

154 Regent St.,
Observatory,
Johannesburg
19.10.63

Dear Dad

You know how I hate writing letters so don't blame me if this is short.

As you know holidays have just finished. They were nice but too short. There was nothing to do but swim and go to bioscope. We've got even in 3 weeks and ~~and~~ as usual I've been sweating hard.

The swimming bath is keeping perfectly clean and the weather has been obliging. I want to get rid of my bike but haven't had much luck.

In four days time is

the saddest competition
and now I know what
sorely spit and polish
is like. My belt is com-
ing alright but my cap
badge just won't shine.

Yesterday (Saturday)
we saw a great murder
film, "The List of Adrian
Messenger," in which the
producers defy you to
guess the disguised roles
Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas,
Tony Curtis, Robert Mitchum
and Frank Sinatra play
and only at the very
end did they unmask.

As usual last night
we went to a party
which wasn't so worse.

Monday 21

October

1963.

R.O.

Dearest Daddy,


You know that bar that you put up for Patrick, I can jump up and catch it and hang by my legs with no hands, and do all sorts of tricks. I still have to have music lessons and I have to practise even more than I used to. The swimming bath is lovely and tomorrow we start swimming at school. This morning Mrs. Dreyer was late to school today and we thought she wasn't coming so we were sent to classes but before we got there she arrived. Some people had already got to their class and nobody noticed their absence. They missed the first two periods and then someone was sent to look for them! Mrs. Dreyer is pregnant, we think. Everybody

thinks so. I have decided to do French and Latin and if I don't like one I can drop it. Toni is a student at our school in Keith's class. The circus was here but I was on holiday at the time. Keith saw it but it left on Saturday. The subjects are a bit jumbled in the letters you will receive because I carry a piece of paper round with me and anytime I think of something you might like to hear I jot it down, roughly, and in the order ~~you~~ they are there I write them. I am trying to write every day and if one day a letter doesn't come it means either I didn't have time or mom forgot to post it. Bye,

Your darling, dearest
daughter (Honeybug) Fran

L.A.B.
25/10/65

Dearest Dad,

Today (Sunday) we swam all day. The usual people plus the Trunks and the Glooneys were here. The Cloney's come nearly every week now. Mommy bought me a royal blue bikini that looks like this . My bosoms don't fill the ~~cup~~ yet so I don't wear the top. The boat you gave us last Christmas is in constant use. One morning we found a big black tire in the bath and nobody has claimed it so we keep it. As well as a pair of goggles. My shoulders are very red but my back is brown and so are my legs. The Schombrocker's mulberry trees are ripe and on the way home from school every day I pick them. There are so many that they are

(2)

getting over-ripe because we can't
nick them all. Our strawberries are
also ripe so we have ~~it~~ " and
cream for supper nearly every
night. I had my first reach a few
days ago. Mom bought some. The
trees are lader with fruit, especia-
lly the grape-vine. I have become
the odd-job man now. You know
that green plastic chair on the
veranda, the string underneath was
so rotten that it just crumbled so
I fixed it with new string. And
you know the place where you
walk up from the swimming bath
through the grapevine to the
kitchen, I tied the vine back
because it was growing right
across. The Peg board you were
in the middle of putting up,

I wanted to do but mom said it was a job for someone like Pat but he still hasn't put it up. Last night we went to see "Trisal and error" at the Victory. It was a Peter Sellers and was very good acting. It was the best film I've ever seen. I have not chosen my supper yet but I soon will. The garden is looking lovely. In Petermaritzburg the Jacarandas are in full bloom but up here they are only just starting. There are no new additions to my cups. I have lost a bit of interest in tennis but I suppose I'll change my mind often before I grow. And have my different crazes. On the next page is a list of all the animals I saw in the

Some more

- Elephant 
- Impala 
- Zebra 
- Steer buck 
- Monkeys 
- Wildebeest 
- Warthogs 
- Pheasants 
- Kudu 
- Giraffe 
- Water bucks 


I got your letter and I'm going to try and write very day or at least every other day. I got my netball and tennis colours on Friday aren't you proud? Me and Keith got to art lessons.

