

MAY 1946

2nd May

Thursday 2/5/46

My dearest Darling,

It was a wonderful experience yesterday to get two letters from you and to hear of your kind and most unselfish visit to Liverpool. The lunch sounds fairly formidable with Horrocks as the one bright spot. Hughes sounds an absolute menace. I have been trying to place him. On the assumption that he was not Holland-Hughes the solicitor for the Football Pools who, I think, has still an office in Liverpool, I think he must have been the Hughes who was with Ayrton & Alderman Smith but I am not frightfully sure. These long talkers are a tremendous depressant. It is an awful experience to feel one's heart sinking right into the pit of the stomach as one contemplates not only being bored but having a stream of words shot at one's ears.

It is very pleasant getting the gratuity which, as you say, is all real money. Talking of money the cheque was for £10 out of which you gave me £20 for the Savoy.

I am so glad that Pam enjoyed her week-end. I wrote to her expressing this hope and thanking her for the book on Gustavus Adolphus. It was amusing about the lack of food. It must be some consolation to you for all the work which you put in both in the collecting the food and cooking it so well.

The trial is in a dragging period owing to the prolixity of Dr Dix and the verbosity of his client Schacht. Schacht is as conceited as any man or woman I have ever met. Somebody has told him that he has an ironic way of speaking, and he searches long and earnestly for a crack. He is however very able and I am extremely worried as to how Jackson will deal with him in cross-examination. I hope that he will redeem the Goering business as another failure would do him and the trial a great deal of harm.

From the wider point of view we are four days behind my estimate which would make the trial end on 31st July. If it was not for the thought of your coming visit in June I don't know what I should do. I get the most violent hates which I suppress with great difficulty.

It will be better when I begin cross-examining again. I ought to start Doenitz on Monday or Tuesday. Shall we say that there is a good chance of finishing "the month after next."

One bright spot is the new Michael Innes. I read some of it last night and it begins most amusingly. Another was the very kind way in which Harold Nicholson spoke of my efforts. From him it was a great compliment.

Darling it is so dreadful without you that I realise every day I love you more than I ever dreamt of. All I can do is send you all the love in the world.

Your very loving

David

PS I got the following books out of the Sunday papers

The House in Lordship Lane
The Fifth Man
Biggles delivers the Goods
Spooks Sometimes Sing

AEW Mason
Manning Coles
Johns
John Courage

MAY 1946

3rd May

15 North Court
SW1
May 3rd

My own darling

I was going to write you a long letter but I have got a bit late standing in a queue at Covent Garden Theatre to book for the ballet to take Mo & Pam.

John Mannon took me on Wednesday & it was such magic that I felt they must see it. I have got seats for the 11th.

I have just put Pam onto a train at Kings X to go & stay with Fay. She had a grand meeting of the Abbey Young Conservatives - of which she is going to write herself - last night. I must say Peter is doing a good job & is longing for your support & encouragement when you get home. He says you are the one they all want.

Does life all seem most unnatural to you? It goes on & on & one is frightfully busy & pushed for time & yet never seem to live, it is the oddest sensation & I long for it to stop.

We went & had drinks at John Manons last night to meet 'Charlotte.' She was full of colourful (I won't say which) charm. However, she is sweet about you & most friendly.

Hat went back to school yesterday so I have got Mo at a loose end & I am about to take her out in the car to buy socks as a pastime.

Your PX with the lovely rhyme about the rain arrived & was a big success & also Pam's letter. The puppets lasted as a continuous joy & they gave a performance to Anna (Hat's mother) & Pam Marmsworth thereby saving my reason! They came to tea on the same day - I don't get it! I believe most people are nutz & never say a word they mean!

Melford has got a house. It is too big I think & may be difficult to run but it is cheap in rent & people like that always get looked after so I have encouraged it. He will be in by the summer so it all works out for the best.

I must go, my own, I shall take this to Lansdowne House while we are out

All my love & thoughts & blessings

Sylvia

4th May

15 North Court
Saturday morning May 4th

My darling

David Stevenson has just rung up to say he is escorting a German to Nuremberg & will come round to collect a letter. There is no news since yesterday but I cannot lose an opportunity of feeling in touch with you. I shall also send a sponge which I feel sure is one you brought home at Easter.

I went to see Dame Laura's Nuremberg. It is tremendously impressive I think & her portraits of the prisoners are terrific - so frightfully characteristic. Maybe it is more interesting if one has been there & knows the position in which they sit. The symbolic backcloth effect seems right to me. I felt all that distinction so much a part of the court. Unfortunately no lovely picture of you.

Last night I had Dicky & his partner Maurice Hill & his wife to dinner. The Hills are most human & very nice.

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Pam rang to say she had arrived safely & that Cantley Hall was all it should be. This morning Mo was on her own for the first time but did not seem to want anything but the puppet theatre with which she played until she went out. All the dolls watched & they had the whole play. It really has been a stupendous success.

I do trust you are alright & will get out for a little air - even if one cannot say change - this weekend.

All my love, dearest heart & I repeat at the risk of boring you that it is hell without you

Sylvia

5th May

Sunday 10.10

My sweetest heart,

You will, I hope, have heard from Gordon O'Neill that I have tried to get through to you but was informed after many attempts and one wrong number that you had left the receiver off!! There is no answer to that crack so I shall try and get you later in the day.

I was tremendously cheered by getting your letter of May 3rd and hearing how you had enjoyed the ballet. I hope that Pam & Mo will find equal pleasure. I was extremely interested to hear that Pam was taking an interest in the Abbey young Conservatives. Full marks to Peter Vernon if he can really put and get some enthusiasm. I shall certainly turn to and help when I return.

