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The Flat.
Thursday. 9.8.45.

Sweetheart

Well the main topic of conversation here this week has been the amazing news of the splitting of the atom. Not only have scientists at last found the secret that has been pursued for years & years, but they have managed to use it in bomb form as Japan.

The energy & heat created by one small bomb were enough to blast out of existence 4 1/2 square miles of an industrial city, and to destroy 250,000 people. It really is the most ghastly weapon ever yet devised by man, and the reports of the damage are beyond all

imagination and description.

People are now wondering what is to happen to this world of ours in the future. It is obvious that we must either live peacefully or look forward to the end of the world. And unless strict control is put upon the knowledge & its uses we shall have the curious & deadly position that any human being can hold the fate of the world in his hands. The possibilities of this discovery are just boundless. We can apparently hope to drive ships, motors, aeroplanes, machinery, in fact anything in the world at speeds unthought of. The heat & light emitted when the actual splitting takes

place as tremendous, and it seems we shall be able to grow tropical plants in our back gardens, and make the most fantastic uses of the discovery.

It just revolutionises the whole of life as we know it now. Frankly, however, I'm ~~not~~ wondering whether it is not something that should have been kept from mankind. And yet we must progress, - life just seems to consist of passing from knowledge to knowledge - we just cannot stand still. Somehow this seems to be something that one has always expected would happen. The inevitable & predestined progression towards the end of this

world of ours. In years to come,
and who knows how many? This
planet will probably become a star.
- will just consist of white heat.
But that is all mere conjecture, and
life will, I expect, go along for a
few more years, changes being
accepted by we humans in our
usual adaptable way.

All the same one wonders whether
it is really necessary to worry
about putting a nest egg by for ^{an} old
age which we may never reach. One
might almost adopt a happy-go-lucky
attitude based on a short life of
a sweet and creed. Yet we will

just go right on as normally as possible - damn zero spirit. - bearing our children, seeing that they get the best possible education & jobs, and leading decent lives because of the inexplicable faith in us all that there is some meaning outside it all.

Serious thoughts eh sweet? how's cartoon tonight put all of my thoughts into picture form.

One thing is certain, the Japs can't possibly last long now - in fact the general belief is that they will capitulate within the next few weeks or even days!

On top of the news of the atomic

bomb came the announcement of
Russia being at war with Japan.
They have now started a 1000-mile
long offensive on the Manchuria
border!

No honey lamb it won't be much
longer, & then home to England for
you all. Certainly that Xmas dinner
date is no myth now, and I must
learn to mix a good plum pudding.
Yum Yum!

What's more, your stay in
that country is likely to be
curtailed (who's sorry?) and we
shall just about get our carpets
home in time eh sweet? I hope

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to see the folks this weekend &
will then enquire what size &
colour Doris & Joyce want their legs
to be.

Poor old legs! I hope you don't
mind us all asking you to shop
for us. - you wouldn't if you
realised how difficult stuff steel is
here at home. Prices show no
inclination to come down, though
I guess we should be thankful
that they do not go up.

Talking of demobbing - were we?
I saw a notice in the paper that
all policemen were to come out under
Class B. That is the first sign of

an 'en bloc' debut arrangement,
and may be paving the way for
a similar announcement re civil
servants. How are two people who
hope so, eh honey? With all
our hearts!

Last evening I spent in a flat
at Blackheath - with one of the
girls from school. - I have lunched
with her occasionally lately & it
was her 25th birthday. Several
of her office chums were there, nice
girls & I laughed at the gossip
& scandal & reminiscences of their
days of evacuation at Bourne Mouth.
It was one of those hen-parties
one reads about - and quite a

⁹ revelation to me - and I can quite see what a fascination there is to this scandal-mongering. I enjoyed myself.

But her flat made me yearn! She has the top floor of a large house in her Park, and the rooms are huge ones. Only sparsely furnished - mostly with utility stuff in light oak - but with a gorgeous carpet in her lounge. You know really we need very little in the way of actual furniture to make a place look good - so long as the soft furnishings are rich. I think we are set on the right road, sweetheart.

Her husband is in India too, and she showed me some lovely shoes that he had sent her - but none of them fit! There lies the danger in buying that kind of thing without a fitting. But as you say they are gorgeous styles. She also had a length of lovely embroidered silk for her birthday. The shoes are all on trees & stuffed with paper in the hopes that they will stretch out. Such a shame!

To return to the flat question. She said that there were any number of similar houses around the district in need of repair, and I intend to keep look out + paste Mrs Gifford and the Catford Town Hall. I think you

" would rather have a flat like that than a parlot in Woodchurch or Plumstead. In any case it will only be a temporary measure, cos I'm quite sure there will be better houses in plenty to choose from in a year or so.

Today I have been collecting for a wedding present for Lily Brent. Remember our hibian! Her fiancee has at last come on leave from the Middle East & they are to be married on Saturday. I was so thrilled to hear the news, because recently Lily has begun to show the signs of strain & she has waited so very long for this happiness.

Cameras I'm afraid after all my planning I was not lucky enough to get the A.P. on Wednesday. Woe is me! I was so disappointed. But today I got Exchange & Mart & wrote off after two cameras immediately.

1. f18. Bessa. F 3.5/22 compur rapid delimor. - 6 rolls film.

2. f6. Ziess Ikonflex. 2 1/4 x 2 1/4 reflex
6.3 Navar. in case.

There were one or two Leicas, but they are definitely out of the question -
Cor!

Don't hold out too much hope darling, because quite often they are sold before the advert even appears. But I'll keep writing after 'em & will strike

lucky sometime.

I reckon we chose the right week for our holiday - it has rained here ever since Sunday. Poor Lini & Vera are not having such a good second week. They are down at Howe Bay for a fortnight, and according to the card I had Lini & Sue spend the whole day in the sea. How that kiddy loves the briney!

Tomorrow evening Gus & Pat are coming over here to the flat & we girls are going to cut out a new frock for Pat. Hope I don't make any mistakes.

And very soon now my angel,
I'm gonna tuck this weary girlie
between the sheets. Before writing to
you I spent an hour turning our rooms
inside out & it looks beautiful now.

Your pipes & tobacco jar are
shining on the chest, and our
yachts still race week & week overhead.

The bookshelves are beside my divan
& your photo smiles at me from
the top shelf.

Gosh how I love you my own
hubby. Can't wait for your
homecoming - - - -

Oo - ooh !

Clara

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