

84.

Bombay.

16.10.45.

Deering,

Now then, that's much better. All mail up-to-date except for G - I don't know where that is.

Don't chastise yourself when you find writing hard going busy - a letter written when one is relaxed & in the mood reads ten times better than one of those must-set-it-away efforts. Just write when you can, & go to the cinema when you can, & visit when you feel like it - in fact do just what you want to do without feeling that everything's a duty. If, as I hope & believe, you want to write me a letter then that's the time to write. That's the way I go about it.

Today is a make 'n mend on account of it's also the Hindu "Koras" - a festival that is taken very seriously indeed. Actually the R.N. aren't very concerned with such holidays as far as

we are concerned, but as all the R.I.H. personnel, & the coolies have jugged in, & as we think that the Hindus have too many damned holidays & have jugged in too, the R.H. have thrown in their hand & said that for all the work we'd do we might as well take the afternoon off. So.

As a very important festival indeed & part of the ritual is throwing goodwill & blessings around to all & sundry. The workshops are decorated a la Xmas, & the tools & machines are coloured paper bound & mysterious markings put on 'em. The High Priest goes around with a bag of red ochre marking all the foreheads of his English pals with appropriate incantations. Special friends ~~has~~ have got garlands around their necks, & if you're extra special you're lashed up to big eels. Today, except for us, the place is deserted & I expect that in all the towns & villages the festivities will go on through the night. All Bombay Hindu shops are shut.

3

To see in your 103 you mention the China & utility position. I think I'll leave that to you, sweet, because out here the utility is of very poor quality & I haven't seen any decent crockery. You can take it that I'll not worry about buying anything in that line in India. How about it in J.K.? Have we still got to soldier along with utility stuff, or have they improved things?

Now that's very good news about the utility furniture coupons. Will the quality coupons run us into a double bed or have we gone into that before? I think you agreed on the assumption that we wouldn't get coupons for a bed, & a non-utility bed was out of this world. Still, as you say, honey, let's get all our gear in first, plus the table, chair & sideboard, & then see what room we have left for other items. I'm all for the maximum comfort tho'.

20 sq yds of lino sounds too large
for one room & too small for two.
Still maybe we can get the extra anyway
if we decided to lino two rooms. Depends
on the state of the floorboards. Perhaps
the kitchenette would need lino being
a messy sort of a place. The Times
Furnishing Co. advertise that all their
stock of lino is reserved for permit
holders & maybe you'd do well there.
Regarding the curtaining, sweet, there
again I'll not buy out here because
I'm not so sure of what is suitable -
not having seen the flat - & that's
another item I'll callously lay on
your body but overburdened shoulder.

Sheets? Well you'll soon be getting
the parcel I sent containing that cheap
pair of single sheets, (sent 4.9.45), &
you can tell me what you think of
em. If 0.12. I can get more - in the
meantime if I see any costly, but
definitely worthwhile, sheets in town
I'll buy them.

No trouble at all about the
rug for mother, sweet - I'm rather of fact

I was about to suggest it myself. But, of course, the old money angle comes into it again - I've only R 40 left to last me this month! However, next pay-day I'll do the necessary, unless you're remittance arrives beforehand

Judging by your remarks about the silk, except, I ain't so happy about the quilting. You were quite right in telling me that it's unsuitable for a dress - I trouble with a man, he ain't got the remotest idea about feminine wear. If I do any more dress material shopping I'll stick to a conservative line - simple printed dress fabric. The cigars had better be good.

Wadjeo mean "dancer of becoming a spoilt wife"! Can't see where the danger comes in - if I want to "spoil" my wife I'll spoil her, & if I find the outcome exceeding the income I'll unspoil her. You know the

value of money alright, my pet, + a
new hat won't change you. Of course,
darling, if you're trying diplomatically
to hide the fact that £2.5 won't
buy a new hat these days then I
can only say that it's tough luck
+ you'd better spend it on ice cream
- but if it will then, bringing all
my legal powers as a husband to
bear, I command you to buy a hat,
+ if you still hesitate, you can send
the money out to me + I'll buy
you one - that ought to make you
change your mind. You're every
right to be patted + fussed over, baby,
for aren't you the loved one of a loved
one? Haven't you had all the rough
spots in this war, + aren't you now
battling against Spartan-like conditions
to give me a decent home to come
back to? And am I not mindful
of all this, + determined to make
our lives as easy as possible in
the future? Well then, buy that
new hat - or else. I mean it!

