

Letter from Mary to Arthur Prior, undated¹

Dearest,

Now you must be speeding along somewhere about Rakaia – perhaps between there and Ashburton. And I can't help wondering who, if anyone your' seeing on the train. Trains and boats so often contain people who one hasn't seen for ages and ages – like Douglas Lilburn or mister Summerville – indeed anyone.

Well I bet you felt one big feeling of relief when you got away. It's always a job – and from such a crowded household too. If you've forgotten anything you can put it on account that the D.I.C². Just giving over our usual Chch.³ address. They do that sort of thing very readily.

Here we are settling down again after our big scandal in wh. 3 girls got chucked out – and everyone feels a bit as if a bomb had hit the place.

Did library at coronation⁴ today. Alyson Tisdall may not need the op. at all. She's to have one month longer on her side. And another girl who was going to have an op may not after all. It's all nice to see. These girls both thought they were going home and got shunted back to cory. So there's a moral in that. Don't lets hope to much.

What a super letter from you today. It will be so interesting to hear all about Dunedin too, and I can just imagine how you felt.

I hope you've had a good and pleasant trip.

Now I'd better post this, my darling, or I'll miss the mail.

Love & love

Polly

¹ Editors' note: This letter has been edited by Martin Prior, Peter Øhrstrøm and David Jakobsen. It is part of the Martin Prior Collection, presently kept at Aalborg University folder C, item 5. The letter is written on standard unheaded writing paper. It was kept in an envelope stamped 9. August 1954.

² Editorsn' note: A departemental store.

³ Editors' note: Christchurch.

⁴ Editors' note: The Coronation Block is a building in the Sanatorium area where Mary was treated.