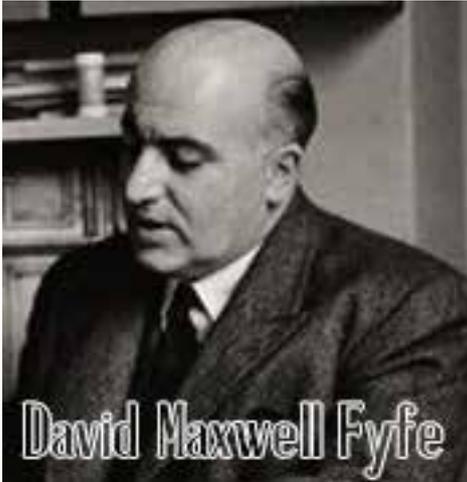


# CHARACTERS



## DAVID MAXWELL FYFE

David Maxwell Fyfe was born in Edinburgh in 1900, the only child of William Thomson Fyfe, a former headmaster of Aberdeen Grammar School and author, and his second wife Isabel (nee Campbell) of Dornoch. He was educated at George Watson's College Edinburgh and Balliol College Oxford where he read Classics, and served in the Officer Training Corps. After university he studied law while working for the British Commonwealth Union, and was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1922. Later that year he joined the Northern Circuit and became a Junior at a chambers in Liverpool. In April 1925 he married Sylvia Harrison with whom he had three daughters, Lalage, Pamela and Miranda. He became Kings Counsel in 1934, and the next year was elected Conservative MP for Liverpool West Derby.

During the Second World War he was a Major in the Judge Advocates General, and was badly injured in an air raid in 1940. Two years later he was knighted when appointed Solicitor General in Winston Churchill's wartime cabinet. He was made Attorney General in 1945, and when later in opposition, led the British Prosecution team as Deputy Chief Prosecutor in Nuremberg at the War Crimes Trials. He joined the Committee of the United Europe Movement in 1947 and was a member of the early parliamentary assemblies of the Council of Europe, chairing the committee involved in drafting the European Convention on Human Rights. From 1951-4 he was Home Secretary, and in 1954 was made Lord Chancellor, a post he held until his retirement in 1962. When elevated he took the title Kilmuir of Creich and latterly was made Earl, Baron Fyfe of Dornoch. He died at Withyham in Sussex in 1967, and his titles died with him.

## SYLVIA MAXWELL FYFE

Sylvia Harrison was born in Huyton, Liverpool, one of three children born to William and Edith Harrison, and was educated at Liverpool College for Girls. Her younger brother Reginald grew up to become Oscar winning actor Sir Rex Harrison. She matched her brother for charm, whilst dedicating her life to the success of her husband David Maxwell Fyfe who she married in Liverpool in 1925. As well as caring for their 3 daughters, she provided wholehearted practical support throughout her husband's political career, acting as his unofficial driver, and taking on his constituency business for the year he was away in Nuremberg. Her involvement in Liverpool constituency work continued after his return and in 1950 that work was recognised when she was asked to become one of the first women Vice-chair of the Conservative party, a position she held until 1954.



Later she chaired the Women's Electrical Association, and Rose Bruford Drama College. In 1957 she was appointed Dame Commander, Order of the British Empire (D.B.E.). Following Maxwell Fyfe's death ten years later, she married the 9th Earl of De La Warr, whom she outlived by 16 years. She died in 1992.



Tragically Lalage died in a freak bicycle accident when away at school during the early years of the war.

At the time of her death she had just signed up to the WRNS.



Pamela went up to Oxford to study PPE the year her father returned from Nuremberg

She later became a JP, chair of the Greenwich Bench, and an early campaigner for equal treatment of women at work.



Miranda was just 6 when her father went to Nuremberg. He wrote The Wishing Doll stories to entertain her whilst he was away.

As an adult she worked in the professional theatre, and in later life gave talks on her early life in the Lord Chancellor's residence.



## TDMFB

I have always been haunted by my grandfather. I was christened Thomas DAVID MAXWELL FYFE Blackmore. He died when I was six years old, so I did not know him. I knew and loved my grandmother, who, when I was 18 gave me my grandfather's seals of office and title. Then in 1998 the bulk of his personal papers were unearthed in the vaults of his solicitor's in the City.

I am grateful to have got to know him a little through those papers, and happy to have kept his memory and legacy alive.

## SEC

My inspiration for writing *Dreams of Peace & Freedom* was as much in memory of my father, as the legal romanticism and idealism of David Maxwell Fyfe, who he very much admired. Dad was captured on Crete, but despite spending his war as a prisoner in Silesia, in the years after, I remember the friendliness with which he would strike up conversations with German holidaymakers – something that was more common amongst his generation than you might expect. That peaceful spirit of reconciliation and shared impulse of unity amongst previously warring nations is at the heart of The European Convention. It deserves to be treasured and celebrated.



## LCB

The more I have taken part in this project, the more I see the importance of remembering forgotten events. In school, my generation have been taught history until the end of the World War 2 but there is so much more to know about how peace and security were created in Europe afterwards. And researching my great grandfather's life has been the catalyst for my discovery of these events.

## RB

For me, this project has been a constant learning process which has called into question many of the things I thought I understood. I hope it will grow into something that will educate others and play a part in changing how people view these events in the future.



# KEY

*Extracts from David Maxwell Fyfe's autobiography,  
A Political Adventure  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson 1964*

Commentary & Explanation

*Poetry & Lyrics*

Responses & Reviews

**Quotes from History**

Transcripts

*Captions*

In the Press