

6-2-73.

Dear Phyllis,

Please forgive me for taking so long to answer your last letter, which arrived on the Saturday after Christmas. We had a very quiet Christmas because I had a cold which turned to bronchitis, but after struggling for nearly a month with a "work to rule" on the railways, we were just glad to have a period of peace and quiet.

You must have been very desolate when the children left you after Christmas.

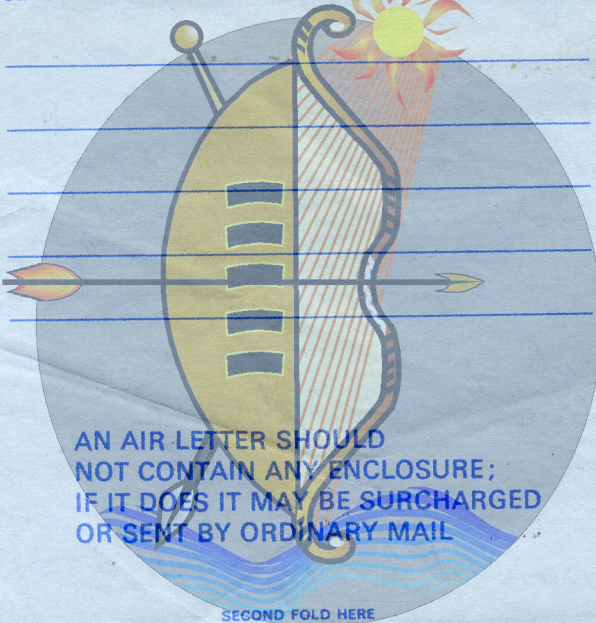
I had to write today, wondering what happened yesterday in the divorce court. Just keep your chin up, and don't let the talk bother you, or even if it does, don't let anyone see that it does.

Things are going from bad to worse here thanks to government mismanagement. The miners have voted to go on strike from midnight on Saturday. It's a ludicrous situation. Practically everyone agrees that the miners are a special case, deserve far more money than they get, but Heath refuses to give in for more money than they are allowed under Phase 3. So, everyone has to suffer restricted lighting + heating + early shut-down of T.V. By these means he hopes to turn the general public against the miners - but he is not succeeding. A colleague at work said "That Heath! He behaves like a big spoiled kid!" + that's a good summing up. We are hardly affected by the crisis except that prices of just about everything are soaring, especially food, and there are shortages of things like rice and TOILET ROLLS! Of course the poor families are hit hardest, they can't afford good clothes which will last + can't afford to travel to supermarkets where food is cheaper.

I've started my Open University course which takes my mind off these problems about which I can do nothing anyway. It snowed heavily here this morning & we turned back half way to London, & returned home. Most of it has gone now but there is an icy wind blowing around the house & snow is still lying on the North Downs. I wish you were here to see it, my dear friend. How wonderful it would be to meet you, would we never stop talking? Or would we be too tongue-tied to start? I hope to hear from you soon - we're thinking of you - glad you like the diary. Love, Marion & Mike

TO OPEN SLIT HERE

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS (PLEASE SHOW YOUR POSTCODE)



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