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Bombay

29/7.

Honorable Baby, let me first of all say I love you & then let me say something about this camera business which seems to be getting a bit complicated. I have your 62 & 63 to hand.

The adverts you sent, honey, show that there are about a million more cameras available in the U.K. than in this place, but they also show that prices are as high as ever. However, the sort of camera I'd like is among 'em & I'd send back a sheet marked with those I'd buy if the price were, say, 10% less - I mark them in order of preference starting with 'I'. All that is for guidance in the event of your spotting a bargain, but I see that new cameras are coming on the market & that makes me hesitate. The "Petina, Kodak, etc" is just the baby, but in peace time its total price would have been about £30-£40 - I'd have been

Satisfied with a less pretentious model of the  
 same camera at £20. Of Kodaks are  
 going ahead with stuff like that again  
 I would, of course, prefer to wait - but  
 how long must I wait? To come back  
 to second-hand cameras, generally speak-  
 ing, for an ever-loving wife in your position,  
 searching for something for an absent,  
 ever-loving husband, it is far better to  
 choose from the stock of a large shop  
 because the assistant selling the camera is  
 less inclined to try & force an unsuitable  
 article on you. For me to try & answer  
 the adverts from this end would be too  
 prolonged a deal so ~~the effort~~ I'll  
 have to rely on you, baby, to watch  
 out on my behalf. To sum up - it'll be  
 useful to scan the adverts to gain some  
 idea of price values & to get used to the  
 technical jargon, (incidentally, you'd be  
 surprised how interesting it is to read  
 up the science of photography - a chapter  
 on light properties opens your eyes to many  
 every-day things unconnected with photography)  
 but I would advise sticking to Wallace  
 Heaton & the like for actual purchase. These  
 firms will also give you an idea of the  
 new model position & you'll be able to

judge the possibilities of getting new before S.H. Of course the variety of cameras is almost infinite + I really sympathise with you in your task honey, but for goodness sake don't worry about it, because if I have to come back cameras less it won't concern me in the slightest - I'm only asking you to look out for me on account of the lovely material for photography in India, + it'll be a wonderful experimental ground for ~~my~~ the type of stuff I want to do.

I don't like that "practically busy - short of staff" talk. Sounds to me that the dear old Ministry are pulling their usual fast one + driving you to the limit. Don't let 'em get you down, honey, + at the slightest sign of strain or over-work I want to read that you've jagged in + told 'em to go to hell. I guess everybody has to work just that little bit harder these days, there's a lot to do, but if they'd only take me back to share a bit of the load I'd say that they're doing their reconstruction job in a sensible manner - as it is, they appear to be running with the Ministry here + the military hounds to the detriment of the few left to carry on.

If you're enjoying the activity, darling, then there's no harm done, but if the end of the day finds you choiced then I go damn-all on it. But I look to your good sense to call a halt at the proper time.

You've dinned right about "They Were Sunk" not being my type of film. These days, unless Betty Grable or somebody like her, figuratively speaking, is presiding, I prefer to sit in the cabin + read a book. I don't think I'll ever get over my prejudice against "heavy" films or plays as entertainment - especially for the troops. I maintain that real life provides enough situations to satisfy anybody's sense of the dramatic, but, ~~from~~ in my experience, real life rarely provides anything approaching the Hollywood musical-comedy film set. Of course, under the right living conditions, I can enjoy a play or film with a good story + acting even tho' it may be called "heavy", because of the superb acting, or the atmosphere of the ~~best~~ theatre + a "right out", or the originality of the problem presented by the play, but by "right living conditions" I mean something vastly different to ~~the~~ my present condition. Today I want I

to see "escapist" stuff more than ever, so do all the boys, yet the Welfare Dept have the infernal cheek to send us stuff like "They Died At Dawn" or "They Fought To the Last Man" or some such tripe - the most entertaining part of those films is the noise made by the lady when the effeminate male actor gives up his life of ease + luxury, leaves his Hedy Lamarr, & declares that he's in Uncle Sam's army because he wants to "get him a Jap". When a British match is offered flamed like that he tears the place down.

I do know Mr. Mason - very well. He's the bloke who gave me my cigar case - if you see him ask him if I ever paid for it + tell him it's now covered with moss + sprouting banana trees, or something. Good is, of course, an old friend of mine, + if you get an opportunity to speak to him mention that I'm the bloke who got those cases in such a state that I'm the only bloke who could clear 'em up. Don't be too obvious - just say, with a tear in your eyes "What's about getting my old man back" - if you care to add an artistic touch you could weep on his shoulder.

About Income Tax, I don't really see what the furo amounts has to do with the Ministry. Surely they'll leave that to be cleared up with the I.T. authorities. I actually filled in an Income Tax form for the Navy last year, but there was evidently a mis-understanding which led to my being untaxed on about £150. I can imagine that we C.S. people have given many headaches to the poor Mr. Bloodsucker - as that Gubbins calls the I.T. collector - but it's all their fault for mucking about. Now the Labour Government is we probably won't have to pay any tax at all - they'll take it out of Lord Nuffield's petty cash box - but you can't rely on such forecasts.

We appear to be labouring ~~at~~ under a misapprehension concerning pin-up photographs, my lovely one - you do, rather. Photographs of beautiful wife in bathing costume + holiday attire by all means, but these are to be in addition to, not in substitute <sup>for</sup>, the studio effect. Snap of glamorous baby in that little blue swimsuit will most certainly make my heart go pitty-pat, & if you care to look

yourself up to an even smaller two piece  
 outfit it'll go pitty-pitty-pat, & from  
 some points of view pitty-pitty-pitty-pat.  
 But that's one thing, & something in the  
 Slinky made-up line is another. Next  
 few, my little lollipop, you're loved a very  
 patient man & provided he realizes you've  
 got the matter in hand he's content to  
 wait until you've got the time, &  
 you're in a thoroughly slikey & sophisticated  
 mood, before you spring along to the  
 most fashionable pin-up photographer in  
 town or ask him or, if you prefer, her to  
 get busy. Concerning me, I should  
 break it to you, sweet, that the group  
 snap, in which I should have been de-  
 picted as Hercules without, about, the  
 fig leaf, has turned out a blank!  
 Bad luck, darling, because I'm sure you'd  
 have liked the effect. If you're thinking  
 that, it's about time I had a studio photo  
 done I must explain that, so far, I've  
 not struck a decent photographer here  
 yet - samples I've seen have been worse  
 than awful - & I think you'd like actual  
 snaps of me better than any studio effect.  
 Ask Muriel Fisher to show you - Oh no,

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it was Geo - ask Eve to show you one he had taken in a studio - you'll see what I mean. I haven't heard anything from Vera, but I'm glad to hear it's coming - & slightly disappointed to hear you're not undressed in it but, there, I loves so jist at much.

I've just returned from a very refreshing shower - it's been beautifully warm all day - & I'm powdered & pyjamaed up ready for bed. We, or at least modest I, have to shower late at night because up to about 8 pm. women labourers are around the place & you'd be surprised at what they get up to in the ordinary way without the incentive of naked white men. Even if they remain impassive it's not quite the thing, is it?

And so to bed. About the time you're thinking about going out, maybe to the cinema, & what I wouldn't give to see going with you is undtainable in the world. Zoo' ni' my precious

I love you so,  
R.



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MARITIME  
SERVICE

Mrs.

~~PERCE~~

~~Wentworth~~

ALL

88(A) Belle Cyrene Rd.

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Kent.

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HA  
Norden  
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