

The Flat.
Friday. 26.10.45

Dearest one

Boor! The cold winter evenings are here, and outside a gale rages, but here I sit roasting my toes before the fire and dreaming of the many lovely evenings we have spent thus on this settee. Does the thought bring back sweet memories darling? Just imagine that very soon now we shall have our own fireplace & you will be sharing its warmth with me!

It's amazing how the weeks just fly past; and I can hardly believe that it is seven whole months since that fateful last Sunday. Gosh I'll never forget your face when I met you at Waterloo that day.

2 I don't expect I looked any too happy myself, but I know it took a half-hour of hard work to produce even a quiver of a smile on your beloved countenance. But why talk of those tragic days, when in a few weeks time we shall meet again with shining eyes & beating hearts! You'd better wear some protective armour, honey, cos tennis and housework have developed my biceps somewhat & I'm liable to strangle you in my enthusiasm.

Incidentally honey, how do you feel about this meeting? I know that we cannot hope to make plans - cos they always seem to go astray - but, supposing we could, how would

3 You care to find me - done up like a glamour girl in new togs, with all the war paint on, or more simple with some old familiar togs on, that you know like the back of your hand?

For my own part, I can just picture you in your hat. Suit with ribbons & stripe & P.O.'s badge. - even down to the fact that the buttons will be back in their right places now. I can see you clearly, bearing down on me, pipe clenched in teeth, with that easy relaxed walk of yours. Darling have you still got that little rough patch on your hand between the thumb & forefinger, and is there still a little dry patch of hair right in the spot that goes the wrong way?

* No, its no good, I mustnt go into the clouds like this, or you wait get a letter at all, but darling I do love you and miss you so much.

Tonight in Forces Favourite they played "Shake down the Stars", and gee that took me back same. Remember that time was just at its peak when we first met? We went to your club at Forest Hill one evening and danced to that tune. Gee! I was so excited when I arrived home that night, I had such a belly ache. You always had such a wonderful way of supesing things on the spur of the moment, without planning way ahead, and I am sure that's half the

5
Jim. I hope you never stop springing
lovely surprises upon me sweetheart.

Tonight when I have finished
this epistle I am going to pack up
your pipe, and I shall send it
off by air mail in the morning. I
hope this gate soon spends itself out,
cos I think it may cause delays in
air-mail.

Whats more I think the dock-
strike will delay the delivery of
our rug & carpet & other parcels. Still
so long as they arrive safely in the
end I don't mind. Though I am
longing to see the dining-room
carpet. I think our flat is going
to look really lovely - no kidding!
And its going to be really heavenly

6 when the master's slippers are warm
on the hearth. Ah me!

Last evening mum & I went to see
"The Great Lie"; Betty Davis, Mary
Astor & George Brent. Very dramatic
but superbly acted & I loved it all.
I hope they are getting some good
films to show in camp, and that
you bottle along here often. Certainly
there's no way like it for escaping
from the everyday surroundings. I
really look forward to my evening
at the pictures.

It is now quite dark as I
come home in the evening. But I
positively revel in the fact that we
are no longer entombed in blacked
out compartments. Nowadays the

⁷ windows are down, and the curtains
up, and if you are lucky & get a
corner seat you can watch the
thousands of street lamps wink as
you speed by, and you can wonder
what goes on behind those lighted
windows. I had quite forgotten what
London looked like after dark, it's
like a fairyland.

Speaking of trains did you hear
about the soldier in the compartment
who remarked that his eyes were tired,
& the girl sitting opposite who
retorted that she didn't know why,
they'd been resting on her knees
for the last half-hour.

With which reflection I'll now
leave you, my angel,
Yours Sweet,
Clare



Utility Furniture and Household Furnishings

The number of Units, etc., which can be allowed is limited owing to the shortage of supplies and the heavy demand. Many applicants are therefore allowed only part of what they have asked for. The numbers of applications received are too large for it to be possible to send a special letter of explanation in each case, but if you have not received all you asked for you will find the reasons in the paragraphs of this leaflet marked in the margin. Notes explaining how the permits and dockets should be used are given on the permit cover and should be read carefully.

UTILITY FURNITURE Table of Unit Values

	Number of units required
Wardrobe (4' 0")	12
" (3' 0")	10
Dressing chest (3' 0")	8
" " (2' 6")	6
Tallboy	8
Bedstead (metal (4' 6")	5
" or (4' 0")	5
" wooden) (3' 0")	3
Sideboard	8-8
Dining table	6-6
Dining chair	1-4
Kitchen table (4' 0" x 3' 0")	6
" " (3' 6" x 2' 0")	4

	Number of units required
Kitchen chair	1
Kitchen cabinet (complete)	8
" " (top)	3
" " (bottom)	5
Fireside chair	5
Arm chair	6
Bed chair	6
Divan (3' 0")	6
" (2' 6")	6
Bedsettee	10
Shelves	3
Occasional table	3
Curb (fender)	1

