

AUGUST 1946

2nd August

Friday 2.20pm

My dearest sweetheart,

I do hope that you have by now arrived at the Highlands Hotel; also that the journey has not been too bad and made in reasonable weather. I hope you will be able to sink into a coma in a deck chair in the garden for reasonable periods each day. It seems my idea of Heaven if I could do so in your company.

I do congratulate you on your work with the Juniors. It must have been a frightful sweat for you, but I am sure that it does a tremendous amount of good. I can't remember anyone doing anything of the sort to or for us when we were junior or indeed pretty senior conservatives, and we should have been pretty pleased.

It would be rather nice to go to Oxford "with a mission" during Pam's first term. We need not get in her way but it would be rather nice to see the surroundings in which she is. I hope you approve of my leaving the question of dinner. It will be very nice I think, either way. The date is Friday 25th October.

I have put the position as to Basil to Wilkinson and said that I shall be pleased to put him up and that I very much want him to come if it can possibly be managed.

We had an extraordinary evening last night. Apart from the Barringtons we had three vulgarians and a too regular to be true (or good) Brigadier named Croise. I do not dislike Stanley Passmore - apart from the fact that he is a solicitor (salute!). William Harrison, despite his great name, has had an extraordinary career. He was swindled out of a million and a quarter by Lloyd George and the late Lord Reading. I knew this but it was quite interesting to get his account of it. Thereafter, however, it became evident that he just wanted to hold forth and he went on doing so until 11.40 which was enough and too much. The Brigadier attacked politicians - so a good time was had by Fyfe. The third Vulgarian was one Whitworth - a barrister - who stood against Hartley at the last election and for whom I spoke. He was saved by a violent Conservatism with whose bitterness I sympathised but which I should have liked better if it had been more discriminating .

Today has gone a little slower but I am still hoping for Friday 16 August. We are sitting to-morrow morning - it is believed in order to let ex-Mayor of New York a Guardia see the trial. It is a sweat but all helps in the time factor. In the afternoon I have got to dictate my introduction to Bob Cooper's 'Penguin' and before dinner talk to Wheeler-Bennett about his book. After dinner I can begin my work on the SA and my speech.

I have been tremendously worried about the BBC invitation. My own view at the moment is against it. I marshal my arguments this way.

Against

1. I feel there is something wrong in a barrister coming straight back from prosecuting to conviction and a death sentence and saying how right he had been to do it. However strongly he believes in his case and even though his case is an international duty and of the greatest importance to the world he was in it as a barrister. If therefore he goes on the air and tells the world it seems to me just over the line of Professional conduct.

2. I think that it is extremely important - especially with Hartley in the saddle- to show that there is an ex-Head of the Bar who helps within the spirit of its rules. The arguments might then be put "In that case why write the introduction to Cooper's book or speak to your own constituents as you undoubtedly will do" To this I would answer that there is such a difference of degree as to come in the other side of the line and be permitted by my dual existence as politician and barrister.

3 I am not greatly enamoured by the idea of restrictions. Even if one is doing a historical talk in order to make it live one must relate it to the defendants and even if permitted to do so this emphasises the difficulty raised in my first point.

AUGUST 1946

4 I should have to apply to Hartley for permission

For

- 1 I am an MP and the ex-Attorney General who started the trials off
2. I have been present at the trial more constantly than anyone except the judges.
3. What I am asked to do is to explain the position of the trials in jurisprudence and history.
- 4 I am a Conservative and I should not let the socialist dogs get the publicity.
- 5 (Which I find nauseating) I should go out for the personal publicity

I was going to refuse but Larry slated the arguments. I shall think it over again.

Will you be an angel and think this over and let me have your views?

Angel the main thing, however is to try and get some good out of the holiday. You have my dearest love with kisses for Pam & Mo

Your very loving
David

3rd August

*Highland Hotel
Shanklin
August 3rd 1946*

My darling

We got here with safety & comparative ease & everyone is being most pleasant & already I feel a lot better.

The hat man said he had read every word about Nuremberg & promptly produced 2 hats so you are not really forgotten.

This is only a note to enclose your book but I want to get it off to-day, it will take ages to get to you anyway.

It seems marvelous beyond words that this endless year is nearly over - I hope you will not find England frightfully dull - as indeed it is - after the constant round of entertaining & contact in Nuremberg. At first it will be a relief I hope.

It is a lovely day & we all had a morning on the shore which was a great success & the party (which includes Keith Batty & his child of 11) mix quite well.

