

1st July

15 North Court
Great Peter Street
SW1
July 1st 1946

My own darling

I am going to take this letter to John to-night. I do hope you are better. I hate not being able to look after you when you are not well.

I wonder if Diana contacted Duncan Sandys. She rang a number of times to know how to ring him up & obviously did not believe that I had never pulled a string to ring you. They are strong individualists - if that is what they call themselves!

It is a lovely day here at last & I have brought Pam & Mo & Nannie to Roehampton to tea. It makes a little change for Mo as she can't go back to school until Wednesday & she gets a little bored.

I had lunch with 'Sink' who was charming & old world - with a rather modern background of expecting his decree to be made absolute any day!! He told me his life story.

Carola rang up to-day & is coming to tea to-morrow. I do like her. Did you see that her father died about a week ago. She was very charming about him.

I go up to Liverpool on Saturday to Holy Trinity Richmond Park to open a Garden Fete & again on the 23rd for a 'do' at the Gordon Siths in support of Lady Louis Mountbatten.

Gilbert is going to tell Barton Mayhews that John will discuss anything with them so if they need to talk it over they will know he is there.

I hope the Attorney will not be too exhausting & demanding. It makes me positively mad to think of him, I must say.

I must go & gather them some tea so good-bye my sweet

All my love

Sylvia

P.S I have just got the book of vouchers. Would you be an angel & sign about 10 of each. We might as well get some benefit & this afternoon was a big success.

2nd July

2/7/46

My sweetest angel,

Thank you a million times again for your marvellous letter books, T.C.P and Phensic which arrived with John. It's wonderful of you to take so much trouble. My cold curiously enough is apt to get a little heavy sitting in Court although it is tremendously hot. I came back a little early tonight and I am feeling much the better for a couple of your Phensic.

Diana cabled Duncan and I told him to ring her up. He is slightly tiresome but probably means quite well. I think that I'm just over-critical.

I am glad that you enjoyed the day at Roehampton and I return the vouchers segment - 16 of each. I was going to tear them out but I think that you better have the book at home.

Good old Sink!

I wrote to Lady Oman, Carole and Peter Stuart, but I suppose, with this miserable service which we are not getting by the withdrawal of our courier plane, that they have not reached the addresses.

It is wonderful the amount of work which you are doing in Liverpool. It is really terribly good of you. Both Holy Trinity and the Gorden Smith sound pretty formidable.

I am glad that Gilbert appears to make more sense to you than a message he sent me by John Barrington. According to John he said

(1) "I'm not sure whether I am supposed to know anything about it."
As I had sent him a copy of my letter to Barton Mayhews, and he had written to me saying he understood the main point and enclosing a copy of my letter, I do not know what he meant.

(2) He also said Barton Mayhews do not want to see M Senter until they know the exact figures"

As I do not want the exact figures but advice on the question of principle as to which period I should select to make up my accounts I can only imagine that he must have been blethering or John (who has also a cold) letting his attention wander. I shall write again to Gilbert.

Hartley was very pleasant. He left at 11.30 today.

As I was sitting down to dinner Wilkensen came through on the telephone to say the Grand Hotel had reported that " a Mr Dyke and Mr and Mrs Shipley had arrived there as guests of Sir David Maxwell Fyfe". I was mildly choleric for a moment but said that I wanted to prevent them getting into trouble for arriving without invitations, and that I should be prepared to put them up if necessary. Wilkensen has found them accommodation in the Grand tonight but I may have to put them up tomorrow. It is rather a bore because Geoffrey Laurence has had to refuse visitors wavers to John Anderson and Archie James. However they've made their visit so why should they worry? Wilkensen has been marvellous.

I think that I shall go to bed reasonably early now the I have heard the Dykes Shipley contingent are O.K in the interests of getting rid of this cold.

Once again a million thanks for you parcel and infinities of love and good wishes to you all

Your very loving

David

*15 North Court
Great Peter Street
SW1
July 2nd 1946*

My own darling

I hope John got your parcel to you in safety, but that your cold was past the pressing need for the remedies by the time they arrived.

I had a most enjoyable evening of which he may have told you with Gifford Gordon there as well. Nice people are a joy for ever & I do not meet enough.

By which token - Raynor rang this morning & asked me to dine there next Monday to meet the Jowetts! It should at least be interesting.

Gifford is very keen that we should plan a weekend at the beginning of August & bring Pam over. It would be wonderful & we must see how it goes by that time.

I got 3 packets of razor blades this morning from Barkers which I enclose in case the PX is without.

We are in the middle of a heat wave which has gone on for 2 days & it has been very pleasant, if slightly sudden.

Carola came to tea & was perfectly charming. She & Pam got on tremendously well & she asked to see all Pam's exam papers & seemed genuinely interested. Your letter about her father had evidently touched her very much & she said it was so nice that she had sent it on to her mother. It is worth doing nice things.

We have been to-night to 'Exercise Bowler,' a rather interesting play of demobilised men. I think I told you Pam & I were taking the Gilpins as a return for her visit. The whole evening was a great success. Bertie is spending to-morrow & Thursday nights here & Pam goes to Jeans on Friday for the weekend.

