

66.

Bombay.

24/8/45.

Dearest,

Thank you for those kind words contained in your No. 76 - I do try. Yours, my darling, are my constant delight - indeed, they are my only material link with you so what else should they be but the most important part of my life out here? I'm very lucky in being wed to a gal who can write with humour + intelligence + that makes everything in the garden lovely. You'll gather from my saying received 76 today that the mail is very slow - delay has gone up to 10-12 days + I don't like that very much. I guess yours must be the same - its all on account of bad flying conditions. By the way, we're now told that the plane that crashed recently with V.K. mail was carrying letters posted on the 13th-16th of this month - some of it was salvaged but we don't know yet what. Between these dates I wrote nos 56 + 57 to you + two to Harry + Blanche - if you bump into those people will you explain, sweet?

It reads as tho' loneliness need

but the faintest rumour to go hay-wire.
However, was am I to carp + criticise?
If I'd been there I should have been
right in there with 'em + we'd have
milled with the best. I say these
nasty things because I'm still rankling
over our V.S. fiasco - they say that
we're going to get our 2 day's holiday
early next month but what good
is that? Regarding demobbing, I'm
getting pretty choiced with the varying
rumours that fly about here - one day
we're up the next day we're down. Today
we're down because the radio says
that the Minister of Labour "hopes" to get
Group 26 (!) out by the end of the year
- what a difference to the Daily Mirror's
35 out by Xmas. I'd much rather
rely on the gen from the front of all
information, the V.D., + so, dealing,
I'll wait for news from you + disregard
all buzzes that get a little distorted after
a journey of 7,000 miles.

But within myself I still have
great hopes of being away in time to
be in England by Xmas so I should
go ahead with that turkey business.
The only thing is, I ain't so certain

about the tussling. I can't really say with truth that I enjoyed pulling that bird last year, +, being the affluent people that we are, I think I can afford to let the butchers do the dirty work in future. Our butcher is going to enjoy having our trade for, speaking, at any rate, for myself, when I get back & the meat gets rationed. I'm going to be a real garnet for steaks + Westaway Town will need a very large 'pig.

I'm all excited about the flat news. What bad luck we missed to previous three. I'm glad to hear you "laid it on thick" sweet, for a bit of flannel goes a long way if applied at the right time, + I think the pleading sound of a distant woman's voice, (especially when it's your voice, you'll wheedle you), cannot be bettered when it results well after. I've already discussed on flats + pre-fabs - I won't say flats versus pre-fabs because it's obviously a case of being content with what we can get - + you'll know I'd that I'd be happy just to hear that we've got something. I agree that 3 years should see it

over the worst building period & after that we should be able to look around with definite hopes. By that time, too, we shall know what we want & what we can afford, so that the best possible house is ours.

I imagine, baby, that if the flat does not come along in the near future you're going to have a time fitting in all our goods & chattels in one room - so? What will you do with the large carpet? Of course, with your hopes as they are now, we'll be a wee disappointed if, after 3 months, the carpet arrives with no flat to put it in, & I guess our luck is still with us, so we won't dwell on that. By all means order the utility furniture - surely, if you ordered it now, the firm would store it for you? It would save the delay when you move in - remember how long it took before we do they deliver from stock these days? By the way, if the flat or pre-fab has sufficient number of rooms, & we have a spare bedroom to furnish, wouldn't it be as well to order a double bed & use the divan elsewhere? We weren't really satisfied with the two divans together, were we, say, because

the join in the middle made it a bit uncomfortable - how about it?

(Sorry, sweet, - d'opey me - I've just re-read your letter & realise now that we can't get the furniture until we get the flat - tch tch!)

Would you like any curtaining material? I've seen plenty of it in town. If you do let me have the usual details & I'll do the usual things to affect a buy. What's going to happen to that heavy blue curtain stuff that was Blitzed? Can we use it again? I rather liked that material.

