Tuesday evening
November 14, 1944

Dear Shirley,

I recently visited London.
London, England—the center
from which Anglo-Saxon culture
and civilization have spread
throughout the world. Second largest
city on earth, great financial,
commercial and manufacturing
center, nerve center of the United Nations
victory drive in the west.

After an early morning train
ride from a town near my
present airbase I arrived at a great
London station, caught a ride in one
ancient looking cab and engaged a
room in the Regent Palace Hotel
in Piccadilly Circus, heart of the
entertainment district. After a sparse
wartime English lunch I went
to the well-stocked Central Officers
Clothing Post Exchange to purchase
needed clothing, returning to
the hotel for tea. Date dinner
at the best restaurant in England—
American Officers Mess at the
Grosvenor House. On the evening
I did the town.

Next day, after breakfast in
bed and a warm tub bath,
I took an American Red Cross
limousine tour of the town:
Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square
and Admiral Nelson's Statue, Tower of London, London Bridge, Tower Bridge, east side slum and warehouse district, Fleet Street newspaper area, the Temple law and court center, Old Curiosity Shop, Buckingham Palace, Hyde Park, Baker Street, number 10 Downing Street, Houses of Parliament, British Museum, U.S. embassy. I went through the massive awe inspiring war damaged St. Paul's Cathedral which is kept like a museum, and Westminster Abbey and Cathedral. Seeing the top movie An American Romance completed my first visit to London.

London today is not catering to tourists, she is scarred and battle scarred. If you will read William L. White's report in Reader's Digest of the great fire night of the 1942 London Blitz and multiply that by five years of war (rockets still cause frequent tragedy) you will have an idea of this great city today.

Must close now.

Love,

Lee