All my love for now my own sweet

Sylvia

5th July

*15 North Court
Great Peter Street
July 5th*

My own darling

I am so angry about the Shipleys that I must stop in the middle of a busy morning to let off steam about it or I shall burst with annoyance.

It really is unforgivable & shows that one should never risk an association with the second rate. It is the one thing which makes me a real snob. How dare they, after all I had said, do a thing like that. I really give up about human nature. I do hope & trust that you will do nothing for them. If the Americans allow them to land & they have a plan nobody get prevent them from getting Nuremberg but what a revolting gate crash.

Well, I now know the form for all time & shall not risk much more friendliness.

I am certain you have been charming & they will be feeling that they have conferred an honour on you & Nuremberg - but I think that it stinks!

Now I feel slightly - but only slightly less mad.

Oh darling the real thing I was going to do was thank you for my wonderful birthday presents. I have bought a hat costing 6 - 6 - 0 on the strength of it which really hurts me but as it is a short dress party the coloured silk that mother gave me will do. You are generous & sweet.

I am worried about you cold & I know exactly how you were feeling the night you wrote the letter & it makes me long even more than ever to be with you. Even John at moments like that is impossible - I think someone is a bit nutz.

As far as I could gather Gilbert understood the thing - not of course the tax points - but the main issue.

The answer to the principle as far as John can see is that it is perfectly possible to select the most favourable period. I suppose that nobody does anything unless one is there to harass & prod - at least that is what I find. If there is the slightest difficulty they just leave it alone. I suppose Barton Mayhews will work it out in time - & give you an answer which you don't want.

Do you think John should ring them? I do not want to interfere without your permission.

Did I tell you that Donald came in for a drink the other night. Wednesday - I think it was. Carola was here again & they were such a success together - she saw him last when he was 24 she told him. They are two of the nicest & greatest people we know I think.

These two months are being extremely long, aren't they? I suppose they will pass.

I keep going around . I can't pretend I have a dull time but it never feels like living. All very odd.

I said nothing to Melford about the Shipleys. I was so angry & I was not sure if I could rely on his judgement enough to see why I was so furious & if he hadn't I should have been violently rude to him & his friends - so with a deep desire to imitate you I left it.

Pam went off at 11.30 to stay the weekend with Jean & I go off by the 8.35 to-morrow. I might honour West Derby with my hat if it is fine!

Good-bye my own sweet & thank you for the vouchers

All my love & thoughts

Sylvia

7th July

Sunday (7/7/46)

My dearest lamb,

You do not know what speaking to you and getting you letters has meant this weekend, especially the letter about the Shipley -Dykes invasion. Every thought that arose in you had arisen in me and as my tongue could not utter them it was marvellous hearing them from you.

I am so pleased that Caroline was pleased with my writing. She sent me a charming note. I am also glad that Pam and Caroline got on well because her house is one where Pam would meet "nice" young men (and Donald must have been a charming competition in detached objectivity.)

Barlow Mayhews have after some time given the matter earnest attention. There is (1) a personal and very charming letter from Gerald Dillon (2) a long official letter. I shall send them on to you to give to John Senter as soon as I have copies made. They are, as they say anxious to see John as soon as they have some further information. Their desire for information is more sensible than at first appeared as it is a question of choosing the very best period in which case a month either way would make a difference. If we can get this final speech out of the system I shall try and get Mrs Kentish to make the copies tomorrow. I must take my hat off to her industry. I dictated to her for 3 hours on Friday and nearly 2 1/2 yesterday and she has it all finished by 10 am on Sunday.

Talking of hats you did not tell me this morning whether the weather was good enough for you to go to Liverpool in "the" hat. I am so looking forward to seeing it. I hope that you will find something instead of the dress. Surely, even under a Shawcross - Jowett government you can get a decent handbag for £20 or can't you. On the other hand you could get a set of golf clubs - or is it merely balls?

I should very much like to see Gifford again. Apart from a good sense of humour, he has my irritating like of useless bits of historical knowledge. He is a great Hornblower fan. I wonder how he liked the last which runs into a very sexy strain in bits.

I am most grateful for the razor blades. It gave me a wonderful feeling to think that I have enough razor blades to do me until the end of the trial!!! It is almost unbelievable.

I am so glad that the play was a success. It sounds a good subject. We must have an "Exercise Return" when I come back & plan out a terrific round of Opera, plays & cinemas all to be done in the greatest luxury which a socialist capital will allow.

Darling your long-range support has been really wonderful and I adore you. Take, as always, all my love and distribute a little to Pam & Mo

Your very loving

David

PS. I caused enquiries to be made about Marcella's Dutch friend. I am afraid that applications to visit the trial have to be made through the Minister of Justice in Holland. The Authorities are pretty certain that the friend has made application & has been REFUSED. D

PP.S I am interrupting my much neglected other correspondence because it is so much nicer writing to you.

Norman Birkett went to immense trouble to get me a copy of "The Northern Muse" a selection of Scottish poetry made by John Buchan. Incidentally he put in it an inscription of which I am very proud.

"From his friend Norman Birkett. To commemorate days at Nuremberg and some superb examples of the great art of Cross-Examination."