It's lovely fun and our art teacher said that we got talent.


Goodbye for today from your ever loving Daughter Francie.

(gogo)

Dear Paddy I have
decided to spend
more time
writing
instead of
listening to the
radio



5 minutes later
I'm sorry I have to close
now my favourite
Programme is coming
on



27. Sunday.

Dear Daddy,


I didn't write these last few days because there was nothing to say. Today I am writing from at the swimming bath. It is so clean, but after the cold weather it's terribly cold. The boat you gave us is always being used, and Synda Lewitton gave us her li-lo. Last ~~last~~ ~~day~~ Thursday our class went to the wilds. A long time ago we had our sports day at Athlone, and I forgot to tell you. We lost. Heartening news? We are having a Nature Study test on Tuesday and I will tell you what marks I have. Last night we went to the Lewitton's for supper, all of us. We have been horse-racing on the boats and I won the 'grand national'. Everyone else fell off. I don't know what more I can write, so ~~so~~ ~~so~~ I'll write again tomorrow, or Tuesday, or Wednesday or - - - - -
Goodbye,

Lots of Love From Frances
(Honey Bun)

x x x x x x x x x x
o o o o o o o o o o

$$\begin{array}{r} 29 \\ \times \\ \hline 63 \end{array}$$


(writing beam)



Dear Dad,

I have just finished swatting Afrikaans and Latin

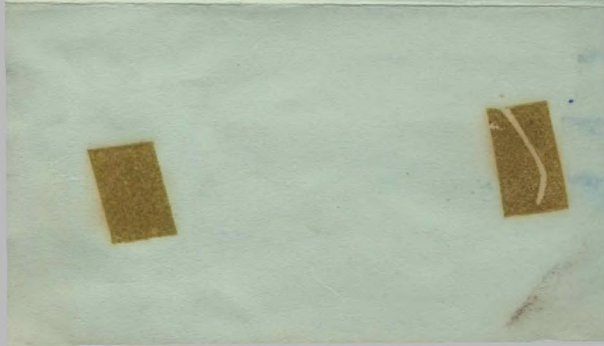
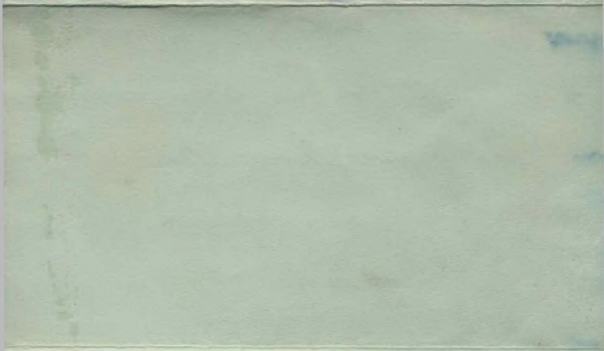
for an hour and I still have french and Science to learn for a Test on Monday. It is Saturday today and a beautiful morning with the sun shining and not a cloud in the sky. Soon I will either have to go and practise the piano or learn my science. All these pictures come off sewing



ettes from the wedding which was a big success.

We break up on the 23rd and I can't wait because I have such a lot to do. Bye!

Love Love Love From
Frances.



Monday 4th
November.

Dear Daddy,

I am writing this letter in bed at 6⁰⁰ o'clock a.m. Yesterday we swam all day and I am very brown. Tomorrow is gey fawho. Keith and Patrick are letting off crackers but I hate it. I will lock myself inside and put earplugs in my ears. The Hayward's cat's mate had 3 black kittens. They are very sweet but M won't let me have one. I am looking for a puppy that mommy will agree to. Most of them cost too much. One boxer costed 20 gns!!! Me and Moira climbed the 2nd Jacaranda tree and when Mommy came home we shouted to her and she looked all round but didn't know who we were. When are you going to write to me again HMMmm? Mommy has

went to Pretoria every day last week. Ooo, it's time to get up so I'll finish it at school. Bye.

