

60

Le Plat.

Sunday 15.7.45

Dahip,

You must be fed-up at my forgetfulness, sweetheart. I suddenly realised yesterday that I had omitted ~~my last~~ to number my last few letters. I really am hopeless! However, once more I will make an effort & start again at No. 60. I always date them very carefully, but I realise when I get yours that it is nice & comforting to be able to check up that none are missing. So. I'll try to be an efficient baby in the future honey.

Phew! We had the most terrible storm last night that I have ever experienced in my whole life.

It all started here at about 10.0 pm.

and it went on until early morning.
I'm not exaggerating when I say that it
was worse than the heaviest blitz
night we ever had. It was just as
though thousands of guns were firing
incessantly so that there was hardly
an instant's pause in the lightning
flashes or the rolls of thunder for
hours on end.

We didn't go to bed until
nearly midnight & it wasn't until
I was lying in bed in the semi
darkness of the room that I realised
how brilliant was the lightning. Even
through the curtains I could see it
zig-zagging to earth, and my instinct
was to hide under the bed clothes.

But the stifling heat didn't allow

3/ That do last for long & I kept having
to come up for air. It just went
on & on, and sleep was out of
the question. However I must have
fallen into a doze cos I awoke
to a particularly vicious crack &
thought for a moment that we'd
been struck!

They described it in the papers
today as a storm of tropical intensity
and all I can say is, I hope you
don't get many of 'em your way,
my own. All very disturbing. 's
matter of fact I wonder how you sleep
in that terrific heat, or does it cool
down a bit at night?

And how are you getting along in

the rants d'ohip? Did you take
your blues to a cleaner, and is
the Camp remaining reasonably
negotiable? I've a vague impression
of mud & chaos everywhere. Do
you manage to keep your clothes dry
in the bungalow? I bet that electric
iron has been a godsend.

Today I had all your shoes
cut & rubbed more cream into them.
Must keep them soft & supple ready
for the day you don your civvies
for evermore. Oh boy! The only
pity is that you won't be able to
wear 'em all at once! Your overcoat
is due back from the cleaners this
week, & I hope they've made a good

5 job of it for you, Cos even if you
do go all Swiss & buy one of
those Indian blanket ones. This
faon one will come in handy, and
I am quite fond of seeing you in
it. Remember the days I used to
follow behind it into Carlton House.

So you had a good time at
the dance eh? So sorry I couldn't
get to the Sir C.T. hall in time
else I'd have claimed the first
waltz - seeing as how you couldn't
have honored me with the last.
Bad show you cads! It must have
been fun, darling, and I'm so
glad you had a good time, but I'm

Sorry that I couldn't have been there
to duck you up for the night &
to minister an ice-pack next day.

By the tone of your letter it
seems that you worked off plenty
of repressed spirits, & that's good.
Only wish there could be plenty
more of these do's, Merid certainly
help to keep you lads on top form
until you come home.

Yesterday evening I called down
to see the folks. They are all very
well - though they were languishing
in the heat - it really was stifling!

Joyce is putting on weight now
but looks remarkably fit. She has

7
Taken a hairdressing job for a few
months up here in Wellich. Sam
was home as usual for the weekend
- still stationed in Guildford. Though
he was not looking his usual bright
self owing to the fact that he'd had
some night air. I asked if that
meant he was going away, but it
seems that they are vaccine against
infection brought home by returning
soldiers.

Pop gave me a lovely pair of
Sweet peas & jip - awfully sweet
with the most lovely perfume. He
is very proud of them, & I know
they are very difficult to grow. He
said he'd had a letter from you & is

glad to hear that you are finding life
a trifle more bearable since the rains
came. I hope that is true. Sugar,
he was really very cut up about you
going overseas you know, so I try
to cheer him up about it as much as
I can. We all miss you around
the place, so much, and nobody
ever plays the piano these days.

I was presented with the wool
for the shawl, and I have got
cracking on it right away. Unfortunately
the wool is thicker than that stated
in the pattern, so I had to experiment
& spend an hour in higher maths:
to modify the stitches. Ugh! However
it is OK now & just calls for plenty

2 of hard work. & a strict schedule.
I certainly shan't have time to get
up to any mischief this winter
Sugar plum.

Last night Double British Summer
time came to an end, and I'm
not sorry. Somehow, though it
sounds crazy, that change in the
clock seems to spoil my sleep. And
more important, I believe the former
always objected to it.

Tonight peace-time street lighting
came in force, and here's a lamp
outside the flat simply blazing away
with daylight brilliance. In fact
England is getting back gradually to

pre war standards.

Incidentally I had an interim
reply from the C.S. Commission re
exams - the details will be sent in
due course. Good oh! Eh?

And now my pet my eyes are
threatening to close & catch up on
some of the sleep lost last night to
Woden. (Was he the god of thunder?)

Forgive me if I say night - night
early?

Wai't forget my prayers.

Love you, darling.

Clare

60

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