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The Office  
Friday. 20.7.45.

Sweetheart

I bought the Amateur Photographer this week & found as Joan stated there were quite a number of adverts for sale of cameras. I had a look at them, having a vague idea of what you wanted, but it occurred to me that as there were always plenty advertised I might arrange to send you the adverts by air & you could mark off those that <sup>and return the sheets to me</sup> really interested you. I'd know what to look out for. You might even prefer to answer the advert direct yourself. I should feel rather at sea making an offer for something that I'm completely ignorant on.

There's just one thing though honey. Last evening in the paper it

announced that the quota of films & cameras & other photographic materials produced can now be doubled - from 12½% to 25% of the 1939 production. So you see it looks as though quite a lot more new stuff may become available, and you may decide to wait awhile. Anyhow honey, think it over & let me know & I'll act pronto, or whatever you suggest.

I meant to sit down & write such a long screed to you last evening, & there was a foot-hoot outside the window of the Cufley family, telling me to come to the pictures. Anyway I'll tell you all about it tonight.

Just run to catch the foot now,  
Be with you later, my love,

Clare



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The Flat.  
Friday. 20.7.45.

My darling

Sorry that my other letter today was rather brief, but I wanted to get off that camera stuff early so I stole a quarter of an hour at lunch-time. We are so frantically busy & short of staff still that lunch off for "extraneous" matter hardly seems fair. Still my pet, you'll always come first with me, and if I have a pressing engagement to write Summat to you then the Hops can whistle for me.

I had your number 42 last night (written on 11/7), the first one this week & I just pounced on it, & read it while eating (or pretending to eat)

my dinner. Mum was in, for the first  
time this week & we were going to  
have a quiet evening at home, when  
foot-lick & there was the Cuffey Lord  
& Vera Signalling to me to come to  
the Granada. It happened that I very  
much wanted to see the film - though  
I had really intended to go tonight  
or Saturday night - so I joined  
them in two ticks - and for the  
first time in years had a Swedish  
Seat up in the Circle. "Hoity-toity."  
Mum & I never pay more than 1/9.  
None of this grand style with  
obsequious ushers, rum & cigars for  
us. - just plain old peanuts &  
oranges down in the pit.

It was certainly not the type



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of film I'd persuade my husband to take me to (tch tch) - even Jim said it nearly made him weep. English film called "They Were Sisters", showing the lives & loves of three girl sisters - one of whom marries a brute James Mason, & finally dies a tragic death. (I can almost hear your derisive snort).

It was good - but it lacked sincerity somehow. But I liked to think that maybe our marriage would keep blossoming as happily & as warmly as that <sup>of the</sup> eldest sister & husband. Even after 17 years of life together they still seemed to enjoy one another's company immensely, and found time to be sweet & humorous & tolerant. That's us, eh sweet?

On ~~Wednesday~~ I spent another evening with Muriel & Tessie, Yarnup about this & that. We pottered around the garden, awhile, picking up an occasional apple that had been bathed down by the weekend weather.

And just as I was leaving they presented me with a whole pound of tea. You really are sweet darling. I shall be able to be extravagant in the morning & have a strong, sweet cup as I love it. And I'll drink a toast to our reunion with every cup.

Incidentally there has been more talk in the newspapers about demob. Of course it may only be a newspaper stunt to sell more of the beastly



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rags, but they suggest that the Big Three at the Potsdam Conference this week are working out figures for the forces needed in the Far East & for the Occupation Army in Germany. There is much anxiety for the speed-up of the demob, & the early return to peacetime trades if we are to get the houses & home consumption goods as well as start a good export trade going.

But I've seen some of the working of the changeover in the Ministry & I realise what a tremendous task it is. Incidentally, the branch dealing with closing down of factories & redundancy of war plants is

headed by GOAD - he is a Director  
now - remember him coming in to  
the Ministry & working with Payne?  
His assistant is a chap called  
Masan & I've a feeling you know  
him - was he at one time in D.I.P.  
or D.A.P. Although I've only spoken  
to him on the phone recently, his  
voice recalled him to me vividly.  
Shortish Chap, used to wear a  
brown suit, with a jovial kind of  
manner & nose kind of squashed on  
one side. Not very prepossessing  
by that, but I'm curious to know  
where I met him before.

So return to the old question  
of demob - most people are very



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optimistic about the outcome of the  
 Tap War. Dr Soong - one of the  
 big pots of China (I nearly said  
 Big China pots - teh teh) is stated  
 to have said that he expects it all to  
 be over by Xmas! And that is the  
 general trend of opinion.

Certainly we have been bombing  
 Tokyo non stop for days, & our  
 warships & carriers have been steaming  
 up & down the Tap coast - shelling  
 towns & factories. Without  
 opposition too! Can you imagine  
 our navy allowing that to happen  
 around the British coast!

This week I bought Punch &

hillput I will post 'em all off to  
you. One or two very amusing  
articles in Punch - and one which  
will set you dreaming as it did me -  
by A.P. Herbert describing his demob:  
from the Navy. Hillput has some  
most interesting photographs, by a  
chap who experiments when developing  
negatives - Blumenfeld is the name -  
all the more interesting to you since  
you are just beginning to study  
Camera - work &c.

I don't get very much time for  
reading these days, but I popped  
into the library this week & picked  
up a book by James Thurber, the  
American humorist. I took it to



2 The basis with me, where I lunch  
once or twice a week, and  
must have irritated the other occupant  
of the table by my Sweets & Sweets,  
but it was when I laughed at  
loud that I decided to close the  
book before they had me certified.  
We must get a volume of this man  
for our library honey.

So return to your letter sweetheart.  
I am glad that you are getting  
films in the camp & maybe after  
a bit of practice they will manage  
to get the sound & film to start  
off together with no break down in  
the middle. Yes I remember that  
quartet very well. Hazy memories!

Oh darling that rain. I expect an occasional shower in April when you come home will be all the water you'll ever want to see coming out of the sky. Fancy people enduring that kind of discomfort every year of their lives!

I noted all your notes about pay, honey, and after your rise, the B.C.P. will drop to about £10 a month. As to Income Tax, once the office realises that they are to deduct it all, and if they try to work off the arrears too the B.C.P. will probably be Nil for a few months. Still, rather than be in debt, and anyway rumour hath it that a



new Autumn budget will cut S.T.  
Sane what. I hope so anyway.

So I'm to expect a heat. wearing  
face wearing picture of my hubby  
eh? That's jolly good eh! Can't  
get too many pictures of my old man  
- only I hope the attire is not too  
revealing, angel, cos that's not good  
for a poor, lonely grass widow  
like me.

As for my pin up picture -  
we are going on holiday next  
week & I hope will take some  
snaps in bathing costumes &  
other holiday attire. Maybe I'll  
atshure your old Breach Candy  
Snaps.

By the bye. Did Vera send you  
the snap taken at the Pool - the one  
she lost, which you wanted so  
much? Bill had it & coughed it up  
for you (horrible expression), and you  
should have it by now. I'm not in  
a bathing costume after all.

And now that it's time to say  
goodnight, I can't think of anything  
original to say. But maybe you  
don't necessarily want me to be  
original, but just to say what I  
feel, now and for always;

I love you,

Clark





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11 15AM  
21 JULY  
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62 463

Popmm. L. H. Westaway.

P/mx. 500221.

Mrs. Braganza.

Coastal Forces,  
Bombay.

INDIA.