I am at school now. I have just finished my English and have got a spare moment. It is such a lovely day, it would have to be school on such a nice day. We are sending you a ~~ps~~ book with pictures of us in it. Mine are horrible but Toni's are lovely, she could be a professional. Patrick's got so many freckles in his. He hasn't really but the photos show them up. My spare time is finished now so I'll finish the letter.

Goodbye,


Your loving daughter

Francie.

(gogoe)

x x x x x x x

o o o o o o o

① 

Monday 18.

November

Darling Daddy,

The letter you wrote asking why I wanted a dog I answer now. We have still got Ynama but he isn't my own. I want a dog that's really mine. Mom said I can have one for Christmas, but I'll get him after Christmas because we are going on holiday and we can't leave a new puppy here while we are away.

You asked if I spell wrong on purpose. Usually I do it on purpose. But sometimes not. We haven't started exams yet, we only start on the 4th! And finish on the last day of school with is a Friday 13th!!

Were you here when my black rabbit died? We have still got Peter Babbit in the same old

cage. The other day he got out and we found him next door. I suppose if they pull up the foundation of your house in Durban they will find skeletons of rabbits. In about ~~on~~ 10,000 years they might dig up the bones and it will be like a dinosaur is today!!

Tomorrow Ivan is coming up here to live with us for a long time. The playroom looks so lovely you wouldn't believe your eyes.

You said in your letter that it's a pity more of us do don't look like ma. I think it's lovely when people say to me I look like you. I wonder what you looked like with a moustach? Mommy told me that you've cut it off.

It isn't a lovely thought that these exams are the last at O.E.S. In fact I don't want to leave. I hate having to make new friends and we have to call the teachers "Modom!!"

Tomorrow is our swimming gala I hope I am sick and have to stay home because I know who's going to lose. Can you guess.

I have to have two teeth out because then, the orthodontist said, they will grow straighter. I hate him!!

Mommy is having a massage and Esme is going to give me ^{one} sometime. We went out the other night to supper. Guess what I had? It begins with R..... Keith had F... and C.....

Patrick is on the phone and

(4)

19 Tuesday
November

has been for the last hour or so.

TOMORROW

I'm in bed tomorrow, if you no what I mean. I've had my two teeth out, and all I can eat is rice-crispies with milk, else it hurts. You will be sad to hear that we had an arith. test and I got 50% !!! I'm not coming first this term! Today in English, we were doing the 'Mrs. Dreyer was giving us examples and she said, "She'd better pull her socks up if she wants to come 1st again this term!" and you should've seen the look she gave me. We didn't have our gala because it was raining. You remember when I went on holiday to the Drakenburg well I bought you a ballpoint pen as a present. I will send it

(5)

in. I have got a ballpoint that
ran right down to nothing !!!

I won't send you chocolates if
you don't want them, but I won't
eat them. I'll keep them for you
when you come home.

When we play ~~for~~ cards, we don't
play for money, although we did once
and I won too sense of him but
I gave them back.

Mommy is moaning for me to
go to bed, so goodnight,
Your everloving daughter
Francie (censored).

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~~1/1/2~~

27 Thursday
November.

Dearest Daddy,

It is quarter to six in the morning and I am lying in bed. I got your letter yesterday about going in for that competition. The prize is 14,000 Rand. but the letter came too late. That Sunday has already gone. But next Sunday, if someone hasn't won it, it goes up to 15,000!!

