TELEPHONE GRANGE 390.

OFFICERS' MESS,
ROYAL AIR FORCE,
CARK,
NORTH LANCASHIRE.

1/10/43

Dearest, It's 11.15 p.m., & I've just left a party at the Mess - farewell for Basher, - but I want to write to you tonight so that you'll have a letter on Monday.

The party was really surprisingly good. I'd put myself on Night flying so as to avoid it, because I thought it would be the usual drinking bout, but N/F was cancelled & so I stayed on. There was very little drinking, but lots of silly games like tug of war, horse fighting etc. Everybody joined in & we had lots of fun, but it got pretty rough after the Waafs left, & by the time I came away they'd started singing rude songs, so I'd had enough. Still, it was a good farewell to Basher, whom everyone likes.

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I must try & write my letters in bits, as there are lots of things I want to tell you, but can't remember them when I sit down to write.

My battle dress was waiting for me when I came back from leave, & it's been cleaned very well. The chief snag at the moment is that one of the pockets has been torn, but I think I'll try & get the C.O.'s sewing meeting & do it, if I don't take it home next week-end.

I think I'll try & get a small electric fire, as it will really be very useful. If any questions are asked, I can always say I've got it for our home.

The more I think of it, the more I wish I could see you settled in a house of your own. I think I realised your difficulties at Newlouse more this leave than ever before, but even if everything

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were perfect there, it would still be much better for us to have our own place. I've been wondering what I can do about it, & the only thing I can think of is to look at the adverts in the Manchester Guardian. I shall also have a look at the Bolton Evening News when I go home. It wouldn't be very easy for you to move up to Lancashire, but if we can't get a house in Abergavenny, we may as well have one there.

The O/s postings this month haven't come through, so it looks as though the September postings will occur in October, & everyone be pushed a month back. I'm fifth, excluding those who are waiting for postings, so

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there will be two in November, two in December, & then myself in January. A lot can happen between now & then, however.

I hope the threshing is going on O.K. Don't work any harder than you can help, & take care of yourself, darling. I don't mind so much your being ill when I'm there, because I can then be sure that you're looked after properly, but I strongly object to your being ill when I'm away.

all my love, darling.
Keep cheerful — three months isn't such a terribly long time.

Harold

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