I long for a letter saying things are still moving. I shall come to London to meet you if you get home before we leave

All love my sweet

Sylvia

4th August

*Highland Hotel
Shanklin
August 4th*

My darling

I am sorry to be a bore but I got this letter from the man Harrison. Is he the chap who worked in the committee rooms & was rather nice? I think it is but I am not sure.

AUGUST 1946

Anyway I know nothing of him & I do not know if you do : so I shall have to bother you with his letter.

We have had two wonderful days of sun which has made settling down easy & pleasant. The party is of enormous size but so far has worked out apparently to everyone's satisfaction.

For some reason I feel even more remote from you down here but I worry less now that time is running out & I long for news of its 'running'!

I will not bother you with a lot as I know you are busy

All love dear sweet

Sylvia

6th August

Tuesday 4.45 (6/8/46)

My dearest darling

The last two days have added very little for me to tell you. LHB has I think enjoyed himself and has been very pleasant but a little overwhelming. "You will arrange that my time is fully occupied and that I see everything I should." However when that has been done he has been quite appreciative. My only difficulty has been that I have had to work until two each morning on the next speech. However it is the last one and the last task.

I am terribly afraid that the happy thought of finishing by Saturday 17th August, and getting to the Island, is not going to work out. It looks now as if we shall not finish much before the 23rd August. My only hope is that something unexpected will happen and shorten the trial. Otherwise we shall just have to try and have one or two little holidays together either in the New Forest or at the Savoy.

Later Wednesday 8.00

I am afraid that this view is now generally held. No one can work it out earlier than Wednesday 21st August and the tribunal have not helped by announcing that they will sit in closed session on Thursday afternoon. When people say that Wednesday 21st August is the earliest it usually turns out to be a day or two later so do not worry about considering whether you will have to come home earlier or anything like that. It is a great blow to me. I was looking forward so much to a few days at Shanklin, but there it is and the only thing is to get finished with the trial.

John Barrington is a nicer more unselfish and far better man than I am - but he is slow. Last night at 6.25 Peggy said " I think I had better go and have a bath as the car is coming at 7.15 for us. When is yours coming" (to me). I said "7 o'clock" After a not pressed suggestion that I might go first, there was a great promise that they would be out in time to let me have a shower. At 5 to 7 John came along to say that it was free. Too late, too late. I do not think that it is thoughtlessness it is just a complete inability to hurry or keep to time. I have never had breakfast with Peggy since she came a week ago. I find that rather a relief, but it does make me value you even more if that is possible. Heaven knows that I am slow enough myself but life without regard to time must be the height of irritation.

I hope that I shall hear from you to-day about your journey and the beginning of the holiday. The posts are I suppose quite haywire with the bank holiday and the shortage of aeroplanes. Susan Phillimore said that she would ring you up and let you know that all is well which is sweet.

Mervyn said that he is arranging to send Pam's watch which is a relief. He has been very good and accepted all my alterations and cuts in his draft of the beginning of this speech with tremendous readiness.

AUGUST 1946

Having said nothing for six pages I must not bore you further. Once again take my dearest love. Perhaps a miracle will happen and I shall be able to join you at Shanklin. At any rate I shall join you soon. Nothing matters but that

Give a kiss to Pam and Mo

Ever your loving

David

P.S. In case the post is bad, I wanted to tell you I shall be with you in thought on the 14th.

*Highland Hotel
Shanklin
August 6th Tuesday*

My own darling

I cannot tell you how much I loved getting your letter this morning, it took away the cut off feeling & made the end seem nearer again.

May I deal first with what you say about the broadcast. My first & overwhelming reaction is that to have someone else in the world with whom one is in complete accord is the most wonderful thing & I never appreciated it before this year. Without having worked it out in the lucid way you did my reaction was the same.

I wanted you to do it largely because Hartley makes me so mad, but I could not see it being quite right. Especially if the legal side is what you have to deal with.

It is a troublesome point as it is important for the implications of the trial to be understood by the world & that seems the answer to whether it would be alright for you to write the preface to the book & talk to the Constituents. I am sure the answer is that one cannot out Hartley the Hartleys & so must light one's own way. After all it takes such bogusness to get on let us get 'to hell with it' & go & live in a cottage & be honest.

Did you hear John Senters remark that Hartley had everything to equip him as A.G. except dignity & integrity! Well I think that must be the answer.

Would you like me to write to Grace? You could broadcast later, or in some other way.

Your Vulgarians sound too awful & so like the people I meet! By which turn the Shipley-Dykes ménage came over for the day yesterday!

All is really very well & I am getting brown & fat. So far the weather has been grand although to-day looks a bit doubtful.

The others are just finishing breakfast but I could not wait to write to you.

