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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 Nation's 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 Grovesner [sic] House. In the evening I did the town.

Next day, after breakfast in bed and a warm tub bath, I took an Red Cross|American Red Cross limousine tour of the town: Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square

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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. Pauls 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