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The Flat.
Thursday.

Dearest

Phew! It's been such a
stuffed day, and we've been frantically
busy - sending out terminations +
making enquiries as to the future
prospects of different factories. It's quite
a job! Mr. Farmer had a phone talk
with some of your old pals in DAP
today and Gretty said they were
slightly going mad!

It is definitely more
complicated clearing up a war, than
starting or running one, as far as
the Minister is concerned.

This question of demob is

raising quite a dust. Army men
are distinctly upset at the slow
rate of release & deputations have
been received by the new Minister
of labour. The result seems to be
that Service Dept. are to be chivied
into drawing up definite figures of
their immediate requirements &
redundancies. It certainly looks
as though there will be a speed-up
& that's what the boys, the factories,
& the womenfolk are crying out for.
That's hoping, darling!

You asked me the other day if
I had pressed my best bib-sticker.
Well! I've done better than that as

for as my coat is concerned. - I've bought a new one, and I'll tell you all about it.

As you know I've been hanging on to my coupons for a winter coat & it occurred to me to look around early before the next issue of coupons came along on 1st Sept. My idea was to buy something suitable for the express purpose of greeting the wandering hero on his return to the White Cliffs of Dover. That means you. So I started looking around. In fact I tried on several hundreds of coats during several lunch-hours. One gets used to people saying

\$20, for \$25, but one does expect
something decent at a ghostly price
like that. The cloth & finish
& cut are so amateur in most cases
& I quite despaired, until I went
up to Galleries Lafayette one day
last week.

Here I tried on a couple of coats
& explained to the girl why I
wanted something extra special, and
that I couldn't seem to find anything
worthwhile. Well to cut a long
story short she stated that she
considered a utility fur coat much
better value than any cloth coat &
proceeded to show a few out.

5 Well I used to have a prejudice
against 'em - they all looked so hard,
but these models at G.L. were Super
Skins & I began to waver. Believe
me darling, I pondered for over
half-an-hour in that shop & tried
on about twenty different shapes &
sizes. I pondered, I lingered, I
wondered, & got hot at the thought
of spending \$25 on a coat for me.
Prices really are shocking these days
aren't they? I wished that you
could have been there to make up my
mind. But I finally decided that
I would do no better elsewhere &
chose a nigger brown, beaver lamb,

Coat - it is not quite full-length
- they look ugly on me. - it shows
a couple of inches of the skirt below.
(I suddenly bought it yesterday)
Now that I've got it, I am sure
I've made a good buy & as long
as you don't think you've got a
dreadfully extravagant wife then
everything in the garden is lovely.
I'm sure you'll like it. Afraid I
had to borrow £10 from the bank
but I will put that back tomorrow
when I am paid. And I promise
to go easy for a few months on the
spending.

Well, that's off my chest & I do
hope you think I did right. However,
I'm an awful person for hanging on

1/ do my old things until they drop
off me, but I can't help it, I
just feel guilty when I buy things
for myself. Maybe there's a streak
of meanness in me. Still I assure
you there's nothing mean about this
new coat & will feel proud to
escort me into the Ritziest joint in
town.

This morning I sent off the photos
by air mail & hope they arrive
safely. At the same time I enquired
about the specs - they should have
arrived months ago! I suppose you
couldn't give me an idea of when
I sent them, and also make enquiries

at your end sweet. I intend to
fill in a "delayed or lost packets
form." What a dope not to have
registered 'em! Still I'll know better
another time.

It is surprising how quickly the
days seem to shorten. It gets dark
quite early now & we shall soon
have fires in the grate & long winter
evenings reading or writing, &
listening to the radio. Isn't it
wonderful to think that it isn't a
dream any more. Within a few
months you & I will be stoking
up the fire, stretching out in our
easy chairs, & enjoying a quiet

9 evening at home. I have begun to picture how that flat at B. will look with our carpets & curtains and furniture installed. I do hope they redecorate the place nicely so that it is all fresh & new to move into. Exciting, eh darling?

No honey, I have not bought any more Savings Certificates. Partly because I was never sure that we would not want goodly sums for purchases such as carpets & the camera. I hope to hear this week from you that the £25 arrived safely & also that you have received the £4 in p.o.'s (I still owe you £2 &

will really post it off tomorrow.)

I have never been so broke before.

Came back from holiday & settling
the dentist's bill & then buying
the coat - finances seem all
tangled up at the moment.

Incidentally I wrote a reminder
about our war Damage three weeks
ago & have had no reply as yet.
Mum wrote at the same time & had
to attend an interview yesterday
to agree the amount of her settlement.
She came home highly delighted.
They apparently pay 2 1/2% interest
from the date of the claim until the
date of actual payment. Not bad eh?

" I shall certainly write off again
this weekend & keep worrying 'em until
they interview me.

As to Post War credits honey, I
have asked several people & nobody
seems to have heard for a couple of
years - but apparently the poor I.R.
is just receiving from the Pay-as-You
Earn scheme. Will get it all in
the end, Sweetheart.

One other finance matter - I don't
think the C.S. will take your Prize
Money into account in assessing
Balance of C.P. - I have not asked
Tatford Co. he's hot brand these days
- but I rather imagine that it would

be regarded as a lump sum 'gift' and
not reckonable as pay. For instance
you might find the case of an officer
possibly getting a large sum & having
to work a year or two for nothing
in the C.S. - it doesn't really sound
desirable & my guess is that the
P.M. is all yours. Which would
be jolly good - oh!

I seem to have taken up loads
of room writing about money
matters and not to have spent any
time at all telling you how I
feel. Gee whizz! The thoughts of
having you here this winter keep
me at fever pitch all the time.

I shall just have to swimmer down
soon or I'll never last the course -
and I really want to look and feel
my best when the Great Day arrives.
Pause for a big sigh.

I must confess now, darling, that
after you had gone I schooled myself
into accepting the fact that you'd be
away for two years. Somehow I
couldn't be optimistic about the
Tap war. Distances seemed so great
& the country such a terrible for fighting
though.

Still, it's over now & you boys
will all be home again soon.

And let who will start another
fight - will steer jolly clear of it
eh honey?

Oh there's a good time coming,
it isn't so far away -

Have a trip into Banbury &
maybe a swim tomorrow darling.

I'll be with you in spirit.

I love you.

Love



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