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Montsey.

2.10.45

Darling,

Just a few lines hoping you are  
in the best of health as it leaves me  
at present, de-da, de-da. Had your  
96 tonight - it looks as tho' the mail  
takes a regular 8 days to get to  
me which is pretty grim, don't you think?

There's been a new angle to the  
chords. business today. Groups have been  
further grouped into A 0-25. B 25-35.  
C. 35-45. D 45 — . I'm wondering  
why this segregation, & I'm hoping it  
is a prelude to a Govt. announcement  
of quicker release - altho I can't imagine  
that 7 groups will be released at a time.  
Still, we're so apt to think small,  
saying to ourselves that this or that  
can't possibly happen when all the time  
it can happen & does. Frankly, darling,  
I don't like that buzz about Civil  
Servants getting out under Class B —

it's getting much too near a Class A release for me to worry about. 'B' & the more I think of those 2 months' leave the better I like it.

Money? Well I don't know sweet. I get along very nicely now without the prospect of large purchases in view. Even if I live up the bill & spend the limit on food, cinema, canteen, smokes, etc. I still would only need about R50 a month - can't go ashore more than twice a week, see? That leaves a comfortable R110, (R140 since my raise), to play with. I'd much rather think that the cash is piling up at home now, darling, because we've got a pretty full programme & we'll have none to spare - in fact we'll have to borrow. When I drop about lack of money you can say "phooce" because it really is my own silly fault for spending it all at the beginning of the month, altho' in self-defence, I will add that I'm fully aware of the consequences & still get the

maximum pleasure from anything I buy. I want to cut out waste as much as possible from now on - in Bombay it's the easiest thing in the world to buy an article, small or large, at a ~~colossal~~ colossal price & doubtful utility - I was drifting towards that sort of purchase & would have found myself with a case full of "curios" & novelties the sight of which would have undoubtedly shaken me at the dawn of wisdom.

I took stock of the situation at the end of Sept. & this month is to be different. I will continue to buy things for our home, (after consideration as to the price & availability at home), & for yours & my personal use - that's money well spent - but if a vendor offered me a pair of daggers to 'grace' our walks I shall give him the walk. To help me in the next two or three months, honey, I'd like you to give me information on the condition of

the various markets - supply + price - and (this is important), if any of the stuff I send to you is shoddy, worthless, or, generally, no good I want you to tell me right away to prevent a repetition of the same mistake. I shan't be offended at any plain speaking, sweet, because, as I've explained so often, I'm always doubtful about any of the personal stuff I've sent to you. But finally, my precous, let me emphasize that all this guff about not buying anything only applies to the "Present From Bombay" type of article - if you want anything, baby, or if I think you want anything, you'll get it - come to think of it, if you want a brass ash tray with "Present From Bombay" on it I'd get that for you, too, so what the hell have I been writing about?

What's the camera news these days? Jim has had I expect sent him, + he borrowed a camera again,

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+ no doubt, in the next week or so we'll be taking a few snaps of interest to amuse + educate. The snag with camera arrangements at present is that I'm unable to express myself - if I may be so bold as to put it that way - & it's been an unending succession of groups + personnel shots that really don't interest me. I'd like to try something a little more unusual than that. Maybe I will this time. We go to Beach Candy tomorrow afternoon - make + mend - & the camera will go with us.

The evenings are getting fairly cool now, & I like to lie on my bed & think a lot - it's amazing how cool weather awakens the brain. My favorite thinking is, of course, all around & about you, & the first thing to think about is getting out of the Navy & being forever with you. After that mental fit is quite easily

With the general plan of living I find no difficulty at all in arranging what might, years ago, have seemed the impossible. For instance, I often imagine the scene where we & the children pile in the car - maybe some of the gang are there with their children & cars - & away we go to the coast where "Clara" is lying crazily in the mud, or, more dignified, at her mooring. I can imagine a bright large room, with fittings & furniture to match, & a piano around somewhere & a radio gram somewhere else,

comfort & culture landing from everywhere & people in the room to suit. I can visualize nights on the river, at the Ball, by the fireside & in the theatre. I can picture days of work & leisure equally pleasurable blending into an evening of sensual satisfaction at things well done. Weaving through all this & more, I see you at the Godess of us all making life a perfect symphony & making love a real, living thing. Heaven is where you find it.

Lee

Mr Active Service

MARITIME

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