DEREHAM
NORFOLK
3. 30 PM
13 JAN 43

Mrs. Gladys Leigh
55, Whitworth Road,
South Norwood,
London
S.E. 25.

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Foulsham.

12th Jan 1915

Darling,

Sam first letter of Sunday has reached me today, and I feel I must answer it right away. After receiving three letters on consecutive days like this I expect you will be imagining me up to all sorts of mischief. Such is not the case.

First reason for writing — more confucial facilities such as a pleasant room of my own, and secondly it keeps me away from the gangs who seem intent on spending all the money. I just steadfastly refuse to join in drinking sessions. I've had one or two spells in the other mess and the next morning has found me as lively as a dead haddock on a fish mongers' slab.

I have promised myself not

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to go in for such doubtful luxuries, for when one does start that sort of thing, it is awkward dropping out of a crowd. It won't be spoiling my fun in any way. I much prefer the quiet life here, or anywhere else for that matter.

However, to reply to your dear news of a son or daughter the "two'th" (?) – (perhaps it ought to read 2nd, deary) is great and it also has me thinking mixed thoughts. Were I with you then we would not worry in the least but apart, we will be thinking of each other and I know I will be with you in mind until it is all over. You are a dear brave Gladdy to write in the tone that you do. I doubt if there are many people in this world who have done all you have and can yet keep going.

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Your suggestion to spend your time at home is the best one. You will have our dear Wendy come to give you comfort and she won't never put up with you going away! Maternity facilities offered in London are usually better than elsewhere and, no doubt, you will be able to fix up for a day and/or night nurse to be in attendance for a reasonable fee. The local council welfare & maternity clinic people could give you the gen.

Now what do you prefer — boy or girl? I'm going to hope for another girl and if it should be a boy, well, I guess I won't kick! Wendy might take more easily to a boy and he would also be useful in teaching Wendy about sex and our different bodies.

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See what I mean? Looking on when the baby boy is being bathed, she would notice the difference and that could lead to easy explanations.

But whatever it is, you must show Wendy even greater love than you do. She may well become jealous and that would never do.

I mentioned it to Happy and he nearly went crazy! She will want proof before handing over the £5-. Still, all in good time. She says he is going to put the screw on really hard, and I can see Louie having to fight hard to preserve her honour. Called me a "spawny devil" - RAF for lucky! Hope so.

Thanks for sending the stuff. See hear from the station in a day or two. So long for now.

God bless you both John

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