

The Office.

Wednesday, 31.10.45.

Sweetheart mine

I had a very mixed letter from you yesterday (no. 86) - it started off with a bang, the best demot news I've heard yet, and I was up in the clouds. But suddenly something pricked the bubble & we came down to rock bottom with a bang. Poor darling! These last few weeks are going to be an awful strain on you. - I think the clinic too must have a lot to do with the up-and-down feelings you must get. You have all my sympathy, darling, as I know what it is like to sit & wait & wait for weeks on end, just wondering inside what today's news will bring.

Indecision gets me to such a pitch that I'd almost rather have had

2
news than no news at all. But in
the matter of demob., dosing, I
should just sit tight with the sure
knowledge that you'll leave that country
behind in a very short while from
now. There is not a shadow of doubt
in my mind. I only hope that
you will take every opportunity to get
away from the electric atmosphere of
the camp, and relax. Either at the
pictures, or at the swimming pool,
or even walking the Bombay streets
& seeing how the other half live. So
long as you lose your self and your
own troubles you will be refreshed.

I remember how strung-up I was
this time last year, and the tension
lasted for months, didn't it honey?
Maybe I have so many things to do

³ ~~now~~ that all my energies are concentrated
& I don't stop to speculate when or
where too much. I feel so sure
darling, and you know how psychic
this kiddie can be. Never fret, angel,
you'll be here in my arms soon.

Yesterday also there arrived the
parcel of ~~car~~ rugs. I like our brown
one darling - we certainly will have
luxurious looking floors. - and they
feel so wonderful under the feet cos
the pile is so thick. Really lovely
darling, and I think you've done a
grand job in getting us so well-equipped
cos we certainly couldn't have done
that in England for several years,
and prices just don't bear thinking
of. I shall let Don's know of their
arrival & maybe Albert will call & collect

" it, he said he would. I bet they will be thrilled about it!

later After lunch today I rang Mrs. Gifford about our gas cooker - and found out that we are charged the cost of installation as we are on a quarterly ac. The others have a slot-meter & all the charges go through the meter. - as the whole I reckon they pay pretty dearly for the gas they burn that way. Anyway having straightened out the matter I will write out a cheque tonight to the Co. to go ahead & make de suite & instal.

But that's not the half of it, honey lamb - it seems that the decoration is almost complete, and tho' the workmen

5 are still here, Mrs Gyford has moved back into the basement. Remember her?

I shall drop off the train ^{on Saturday} at
Lewisham & call in & see how our flat
looks. Isn't it thrilling? You see
I have not been able to get into the
place before, as the workmen knock off
at noon on Saturday & there's nobody
there to let me in. How I shall be
able to see the effect of the fresh
paint, & should get a much more
favourable impression of our future little
home. I shall probably buy a pail
& scrub-brush in L. & take them up &
leave them in Mrs. Gyford's care. I'll
save me carrying them over from Welling
& I imagine that the floors will need
a thorough scrubbing after workmen

6 have been tramping around.

It certainly looks as though we shall move in before the rest of the furniture arrives. But who cares! It will be a job to tuck all the things out of sight until the extra cupboard space arrives & I guess I shall spend time putting up shelves & things - unless I can hang on for the few weeks until you come home & make a real job of 'em. I bet you are happy about the flat, aren't you angel?

Loan was until Saturday I must concentrate on getting all those odd things that are forgotten such as electric light bulbs, curtain rods & rings & things.

I have had our dark blue

1 Curtains laundered. & they have come up a lovely colour! They must have been full of soot from the blitzes. So if possible I will get the curtains hung & the floors stained before I arrange the removal. I bet I've said that a dozen times before, but it's just that all these details keep revolving around in my mind & until they are all done with I guess I shall keep spouting 'em to you. But I don't think I'll bore you, eh sweet?

And so, my angel, Westward Lowess is almost on the map! Whoopee!

And speaking of whoopee, the gang certainly made it in the Bull on Monday evening. There was no

8 Shortage of anything, and after beers
of brauns all round, we got down
to shots - the girls on gin or
whisky & the lads on rum-and-hill.

The appearance of this latter drink
called forth lots of reminiscences of
old times in all your bachelor days
& the Home Wests figured in most few.

It seems a shame to talk to you
of such things as when you are so
far away - but it is just a foretaste
of what is to happen in a few weeks
time when you are back in the circle.
Ken Wellard hopes to be demobbed by
Xmas & he & Gwen, who is a School-
Teacher, will settle down in Eltham or
Woolwich. Gus gets home every
weekend, though being an Army Officer

9 his dumb has been "frozen" for at least four months. Bill Cuffley also slips up the line most weekends. Tommy expects his release in Jan: or February. The only one who will be missing when you get home is Freddie. He goes back to Italy until his dumb in May or June. Shame!

We must make a point of taking Jeanette out & about because really she & Freddie have been awfully sweet to me & made sure I didn't feel left out of any of the fun. Nice people your friends, honey.

Yes, Monday was a thick night, & my throat felt like a rasp next morning & there was a slight banging in my head. Wow! But gee is it

10/ lovely not to worry about lost buses!
Somehow Tim got us all home in relay,
and we wondered what it would be
like when we get the whole fleet
of cars on the road.

Last evening was much more
 sober - spent at the Embassy, dancing.
Once more there was a terrific crowd
 of us, but whether it was reaction
 after Monday, or the lack of drinks,
 or the fact that half the Chaps don't
 dance at all, the evening lacked
 the brightness of the previous one.

So tonight after a hectic weekend
 I am relaxing before the fire and
 scribbling to hubby whom I love so
 much!

Oh its going to be absolute
Heaven to get together again darling
and in our new home.

If that navy doesn't start handing
out tickets soon I shall have some
printed & air mail 'em to the C.O.

I WANT MY HUSBAND. - or some
such heart breaking plea. Or hasn't
the Navy got a heart?

Let you into a secret, honey, I
love me, and just the thought of
you is enough to set it thumping.

I'm all yours darling

Clara

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Colman, L. H. W. ~~W. F. ...~~

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BOMBAY.

INDIA

