

Tues. A.M. Nov. 23, 1943

My Dearest Bevy -

Last night we had another little party here but I'll tell you about it in my next letter. I wrote quite a long letter to the folks in Jersey. I'd hate to think that any of the letters would get lost, especially when it takes so long for me to write one.

I'll start my experiences in London with Sun. morning. A guide left the Rainbow Club with a small group of us to go on a walking tour. Our first objective was the changing of the guards at the Palace. On the way we passed Marlborough (excuse spelling) House where Queen Mary lives. Across the way is the old St. James Palace that was acquired by Henry VIII. It was used ~~as~~ by the following monarchs until Buckingham Palace was built.

I'll have to take time out now as we are going to visit an airdrome this afternoon. Should be very interesting.

Here I am back again. Enjoyed the visit and saw many aircraft that I had never seen before. Sorry, but that's all I can tell you about it.

Now back to London again. We reached Buckingham Palace and had a good view of the guard change. Thought I could stop in to see the King and compare notes but it seems his secretary slipped up on making the date and the King wasn't in.

The old guard (Scotch) stood at attention in ^{the} yard in front of the Palace until the Coldstream Guard slowly marched up to relieve them. It's hard to describe the slow march. The man extends his left foot sharply forward and then slowly drops it to the ground. Does the same with the right and continues first left then right etc. They halt a distance from the old guard and the Officer of the old guard turns the key over to the new. By the way, they are accompanied by their respective

bands which play when they march up and then while they are assigned to various posts. It's all very impressive, although not as much as it is in peace time, because now they wear battle dress!

Across from the Palace is a huge statue of Queen Victoria seated in her throne. It is huge and is composed of 2300 tons of marble. I'm sending some picture post cards and you'll see it on one of them!

On our way to the Abbey we stopped to see the Westminster Roman Cath. Cathedral (about 4 blocks from the Abbey). I was struck by the tremendous size of the tower, something like this-

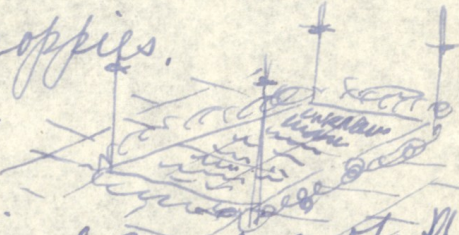


It was hundreds of feet high and seemed to reach way up into the sky. (doesn't lean the way I've drawn it)

Then we came to Westminster Abbey. How there's no describing the awed feeling one gets when entering this old building.

Just over the entrance is a monument of William Pitt who was Britain's youngest Prime Minister at the age of 24. To the right is a little room for the dead soldiers and sailors of the last war. In the main Cathedral, about 20 yds. from the entrance is buried the "Unknown Warrior". (similar to our Unknown Soldier) There is a huge plaque above the grave which is set even with the floor and surrounding it are hundreds of poppies.

a large candle stick candle. Hanging by is the Congressional Medal of Honor that Gen. Pershing bestowed on it.



In each corner is with a burning on a pillar close

Further in the huge room, there are two main rooms, over the stones above the graves of Chamberlain, Isaac

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Newton, Livingston, Faraday etc. Then there are various corners - Port's Corner (all poets buried there) Statesman's Corner (all statesman) Scientist Corner, etc. A sermon was going on so I couldn't see all the corners. All the way forward ~~to~~ the ~~altar~~ ^{altar} where the coronation takes place. I believe 14 monarchs have been crowned there. Just outside is the "Cloisters" where are buried notables and nobility. They are under the stone walk which serves as tombstones. Seems funny to walk over the graves. Some date back for hundreds of years and many stones were so old and worn that all that was left of the original inscriptions are some faint scratches. To one side is the little room in which the monks prayed. It dates back to 1040 AD. There are many other sights that I didn't have time to see. You really have to spend a few days there to see everything. So we moved on. Just down the street is a statue of Geo Washington.

Interruption again. I'm now sitting in our Rec. Hall waiting to see "Shadow of a Doubt." I'll continue till the picture starts. Uh, uh, lights out -

Wed. Nov. 24, 1943

Dearest -

The pictures were very good. Saw one that showed what would happen to a "Lidice" in Wales. "Shadow of a Doubt" was very good.

I suppose you've noticed that my letter writing consists of a few sentences every chance I get. Guess I'm trying to do too much at the same time.

Now for London again - All of the government buildings are in the same area. Big Ben is at the corner of the Parliament bldg. It's quite large. The hour hand is 9' long and the minute hand 14'. So you see it is a sight.

Other sights were 10 Downing St. Scotland Yard, The Cenotaph which is a war memorial, sometimes called the "Empire Memorial" the Earl Haig statue which caused quite a fuss because many people felt the horse's head didn't extend enough, and Nelson's statue in Trafalgar Sq. At the base are four

huge lions which were cast ^{from} the battleship Royal George.
There's also a small building covering a statue of King
George I. A sign on the door reads - "Closed on Sunday,
not open during the week."

To complete the trip I saw ~~Abraham~~ ^{as} Abe Lincoln's statue
and one dedicated to Edith Cavell.

There's more I did on Sunday. Went to a concert and
heard Moiseiwitch play some Chopin. Pretty good but
it took him a long time to warm up.

I think I've covered enough for one letter so I'll say
good-bye for now. Please excuse the jumpiness
of the letter.

your loving hubby
Hal

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11/23. Encl



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