I could not agree more about life. There is so much to do and so little living. John Barrington and I went for the drive that Harry Phillimore proposed for you and me when we went a walk instead. As we came to each beautiful Bavarian landscape & village I got so much more depressed that I nearly screamed. We lent our house to the secretaries for them to give a dance last night. Lawrence and Jackson were there so I danced with Lady Lawrence, Elsie, Adlle. Chalafort (a 45 year old female advocate of the French delegation) 4 other French, Mrs Beckenham, Miss Kentish, Miss xxxxx and Miss Tutter. I take my hat off to Miss Halcomb with whom I did not dance. She sat for half-an-hour, with an informal guard of various officers, to keep Khaki's attention while he sobered down in the open air. I can imagine nothing more horrible and there must be a good strain of 'West Highland' or 'Alderney' in her somewhat bovine blood.

On the other hand Khaki could not have been nicer when I broke it to him that he should go back after Jodl which should be before the end of May. I find that it is this terrible mixture of qualities in human nature, including par excellence myself, which is so frightening. How can the personality capable of such niceness be so incredibly and deliberately silly? The only explanation is that otherwise we should all get unbearably conceited which is not very profound philosophy.

Doenitz should go into the box to-morrow and I should begin to cross-examine on Tuesday. I am going to spend all to-day working on his case and Raeders. We had a tremendous thunderstorm last night and to day is duller and not so warm but it is improving slightly.

I shall leave the rest until I try to get through again later

12.45 I have tried for the third time but there is no reply!!! I assume you must be out for the day or away for the week-end. I shall try and find another time when I shall be luckier.

I was very amused by your "colourful" description of Charlotte. She is an odd one. John Marnon must have done some quick work. Her "steady" at the end was a rather nice lad called Peter Fraser. I do not know if you remember him.

It was really thrilling that the puppets kept up the critical interest. I told Leslie Hill and Miss Barritt how much their translation had meant and they were delighted with Mo's letter. Miss Kentish was so taken up

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with her party that she forgot to get my PX last week but I have written a versicl note and it should go off on Monday.

Khaki and John have apparently decided not to go out and my hope as the day gets warmer of working on the back porch is frustrated. Never mind it will soon be June and when you come everything will be all right.

7.30 This is not our lucky day. I have tried for the 4th time successfully but you had very properly after waiting in all morning gone to a film !!!! However I am glad to know that all is well.

In the meantime David Stevenson has brought your lovely letter and the sponge although I did not leave it. Nevertheless it is very welcome. I am glad that you liked the Laura Knight. Khaki says it was slated in the Times & Express but I liked it myself.

It is wonderful to hear that the puppets are still going strong.

David Stevenson seems very nice. Everyone is commenting on his age. An American said "would you mind telling me your age, you're young to be a captain?" and when he mentioned his wife Khaki said your what? However he has had drinks & is dining with us and Harry Phillimore is putting him up so I think he should be all right.

My sweetest lots of love & better luck to our next calls!!!! Give a big hug to Mo and accept millions of kisses yourself

Your very loving

David

P.S. 12.35 am

I have done a reasonable days work. Much more love D

15 North Court
SW1
May 5th 1945 Sunday

My own darling

I wonder if you tried to ring this morning. At about 8.40 the telephone rang - only once as I was by it - & when I picked it up it just buzzed. It may have been a wrong number but I feel awfully thwarted in case it was you. I do hate the weekends. However, everyone brings the thing nearer to an end. I read that you were 'rocked by explosions yesterday'- I hope it is the usual journalism & that the 'rocking ' was not observed too much by you.

I expect you are on the case for the Admiral again to-day, but I hope not all day & that you will get out a bit.

I am afraid your flannel suit will take about 3 weeks so it will not be out just yet.

As it is only 10 o'clock am (just striking by Big Ben) & I wrote to you at lunchtime yesterday there is obviously no news.

As I was writing Gordon O'Niell rang & said it was you ringing & that he had been trying to get me here & that the line had been out of order. It is alright now & I pray you will try again. He says you may.

2pm

We have had lunch & I must post this to Lansdowne House for to-morrow.

MAY 1946

I am mad about this morning. It is a misery. I know there was nothing to say but I do adore to hear your voice & I am so terrified you may ring while I am out. We are going to a film this afternoon & will in this evening - but how can you know.

G. O'Niell says he will tell you what happened when he rings you to-morrow. He is a nice man, I must have him to dine. I long for a letter from you.

I hear Leonard (is that Jack) Stone is coming to stay with you. What a riot.

All my love my dearest

Your own

Sylvia

I am sending you a Roehampton form in case you think it is a good idea to join. You are not committed so do nothing if you think it a silly idea. There is no entrance fee.

6th May
(6/5/46)

Monday 10.50p.m.

My dearest one

This is just a little note to go with Donald Stevenson. There is no news. I have not got on with Doenitz yet but I might get a start at him to morrow.

There is nothing much to tell except pay no attention to the story of explosions & the Court windows being shattered. I believe one piece of xxxx fell out but whether it was from the few bumps I do not know.

Darling won't it be wonderful when this is over and we can have an ordinary life?

Till then as always I adore you

Your very loving husband

David

7th May

Tuesday 5.50 (7/5/46)

My dearest Angel,

I have just received your sweet letter of Sunday. What a succession of bogs the telephoning was on that day. When you heard that I had rung during the film you must have been sulphuric!

Anyway I am writing to you now because it is such wonderful relaxation as well as pleasure so to do, I felt a little "sleepy" yesterday after working all Sunday and went to bed at 11pm last night. I woke refreshed and rigorous this morning and had a cool shower, but I found I had a well developed "hate against all the surroundings of Nuremberg, foreigners, interpreters, typists, Uncle Khaki Roberts and all. This soon past off and I am in terrific form again. I did not get started with Doenitz but I hope to hit him for 6 to-morrow.

Jack Stone has arrived is going to dine with Lawrence. The latter asked me but I cried off on the grounds of work, which enabled me to refuse Esone Sherriff and Tim Pevena also. John and Miss Kentish have gone to a concert. I do not know what Khaki is doing, but I might have an evening to myself with The Doenitz document books.

