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England

14/9/42.

Dear Sydney,

Your letter arrived at my mother's home about 2 weeks ago and I promised to answer it. My family has moved to the above address, and I cannot give you mine as I expect to make a move in a week's time, & then finally settle down to a bomber station in Central England.

First of all you will be pleased to know that everyone is well, and conditions at home are very good, considering that we have been at war for over 3 years and depend so much on imports. Also air raids are very rare and small as the Germans are occupied with Russia, who is making a grand fight.

I was married the day after I became a qualified Sergeant Air Observer at the end of May, and had a quiet but happy wedding, followed by a lovely weeks honeymoon in Devon by the sea on the West coast.

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Then I was posted to Scotland and my wife, Cecilia, left the Red Cross and was waiting for transfer to the W.A.A.F.'s as a nurse. So she came up to live near me for a fortnight, & then went back to prepare for her call-up. She was then granted a month's postponement, and we had another 3 weeks in Scotland, & the last week in London visiting all our relatives & a few friends.

So I have had a goodtime, and am very pleased to be married. Now my wife is a W.A.A.F. doing her basic training about 70 miles from me. I went to see her this week & she is enjoying her experiences. We hope to be posted together or near each other, as soon as I settle down to a permanent squadron.

I have been flying 2 engine 'planes but am now being converted to 4 engine bombers, & will start operations in a few weeks time. I enjoy the life & have much more freedom than before and am well treated.

I am glad to see the happy relationship been out country & America, & perhaps we shall meet soon – in England – Yours sincerely

Archie