You'll never guess what happened. We came second in the gala. At one time we were even leading. We only lost by 15 points, that's not bad! I entered in nearly all the races I could. In the open championships I came about 4th last. In the breaststroke I came 2nd. Our tennis match was cancelled for the fourth time yesterday, because of rain. Today (if it doesn't

(2)

rain) we are playing byrdene.
If it's cancelled me and Mom are
going to see some puppies. The males
are 4 guineas. Is that too much?
Nearly every day it rains here.
Does it rain every day in Pretoria
where you are? I always used to be
able to tell what time it was by
watching the sun shine on the
Jacarandas, but now there is never
any sun!!!. Excuse my awful
writing, but it is ~~is~~ hard writing
in bed. And also my Fountain pen
is out of ink and I hate writing
with ballpoint. Mommy has
written to Knysna to find us
a place to stay. It will be
lovely. You don't mind us going
do you? I hope not!!

Your ever-ever-ever loving

~~the~~ little airtie Francie.



(1)

~~5~~

Sunday

8th

December

Dear Dad,

We are all getting very excited and I can't wait for Xmas. The other day two big boxes came from the Sherwoods, but Mom won't let us open them. On Friday me and Keith and Mom went to look at the things in the shops and we got ~~just~~ lucky slips. I got a boys one because the girls ones always have little dolls sets and Hair brushes. I have made you a present, not a very big one, but just a funny little one. You should see what I made for Mom! I washed ten cherry pits clean and white and then drew different little faces on them. Also, I sandpapered a piece of tomato box wood smooth as smooth and painted a bush

2

man painting on it. ~~As~~ I went with the Haywards to an auction sale and got a white jug with little African figures on. For Toni and Ivan I am getting a book-token. Can you think of an idea for me to give Claude?

I have already got my present! It is a lovely little puppy!!! It is part Maltese, poodle and part Cairn terrier. It is lovely.

We are doing exams until the last day of school but I have good news. On Wednesday we did a Spellen Diktee. I got $\frac{22}{25}$ and $\frac{17}{20}$. The highest in the class!!! Tomorrow we write Language and Comprehension.

(3)

On Wednesday is our Std V leaving party. I am going to be so sad to leave Ols. Ead. It is also our prizegiving. I wonder if I'll win a cup?

I am so sunburnt, as red as a tomato. This weekend has been so hot we have swim all day. We sometimes swim at the Schermy's it is so ~~warm~~ warm (Their swimming bath not the weather)

I have got all your letters put away safely with a present from you. You remember you told Mom to buy us a present from you? Well she bought me a little ^{very} dog. I have put it away with your letters.

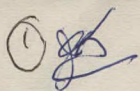
(4)

Monday
morning in
bed

Last week two big boxes of crayons came from Olga. A box of 30 pencil crayons for me, and a box of 30 wax crayons for Keith. They are beautiful. All Toni's woodwork is finished and has been marked. She gave us a mobile which she made and it is hanging in our room. I am reading a lovely book called, 'Enemy Coast Ahead' by Guy Gibson V.C. D.S.O. D.F.C. It has 287 pages but it is lovely I am on page 219. It is a war book, I don't like any other books but those.

It is time to get up now so I'll write again soon,
Yours forever
Frances

(Gyoga)

① 



Friday 20th
December.

Darling Daddy,

I am sure you are pleased about my getting two cups, but maybe not at my marks from exams.

Here are some:

English **AI**

Letter: $\frac{8}{10}$

Paragraph: $\frac{9}{10}$

Compos: $\frac{9}{10}$

Comprehension: $\frac{13}{15}$

Spelling: $\frac{19}{20}$

Dictation: $\frac{20}{25}$

Total $\frac{83}{90}$

Total percent about 92



Afri.

Brief: $\frac{1}{10}$

Opstel: $\frac{7}{10}$

Begripstoets: $\frac{12}{15}$

Spel: $\frac{17}{20}$

Dikte: $\frac{27}{25}$

Total: $\frac{65}{80}$

Total percent about 81.