The new Michael Innes was a riot. I palmed it onto John and despite that he thought it was good.

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I enclose the candidate's form duly signed. I do not wish to play croquet or squash racquets so I suppose they should be left in. If not, Melford can score them out. I wear the old linen jacket and grey flannels at the week end so there is no hurry for the flannel suit. Would you, though, be angelic, and send Kruschen, drops & TCP at your convenience. The Americans are out of razor blades but I can stagger on for a bit.

There is a VE day party to-morrow arranged by the Americans to which the British delegation are going as my guests. It is extravagant but as the F.O. paid for the Speakers party with £10 to spare I feel it is the sort of thing which distinguishes us (you & me) from the beast that perish much wealthier!

I hope by the time you get this Mo has got my PK.

Now my dearest one I must say au revoir with again all my love & a kiss for Pam & Mo.

Your very loving

David

15 North Court
May 7th Tuesday

My darling

I had your letter of last Thursday this morning which has made me feel a lot less suicidal. I know it is selfish but it helps to know you get senseless dislikes & mad boredoms. The difference between us being that you succeed in disguising yours & radiating charm & interest. I try very hard to copy you & fail a lot.

I had the A.W.Mason for your next book out which was going to-day. I will see what else I can get off your list.

Pam is home after a good weekend in the best 'brewing' surroundings. Butlers, pearls & all, but apparently very nice & she liked them. She went to her first evening at her speakers course at Central Office after she got back. It is pretty clear she has 'got something' & was a success from what she says but she will tell you of it all in her own way.

I think my family are coming to stay on about the 20th May for a week or so.

What time in June had you thought of my coming to you - about Friday 21st? Or earlier? I think I ought to see them though these awful victory celebrations on June 8th. In fact I was wondering whether we could afford to go to some near hotel like the Berestyde at Ascot for 2 days. What do you think?

I expect you are in Court to-day, but, though hard work, it is probably better to do something yourself than listen to the other tripe hounds meandering on.

I am so unspeakably mad about Sunday. We went to a cinema, had to wait for a bus coming home & missed you by five minutes. I was in all morning. The telephone is a menace. Oh darling I long to talk to you.

It is the last day of Mo's holidays so I am pottering with her. We (Pam & I) think of going along & showing her the Tate gallery. There is a new Abbot & Costello film to which I hope to take Pam & Bertie to-night. Life is so dull without your interests I am always looking for occupation.

I might get your weekend letter in a day or so as the last one took so long

All love, my own sweet

Sylvia.

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8th May

15 North Court
May 8th. Thursday

My own darling

I got your lovely long Sunday letter to-day. I cannot tell you what a 'low' it has given me all this week missing your talk on Sunday. I know it is absurd - but then I feel absurd at the moment!

It was so sweet of you to be so nice to David Stevenson & he been very thrilled by it all, & really impressed by the trial & all it meant. He has a little too much self assurance to be a success with Pam & myself, but as you say so fairly, it is probably his age & he is quite a nice boy really.

At this point I was interrupted by Mrs Duffin arriving to do some jobs & had to go straight out to shop so I have not time for a long letter after all.

Pam - after a lot of search - has got a book which looks alright & she greatly hopes will fit your requirements.

I can feel you cross examining Doenitz to-day & I hope you are not too tired & that it is going well.

I have got a p.o. savings office book opening an account & crediting you with 50 - 2 - 1. I should think we have it then.

My own darling, think of June - but even more think of August.

All my special love

Sylvia

9th May

May 9th

My darling

A tiny note as I want to get off your medicaments to-night. I am sending a parcel of rather inferior razor blades to tide you over.

I cannot tell you what it meant to talk to you last night. If I had missed you again I should have gone raving mad.

Your lovely letter & the PX have arrived . I think of you all the time attacking Doenitz - I bet you are 'sleepy' again!

I also send the May English Review. Do you want the subscriptions for the clubs renewed. I have opened a letter from them asking if you do.

I am just going to the Maddens for a drink. Isn't life a thrill!

All my fond love sweetest

Sylvia

Tommy got in for Buckfield increasing the majority from 50 last time to 909. A great feat & a personal victory I feel. S

MAY 1946

10th May

*ONLY READ THE LAST LETTER
IF YOU ARE IN A HURRY.*

THIS IS TRIPE

(I think I dated an earlier letter to-day the 9th!)

My own darling

North Court

SW1

May 10th

I have nothing to say but it is 11pm (my especial low) & I cannot go to bed without writing to you for company.

There was a good report of you on the air to-night as you may have heard & also Sink said Dr Braun had told him how good you were. I saw Sink when I took your parcel of TCP etc about 5.45 & just - damn it! - missed the mail bag. I am afraid you will not get the things until Monday.

There is a frightfully good article by Harold Nicholson in the Spectator this week. He must have been impressed to write like that. It is interesting to see it hit somebody else exactly as it hit me. I wish, though, that he did not have to refer to 'the autumn' as a possible finishing time. I know he is right that in 10 years we shall not remember if it lasted a year or six months but at the moment it seems like the whole 10 years to me.

It was a good show of Tommy's, wasn't it? I am really glad. It is always a joy to see the 'givers' getting a break. I have 'had' the takers in a big - & most American !- way.

Mo is full of excitement about the ballet to-morrow night. I do pray it will come up to expectation. Anyway, going out at night is a thrill in itself.

What about my coming out to you about the Friday after Whit June 14th? As you know I am entirely flexible as to plans & can fit in when it suits.

I suppose I had better stop rambling & get to bed. How lucky I have been to be married all my life. Talking at bedtime is such fun & one can laugh at such a lot of things which become boring if one doesn't.

Talking of boring -!! Melford is going to a theatre party with the Curtis-Bennetts to-morrow. Better him than us anyway! 'Everyone to his own taste' - or whatever the French say!

When Mo came in & opened her PX, we found it without the verse. This for your information in case Miss K. was supposed to have put it in. I explained to Mo about the dance & she was rather intrigued. She is very satisfactory.

