

St Martins
Beckenham
May 24

My dear Frank.

The Queen's birthday, Lord Roberts was to have been in Pretoria today, but he is not quite there yet. Tho' Mafeking was relieved on May 18th which was very cheering news, he said May 18.

We were so glad to get your letter of April 22nd from Bethulie Bridge, but cannot understand how it is you have had no letters and Dad's telegram about your commission. He is making much ? enquiries why it has not reached you as he ? it on April 4th several days before you left Cape Town.

There has been tremendous rejoicing about the relief of Mafeking. Just as we were going to bed May 18th we heard guns firing, people shouting, trays banged, fireworks fizzing, church bells ringing. So up we got and out we went to hear the good news. Many young people up to Town at 11.30 & played there all night walking about the street cheering. London City went quite mad, all Friday night & Saturday. ? people carried flags, houses, horses, carriages, carts, perambulators all had flags. Many people wore red white & blue ribbons always. ?? in the booking offices at the railway wear some badges. If only the war would soon finish how glad we should all be.

Jack is coming to Greenwich on June 1st & on the Saturday is coming to us perhaps for the Sunday & Monday. He passed out well, & is now a Lieutenant.

Dodo, Ethel & I went to the Military Tournament on Thursday. The free exercises of about 100 gun? crews from Aldershot were the best thing of the show, of course they were picked men, they did the exercises with wonderful precision, they had 4 wooden horses, & 4 crew? facing? over them at the same moment. There were only 20 bare back riders & no artillery competition & the parade was poor. The Lancer's musical ride was good. The "Powerful Men" looked worn? & tired?, & their gun was all painted up & clean, not battered about as we heard.

There has been a little cricket, Rowlie is going to Homesdale on Saturday, & plays for the W? on Whit Monday against Beckenham. Dodo & Ethel are going to a drawer at the Bakers on Thursday.

Willie & Maggie start for Switzerland next Wednesday for a fortnight. Nellie is going to keep house while they are away. I sent ? out of your ?, he likes to hear about you so I send him word about your letter. They are most interesting to us all, we like them very much. Dad keeps on sending you newspapers from the "House" & hopes you get some of them. We think of you always, & send our love to your.

Believe me to ?

Your affectionate

Mother