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Bombay.
3/7/45.

Dearest,

Being a man of few words I must, in the first place record that I love you. In the second place I'd like to pen a few words about this in that - nothing really important. You already stated the most important part of the letter.

Mail continues to be very poor but I did get a batch of papers + clippings today. They do say that election papers on the way to England are holding things up but we I've got my own ideas - the jolly d'Neurons are doing their protest just about now + in my view that these RAF pilots are having a fling in Cairo on their way to Bombay rather than face the wetness. But I'm lucky. Poor old Bob hasn't had a letter from his wife for 3 weeks + George hasn't had one for 10 days! They're fairly cheerful about it, surprisingly enough, + are considering sending their evening spouses a packet of writing paper + ink as a gentle hint.

Had a letter from Pop the other day. Of all things! He suggested - in proper of my telling him that we were looking out for a flat, etc - that we lived with him! As soon as I'd read his letter I sat down + penned a very strong reply - saying, politely, but

firmly that on no account would we live with him. I didn't cast any reflections on him personally, of course. But, in my best-diplomatic manner, I did my best to make him understand that we wanted to be alone & that, in any case, Pleurstead is the last district we'd choose to live in. If he says anything on the matter to you, darling, don't hesitate to tell him definitely that we have other plans, thanks very much.

I've been reading lots of press notices & varied literature on housing, & if we is to believe them, it's going to be all honey when the boys come home. I hope they're right. I wonder if the position is different in our case where the boy isn't home yet but the girl wants to get coaching. Logically they should give us a much priority as anybody else because, due to the war we have no home, & whether we're in England or not is just a matter of luck. However, let's give 'em a chance to make good their promises shall we, & if they do their best for us that's all we can expect. Still in all, I've found it better to rely on one's own efforts in any matter rather than the help offered by an official scheme - there seems to be so much delay about schemes. Witness the scheme for the manufacture of utility furniture for young married couples & bombed out people - if we'd waited for delivery of our furniture we'd have yet been eating off a packing case & sitting on boxes. The only virtue of a Government

Scheme is, usually, the cheapness of its application as compared with private enterprise - but that has only been tested during war time at its peak, & I think that as the firms get into their stride we shall get the benefit of competition. Coming to pre-fabs, there again I'm perfectly certain that the building trade have far better schemes for that type of house than the Government has managed to produce so far - I know that private firms & their architects have cooperated with the Government but, surely, it stands to reason that those firms wouldn't give away all their ideas, but would rather hold back until they can get on the market with a proposition that would the public would prefer in place of a Government pre-fab, in spite of, possibly, a cheaper price. It may well be sweetheart, that our little palace will be of this type, for I've seen some designs that would make your mouth water. We shall see.

I met a brother T.E.O. in the camp tonight - he's in the India Office & we swapped tales. One thing he told me made me prick my ears. He's been out here 6 months & just before he left he visited his old office & saw his Director who told him of a Treasury meeting which was to convene to decide priorities concerning the release of Civil Servants. He was fully convinced that some of us would be out under the B Scheme &

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now, of course, I'm left wandering. He was also told that the C.S. would certainly not expect their employees to take the whole 8, or some, weeks leave under the A scheme & we agreed that the C.S.'s expectations might or might not be realised, depending on how they treated us in the matter of gratuities, leave money & balance of pay. I reckon that I shall be well in need of a vacation after this lot is over, & in addition, we've got a lot of work to do getting ourselves settled. As they've managed without me for 3 years to date I believe they can carry on for a few more weeks after I'm demobbed, (sorry, "This is not a demobbing scheme, it's a reallocation of man-power"), & if they can't, well the country will just have to get to the dogs, that's all.

Mention of "3 years to date" brings back a flood of memories. I can vividly bring to mind my emotions as I entered the gate of Glendower. I'd been travelling all night & was tired, I'd left behind my beloved & was miserable, I had no idea of what I was letting myself in for & was in a state of trepidation. Yet after 2 days I'd settled down, knew where I was, knew what I was going to be, (I hadn't cottoned on ~~to~~ to the M.O. course then), & realised that there was no let-up 'til the end. I

think it was that realisation that made me wish with all my heart & soul that I hadn't been such a blind fool not to marry you a year before. I missed you then with so much feeling that it hurt ("then" doesn't imply that it doesn't hurt now, believe me, baby, it does), & I really went through the usual motions automatically & with an awful sense of frustration. That phase call I had with you was a highlight I shall never forget all my life. I loved you so much, darling, far more than I'd ever loved you before - at least, it seemed that way, but maybe I hadn't had cause to feel so intense about love - Oh I don't know how to explain it, all I know is that from then on to this day I have given you every bit of love that I'm capable of - there is no other human in the world who could possibly claim any of that love, my heart is too busy on your account. It will be that way for evermore.

Your adoring

R

Mr. Arthur

Sebastien

1871

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Welling

Hert-

England

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received
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