

Much  
love I am  
writing to  
you.

Tom

March 28<sup>th</sup> 1900

St Martins  
Beckenham Kent

My dear Frank.

We got a telegram from St Vincent saying. "All well" so we were glad for even that bit of early news.

Saturday was rather dismal without our boys coming home & us letters to send, well we must make the best of it.

Ethel heard from Jack on Saturday that he had passed his exam & was made Sub Lieutenant, he sent her his white patches & club? tassles. We hope you saw him last Thursday.

Dodo and Flora started for Looe on Thursday last week. Monday was snowy & Dodo's face so sore – the hole would not close up. She sends word she is better & out of doors all day. I sent Mary a lace scarf, & she sent me a large ? of flowers such beauties, and a nice lettuce. We are so quiet now, only Tommy at home. As ? tells, I have been putting all your clothes away, the dirty ones washed & the cloth things brushed also the boots. What a tidy boy you are & such a ??, it gave me great pleasure to undo the ?. Of course Dad seized the trouser stretchers & used them. The ?? have I should think been used for engine rags, but are clean after many boilings and soakings.

Rowlie is hoping to go fishing with G? & 2 other barristers on April 10 for a week to a place near Dulverton some miles from Porlock. He wants Dad & me & John to shop at Dulverton & come over to him to fish & go back at night the Inn at Withypool being small and ?. Ro can't lose his cough & the weather is so cold & dull, he puts no chance to get well, Dad thinks a change will restore him.

The animals are all well, the parrot as cross & snatchy as ever. There are 2 hens sitting, 1 on Langsham eggs the other on White's ? like last year. Orpington Archie died from inflammation of the insides but whether from poison or not Mr Cook who made the post morton did not say.

Thursday. Ethel & ? Dad have been to the A. & N. To order your Lieutenants ?? & to Hawkes to order a red coat, a blue coat & 2 pr breeches. Major Crompton is bringing them ? in your kit bag. I shall put in the ? & ? 1 pr socks.

God bless you my boy & bring your safe home to you affectionate mother.

P.S.

Major Crompton has been most kind, helping us order your things. He sent use minute details about everything, and Mother & I took his letter with us when we went to order them. The revolver looked such a beauty! – but the A & N people strike one as being rather wasting in brains! –

*(Addition by Tommy?)*