

48 B

The Flat.

Sunday 24.6.45

Dorling

Phew! It's another scorching
& it's really wonderful to shed stockings,
Suspenders-belt & winter woolies for
Summer frocks & little else.

Actually, the Sun is not
shining brightly today - there's too
much cloud about - but the temperature
is still well up in the 70's I
should say. No cracks from you
about the 110°'s in Bombay. I just
cannot imagine heat of that description
and I equally cannot imagine
how you boys can have the energy
& strength to work in engineering
workshops all day. If there are any
medals going for here's then you boys
deserve a row of 'em. And I mean it!

2 I dropped off the train at Havisham yesterday just to have a look around at our old hometown. They certainly caught a packet here all night - but the houses are beginning to look shipshape again - glass in and rooves repaired. Although there are no empty ones or "flat so let" notices about. Still honey I don't despair, as you remark, the E war has only been over a few weeks, and it struck me yesterday that the Govt. found places for all the bombed people to live in, so, as their houses are repaired, and they move back home - their temporary houses will fall vacant.

Our luck has always held out so far & there's no reason to believe we shan't find our lucky stars

3 Shining on us again soon.

I looked around the shops - mainly for a pair of shoes and also for any half-coupon remnants that might make a pretty nightie or undies-set for my new trousseau. Found I was not lucky with either - clothes are still very scarce, but I imagine that by next spring we shall be getting a few more coupons & there may be more decent cloth available.

It was such a heavenly sunny day & I had nothing to pin me down to home. So I took a stroll up Belmont Hill to the Church. It's quite a long pull, but all the evergreens are in blossom & the air was heavy with their perfume & the cool smell of the trees. If you

* remembers, the neighbourhood abounds with Chestnut trees, & they gave the atmosphere a Shady & peaceful quality as they rustled above me. You know, despite the busyness of Henricham the place is most amazingly quiet. Much more so even than Welling. By the bye, your deper wife said they had erected some portals up the top - but ~~yesterday~~ she realised that they were surface shelters! Of all things!

There was a wedding on at the Church as I waited for a bus. heads of the Chaps home from the Middle East and BHA are getting married and most weddings are white and with bridesmaids & all the trimmings. Do you wish Yaid had

a white bride honey? Poor old
 hez. Fancy making ya go through
 the ordeal of a church wedding Eh?
 I'll never forget seeing your white face
 when we met at the altar. It was
 all rather like a dream wasn't it?
 A dream come true for this girl.

I went down to Plumstead
 last evening & saw Joyce & Sam as
 well.

Joyce comes out of the Forces
 on Monday under para 11 i.e. having
 a baby, & she intends to go
 back to hairdressing for a few
 months to make some extra cash.
 She is looking wonderfully fit,
 and they are a really well-suited
 couple. They chip one another all
 the time in that semi-humorous,

6 Semi-loop style that warms my heat. Naturally they are both very thrilled with the idea of baby coming, and Joyce is already knitting little woolies. They have not as yet bought the wool for the shawl, but it will be coming along soon & then I'll be busy. Wow!

Joyce & Lane went out walking & soon after, Don, Alb & I strolled out into the sunshine too. We walked up Chestnut Road to the Common, had a drink in the garden of a pub: next to my old school, & then strolled around as far as the old Globe Cinema & back home. They have done away with most of the grass tennis courts & these are open for people to stroll across or sit down like the rest

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of the common. You remember
Hawthorn Road & the top of Park Rd,
well they were bombed flat &
the Borough are erecting portals
there. And oh they do look
nice, though at the moment they
are being allocated only to families
with two children. Really, however
they would be ideal for us,
until we can get cracking on
our permanent singalaw. They
are off-white in colour, made of
asbestos-cement blocks & look
quite dinky.

Everyone sends very best wishes
to our boy, bless him, & I
think you may soon have an
occasional letter from Joyce & Sam.
Though they said it doesn't matter

If you don't always opt time to answer.

This morning I was a disgrace. I had a pile of magazines given to me by Joyce, and so I sat up in bed reading this morning before rising. There is a copy of Life & another Yankee one which I'll send on to you.

There's something very luxurious about breakfasting in bed, surrounded by magazines, & do you know it was 11.30 am when I came downstairs. Believe me, I'd no idea it was so late, & I had to put in some hard work, washing & dusting etc to make up.

It is now nearly time for lunch & how I wish you could join us. - or better still that I

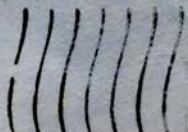
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Could be serving it up in our
new little kitchen, with you
just coming in from a morning
swim with the boys.

We might even be picnicking
somewhere in the country, or
there's even enough breeze around
today to go for a sail. Heaven
is coming our way darling,
& if we can only have the
courage & patience to keep our
eyes on the future, some day
all our dreams will come true,

I love you,

Clare

48B



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H.M.S. BRAQANZA.

CONSTAL FORCES.

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