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William Vasos World War Two Correspondence #17

Charles G. Vasos

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Dear Bill,

I hope you aren't too disappointed with me for not writing sooner. I have thought of writing you lots of times, but just never got around to it. Well, old top, I'm some glad in England and not at all happy about it. I will be three years for me by Sept. 19th and I am about ready to throw in the hat. It seems like you no more than get settled at one place and you are on the move again. I suppose it won't be as bad when I get assigned to a squadron and get settled some place. You can have your ocean and all your boats because if I get a chance my return trip will be by plane. I suppose you would like to know something about England. Well, so would I. I've only been in town twice, once on an illegal pass. Nothing to drink here but an imitation of American beer they call bitter. It's just like taking a bottle of City Club, setting it out in the sun for three days and then thinking it. They just don't believe in cooling it. Looks like Charlie is going to
hit the wagon. We're rationed to seven packs of
wheat a week, two razors blades, a bar of soap,
three bars of candy and one package of gum. We
had to have our money changed over to English
money. It seems so different that you don't know
whether you are getting cheated or not. Usually it
just half a handful of change out and tell them to
help themselves. They have pennies, three pence, six pence,
shillings, half crowns, crowns and pounds, respectively.
They are worth 1/4 cents, 5j cents, ten cents, 20 cents,
50 cents, 1 dollar and 4 dollars. A pound will also
big you have to fold it in half to get it in
your kilfold. I haven't been paid since May
so I don't have to worry about getting my pocket
book overloaded. The people are quite different here.
They are hard to approach and think that the
Yanks are extravagant because of the way they
throw their money away. The gals are quite the same
as Americans. They know what that glum in
your eye means. If you ever get around this way
be sure and look me up. Cherries all that stuff. Check
Dear Bill, 17 July 44

I hope you aren’t too disgusted with me for not writing sooner. I have thought of writing you lots of time but just never got around to it. Well, old top, I’m some place in England and not any too happy about it. It will be three years for me Sept 19th and I’m about ready to throw in the hat. It seems like you no more than get settled at one place and you are on the move again. I suppose it won’t be so bad when I get assigned to a Squadron + get settled some place. You can have your ocean and all your boats believe if I get a chance my return trip will be by plane. I suppose you would like to know something about England. Well, so would I. I’ve only been in town twice, once on an illegal pass. Nothing to drink here but an imitation of American beer they call bitter. It’s just like taking a bottle of City Club, sitting it out in the sun for three days and then drinking it. They just don’t believe in Colling it. Looks like Charly is going to
hit the wagon. We’re rationed to seven packs of weeds a week, two razor blades, a bar of soap, three bars of candy and one package of gum. We had to have our money changed over to English money. It seems so different that you don’t know whether you are getting cheated or not. Usually I just hold a handful of change out and tell them to help themselves. They have pennies, three pence, six pence, shillings, half crowns, crown, and pounds. Respectively they are 1 ¼ cents, five cents, ten cents, 20 cents, 50 cents, 1 dollar and 4 dollars. A pound bill is so big you have to fold it in half to get it in your billfold. I haven’t been paid since May so I don’t have to worry about getting my pocket book overlooked. The people are quite different here. They are hard to approach and think that the Yanks are extravagant because of the way they throw their money away. The gals are quite the same as Americans. They know what that gleam in your eye means. If you ever get around this way be sure to look me up. Cheers and all that stuff. Chuck