

Sunday.

Posting nine,

Well, we had a nice quiet  
Christmas Day here at the Dive.

In the morning Joan & I went  
for a walk with Haddie & incidentally  
tried without success to buy some beer,  
while Mum stayed in & cooked the dinner -  
roast beef & the trimmings followed by  
Xmas pudd. If your baby pudd tasted  
as good as ours did then you're going  
to enjoy your New Year's supper which I  
shall post off to you on Tuesday morning.

The wireless program all day  
Wednesday was exceptionally good, plenty of  
dance music & good variety. The last three-  
quarters of an hour before we went to bed  
being spent in listening to an all-star

American broadcast with Bob Hope, Fred Allen,  
Jack Benny, Diah Shore &c &c. Wish you  
could have been here, darling, so that we could  
have chuckled over some of their wise-cracks  
together. Somehow nothing in life seems to  
have quite the same extra silly that is there  
when we are sharing it. But we have to  
put a good face on to keep the world guessing  
at our inner thoughts. Can't be openly & spoil  
other people's enjoyment, eh chicken?

Hux came along to see us this morning,  
and sat & spun a few hours of life in his  
O.C.U.. The life seems to suit him, and I  
shall be greatly surprised if we do not see a  
pip on his shoulder in mid-Feb: though  
characteristically he still has his doubts about  
his chances.

He was sorry to have missed you.

Ken Hellard is apparently engaged now  
honey, and is in the Glider Pilot Rept. " Should  
be up on 7 days next week, so they've pipped  
one another at the post as well.

This looks very fit and hardy, and  
was wearing battle-dress with collar & tie, dark  
green glengarry hat with white band &  
should

And then came an interruption in the form  
of a knock at the door, and your wife stretched  
her legs, all unsuspectingly and opened the door.  
To say I was surprised, honey, is putting it  
mildly. It was like seeing a ghost, or having  
one's thoughts come to life. I knew my  
mouth dropped open and I just gaped - too  
overcome even for a few seconds to jump  
into your outstretched arms & give you the  
bear-hug that you deserved. Cor!

After reading that headline in Friday's paper, the bottom was knocked clean out of my world for a few minutes. Then the numbness gradually wore off, and by the time the train chugged into Welling Station I was able to put the usual sailor's wife's brave face to the world. But gone were the thoughts of dinner! Even the bisearians steak that mum placed before me was as much tasteless dough.

Then arriving at the Drive I found a different account in the evening news which cheered me up somewhat.

What you must have been through in those hours I can't imagine & I hope that our wonderful day together washed away some of the memory. It was a gloriously happy day for me, no surprise could have been more heavenly than to have you home for Christmas, and to hold you close

and to see you laugh & be happy with your family. Ah, God couldn't have named a sweet gift for this girl.

You know, honey, you've got the most wonderful family - They know how to enjoy life to the full, and to make others enjoy it too. They don't stand around criticising or comparing their luck with anybody else's - They accept life as it is - and find it good. I could certainly not have called it Christmas had I not spent a few hours in their company & I was all set to go when you arrived. What could have been better, eh?

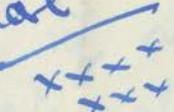
As for that part of the day which we spent alone together, words can't describe such bliss! My heart just sang! There never could be another man for me, and I love him every minute of every day, together or apart.

I have thought and day-dreamed about you a lot today, wondering if you were happy, and picturing you pipe in mouth, overalls on, hands grimy with oil, working away on that second love of yours. And all the time you're working there's a hope that maybe we'll be together again next weekend. Then we'll celebrate this New Year that everyone is talking about.

We'll say our little prayer together, and maybe seal it with a kiss, and since our dream is always the same, I hope yours will come true angel,

I have you,

Clae



P.S. Please darling get all the rest & fresh air & sleep possible this week. Promise?

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