TELEPHONE
GRANGE 390.

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

29/7/63
Midnight.

Dearest,

I'm O i/c tonight, so am using a quiet period to write this overdue letter. I shouldn't have done this until the week after next, but the C.F.I. thinks that the P/O who's been doing it this week is too inexperienced.

I was going to write to you last night, but I fell by the wayside. Yesterday morning I cycled out to Esthwaite, a very nice ride of about 15 miles & set off back at 8.0 p.m. After I was more than half way back, I met Stockdale & Sinclair, who dragged me back with them to the Swan at Newby Bridge, & then to the Kings' Arms at Cartmel. - Quite a pub crawl, in fact. To crown it all, we went to Engel's house in

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Cartmel for supper, and reached camp at midnight. By that time I'd cycled about 35 miles, & was feeling worn out, although I think it did me good.

This morning I went to Bobbington, near Wolverhampton. There was broken cloud at 1000 ft when we started, but over the sea (from Lytham to Rhyl) we were down to 300 ft, & trying to give ships a wide berth in case they were flying balloons – Quite a dice, I can tell you. At Rhyl I climbed up through the cloud, 500 or 600 ft thick, intending to turn back because of the Welsh Hills, but S. of Liverpool it was O.K., & we had a very good journey back in the afternoon.

Your letter gave me a thrill today. I'm delighted to think we've actually got some

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chairs, let alone a saucepan!
What shakes me about your life
at the moment is the straits you
are put to to get into Aber. The sooner
you live in a civilised place, the
better, I think. It's not too bad
in this sort of weather, but it
would be hopeless in winter.

The watch I'm not quite sure
about yet. Twice it has lost time,
once 5 minutes & once ½ hr., so I'm
giving it a thorough check before
I consider sending it to you. Perhaps
by then it will be time for our
48, if the days will only pass
quickly enough!

I'll try & fix the petrol
for you, but my biggest trouble
will be finding a bottle, I expect.

I've got the perspex ring,

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and will finish it when I can.

~~I'm~~ Mother sent me the letter from Kingston, but there was no hurry, so I'm enclosing it with this.

I take a poor view of this way of spending a night. When I think that I could be with you instead of being stuck in this office until about 6.0 a.m., it's enough to make one weep.

Still, perhaps the more I do of this, the sooner I shall be able to be with you permanently, because that's what I want. It's pretty dim being away from you darling.

All my love,

Harold.

PS. Dad apologised for not having had enough time to write to you!

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