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Bombay.

27/9/45

Hallo Beautiful,

Today is a make and mend - could have gone ashore but for the appalling lack of funds. Anyway, it's very pleasant just sitting outside the cabin in the shade of the porch writing to you. Officially the monsoon has ended aka's "Man proposes... etc" - yesterday was all rain, but today is all sun. Tomorrow will be a bit of each -

"Infinite Variety" they name it India - eh?

Before me is your No 95 + I'm pretty mad because I haven't got your No 94 yet! You write about a "gorgeous bag" + I assume you mean the recent handbag I sent you by air mail - the only other one I know of is a rather attractive prostitute. I suppose all the guff is in 94 + that'd better arrive this tea-time, or else. But 95 is nice - - - Sweet.

I've told you all about the 75's
being on the move from here & it's all
very encouraging indeed. "Another 3 months"
we say to ourselves. I await the coming
Governmental announcement following the
military requirement check-up with hopes
of something really sensational from our
viewpoint, & I'll be very disappointed if
that isn't so. Today we mark off the
6th month away from England & we
all agree that the time has flown
very swiftly. How has it seemed your
end, honey? Of course it's not so good
now that we have no work to fill in
the day time - those hours really drag.
But from now on I'm going ashore more
often - I'll budget the money more
carefully next time & I'll be in Bombay
at least twice a week. I want to
get the 75 lbs of foodstuffs stored away
ready for instant drafting. I want to
look around for a snooty travelling
case to bring home. There are several
little articles I want to collect so
that I shan't be caught napping
when my time comes.

No! I wouldn't care to send any kisses by proxy. The boys going home now want more than kisses when they strike the Land of White Women - I doubt very much if you could control the situation. Just you hang on for a little while longer & hubby'll be home to give you all the embracing, etc., you need, & you won't ~~have~~ have to worry about controlling any situation. Anyway I'm the only handsome giant in the camp.

I suppose that when we two start going to the office together we shall have to be very carefully else people will begin to talk. Still, let them talk, what do we care. I should laugh like hell if some stuffed shirt came up to me & said he understood I was a married man & he thought it his duty to tell me how shocked he was with my carrying on with Another Woman. But seriously,

my pet, I must point out that work must come first, & I will not tolerate notes & telephone calls discussing what we will have for dinner that night, nor will I countenance a ~~recking~~ ^{recking} session at my desk. On the other hand, an occasional squeeze in the deserted passage, or a damn good squeeze in the broken-down automatic lift, & similar diversions, are all for the good of moral & understanding between man & wife.

I had many anxious moments awaiting news of the safe arrival of that bag. You'll advise that the packing was frailer than usual with my parcels - (I believe in lashing & lashing) & that was due to the fact that every time I included a scrap of packing paper the postage rose pro rata, only more so. So I compromised, with the idea in mind that the journey would be much shorter than normal & therefore risk of damage was less. I'm glad you think it's a good one, & I'll get you another "jewel" bag before I leave - maybe to bring with me - so that you'll be nicely stocked up.

Having a feminine sort of a mind I realize how appreciative women are of changes in their daily rig-out & in the kiddys to arrange all that. A few more silks, satins & knick-knacks & you'll have to rent the large room to keep all your gear in. Tell you what - Bombay specializes in the sort of jewelry that, I believe, you like - they're sort of flower sprays & such-like ornaments in what is locally known as Bombay Silver - I would it isn't silver but the effect is similar & the designs are quite intricate & 'arty'. I'll get one & send it along as a sample & you can let me know if a few hundred of 'em would space your jewel box. They're quite cheap. I can get bags of earrings, too - I send them along. I want any writing wallets; ordinary wallets & purses; leather goods of any kind; Chinese dresses, jackets, shoes, etc. (you know what I mean - all embroidery, long floppy sleeves, high necks, etc.); utility stockings

(the only kind I can get, unfortunately); fountain pens, cosmetics, (lipstick shades, face powder shades & such, please); to name a few of the obtainable articles that I haven't mentioned before. Time's getting short, see baby?, & if we really need anything that is in short supply in England, or is much cheaper in India, I might as well get it. Leather goods are exceptionally cheap because leather is so plentiful, so if you'd like a tiddly writing wallet, say, I could have a choice of dozens of designs from Rs to Rs 20. I shall be buying a few men's wallets to bring back as souvenir presents & they'll only cost me Rs 1 Rs 8 each! I need a collar box & I'll get that in Bombay.

I think I'd jay in for a while until after tea. 'bye.

After tea a good sunbath
("having a lovely time, wish you were here")
After that a shower & it's supper time.

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After supper a jaw & a couple of visits & blow me if it aint now nearly bed time. But I must just run off a few more lines.

Earlier today I sent you another food parcel - I sent it specially because it contains some candied peel & I thought it might be useful for Xmas. The peel is in a glass jar preserved with some kind of stuff that makes it look mouldy - but I am assured that it's just the preservative. Perhaps there's enough to give Porina a bit, but don't stint your own requirements, baby. Hope it arrives in time.

The missing 94 didn't arrive here with this afternoon's mail - so annoying. I do like to get letters in sequence, but failing that I do like to get 'em.

Since I've mentioned that I propose to vacate in Torquay this coming Dec 25. I've had all sorts of addresses given to me of

country clubs, pubs, eating houses,
a one fellow not-realising, I was
a married man gave me a more lurid
kind of address in a very self-sacrificing
manner. I hear there's a great
shortage of beer down there which had
better be remedied by the time we
arrive else we'll be moving on to a
village in some cider-brewing district.
Now I'm worried about taking dress
clothes - we must do the right thing.
You'll just have to get some really
snappy underwear, not only for my
sake but when you consider the
high tone of Torquay you'll realise
that anybody bursting into the
wrong room in a hotel will expect
to see the very best in lingerie - otherwise
what's the point in bursting into a
wrong room - Notless oblige, darling.

I haven't said I love you in this
letter purposely because I wanted to
see if you'd be able to carry on without
it & take it for granted. Of course, it
naturally, I do love you most desperately
but I'm not going to say it this time.

Ol' Slaps.

On Active Service

MARITIME

POST OFFICE

Mrs. Loz Westbury

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Welling

Kent

England

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Received
5.10.45