Why I really mentioned it (I swear - you believe me - thousands wouldn't) is for Norman's favourite poem which rather expresses our mood just now:-

It's no' aye rainin' on the misty Achills,
It's no aye white wi' winter on Nigour;
The winds are no' rae
(MORE)

8th July

15 North Court
SW1
July 8th

My own darling

I do hope you are better. In spite of what you say I am sure that your cold has left you depressed & tired - & no wonder. What a frightful year you have had with never a normal moment. I do hope you will take things as easily as you can for a bit but what you want is a real change from the whole outfit - nobody but you could have taken it for so long without a break.

I will write to you to-morrow & tell you of the Goddard-Jowett party. It is very nice of Raynor to ask me with you away & I do appreciate it.

Pam has evidently enjoyed her stay with Jean. She rang up last night & sounded in wonderful form. She put her return off to an afternoon train which must be a good sign!

So far Nannie survives the mumps, but poor old Ardie. It is a shame & she has been so good & cheerful about the whole thing. It is extra annoying as I had at last persuaded her - on the strength of Dickie I think - to come & spend Thursday night - now that is all off. I am sorry about her. She has had it once, too.

I had this letter from Louis with which I was not going to bother you until your speech was finished. But this morning this cable arrived. I really do not see how you can do anything. For one thing they are not in the Sterling area so it is not physically possible & anyway, as Miranda says. However, I feel I must hand this on to you & with your permission I will write & explain

Take care of yourself, my own

Your very loving

Sylvia

9th July

15 North Court
SW1
July 9th

My own sweet

I find it difficult to like the L.C. anymore, & now very difficult to be nasty about him. He was so nice about you. Quite lyrical in fact. He said you had done the most amazing job he had ever seen in Nuremberg. That it was the only successful international assembly at the moment & that by common consent out there it was almost entirely due to you.

As we were leaving he said 'when you write to David to-morrow (I said I write most days) will you tell him how much I admire all he has done & that it is really appreciated.'

After all one cannot have fairer than that from the L.C. So, in spite of the fact that his conceit & egotism are alarming & his integrity non-existent I forgive him!

On the whole it was an enjoyable evening. Old Raynor in great form & Peggy & Eric & the Lionel Cohens who were also there, most charming.

I have fixed to go to Liverpool on the 22nd & 23rd for the Gordon Smiths. The 22nd is an afternoon do in Southport & the 23rd at Paradise Street. I gather the Bryans wants a message for him to read at the unveiling of the plaque in the afternoon bolstering the G.S. - & Mr Bryans. Also a signature for a book. Could you write one on a piece of paper & it can be stuck in if they want it.

This very long request to you arrived this morning. It looks rather difficult to refuse although it is bound to be a bore when the time comes

Pam has returned as brown as a baby having bathed & laid in the sun & eaten pounds of strawberries & raspberries. They were evidently very nice & I am sure from all she says that she went well.

It is very hot to-day & if it lasts we think of going to Roehampton to bathe this evening - or anyway for Pam & Melford to bathe - probably me to watch!

To-morrow I am going to a theatre with Joe so I do hope I shall not miss a ring from you either night.

Betty Stewart is coming to lunch. She leaves in a week or so for a job in Germany & wrote to ask if she could come & say good bye.

I suppose Auntie Anne is still alive. I must ask. Not that we shall xxx anything!

I must go & shop but the only thing I really enjoy is writing to you & so I sidetracked myself & get late

Dearestheart, all my love

Sylvia

10th July

10th July 1946

My dearest one,

Thank you a million times for your letter of yesterday. I am very glad that Bill Jowitt was so pleasant. It is something worth having when anyone takes the trouble not only to say nice things but to say that he is repeating them. I am glad that Rayner, Peggy & Eric were in good form. Lionel Cohen is a first class man.

I got a letter from Bryans also this afternoon. He sent me the enclosed stuff about the 23rd July. I also enclose the letter itself. This is more ominous as it contains all this stuff about the Royal visit on 20th August. You will see that I have stalled firmly but honestly. On the general run the trial will end later rather than earlier which will probably mean the 23rd or 26th August rather than the 15th. If it is the 15th we both must think of a good excuse not to go to Liverpool. If it does not end until after 20th August you must think out a good one. (I do not suppose there are any convenient 'planes flying outside the distressed continent of Europe.)

I enclose some signatures of which you can take the best and least shaky. I shall send you a message either with this or the next letter.

Once again it is terribly good of you to do the double event at Southport and Liverpool.

I suppose that there is no getting out of this Liverpool visit to the XX club with 10 months warning. I enclose my answer.

I am so glad that Pam has not had too bad a time.

Your letter stopped me ringing up to-night but I shall try to-morrow.

I do not know if I shall get another letter to you in time for your birthday. If not many happy returns of the day. We shall have to celebrate it with a party later on when I get home. I shall ring on Sunday and try on Tuesday.

Charming guests continue to come. John Barrington has taken Adrian Franklin (!!) out fishing and I am waiting in case he brings him back for a drink. Well, well, well!!!

I cannot get any enthusiasm about little Socialists like Betty Stewart whose parents pinch my only chance of unearned or untaxed gold. Still I do not suppose that we shall see her again; so once again I can only thank you for your kindness in giving her lunch.

