

The Flat.
Thursday.

Sweetheart Boo! We are once more
in the grip of icy weather. Hardly
it changes from week to week from
heatwaves to frost, & I'm of the
opinion that our old clock of the
weather must have a fever or
cough.

Speaking of weather, I
gather that you are now getting ready
for the rains, and if the film
I saw ~~to~~ weeks about an
air-strip in India is anything
to go by, the skies just open
up & let fall in bucketloads.
As the wisecracker said "It rains
sometimes in California - but
there it knows when to stop."

The dust won't trouble you then
anyway honey - you'll probably
be waist deep in mud! What a
life! I'll be thinking of you honey
& I'll try to cultivate a dry sense
of humor just to bring a little
change.

I laughed at your suggestion
that you'll ask the Captain if he
winds if you go home. You're sweet.

See whiz! life is real, life
is earnest in the office these days
& your wife signs letters, answers
telephone calls, settles queries by
the score & generally plays at
being the busy little executive.
Incidentally, did I tell you that
a Captain came up to me at the
dance last Saturday - and without

3

being formally introduced (quite unheard of in that Office then) - Said "Good Evening". Being a polite young lady he responded in like manner, and he said mysteriously "Ah I see you do not recognise me, but I never forget a face". Then he passed on to his own little group.

Well I was as curious as a Cat - couldn't remember the man from Adam. However, later on we got together again & sorted it out. He is same director in a building firm - Lollhope & Colles, I think - and he had evidently seen me when I worked for Gordon at the War Office. Long memory!

You can bet that having consumed
two Pina's, I took advantage of the
situation to ask what prospects there
were of getting a bungalow in Surrey.
He said he'd see what he could do,
but I expect by now he's completely
forgotten all about it. Still there's
no harm in trying & you never
know your luck. Eh?

I saw H. Hulkes today, and
he wanted to know all about you,
where you were, how you were
doing. &c. &c. We jived for quite
some time & he wishes us both
the best of luck & asked me to
send his regards when I write.
Careless people stop me every day
and I'm afraid that I don't always

remember them in my letter. You're quite a popular guy you know honey.

Now for the recent headline news, as I gather that the weeklies have not yet started to arrive.

Everybody & everything is buzzing with talk on politics due to the coming election in July.

It all started with a proposal by Mr. Churchill that the present Gov. should stand until the Tap war is over. - This the Labour Party would not allow, & much bickering started. The Labour Party wanted an election in the autumn.

However yesterday Mr. Churchill handed in his resignation as he

Thought it impossible to work for
the next five or six months with
dissension in the House. - bad
for the public interest & all that.

Some people are of the opinion that
he has made a wise move, since
they suggest that he will get a
popular vote in an election which
so quickly follows on the recent
victory in Europe.

I don't know. Most people I
have spoken to are all for a
Socialist Govt. He I sit tight
& listen to all the arguments &
read all the speeches - cos I am
ignorant as politics & don't wish
to be prejudiced by other people.

Last evening's paper carried
a speech by Ernest Bevin on

7 Socialist policies. They appear to be all for nationalization. — at the moment the mines and land are the main topics.

I wonder about nationalisation. I will I suppose mean that they will be run by the Govt. i.e. by civil servants, and I wonder if that will be a good thing. I feel that in the civil service there is such a complete lack of competition, of inventiveness, and new ideas, that progress may become cramped.

I know that during the war we have managed to roll out the stuff to equip the forces, and science has really made

great advances, but I wonder if
the Govt. would manage those
achievements in the slow
business of peaceful life.

I shall certainly give a lot
of thought to these things in
the next few weeks hence &
I'll certainly keep you posted
with the electioneering speeches so
that you can make your decision.

2. Demobilisation - This is to
start in June & they hope to
release the first 25 groups by
Xmas. i.e. at the rate of one a
fortnight. (The first 10 will come
out almost immediately.)

This means doing that

9
You should be out early next year,
and I'm keeping my fingers
crossed.

There are also to be releases of
Class B men .ie. those men in
the building & trades. I wonder
if maybe they will include
Civil Servants in this Special
Group in view of the Ministries
that will be set up right away
to deal with Reconstruction,
Town Planning &c.

Whatever happens, my pet I
don't think your stay in India
will last more than a year, and
I'm praying that it will be a
lot less. In any case I am
hoping that you may manage

do they have for 4 weeks leave
in the meantime. Any work
in that direction do you think
honey?