Our reports are being sent and when mine comes I'll send it to you. I got your letter yesterday and it's a lovely one. I didn't see any articles about how to train dogs. It just goes to show how well I read the paper. On the last day of school we got ball point pens with 'MEMO GES. 1963.' written on it. The black smudges is black paint (I have been painting). Archie is also doing that enormous big crossword puzzle. He is nearly finished. You know dad, I

(2)



do like the jimes you send Keith. But if they are difficult to make up don't bother, I don't mind.

We have just decorated our christmas tree and it looks lovely. We have got electric star-lights on it. I am very excited about our holiday and xmas. I am sending you a present, nothing big, but you will enjoy it. Pat left for holiday on Wednesday and we went with him to the station. Me and him have made an arrangement. For xmas I would give him 5 bob. And he would have nothing else to give me but my 5 bob back again so we don't give each other anything. This letter will be my last till I am on holiday because I am quite busy making presents. I am not in the mood for writing but I haven't written for a long time and I feel guilty. So here's wishing you a very very very merry merry merry



CHRISTMAS. With tons and tons, and tons of love and Kisses from,
FRANCES



x x x special xmas kisses and hugs

Friday 17

January

1964.

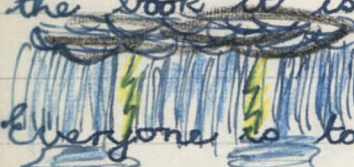
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P.O. L.
21.1.64.

Darling Daddy,

I am learning to write in italics, how do you like it? Robyn Slovo taught me for about 2 days and now I am teaching myself. But at the moment it is still difficult so I'll finish normally.

Tonight Mommy is taking me and Keith to see the film, 'The Parent Trap.' I have the book it is made from, 'Lottie and Lisa.'



Did you get that storm last night? Everyone is talking about it and I didn't hear or see anything!!

Our holiday was lovely, but it would have been much better in a tent or caravan. I am quite brown and my nose was reeling, but I didn't get so ~~one~~ bit.



For my supper I am having roast beef and potatoes

and for afters I am having that thing that looks like this




I am dreading Rodean. All the other girls are from Private schools, and as well as that I have had a rotten teacher in std V. Jill Slovo will only be going there next year, and Jill Sherry is doing matric

this year.

The limericks you wrote for me I already knew but do you know this one?

There once was a man from the City,
Who saw what he saw was a kitty,
To make sure of that, he gave it a pat,
They buried his clothes - what a pity!

But I enjoyed them, please write ~~some~~
some more.

It has just been  raining and you should see Pepé! He is pure brown! And the water has made his fur stick down flat. He looks so thin! I have to write some thank-you letters so, remember,
Absence makes the heart grow fonder,

Your ever-loving daughter,
Frances.

(1)

9³¹/₁₁ 64 ✓ 30.12.63

Monday

Darling Dad,

we had a fabulous christmas and I got a Buble Two long playing record. I won't tell you everything I got because it will take too long.

We are on holiday now at Port Alfred. It is lovely but very windy. The hotel is walking distance from the beach and the lagoon and the food is not bad. We swim every day, the beach is lovely. The waves are very small and the other night we walked the beach. It was terrific. There are things on nearly every day. One night there was a

2

concert where a little girl of about 3 sang. They had to put her on a table to reach the microphone. This morning there was a sand castle building competition. There was some very good stuff. One day some life savers came and gave us an exhibition. That night they sung songs and one spoke to us. But then they got drunk and threw beer and glasses all over the place.

Today when we stopped at a tea room we saw someone put something in our car. When we looked it was a sort of ticket

3

but it just said, 'we note you are a visitor etc.'

'We want to be friendly etc.' 'We will not give you a ticket this time but bla bla bla.'

On the other page it said, 'Please do stop at stop streets?'

Mom had it!

Today we went fishing but it was very unsuccessful. We have to go in to supper now so I'll write again soon, when I'm not busy, so bye for now,

Tons Tons Tons of
Love and
Kisses Frances,

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