

ROSE LAWN,  
KINGSGATE-ON-SEA,  
KENT.

July 5th. 1947.

Dear Mr. Snell,

I have just read over again your letter of last December, with its description of scenes in Glorious Devon that made me wish that I could put the clock back fifty years or so and jump on the old bike. I think I must have answered this letter at the time; but as it has turned up in the "unanswered" drawer, here goes anyway. As I see that you are in touch with Mr. Leckenby, perhaps you have heard that W. G. Bunter makes his appearance once more in August. You will be pleased, and no doubt astonished, to hear that the book is turning out a "best-seller" even before getting published. I am both myself: and I don't know whether more pleased than astonished, or more astonished than pleased. The publisher came to see me the other day, and I could hardly believe my venerable ears when he told me how many thousands of copies had been taken up by the "trade" as early as May. By great good fortune, paper is available, which does not always happen in these days. In fact almost

everything else is hanging up for want of paper--only a few Topham and St. Olive's having lately trickled ~~down~~ out. But I don't care very much so long as they get enough for the book. Macdonald has done some nice pictures for it, with Quelch and Bunter on the jacket.

I can't give you news of anything else, owing to the paper famine: except that--amazing to relate!----a music firm are republishing one of my old songs, out of print for more years than I want to remember. Or perhaps it may interest you to hear that Frank Richards was filmed again the other day, this time by Moore-British News. The film will be released about the end of the year, and may perhaps come down your way. I think it will be a nice picture, for in some of the scenes appear a group of charming young people, from seven to seventeen, not to mention a delightful dog.

Isn't this a lovely summer after that unspeakable winter? It must be glorious in Devon now ---it is not bad in Kent! It's a jolly old world, even in the seventies!

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Frank Richards*