**GRYEH 2016.20.1**

Tel Gorleston 200

H Sutton

31 Beccles Road

Great Yarmouth

8th April 1941

My Dear Richard

I hope you are alright as this leaves us at present. We are very hurt in Yarmouth because the wireless said that activity was slight over the country last night.

At 11.30 last night just as I was settling down there was a loud bang and the fun began. Mary and I were sent to the Post with Edward. The first thing reported was a bomb, a 1500lb. I should think in the Southtown Road just before Queen Anne’s Road, this goes right across the road and a few yards from the river successfully blocking the traffic so that no fire engine, etc. could get along and also bursting our water main so that there was no water when we needed it for incendiaries. Then incendiaries began to fall in thousands. The children’s home was burnt down (one building), also part of Church Road School, and Precasters shop quite gutted, also some in Trafalgar Road West, which were promptly tackled by Green, also in Burnt Lane which were put out. Meanwhile Edward had disappeared, early next morning Stella rang up from Granny’s saying that he had arrived there, he must have run through the Church Road fires, of course Granny thought we were killed and he has come to tell us.

All this time Ma, Mary and me has been periodically lying in the floor and dealing with excited wardens who burbled incoherently into the telephone. Fire brigades arrived from Lowestoft and Norwich for the whole of the other side of the river seemed ablaze and awful smells of burnt fish barrels came across to us.

About 3 o’clock Mary and I retired to bed and then Ma came to join me leaving Pop outside. Just as we were settling down however a terrific crash rent the air. A land mine had come down in to the flames. Ma went out again and then came back. At 5, when once more we were nearly asleep, the all clear went and then another warning and a plan came over again and the boats started machine gunning it, they had not been able to do so before as the smoke was like a screen.

This morning I went to Yarmouth, buses were running from Waveney Road to the Town Hall. The following buildings are gutted :- The Toll House and Museum and Library, Frere’s, Mark’s and Spencer’s, Boot’s, Ward’s, Hill’s, “The House of Fashion”, Jarrolds, Males, The Maypole, Johnsons factory, the Seagull garage (Queens Road), where several Specials were buried. Arnolds and Palmers were only slightly burned and the women’s room was untouched although there were fires all around. There was no water this morning but there is a little now, the gas works was slightly hit but was soon mended.

Green has dug up about half a dozen Incendies in the garden, he is meddling with the unexploded ones so that we can hang them up.

There is a lot of damage on the other side of the river but we are not allowed to go down the quay but it looks an awful mess still smouldering.

Hope you received the cake, towel, etc. your affectionate sister M J Sutton (Peggy)

9th April

Still alive, bombs and machines guns all last night, but I do not think anything very near, fire the other side of the water again. MS