Good-night & God bless, my darling

Sylvia

12th May

My dearest Darling,

It was wonderful to get straight through and have such a wonderful talk this morning. Remembering which it is pretty terrible about Peter Fraser and Charlotte. Even if there were not the colour difficulty the fact that she was a secretary would damn her in my eyes. I suppose that they are a pleasant race but when for six months one has never got away from their mentality it is a grave matter.

I write with some heat because we have reached the pink penultimate fuck up. Khaki has just met a Belgium Baroness in the Grand unable to find a room and offered her the spare one here - and brought her back to dinner when he knows that I am in the middle of Raeder, having already brought Bob Cooper of The Times to lunch. He has some wonderful story of Peter Casson looking appealingly at him but how

MAY 1946

Peter Casson has any responsibility for sallow faced Belgium bitches -as I am sure she will turn out to be - I cannot think.

There is no sense in having a row with the old chap when he is going in a fortnight but it is a trifle thick. However I have not written out my bile and am more sane.

I worked all day at Raeder - after, I am afraid, a rather leisurely start - until 5 when John and I went along one side of the Bibert and back along the other. You would have adored the water-meadows full of white, yellow and pink flowers. It rather restores my balance - until I heard of the Belgian and got annoyed - after feeling that this place is "wather tew mush."

I was so glad to hear of the visit of your family because I hope that it weans your mother is better. I am sure that they & Mo will enjoy it and I trust that you will at least get a virtuous glow.

Please go to any hotel you like during the victory celebrations.

With regard to your visit I think that the 21st June would be admirable. The only objection is that it sounds a long way off but it will break this long and dreary stretch until the end of the trial very exactly. I am afraid that we are 9 days behind my schedule for finishing on 31st August but that is not too bad in 8 weeks.

The SFBB has turned up. She is 7ft tall and very skinny and I am sure without make up would be SF. She says that she has 6 brothers at Downside and gave the name of van der Straten Maillet, but has lost her papers. She is probably Olga meine Zeitung the green eyed spy but so long as she keeps out of my bedroom I do not mind because she and Khaki have gone to the Circle Franeaus and left me in peace.

I was so relieved when you said that Donald Stevenson had too much self-assertion for you and Pam. Harry Phillimore had a touch of Nuremberg tummy last week. He really put his whole soul into the Doenitz case and had knocked himself up a bit. However he said to me on Tuesday. "You know, I really think I should take an evening off. I have had rather a heavy day and whenever I had a pause that nice young fellow Stevenson came in and asked me about getting back by Paris or Brussels." However everyone liked him and it went all right.

Please withdraw the £50-2s as soon as you can and take it with my blessings.

I told one of the difficulties last week was two parties on the nights before I was going to cross-examine Doenitz. I did pretty well and left them both before 10pm. I told you I "stood" the British delegation (which included the Judge's dinner parties) the VE party. I left at 9.45 after a heavy evening with Jackson Elsie and an American admiral who obviously disliked me because I disliked German Admirals who murdered Liverpool sailors. Jack Stone and Khaki & John arrived back at 12. The secretaries admitted to 3am. They will, as you said this morning, have a lot to learn.

The next night was Biddle's sixtieth birthday. I made the 10th speech and still left before 10. Biddle gave an autobiographical speech and - believe it or not-did not say how he had learnt to biddle but - I swear it - mentioned how at his school in Philadelphia he was taught to "pull the chain" after doing his business after breakfast. His wife is a poetess unread by me but I served a success by saying you and I had rechosen our family motto from Edna St Vincent Millary.

Par l'amour de Dieu there are no parties next week but John thinks we ought to ask Mrs Elwyn Jones (Polly - and how!) and Mrs Tirrall to dinner. I hope to cross-examine Raeder on Wednesday or Thursday.

The medicaments and the English Review arrived this afternoon. I suppose we might renew the subscription to the dicks in the interest of Conservative thought. A million thanks for writing again.

I am extremely glad about Tommy's wonderful win. I am writing to him but perhaps you will convey personally my tremendous pleasure.

MAY 1946

I am afraid this letter has gone juttering on but writing to you does me so much good that I feel I can deal with Raeder, Khaki's SFBB and everyone if I only have your support.

God bless you, my darling and all the love in the world.

David

15 North Court
Great Peter Street
SW1
May 12th

My darling

I did love our talk this morning. Although it has to be slightly formal it makes you seem so much closer.

There is nothing fresh since we spoke. This morning Pam, Mo & I went to the Abbey & this afternoon have been for a walk. All is well & in order - as you say time is passing now & soon it will be August.

All my love, sweet

Sylvia

I enclose a slightly stilted - but I am sure well meant - letter from Ralph!

The second lot of PX with the verse has now arrived. You are sweet.

May 13th

Monday May 13th

My sweet

You will never plough through all this accumulated tripe so leave the earlier ones until you have nothing to do - if ever!

I did not send it off yesterday to wait for the cubacula.

I also enclose the book & forms about your gratuity. As I heard from Gilbert this morning that your cheque has now been paid for the amount sent in April with no queries, would you rather store up the 50 until we can have a weekend together! It is really as broad as it is long, I suppose. I told G. about the 21st. He certainly seems in excellent & friendly form & is determined that you shall only do about 12,000 gaa briefs a year. We might even manage a little life under those conditions.

I should like to try to give Madge a good holiday & then I shall feel I have earned mine with you. I shall try to get her off with Dicky.

I really must stop. I know with what horror you view long letters!.

I enclose the Spectator as you may not see it. Rather a funny crack about the S.G. in Spectator notes I thought. About on level in the 3rd form!

All my love, sweet, again & for ever.