I had a letter from Blanche the other day & she said Doris had written to her saying I was "very queer"! I haven't mentioned my late sick spell to them & anyway this would have been much earlier than the bout I reported to you. Where on earth do people get those notions? I hope they didn't worry you with incorrect stories of illness sweet. I'll let you know anytime I feel really under the weather & reports from any other source should be disregarded entirely. Joyce & Tom seem to be orphans of the storm, don't they? Whilst I realise that Blanche's notions are purely

monetary, the youngsters are lucky in having her as a sponsor because she has the capital & the brains to get Joyce into something good if the baby problem can be overcome, & in any case, she'd be a help to get them accommodation. I fear that Doris is apt to consider Joyce in the light of an exploited child - she forgets that Blanche is a business woman, & relation or not she expects a return for her efforts. She shouldn't be under any illusions about Blanche by now.

Er - the mugs. Well I've explained that the next parcel will contain, firstly, a beach rug for us & secondly, a rug (I) for Doris only if regulations permit. If they do not permit I'm afraid she'll have to wait another month, & after that the next parcel will again be for us. If, on the other hand, either regulations permit or, reg. notwithstanding, I "manage" the deal, I can send them two in the next - one in the next & one in the parcel following together with one in each for us. I'm sorry to sound so beastly, (do I?), but Mr. & Mrs. L. Westaway come first all the way. I think I can manage two 6'x3's within the £6 - chals £80 & our 6'x3' cost - £45, so there you ~~are~~ nearly are. The P.O. method is quite O.K.

I should report that the Bank chit has it come through yet, but, as said, the mail is cock-eyed + maybe the Bombay branch hasn't received notification yet.

The film business looks good - to me - or as the Hindu has it, thick hair. (pronounced "Teek hi" - you'll have to get used to that expression - I wouldn't mind betting you'll hear it all over the place as the Leeds come back from India). I can definitely borrow a camera to fit the 120 rolls - a good one too - altho' I agree with you, honey, it ~~does~~ sound too good to be true.

I'm sending off another food parcel tomorrow. One can plaques, two tins Kraft cheese, + a tinned tongue. O.K.? If I send one fortnight from now on ~~the~~ should have a nice little trickle flowing into the flat - I've been thinking that a love gal re-registering in a strange district ain't gonna get too much cash grub. In any case don't forget to save a bit of Kraft cheese for your old man when he comes home - I like that stuff - with celery. Maybe I'm telling you the obvious, anyway, but don't forget, too, to inform the Post Office when you move so that your mail + parcels can be re-directed - surprising the number of people who do forget.

Hint 2 wasteful!

And that leaves me one whole page to devote to just you. I believe you've said before that whenever I write about you, + then these eyes, + that these figure + stuff like that, the general effect is to make you feel on top of the world on account of it does things to your ego, w/ump. Now I don't want you to think, beautiful, that I write all that sort of thing solely to give you hot pants, altho, of course, it's nice to hear that you've got my ideas over. No - all the time I'm writing about Clinical Pulchritude I'm saying to myself ~~that~~ I know CupCake knows all this guff, she ain't blind to what throws back from the mirror, +, lordy-lordy, she's got enough downright evidence that goes for to prove that her personality plus is more than sufficient to make a one-time misogynist bend at the knees + fancy he hears wedding bells in every breath of wind. And so I write concerning your lovely face just because I like to write - it brings your lips much closer. And I write about those famous legs because I know I'm partner to a gal who can stand up to a high wind in skirts knowing that any stage

producer would look twice & get three if the
wind held - it booms my ego. Also I
write about that hip line because I've got
a tricky little rumba tone running through
my mind & it needs a background to sit
it off - I've told you about that hip
movement before, haven't I? And when
I write about the figure in general I'm
doing it to convince myself that there really
is a wonderful Being by the name of
Claire, who stars in all my thoughts and
dreams, & who is mine to have & to hold
whenever I can get the opportunity. Got
the idea, sweetie? I'm not only doing it
to please you, I'm doing it because it's
pretty essential to me - I've just got to
have something to grab onto so's I can
say, yep it didn't all end when I
woke this morning. You expecting
great things of your latest portrait -
are you looking at me in any of your
poses, baby? Yuh, yuh!

Good night, sweetheart. Love from
your Bombay Rajah

Ray

Dr. Active Service

MARITIME

POST OFFICE

Mrs. ~~W. A. Mansing~~

85 (a) Belle Lynne Rd.

Walling

Went

Everland.

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Received 10.9.45