The trial has had one of its high spots for one with my 3rd form mind to-day. Dr Thoma stopped his speech while the tribunal consulted, obviously considering whether they would ask him to cut a bit and be quicker. Thoma (the nice little man who kissed your hand and gave us the Rosenberg drawings) was a little annoyed because he had intended to cut that bit himself anyhow, and began to mutter to his assistant. He didn't realise that the mike was catching it, and soon the words "That is too shitty" (Das ist zye scheisslich) delighted the better educated pressmen and counsel. Petty but very helpful in these dull times.

There is no news. My cold is getting much better, and it is only a question of catarrh to defeat.

Very much love and once again millions of good wishes and very many happy returns. Pass love to Pam & Mo

Your very loving

David

Wednesday 10/7/46

My dearest darling,

Thank you very, very much for your letter and the medicaments. I have only got them this second as Miss Kentish is off with a sore throat and Miss Tutte never gave me your letter or the parcel last night.

My cold is much better. It takes a little time for the catarrh to clear quite away. I am longing to hear about your dinner with Rayner and what cracks Bill Jowitt let fall on Nuremberg.

I am glad that Pam is apparently enjoying her stay with Jean. J is really quite a nice quiet person. I suppose Uncle Hugh is still alive.

I am terribly sorry about Madge. It is jolly bad luck. We shall have to do something for her to make up for it vis-a vis Dickie.

There is nothing else to but to write to xxx and say that you cannot send out sterling to Canada and that you have tried before. I suppose that he always thinks that it is worth trying. Thank you very much for undertaking to write.

I had a gorgeous group of visitors to entertain yesterday. Constantine Gallop, Keiling, Lance Ferguson Hicks and Sir John Cameron. I took them out for a drink in the interests of good report and it was all ever so gay.

Miss Kentish has returned so I hope that a copy of Barton Mayhew's letter will be enclosed herein. Will you be an angel and pass it on to John Senter?

Sweetheart a million thanks & much love to you and to Pam & Mo

Your very loving

David

11th July

15 North Court
SW1
July 11th

My own darling

I got your lovely long letter & poem this morning when I was feeling in a bit of a low with time 'creeping' the way it does. I now feel fully recovered & realise (from the razorblades - how lovely) that it really is not long in comparison to all we have taken. Also that we will have fun at theatre & a real life.

Joe told me that John Simon was lunching with the xxxx at Yattendon last week & Joe's remark was 'David should employ him as a publicity agent.' He was, I gather, terrific about you. Whatever people might think of John I am sure your ability to take it & your desire for the thing to be done well rather than that you should promote yourself would have a terrific appeal to him. It is nice to hear though, isn't it

I have got the Frasers (Charlotte) in for a drink to-night. She rang up & was most friendly. I rather like her in an odd way. It is the old story of being honest-to-god.

Khaki has also asked me in for a drink - Pam as well - which is nice of him, so we shall go for a bit. I do not feel Pam should stay too long! That is on Friday.

Reggie Peerbuck has asked me to dine on Monday, & so I go on being quite social but not liking it much.

Yes indeed, I did wear my hat for Liverpool & it went over very well. I think it is rather young, but Pam says not!

Bryans is supposed to be coming in at any moment - what for I am not sure - just coffee I think!

Gosh - as I wrote he arrived! Oh dear, oh dear, how awful that such good people can be so nasty. I feel he would be much more at home, really, issuing wire truncheons in Concentration Camps.

However, after all this - I am going up on the 22nd & 23rd & he insists that I send you out all this bumph (how frightfully out of proportion it is possible to get oneself)

Also a most - I think - irritating letter from Churchill & a desire from Bryans that you should write to Lord Louis Mount batten (address on letter from Winston) to ask if he will do the meeting. It is a bore for you. The sort of message he seems to want is a build up of the G.S. with a clause saying it is no less important in peace time to the Merchant Navy. I hope this is not too late. I do not feel it matters all that much anyway!

Oh dear, I do love writing to you & I know my letters are too illegible & too long but I can't stop.

The lunch must have got through & I have been greatly sidetracked already so I will stop.

Mo & I are going to deliver this to Lansdown House on the way back from school.

How awfully nice of Norman to give you that book & what a lovely poem. I showed it to Pam who really appreciated it.

My darling, good-bye for now & all my love

Sylvia

I enclose a charming letter from Donald. I opened it because I never like to pass on what will only be a bother if I can deal with it. He is a grand person

12th July

12/7/46

My darling,

Thank you very much for your letter of Thursday which I have just got. I was very thrilled at being successful at catching you yesterday and enjoyed our talk enormously. You certainly gave me a breath of fresh air which was badly needed.

Harry Strauss was very pleasant, but of course getting a real bellyful of all he has done in the House of Commons ("You've hardly seen this House, of course. Well I'll tell you three interesting points"..."I got one good rise out of Hartley Shawcross"..."I believe that one secret is to be a bold prophet" etc, etc, etc) has its other side. I am sure that I shall very soon get back into it. The trouble is that at the moment I am not looking forward to politics at all. I am just looking forward to being with you. All that I have regards politics is a guilty feeling that I ought to be keener than I am.

It was terribly nice of John Simon to speak like that and of Joe to repeat it.

I shall be most interested to hear your contacts with the Frasers and Khaki - not to speak of your dinner with Reggie.