Sylvia

MAY 1946

14th May

Tuesday

My dearest Darling,

What a bore missing you by five minutes last night. I hope, too, that in getting my message it did not appear to be much more sinister than it really was. The mosquito bites were, I am quite sure, only the result of the rather rash walk along the Bibert which John & I took on Sunday night. These insects have not penetrated into Goethestrasse despite the heavy fertilising which is going on around. Actually I used the TCP with completely successful results. It was a joy to hear Mo's "Daddy" although it made me long all the more for this to end.

There is little more to say about the trial. Doenitz's witnesses are still going on which puts my schedule back a bit. I am still hoping, however, for round about the end of July. Even if it goes into August you and I will have a holiday together.

I gather that John has laid on Gilbert all right with Gordon O'Neill. Will you be an angel and see that Gilbert keeps in touch.

Our present visitors are Sir Arthur Salter M.P and Sir Godfrey Thomas, Cynthia's cousin. I had a word with them yesterday in my room but as I am working until one or two each night I am afraid that I have not entertained them.

I send back the "Mason" and the "Manny Coles" I have rarely been done so much good as by the relaxation which reading them gave to me. I also include one or two more names from the "Observer".

The weather has broken and we have had a continuous down pour which affects me remarkably little.

Sweetheart. I do love you and look forward more than I can possibly express to your coming out. Once again accept all my love.

Your adoring

David

15 North Court
May 14th

My darling -

We really are too unlucky about the telephoning. I was only out for 10 minutes taking Pam to Central Office on my way to putting the car in the garage.

I suppose the message I got from Mrs Wilson is right. I am sending the best things I can get from xxxxx. If you have xxxxxxx(mosquito bites) I assume you have not got this artic east wind, which, though a poor compensation is something.

To-night I am dining with this awful man John Hughes - the Solicitor from the train - & his wife. He was with something Smith, you mentioned the name. What a fantastic memory you have have & how I miss it.

A civil servant called (I think) Knight said he had known & admired you & had some contact with you in the Ben Given case. He said you would not remember but I bet you do. I met him at John Senters, he seemed nice in a vagueish way.

Pam is working well & steadily & had another public speaking class which went well.

The Shipleys have asked me to go to Twyford Moors for Friday & Saturday nights & Pam is being sweet about my going & has asked Bertie for the weekend. As my family come on Monday which will tie me completely a little break first may be a good thing although it seems a frightful effort.

MAY 1946

I hope your bites are not bad, darling & that we shall have better luck next time in our telephoning. One of the reasons I hate going away is that I love our word on Sunday morning.

What can I give you for your birthday, my sweet? I wish I could think of something you want.

All my love, & thoughts as always

Sylvia

15th May

15 North Court
May 15th

My dearest one

I got your lovely, long Sunday letter to-day. Gosh, how I sympathise with you. These charming boyish types are alright at a distance - or even if separate house, but at close quarters a little consideration & self discipline seems to me to go a very long way. I do hope that your S.F.B.B. has now left & you have managed to keep her out of your bedroom during your visit!

Sink came in (unheralded) for a drink this evening. He has not been well & is going for an Xray tomorrow. In spite of that he seemed in excellent form, he is rather an old honey. 'Big Ben' had also dropped in! She is going to Germany to-morrow & 'had hoped to look old David up' but finds she cannot get into the American zone. I feel you can take it!

As I had neither Nannie nor Mrs. Wilson & Pam was out I had to rely on Mo's never failing ability not to let me down & cook the dinner by remote control. Both were successful!

I really do intend to give Madge a holiday. I am getting disgruntled & rather revolting without you & I feel my immortal soul requires a jolt.

Tommy sent you all this bumph - which I send on for an inferior purpose. This letter from Bryans also arrived to-day. He is a pompous swob.

However, I have replied (I hope with charm) & told him I will send it on to you but you will not be back before the end of July or possibly the middle of August. I hope that was right. It is a terrible temptation to go rambling on for hours & I must curb it & get to bed. It gives me real joy that you feel better for writing to me, I do feel so 'combed out' after writing to you.

All my love, my own

Sylvia

17th May

15 North Court
May 17th

My own darling

It was lovely to talk to you - I hope Miss Skipsey will not prove a mad bore. She is a nice girl - I am afraid!

I went over to Harrods & got two of the books off your list which I got this morning & I am just going to pop to Lansdown House with them in case the plane arrives in time for you to get them to-morrow.

The work of getting away always makes me doubt the advantages but I know so well it is essential to take days off occasionally. They have got a small plane & we hope to look at Hampshire from the top to-morrow which will be nice.

MAY 1946

Melford is staying with his work! A queer chap. Your saying how you felt when Mo said 'Daddy' reminds me of a remark of hers a week or so ago which was too sweet & I meant to tell you. She was in my room & saw the Lady Birkett snap of you in the train. She had not said a word for some time looking at it & then suddenly said 'it does make me hungry for Daddy looking at this picture.' She is a graphic little lamb & very full of feeling for you when it cannot be stuff doing

All love, my sweet, I must fly

Sylvia

19th May

19/5/46 Sunday 11.30

My dearest angel

Thank you thousands of times for your wonderful letters of 15th and 17th and also for the two books. I have not yet started Raeder but I hope to finish him to-morrow, and thereafter the two books will be just what the doctor ordered.

The S.F.B.B. only stayed one night and not in my bedroom. I am afraid that her length of stay was assisted by a rather pointed "Will you tell the Baroness that I was so sorry I had to go too early to say 'goodbye'" With the additional escape from Big Ben I have much to be thankful for.

I was most interested in what you said about getting disgruntled. I find that I get extremely annoyed with Khaki when he is NOT there and the feeling that I should like to tell him what I think. Fortunately I manage to say to myself that it would not do any good and he is going in three weeks. However it is a bad sign that the inclination is there which we must take in hand. I think it is partly the long wait for Raeder. However that should be over to-morrow. Apart from asking an American general and his wife in to drinks this morning and a Belgian major to dinner Khaki is not interfering much this week-end?

