

Darting time

So I saw the game for the last time on Tuesday evening. We all repaired to the Fox as usual, and the girls looked on while the lads played bar billiards. Then we thought we'd show 'em how and Pat & I challenged Vera & Seamette. The second time I had played, and I enjoyed myself hugely - Pat & I in fact were getting on very nicely ~~in fact~~ until I knocked the black mushroom for six. What a dope!!

Strangest thing was that Seamette & I were dressed almost exactly alike - black coat & hat & red candy striped blouse & skirt - and you can bet there were many remarks about wearing the team's colours.

After billiards we took up our positions at the dart board. There were 5 pairs of us & we set about an elimination game. The winners of each heat challenging the next couples until the champs were declared. I hadn't touched a dart for years - literally, but I had begun to luck & started off on a double with my second dart! You can imagine the hails that went up from the lads. "Well write to Westy" - "Practising in the local" - "Always lunches at a Pub" &c &c. It's a good job I can take it, honestly I'm ragged unmercifully by one & all.

But that wasn't the end. - I actually threw the double to end the game. More cracks. Anyway Tom & I wiped the floor with the rest of 'em and were actually challenged to a game by a couple of soldiers who'd been watching. This however we lost - we were all down to a last double & they hit it first.

Altogether the evening was quite fun - except for the fact that all the lads were back to their Army billets next day. Still as we remained, they will be back in Cissy Street next time we all meet, and Nan, my pet, will be along too.

But Gee! You can get into a rut with late nights & I was feeling very tired when I arrived home last evening. Completely lethargic, & I'm afraid I selfishly spent an almost idle evening - half-awake, and went off to bed early.

I've been buying fast since I wrote last. We now own a China tea-service - plain white I'm afraid, but quite a sweet shape & nice-looking. I've been chasing around so long for something worthwhile that I just snapped it up on sight. 37/6 - probably twice pre-war price, but I have ceased to compare so long as the quality is good. I wouldn't buy junk - I'd prefer to go without entirely. eh honey? At the same time I saw some attractive glass water sets - jug & six tumblers & thought we ought to have one as they were really quite reasonable in comparison with last year's prices. Also bought some basins & a couple of breakfast cups for everyday use. So, honey, we're getting on.

Today I was lucky enough to walk into the Art Store when they had a delivery of saucepans & they are putting a set of aluminium ones by for me to collect tomorrow. It is really a lovely feeling when you manage to get something these days & I'm right up in the clouds. Especially as I rang the Gas Co. & they said a temporary cooker would be in this week. Whoopee!



Picture me on Saturday doing a nub-a-dub-dub around our floors! As to your worrying about not being here to lend a helping hand, however, you can bet your life there'll be a thousand & one jobs for you to tackle when you take over management. Co. Shelves & cupboards & electric lights & plugs &c &c.

It'll probably take us a few weeks to make all cosy & shipshape so we can throw a party & invite all our pals to a general house warming. It's gonna be such fun! I know that this flat is all I talk about these days, precious, and all I dream about. It's going to be so heavenly when you come home to cook our breakfast in our itty-bitty kitchen & eat our meals off our lovely new dining table, and find the knives & forks in the sideboard drawer. We'll be able to shut up shop whenever we like & make a bee-line for town, or will be able to draw the curtains, switch on the radio & toast our toes by the fire. "Home" is the word.

Nothing is so sweet as freedom, & after the way you've lived & fought, I think we deserve a little of it.

Darling I hope you have a very happy birthday on the 18th, wish I could be there to toast the day, but anyway I'd like to stand a couple of rounds so see that there's a stock of beer in the canteen that night & have a pint all round on your wifey. - Hope £2 will cover it!!!

Dreaming of you, my love,
Clare

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Coastal forces

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