

81

The Flat.
Thursday.
23.8.45.

Angel mine

Well I wonder if spirits are
swimming down a bit in camp, and
you are all beginning to make plans
for the next few months before you
come home. Reaction after excitement
like that is always pretty terrific -
don't I know!! Being one of those
dreadful highly-strung women, I am
always touching the heights & depths,
though I must say that married life
has had the effect of keeping my
emotions on a much more even keel
than before.

On the other hand, I reckon I've

has had the reverse effect on you
ma honey. Just you wait till we
get together again forever & a day
- life will be just perfect.

As to this demob. talk, tonight
on the radio there was more definite
news, and I give it to you for what
its worth, honey, even though it may
be a bit disappointing. if you have
been building hopes too high:-

{ Navy -	list 26 groups out by Xmas
{ Army -	.. 23
{ RAF -	.. 23

It is difficult to estimate, but if
you take the rate of 5 groups a month
then you should get release in Feb.
next, which means that you should

2
said that Country goodbye at the
beginning of the New Year if not
before. I know that you boys
must be happy to be free of the Services
& I'd love to be able to say you'll
be out in a month - but official
wheels grind slowly. You know I
can hardly contain my excitement
these days. Just to be able to count
on starting life with you in a few
months, is enough to raise my temp:
100%.

There's so much planning and
real hard work to get through before
times that the weeks will speed by
→ before we know where we are you'll
be knocking on the door.

One thing I want to do now is
save like billy ho!

Now for 'Makehift' news. I rang
the Agency again today & Mrs Gifford
was back. It seems that the position
re flats is not so rosy as it sounded,
but No. 12 Bessington is being restored
to pre-war condition & redecorated
throughout & will be ready soon for
letting in flats. We, as previous
tenants, have first choice, and I am
having a half-day on Monday to
look the place over - the workmen are
still there.

We can have part or the whole
of either the top floor or the one
below! And now, can...

5. but I've been doing some hard thinking today, and sorting out the advantages & drawbacks.

I hardly think we require a whole floor for our temporary home, do you think? I feel that two large rooms, scullery & use of bath would do us fine. How say you?

If I remember rightly the front of the house faced due north & was very cold & without sunshine - ~~and~~ ^{but} the back rooms looked out on to the garden & got the sun in all day. For this reason I favour the back & feel that the choice lies between Miss Cole's old rooms on the top, or the a/c's on our previous

floor. I have not decided as to
what the rents will be, & do see
the place.

All the foregoing assumes that
you would have no rooted objection
or prejudice to going back to no. 12.
Don't hesitate to let me know,
sweetheart, if you'd rather I tried for
some where else, will you? I don't
think any of the previous tenants
except ourselves will be back - we
certainly shouldn't have Miss Cole
knocking on the door every five
minutes for you to do some odd job
around the house. Let me know
what you think. Wait you darling?

1 I have talked to mum about the move - and she intends to keep the flat as here at Welling. The idea at the moment seems to be that when we move our furniture out, I shall continue to sleep here for awhile until mum can sub-let two rooms, and then I should manage to make the final break fairly easily. Actually mum has not spent many evenings at home lately, so it really is only someone sleeping in the house that she really requires. Things will work out O.K. I'm sure.

One thing is certain, darling, we shall have a home of our own when

you are back in England, and will
be able to come & go as we please.
I think we deserve all the freedom
& joy that's coming to us after this
parting.

I was worried at first about the
parcels & carpets - but since we are
going to still be at Welles you can
continue to address all stuff here as
before.

One reason, apart from the dollars
one, why I want to get a place of
our own, is so that we can get
some more V - furniture & sheets &
blankets - The Powers that be want
allot the necessary permits unless you
have your own place. So, honey

4 Things are really looking up. + up.

I rang Mirel Gischer today and arranged to go to the Regal on Saturday. She has been down with 2-day flu but is better now. She has so far not received a letter since Jim's reactions to the Victory news. I have a pound of tea to take over to her.

Incidentally, sweet, we now have a lovely supply of tea in stock, and I suggest if you want an idea for the next parcel that you replace the tea with sugar. There is apparently going to be a terrific shortage of it this winter. Of course it may be rationed out there, too, but in case it is easy

to procure I make the suggestion. You really are sweet the way you go shopping after pay-day, and I love to hear your accounts of the expeditions into Bambar. Each visit seems to be an adventure & I love to imagine you haggling with the native vendors. As to your cigars, I do not intend to let anyone know anything about 'em.

They are safely tucked away in the cupboard in our bedroom. I might take an occasional sniff at the boxes, but I promise not to smoke any.

I was interested to read about the housing form that you are to fill in. (a) As to district, honey, I agree with you that Newsham, hee

" or Blackheath are ideal. (Bessington
comes under the Catford Town Hall).
I also like Eltham, and they are picking
up quite a number of pre-Labs. - The
only drawback is that we might get
Purstead or Woolwich - since Eltham
is in the Woolwich Boro. Greenwich
Boro' might be worthwhile as an
alternative cos I believe it covers
parts of the Blackheath district.

(b) address of Bessington - 12. B. Rd
S.E. 13. (c) time rented. Feb. 19th '44
- flying bombed 29th June 1944.

Of course I don't know how it
will affect your form if we move
back & you may prefer me to stay
put at Welling for awhile. It is

difficult trying to plan together at
this distance isn't it sweetheart?

Anyway I'll go along & decide
on the place on Monday - in any
case it will be a few weeks before
we can move in - and if you decide
that we should not take the flat then
we'll have no difficulty in letting the
rooms to someone else in our place.
OK?

Glad this letter is rather solid going
ch honey? But I'll finish on a
soft, warm personal note, and tell you
that I am missing you more every
minute, & yearning to have you
near,

I love you, my husband,

Clare

81

Polmn. L.H. Wastenberg.

Pmx. 500221.

Miss Braganza

Central Forces

Bombay

INDIA

