

Madras. 2/12/45.

My dearest,

Can you possibly forgive me for the erratic way I am corresponding these days? I know its awful when you are so far away & anxious for every crumb of information. And it is certainly not for want of thought of you. See, darling you fill my every waking minute & quite a number of the sleeping ones too! It is simply a fact that I never sit down these days. I am just on the go the whole time. So much so that you'll have to tie me to a chair - it will have become such a habit.

I would never have believed there were so many things to arrange! I guess the war has not helped - one has to fight & shop for days for anything. As for goods, in short supply - unless you have filled up a form waited days or even weeks for a permit & then found a shop with any supply at all - you'll positively had it. Still, we progress. I actually managed to buy a pair on Saturday. (Everything is being exported these days, madam, & you are very lucky - I only had 6).

But I don't despair, angel, we now have the main essentials (I hope) and we can nib along until things get better.

On Saturday I called in at the electricians & told them I would be moving in next week & how about fixing our power point. It seems they've been awaiting delivery of some cable & will do the job next week when I am here for

The move. Good enough!

I tried everywhere <sup>in Newisham</sup> to get certain rods but was told that all they had were the railway things - which cost the earth! Still I got what I wanted in Lاون today. Huh ho!

On arrival at no 12. I saw Miss Gifford who said that our windows will be cleaned tomorrow or Wednesday. Thank heavens. They make such a difference to a room, don't they think angel?

There was a packet of mail for us. Your driving license, which I have safely in my handbag. Also a form to fill in for my coal. This I did & I may now place an order. The firm told me they'd make delivery in a few days in the circs. (Some people in Lاون have been waiting anything up to 3 months for fuel.)

I did some more scrubbing & started staining our living room floor. Unfortunately it gets dark about 4.0 p.m. here these days, and the light in that room has to be fixed - I fused the whole floor last time & switched on! So I could not work in that room as long as I'd have liked. But I afterwards painted the fireplace in our bedroom. Really it is surprising how nice the room looks with the boards stained & the grate black & shiny! That room is now absolutely finished. - except for mopping a damp cloth over the paint to pick up the dust!

By that time I was stiff with cold, and starving hungry, and was invited downstairs for a cuppa. Was that tea welcome!! They are nice people, honey, very well-read, and with thousands



of books. Apparently one of their pet hobbies is roaming around second hand bookstalls.

They are North Country people, I think, and like us are just starting a home going.

Mrs Hair said her hubby gets quite blasphemous about the floors. - you asked how the boards are. They are a bit old & have been stained previously - which rather spoils the effect, and the answer is to stain them very dark. They have beeswaxed theirs & got a nice polish, but it seems that hubby would have liked them in light oak.

I didn't stay too long, as I knew Mrs M. had a dinner to cook for the returning spouse - and anyway my tummy was liable to start growling any minute!

So home to a lovely fire & loads of food & a completely relaxed evening mending & listening - in to a good radio programme.

Sunday morning I did some more staining, but I didn't stay too late - I felt cold & a bit fed up for no reason at all. But after lunch I perked up again & got stuck into curtain & pelmet making. I love nice windows & I have tried to make the most of our material & I think they will look quite attractive. How I am hoping to get them hung! Remember that terrible black-out we used to have to cope with when we first moved into Blessington! Shades of the past. I guarantee, however, that when these new ones are hung you'll be able to just jerk them, & they'll slide into place. Three cheers Oh Sweet!

Dearest I have not heard from you since Thursday & I am longing for the latest news. I guess that by the time this letter arrives you will be on ship - see waiting for the orders to embark. Gee isn't it wonderful!

I woke up on Saturday morning with an excited feeling & realised that this was the beginning of a new month, and that with any luck, we would be together again before it ended. I just can't think about it without getting such a choking feeling. So be together again. Sheer Heaven! This trip should be a joyous one for all of you & I hope you make the most of the trip & bring home lots of photographs.

You may have gathered that we hope to move in to Blessington next Monday if poss. i.e. Dec 10th. I tried several firms before I hit on the R.A.C.S. who can squeeze it in for us - they are mostly booked up until the New Year! So - my angel, we shall really be installed before you are home - and I can welcome you to England Home & Beauty. There'll be a thousand things to do, honey, so polish up your carpentry & general household engineering on the boat. We'll work hard all day & then relax together before our own coal fire, and you can tell me tales of life in India, and your about those M.T.B. days that I have never heard about. And maybe I'll let you kiss me now & again, just to show that we're still friends.

Or should I say, love,  
Bless you, hubby-mine,

Clark

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Polmm. L. H. Westenberg.

P/mx. Soosai!

Mrs. Brapunga

Coastal forces

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