

Wednesday evening
November 8, 1944

Dear Shirley,

The results of the 1944 U.S. presidential election have been radioed to the troops of the U.K. bases (United Kingdom) throughout the day. They have caused some interest, no excitement, and general satisfaction.

Servicemen wish the war to end and for peace to prevail in the world for their lifetime. And Franklin D. Roosevelt seems to be the best qualified and ^{most} determined leader to achieve that.

Now maybe congress and the president can concentrate on more efficient domestic administration and postwar planning also.

Even though a presidential election seems to be in some far distant world and football news seems to come from the dim distant past, it is what we are fighting to preserve in the U.S.A.

One thing we long for over here is American currency. As we are based in England we are paid in English currency and we pay for things in English currency. So, first thing after arrival in the U.K., we had what U.S. currency we had with us changed into pounds, shillings, florins, pennys, crowns. And then we tried to unravel the mystery. A large copper coin labeled half pence and called half penny is the smallest unit in the British monetary system, equal to a U.S. penny. Another large copper coin is the penny, equal two half pennys. Then comes a brass hexagon three pence, called thripence, and the small thin silver six pence, also labeled and pronounced six pence. The silver shilling equals twelve pence or twenty cents. The large silver florin equals forty cents or two shillings; the half crown equals two and six (two shillings six pence) or fifty cents and of course the crown is double that. The first paper currency in the English scale is the large

Kleenex like ten shilling note.
Two ten shilling notes equal
a pound or £4.043.

Then to further complicate
matters the newcomer to the
U.K. must learn the signs.
£ is the sign for pounds; s
is the sign for shillings; d
is the sign for pennys.

I do not know why
I spent ^{all} the time and energy
on the English monetary system
for you must use it to know
it. But if you ever tour the
Isles or the Empire you can
pull out this letter for handy
reference.

Keep up your lioning.

Love,

Lee

P.S. The latest letter received
from you was a three
page V-mail prize written
October 22, 1944, and post marked
October 30, 1944.