

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 spare wartime English lunch I went to the well stocked Central Officers Clothing Post Exchange to purchase needed clothing, returning to the hotel for tea. I ate 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 drab 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