. My Sailor Son in law was, & now a Monk; is Coming here for two nights. Not for over 20 years has he so much as seen the Ocean! I have Knitted a lot for Marties I did a pair of Socks a week. How are you I believe you had a hurt foot I hope it's so it is now well; & none the worse? Fancy you Collecting so big an amount for our aid. Hurrah. How we rely on you in; these horrible days. Darling Viola alone with Robert now a year in Australia 12 Miles from Melbourne. V. happy in spite of all. Enjoying the good weather. Good food & being Safe. We have been to London in our Car 3. times in spite of all —

It felt so exciting going to see dear London hurt & knocked by those Germans. But how happy we were & how we enjoyed it. Everyone in Shops so glad to see me. We talked like friends "Good bye & the best of luck with the bombs!" I love a day in London we work all be so poor after this vile war no Money to do anything. Being my own Cook I feel I am at once preparing for the change in the art look. we are into the 4th year Since we Said Good bye to Viola. She now devided from Peter her home too. It is hard. We tried to see if we Could get her but it seemed impossible as to what would be the fate of our home. Nothing left of it we feel, So we must stay put; & try & keep it for her return - we have just had the wood work re painted a beautiful Jade Green to look Cheerful we hope Hitler won't see it!!! The alert has gone I am alone The Admiral has gone out Home Guard; but it is So Cold I Could not face it tho' it is a "Social" The bloods at too I hate So - The Australians are being V. Kind to Viola. I bless them So. She says the roses are so beautiful the best she has ever Said. What ages it seems Since we were in that ship together. I hope D- Dose is well? Give him My best Wishes for Success in 1941. My best love to you dear gentle loving & most dear Nell

Yours truly affec friend

Ethel -

The Germans are going over!! It's awful To feel What they are having to do; if they spare our homes - they are off to do worse!!