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The Flat.

Tuesday. 28.8.45.

Sweetheart mine

Two letters of yours to answer - 58 959 - and loads of things to tell you. pity I have not a whole evening to devote to you - but it is now 9.0 o'clock, due to the fact that I played tennis in Town this evening & have only just finished eating my supper. I know, I'm a gannet. Been one for a long time. What's more I like being a gannet.

I'll take your two letters over first, and don't they just bring over with joy & blithe spirits these days. huh? Maybe the war needs

had Campin to do with it. Think
so?

I was really glad to read of
your trip into Barbary honey, I agree
with you that a change of scene &
environment makes all the difference
to one's feelings through the next
week of work. I hope that you
will make a point of seeing a show
once a week, cos I know from my
own experience that it helps a lot, and
anyway Saturday evening is always
the loneliest one of the week for me
unless I go out of my way to
do something about it. I don't
stay at home alone on Saturday, I'd
just get the blues.

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So you've bought us another carpet
huh! Nice quilt, honey, and it sounds
absolutely grand! Colour, size just
right & I can see our home is going
to look Super-duper. Three months
time means it should arrive in mid-
November, a nice little birthday present
from you to us. Mavis Sweet.

Do you know, darling, I sent your
Specs. by Air Mail - and it must
be over two months ago. I didn't
register them though, so I doubt if
we could make any claim. I shall
certainly drop in the P.O. tomorrow &
ask them what's about it. You
know it was potty of me not to register

them but I just didn't think one
could register stuff going out of the
country. It's a shame if they've gone
astray, darling, but in any case you
intended to replace 'em when you got
back home, didn't you? Say you did
& I won't feel so badly about being
a dope.

You ask how I felt about having
my photo taken in swimsuit. Well
I felt a date making the appointment ^{on the Monday},
but after a week at the sea I was
used to the state of undress and I
approached the studio ^{on Saturday} & determined not
to be self-conscious.

No. Shameless hussy that I am

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I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of that half-hour. But believe me, a model's life is pretty strenuous, and I concentrated hard all the time. I literally ached when I joined the others - I guess I used muscles that normally lie dormant. I dunno! Another trial is the terrific heat of the studio & the lamps. I can well believe that a day on a film-set could be very wearying.

There were three poses - I have seen the proofs & they are not bad. I had one of each done (I was entitled to three) although there was only one that I really liked - still

I'll put my criticisms in the letter when I send 'em. I've no idea how long they take to print them and the proofs have been returned. I hope it is not too long.

And now for news of flats. Yesterday I went to look at Bessington. Cor! It's in a mess, but the builders are in & they assured me that as soon as the rubbish was cleared out they could start plastering walls & ceilings & putting in window frames. I reckon that there is at least six weeks' work there, but so it is just as well we're not in a tearing hurry to make in.

7 I lingered for a long time
examining the rooms. I had forgotten
how high the windows are at the
top of the house! Only one window
a yard square for each room, and
the ceilings slope right down at
one end. So I came down to
the first floor & lingered there.

The back two rooms are bright
& sunny with huge windows &
with a tiny kitchenette arrangement,
and there is a small fireplace in
each room. They are not as
large as our previous room, unfortunately,
but I think we could make them
very comfortable - one as a bedroom,

and the other as a dining, living
room. Rent 15/- a week. What
do you say sweet? I told Mrs. G.
that I'd like to consult you, and
in view of the fact that the place
won't be habitable for several weeks
she agreed to keep them in reserve for
us.

There are some parlors erected
where those water tanks used to be
(so I wasn't dreaming when I saw
them from the bus) and I asked
Sam Johnson who was gardening there
how to acquire one. He said ~~you~~^{he}
~~had~~ applied to the L.C.C. in 1940 for
a house, and has just moved in.

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I thought it would be a good idea to see the Borough while I was in Lewisham with time to spare so I popped on a bus to the Embassy Road Catford.

I soon realised that we are lucky to have the chance of our flat at Blessington. Quite a crowd were waiting to see the Relocation Bureau having all got there I decided to take my turn. Gee! It's a sordid business! About as bad as being blitzed, and it certainly took me back forcibly to that ghastly day I spent trying to get our stuff moved out after the fly-bomb.

I spoke to a slip of a girl who had a small baby. She & husband & babe live in a small box room, & the smallness of the accommodation is affecting the kiddie's health. Stories like that make me realise one's own luck.

However I finally reached the desk & stated my case.

It seems there are two schemes.

1. Relinquish of Banded out. They find you alternative accommodation while your own place is being repaired & then you are expected to move back.

So, we have no claim there as we have the option to go back to B.

2. Houses for people in inadequate accommodation. This applies to people who are really living in overcrowded areas. And the girl said that you'd never believe some of the stories people tell of the way they live.

I asked what chance we have of getting a portal & produced that looks from the Lower Cleft. It seems that they only let them to couples with children, since there are 2 bedrooms in a portal & they cannot afford to waste any accommodation. Frankly our chance of getting a portal in this Borough seems to be nil,

However the girl said that we might
be lucky elsewhere & the best people
to whom to apply are the L.C.C. •
County Hall. S.E.1. (So that is where
you should send your form darling).
In any case it seems that if we
can hang on until next spring there
should be lots more ^{brick} houses available
as building is going ahead now.

After seeing what I did yesterday
I really think darling that we'd be
wise to take these two rooms at
B. and make the most of them for
a few months after you come home.
I am convinced that the situation

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will have improved vastly by next Spring.

The main thing seems to me to be to get a place of our own and get settled in, and I am sure that you will agree.

Today I went to the Board of Trade & asked about Utility points. The girl said that we could surely have some more now. - The max. number allowed when we applied was 30. points - They gave us 16. The max. now is 60 points - So I have filled in the form & am applying for as many things as I

Can, in order that if they whittle us down we shall still have enough to get dining room table, chair's & sideboard. We have 6 months in which to spend the points when we get 'em, so if there are any gash ones we can talk 'em over together.

As to deliveries of U. Furniture. Jays say 4 weeks, R.A.C.S. say 3 months, Chieseans 2 1/2 months. So it won't take so long this time.

Looks as though we're all set eh dahip? Yippee.

I would have settled down to write all this last evening, but I

Felt ragged out - it was a scorching day - and the sordidness of the scenes I had seen had depressed me. So instead of fortifying myself with a pot of tea, had a wash & brush up & went to see Bob Hope in the Princess & the Pirate.

Funny as could be. I just quaked all the time. Just to look at that man's face brings forth a chuckle in me, and when he's dressed as a bold buccaner in tri-corn hat it's too much.

The film starts off with a pirate scene - and then a notice appears on the screen saying "This is the story

of a cut-throat pirate, feared far &
wide, &c &c. nice & blood-curdling,
and then the face of Bob Hope appears
topped by the apt tri-corn hat &
he says "That's not me folks, I play
a coward & come on late."

I settled down for a real laugh
& came away feeling new & bright.
Certainly if it comes Banbury-way
you should make a point of seeing
it. Great fun.

And now, angel, its way past my
bed-time & I'm gonna toddle off.

I'll be seeing you -----

Love you.

Clare

P.S. I still owe you £2.

LONDON W.C.1
11 5AM
29 AUG
1945



Polym. L.H. Westaway,

Plm. 500221.

Mrs. Braganza.

Central Forces.

Bombay

INDIA

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