3. Prefabs - Well these are
certainly springing up in small
colonies here & there, but mostly
they appear to be in the heart
of London & in the most blitzed
areas. I don't think any have
been put up Lewisham way at
all. There, I think, they are
erecting temporary two-roomed
huts for the bombed-outs.

However, the policy is
now to restore all houses &
buildings in London to their
pre-war state, & this work, which

Started on 1st April is going on
apace.

I have noticed that along the
railway line between Levensham
& Blackheath ~~that~~ those huge
empty houses like Blessington
are under repair & I wonder if
they are to be converted to self-
contained modern flats.

I certainly intend to go along
to see the Gifford on Saturday
& see what prospects there are.
O.K.?

H. The petrol ration has been
restored, and as from 1st June.
Car owners may start using their
cars again. On Sundays now

garage doors are open & cars are out
on the driveways being overhauled.

So you see honey if you come
home on leave we shall be able to
hire a car & go jay-riding together.
I've had another look at his
car - but it is pretty hopelessly
rusted up I'm afraid.

5 Food cuts. Certain cuts
in food this summer were
announced this week - but they
only amount to a very little
less each - 1oz of fat, 1oz of
bacon less. We are to have
Ed. on our meat ration in corned
beef again this summer, & points
have been decreased, which means
less tinned food.

13

These cuts do not worry me much, since I consider that we can do with less fat ^{or meat} in the summer.

6 ~~Photo~~ PHOTO - Today they announced the secret pipe-line story. Incidentally this is the story of my choir's whose secret I have been busking to tell for 18 months.

It tells how two pipe-lines were laid from Liverpool to Southampton, & to Dover, & then across to Cherbourg & Calais so that petrol could be pumped direct from Liverpool to the forces after D-day. It was a wonderful idea, a wonderful

Feat of engineering skill, and I'm
glad to say all-British. We
certainly have some brains in
this country. I've never been so
proud of being English & a
handover as I have in the past
two weeks.

I rang Vera yesterday & had
a good pie-jaw. Bill is home
now & enjoying 30 days leave. I
hope to meet him on Saturday when
I am going to spend the evening at
Copley Tavern.

I interrupted Vera in the middle
of a make-do-and-mend session,
so I couldn't resist telling her

15. About your button-sewing came.
Roger it seems at 4 marks
is growing into quite a little
manster, & quite definitely takes
after the Cufleys. Susan always
says "allo auntie" down the phone
& then jabbes unintelligibly to
me. I get Vera to interpret after-
wards.

Colin Mack was home a
fortnight ago - I forgot to tell
you - I saw him for a short
while. He was an embarkation
leave & is expecting to go to
West Africa - of all places!

He is looking very much older
than he was, but is still the
same charming boy.

Incidentally Albert's sister Rose's
husband - Jack - has gone back
again to West Africa. Poor chap!
Can you imagine how he must have
felt going back there after a few
short weeks in England & in
civilization. It seems that
Rose is terribly upset about it.

I shall be going down to
see the folks on Sunday & then
I'll be able to give you all
the latest about the family.

You know that Joyce wanted
a baby to see if she could get
released from the A.T.S.? Well
last time I spoke to Don's
she said that Joyce might have

17
fallen for me - as the saying goes.
Rather ironic really, because in
any case she will now be
demobbed in June or July. I
shall know on Sunday whether
it was just a false alarm, or
whether she is indeed on the way
to becoming a mother. I really
cannot imagine our Joyce with a
baby can you? Though she is
very fond of them I know.

I enjoyed reading more about
your journey out darling, and I'm
damned glad that I had no idea
of that sub-scene or I'd probably
have worried myself sick the
whole time. I was really
surprised to read that you felt
cold until after you left Port Said!

Not my idea of cruising in the
Wed.

I can imagine you now, seated
on the verandah of your bungalow
Smoking a cigar, sipping your
hot, and maybe writing home to
your darling.

Hope you have your usual
good weekend at Breach Candy
& Juhu Beach.

Keep smiling, Chickadee,

I love you.

Clare

33



6 | mm. L. H. WESTAWAY.

P/mx. 500221.

Mrs S BRAGANZA.

COASTAL FORCES.

BOMBAY

INDIA