Bryans is an odd one! I had sent you the same bumph back in my last letter with the message. The only point that I have not stressed is the Merchant Navy which I deliberately omitted because it was a presentation by the Royal Navy and I did not want to take the shine out of the latter. I think that it is all right.

Churchill's letter is, as you say, mildly irritating. He could never be very interested in anyone else's labours but I think that the answer is that his secretary cannot be very clever, and he has just topped and tailed the letter.xxxxx.

I have written to Lord Louis Mountbatten and enclose the letter. Will you be an angel and send it on.

I am also sending

- (a) a letter to Geoffrey Cunliffe with a copy of a letter to Benson Greenall attached
- (b) a letter to Benson Greenall
- (c) a copy of each letter for you
- (d) a copy of each letter (if you think that they should be sent) for Gilbert if you think it is worth keeping him informed.

The reason that I am writing to Greenall as that the lease from him to Pexxy Harris is the first document of title that I have and I do not know whether he has any more time in hand from his lease from London Properties (who, I think Melford said, owned the flat) after Christmas 1946.

You might find the easiest way to deal with the situation is to have Gilbert round for a drink and put the point with my letter to him.

I was very glad to have a word with Pam and to hear that Mo flourishes. I have sent off the PX with a Bing line.

Donald's letter is really charming. I shall write to him over the week end.

If you knew what your letters mean to me and how I read and reread them you would not have a glimmer of thought about them being too long. They are simply marvellous.

Once again all my love my sweet - only 6 weeks more. A kiss & hug to Pam & Mo.

Your very loving

David

P.S I enclose 2 comics for Mo. again love D

13th July

Saturday 12.30 noon

My dearest darling,

This is the merest self indulgence because there is really no news, and I hope that the line will work and I shall hear your lovely voice to-morrow morning, but as writing to you is the only real pleasure I get in Nuremberg I am doing so.

I am afraid that I was very thick over a passage in your last but two letter about the proposal of Gifford. I did not realise that he meant Pam to come for a week-end here (I thought he was talking about Cheshire or some spot at home) Of course it would be too lovely if she could come here and I do hope that it can be arranged. I only gathered the true meaning from remarks of John's and realised that I had boobed.

The other thing which I had not mentioned, I hope that it has not caused you tactful stonewalling is that Tim Pile is coming out this week-end. As you know Lady Pile is Harry Phillimore's cousin and Tim is really Harry's guest. As Susan is here - and also because Tim spoke winged words to Lady Lawrence in the days of her Att-itude - Harry has asked me to put him up. It is rather a bore as I wanted a lazy week end but he is quite a cheerful little man and I don't think that it will be too bad. My cold has taken a tremendous turn towards departure and I shall be in much better form than a few days ago. I have explained to Tim about General Page.

I hope that you are not too bloodily bothered with all that muck of Bryans on top of his visit. Poor darling (you may gather I am not referring to Bryans).

I also regret having bothered you about the flat. We do not want however to be like the couple with the Dutch Barn ("Well, you kept on saying all you wanted was a roof over your heads") in December.

I fear that you will not get this until after your birthday but in the faint hope that you do I send my love and good wishes for many happy returns again.

I suppose that the library books which I entrusted to Miss Kentish to send off arrived all right. I think I did tell you how much I enjoyed the B Morton. He has a tremendous sense of the period and great fairness of mind towards the various types. I have looked through the Sunday papers religiously for the last two weeks but not found one which I wanted to read. Still after the Wodehouse, Forrester & D Yates - which are now going the rounds I have nothing to complain of. I got a Kenneth Roberts (North West Passage and Oliver Wiswell) out of the court library but it is again about the American War of Independence and I do not like reading about the only war we have lost. It is called Arundel - I enclose a list & shall check about the return.

6pm Tim Pile has arrived. Apparently they rang you up last night but you were not in. They were offering to take anything out. It is no matter but just as well you should know when you meet them again. As I said I have explained about General Page.

Tim told me in 5 minutes that I should go back and lead the Conservative Party, Winston is finished and Anthony had no integrity. It is fun getting a little Irish blarney but at the moment I feel so much more like sitting on my bottom and talking to you. This does not sound too gallant but you know what I mean. Anyway if Winston only knows me as "Sir Maxwell Fyfe" I shall have a good long way to go and the Party has always got dear old Harry Strauss to talk - and how!

14th July

Sunday 9.30pm

I went out and watched them fish and tried a few casts myself. I should rather read Tax Cases but it is all a matter of taste. It was a beautiful day and apart from the attentions of a horse fly I enjoyed it immensely. Elwyn Jones and I came back at 5.30 but the others are still trying the evening rise.

It was lovely talking to you this morning. I covered all the things I wanted to say except to ask you to send me some drops at your convenience. My cold has departed but I think that it would be quite a good thing to try and keep it away.

It would be marvellous to get home next week end. Normally I shall drop 60 guineas but as it means about £5 when tax is deducted I should rather come home. The only question is how involved we become in all the Organisations. If we do not I shall do my damndest to come and shall let you know on Wednesday. I really think it would improve my work and personality so much for the end of the trial that I shall take a chance.

