

109

The Flat.

Sunday. 21. 10. 45.

Dearest one

This is the end of a crowded weekend, and I'm just beginning to get my breath back to tell you all that I've been doing.

On Saturday I was due to go to Cufley Louess for tea, so I set to after lunch to get through some of my weekly chores - did a little washing, ironing & shampooed my hair. I was just having a wash down, preparatory to dressing when Joan walked in with her sister Ann. She had felt choeca & decided

2 to walk over to the flat & stay the night - Frank was to join her later. Pity she never decides beforehand so that I can arrange to be home, as it was, I stayed and played with babe for awhile & had a jaw with kid-sister & finally tore myself away. at about 6. o'clock. Mum had agreed to stay home, while Sean & Frank went off to the films.

I knew how I should be greeted by Vera, and true to form she met me at the door with "Where the hell have you been?" Same old V. Still she had saved me a cuppa in the pot & a sandwich & piece of cake.

3

hen Willard was there, trying
to amuse the kiddies before we
bathed them & put 'em to bed out
of the way. Gee, how they grow!
I put my little finger in Roger's
mouth, & he nearly snapped the end
off - he'd cut five teeth during the
week, and nobody thought to warn
me. Coo!

Well, the children abed, & the
place tidy, we all adjourned to
the Fox where we were to meet
the gang. And my word, what a
gathering of the clans it was! I felt
really sorry for myself without you,
and I longed to have you there
sharing in the fun. But as the

4
Gary said - it won't be many weeks before we are celebrating the return of Wesley to the fold. Last evening the crowd consisted of Freddie + Jeanette, Alex + Pat, Jim + Vera, Bill Cufley + girl-friend Grace, Ken W. + myself, and as we managed to grab ten chairs + two tables during the evening, we took up quite a bit of space + certainly kicked up plenty of noise!

It seems ages since I laughed till the tears ran! But certainly Freddie can put over a story, and he had us all in fits with some of his tales of the days when you were running your Austin Seven.

5

I could just picture you sitting
huge & relaxed in the front with
an itzy-bitzy steering-wheel in
your hands, and frowning at a
man on a push bike who passed
you going up Shooter's Hill. Fun!

Johnnie there's no one like you
anywhere on this earth, and it
seems to me that any story of
fun & laughter told by this grand
collection of lads always has you
at the centre. You're a great guy.
I don't know how you ever came to
pick on an ordinary gal like me
to share your life, it certainly was
my lucky day.

6

Well we laughed & reminisced for a couple of hours. drink which I consumed 7 half-pints of beer! And the lads, innumerable pints! I certainly felt decidedly happy at closing time, and the lads threatened to write & tell my husband about me. I was certainly glad of the car-ride home, and I just fell into bed. Wow!

But, gee, darling that's the time when one just aches to have loving arms around you. I wanted you near to rest my head on your shoulder. Oh, darling, make it soon!

Lee was I thirsty when I woke up today. I guess the smoke & chatter had done their usual job on my throat & I was up & taking tea to the others at 8.0. o'clock. There's nothing like a hot sweet cuppa tea when you need it. Eh?

Afterwards followed the usual scene for breakfast, with everyone milling around in the kitchenette & fussing & playing with bake. I agreed to walk back to the Drive with Joan, & Frank went off to see his people. There was so much to do at the Drive, that I just arrived home by 2.0. o'clock for lunch. Remember how we used to rush back to the flat for Sunday

lunch in bygone days?

I felt like relaxing after dinner, but I thought it time I went to see the folks as it is four weeks since I'd been down.

They were all home, though Joyce & Lou have had colds, and were in bed for an afternoon nap when I arrived. We jived around the fire, pop came in & joined us & we had a cosy evening. Of course, the main topic is when will they be home, and how is the flat coming along.

Pop mentioned your medal ribbons - he's proud of his boys. He has acquired a tabby kitten, for

which I am glad as it will be
company for him, now that he is
at home all day.

