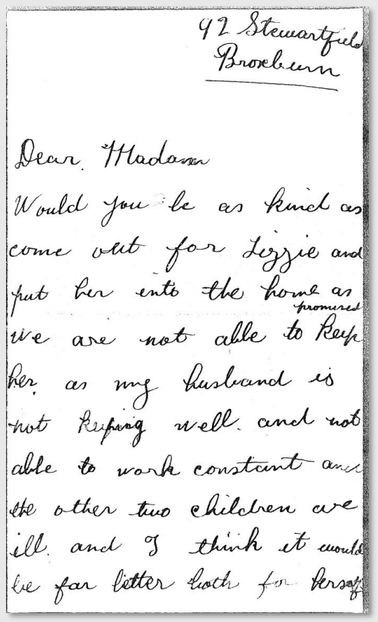
Lizzie
Letters from Tynepark

Lizzie was born in 1908 in Armadale, she was the youngest of 4 siblings. Her mother struggled with alcohol addiction and appeared in court twice for assaulting Lizzie's father. She died when Lizzie was just 2 years old and Lizzie's father remarried. He was unemployed and Lizzie's stepmother was fined £1 for stealing wood and £3 for stealing potatoes from a field. At the age of 14 Lizzie was sent to a Salvation Army home in Glasgow but ran away and the NVA was asked to look for her. She was found back with her family who were now living in Broxburn. Her family wanted her to stay but contacted the NVA a few months later to ask her to be taken into care as they could not afford to keep her. Lizzie was sent to the Tynepark Training Home for Girls, a Church of Scotland home in Haddington, where she stayed for two years. Her letters tell of her life there.

Tynepark House 1974 [British Listed Buildings]

Tynepark Training Home for Girls

Opened in 1911 at Haddington, this Church of Scotland home provided accommodation for up to 24 girls and trained them in laundry work.



42 Stewartfield
Broxburn

Dear Madam
Would you be as kind as come out for Lizzie and put her into the home as promised
we are not able to keep her as my husband is not keeping well and not able to work constant and the other two children are ill and I think it would be far better both for herself and us. Hoping you will be as kind as either to come for her or let me know if we will have to bring her

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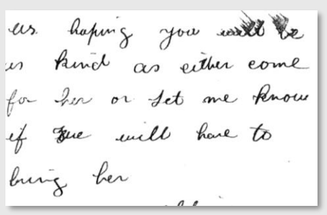

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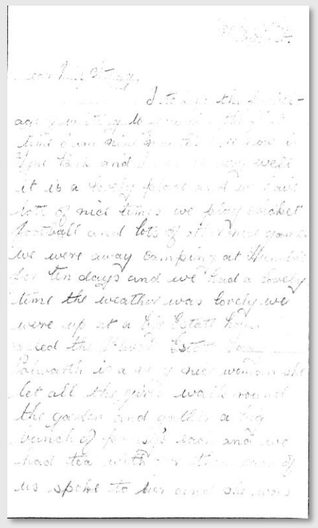
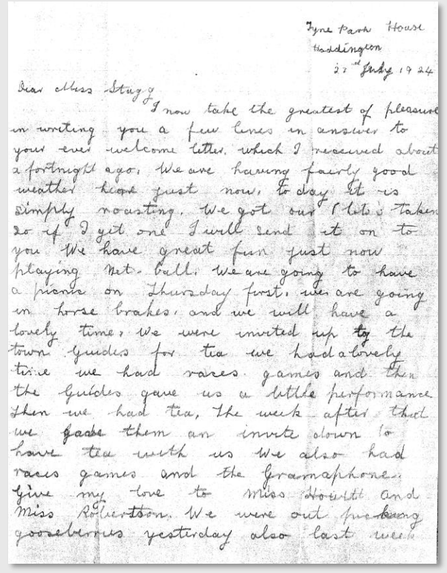


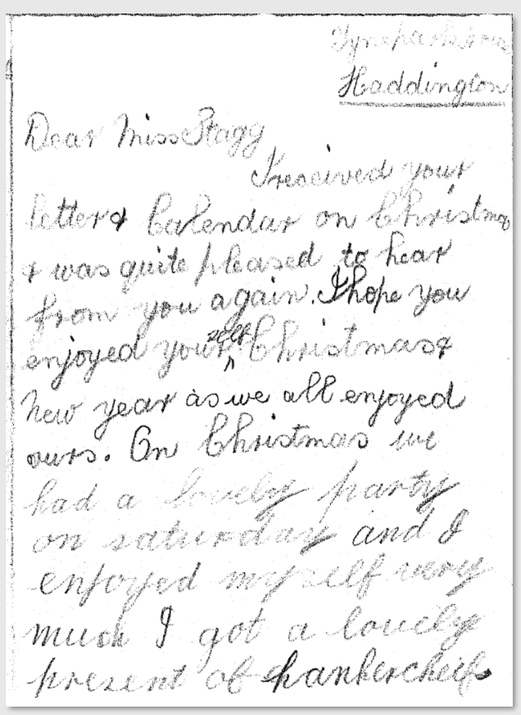
"It is a lovely place and we have a lot of nice times, we play cricket, football and lots of other nice games. We were away camping at Humbie for ten days and we had a lovely time the weather was lovely we were up at a big estate house called the Polwarth Estate. Lady Polwarth let all the girls walk round the garden and gather a big bunch of pansy's."

