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<b>Title</b>	[Typed letter signed], 1947 February 26, Pully, Vaud, Switzerland [to] Viola
<b>Creator</b>	Bryher, 1894-1983
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CHEMIN DES PLATEIRE  
PULLY  
VAUD

Téléphone: Pully 3 25 26

26th February 1947

My dear Viola,

terribly ill but she is getting better. It is so good  
of you to send her a parcel, she told me often how very  
grateful she felt for all that you had sent her during the  
war.

With all love,

*Bryher*

Your charming Valentine - did your daughter really do it? -  
reached me yesterday. I think that it is extremely clever and well  
done, quite the best that I have seen. Thank you both so very much,  
you for seizing and sending it and your daughter for being willing to  
part with it. But I owe you a letter. To thank you both for  
the pretty Christmas card and for my share of that wonderful parcel.  
Very, very many thanks for both and please forgive me for my thanks  
coming so late. I am enjoying the nuts and the candies now.

What happened was, that I was summoned for purely  
business reasons to London the day apparently that your parcel  
arrived here. And I was kept in England longer than I had supposed  
due to the crisis there. I cannot tell you what it was like, bombs  
apart, far worse than anything that I ever went through in the war.  
It was forbidden to use any fuel for light, heat, cooking or any pur-  
pose from nine to twelve and two to six, between twelve and two it  
was permitted for cooking only. It meant that practically all  
factories and stores closed. It was impossible to get a hair cut  
for all hairdressers had to shut. Due to the snow, - never have  
we had anything recorded like it, some say for a hundred and six years  
and others say sixty, hardly any fresh food reached London, there were  
no vegetables, hardly any fish, and our meat ration gives us two meals  
a week only. People sat in offices in overcoats, with mittens  
and tried to work by stubs of candles for all candles in bulk disappear-  
ed. There was an epidemic of pneumonia and measles. Many died  
because there was no fuel to heat the rooms and the hospitals were  
over full. At night the light was such a glimmer that we had to  
go to bed at eight thirty and lie in the dark. There was a war  
black out on the streets.

It is entirely due to the mismanagement of the present  
government, they dissipated our stocks and sent a lot to the continent  
which we could not afford, we also are paying heavy taxes to feed the  
Germans who bombed us! I really don't know what is going to happen,  
can only hope that we get another government soon though as they are  
four hundred in Parliament as against two hundred Tories, I suppose  
they can keep in indefinitely.

I cannot tell you how thankful I was to return here  
to Switzerland. I think Hilda seems much better but it would be  
disastrous for her to return to England - I think she could not live  
there a month.

All my thanks again and love, and I do hope  
that you are having a pleasant spring. I am afraid we couldn't  
have the " swatches " here as they charge a huge duty on textiles even  
if only " patterns " but how gay they sound? Couldn't you make bags  
with them for shopping? We used all sorts of patterns sewn together  
to make shopping bags during the war and they often looked so gay.  
I do wish they would let us have some here but the Swiss are much  
stricter about customs than the British.

Poor Mrs Ash had spinal meningitis and *looks*