

63.

Bombay.
30/8.

My One & Only, The "Force letter" is a good idea - can't have too much of a good thing no matter what the proverbs say. I use 'em all the time for writing to friends & relations - just gives me enough space.

I reckon I've answered all your queries about V.I. Day, describing etc. Except that I don't think I've explained that there's absolutely no chance at all of my draft going back to the U.K. before each name number is up - (57) I leaving up to be done.

We also had a parcel & newspaper mail in today. The latest paper is dated July 8th! We don't even know who's got into Parliament yet. No specs yet. Did you send them by Air Mail post? If so I think we can write them off - air mail isn't delayed that length of time. If they were sent by ordinary mail there's a chance that they caught a convey going round the Cape & that takes a helluva time to get here.

It sounds as tho' you've had the real
that might have got lost in that place
crack + I'm very relieved. So I
sounded on top of the world, did I?
hence we, those numbers were 54 & 55
+ I was recovering from many weary
meals to the outhouse. Don't know
then I was conscious of being in a
particularly good mood - one of the after
effects of gut ache is depression - but
I guess the news was enough to give
the old sub-conscious a chance to
assert itself & guide my hand to write
more happily than I do.

Don't need to live on burnt toast
+ crisp bacon, (what a way to do
put me on the defensive? - I like
burnt toast + crisp bacon), because
by the time I come home you'll have
enough stuff (Indian) in the larder to
feed me in the grand manner until
you're thoroughly read, marked, &
bound by Beethoven's epic. I only
hope the Customs don't start wondering
how it is that Mrs. Mrs. Whiteway
gets so many food parcels - in any
case I shall walk - or stagger - off.

the boat with a brand new suitecase full of good cuttable & that ~~and~~ alone will fill in the gaps between meals in the best restaurants London can offer & that long, long lounge in the best hotel X town can offer.

The next thing to decide is what X town is going to be. Where would you like to go sweetheart? Do we re-visit the amenities of good old Bournemouth - try a new drill at Torquay - roam around the countryside beginning with a repeat at the White Horse at Dorking, (bet you won't be so dry this time) - rip-roar at Blackpool - rusticate in the World of Kent? Or what? There is a chance, & don't jump at this very angel, that I shall come home a little before the time for my deodding & proceed immediately on indefinite leave - a lot are doing that now. In that case we'll have - leave to do any necessary work in housing - if we have one - or searching - if we haven't, & other chores in connection with our estate after leaving the dear old holiday grounds free. But that is the stuff dreams

are made of.

I haven't got the f25 yet. Yesterday I wrote to the Bombay branch & asked them if your instructions had arrived. I think it would be a wise move to ask your branch if it was sent, what date it was sent, & could a reminder follow it in case it's been lost. It's my opinion that the delay is due to the dilatory nature of Hodge here, because nothing is ever done in a hurry by Indians, & in addition, I believe they expect me to contact them first. My letter will clear that point.

Of course, by now you've gathered that little things like money don't stop this shop-hound from buying a thing he wants. You know I've bought the large carpet. Do let me have your opinion on its size, beloved, & if you imagine it'll be on the small side I'll consider getting a larger one. So really depends on your ideas for the furnishing of a room - whether or not you think that ~~a~~ 9' x 9' can adequately cover a large room if the gash flooring is either parquet, or is.

covered by furniture or small rug.
On the other hand you might like to
consider another large carpet in the
dining room instead of a polished parquetry
floor - personally I prefer a polished
wooden floor but I'm open to any
suggestions.

You won't have to worry about
clothing coupons, baby. If I can't
spare a batch out of 90 for me
honey I'm a poor sort of hubby - I'm
not a poor sort of hubby. I'll try for
a set or two of lingerie in Bombay -
I understand the shops are showing
better quality stuff (told you about
the black market - spending for it, didn't
I?) + I might even get some
black lace! I shall get such
things as shirts, pyjamas, socks etc
for myself out here before I leave so
I shall only need, maybe, a suit
out of the coupons. Hope there won't
be any need for tow pants (?), +
laddered stockings, sugar, + I should
let yourself go in those matters
just before I arrive in the sure
knowledge that you can string old

Faithful for plenty.

I'm glad I settled the camera question for you. Blurred if I've settled it for myself. How about going to Kodaks & flanneling them into putting our name down for the first new model Retines they get? No good? Yes, I don't suppose they'd play back. If they're anything like the Kodak firm out here they'll just not interested - I've been so damned mad with the attendant that I could hear across & about the lot round this case.

Tomorrow's pay day, & after paying my debts I'm gonna borrow some money & nip ashore on Saturday - I fear Dora's money (I had P.O. received O.K.) will, for the present, be utilized other than for buying carpets. Don't tell her that!

Bye for present, sweetly. As the French say - J'attends - or in English,

I love you

R.

Dr. Arthur Silliman

POST MARITIME

1/12. ~~OFFICE~~ NEWARK A.I.L.

88 (A) BELLE GROVE RD.

MILLING

KENT

ENGLAND

13

Received

6.9.45