Dons gave me the cash for the
negs - £5-0, and thanks you
for being such a good chap in
sending them home. You are
a nice guy, you know, and at
risk of repeating myself I'd say
you're one in a million. I
might even go so far as to add
that I'm crazy about you.

For that kiddly suit ready,
buttons polished & shoes shined.

Wait be love now darling.

Co. I love you.

Clare

109

Polmn. T.H. W. ~~W. H. W.~~

Plm. 500221

Mrs. Brajanga

Coastal forces

BOMBAY

INDIA



Tuesday. 23/10/45.

key men. The more young married couples I bump into, the more I realise the difficulty of finding accommodation in London, and the more thankful I am that we have Blessington. We can at least start from scratch when you come home under our own roof. Poor Joyce & Lou have now no prospects in Pompey. Blanche bought a house which she intended to let out in flatlets & they were counting on having one, but the local borough have requisitioned the place & they haven't a chance against bombed out families with children.

Joyce is quite depressed - thinks she'll see even less ~~about~~ of Tom after

he is demobbed and suggests he stays on in the forces for another year. I told them not to look at the black side - the portals will start rolling off the assembly lines & by the spring the prospect of getting one will be much rosier. I certainly think we, too, should keep pecking away for one.

Dad's I have not yet seen Hall, mainly because there are lots of buzzes passing around & it is obvious that there are moves afoot, so I thought it best to let things stabilize so that Hall will be able to tell us something concrete & not put us off with ifs or buts. The biggest buzz is that all loaned staff are to return to their old Depts. by 31.12. This year, but in cases of extreme pressure of work they

may be held until next March or June.
This certainly indicates a few vacancies
for when you return haven't you?
There are quite a number of loaned
officers in Con 2.

The second buzz is that we are
taking over MAP's work & I think
there is little doubt of this happening
in the next few months. There are
lots of joint appointments at high
level eg. there is only one Minister
& one Secretary for the two Depts.

The third change is that housing
is being taken over by Hops. - I guess
it means all pre-fab housing and
builders' supplies etc. Actually we
have built up an excellent reputation
for good contracts work, costings etc
& are much more efficient than any

of the other Dept's. Contracts branches
I don't see why we should not
take on the supply of goods for every
other Dept, including the Free Service
Dept. Certainly I think centralization
makes for efficiency & keener
competition.

So, honey, I think if we wait
a few weeks there will be some
definite circulars & decisions to
base our questions on. Do you
agree?

As to your reputation, nobody
ever asks after you without saying
"How's the Great Man" - or "The
Admiral." You just naturally stay
in their minds as something big.
What's more Kennedy and Dulles -
if they are still here when you come

back will push your praudian
forward praud. They know your
worth. Yes. There's lots of scope
& possibilities for somebody with
initiative & a keen brain.

By the bye, I sent off a
bankers draft for £10 yesterday darling
& I hope it arrives safely & soon. I
can quite understand you getting through
your cash if prices are anything like
they are here. I just don't know
where it goes! Still we have the
consolation of possessing some tangible
results of our spending, and on the
whole I think we shall have a
pretty complete home to tide us over
until prices drop a bit.

I am glad to learn that you
are buying yourself some clothes -

You'll be sorry next year if you don't buy up as much as you can possibly manage. Things get worse here at home. Shoes are just unobtainable & I'll tell you a story on that subject this evening. - So if you can get yourself some, I advise you to do so. But, make your criterion the most expensive you can get. I never believe in economising on clothes - cheap materials are apt to look that way when worn. So splash out, honey, while you are able to without coupons!!

Sorry, honey, this is a lunch-time effort & I must fly.

More later. Sweet dreams, angel,

Clare

110

Lt. J. H. ...
Mrs. ...
his. ...
Coastal forces.
Bombay.
INDIA



POST EARLY IN THE DAY

