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VE-DAY.

Tuesday. 8.5.45.

Well dearest

That long awaited day  
has come at last, and it is a  
matter for great rejoicing and  
thankfulness.

Sitting here by the window,  
and watching the passing pageant,  
I see such a deep longing for you  
daring. It is awfully hard to bear  
this poking at chins. I think it  
is the sight of all the couples  
striding along, going places together.  
But its no good dwelling in the blues,  
daring or I shall only make you  
feel dismal too.

One thing is certain - your

YAG 37  
Home - coming cannot be long delayed  
now, and it is towards that  
glorious day that my eyes are  
turning now.

Every house in the road is  
displaying its flag or bunting,  
and everybody is wearing a  
red - white & blue button-hole including  
Yours truly. Though, otherwise, down  
here it is just like any Sunday.  
You know of course that we favored  
Civil Servants have two days  
leave? And very nice too. And  
So has everybody else by the look  
of it.

I wonder if you have been  
listening - in to the radio today  
as we are doing at home?

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Mr. Churchill's proclamation was very stirring, and so were the descriptions of the scenes in various towns in the British Isles, as recounted by the BBC news reporters. I sat back in the arm-chair here and just pictured what it must all be like. You know it's going to take us quite a time to fully realise what this VE day means.

I still can't believe that we shall have no more raids, that the lights will come back, and that gradually life is going to return to its peace-time ways.

I wonder how you will celebrate this evening in India. I hope that there will be a general

opt. together with music & singing  
& other jollifications. Pity this  
night could not have been while  
you were aboard ship - cos then  
there'd have been a real bash. Eh?

VE-DAY  
+1

I expect you are wondering how  
I spent VE-evening, and it  
obviously was not the way I had  
imagined!

Out of the blue on Monday came  
a phone call from that American  
doctor that I met at Langley. He  
& another doctor & nurse were on their  
way to London & would I ~~wish~~  
like the idea of dining with them  
on Tuesday in Town.

Well I didn't know what to say.

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After all this time I had completely forgotten the chap & was not sure that I'd enjoy myself. All the same the prospect of a dinner dance appealed to me, cos really the past 6 weeks since you left have been pretty blank as far as fun and life are concerned. So I said yes.

I felt sure you wouldn't mind honey, cos you know where my heart lies, don't you? Repeat - I love you!!  
Little did I dream that I would spend VE. evening in London.

I left in plenty of time last evening, and its just as well I did.

Never in my life have I seen such crowds & I had visions of not

reaching Piccadilly Hotel where I  
was to meet the Mrs. However,  
the crowds were all on the move,  
all the time, and provided one  
was ready to crawl along and go  
with the throng, everything was  
OK.

The comparison between Wellis  
which looked pretty much like any  
other Sunday - and the scene that  
met my eyes at Charing X - is  
unbelievable!!

All traffic had stopped & the  
people had taken over. Every  
colour of the rainbow was in evidence  
& hundreds of thousands of flags were  
waving everywhere. One walked on  
a carpet of paper and the temperature  
must have been over eighty in the

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Shade. It was absolutely exhilarating!

I was afraid that I would not be recognised, but it was O.K. and we were soon all introduced. Dot + Joe,

the other two were engaged, and seemed quite good sports though older than I'd have thought. - Dot over 30, and

Joe over 35; I should say. And quite definitely the two chaps look Jewish. I wondered for a while

whether I was going to enjoy myself & half-wished I'd never come, but as I got to know them, & Joe had made us laugh, the ice began to break & I felt better.

I think half-honda was trying to get in somewhere for dinner, & all were being turned away. But our table was booked so we were among the lucky few.

We dined swined & danced & sang & laughed & generally had a great deal of fun along with a crowd of people who were really letting themselves go. There were medleys of Yankee, British, Irish Russian, & every other nationalities typical songs & everybody sang them all. There was a major, & a Lt. Col. Rot. on the floor who were having the time of their lives. I love to see these skin-faced, dry-witted Englishmen - letting themselves go. No one can equal them when they're out for fun.

There was much cheering when during an interval a Yankee navy Chap produced a huge Stars & Stripes flag & set it up on his table in a Champagne bottle. And not to



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be outdone, a Union Jack was  
soon in view, followed by  
spirited renderings of "Rule Britannia"  
and "Old Glory". Then the flags  
were swapped, and everybody  
cheered all over again. Honestly  
honey, it was a most wonderful  
experience!

I had to break up the party in  
order to catch my train.

Outside, every building was  
flood-lit, & it was a scene to be  
remembered always. Simpsons was  
covered in the flags of all nations,  
people were climbing the lamp-  
standards around Eros, dancing King  
o' Roses around policemen, cheering  
& singing & dancing, and generally  
having the time of their lives.

Fireworks were going off, looks

were blowing, flashlights were to be seen where newspaper cameras were taking photos, and coloured searchlights were weaving their light in & out of the crowds. It was simply wonderful.

All the cinemas in Leicester Square, and all the historic buildings in Trafalgar Square were lit up in floods of different coloured light, and London really looked beautiful.

There were relief trains running, so I did not have to fight my way home. I said goodbye to the others, and thanked them for making it possible for me to have joined in these historic scenes. Little did I ever dream that I would have done! They all go

back today, and their hospital is moving over to the Cashier soon.

You know darling, had we been together we'd have probably stayed on & joined in the dancing in the streets & wandered around, and maybe have spent the early hours of the morning in the Park & come home on a milk train. Oh I do hope you are home before VJ day! We'll have the celebration of our lives.

Dot said she didn't think the Japs would last six months now & we basted to the home coming of all the boys in the Pacific area. She & Joe won't get married until the end of the war, because they would not be kept together

in the hospital as man & wife, so  
they will just stay as they are &  
work together.

Darling I have not had any  
mail since last Friday & it seems  
ages. I do say the post is  
pretty held up because of the  
victory news & celebrations. But  
I had a queer feeling that you  
were under the weather.

I hope not darling. Take  
care of yourself darling, because  
you are all I have in the world,  
and you're very precious to me.

Gosh, I love you more & more  
everyday, and long for the  
moment when you will take me in  
your arms once more.

Clare

25

Colmn. L. H. WESTAUNT.

P/mx. 500221.

Mrs. Braganza.

COASTAL FORCES.

BOMBAY.

INDIA



5

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