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London.

28/8/45.

Darling,

Y'know, I really ought to be writing to other people tonight - I've been awfully neglectful with my dooty mail just lately & I'll have one helluva time catching up on it. But tonight I feel like writing to you & I think you'll agree with me that now's the best time to write. Why didn't I do some dooty writing last night? - Well, last night I felt like reading, so I read - I will not be a slave to the proprieties & conventions.

I had your 7th today. I take it you had my iddy-biddy 53 - the one with all the germs in it. You must have thought that a fine letter to send to an ever-loving wife - just a page of misery. Still, that's how I felt, & you've just said you want the truth & nothing else but. You haven't yet got the one with the V.S. day drop in it, (I'm writing now as tho' your letter arrive the day after you've written 'em), ^{+ vice versa} else you wouldn't ask me how I spent the occasion. My epistles get better as they progress from

No. 53 + by 55 I'm feeling sufficiently normal
to ask for some money. That money hasn't
arrived yet & now I'm wondering if the
bank expects me to casually stroll down
to Bombay & draw it, altho' how the hell
am I supposed to know if it's arrived
if they don't notify me? I think it would
be as well if you gave them a little job
at Westminster, sweet, unless you hear of
the safe arrival of the Chit in the next
letter from me. I've got the f2 ok.

Next ~~Friday~~ Monday & Tuesday
we are having as a holiday in lieu of the
2 days we missed in U.S. In either
fact I prefer them next week because
all the shops, etc, will be open in Bombay
& I intend to spend the 2 whole days
just browsing round. I want to go to
the Bakhara Palace & bend some more
rough home - then to Whitways to search
for some decent table & bed linen, and
some gloves for you. Then there are one or
two show places in Bombay that I'd
like to inspect such as the Prince of Wales
Museum opposite the Regal which is famed
as a natural history museum - I'd like
to know the name of the snake that's been
chasing me for the past two weeks. I think

too, I'll go into the Rolex place + ask them to clean + regulate my Oyster which has given grand, trouble-free service + deserves a clean-up. (Point of interest, Oyster, when you can get them, cost £19 in Bombay).

The Monsoon has got into the inter-mittent stage now + will gradually improve from now on until the finish is about 5 weeks time. It means a lot to us. We at last have a chance to have a little dhooli out on the line for a short, sunny spell +, at least, we can get the stuff half dry. In my clear-out last Sunday I raked out all my English uniform shirts, etc + gave them a rinse out to clear them of bugs - they're now all dry + washed + put away for the big event. The barge is now beached on underneath the P.O.'s crossed hooks (never thought I'd be in the Navy long enough to get one of them!) + all the work needs to complete the effect of Jack returning from furrin' parts is the row of medals. You'll probably be interested to hear that, in spite of my previous remarks, I have applied

for all the medals due to me - no comments.

I take great umbrage at your insinuation that I'm ever rude to you. Let me tell you, my pet, that in my opinion my conduct towards you has been that of a gentleman throughout. Even when under ~~great stress~~ a barrage of insults concerning my figure, (material which is now denied you), I have never once made the trivial move of administering corrective punishment, merely holding myself in check, masking my feelings under a cloak of badinage. Regarding your appetite, my beloved, there have been times when a grosser person than myself would have pointed out, with perfect truth, that size was quite obviously no indication of the amount of food a person could eat at one sitting, but I have ~~scarcely~~ been content with merely raising my eyebrows, carefully concealing my anxiety that you would, at any moment, burst. I'm sorry to have brought up this matter, my delight, & having done so, I shall return to it no more - hallo! I am reminded of Confucius who says that blessed is he (or she), who asketh for it for he (or she), shall get it.

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Glad to read about Colin - I'll try & locate the Pond if he comes this way. More than glad to read about the lovely snaps that are coming my way - I need 'em all. Glad, too, to see Jimmie looking after you. There was a time when I wouldn't have trusted her in a car with you - a gay old lad, him - but I guess being married he's got some sense of responsibility now. As his wife comes from North Wales I shall have to be very careful how I speak about the Welsh in after years - you know my views on that section of the British Isles!

Must have my little natter about demobbing. George had a letter from an oppo of his in the DER's, (that's the 156 I'd have been in if I'd stayed at Glendower), who's in England, + in Group 29, & he writes that Group 25 have already gone from his base & he expects to be out in 5/6 weeks! Of course when the lads read that in their camp the 21-25's when slightly haywire - they have the feeling that we're forgotten legion & there were more requests than that put in

to see the Captain to ask what's about it.
Actually I don't think it'll be long before
they're away from here, & after that we up
to 35 can sit back & wait for our
Call. Of course, this topic is on our minds
every waking minute of the day & night
- the authorities must realise that for they
continually release small doses of news &
admonishments to the "over optimistic", but
what they don't do, & what they must
do if they are to quieten a rumour which
is daily increasing in volume, is to issue
an official statement telling us all what
our position is & our approximate date of
release. It's not so much the thought of
staying in the Andrew a bit longer that
disturbs us, but the uncertainty of how
long we are to stay in - we cry to the
heavens for real, helpful information.

D'all for tonight, baby. Before I
turn in I want to read a chapter in my
Manual of Photography - I've got an idea
for a pose by you & I want to look up
the techniques. The pose? - it's the effect
I hope to gain when I tell you, with
everything that I've got, that

I love you.
Ker

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