I am very glad that Mrs Skipsey gave me a chance of ringing you up from the office and catching you. I am tremendously glad that you are having this week end. It is wonderful and sweet giving Madge a holiday and looking after your people but you must get a break yourself.

I was really touched by Mo's remark after looking at the snap. I must say I reciprocate it a million times. One cannot realise what a family means till one gets a long break like this. I suppose it is complicated here by there being so many people with whom one cannot be natural. Foreigners, VIPs & secretaries - even with old John one has to be a bit cagey of expressing a frank view in the language of Rabelais. Oh well - less than a month until you come and in three months I shall be home.

I hope that you realise what a difference your letters make. (I shall add a bit before I go to bed).

You are awfully sweet to think of my birthday but do not. We agreed to omit it from our celebrations when Lal died and so let it be. We shall celebrate in August. There are some of the young girls in the French delegation with just Lal's colouring and in the same state of adolescence and I have been thinking a lot.

10.45 I have worked all day on Raeder. I hope that I shall do a good show.

I find I have not told you. Just to finish a charming week, Donnedieu de Varbes arranged a meeting of the International Association of Penal Law yesterday afternoon which lasted from 3 to 5.40. The French delegation arranged a concert (8pm sharp commenced 8.30) at which Mme Madeleine Grey sang for 2 hours solidly.

"God save all men from a fate like this
On the reef of Norman's Woe"

MAY 1946

Still I have done all my work on the Verandel and despite Khaki's Belgian major, I am in cracking form.

Good night, Sweetheart. I wish to heaven I would see you in the morning but that will soon be here. In the meantime a million thanks for all the trouble you have taken in writing and God bless! (The exclamation mark which looks strange was merely to attract the blessing to you and not though he needs it, too)

Your very loving
David

20th May

15 North Court
SW1
May 20th

My darling

This is written while waiting at Euston for my family so may stop at any moment.

I had a really very pleasant weekend with sunshine and feel a lot better for it. Ready for all emergencies and temperamenst - & I'll get them!!

Your beautiful long letter with the cheque & bank book arrived this morning. You are a perfect angel. When I think of the beginning of the war I

My own sweet

It was so lovely to hear your voice (I think I heard you better than you heard me) this morning.

It is indeed high time we got to an end of this apparently endless year. I must say I feel signs of cracking under the strain in myself much too often.

This week is going well & so far in perfect harmony - but you know what that means! However, I am glad I did it, the regrets one cannot avoid are hard enough without piling up any one can.

Yesterday I took Father & Pam to a matinee of the new Terry Rattigan play 'The Winslow Boy.' It was good & we all enjoyed it. Melford took us out as you know on Friday but otherwise has not appeared at all.

To-night I have Dick again for supper. (I don't think any power on earth will make him marry!), Charles Madden, Joan Bayliss (Lawson) & one or two other souls mates coming in. I hate them all !!

To-morrow Tony is taking Father to Lords which is nice of him & coming back to dinner. I cook & cook & try to radiate joy & charm - the latter far harder to do than the former! Never mind, my darling, we have fun coming & how we will enjoy ourselves.

Did I tell you that Jimmy Dowdall is doing a 'Profile' of you in BBC programme called the World Goes By at 4.30 this, afternoon we are listening with bated breath.

This is really to say once more, my own sweet, a thousand wishes for much more lovely years & I long for our talk on Wednesday. You do think & do satisfactory & helpful things & I cannot say how grateful I am for them.

Bless you, always d & my special love, darling

Sylvia

23rd May

MAY 1946

Thursday 10.30 (23/5/46)

My angel

Thank you very much for your lovely letter of the 20th. It was so clever and good of you to write it while writing at Euston. That is such a dreary spot that it usually paralyses all thought not to speak of writing. I could not agree more with the charm of a house well in the depths of the New Forest where one hears nothing but Hampshire. I am replying in writing while Baldur von Shirach is beginning his evidence. As the Americans are handling the case I need not concentrate as much as usual. I just astounded Elwyn by saying that Shirach would not hurt a choir boy. Our ordinary cracks always astonish the Philistine.

I am extremely glad that your people are enjoying their first reactions to Westminster. I agree entirely with your Mother. I also agree entirely with you that you will need an enormous break-out when the visit is completed. I shall try and prepare it for you when the visit arrives on the glorious fourteenth of June. It is a nice point whether Aunt Evelyn and Marcella do not outweigh MacGeagh and Connors together with a very serious American General and his wife. Anyhow anyone can have them all so long as it is not ourselves!

The article in the "Daily Mail" was tremendous fun. It is a tremendous honour to be seriously compared with "FE" however undeserved the comparison. Thank you very much for sending it. Everyone was very nice about Raeder although he was a terrific talker.

People are wonderful. Can you imagine asking Archie if we could bring Jackson to stay with Archie for a horse-race in Paris? It is very difficult to bring in a foreigner here as each nationality is allowed so many guests.

Sydney Alderman has departed. This is rather a milestone as it is very nearly a year - literally over eleven months since I met him first and began to work on this trial.

Actually - and not as a result of Sydney's departure - things are improving in that there are fewer dancing parties. Everything cuts both ways because the secretaries, who no longer are asked to parties when they dance with the officers, in part take up with the other ranks and then have rows with the more snobbish ones. However there is only a period of 3 months so they cannot have time to do very much harm.

I think Gilbert is enjoying his stay. We shall have to try and take up sight seeing at the week-end which is not too thrilling but might be worse.

May I trouble you for more T.C.P, after shaving cream, and some Colgate's shaving cream, also some vick. I am terribly sorry to keep on bothering you. The library books which you have been sending have been a great boon. Unfortunately there was nothing in last week's Observer.

Sweetheart it is only 23 days till you come out and soon I shall be counting the hours.

All my love again with kisses to Pam Mo and millions for yourself

Your very loving

David

24th May

My own sweet

Thank you for the book & another sweet letter. It does help to hear from you. My letters may get scrappy. My 'xxxxxx' is going well but is very occupying & as I share the letter room with Pam I cannot write at night.

