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The Office.  
Wednesday.  
23.5.45.

Dearest

Oh it's so lovely to get your letters. They are so neat, I just settle down to read & read when I see that old familiar blue envelope. You're a sweet thing to spend so much time writing to me.

So you have received the first instalment of the £10 - and I trust that by now it has all arrived safely. Another time I shall use the bank - much simpler by far!

And you have also read all about Edgar's illness. Yes,

That first week was a terrible time  
for all of us here at home, and  
though I tried to make my letters  
to you normal I guess it is easy  
to read between the lines when  
two people are as close as we.

I was so sad to think that  
something might happen when you  
were away - because I know  
how fond of each other you & Edgar  
are in your strong, silent way.  
Strangely enough you remembered  
his birthday & hoped the son of a  
gun was O.K. - and afterwards  
you mentioned having a queer feeling  
that things were not quite right  
at home. There really is  
something in this telepathy.

I am very thrilled about

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These carpets you talk about here. I've always felt that Carpets, Curtains & Cushions i.e. the soft furnishings are the making of any home, and you're right when you say that to buy them in India will lighten our load as far as setting-up a home is concerned.

For which carpets here cost the earth - if you can find any that you like. Mostly the stocks are so low that the choice is between the stuff that previous purchases for years have churned down. Certainly the cream of the stocks was sold years ago, and \$100, \$150 & so on is no price

for an Indian carpet. Anyway  
they are so lovely. Remember  
the beauty that Vera & Tim  
had in their dining room at  
Cufley Towers?

I don't know quite what  
your idea is & without a home  
it is difficult to get pinned  
down to details. Big things  
that are to last a lifetime  
much thought should be given  
to their selection I think.

LATER

Well I've been thinking on &  
off all day about carpets & our  
future home design.

I really don't know quite

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whether you mean to buy (a) a rug,  
(b) lots of rugs or (c) all the rugs +  
carpets we need for a full size house,  
so if I talk for the next page or  
so, as though you are a millionaire  
you will forgive me won't you  
honey? If I put down all  
my ideas + then you sift them  
out + see how they fit in with  
your own, will soon be getting at  
a basis to work on, huh?

Bedroom ho. 1. - We have our all-  
over carpet, but I think we should  
have a hearth-rug too. Semi-  
circular ones are rather nice in  
front of a <sup>bedroom</sup> fire, don't you think?  
Something soft with a deep pile  
if possible. I'm afraid that an  
old rose carpet rather cramps one's

style for colour in rugs etc. Biscuit  
Colour with pastel blue or green -  
or grey with pastel shades of blue  
or green go best I think.

Brown or pink colours definitely  
clash.

As to size, our light-oak  
cub is 4' long, and I think  
~~that's~~ that's quite a good size for  
a bedroom hearthrug.

Bedroom no 2 - This I presume  
will be a single size room &  
holenun covered. A rug by the  
bed always makes for cosiness,  
& is nice to step out on in the  
mornig. eh?

Can be any colour combination,  
and I guess the predominant

7/ Shade will set the colour scheme for the room. Thus if you buy one with <sup>say</sup> a turquoise background, the curtains & bed cover will follow suit.

It doesn't matter awfully to me whether the spare room is blue, green, turquoise, old gold or any other soft colour - I leave it to you to see what's going & what you like.

Suggest oblong shape to go beside a divan bed - say 3' x 4' or 3'6" x 4'6", or even longer.

lounge cum dining room. - I

Suppose we will eventually want an all-over carpet for this room dating which should be the piece

de-resistance. And here I think we ought to indulge in those colours that you best like, and which I think are the cosiest for much-lived in rooms - the warm browns, rusts & fawns.

As the room will, I hope, be large (even if our temporary home is small we will eventually have a roomy bungalow) there is plenty of scope, & the carpet can be of any design - all-over, or border, or one-corner design, or what have you. I don't know if all Indian carpets are like the Cifleys, i.e. with border & centre design of one colour on a basic background of another. I always liked the design of the



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lovely deep pile of their carpet - but that ugly, hard, butcher blue colour gives me the creeps.

As to size - our old rose one is 10' x 9'6" - and seems to fit quite well in most rooms. - it could perhaps be a little longer eg. at both Blessington & this flat there is quite a gap at one end of the room. Though I think 9'6" is plenty wide enough. Suggest therefore the size might be 9'6" by 10'6", 11', or even, 11'6".

This room will also need a hearth-rug, and I suggest an oblong one this time, fairly

big as it will have to accommodate both our long legs when we sit on either side of the fireplace. It should I think pick up the darkest colour in the carpet, - it will spend its life in front of a coal fire most probably so to be practicable it should be fairly dark, so if the all-over carpet is of fawnish reds & browns it could very well be a nice chocolate brown.

Size say  $3' \times 4'$  or  $4'6''$ .

Apart from the rooms there are always hallways & landings where one can put small rugs but these could very well be left until much later, unless

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You see any odd bargains I want  
to snap them up. Here again I  
think the fawns & browns are  
the best shades.

Well honey I've rather spread  
myself, & though I've written  
fairly soberly I'm absolutely  
bubbling up inside at the  
thought of really getting down to  
this nest-building.

It's so exciting to sit down  
& work out ideas for things that  
we shall share & enjoy maybe for  
the rest of our lives. And as  
I said before, if you can get  
them out there it will dispose  
of one of our post-war headaches.  
And how!

I suppose this means that you will start haunting the stores and getting ideas & comparing qualities. Or are they so plentiful that you just go & select what you want?

Write & tell me what you think of my ideas, honey, wait you? I'm not very clear about the import license, but you will maybe let me know more about it & I can make some enquiries this end. I've an idea that I have to pay a purchase tax of 66% of the actual cost before I can claim them - but it would certainly be worth while even if the tax is 100%.

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You know, angel, I've so much to say & so many things to talk over with you that I could just sit & write all night. But I feel so tired now it would all be cramped & lack the little humorous bits & pieces that I like to store up & tell to you.

Ever since I've had a pretty busy day at the office - there's no doubt that the end of the European war is causing us a lot of work.

Tomorrow evening I shall sit down & scribble to you all about the latest news, demobbing, home

prospects, coming election &c &c.

Kind if I steal away to bed now, precisely, I can hardly prop my eyes open.

I always go through the same routine at bedtime have - push open the windows to their fullest extent, do ten minutes bending & stretching just to keep the body in trim for your homecoming & then sit on the window-ledge for a few minutes, drinking-in great gulps of the fresh air. Sometimes it is stony & I think of the same sky looking

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down on you, Sometimes there is a full-moon & I make my special wish, sometimes it is raining & there are no heavens, then I just revel in the glorious smell of the grass & trees. In any case I am

dreaming of my darling, for I am tucked in under his mosquito net - because for you the time is then roughly 4.0 am. or 4.30 am. or

Then I say my prayers, and climb into bed feeling completely refreshed & comforted. Do you wonder that I sleep peacefully?

Somehow the idea that you  
are fast asleep when I am  
alone in our room, praying for  
our future & the peace of the  
world, gives me the most  
wonderful sense of protection,  
as though I am watching  
over you.

I wonder if you can understand  
what I mean. I only know  
that it makes me feel very  
happy, & somehow no longer  
lonely & unprotected.

I shall always love you  
dear.

Love



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6 pm. L.H. Wednesday.

P/mx. 500221.

HMS. BRANZANZA

CORSTAL FORCES

BOMBAY.

INDIA

