

28/

Bombay

8/6/45.

Darling,

Your last two letters so made me want to discuss things in general that I think I'll utilise most of this space in answering them in detail. They were No. 35 & 36.

Concerning this year demobbing business - I've come to pretty much the same conclusion as you, honey, & I'm not very perturbed by the very pessimistic accounts given out by Naval guys. I think they've got to say something to quieten down any wild hopes we poor sailors might have gathered, & they're also allying in preparation for the time, not far distant, when our lads see their oldies oppos in the same grade some back to Civity St. I have read in an English paper that the Govt. are asking the temporary staff to stay on because of the ~~loss~~ that would result if they left suddenly - that was a small blow to me but I still say that chaps like me will be needed very shortly. Anyway, I'm hanging on cheerfully waiting for the call - if it comes tomorrow I shall not be surprised but will be ready with bag & hammock in a half hour - yes indeed.

The housing problem is a grim one isn't it, sweet? I realise all your difficulties alright & I don't expect you'll be able to get a nitable place just yet. I think it's worth while hanging on for a decent joint - as you've requested, a modern flat, altho' if nothing perfect comes along I guess the next best is just what we want. I'm very surprised to read that people are still living in the shelters - I really thought the situation was better than that. Come to think of it the E war hasn't been over so very long, has it? You say that my letters mention carpets & I readily think that the one in which I notified you of the despatch of I could have reached you

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at the time you wrote - or did it. Trouble is I haven't a record of the date I sent any particular numbered letter altho' I doing that now. I'm eager to hear that they've reached you safely or otherwise, that you have or have not had to pay duty, + more important, that you think they're O.K. Whether or not I buy any more depends on your answers to those 3 questions - I'm not worried so very much about the duty, because, as you remarked, they'll be cheap even at 100%, + if you think they're worth the cash I might as well buy the lot out - here - more variety + I think, better quality. This utility suite business - I agree with you, maybe, that it would be best to buy such a suite - they're at least new + not outrageous in design, they're cheap + it won't be a hardship to chuck 'em out when we can get better stuff, and they'll make good training ground for offspring - Bless 'em all! Poppa's just a copy-cat I'm afraid, wifey dear; you seem to be supplying all the ideas.

Your remark about bringing work home at nights made me chuckle grimly. If you ever catch me doing anything so repulsive, so unimaginative, so noisish, so calculated to destroy the harmony of a home, I give you strict instructions to bat me over the nut with your heaviest rolling pin - such a job will bring me round whereupon I shall immediately pitch the work into the fire. I'll probably mean the gas flue coming on, or something. Bringing work home, indeed! I'll take all my will-power to spare my invaluable time + energy for the allotted 8 hours

us slaves have to give to the system - it'll take an Act of Parliament to make me give up any more. The sorry
you missed bill - all the news sheet had of him so far
is a tale of visits to pubs - jolly good luck to him in all
that, but didn't you also say that there ain't no
beer in town? What does he drink - lemonade?

Doris wrote to me & mentioned that you'd spoken
to her about Mum's gravestone - she explained the position
& I'm prepared to leave it at that & say no more about
it. Regarding Blanche, what can I say? I hope such
meanness does it come as a shock to you, darling, for
I've always tried to paint the members of my family in
their true colours - Blanche has always ranked very low
in my estimation & it is only respect for family ties
that makes me keep in contact with her - it's the same
with Dad. That sort of thing will continually occur,
& that is why I want to keep apart from them as
much as possible - I'll be true to any conventional
obligations & that's all. Our life together is far too
precious to be upset in the slightest degree by other
people's follies, & I regard certain members of my family
as just 'other people' & no more. Regarding Joyce,
I shan't not daring to be so impertinent as to take up
the same attitude as Blanche & Co. I do think
that she's been a little hasty, under the circumstances,
& without knowing the facts, I'd be inclined to say
that there's been a slip-up - but that's purely their own
business & I shall be the first to offer congrats. if & when the
great event happens. As you observe, baby, it's fatal for
those around them to worry Joyce or criticize in any way - that's

a kid with a will of her own + if they pile on the agony too much she'll break with 'em. Tom + Joyce have youth on their side - they'll come through alright, + if there's anything we can do to help we'll do it, eh sweetheart?