I

I have a small item of news that might affect my future for good or bad. This base is to turn over to the Indian Navy as from the 1st Dec. That is a fact, but the implications are not quite clear. It might be that the R.M. personnel will be loaned to the R.I.M. Whilst they still remain un-deployable, & each man will trickle home from here. It might mean that the base will be cleared of R.M. men, in which case it is probable that higher groups members will go elsewhere & lower members retained in barracks awaiting draft to U.K. (query: - by 1st Dec will \geq be a high or low groups number?). They are the only two likely alternatives - I don't think the draft will be sent back to the U.K. en bloc - rumours notwithstanding darling, this part of the navy doesn't do that sort of thing. Of the two I think the first will come about, &

we'll be loaned to the R.I.M. for the time being. (It is strongly rumored that the whole of the Navy must leave India by April 1946). That means no rum, (they can have it!), no duty free tobacco (not so good), no haafi, (no loss), BUT Rs 20 a month extra! (no complaints). A lot can happen in the next 6 weeks & the policy might change completely - in any case, whatever they decide, & wherever I may go, I shall still be on my way home in Dec/Jan so I ain't much worried either way.

Oh yes, the snap. Well, being man & wife I really don't see any harm in lending it, altho' the others refused copies to send to their wives - they said it was "wode". We were sunbathing - I was in the mood & the bloke with the camera threatened to snap me. I called him bluff - said I wasn't ashamed of having a beautiful body - & he went ahead & snapped. Jim was slightly disgusted, & the other two

9

rather enjoyed it. I think the Photographers - being Indian, & rather proudish in these matters - have endeavoured to tone the view down a bit, unless my genital organs shine with a brilliant light, but there is still a faint outline - - - - - how? Anyway, that's we having a sunbath & it's jolly good - oh - I bet thousands of people in England would like a chance. Matter of fact - I'm going to have an eight now. Bye for a while, sweetie.

This snap is a perfect picture of the scene unfolded an hour ago - positions & numbers were the same. The chuff is a little bit browner, but, compared to me mainly chuff - it's still on the whitish side. There's no doubt that a course of sun-ray treatment is the thing for skin troubles - my prickly heat, pimples, etc have all disappeared. But none of us can stand it for more than an hour - by that time we're soaking wet with sweat & the

bedding is wet, too. The temperature in the sun is about 130-140°! The vegetation is beginning to look wilted now - won't be long before the landscape is burnt up.

At teatime a few more reliefs arrived for the next lucky ones on the list. These reliefs bring surprises. They tell us they're here to relieve blobs way ahead of their time, (one of 'em is in place of an SF Group man & we still have SFs in the camp - same grade!), & for days afterwards it's merry hell whilst the unlucky ones storm offices, & waylay officers, demanding to know why. Nobody worries very much about anything but going home.

Tonight I'm going to the camp cinema to see Abbott & Costello in "Fort in 40 Acres". I tell you frankly, sweet, I'm going mainly to look ^{at} a few lovely girls - the comedians are secondary considerations. I'm fed up with looking at just black & green all around me, day after day, & a little white pulchritude will do me the world of good. When I get back I don't see how you're ever going to find the time to cook & dress & do ~~at~~ other

normal chores about the place for I shall
 be a ravenous wolf & I'll howl if I don't
 get my own way. It's a good job you're
 of the same mind, my one & only, because
 it would be too hard ^{you considered} if checking, petting
 & other indoor sports to be for adolescents
 only. Will the chair stand up to it?

Or have I got to drag you into the bedroom
 every time. Honestly, darling, I've got
 ants in my pants & you're the only cure.
 I shall be ten times worse after the flicka
 tonight & then my thoughts will be
 somewhat turbulent - to say the very least.

I've got a job or two to do &
 so I'll cease for today. I sure
 would do with a drop of that Old Black
 Magic.

Hail Priestess of love, St. rock
 St. kid, St. gal - brew me a potion.
 I'm a sucker for yee-oo.
 B.

Dr. Arthur Searice

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88(A) Belle Gyron Rd.

Welling

Kent

England

fit

Received

23.10.45

