

Fr.

Bombay.

26.10.45.

Dadkin,

What, as I hear you say, is the latest position regarding the year closing-down & demand business. I can't tell you any more concrete facts, except, altho' we hear this & that. We realise, more & more, that the general policy is to get as many of us blocked away to the U.K. as quickly as possible, but it also becomes increasingly evident that until this place folds up that policy is to be modified somewhat - at least as far as I & the rest are concerned. A draft just in as relief tells us that in Ceylon groups upto 32 are already on their way home, so you can see that the statement in the House was a conservative one. I'll wait a couple of weeks before I write anything further - by that time more <sup>reliable</sup> news should be through - until then I don't think it's worthwhile summarising much. But it looks good to me!

The mail situation is awful. I haven't had a letter since last Sat. (I think)

alike I have had three Daily Mails since then. Thanks for them, Sweet, because they are interesting to read. Due, no doubt, to some sort of shake-up, the Indian Times has kept us informed of the major items of English news for the past few weeks, but your papers tell me much more news of great importance to me. I wanted to know things like, how the petrol rationing was going, (or was it!), how any rationing was going, items from London, or a list like that as long as your arm.

Mr. Deakin, the Minister of Health, is not quite the all-conquering hero that he painted himself, is he? Far from carrying out the Conservative Programme, which he decided as an Opposition member, he now says that <sup>even</sup> such an estimate could not have been carried out, & he promises nothing ~~of~~ except Mr. Churchill's "Blood, sweat & tears". He sounds like a good kid when he's not on the administrative side. He advises the troops to wait up to 4 years before they can in for

3

mortgages which will be priced too high - what words to a returning Soldier who had hoped that his partners would 'win him the peace' I believe that either Mr. Bevan will be on his way out very shortly, or his Dept. will be suitably reformed to get results in the shortest possible time. I believe, too, that the job was given to him to keep him quiet - if he doesn't produce house-building capacity in a couple of years voice like mine will keep him very quiet indeed.

It is such a nuisance when the mail refuses to arrive just at the time when one is gasping for it. I'm like that now. And to think that all that business about Blessington is going on & I'm not up with the latest news! It might even be that work started to move in, & here am I sitting like a silly hen, knowing nothing & not even able to give a clear view of them. The fact is I'm damned annoyed at the Navy keeping me hanging around when

all this time I could be part-time in my  
honey's ~~living~~ living areas & part-time  
furniture remover & deck scrubber.

What do you think of the Budget  
Proposals? I think they're good. In  
April we should be quite better off &  
in time we'll be able to manage a new  
flat out for you every year. I haven't  
read any account which gives a complete  
list of the articles which we now less  
purchase tax but I have read that  
storage & fire are included. Let your  
read if you've bought that fire of  
ours before the tax came off - eh?  
Mr. Hugh Dalton is a member of the Labour  
Government - whom I like.

We went to John's beach yesterday  
afternoon - M. & M. Just about a dozen  
of us & the beach was practically  
deserted, but the day was a glorious  
one & we had a grand afternoon. I  
took a camera along & I hope for  
good results because I had a special  
one of me taken all for you - I was  
trying to hold a lovey-dovey look,

But Geo. was fiddling around with the camera & when he clicked the shutter I'm not sure if I'd relaxed to the usual squint necessitated by the glass. Still, you can take it, dearest, that a waxy-dovey look was intended. A slow puncture in the back tyre made us speed back to the camp, & going through a very 'native' village I was treated to the sight of people diving through the huts & shop openings - literally diving - a scene that is ~~only~~ usually viewed in the cinema; our driver, being a native, was determined to get back before the tyre needed further pumping & he wasn't to be ~~hindered~~ impeded by mere villagers or cattle. I must admit that I would have been adverse to stopping in this particular village which is one big tannery - soch, the stench!!

You haven't given me a health report on yourself just lately, Sweetheart, so the next time you write how's about it. I assume

from matches in this connection that you're  
going along very nicely thank you, but  
I'd like a more detailed account - you  
couldn't write too much about yourself  
for my money, honey. Me? Oh I do  
allright, allright. I've gained a few  
pounds in weight over the last fortnight  
which, I imagine, is due to my mighty  
policy of two helpings of everything; the  
quality of the food has improved out of  
all knowledge of the past efforts & with  
the wober weather I get hungrier. I'm  
troubled a little with blisters on my  
feet - I've always had hot feet & in  
this climate the trouble is aggravated.  
Otherwise, a perfect bill of health.

Before I forget it, <sup>by sea</sup> please  
stop sending newspapers, etc. & tell  
Doris the same. They take 2 months  
to reach me & that time hence I  
should be running round in circles  
trying to get a thin back. Make  
one think doesn't it?

Best love. is out M.M., also out  
my day & my goodness, we are going  
to have a field day. The recent seas

about shifting <sup>7</sup> from the place have  
warned is all to be on top line for  
draft & one of the items I must gather  
as quickly as possible is the 85 lb of food.  
I'm afraid I shan't be able to wait  
for any list of yours, darling, altho  
it'd be useful for any later additions.  
I'm also anxious to look round the  
novelty market for those brooches, earrings  
& sprays that took my eye - you said  
you'd love 'em. If there's enough cash  
in the kitty I'll consider sending another  
parcel for us: I'd still await your  
remittance for any other parcel wanted  
by second parties altho that for Mother  
should be along shortly, I guess. It'll  
be a final shopping fling before the day.  
I'll send off food parcels right up to  
drafting time so that they'd be arriving  
when I'm home - we ain't going hungry  
this winter, darling.

The moon has been rather prominent  
for the past 6 nights but always,

When I was romantic about lovers  
being under the moon I'm forced to  
admit that we are about 6 hours apart  
& the moon won't be around you way  
for a long time. But I was romantic  
just the same, & in spite of, altho,  
if I cared to be frank, I'd admit that  
moons have very little to do with it.  
These days I find it very easy to  
go into a brown study - there are no  
distractions like work, or bombs or  
guns - & to romanticise is my  
favourite pastime. I find you a  
sedative for 'nerves', my honey, because  
I can't reach it ~~any way~~ to love in  
any way other than easy-doesy, &  
the image of you in my mind  
gladdens my heart.

- There is no one like you, my  
Bel, there is no love like yours, there  
is no life but ours.

for



post.

POST OFFICE

Walling

MAIL

MARITIME

88(A) Belle Grove Rd.

Walling

Leat

Received both England

88

5.11.45

+ 89.