



R.A.F. STATION  
ELSHAM WOLDS  
BARNETBY  
Lincs.

15.12.43

Dear Brenda,  
a happy Xmas to you, Phil and the  
other etc. I can't wish you a merry  
Xmas as there isn't going to be much  
to be merry on. Will leave it as wish  
for Xmas 1944 when I feel sure Jerry  
will be beheaded and we shall  
have lots more good things to be  
merry with.

I had a day off last week -  
a great privilege as we are supposed  
to work every day for 6 continuous  
weeks and then have six days leave.  
So I took the train to Southwold  
to try and do a bit. Then  
shopping with a very depleted  
back of coupons. I was very  
concerned with the kiddie etc  
the grown ups, but things are

fantastic pieces, and then I  
spotted them handkerchiefs and  
they solved my problem, if they are  
not too small. So put them in the  
kiddie stocking, will you. I tried  
to get a tablecloth for you Phil,  
and this is the best I could do.  
The size of it has given me head  
aches; however I suppose better to  
cover one end of the table than  
none at all. Why don't you be like  
us and do without tablecloths? We  
have polished table tops and use  
mat for hot plates. I don't know  
whether it is the effect of the polished  
tops or the air, but I eat like a  
horse and find the food very good.  
A few weeks ago I had five days  
in Sick Quarters with flu, but am  
OK again now and yesterday we  
played a game of soccer, though I  
could feel my lungs were rather  
tight. Two other members of the  
crew were admitted to Sick Quarters  
yesterday so we are not doing much  
flying as you can guess.



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Am writing this on my billet -  
a wood hut. Russell Fry and I share  
a room in it, size about 9' x 15'. The  
stove is just beginning to show signs of life -  
1300 hours - by 10 pm it may be burning  
gladly brightly - as it may be out.  
Because of the shortage of coke coal  
we have to burn coke, and the stove  
objects to coke. Winter - a fine  
stove hut - as jolly cold places, so  
stove huts under so many are  
ill with cold and flu. I hope  
you have all managed to escape  
the epidemic.

I'm due to 6 days leave on  
Tuesday 22nd to 27th inclusive  
so will be at home, for lunch  
dinner of Turkey and probably  
eating a bit of huddly beef.

we had a show to camp last  
night by name, "Twelfth Night"  
but because of fog, all the

costumes and scenery were  
skipped on the road. Very  
sparsely the Campy put on  
a few "modern" versions of the  
play, dressed in their every day  
dress with a few improvisations. It  
was very funny, but had to use an  
imagination quite a bit - as had  
the actors too, and the effect  
at times sent the actors into  
hysterics so that they could not  
act. The audience caught this  
hysteria too and some of the laughs  
nearly split their sides with laughter.

It was a grand break. We are  
3 miles from the nearest village,  
with no bus service so we don't see  
and life. And most of our  
flying is done at night - so we  
look forward to leaves now more  
than ever.

Well, I do hope you manage a  
big Texas dinner and that Santa  
fills 3 pairs of stars right up  
to the top. My regards to Phil especially  
+++ for 3 smart girls (not) grown up  
of Reg.