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Bombay

13.11.45.

Darling,

Well — today may definitely be counted as one of those days. You know — you start off in the morning very much the same as usual — same breakfast, same routine, same faces — all very usual. One vaguely wonders if anything will develop today, but one has very little hope — one is resigned. All of a sudden things begin to happen — wham! — just like that, & before you know where you are the whole aspect has changed & the world is once more topsy-turvy. That's what happened today.

Of course, as you might guess, Honey-lamb, the only thing which would cause any disturbance at all is the mention of deorbiting, & it was news of this lovely topic that set our emotions whirling like a top. The reports came in dribe & drabs, whetting our appetites for more — usually we don't get more but — today was the exception & somebody in some office or other with a sense of the dramatic built it up from a piano movement to a crescendo & we were suitably impressed. Sadly speaking the news is this — that George + Co, (up to Group 31), have got their drafts, & it is anticipated (vide our Admiralty signal), that Groups 32-36 will be away Dec - Jan. This is the first official ^{confirmation} ~~intimation~~ of

our hopes for a draft to U.K. in Dec.

George & Co go for their medical tomorrow & will probably be away from here to Brazanza to await transport on Friday. They have been told that a ship is leaving on the 24th but whether they catch it or not is a query. When they go all I've got to do is sit back with bag & hammock & wait for my draft & I estimate it'll come in the first fortnight in Dec. Don't forget, baby, that getting a draft chit does not mean I've sailed right away - it means that I go into barracks to take my turn with a few hundred other Naval ratings. I'm asking Geo. to take a letter with him from me to you, & to post it in England. When you get that you'll know that he's home & I shouldn't be too long in coming after him.

I'm trying not to get excited about all this but the thought of release so very near is almost choking me with emotion. If, for any devilish reason, this present situation were to fall through I should relapse near to acute melancholia - but that's the real thing this time - I know it. It's good news, darling, & you'd be quite justified in ripping out for a pint on the strength of it - I shall be be quaffing my equator tonight.

To add to the general merriment & joy my

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pipe arrived + so did the f10 draft. It's a lovely pipe, dearest, + smoke as well as any of mine - thank you, Fred. The arrival of the draft was a great relief - I owe George Riza + I was afraid he'd go before I could pay him back - all OK now.

Believe me it's going to be quite a dash getting all the business I want to do finished. Naturally ~~the~~^{one} controlling factor is the money, + another is the lack of make a roads to get into town for shopping. Maybe after the work finishes in this base we shall be granted more shore leave which'll make things easier. The order is that all wrapping up shall be finished by the end of the month - after that there'll be nothing more for us to do.

Excuse me no, Baby, because the drinks has started to flow + I must join in. Our spirits are at their highest. Hang on, Sweet - the Day draws nearer.

Your loves

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