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CHEMIN DES PLATEIRES 9A  
PULLY  
VAUD

Téléphone: Pully (021) 3 25 26

26th March 1948

My dear Viola,

I had meant to write you last week to send you all my best wishes for Easter and this tiny Swiss handkerchief. But Hilda had rather a nasty bout of flu - she is now better - and so many odd things turned up that I had to do, that I am afraid my mail is late, as usual.

We have been having lovely weather. Every crevice of my Swiss friend's little garden here is a blaze of tulips, hyacinths or daffodils. They told us on the radio last night that the famous cherry orchards of Basel, where they make all the well known Swiss jam, are out three weeks before they have been known to flower for years. People shake their heads and murmur frost but there is nothing we can do if the trees are out - is there?

Bread rationing has been lifted for the ordinary consumer, shops, hotels, etc will only get the same supplies as formerly. When they lifted meat and butter rationing last autumn the consumption only went up five per cent - people this side have been so trained by now to be careful. It is a mercy not to have to go round always with a ration book.

People feel very much more optimistic since the news about Trieste, a feeling that actions are being substituted for words at last. All the same, preparations go on everywhere, English families are resigned to having their children go through usually two years or more of military service though it goes against the grain of all our traditions.

I have not much news otherwise. We are busy getting the kitchen garden dug and seeds planted. All of Lausanne is full for Easter with people coming from north and much colder parts of Switzerland. This is the "Swiss Riviera" and the south.

With all my love and all best Easter greetings,

Yours very sincerely,

*Byler*