

107

The Flat.
Tuesday. 10/10/45.

Dearest Kay

I've loads to talk
about tonight so I am getting
down to scribbling right after dinner,
in well-fed & expansive mood.

First & foremost, yesterday
I intended going up to Naples, and
brought a packet of sandwiches
for my lunch so's I'd have bags
of time. Betty rang me up in
the morning and suggested accompanying
me as she too is intent on getting
set up in a home soon - when she
can find a place, that is.

So at 1.0 pm. we

2 were bound for Tottenham Court Road. Aren't these loads of shops stocked with lovely furniture, China & glass etc along that road? Certainly the district for newly-weds to love, and we could spend some happy hours collecting second-hand knick-knacks when we are on leave together darling.

Maples is a gorgeous shop & I wanted to linger around its windows with their lovely settings of rooms. Can get some gorgeous ideas from them.

And so to the V. furniture room.

3

I saw all the types of dining-room furniture that are available, and in my opinion the medium oak is streets ahead of the others in finish & appearance. It looks good, and I'm sure will respond wonderfully to polish & elbow-grease, whereas I think light oak is inclined to get dingy, and the dark oak looks like a stained floor to me.

We had fun going around pulling open drawers and peering into cupboards. Just Betty to find a dud sideboard in which everything was stuck fast - even

* The salesman couldn't open it up.
However he assured us our stuff
would not be like that, and
anyway the drawers only needed
some grease or 'em.

Honestly
, honey, I have looked at lots of
this furniture & I have not seen
such a good finish & execution
anywhere else & I thought it best
not to delay ordering any longer.

So I ordered for us a table,
sideboard & four chairs in medium
oak with brown leather seats. The
I asked whether the seats were
loose & the salesman removed the
seat from the chair to show me.
We all laughed at the ease with

5
which it came out in comparison with Betty's sideboard drawers and the salesman said he'd have to keep that chair handy to show to future customers.

But seriously honey I think our stuff will look most attractive. It will cost about £21 altogether and delivery is expected in about two months. I have arranged that they will send me a card when it is ready, I will then go to the salesrooms examine it before they deliver. I never was satisfied with our Finies stuff. Those book-shelves are a disgrace, and should have been sent back. Co

^b I intend to make sure our dining room stuff is up to standard. - not that I expect it to be anything but first-class from Maples.

Dorling I hope you don't mind, but the payment is cash on delivery. I thought it over, and it seemed to me that as it is only £20, I can save up best part of it from the allowance in two months, and I think we shall get better service than if we had gone locally. Hope that's O.K. with you sweetheart.

That done I felt a weight lifted from my shoulders. I think I shall send along the details of

7
unit values & maybe you could consider what other stuff we might get with our 15 remaining units.

I returned to the office feeling very happy, and received almost immediately a call from Russ who was up on a 36 hour pass. He was interested to hear of the flat & our latest purchase. They, unfortunately, cannot get their points as they have no home.

Anyway I arranged to go over to Eltham to see them all in the evening.

Freddie & Jeannette were there, looking very happy. Fred certainly does not appear to me to have changed

8 a scrap since he's been away, same high colour & big grin - much the same size too. You know he's been swimming a lot lately, and he says he's had an extremely cushy time, plenty to eat and drink & lots of fun. He is on 28 days' leave and then will return to Italy until his demob. comes along in May. He said his brother Tom had bumped into you somewhere abroad.

Did I tell you how he & J. met when he came on leave? It seems that he wrote to say he'd be arriving on Wed. or Thurs. - so J. knowing him to be a cautious lad

9
made sure she was all ready by
Tuesday. She went into Woolwich
to do some shopping & was waiting
at the head of a bus queue in
Green End when she spots the old
man straggling along with all his
kit. He, on his own admission,
was just about to do a sharp left
turn into Dirty Dick's when he
spots his missus. So after 2 1/2
years apart they meet as casually
as that! Nobody said what
happened then, but I bet they forgot
all about queues!

We all retired to the living
room for a couple of drinks and
some laughs over old times. I heard

10
how you & he struggled home after
Jim's bachelor night & thought you
were climbing a steep hill when you
came to Plumstead Bridge. I
dunno! But it sounded fun.
Just think, darling, all the
gang will be home & back in
Civvy Street next Spring! Can
you just imagine the fun that
we shall all have. It'll just be
one long round of pleasure and
happiness. And I reckon you boys
will deserve all of those commodities
that life can hand out after the
hardships & dampers you have all
braved. Bless you.

Pat & Ann have acquired a

11 dog. It seems that it was a very hungry & dirty stray that Hus took pity on & fed & bathed. After that he had a companion for life. It is a most intelligent looking pup, quite large, and a cross between a retriever and dalmatian. Black head, and black and white mottled body - called Lini.

Already Mrs. Huskey & Pat have taught it a few tricks - much to Hus's disgust. A very endearing animal all the same. Hus, like the sweet thing he is, presented me with a package containing Soap and Custard powder. These articles came into the

18. list of 'unobtainables' these days
in England, and will be very useful
when Blessington is under way.
I am, as a matter of fact, trying
to collect a small store of household
goods which keep - so that I don't
have to buy everything at once
when the move comes along.

All things considered however I
think it best if you continue
sending stuff to EEA for a while
longer - I think Mr G. was
probably being a little optimistic
with his dates & I imagine that
it will be a few more weeks before
the furniture van actually delivers
our stuff to no. 12.

When I think that in a few

13 weeks' time I shall be moving,
and shall just settle down in time
for Christmas, which will be
closely followed by your arrival
in the U.K. - it makes our meeting
seem like tomorrow.

I'm afraid however that you
have the irksome business of
waiting. But it won't be long,
how precious, and it is surprising
how quickly the weeks slip by
when you've got your eyes fixed
eagerly on a date in the future.

I'm saving all my love for
you, darling,

And there's tons of it,

Clare

107

17.10.45

Belman. H. H. West
Pm. Addg



Mrs Bagga
Coastal Forces
BOMBAY
INDIA