5-8-44

Miss J Welland,
7. Queens Drive
Surbiton
Surrey.

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F/o. C. Darby, 154676.
Officers Mess.
R.A.F. Station
Bayford
nr Bloxham
Oxon

5/8/44

Dear Jean,

Thanks so much for birthday card, also the one your Mother & Father sent, they both came together, in fact the only two cards I received.

I made the train O.K. at Paddington, actually had an hour to wait, London I met my skipper in the Tube and we both got a couple of seats, the train was'nt very crowded and we slept

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Most of the way we were in Banbury at 3°c and in bed by 4°c. Of course next day they decided to have exams. we had three, Aircraft Rec, Tactics and Armament. I must have passed O.K. as I've heard nothing further, if you don't you usually are on the carpet before the C.G.I and have a strip torn off.

Am afraid we haven't had any luck in getting a W/op, we haven't been off the deck for 9 days and am very much afraid I've had my leave, at least it will probably be put back, the trouble

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is nobody knows anything definate,
our skippie keeps haunting the
squadron commander and he will
probably do something drastic out of
sheer self-defence soon,
we must wait and see.
We had a defence exercise
last night, the Home Guard were
attacking the camp, it was due to
start at 10 p/c but as the locals
don't close until 10.30 nothing much
happenned until 10.45. All the ledges
were guarded, we had a couple
of kites up on recco, apparently
no lights were to be shown, but
as usual the exercise ended up

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in complete chaos, one chap on the control tower fired off a signal rocket and when he'd located the enemy, he fired some very caustic ones at them, they fled in disorder and then some Kelm type started up the station searchlight, this floodlit the ground and the result looked like the aldershott command presenting the Battle of Hastings, also we captured a Home Guard type who was carrying the complete plans of the exercise. At 1.30 am we all packed up and up to the moment nobody knows who won, apparently the Home

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5 Guard are finding about our battle tactics being too unorthodox for them.

It's damned funny last month we had an accident free month, the Group Captain had just got his telegram of congratulations when they had three crashes in two days, some keen type baled out by mistake and his skipper was so worried that when he landed he retracted his undercart instead of his flaps!

The weather seems to have taken a turn for the better, hope it continues as often we do get cracking we

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can finish straight away.

Well, must pack up now, hope you are doing what you told me to do at Swindon, by the way, I didn't get any petrol, apparently you have to be 10 miles from the nearest railway or bus route, the W.A.A.F. Officer was very sympathetic but it was an order from higher up.

Cheers for the time being, take care of yourself.

Yours Jack