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U.S.A.

Dear Mother & Paddy,

April 3, 1944

Perhaps you've got the impression from reading my last few letters that all things are dirt cheap out here in India. This is true <sup>only with</sup> ~~with~~ certain things. Certain services and commodities are very cheap by American standards, ~~but~~ if you try to buy U.S., English, Canadian, or Australian canned food, or ~~practically~~ anything made in these countries, you'll find the price about 3 times what it is at home. This is only natural when the high import tax is considered, but there are some native manufactured goods which are high also. Shoes, for example, are almost as high as at home. The workmanship is excellent but the leather is pretty poor. It's fascinating to watch these shoemakers at work, they have none of the modern machinery we have at home - all work is done by methods used centuries ago, yet the result is better than machine made shoes. Clothes are fairly cheap, the expense comes in buying the cloth, not in the work of making the clothes up. The laundry is so hard on all things that ~~any~~ <sup>everything</sup> is equipped with either rubber, metal, or removable buttons; no ~~to~~ ordinary button could