

56.

Bombay.
14.8.45.

Darling,

Two long letters with news, views & whoops from you are very welcome visitors indeed & I like. You bubbled over in 'em didn't you darling? You sweet little angel you. I like the off-hand way you treat the boy-friend question - two little girls in blue just talking 'em as they come as casual as you please, what I'd be interested in is the spicy bit between the time the boys get interested enough to say "what about a lil kiss then" & the "I can only treat you as a sister" ending. How do you find 'em off, baby? I bet Joan enjoyed being one of the belles of the ball. Anyway, I'm glad there were no nasty anti-climaxes to spoil a good time.

So the bloomin' carpets got home at last, have they. About time. It's a great relief to hear that the tax is so low, & a greater relief & thrill to read that you like them, honey. Now that I know you think they're worthwhile I shall

go ahead to buy the big carpet on
the same lines. In view of the mounting
list of people who'd like me to send
them carpets I think I'd better explain
the position as it now stands. I
understand also I haven't yet been to
check things, that we may now send
only one carpet per month & that
only a small one say, 7'x4'. That
concerns uncontrolled purchases from the
shop. To send a larger carpet I
must go to the Customs & get an
~~Export~~ Export license which will
allow the shop to send such a carpet

for me, but I don't know how far I
can go for a crowd of other people. At
the ~~present~~ present I shall concentrate on
getting the large one away at the earliest
possible moment - after that I shall
explore possibilities to get another parcel
~~away~~ of small one away - there must
be a wrangle somewhere. I cannot
promise anybody anything - as you say
darling, we come first, I'm not out
here on a holiday - but if I'm out here
long enough to be able to give time
to the matter I'll do my best for the
rest.

She had a letter from Blanche saying that D. & A. are or were down there for the week-end. It's funny to read those two ribbed talking about Joyce. D. says that B. is a mean old thing & just doesn't want anything to do with poor Red J. now that she's preg. - & B. says that D. scolded poor J. every day & she B. - is doing her best to get her a house & settled in business. Oh blowed if I know, ~~it~~ I wouldn't have us live near either of ~~at~~ them for all the gold in the world. If the Westway Atom were split it would blow up the world.

I shall certainly look out for pig skin gloves for you honey. Funny I haven't thought of them before because I know your own were in absolute rags - well I have to be frank, dear - & the next time I'm round the shops I'll buy if procurable. I shouldn't enclose too much about the brown brocade until you see it - I'd hate for you to have in mind a stinky gown only to be confronted

with material suitable only for walking
up. May not be as bad as that -
just my diffident fancy, I suppose. I
sent you two food parcels last
Thursday, (we now have to be very
careful about keeping them within the
& stipulated 5 1/2 weight - in fact the
Customs have tightened up all round,
the Stinkers) & one in a D.P. with
the very valuable cigar enclosed. If
anybody sees those ~~up~~ unpacked you
may ~~express~~ ^{state} categorically that this
little exile will not, repeat not, send
any ~~more~~ ^{more} to anybody except him-

self. The food too, darling, is for
your use at the flat with, I course,
mother, & is sent for the purpose of
~~keeping~~ ^{helping} you helping keep you as
happy as possible during a lean time
and is meant as some small, very
small, compensation for being apart.
Whilst other people may look hopefully
for a little gash to be given to them
I frown on the idea - their settled
circumstances are home & blessing. We'd
give a lot to be in, & if they want a
share of our few blessings they can
change places any time.

This business of early double proposal has really unsettled the camp, including me, naturally. What on earth will happen to us? There is one other thing honey. What if the C.S. asks, in say, a month for my release under the B scheme - is it worth my while taking it? Remembering that I only get 3 weeks leave under the B, as against 8 wks. plus 4 wks foreign service leave under the A, with pay, & for calculating that my release should come somewhere near the end of the year at the most. I think that eager as I am to be rid of the service & get home to you, I should hesitate to accept a B release. All that leave is going to be very useful to us, baby, & if the C.S. decide to use dictatorial powers & force me back before my leave is up then I'll have all that extra money to draw at about 4% per week. Further under a B scheme release they still have my body in their power to direct at will & I would like to wipe the slate clean when I leave. Probably the matter will

never be raised, but I want a clear
cut decision in my mind in case they
try to rush me or they do all B
releases. It's such an exhilarating
feeling talking about getting out —
after all this time! It's like the
end of a prison sentence — but the
feeling of finality only comes in spasms,
for at all other times we still go about
in our usual aimless fashion not even
troubling to wonder what it's all about
now.

I've had a letter from L.F.4 (A) 5
which says my Income Tax
deductions may only be altered at the
instructions of the I.T. authorities
at Honduras. They've contacted these
people & I take it that in due
course the alteration will be made
— when this will be so, & how much
pback tax we'll have to pay I don't
know but I fear the worst.

It's the thought of getting home to
you that's making me nervous, dearest
— I'm as disappointed as this letter. I love
you so much, sweet, & I miss you so
terribly. Be with you soon... in dreams
& then, a little later — — — ! Beloved
L

Dr. Helise Sevia

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Received
21.8.25