

75.

Bombay.
25.9.45.

Darling,

I've just filled in & despatched the Housing Form. For people in our area the sections to be filled in are, to say the very least, absolutely ridiculous. The wording is such that if I just followed the instructions implicitly the information would be nebulous. I've had to re-construct the form to allow our case to be presented & I hope they can understand it. I'm not very hopeful that anything will come of it, but in a year, say, they might have a few gash pre-fabs to offer & it might be better for us to move in to one - but I don't think so, do you baby? I've asked that the reply, if any, should be sent to SF(A).

Last night we had a little celebration to speed the death of a comrade of ours - Group 21 & he's

sailing, with various groups up to 25,
at the end of this week. Only another
10 more, honey! The buzz is that they
are sailing on the Mandy which is a
piece of cake for them.

The celebration followed the usual
lines of drinking & singing, but one
usual feature was very unwelcome.
My throat today is in a very poor
state & it'll be a day or two before
I can speak normally. I must
keep away from future orgies - the
precedents now being set aren't very
well for the future for them as likes
such bouts, but there are too many
due to sail before me - my throat
would be useless in a month.

They tell me that the Hornet is
now the Devon Centre for Coastal Forces
& not Chatham. If that's so I call
it jolly good - because Chatham
is the worst place for mates in
England. Did you read a Sunday
Express article ramping about the
lack of accommodation & general poor

living conditions at Chatham? ³ The reporter gave the impression that it was all due to the influx of men due for demobbing, but, of course, the truth is that Chatham has always been the world's worst. It took a newspaper stunt to get Mr. A. J. Alexander & his admirals to intervene personally in a scandal that's been going on for years. Now I read that the Cads have been dispersed - even to "Laughing Waters" which was, in peace time, a very popular road-house just outside Rochester - I've often been there.

I suppose it's too warm to wear your new coat yet, eh sweet? But I bet you're itching to wear it. Don't go saving these things up, sugar, for the Great Day - get used to the feel of glad rags after utility austerity & let me read that you're treated with all the available finery. It won't wear out by the time I get there.

I've got a vivid impression of you in a 3/4 length fur coat. What sort of hat are you wearing with it? Sorry, baby, but I wouldn't dare choose a hat for you out-here altho' they seem to be fairly cheap. But that's a must-not. Got the handbag yet? I do hope it's suitable.

I've got an idea - mind you, I ain't saying I'm right - that you got in a little dig at me in one of your latest letters, you liddle tinker, you. About medals it was. You said something about you'd heard from the gang about my medals. I thought, well really, you might have told your wife, & then I thought, well I thought I did mention something about 'em somewhere, but afterwards I thought, well maybe you didn't say enough. So I propose to give you the low-down. You're entitled to, & have been granted four medals:-
1939/45 Star, the Atlantic Medal, the France & Germany Medal, & the Defence Medal.

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Actually you can't get both the Atlantic and the France & Germany, so the latter is a "clasp" to the former, & is indicated by a rosette on the Atlantic ribbon. I'm likely to have two more, one for service abroad & another for victories, but, of course, they haven't been announced yet.

Have we definitely decided upon Torquay for our holiday, darling? I guess that'll do us, eh? I hope to goodness petrol comes off the ration before next year so that we can hire a car - I don't suppose we shall have bought one by that time. It's a lovely trip down through some of the best scenery in Britain - altho' the section past Struckness & over the Plain might smell somewhat of military exercises. However, even if we can't get petrol for the run down we might be able to get a car in Torquay - perhaps the brochure will tell us that. We'll try & get rooms at the Palm Court Hotel

right in the front - a little snooty, maybe,
but we're all set to put in the Ritz &
What could be better than the Palanquin?
Didn't think we'd be planning vacations
in the New Year a few months back, did
you sweet.

I'm going to try & get a decent frame
for your pin-ups next week-end. The
naked prints, (as cracks intended), are getting
a bit dog-eared & I must protect them.
Besides, they should have a better vantage
point - your legs are much admired, let
me tell you.

A long interlude for a wee bit &
a wee-er drink at the canteen which
means I've got to ration you tonight, my
sweets then sweet. The argument was
all about housing, & I thought of us
& our little flat & our great big
love, & I heard of other people, & I
thought hez you're a lucky man, a
very lucky man, & I hope you keep
a proper sense of humility at the wonder
of it all. Such realisation keeps me
soldiering on, dearest, waiting for the Day
when dreams come true.

At your feet
Les

Dr. Active Service

POST OFFICE **MARITIME**

~~Wednesday~~

882A Belle Grove Rd

Melling

Kent

England.

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Received
2.10.45