- Production is limited and the demand is heavy and increasing. In order that everyone who is eligible may get his fair share no applicant is allowed more than a maximum number of units varying according to the size of his family. If they are furnishing a home the maximum allowance for a married couple is 60 units plus 10 units for each child. No allowance can be made for lodgers and visitors.
- Couples who are not furnishing a home of their own but have to furnish their own bedroom are given units for bedroom furniture only. The maximum allowance is 25 units (sufficient for a double bed, a large size wardrobe and a tallboy or large size dressing chest) with a small addition for each child.
- If an applicant already has some furniture available for his use the maximum allowance is reduced accordingly.
- Bedsettees and divans are more expensive in labour and materials than beds, and units cannot be allowed for them where a bed would meet the need.
- You are free to use your units to buy what furniture you choose but you should take care to include in your order the articles you need most urgently. No extra units will be granted if you fail to order something essential.
- It is illegal to sell permits or units or to give or transfer them to anyone else. If the need for which you are given a permit does not arise, e.g., if you do not set up a house after all, you must return it.
- If you cannot see any utility furniture in the shops to help you to choose ask a shopkeeper to show you his copy of the illustrated catalogue. You can obtain a copy for yourself (price 9d) by ordering one from any bookseller or newsagent or (price 10d) by post direct from H.M. Stationery Office at the following addresses:
- The buying permit is valid only in the area shown on it. You may order the furniture from any furniture retailer in the area but in order to save transport, you should choose a shop as near as possible to the address at which you will be using the furniture. The prices given in the catalogue include delivery within a radius of 15 miles but the retailer may charge for delivery beyond this radius.
- Since supplies of utility furniture are limited manufacturers will not be able to keep large stocks and there may be some delay before the furniture is delivered. The Board of Trade cannot guarantee that the factories producing utility furniture will be able to deliver the articles within any definite time after an order has been placed.
- If you buy second-hand utility furniture the shopkeeper must collect the full number of units. The instructions given on the permit and in this leaflet apply to all utility furniture, but not to non-utility furniture which you can buy without a permit.
- Utility furniture is free of purchase tax. Maximum prices have been fixed for both new and second-hand utility furniture, and traders are permitted (but not compelled) to sell under a hire-purchase or credit sale agreement subject to a minimum initial payment, to a maximum charge for the facility, and to full payment being made within two years from the date of the contract. The retailer from whom you buy the furniture will be able to show you a list of cash prices and give particulars of hire-purchase terms.
- Utility nursery furniture (that is cots, play pens, and babies' chairs) can be bought without a permit; but there will only be enough for people who really need it and you should not buy a new chair or cot if you have an old one which would do.

York House, Kingsway, LONDON, W.C.2
13a, Castle Street, EDINBURGH, 2
39-41, King Street, MANCHESTER, 2
1, St. Andrew's Crescent, CARDIFF
80, Chichester Street, BELFAST

see overleaf for Household Furnishings

Priority Dockets for Mattresses, Blankets, Sheets, Curtain Material and Floor Covering

These dockets give you priority on the available supplies. Part of the total supplies of floor covering, utility mattresses, National Price Controlled blankets and utility sheets will, however, reach the shops in the ordinary way and can be bought without dockets. The quantity will be kept as large as possible and will increase as supplies improve. The Board of Trade have already been able to make some increase in supplies but there cannot be enough to meet all demands until production can be restored to normal peace-time levels.

Mattresses, Blankets, Sheets

13. Priority dockets for mattresses are valid for utility mattresses; blanket dockets for National Price Controlled blankets, and dockets for sheets for utility sheets including flannelette sheets.

14. Priority dockets for mattresses, blankets and sheets can in general be allowed only where the applicant is furnishing a home of his own for the first time.

15. The maximum allowance is one mattress, two blankets and three sheets for each bed in use. Persons who already have some bedding cannot be allowed more than the difference between the maximum allowance and what they already have. Persons who qualify only because they are bringing one extra bed into use (e.g. for a growing child) cannot be allowed more than the maximum for that bed (1 mattress, 2 blankets, 3 sheets).

16. Priority dockets may be used for either single or double bed sizes of sheets, blankets and mattresses. The supplies of both sizes should be enough to meet the requirements for which dockets are issued, but it is important that people who are equipping single beds, for example for children growing out of cots, should use their dockets for single size sheets and blankets. Otherwise people who really need double sizes may have to accept smaller articles or have to wait some time before getting what they want.

17. Supplies of blankets include a large number of grey and brown blankets. Priority docket holders cannot insist on having a particular type of blanket against their dockets and must either accept what is offered to them or forfeit their right to priority.

18. The Board of Trade cannot guarantee that particular sizes or types of goods will be available for docket holders.

Curtain Materials

19. Only one priority docket for a maximum of 15 square yards can be allowed: this should be sufficient in most cases to provide curtains for one main living room. As well as giving priority on available supplies the docket permits the purchase of the material without the surrender of clothing coupons. A few curtain materials are coupon free, and any requirements in excess of 15 square yards have to be met from these unrationed materials or by the surrender of personal clothing coupons.

20. In general a docket can be allowed only if the applicant is setting up house for the first time: it cannot be allowed for example to persons whose only qualification under the scheme is that they have to provide an extra bed for a growing child.

Floor Covering

21. Only one priority docket can be allowed. It can be used to buy a maximum of 20 square yards of linoleum, substitute linoleum or felt-base floor covering.

22. The limitations explained in paragraph 20 apply also to dockets for floor covering.

Questions about the scheme should be addressed in the first instance to Citizens' Advice Bureaux or the W.V.S. General enquiries should not be made at the Local Fuel Office. Enquiries which cannot be dealt with by these organizations should be made in writing to the Board of Trade, Neville House, Page Street, London, S.W.1

Articles not covered by the Scheme

Permits and dockets are not issued under this scheme for the following articles which, except where noted, can be bought without coupons, permits or dockets, though they may be scarce.

Carpets
Rugs
Coir matting
Pillow cases

Table cloths
Cot bedding
Heavier type of cotton blankets

Towels: clothing coupons have to be surrendered but no supplementary allowance is made.

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Polmn. L.H.
P/mx. 500281.
Mrs. Braganza
Coastal forces.
Bombay.
INDIA