"We got our photos taken so if I get one I will send it on to you. We have great fun just now playing netball. We are going to have a picnic on Thursday, we are going in horse brakes. We were out picking gooseberries yesterday, they were lovely and soft. After they were all picked we topped and tailed them"



Tyne Park House
Haddington
25th July 1924

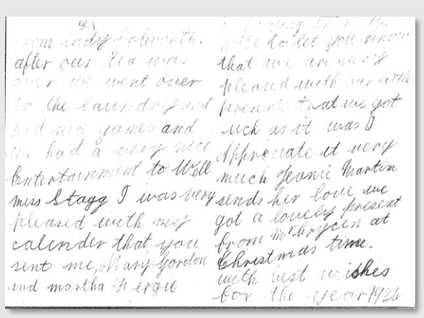
Dear Miss Stagg
I now take the greatest of pleasure in writing you a few lines in answer to your ever welcome letter which I received about a fortnight ago. We are having fairly good weather here just now, to day it is simply roasting. We got our photo's taken so if I get one I will send it on to you We have great fun just now playing Net Ball. We are going to have a picnic on Thursday first, we are going in horse brakes and we will have a lovely time. We were invited up to the town guides for tea we had a lovely time we had races games and then the guides gave us a little performance then we had tea, the week after that we gave them an invite down to have tea with us We also had races games and the Gramaphone. Give my love to Miss Howitt and Miss Robertson. We were out picking gooseberries yesterday also last week



Tynepark House
Haddington

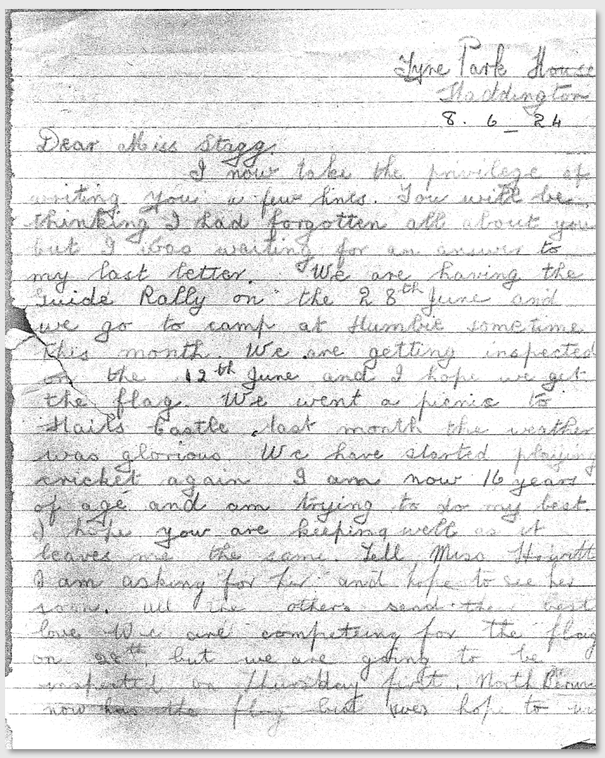
Dear Miss Stagg
I received your letter & Calendar on Christmas & was quite pleased to hear from you again. I hope you enjoyed your Christmas & New year as we all enjoyed ours. On Christmas we had a lovely party on saturday and I enjoyed myself very much I got a lovely present of handkerchiefs

"On Christmas we had a lovely party on Saturday and I enjoyed myself very much I got a lovely present of handkerchiefs from Lady Polwarth after our tea was over we went over to the laundry and had nice games and we had a very nice entertainment too. Well Miss Stagg I was very pleased with my calendar that you sent me. I remain your sincere friend. Elizabeth"



after our tea was over we went over to the laundry and had nice games and we had a very nice entertainment to Well miss Stagg I was very pleased with my calender that you sent me, of any garden and martha Kergon

What we enjoyed it very much Jeanie Martin sends her love we got a lovely present at Christmas time. With best wishes for the year 1924



Tyne Park House
Haddington
8. 6 24

Dear Miss Stagg
I now take the privilege of writing you a few lines. You will be thinking I had forgotten all about you but I was waiting for an answer to my last letter. We are having the Guide Rally on the 28th June and we go to camp at Humbie sometime this month. We are getting inspected on the 12th June and I hope we get the flag. We went a picnic to Hails Castle last month the weather was glorious. We have started playing cricket again. I am now 16 years of age and am trying to do my best. I hope your are keeping well as it leaves me the same. Tell Miss Howitt I am asking for her and hope to see her soon. All the others send their best love. We are competing for the flag on 28th but we are going to be inspected on Thursday first. North Berwick now has the flag but we hope to get

"We are having the guide rally on 28th June and we go to camp at Humbie sometime this month. We went a picnic to Hails Castle last month, the weather was glorious. We have started playing cricket again. I am now 16 years of age and am trying to do my best."

"We went a picnic to Scoughall it was lovely we had a lot to eat after we got ice cream then we had racing and then we had bathing to cool us and we had such a beautiful sunny day . On Saturday Miss gave us the gramophone we had dancing and singing and we had a very enjoyable evening indeed."