26-7-44

Miss. J. Welland
7 Queens Drive
Surbiton
Surrey

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F/o. C. Darby. 154676.
Officers Mess,
R.A.F. Station
Upper Heyford
Oxford
26. 7. 44

Dear Jean,

Thanks a lot for your letter which arrived this afternoon, I had just begun to wake up, having just got up after night flying until 4.30 AM this morning, we were on a low level trip, up to York and half way across the North Sea to Denmark, unfortunately our W/T went U/S and we did'nt cross the coast, perhaps it was as well

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as the weather was bad, and a lot of ice about.

When I get home after this tour shall go over to Dannants about the photo, can tell you they'll have to paint in quite a few grey hairs, they're on the increase since I came here, we came in on one engine the other night, had to jettison a lot of fuel to get back; we seem to be the unlucky ones, something always goes wrong.

am pleased to hear you are going to 'rest' after your strenuous labours, you'll need it

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for when I get home, shall have to perfect that short stroke of mine at tennis, am glad to hear that tennis is progressing, perhaps you are able to concentrate better now. I've just thought of a rude remark but perhaps I'd better not.

Regarding leave, the course in front of us only had five days doesn't sound so good does it! However we shan't know until we are nearly finished. We do get another day off however, next Thursday the 3rd August, if all goes well should get home Wednesday night.

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at the moment my bicycle needs repairing but I may bring it home on the Thursday and get it serviced at home, ready for a few trips to Brighton and back on my leave — coming?

Mother did'nt mention about the window, can imagine her saying and it was such a beautiful pane of glass

Well must pack up now, cheers for the moment look after yourself please remember me to Mother & Father,

all the best

Yours Jack