

70.

The Flat.
Monday.
13.8.45.

Dearest

The world still waits for the Sep's final answer, and we are all expecting Peace throughout the world at any hour now.

As I came home this evening the loudspeakers and floodlights were being erected on the Whitehall buildings, and the flag-poles are just waiting to unfurl all the flags of the world again. A great crowd of people had collected at the corner of Downing Street, and I read in the evening paper that the King was at 10.10. anxiously awaiting the news.

Work at the office has been very spasmodic, and we have been on the qui-vive all day awaiting the chance to down tools & pop round to the beach for a quick one. It seems that if no answer was received from the Japs by 5.0 p.m. this afternoon we were going to let 'em have everything we'd got - from two battle fleets steaming along the coast of the Jap mainland & from all the atom-bomb carrying planes in the Pacific. So I don't think it'll be long now.

Of course the main topic of conversation now is - how long will they take to demob. The boys?

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Wild rumors go around, but I
certainly don't think we would be
over optimistic to count on your
ticket arriving this side of Anas.
And especially was I glad to read
that your mob is not considered
indispensable. Lately the Admiralty
has emphasised that Officers, & more
especially, Engineer Officers would not
come out with their group number &
I was half afraid it might apply
to you too, baby mine.

As it is, I'd better learn how
to cook a Turkey - I know you're
an expert at trussing 'em. huh?
As will be having ^{Xmas} ~~Sunday~~ dinner

at the Westaways with any luck
at all.

Which reminds me. On Saturday
I thought I'd try Mrs. Gifford again.
So I rang up. She was on holiday
but some Chappie was in charge of
the office & he informed me that
repairs to these big houses are going
ahead, & flats becoming available!
How's about that, eh? What's more
he said he had let three that
week & was sorry Mrs. Gifford had
not made a note of my address
so that he could have notified me.
I laid it on thick. Explained

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wed. had a previous flat from that Agency & had been banded out. - that you were expecting demob almost immediately & that we were anxious to get a piece of our own right away. He took all details & promised to write me as soon as he has anything at all.

You can imagine how I felt! Everyone is moaning about accommodation in London now, & Mrs G. certainly painted a dismal picture last time I rang. And here we are, practically fixed up. (Not exact.)

I think we should still keep

our name on lists for prefabs, but
you'll agree I'm sure that the important
thing is to grab a flat so that we
have somewhere we can call our own.
I'm thrilled, and spend my time
now planning how to arrange our
belongings until we can place an
order for some more furniture. I
have not written off for more Utility
points however, Cos they are only
issued to people who have a home
of their own.

But immediately I get an
address of our own I'll stake a
claim & order a dining table, chairs
& sideboard in a hurry?

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I told you that Pat & Dux came over on Friday evening & I cut out a frock for Pat. Bit of a lag because it meant practically making the thing & I spent the whole of Saturday afternoon & Sunday morning on it. But I dropped some very broad hints about how busy I'm gonna be from now on - & hope that Pat will take the hint. Gee. G'v'e loads of needlework of my

own to do, besides concentrating
now on home-making & getting all
your clothes shipshape!

On Saturday evening Muriel Flisch
& I went to a show for which
we booked seats ages ago. Strauss's
Die Ledermans - under the title of
Gay Rosalinda. lovely music,
same good singing & a gay theme
& I enjoyed it very much. We
came out around 9.30 into a
Shaftesbury Ave. packed with people
celebrating unofficially. There were
paper hats, fireworks, people chind-
ing lamp-posts & throngs of people

9 pushing along the roads singing
& dancing & shouting. All good-
natured enjoyment & horse play
& we wandered along watching
everything. The temperature had
risen again & we felt the need
for ice-cream, but there were such
queues everywhere that we finally
did what hundreds of others had
done - bought some lovely eating
apples from a stall & went along
munching them. Hardly elegant,
but who cares in times like these?

Now we looked for you boys.
we stood at the back of Trafalgar
Square & watched the crowd below

dancing the Lambeth Walk. - There
were even some couples dancing &
jiving on the fountains. Great fun.
It would have been heavenly to
join in all the fun if you had
been with me doing - as it is
we just looked on. There was
no floodlighting - but I guess all
that will appear when the official
announcement is made.

I do say you will all have
more jollifications in Bombay this
time too. Have a few pints or
the sugar-pie if you get the chance.
And may your toast be to your
early homecoming & our glorious

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re-union.

They were pleased to see me yesterday at Plumstead & to hear that you were O.K. They are all fine & looking very fit. Joyce is putting on some weight & is knitting all the time. She & Tom still see me another every weekend & are trying to find some rooms in Pauper. I'm afraid that with a baby they will have a job to get fixed up. But I told Jay not to worry - things always turn out right in the end.

Pop honored me by picking the loveliest rose in his garden for my button-hole. He certainly grows lovely flowers.

I told them about the mats & Don's asked if you would get them 2, size 6' by 3' if possible & in brown, fawn & pink all-over design. She only gave that as a guide - they will be happy with whatever you can manage to buy doing. She also gave me £6 & said if ~~there was~~ ^{they cost} more she will let me have the difference. I will send this cash by the Postal Order method I think, as I have only

¹³ This week's sent same via the Bank
I you might find it a pleasure to
collect at your end.

I had two jiffy letters
from you tonight - 51 & 52 -
and it did my heart good to read
the buoyant spirit between the lines.
One thing well always be able to
say about you, darling, is that
while you were away you were
widered in a long man about
conditions. If there's anything
amusing or interesting at home -
then you seem to find it & write
about it. What's more, one page
of your scribble is enough to put

The wrinkles in my eyes & the
roses in my cheeks. Bless you.

No news of cameras today.

W.H. had nothing to offer again &
I've had no reply yet about those I
wrote about on Thursday. But I

had a note from that photo store
saying that 120 films are 2/6,
plus 6d. postage. So I'm gonna
order 6 tonight, in the hopes that
I'll get them out to you soon
& that you'll be able to borrow a
camera to fit 'em. OK? I

was never more surprised in my life
& still think there must be a catch
in it - unless the old flannel
about hubby in the Navy in the

For East did the trick.

Things are definitely looking up
eh baby?

1946 is going to be the most
wonderful year starting with a lay
holiday with that most heavenly
man I'm in love with - my
husband.

Bye for now sweetheart,

Clara

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Colmn. L.H. Westraoay.

Plm~~x~~ 500001

Mrs. Braganza

Coastal Forces,

BOMBAY

INDIA

