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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.

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One thing we long for over here is the 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 [sic], crowns. And then we tried to unravel the mystery.

A large copper coin labeled half pence and called hay penny is the smallest unit in the British monetary system, equal to a U.S. penny. Another large copper coin is the penny, equal (to) two ha'pennys [sic]. Then comes a brass hexagon three pence, called thru'pence, 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

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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. (drawn symbol similar to L) is the sign for pounds; S is the sign for shillings; d is the sign for pennys [sic].

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 [sic].

Keep up your (?)

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.