

Sunday. The Flat
27.10.46.

Dearest

Had a lovely letter from you yesterday, which broke a silence of several days & generally tended to pump up the old morale wine holes. All morning I had been humming a cheerful little earful which goes by the picturesque title of "It must be a jelly cos jam don't shake like that." know it? I heard it sung by June Haver in Dancing Ladies, a quite amusing supporting film on Thursday & it's been giving me mad ever since.

But to return to your letter - you sound all a-bubble at the latest dumb situation. It sounds great to

2 me honey, cos I've had a sneaking
feeling that the gods are going to be
kind to us & send you home for
Xmas. 'Cause it may not come off,
but I feels it in me bones. Anyway
I know we're going to start off the
New Year together with a bang, and
if all your prophesy for our future
lives is coming true darling then I
can't wait for it to begin. You're
an awful sweet person, and wise
too. I guess no girl could go
wrong following in your footsteps -
you're quite a for-seeing pioneer
honey.

I guess you have been to a
Show in Banbury this weekend, and
had a trip to Beach Candy for some

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Swimming today.

Yesterday evening was practically a repetition of last week at the Fox - with nearly all the gang there, including Tom Larsson who had got across the Channel despite the gales! Oh, darling, how I miss you on these occasions! The gang are awful sweet & make sure I enter into all the fun & tease me wholesale but there's that lurchy ache underneath, and I long to catch your eye across the table & to hear your laughter echo with the other chaps. And so it will hang about in a few weeks' time. Gee we've some terrific bashes in store. Whoopee!! After closing time we all retired to Copley Tavern

* for a smoke & a quiet chat (?) it was supposed to be toned down on account of the bairns, but after several pints the lads are difficult to suppress. There was much jabber about whether Monday evening should, or should not, be stag. The only adamant one was Ken Wellard (he & his wife are spending the last few days of the leave with Vee & Jim) - he insisted that he did not see Queen very often & didn't see why he should spend a whole evening apart from her. Nice eh?

So in the end it was arranged that they should meet in the Bull. I was roped in to represent the Westaway family & so Jim in for

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another hectic evening. They say
they're getting me in training for
your return - in the matter of
drinking, that is.

Today I went over to the Drive
to see Joan & baby, and finished
up doing her ironing while she
set about cooking lunch. She is
terribly busy with the dressmaking,
and finds life full - even with the
help of a woman to do the house
& two girls in the needle-room.

Still she feels happy & more independ-
ent this way & puts up with
the added strain. I prefer a full
life any day, don't you?

It was raining when I left,
& I just missed a bus - so decided

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to step it out across the park. It was heavenly! I had the place to myself & the rain was the warm, soft kind. In fact, had it not been for the brown, half-borren trees I'd have imagined it was a June day, it was so mild. I enjoyed that walk & I felt all the cobwebs of the week blow away. And was I hungry when I got home! Boy oh boy! My appetite is as strong as ever, and it is still difficult to see where I pack it all away!

Incidentally I wear the black coat practically all the time these days - people congratulate me & say it is smart, and I feel good in it.

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Besides which, that cloth seems to stand up to all weathers & keep me warm & dry. Am I glad I tackled it after all these years! In fact I enjoy tailoring & think I shall make a Spring coat next year. One thing I shall be able to make our kiddie's coats & leggins - they cost the cash these days! I really don't know how I existed without a sewing machine before you presented me with this one. I am a lucky wife.

I have steamed and pressed the old red velvet frock & wear it on occasions. A black coat is very useful to wear all winter frocks - especially as mine seem to be quite hectic colours.

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By the way I read in the paper today that two large ships were in Bombay harbour taking on troops for repatriation & I wondered if they had managed to squeeze in the Brazanza men up to group 31. If so doing it won't be long now!

I had a letter from the Gas Co. this weekend sending me various forms to complete & also a bill for £1-7-0 - installation charges. Before paying this I shall tackle Mrs. G. as to whether this should not be borne by the owner of the house. Also we have to pay £2 deposit against future accounts. - which will be repayable at the end of our tenancy with 3% p.a. interest.

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Afraid I shall most probably be drawing on the bank for the next few weeks chickadee. But I suppose we must expect to have these initial expenses - anyway that's what we've been saving for I guess.

By the way, what is the reg position at the moment? There is a parcel for SSA containing one for us & one for Don's, and a parcel for Amstead containing the other one for Don's. Next I suppose you will be sending our last 6'x3', and one for mum? How is the cash situation? - I still have to send £4 for mum's reg when I am paid on Wednesday. I do say all these parcels will arrive in a batch as

Soon as the dock strike is over, so I must keep some cash ready for purchase tax. It's too bad, do think that they are probably lying in the hold of a ship now just waiting to be delivered. Still, never mind, so long as they eventually arrive intact.

I have been looking around at Cutlery & thought it best to get just 6 of each of the essential pieces to start off. There's no hurry for this & each week shows some improvement, so I shall delay my purchase just as long as possible.

China is just hopeless, but here again I shall just buy a few odd pieces to tide us over - the Board of Trade last week promised

" more supplies & I am sure its just a matter of the changeover from war time to peace-time production. I do say next year when all the factories get into stride there will be a glut of all household commodities on the market - so I'm not unduly worried.

The only things that are really out of reach of most people these days are household linens & towels. They are very scarce, incredibly expensive, and in most cases need a priority docket or clothing coupons. So, my sweet one, if you have any chance of buying sheets & pillowcases, towels, sea towels, & table cloths, those are the items to concentrate on. I think there's no doubt at all, that cloth will be severely rationed in England

for at least another two years. &
it will be a case of jogginq along
with what we've got.

But I'm not terribly anxious
about things, honey, I think we
could manage with very little
hardship, with the things we have
already.

All this is very businesslike darling
but my head just buzzes with various
household matters these days & I like
to chat to you about 'em. Gosh!
We'll be having some shopping expeditions
together soon - & it won't be likee Sunday
- it's a case of hunt the slipper here.

And so to bed, my chicken, to
dream of our glorious future.
I love you so.

Clare

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29.10.45



Polmn. L.H. *W. H. ...*
Plmx. 500001
Mrs. Brajanga.
Coastal forces,
BOMBAY
INDIA