

9/9/40.

Dear Mum, Dad, and Iris,

I am back in — once more, feeling fit and fine, but just a little anxious. I have just booked a phone call, so will probably be speaking to you in half an hour. I have very little time to spare. I've been making wage accounts etc, for the crew, and I have to go to the Merconi Office this afternoon. We are not signing off, so are only allowed to draw on £4. per month; therefore I can draw up to £8. You won't see any of this trips wages just yet I'm afraid! As you know, we have a cargo of maize, so will only be about 3 days unloading. Leave looks very unlikely. If we're lucky we'll go to some other port to load, in which case, I'll be home. I wish I knew if you had gone to Worcester or not. The worst — or that (haw! haw!) is that I shan't see those at home. Still why worry, there are lots worse off than us.

The mail came on board yesterday. Tich (C. B) came along the deck crying his eyes out. (7 years old) His Grandmother had died through going out to air raid shelters too much. The mess room boy was also nearly in tears (18), his cousin of 14 years old was killed by a bomb. So you see mail isn't always so pleasant. I hope all is well at home. I know air raids have been rife. We

3 warnings yesterday.

I have ordered a patrol suit, and hope to get it tomorrow.

Excuse scribble, but am in a awful rush. Forgive me if you don't hear as often as in Hull, and tell everyone I shall be unable write to all, but will do my best.

Give my love to Renee, Tell her I wish her all the best. She might send me some lettucees, tomatoes etc. because we don't get them here!!

Has Renee showed you my letter to her from New York?

When you write, write to
% "EITHEL RADCLIFFE"

ALEXANDRA DOCK No 2. Bchl.

LIVERPOOL

Tell Mary to write, and everyone else, because letters are very welcome. If you write to

EVAN THOMAS RADCLIFFE Co.,
BAL TIC HOUSE

CARDIFF

and before the next two months are up, then I shall receive them in what^{ever} port we go in next time.

Will send one or two odd drawings down as soon as I know more. They are not of New York or Albany, but they will be done later.

Give my love to all, all the very best, and keep the chins up, because after all the cellar's not such a bad place is it?!!/X.

Your very affectionate Son & brother &

P.S. Since writing the last few words, I have been to see if I can get through on the phone yet, but its no go for another 2 hours. There must be an air raid on or something. Still I shall be able to write more at my leisure, as I haven't to go to the Marconi Office after all.

When you write, be careful what you say, because all your letters will be opened. When I started this note, I thought I would have a lot to say, but somehow, I haven't. At the moment there is a terrific hissing noise — the noise of the "suckers" (2 in each hatch), taking out the maize. Latest rumour is that we shall be here a week.

Well I must post this now, so once more goodbye. Don't be surprised to see me, but don't buck your hopes up too much.

Goodbye
A. Lewis