Donald's letter was really charming. I am glad that the PX arrived safely with the calendar poem. It is great fun imagining what optimism may bring forth.

I have just had a letter from Hartley that Lauterpacht has put forward 75 pages. Between ourselves it is rather amusing that Hartley will now have the job of pulling together 120 pages from us and 75 from Lauterpacht but rather disastrous if he prefers L - I think. On the other hand he has written very decently giving us final power of revision. Not so good if we have to revise it next weekend.

I must stop ambling on at this absurd rate but I should like to say how much I adore writing to, hearing from and speaking to you. In fact I adore you entirely and absolutely.

With an additional spot of love to Pam & Mo.

Your very loving

David

P.S I enclose a letter from Tommy and my reply. I have stalled on fixing dates. We must have some time to ourselves. If he does not agree he can take a running jump at himself.

15, North Court
SW1
July 14th 1946

My own sweet

What a wonderful that you even might come home for next weekend. It has given me a new lease of life.

You shall just have a lovely lazy time & do no 'stuff' with anyone.

I shall send this & some library books out with Michael. I am sorry you had Tim Pile for this weekend

I have done a frightfully 'barmy' thing. I wrote a letter to you on Friday enclosing a sweet one to you from Donald - saying nothing special - & I cannot remember sending it off. As I can't find it I think I must have done. I am very conscious that this sort of thing is senile decay setting in - but there it is. If I find it you shall have both. I now enclose one from the Shipleys.

If you did not get my other letter I told you in it that I had given Pam 40 of allowance which is due for April & July. Was that right?

15th July

July 15th

I am taking this up to Michael now.

I have got two library books this morning which were on one of your lists. I do not appear to have had the JB Morton but don't worry

Yesterday went alright & the Ascot trip was a success. I hope your fishing was not too terrible a bore. These VIPs are a lot too much - & such awful people.

Pam has written to you a letter which I enclose. She is most anxious to look after Mo next weekend.

I got all your 'bumph' this morning & will deal with the tax matter with John & send on the letter to Liverpool.

Mo was wonderful about your possible visit home. She could talk of nothing else & kept saying 'Can I begin to get excited by 5'o'clock on Friday'!

Dearheart, all my love

Sylvia

16th July

15 North Court
SW1
July 16th

My darling

I got another lovely letter from you this morning so my birthday is complete. I sent a letter with Michael yesterday but I will put this in to-day in the hopes that you get it before you leave.

I am most relieved that you got Donald's letter. He was grand at tea yesterday & has all the right reactions.

I also had a most enjoyable drink with Mervyn - as you may have heard. And a strange out of date dinner with Reg at the Dorchester. We sat in solitary state at the best table in the room & drank champagne! We talked to Andrew Duncan & his wife who were very pleasant, otherwise the place was a mass of expensively dressed & groomed women of many colours & classes.

I rang the Cunliffes but they went yesterday to Scotland for 6 weeks. I have sent his letter to Grosvenor St. where I hear it will be forwarded. I will hold the Greenall letter until you come home.

I think we owe ourselves to forget politics, law & everything for a bit when you come home. I can't think of greater heaven & I couldn't care less where we do it. Sitting in St James Park will do for me

All my love, sweet, till Friday

Sylvia

DMF in London

23rd July

*15 North Court
July 23rd 1946*

Darling

I got back this evening & I am writing before I go to bed to tell you how it all went.

Everyone was most pleasant & full of enquiries for your return. I told the young conservatives that you would be at their disposal from the 25th September at the latest. They are working hard & hope to start a general 'beat up' ending with a big meeting for your return sometime in October. They are nice boys & Fred Grey seems to encourage them well.

Lady Louis did her stuff wonderfully well & was full of charm & asked most tenderly about my 'nice husband'.

Xx- Cranston, who used to work there asked me to tell you that he is now in Birmingham where he has often heard the ordinary man in the street say how much you were needed back & would do such a lot for the Conservative party.

I travelled back with Whittle who is now out of the navy (he was RTO I think) & has a pub in Portsmouth. A nice & honest to God man I thought. He sent his wishes to you.

I shall have a good sit in the sun in the Isle of Wight which is what I feel I want. I hope you will believe that I would really rather you came home when you finish & I am not just saying this to please you. If we could get some time we could have a weekend or two away. I am not just pleasing you, there will be such a lot to do as soon as you get going in politics that a quiet time would be good I am sure.

I hope the speech goes well & comes on soon. You will be glad to have it over I know.

Pam had thoroughly enjoyed her day with you & I found them all well & happy when I got back.

There seem wide repercussions on Hartley's undiscussions. I wonder how he reacts.

I hope you found no crisis on your return & that all is going well

All my love

Sylvia

25th July

Thursday 25/7/46

My dearest darling,

First of all thank you a million times for my lovely weekend. It was miserable that you had to go on Monday and I blame myself more than I can say that I did not force you to cancel it. I ought to have done so, as long as there was any chance of my return being postponed until Tuesday, but last Wednesday this chance seemed so remote as to be negligible. I shall always be angry with myself about it. I know so absolutely that it is not that you are irritable or even-tho' God knows why not - that you are over tired. It is the dreadful feeling that when we do seem to have earned a little break together some charming! well-meaning!! and entirely damnable friend but is in with idiotic talk of what are really far distant and unimportant things. It is only because we have had this extraordinarily difficult and straining year that we pay any attention to what they say. What is really annoying is the amount of our precious time together that they waste in saying it.

