

The Flat.
Friday. 24.8.45.

Dearest Leg

Your 57 to hand this evening, and though I am feeling excessively tired tonight, I must sit down + write a packet.

How you chaps must have been fed up on vs. at the lack of official demonstration! Seems to me that that camp is either one of the forgotten outposts, or else you have a Commander singularly lacking in humanity and common sense. Must have been a damn for you all, but I trust that in the evenings you found the spirit to celebrate in your own ways.

Actually, though, the holiday was not for any of the S.E.A.C. army boys because the Japs went on fighting for several days in Burma, and they treacherously torpedoed an American cruiser when the negotiations were under way! So you see, darling, there are always people worse off than yourself!

The people I could weep for are the women waiting at home now for news of their loved ones who have been Jap prisoners - of - war. Think of it! Some of them have had only one or two postcards in three whole years! And I get fed up

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after only a few days without a letter! Even though we are parked I think we should go down on our knees and thank God that we have come through the horrors of this war safely, and pray for the strength & endurance that will be needed to put the world back into shape again.

I was very sad & disillusioned this evening when I read of the cessation of Lense-Heud, apparently without warning or discussion. It seems hard to think of poor old Britain, who bore the brunt, the air raids, the rationing, and strain, left now with colossal debts in

every country in the world. We
are most probably to have further
cuts in rations - the clothes ration
has already been reduced - and we
will obviously have some years of
austerity and low standard of living.

It leaves me with the feeling that
the world has not learned its lesson.

But my faith in life won't let
me believe that England will suffer
after all she's done for the world -
we may be poor for awhile but we
will gain in character, and somehow
come out on top. It's the old faith
that if you cast your bread upon the
waters it will return an hundredfold.

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Cheese & celery eh sweet? I must say I like that too, and it requires no cooking. Very tasty, very sweet. As it happens I am intending to take cooking classes at the Poly this winter. Don's goes in the afternoon & she tells me that there is a class in the evening also. So get ready to smack your lips over Sole-bonne - fume, and any other luxury you can think up.

I can just imagine you lads dropping in on the early lunch groups & helping their packing. You should pick up quite a few useful hints that way. It's always useful

to learn by others' experiences. And that box of paints sounds super. That is another subject or hobby that I've been toying with the idea of. (tch! tch!). Think I should niche English grammar in the curriculum? Oh h. ?

As to food parcels, darling, we really do very well on our rations because of course we eat out a bit - but if you need ideas, the most useful commodities are ^(a) tinned meat or fish - say Corned beef, Spam, Saltman, cauliflower, (b) dried fruits that can be stewed - such as pomes, figs, peaches or apricots - for when the fresh fruit goes off the market.

7 (c) Sugar which is really like gold-dust these days.

Don't worry about us going short during, because really the cuts that you read about mostly affect manufacturers, and mean that luxuries such as cakes & sweets are shorter. And we've ^{had} so little in the way of cream buns & eclairs etc that we can very well do without em. I certainly have not lost any weight during the war & think we have all been remarkably well looked after.

The end of the war is bringing us loads of work - the words on everybody's lips at the office are "demination", "break clause" "residual

value" etc. The trouble at the moment is that everything is in a state of flux & until they decide which factories are to remain or what production there is lots of talk & little do. However things will sort themselves out soon enough & then will be busy.

It is also rumored that Supply and Aircraft Production are to merge - we have only one Minister between us - and I think will find our Dept will have the clean-up to do for both Ministries. Certainly I think there is little likelihood of cuts in staff for quite awhile.

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I just paused to listen to the Quiz in Mediterranean Henry's ground. Remember that programme? One girl asked by Will Hay "who was the Sailor King?" answered "Neptune", and the audience roared.

It is still good fun & makes enjoyable listening. One Science question concerned the compression of substances. - The answer being that all of a number of things water was the only one that could not be compressed. ~~The~~ Will Hay observed that it only needed someone to write in & point out that this was a mistake as they do compress water in bottles & sell it

as beer!

And now, honey, it is only
about 9.15. but your lil gal is
going to have her Ovaltine & go
to bed cos she's feeling tired. (And
it's not because she's been out on
the razzle). I think it is probably
the results of all the excitement
& keyed up feeling of the past
week.

Sweet dreams darling.

I'll be seeing you.

Clare

And I'll just add that I love
you.

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Polmn. L.H. Westcott.

P/mx. 500201.

Thrs. Braganza.

Central Forces.

Bombay

INDIA.

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