The MacCxxx have been very good & kind & have let us have Ra here & keep him in the car. It is a great relief & the old boy seems utterly happy & well. I have promised to take the young to the village so I must go.

Keith Batty is being a tower of strength. He really is most awfully nice - we must have been more difficult to please in the old days.

All my love dear heart & I live for the possibility of your return

AUGUST 1946

Sylvia

P.S. I would like to be honest & add the point which really turned me on the lowest level. I would not have you apply to H (&possibly be refused from jealousy) on any account whatever. Please don't

8th August

Thursday 9am

My dearest darling

Thank you a million times for your two letters and the Georgette Heyer which I got together yesterday. I hope that you have got something from me but the post is haywire. I am extremely glad that the journey went with "comparative ease." I should think that covers a multitude of arranging.

I cannot explain how much I want this year to end. I suppose that there is something in what you say about finding England dull but I cannot of course see it at the moment. We gave our farewell party to the British delegation last night and I danced with innumerable people and did my stuff with Lady Lawrence, Lady Bishett, Madame Charpentier de Robes and danced with twenty varieties of genus secretary - I was glad that it was the last party at Goethestrasse.

I have written to Harrison and sent his letter on to Tommy even though the latter is now a Councillor.

I feel the same about you being much further away. I think it is partly not being able to have a word with you every few days. The telephone was a blessing. Things are still going slowly and I am afraid that there is now not any chance of finishing by Saturday 17th August. It is sweet of you suggesting coming to meet me in London and this would give me an enormous thrill if we finish before you return. We can however let that develop. I shall keep you informed if necessary by ringing up Sink.

I do wish I could be with you next Wednesday. I know how you shall be feeling and you know that you have my complete understanding and sympathy in spirit - but it would be nice just to hold your hand.

Once more my love

David

PS I have sent two books straight back to Harrods as enclosed

PPS I shall try and bang out a draft of Monica's article this afternoon

9th August

Friday 9/8/46 4pm

My sweetest heart

Thank you tremendously for your letter. I am so glad that you agree with me about the broadcast. Not that I care twopence about broadcasting, but I got so much joy from the fact that you react as I do, especially about the application to Hartley. What about his apology to Kemsley? I have written to Grace and told her. I think she meant well in making the offer and I ought to show my appreciation. In addition I had written to her asking for time to consider but thank you very much for offering to write.

I am so glad that your first three days have been good, and I hope that the weather continues to be gracious. It is lovely to think that you are all getting brown. You have a long way to go before there could be any sign of fat. It is pleasant to think that old Ra is with you. He must have had some miserable times by himself - although I realise that it must be an additional responsibility for you. It is extraordinary to think that we have had him for 11 years. I have dictated a draft article for Monica. I am not very pleased with it but I am afraid that I have not quite the zip at the moment that I shall have after a week or two at home.

AUGUST 1946

However Monica can always scrap it if it is too heavy. It is an interesting subject but perhaps is more suitable for a heavier monthly - saving the word.

10.45pm

I am now resuming this letter the previous part having been written in court. I have gone through the typescript of the article for Monica and John has read it. He says that it is very good and I feel that it is not too bad. It is dull in bits but no one else could have collected quite these other bits of information and at any rate we have kept our promise. I hope that Mrs Kentish will have it retyped in time to go with this letter.

It is extraordinary to read that you are about to take the young to the village. It reminds me of so many holidays that we had at the beginning of August when we have done the same somewhere. I do wish that I were with you now.

Sink has turned up today and has just gone to bed leaving me to begin my work. John & Peggy have left with him. They are grand people who I love dearly - and about one more word would have set me howling like a coyote - a difficult feat because I do not know how a coyote howls.

Dearest one I do not know if you will get this letter by Wednesday. I hope that you will have had my others and know that I am with you. So now all I do is to send you once again all my love.

Your very loving

David

P.S. I reread the article at 2 am and think that it is at any rate a good attack on the lust for power. I apologise for tearing the corner of this letter.

*Highland Hotel
Shanklin
August 9th*

My own sweet

Thank you for your beautiful long letter which came yesterday. How I know how you are feeling!

I find it almost impossible not to be moody - one gets such violent lows.

However, one very nice thing comes out of it & that is the fact that you will be done good by being at home & I shall adore just pottering & seeing you get relaxed.

Susan Phillimore rang up & was really very nice & awfully friendly. I gather the hopes are not so high now, but we must keep the thing in proportion. It is like the end of term as a child, when it gets near a day is as important as a month at an earlier stage. Still it is only days & therefore does not matter much in reality.

Take what you care you can of yourself, my sweet. I shall be bursting with health after this rest so you need have no thoughts of my overworking or anything.

