

The Village School
Carbrooke
Thetford
Norfolk
England.

March 29th 1944.

My dear Leona,

I don't think there is any need for me to tell you how overjoyed the children are with the toys you sent. Lt. Field brought them down in a large box on Tuesday, since when the children cannot be dragged away from them. Thank you a thousand times.

Perhaps I had better introduce myself before I go any further.

[page 2]

Well, my name is Mary Norton, and I am the Headmistress of Carbrooke Junior School. Although you mightn't think it, it really is great fun being a village schoolmarm, especially when there are so very many kind American soldiers about. They spoil our children, and consequently are very popular! I honestly think that this last was the best Christmas our children have had since 1939. Your countrymen showered candies, cookies, chewing-gum, and coca-cola upon them. The lucky little creatures in my school had 2 Christmas parties, each given to them by a different set of Americans. And how we

[page 3]

all enjoyed them.

As you will see from the children's letters, this is only a small village school. There are about forty children in it, and none of them is over eleven years old, except one who is too delicate to go on to the Senior School in the nearby village of Watton.

There are only two of us teaching in this little school. My colleague, Eileen Sculfer, has charge of the babes from 4-7, and I have the older children. Then we have our indispensable cook, Mrs. Coleman.

[page 4]

I think it is most interesting that you should be living in Norfolk, and we in Norfolk too! How I wish that you could come and visit us, and then take us all back to America with you. Perhaps after the war this could be arranged.

By the way, Leona (and what a pretty name yours is!), could you put me in touch with some of the teachers in your school? I am deeply interested in education and would love to know more about American schools.

Again very many thanks for the lovely toys.

Write soon, we shall be all agog for a letter from you.

Yours sincerely, Mary Norton.