MAY 1946

I am just wrenching myself out of the family circle (with no reluctance!) & going to Harrods to get your book. You ought to have more time for a few days.

Oh darling, this continual rather artificial good temper (if at all!) is rather a strain. I am glad you share it. Even at a distance it makes a bond.

Good-bye, my own dearest.

Sylvia

25th May

Saturday 25/5/46

My sweetest angel,

Thank you a million times for the darling letters and the books. It was extremely thoughtful of you to send them as I have a bit of time for the next ten days. I was terrible sorry to miss you last night but I shall try to ring to-morrow at the usual time. I had tried to get through on Thursday night but the direct line was out of order. You are tremendously good sharing the little room with Pam. Most people would have put Madge on the sofa (if anywhere, which is not admitted).

I am terrible relieved about your effort to keep good tempered. I find myself writhing in fury at Khaki for no reason at all and just restraining myself from saying something really nasty. I find I have to go through my irritations and convince myself how petty they are really:

<u>Complaint</u>		<u>Answer of Sanity</u>
1 I resent not being at home this weekend when Harry Phillimore & Pat Dean are	1	I wake up and shudder at the thought of your having an operation and feel waves of sympathy for Harry. I do not care a hoot where Pat Dean is.
2 Khaki having read the article in the Daily Mail said "Well deserved, but rather unfortunate that it describes you as <u>boring</u> like an augur" (which he underlined in red pencil in my only copy)		I suppose the old boy would be pleased if the Daily Mail even said that his cross-examination opened with a crack like a sudden fart. My main care is that he should make a success of Jodl.
3 The Czecho-Slovak government want to bestow decorations on the British delegation but Attlee and the FO have made a rule against it.	3	Even if I have not the order of St Wenceslas I can still sing the carol every Christmas which is much more important
4 Hartley has asked Elwyn Jones to go with him to Paris and Warsaw for 10	4	I do not want to go to Paris or Warsaw especially with Hartley

MAY 1946

days to explain
the importance which
Britain attaches to the
trials - this being
apparently the reason
for him and Elwyn
having worked so
hard at them.

5 This morning Mervyn
and Khaki both said
"Do you mind if we
do not come in to-day
We have taken our
work back and it
will just be an
interruption to come
in!"
I had toyed with
the idea of going down
at 10.30 myself, but
said "Of course, of course"

6 The real trouble is
that I have not
you to talk to. Yet the
competition is high
Yesterday I talked to
(a) At 9.30 M. ARONEANU
an erudite Rumanian
on the legal conception
behind "Crimes against
Humanity"
(b) I am Osseau Golding
on his forthcoming article
on the case against
the German Navy
(c) 1.45pm M. Fouquis- Dupont
that admirable Ministre
Plenipotenaire on
a second trial.
(d) 5.10 Falker Walsh on what
the Pope told him about
von Papen ("Of course,
you cannot use it")
(e) 6-7pm 59 Frenchmen
23 Americans and 17

I have got to go in
anyway and I have
restored my good temper
by writing to you.
At the time I am afraid
I began singing to the
tune of "A shabby old
cabby":-
There's a silly old whatnot
who dodges the work,
You should see him just
sit there and shirk,
If you ask him to do anything
he's lazy
In the evenings he's absolutely
lazy
For the silly old what not
that dodges the work
He teaches the whole
world to xxxx
Not elegant but
soothing

6 You are coming
out in 20 days, and
it will be absolute
heaven. We shall be
able to roar with
laughter at everyone
and everything.

MAY 1946

Russians

(f) 7-10.30pm Gilbert

Moss at dinner

Why do I want

anyone else>

(For the rest of the

day I listened tp Balder von Shirach

the leader of the Hitler Youth.

He looked as if he would not hurt

a choir boy)

Interruption: Charlotte God cheaux came in to say "Good-bye" and to give me her London address and telephone number for your benefit

c/o Mrs Fraser

23 New Cavendish Street

Welbeck 5183

If you could bear to ask them (her and Peter Fraser) in for a drink it would be extremely kind. I think that she is extremely nervous and with what reason. As Harry Phillimore said "Baby snatching carries a perpetual punishment."

Gilbert has also come in and talked with a minimum of depressing remarks. I bought the only one.

G: "If they were to make you Master of the Rolls that would be pulling you over Sir Donald."

D (unguardedly) Of course he has not done Nuremberg

G: The Labour Party will say that you have been paid for Nuremberg

D (a trifle coldly) I am not asking or intending to ask them for anything. Ha!-ha

A charming American Lt is calling me so I must close hastily

All my love

Kisses for Pam & Mo

The Best for your family

Longing to see you

Your very loving

D

28th May

15 North Court

SW1

May 28th 1946

My own darling

It seems ages & ages since I wrote last - I suppose it isn't really, but I have a frightful feeling that I have never been up to think for a week.

All has gone well & the family return on the 10.35 on Friday. I feel (like you with Gilbert) rather a cad at not pressing them to stay this weekend but Mrs W. goes for a holiday on Saturday & it is hard work. I wish I could hear you say I was right. You are so beautifully satisfactory I know you would.

In many ways it has been a good thing to have too much work this week, & one's 'lows' have been more subterranean than usual.

Oh my sweet, think of a lovely day with you never being tactful once! It sounds charming for you, but you know what I mean.

The Senters have asked us all - including Mother - to go for a drink to-night. It is very sweet of them.

MAY 1946

Rita MacGough rang yesterday saying that Harry got home the day before & is raving about you - what you are doing, how good you were to him & all the stuff. They asked me to dine on Thursday (which I can't as it is the last night the family will be here). I am to go one day next week. I must say you have certainly done your - possibly bogus - stuff quite wonderfully!

Jimmy Dowxxxx's stuff about you on Sunday was first class. Well written & delivered & very nice about you. In his eccentric way he is a great fan.