The good news of Edg's recovery did a lot to combat the chocca feelings I was getting a week or so back. It's grand to hear that the old lad is back on his feet. Cerebral haemorrhage (I can't look it up), was all wrong then? When I was told that I really thought the worst would happen, (Pres. Roosevelt died of that - did you know?), + for the whole day I didn't speak or smile - I felt pretty low. I'm eager to hear from him but I guess the poor chap hasn't much inclination to write letters. I wonder what he's going to do after he comes out of the R.A.M. - if I were he I'd be very averse to going back to the P.O., a soul-destroying job if there ever was one. He was studying for the Clinical Exam before he joined up + I'm wondering whether the age limit has been raised so that chaps like himself can take up where they left off - it would only be fair + just.

If you'd only received my 19720 on the 29/5 money then the mail to the U.K. is much slower than the other way? A gap of a week's ain't right for I've never let more than 2 days go by between writing to you. With this new paper, + when writing on one side, I'm not sure if ^{now} the amount compares with the old paper altho' I keep going at the same pace for the same time. Do you like it better, pippin? "Words of wisdom + love" eh? I dunno about the wisdom - I just see things a certain way +, in accordance with the old established (chain-hog) practise, I let you know just the way I see it - but the love part is something I can talk about with

authority - I know my mine in that direction. But, being a little stuck for words to describe the mine I looked up the meaning of "love" in the dictionary - it means: - "Tenderness, an affection of the mind caused by that which delights, pre-eminent kindness, benevolence, reverential regard, devoted attachment to one of the opposite sex, the object of affection, the god of love, Cupid, nothing, in billiards & some other games". The last comes as something of an anti-climax, but the rest really covers the field, don't you think? All that & heaven too. Take any meaning you like, darling, or take 'em all if you like, they all apply with all my heart.

Your second letter was a sweet follow-up. I think I'd better say another word or two to amplify & qualify in the matter of bringing you out here, ma honey. I won't stress the need I have for you out here - you'll know just how I feel about that sweetheart, & so I'll comment in a cool, calculating way on the facts as I see them. You are right, sweetie, when you say that I don't want you to endure the heat & resultant hardships - I most definitely do not. You most certainly have the toughness & spirit of any woman - Service or otherwise - but in the first place you wouldn't have the amenities of the Service woman in the Far East to ease your lot - good living quarters, all kinds of protection against the many evils in this city, free & highly-varied entertainment, plenty of company of your own sort, etc. - & secondly, it is a question of being tough, baby, how - a even chance of your health suffering, perhaps permanently, and, more certainly, your constitution being impaired. When you returned to the U.S. the English climate would affect you terribly. Again,

you wrote of a visit to an Indian restaurant in London & said you avoided the more spicy dishes - I assure you, sugar, that even with English-type food the Indian chef cooks it in a manner that would turn your stomach - I have to be very careful what I eat & I reckon to have the Westway Stomach which can take 'most-anything'. Oh I could go on and on telling why I think Bombay is not a suitable place for you, darling - please believe me - I know full well that you will - I should worry my heart out if you were to live here, (incidentally, did I explain in my first letter on the subject that there's no guarantee that I should be allowed to sleep ashore - the Navy is even more heartless out here!). There it is, baby - I'll stick it because I've got to stick it, but knowing what I know now, & given the choice, I certainly would not stay in this place.

I've got your photo safe alright, alright. Oh - sorry - you're looking at me now - no worse not, you're looking just a little to the right of me, but, anyway, you're looking for me - shall we say that - and it makes me go squirming all over. I remember that dress & I remember what's under it & it's a most disturbing remembrance. I lay back & think !!! It's not safe to think too much on these lines - it explains the sudden outbreaks of "Oh Hell!" & similar ejaculations. It explains the restless nights. It explains the overwhelming desire to kick the Navy & all its attachments over the edge of the world. It's all due to my love for you

Deviseefy yours

R.

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received
15.9.45

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