

147245Y LAC STONE STREET

157 M.D.S.

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RAF

B.L.A.

14-5-45

My Darling Clare

As you request - (although

for me it is no jest) this note to
you is all in rhyme. (or will be
if I have the time!!

The writing then you must excuse,
for I have quite a lot of news,

First let me say that I am well,

And now my story I will tell.

Having a day with naught to do
but celebrate - 'twas V.E. 2. (17W48V4)

I ~~was~~ paid a visit to a town

A hundred miles farther down.

For several years this town had been
ruled by the Hun and dreadful scene
of bombing shooting and starvation

Till V.E. day came & brought salvation.

So to this town I made my way

The streets all decked with flags and gay
^{when} suddenly I saw some Huns
and what was worse they still had guns

(2)

No sight or sound of Allied troops
The Germans stared at me & Whoops!
Was I scared stiff - I didn't retreat
So went on boldly down the street.

But all at once there came a shout
A smiling Dutchman hurried out, and he
seized my hand and held it tight
A crowd came quickly into sight.

Into the house I then must go
The crowd outside began to grow
Till nearly all the street was full
I felt the biggest kind of fool.

Then ladies came and made a feast
as best they could - The German host
had taken care that celebrating should
not consist of too much eating.
My heart was sad - to think that I
could add so little to their "joy".
But what I had was gladly taken
And added to the meal-in-making.

Then they insisted I must stay
To see the illuminations gay!

Huge bonfires in the street were lit
 And children carried lanterns gay
 They found a throne where I must sit
 Meanwhile the night had turned to day.

But presently there came a cheer
 Handclapping almost burst my ear
 A Bonfire larger than the rest
 Became the centre of interest

And in the radiance of its glow
 Dancing was started then & so.
 They seized me ~~me~~ again and sped
 me to the fire so bright & red.

They formed a circle round about
 and danced all round with many
 a shout
 of "God Bless England" "Save the King"
 "Jehovah" & everything

And then came whisky wine & gin
 which had been saved to welcome
 in.

THE ENGLISHMAN WHO FIRST APPEARED
 AFTER THE HUN'S "PITCH HAD BEEN
 QUEERED"

strange that it should have been
my luck.

(In fact I was quite thunderstruck
To see the Jungs still about
but later on it all came out.

It seems that in a nearby town
Canadians troops were holding down
a batch of prisoners and until
they had been cleared. Jung still

must stay where he had stayed so long
and wait his turn - it won't be long (OH)

Of course I had to make a
speech.

My voice could never hope to reach
the outside of that surging crowd.
So they brought a "mike" to make
it loud.

The words I said don't matter now
but they were cheered so all was
well (OH)

No doubt the whiskey played a part
though what I said was from my heart.

The people there have suffered much
 But like the other hard pushed Dutch
 Have borne their sufferings with a will
 that surely makes them top the bill.

I know you will not greatly
 mind
 that when I left there stayed
 behind
 the chocolate I had saved for you
 you would have loved to see it too.

Well now my story's reached the
 end

And no more time have I to spend
 in writing you a rhyming letter
 But I hope your chilblains are
 now better.

The medicine - begin at once
 just one a day perhaps at lunch
 in three days time start (OH)
 taking two

And at end of seven days start three
 for one week then back to two for
 3 days and then one a day for a fortnight

Now I really must close my Raring
Thank you for your lovely letter
I'm afraid it will be a month
or two before I can be with
you but it'll be very lovely
when the time comes.

Cherish for now

God bless you

Love from

x x x x Raddy x x x x

Love to Jill & GERALD x x x x x