Mo simply adored the last 2 rhymes. The 'trail' & the Baron be Bong type one. You are quite brilliant.

Mother & Father were wildly enthusiastic about the puppets. Mo & I gave a performance for them on Sunday

I cannot believe that I shall see you so soon and that we really are getting - at least - towards the end.

I am glad in some ways you have slightly less to do at the moment but I know you are continually got at & time must drag in court most horribly.

I long for your call to-morrow, Dearheart, again a happy birthday. Has it leaked out & are you being given a party?

All my love sweet

Sylvia

Mother asks me to say again what a wonderful holiday they have had & how much she thanks you for letting them come. It really has done the old girl good & she is tremendously grateful to you.

I have sent your medicaments in a separate parcel.

30th May

15 North Court
SW1
May 30th 1946

My darling

It was heavenly to talk to you on such a good line last night, it makes a warm & lovely closeness.

I am glad yesterday is over. All my reason tells me it is absurd but there is something about anniversaries which brings back memories & makes everything more painful again. You were very sweet to ring up.

I still hope I am not being a cad & I'm awfully glad you say I am not. I think M. feels that she is making headway with D. I have grave doubts but wouldn't it be frightfully funny if she was!

All your irritations ring such tremendous bells with me. Perhaps I am not nutz after all - or perhaps we both are after so long apart!

After all your trouble I cannot cash your savings bank account without a note from you giving permission. They say this is right form, so perhaps you could be an angel & sign it & if it doesn't work lets give it up until you come home.

I am afraid my family have added to expense a bit especially as we have had to have taxis with the car off all this time. They have been very good paying but they can't pay for them all.

MAY 1946

My letters have been horribly scrappy but to-morrow I shall come up for air & have a chance to fix my own life.

We are taking Mo down to see Hat on Sunday. I don't suppose you will ring up again then but if you do we shall be in until 11.30am. This is on the assumption that the car is ready to-morrow as promised.

Dear heart, this is a dreary letter, written at 8.30am to avoid the crowd

All possible love, my sweet

Sylvia

Since I wrote to you Gilbert has rung in stupendous form. He really loved his visit & is a new man for it. He was enthusiastic about everything & most impressed. It was worth all you did which does help

He says it is a joy to be in a place when everyone is so nice, & he was full of wonderful cracks about Lady Langston (with whom he returned) & Harry Cough ('a nice man who never gets tight of anything'!!)

A cheque for 7000 was paid to-day with no questions. I suppose it is worth 1/9 but who cares if you come home.

I have got the car - that is my only big news!

All my love, dear heart

Sylvia

31st May

Darling,

Thank you a million times for your letters, and also for our lovely telephone conversation. I know how you must have been feeling on the night. Still your people's visit is an immense achievement. I am absolutely certain that you were right not to press them to stay over the week-end. It is much better to finish on the obviously good note you have maintained for 10 days than give some extra days and risk an anti-climax.

The position as the date of your coming out is that Lady Lawrence comes out on Wednesday 12th June and Tim Pile on Saturday 15th June. I naturally want you as soon as possible; but see how things go, and how the always difficult arrangements for tearing yourself away can most easily be made. The great thing is that it is a fortnight from this week-end.

The Attorney is an odd creature. Lauterpacht has now come out. He is going to do a draft of the final speech over the next 4 weeks. Hartley has the idea of making a great speech answering letters in "The Times" Lauterpacht seemed quite surprised that there would be serious arguments on the facts of some of the dfts who should be hanged, are going to be hanged and if one or two are not going to get off. However I am not worrying about someone else doing a job of work. I suppose that I shall get the a chance of correcting the grosser errors before the speech is delivered. Neither Hartley or Lauterpacht are checking with the judges at all.

Much more serious is the fact that there is now little chance of the trial ending before the middle of August and a very fair chance of it going on to the end of that month. (There is a charming Soviet General cross-examining at the moment, having been at it for two - now 3 and a half - hours who is doing nothing but (a) wasting time and (b) letting the dft Sauckel recover from the effect of a quite good French cross-examination yesterday). However whatever time it goes on to we - you and I are going to have a holiday.

I think the worst thing is the sinking heart before meeting the next boob on the day's programme. I realised how you felt exactly the same over Joan Bayliss and Charles Madden.

MAY 1946

I was very interested to hear of all your actions to entertain your people and look after Madge and Dickie.

I enclose a rather charming sundial inscription which Francis Biddle sent to me. I send it to you for its complete appropriateness.

I must say it was wonderful of Jimmy Dordall to do a Profile. In his own way he is a loyal supporter.

It is now 11.55 so I hope that you have seen your people leave comfortably and with a flourish of trumpets!

I am glad that Harry MacGough was satisfied with his treatment. It is extremely difficult being really hospitable when one is busy and more so when one is bored! However it is a bit hard that you should have to pay again by going and dining with them - pretty formidable. Nevertheless it would be a kind thing to go.

We are having the British judges and counsel to dine this evening as a farewell dinner to Khaki who will be returning to London just after Whitsuntide. I suppose it is possible to finish.

I think that the Air Crew must go over the mail bag with a hammer because they succeeded again smashing the TCP bottle. Otherwise your medicaments arrived safely and were very much appreciated by me.

Darling, once again let me say how much I am looking forward to your visit. You will find it quieter without the superfluity of food which there was in February. Still there are still a few dozen bottles in our locker and Bavaria looks very lovely in its summer clothes with lots of trout in the streams. Anyway if we can only get together and be able to laugh a little, I care not for surrounding circumstance, food drink or anything else.

All my love, millions of kisses and looking forward to seeing you in possibly 12 & certainly 15 days

Your very loving

David

My dearest angel

Thanks a million times for your lovely letter and the books. I enclose a cheque for £100. I shall send the bank book back when I get Khaki to witness the form. I am extremely glad to hear about Gilbert and I hope that Sunday goes well. I shall write to Pam to-morrow.

Again oceans of love. D.