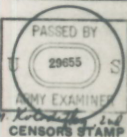


No.



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SENDER'S NAME  
36th MACHINE RECORDS UNIT  
SENDER'S ADDRESS  
APO 871, NEW YORK CITY

5 February 1944  
DATE

ENGLAND.

DEAREST SHIRLEY,  
GOOD MORNING, HONEY. HOPE THAT YOU AND MY CUTE LITTLE DAUGHTER ARE BOTH WELL AND HAPPY. EVERYTHING IS FINE HERE AND I AM OK. LAST NIGHT I WENT INTO TOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME ON PASS. IT IS QUITE AN EXPERIENCE TO GO INTO A TOWN WHERE ONLY PUBS, CINEMAS, AND LITTLE EATING PLACES ARE OPEN AND EVEN THEY ARE SO DARK FROM THE OUTSIDE THAT ONE CAN ONLY WALK UP AND PUSH ON THE DOOR AND HOPE THAT HE HAS FOUND THE PLACE THAT HE IS LOOKING FOR.

WE HAD INTENDED TO GO TO THE CINEMA AND SEE THE FLICKERS BUT THE "QUE" OR LINE WAITING TO "BOOK" OR BUY TICKETS WAS SO LONG AT ALL OF THE THEATERS EXCEPT THE ONES THAT WE HAD ALREADY SEEN THAT WE CHOSE TO GO TO A PUB AND THEN GET SOME FISH AND CHIPS AND GO TO THE RED CROSS TO KILL THE EVENING. WHAT THE ENGLISH CALL "CHIPS" IS WHAT WE WOULD CALL POTATO BRENCH FRIES. THE FISH THAT THEY SELL ARE FISH PATTIES. BOTH THE CHIPS AND THE FISH ARE VERY GOOD. THE LITTLE PLACES THAT SELL THEM ARE NO BIGGER THAN THE LITTLE HOT DOG STANDS AT THE BEACH AT HOME. ONE MERELY "QUES UP" TO BUY THE FISH OR CHIPS AND AFTER GETTING A BAG OF THEM GOES ON DOWN THE STREET EATING THEM. NEARLY EVERY PLACE THAT ONE GOES HE WILL SEE A QUE OR LINE WAITING.

THE PUBS ARE NOT LIKE OUR BARS OR BEER JOINTS AT HOME IN A LOT OF RESPECTS. IN THE FIRST PLACE THE PUBS ARE CONSIDERED MORE OR LESS A NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING PLACE WHERE THE PEOPLE MEET AND DRINK AND TALK. THEY ARE SO SMALL THOUGH THAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE PUBS ARE RECOGNIZED AS A MEETING PLACE. MOST OF THE PUBS ARE NOT ANY BIGGER THAN AN ORDINARY ROOM IN A HOUSE. A PUB IS A PLACE THAT A MAN WOULD TAKE HIS WIFE WHEN THEY WERE OUT FOR AN EVENING AND MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE PATRONIZE THEM. HOWEVER, IN MY OPINION THEY ARE NOT MUCH BETTER THAN THE BARS AT HOME. THE ENGLISH BEER IS RATHER FLAT AS COMPARED WITH OUR BEER AS IT DOES NOT HAVE THE CARBONATED WATER EFFECT AND THEY DO NOT ICE OR CHILL IT. SOME OF THE FELLOWS THAT ORDINARILY CONSUMED QUITE A BIT OF BEER AT HOME SAY THAT THEY RESPECT THE ENGLISH BEER BECAUSE IT IS QUITE POTENT, BUT I DRANK ONLY ONE GLASS SO I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THAT. IT WOULD BE HARD TO DESCRIBE THE TASTE OF THE BEER, BUT DUE TO THE FACT THAT IT IS NOT CARBONATED, ONE CAN DRINK IT ALMOST LIKE WATER.

WE SPENT QUITE A BIT OF TIME IN ONE PUB LAST NIGHT AS WE MET SOME OF THE OTHER FELLOWS IN THERE AND AN ENGLISH SOLDIER OR "TOMMY" WAS PLAYING AN ACCORDION WHILE EVERYONE IN THE PLACE WAS SINGING. HE WAS REALLY GOOD AND WAS PLAYING ALL OF OUR POPULAR SONGS. AFTER WE LEFT THIS PARTICULAR PUB WE WENT TO SEVERAL OTHERS AND LOOKED IN BUT DID NOT STAY. WE ATE SOME MORE FISH PATTIES AND THEN WALKED BACK TO CAMP. THE FISH AND THE CHIPS COST EITHER FOUR PENCE OR SIX PENCE ACCORDING TO THE PLACE WHERE ONE BUYS THEM AND HOW MANY HE GETS. A BAG OF CHIPS OR FRENCH FRIES ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS AN ORDER OF FRENCH FRIS AT HOME WOULD COST FOUR PENCE. FOUR PENCE IS ABOUT EIGHT CENTS IN OUR MONEY.

GOING INTO TOWN HERE IS QUITE DIFFERENT THAN GOING TO TOWN AT HOME. HERE THE LAST SHOW AT THE CINEMA BEGINS AT ABOUT 7:00 PM AND THE PUBS AND FISH & CHIPS STANDS CLOSE AT HAND. EVERYTHING IS CLOSED UP BY ELEVEN. WE WERE BACK IN CAMP BEFORE ELEVEN LAST NIGHT AFTER WALKING BACK AND EVEN AT THE TIME WE LEFT TOWN SOME OF THE PLACES HAD SOLD OUT ON CHIPS AND A GOOD NUMBER OF THE PUBS WERE SOLD OUT.

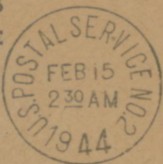
WELL, HONEY, THAT IS ABOUT ALL THE NEWS FOR THIS MORNING. I HAVE TO GO TO WORK IN A FEW MINUTES, ANYWAY, SO WILL SAY GOODBYE NOW FOR THIS TIME. MY THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU AND LAURA ALWAYS. I AM ANXIOUSLY AWAITING THE FIRST REGULAR MAIL HERE AS WE RECEIVED ONLY A FEW LETTERS SINCE WE GOT WAS DATED IN DEC.

ARRIVED HERE AND THE ONE THAT ALL MY LOVE. \* 2/4

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