It was lovely to hear your voice last night. It was irritating that the line gave out but I hope that I had heard most of your news and I hope that I shall hear you again at the usual time on Sunday morning. I am glad that the Barclays have improved. It is difficult to resist the crack that there was considerable room for improvement but I manfully do so.

I have been out of court interviewing some journalists and have just returned. The Court has cut out a number of passages of Seidl's Speech for Hess. If he accepts this and goes on this afternoon, Jackson will start to-morrow, and Hartley to-morrow afternoon. In this case he might finish on Saturday morning. I shall not be terribly sorry to see him go as I have got used to being cock (saving the word) of my own dunghill that I find it difficult to remember I am not.

I have come back to court (without my waistcoat and fountain pen) and Seidl has decided to make his speech which is now roaring on. All I can now hope is that Hartley will finish mid-day Saturday.

Your lovely letter has just arrived and has been sent up to me. I am terribly grateful for your work in Liverpool. The Juniors sound grand. Lady Louis is all right but a little tiresome. Cranston is not a bad chap but inclined to waffly compliments. If Whittle is the fellow I think he is pleasant, rather rubicund person who is quietly rather nice.

I am sure that you are right and that it would be more restful to be where one's own language is spoken. There were only two difficulties which swayed me the other way. The first was the physical and mental rest which you might get from being away from your cooking and housework even if we were travelling. The second was whether we should be left alone by self-chosen political selectors.

I do not know what can be done about your mountain of work except our getting away for one or two week ends. I think however that we might keep quiet about my return until we have had this bit of holiday, and in any case people are pretty somnolent at the end of August even if they are not on holiday.

The thing which I am concentrating on is that the trial should finish in another four weeks. Mervyn has just said that it seems almost incredible that we are coming to the end of the final speeches; so I suppose even these last four weeks will come to an end.

In the meantime I shall count the days and not look beyond the thought of a little holiday together.

With love to Pam & Mo and oceans thereof for yourself

Your ever loving

David

P.S I nearly forgot Geoffrey Cunliffe's letter which I return. On that we can write to Greenall. Again much love D

28th July

My dearest darling,

Although I had the lovely talk with you this morning I am sending a line with Maurice Reed.

I should be a liar if I said that I have not had one or two moments over the speech. Still the first thing is that it was necessary for the trial. It was a very powerful effort on the lines which I thought right. Secondly it has maintained British prestige. The personal factor is relatively unimportant - and that's that.

Wright will be gone in another hour. It will not be too soon. He is a charming old man but it is a dreadful example of letting those old boys go on too long. He forgets what has been said an hour or two before, and quite clearly only takes the trouble to listen to 30% of what is said. Still one must be kind and I have taken him to the soldiers field, the old city and the Birketts (now 7 miles out) to call, and the Biddles and got up to converse at breakfast so I have done my stuff.

Note the marks on this sheet from playing Saftely first with Mo!

I am quite sure that it is better to keep on the flat. Even if we pay £850 we shall never have any difficulty in getting that or nearly that in the next few years if we want to change for the house. There is £300 a year from the £6250 (6250/23) which would have been paid to the bank and at least another £150 a year in interest plus repairs and an extra servant (£200) all in addition to the £150 ground rent. It was nice of Philip none the less. I return his letter and have spoken to Gordon O'Neill who will have a word with you about Associated London Properties.

I have endeavoured to explain in my last letter (for whose late arrival I make many apologies) why I do not think that you are crabby or overtired. Equally I think that it is only because you are the most angelically unselfish person in the world that you are not both.

My only wish at the moment is to get this trial finished and for us to have a holiday without interruptions. I only want to get quit of this minibus (including running a hotel on the side) on my part, and to have enough free space with you so that you will not always be working for other people on yours.

We have got to be ruthless with people who want to be the exceptions and see us on a "very important matter" and with our own temperaments. This means that we must conceal our plans for the period 25th August to 15th September. I should say to our friends that it is doubtful whether I shall be back. If we could have one week end where we could just sit in a garden or have gentle walks, and another where we could go to films or pierrots or something it would be heavenly. The great thing is to get finished with this abnormal existence. Will you try and think of some plans when you are on the Island.

I hope that your installation there will be successful. It will not be to easy with Mary & a conglomeration of children but I hope that you may get some rest when you are installed.

Darling I adore you and omitting to -day it may be only 25 more days until the end of the trial. In any case it is not long. Accept all my love and give a kiss to Pam & MO

Your very loving

David

15 North Court
SW1
July 26th

My darling

It was infuriating being cut off the other night although we really had said all we had to say. All the same I like the need to be voluntary!

Archie James rang up - unfortunately when I was out - & said to tell me he had lunched with you & that you were in 'cracking form' - an Archieish remark which I rather doubt. I wonder if the speech is on today & how it is going. I think of you & follow your possible movements.

Madge has been up for the night & we took Dick with us to roe Hampton where they were allowed to wander in the gloaming - without results I am afraid. Anyway she enjoyed it.

