

Fire watch. Wed.

Dearest one,

I met a girl in the office today whom I vaguely knew by sight and she stopped me and said "The last time I saw you was in April when you were seeing your husband off on the Portsmouth train." Apparently she also knew you by sight in the office and was surprised to find you were in the Navy. Her husband is on the 'Formidable' - an engine-room leading Stoker - so we swapped notes and displayed our nautical knowledge. It was quite fun to be able to say to someone - "my hubby has got a hook up, too." without having to explain what was meant.

She made me feel quite ashamed of myself for worrying about what is going to happen at the end of your course. She has hardly seen anything of her hubby since they were married 18 months ago. But

as she said, you never knew when you might expect a telegram to say that he would be home next week. Not like the Army which stays away for the duration.

Altogether I felt quite reassured about being a sailor's wife by the time she'd done talking.

She's got a picture of the 'Formidable' (flat-top) on her desk. Do you think we might find a good one of an M.T.B.?

3 I have on my little black frock
with white lace, black edge-to-edge
coat, and earrings, and Cully
and Pam told me at lunch time
that they would definitely "pick
me up" if they were the male
Species. I'm rather of fact I feel
rather smart today. Mrs Park
brought me the most lovely, deep-
pink rose from her garden today
and it looks beautiful on my
black coat. Wish my hubby
could have turned up unexpectedly
at the office with tickets for a
show. Phew!! What an idea!!
Wouldn't I love that!! We'd
go to town, darling, and you'd
have to carry me upstairs to bed.

When this war is over, and we go out to celebrate I mean to let myself go, might even get merry for the first time in my life.

My language classes start next week. Monday Spanish & Friday French - so altogether I'm going to be a busy little bee.

Hux phoned me today before he left home on his way back to life in the army. He sounded a wee bit depressed so I did my best to cheer him up, and wished him luck on the O.C.T.V. board.

I've an idea that next time we see him he'll be heading for his O.C.T.V. course. Hope so anyway.

Mum, Gerald & I popped into the Granada last evening and saw an amusing murder story with Brian Aherne & Lovetta Young, and had quite a few laughs. Quite diverting.

I duly gave Cully your kind regards and told her she was to come out with us when next you are on leave - oh glorious day roll on! She is looking very tired and puffy-eyed these days, and she's got to the stage where she watches every post for a letter - and there's nothing more nerve-racking. I do my best to brighten her day - sympathy is definitely barred - S'pose you couldn't find a few amusing things to say to her in a letter, could

you pidgeon? I know you are
gifted that way when you feel
so inclined. you darling! Her
name is Joy Culliford and seehan
Con 2.G. (4) if you care to drop her
a line Sunday. She wants me
to write to Cully. (her husband) when
we know where to address the letters.

I was glad to hear you'd
got another pair of shoes from Slips,
cos you were having trouble with
footwear at Cobham weren't you?
What a shame you didn't win
the f. f. stockings. I could do
with some more and I'd scratch
that Wren's eyes out if she tried
to do me out of them. I promise
you sweet if you ever bring me
any you shall have the pleasure

of putting them on me. By the way, angel, these reiterations of your fidelity are entirely unnecessary these days, coz darling, I'd trust you implicitly, always. You're my hero, ducky. And as such you have all the qualities that woman can demand in her man.

I presume your question whether I had been out in the sun was purely facetious as we've hardly seen any sun since I was with you in Cobham.

Stormy weather! I hope it seems to be warming up today.

Brrrrr it's been so cold that I've sat all day in my coat in the office. Remember what an ice-house this place is?

I have been meaning to send
you some more stationery for some
days, now, as I guessed you
must be running out. It's
wonderful to hear from you so
much these days though next
time you're here I'm going to
shut my eyes and listen to you
so that when I read your letters
I shall have the sound of your
voice in my ears.

I suppose you couldn't ring
me one day could you sweet?
It would be nice to tell you
once again that I love you,

love & kisses & sweet
dreams, chunky,

Clare

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OPEN by cutting Label inside Gumming Envelope.

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