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The flat
Friday.
11th Oct.

Dearest,

I am typing this letter from purely altruistic motives, since I am almost out of stationery and you can get more to the page this way. Besides which it proves to my beloved spouse that the machine still works.

You want the latest news of flats) -we have it. Today I rang Mrs G. and asked the latest. It seems that there is a lot of mess to clear up but it should not take long and I should be able to go along to number 12 in a couple of weeks time and get busy with scrub-brush and pail. I shall go over the floors very thoroughly and get all staining done before I move any furniture in at all. The paint work and walls should look nice, we are very lucky to be going into a freshly decorated place. Tomorrow I have arranged to call in on the gas Co. to see about our cooker, and if there is time I shall see the Electricit people too as I want to make sure that we have a power point in each room. It seems that they are at the moment re-wiring the whole house so I shall catch them on the job. After that the next thing is to measure the windows and buy the curtain rods. With the permit I should manage to get a new pair of curtains for each room, and that will make us four pairs. I have started to repair the blue ones and think I shall be able to disguise the parts that were damaged in the blitz. I shouldn't like to part with them, they are really lovely, besides having memories for us. Altogether darling I'm getting awfully excited about starting our home, and I spend most of my days thinking up plans and picturing how

our things will look when they are all installed. You know, considering how piecemeal all our purchases have been, I think the flat is going to look quite tasteful and I am dying to see the new dining room carpet and rug that are on the way now. Oh Boy!

The wonderful summer weather here still persists and everybody wishes they had some more leave left. My few days I am saving as there are bound to be lots of things to arrange locally in connection with the move for which I shall need to take odd days. Funny, a couple of comedians pattering last evening and one said to the other- "You leave politics out of this old man" and the other said "Well you must admit that since we've had the new Government in we have had some decent weather". Which is so true that the audience chuckled long and loud. For what with strikes, the breakdown of the big three talks, and the thousand and one other problems arising the weather seems the only thing that is going right for us!

Last evening I met sister Joan and we went to the Regal together. Saw Rosalind Russell in "Roughly speaking" and loved every moment of it. Curiously contradictory accounts from people of it. Some were bored to tears and others like we two had a grand time. Story of a woman who marries, has four children, is divorced by her husband and gets along somehow with the most wonderful sense of humour and spirits. Lots of laughs and screamingly funny situations, mingled with tears. Not your cup of tea? Sounds a bit grim but it was so human as to be perfect.

Orders continue to pour in to Joan for clothes and I think she is getting a flourishing business. Shouldn't be at all surprised if she does not finish up with a West-end saloon before she is much older.

She certainly has a wonderful gift both of design and execution, and Frank has enough business acumen for the two of 'em.

I am making steady progress with Joy's shawl, and it is now nearly two feet long. I shall most probably pop down to Plumstead tomorrow evening and let you know all the latest news of the family. It is three weeks since I saw them all.

There was an announcement tonight that the Queen Elizabeth and the Aquitania are to be used as troop transports for British repatriates, and I wonder if you will come home on one of 'em. That would be a luxury trip if you like. And certainly it will ease the transport problem. There are very few Americans about in London now and it is quite noticeable how British servicemen are thronging the streets of Town. I guess there must be loads of our boys on leave from abroad, and when I see happy couples strolling along arm in arm, I say to myself it won't be long now before my own beloved man is home. Oh, won't it be wonderful!

Looking back, darling, I don't know how I have lived without you, I've missed you so much. Six whole months! Hope that love-light is still shining in your eyes, sweetheart, cos I shall be waiting for you with open arms,

adoringly yours,

Clare

Two letters of yours to answer -
nos. 78 and 79.

You appear to have heard the
latest demob. news. And not to be
so sure about things - but I'd like
to point out that groups 1-15
in the Navy were reported to ^{have} been
so small as to be out in one go.
So in effect there ^{will} have only released
about 16 groups in the period
Aug - Dec. I don't know, but
I expect you will be on your
way home by the end of the year
- and demobbed at the end of Jan.
if I'm not mistaken. As to
Class B demob. I don't think there
is a chance of them making a
special point of getting C.S.'s out.
There would be too much danger of

public criticism. I think its a
glitch about the police getting away
with it.

I'm glad you managed to
borrow a camera & get some snaps
at Beach Candy - I look forward
tremendously to any pictures of you
- then I can keep tabs on whether
you look fit and happy. The
Swimming and Sunshine should soon
make up for the weeks of being
cooped up in camp while the rains
were on. The worst part of your
stay in that camp is definitely
over now, darling, and you should
be able have some relaxation and fun
& bring back more pleasant memories.

Your return to England doesn't
seem very far off to me now baby
I bet I shall never get through

all the things I plan to do in
our home before you come along
to join me here.

I had a jinx with Lily Brent
today - her man came home from
Italy after 3 1/2 years and they got
married and had 4 weeks' leave.
He is now back here again to
complete his overseas service. She
said the boys out here had no
idea about the lack of consumer goods
in England & they have returned to
the Middle East with the sole idea
of buying up all the household stuff
they can get.

You mention cutlery, honey. I
certainly haven't looked around much
but I guess the better class stuff
costs the earth just now. However I
believe I can get some of that
stainless stuff for everyday

use fairly cheaply & I thought
of starting off with a half dozen
tea-sps, dessert spoons & forks &
dinner forks. Knives & tins should
be good quality if they are to be
of any use & I wonder if you can
remember any good shops to try.
Canteens I believe are a frightful
price if you can find 'em - but
I will certainly enquire & let
you know.

I'm afraid however that I have
not had a chance to watch the
Camera shops for the last week or
two, but I believe the shops will
have better stocks available when
you come home. In fact I believe
there will be a great improvement
all round here at home by the
beginning of 1946.

It is surprising how the change in
the clock - end of Summer time -
affects me physically. I find myself
tired & ready for bed at 10 p.m. and
wide awake before 6 am!

So, honey, I'm gonna close
down & get between the sheets.
I'm no good at poetry so I'll
just say in prose - you're always
in my heart,

Close

12.16.45

Close to her

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