I had this letter from Philip Rea which I at first discounted but on second thoughts I send it to you. It seems a bit wild but I suppose if they did put our rent up to 850 - which is possible - it would be worth thinking about. I don't feel strongly in any way but I would like to hear your reaction. It is better not to mortgage ourselves but this may be a fearful rent.

Later

I have just lunched with Joe & talked over the possible alternatives of houses & flat. He is so wonderfully sound & experienced & his advice is stay where you are if at all possible. I do think that is probably right, & anyway if the rent goes up the Reas will be less keen about the flat!

I do want you to know that I want to do just what you want.

I am not really crabby or overtired as I know you think. I possibly miss you more being in the home surroundings than you have time to miss me & a weekend seemed rather unfairly short to interrupt. You know when you come home that I am prepared to put all I know into politics, & shall not resent your most well meaning & kindly friends.

Basil is dining here to-night. He hopes to get out to Nuremberg in August after doing some courts with JAG. I have rung Sink about it.

I enclose your drops & hope you are weathering this trying week alright

All is under fair control for my departure next week.

All love until the end of this time

Sylvia

I had a charming letter of thanks from Bryans. Rather coals of xxx I feel!

This letter from Micael xxxx has just got here. I have answered & said you will be back by the end of August so it is only for your information

29th July

Monday - midnight

My dearest one,

I am sending this letter by one Marples who is member for Wallasey. You may remember that I spoke for him at the General Election. He now practically gives me tips in politics & how to run a constituency. As however he has really got cracking in Wallasey and has weekly "At Homes" to his constituents and overflowed meetings, I can forgive him much.

I did not intend to refer to the AG's speech but first Mervyn and then Harry were so nice in a hesitating but terribly sincere way about their sorrow that I had not made it and their appreciation of the way I had taken

it that I thought I would just tell you. After all "Laughter & the Care of friends" are the only things that really matter.

I do hope that this week will not be too much of a strain and that the journey will be successful. I wish to Heaven I was with you although I have given you little enough help with the holidays in the past.

We start with the Organisatikas to morrow. I have to cross examine one Gauleiter Hoffman.

Jackson leaves to morrow or Wednesday. He gave a party to night and I have had the great pleasure of talking to Madame Falco on my bad side which has been a riot of fun.

Anyway it is a sign that the thing is packing up which is all I care about. I do not think of politics or the bench or anything except getting back to you.

I worked until quarter to two this morning so I am taking it fairly easy to-night.

Once more all my love & good hunting for the journey.

Your very loving

David

30th July

*15 North Court
Great Peter Street
SW1
July 30th 1946*

My own darling

Your letter of Sunday arrived yesterday & the one of Thursday to-day. Anyway they were both lovely & soothing & understanding & I am very grateful for them & you.

Sink rang last night & said you were going to ring on Thursday which is beautiful. I shall be in & have rather 'had' the preparations so it will be something to look forward to.

Melford took me to 'Big Ben' last night. I loved it & feel rather meanly glad that I shall be able to go with you. It was not really Melford's xxxx but I know it would be yours. No cracks or clever devices & very charming music & good voices. I suppose it is sentimental - but anyway why not? I don't see why one should feel ashamed of wanting nice & tolerant things. I find myself with so many burning hates (Sir H & so on) that it is good to like something.

The number of the Highlands Hotel is Shanklin 2334. I know you cannot ring there but Sink could in an emergency. There is little news & little time these few preparing days.

I don't know if Pam told you that to-morrow we 15 or 20 young conservatives coming here after dinner. Mainly in aid of Peter Veron becoming chairman I think, but at least spreading the doctrine. Not the greatest help just before we leave but one must not complain.

I gather from Sink that H. was so moved when he read your speech that he practically broke down at his own elegance. I admit that is slightly my version but Sink is well on your side. I think all nice people have been a little shocked by the performance & not only by loyalty to you. Thank God when we can forget it all.

Good-bye my sweet, I shall write once more before I go & then from Shanklin

All love

Sylvia

July 31st

15 North Court
July 31st

My darling

This will only be a short letter as you know how these last few days pass. Gosh I shall be glad to get away.

Gordon O'Niell rang up & is sending a big parcel (your album he thinks) & will collect this letter at the same time. He is going to get the low-down on the flat & let us know. Your testimonial must have been good - he seems to want to do all he can which is fine

I enclose a letter from Grace. She left it open for me to see so I presume she does not realise that she has quoted me inaccurately. However, if you could do a talk sometimes - preferably covering the historical side I should think - it would be an excellent thing.

I saw Hilary at the Speakers & he told me he was doing a talk but was not allowed to mention horrors, we really are all mad. What do they think this trial was about?

I went & dined with Michael last night & we went to the 400 for a short time. All very nice, but either I don't drink enough or I am too old or something, anyway the spirit is hard to catch. He could not have been nicer about you & everything so I am a cad to complain.

I gather (via Garrick gossip, my favourite thing!) that Jowett had been talking of you in glowing terms to Lionel Heald. However, it is all to the good & if they must gossip that is the way.

I gather Peggy is out again. I hope you have not had to move from your room.

I must go over to Earl's Court Road & get the beer & cider for my Young Conservatives - I think the party has grown to 30 now!

All my love, sweet

Sylvia