I wonder if Basil will get out. He means just one more visitor I know but has been very good in West Derby so deserves more than most.

All goes well here. Melford is taking fairly well to the simple life! Whether he laments he is trying hard

All my love

AUGUST 1946

Sylvia

10th August

*Highland Hotel
Shanklin
August 10th*

My darling

I am going to bore you again by a letter of no news. Chiefly to say I am so thankful that little 'thoughtlessness' & unpunctualities annoy. It restores my views on my own sanity in a way. Gosh, I can feel what you feel about all the paltry little things.

I also forgot to say yesterday how grand it will be to see you Treasurer of Gray's Inn. It should be a lovely time. Fancy life being interesting again. I cannot think what it was like before this xxxxx year.

You are wonderful & sweet & satisfactory (if you know how deeply I mean this word) to think ahead & remember to mention the 14th. I nearly mentioned it to you yesterday & then decided it was selfish & you had got enough to cope with at the moment.

The PX has arrived & is frightfully welcome. I brought a ton of it down here & every scrap has been eaten by the maddening hoards after bathing.

The song is quite perfect & gave her limitless pleasure as well as the others.

The weather is not so good but we continue to be well.

All love my sweet

Sylvia

11th August

Sunday 10.50 (11/8/46)

My dearest darling

One of the few consolations for being in Nuremberg is that one gets letters on a Sunday. It was a dear delight to get you lovely letter and Mo's postcard this afternoon. It is sweet of you to think of looking after me and it sounds absolute heaven. Also it was nice and friendly of Susan Phillimore to ring up. She is a nice person and I think her visit did her a lot of good. I am afraid that there is no chance of getting back before the 23rd or of getting to Shanklin. However we shall make up for it. As you say, nevertheless it is like having the school holidays postponed for a week. I have not yet heard of Basil but I shall do everything to get him here as soon as I hear.

Now I must categorise my news or I shall forget.

1. Monica's article. There are two verbal alterations which I could not make as I asked Miss Kentish to send the redraft straight off, when I was in court.

(a) p1, 2nd last line for "effect" substitute "result. (I have used effect in the line before)

(b) p7 2nd last line for "for" substitute "during"

I think the article is, as I said, an interesting comment on the "lust for power."

2. Talking of lust for power I had a letter from Gilbert saying that he had received a retainer from Gibson and Weldon on behalf of the Rt Hon Sir Hartley Shawcross KC MP in the matter of any actions brought against him by any employees of the Kemsley Press. Well! well! well!!! How quickly what the Greeks called "hybris" & we "getting above yourself" reacts. I wish to heaven he had not sent me the retainer. It is a very difficult position but I am not tied to appearing - and what is more important Gilbert says that no case is likely to arise. I shall have to consider the position carefully when I come back. What

AUGUST 1946

worries me is the £300 that he lent me when I was offered West Derby. I have repaid him but it was the act of a friend and I want to do the right thing. That is all that matters. What an odd life!

3. I have had a fairly stiff and old fashioned week-end. Yesterday we had a delegation meeting at 9.20. I was in court until 1pm. I had lunch in my room and worked in the Court house until 5.35. I then came back and read "The Reluctant Widow" with the most wonderful pleasure and relaxation until dinner. After dinner - fortunately for my work - Sinclair talked to me so strongly that I had to return to work at 9 and worked until 11.35. To-day I worked for 9.40 until 12.45. Then Harry & Mervyn came in to discuss work until 1.55. I then worked from 1.45 until 7.25 when I had a bath. After dinner Mervyn came back and we discussed the final speech until 10 when we had a drink and after rereading his stuff on the SA here I am.

John, who, with Peggy and Sink, occasionally nearly drives me not so much crazy as bad tempered, proved his essential sweetness by walking up and getting my note from Miss Kentish which he had taken up to her to type on his way to shoot.

Mervyn is wonderful. He has worked exactly the same hours as I have on the speech for me. I am really touched.

I have all this to show you the last lap and to give myself a pleasant break. Do not worry. I am in terrific form. I hope to begin my last bit of cross-examination to morrow and to make the speech on the 19th Monday. It has all to be ready for the translators some days ahead. It will not get much publicity but it puts the stuff on the organisations. I offered to let Harry cross-examine Juttner and he simply said "No I think the SA is the difficult organisation to convict and he have always taken the line that no personal advertisement means anything as against the success of the case." Pretty good, I think.

I wonder if my PX has arrived, because my verses contain a reference to the Chine - and it might please Mo especially in view of her post-card.

I do not think there is much more to tell you except once again to send all my love. I think that we can now say next week. As Arthur Turing used to say "Dear God".

My sweetest one a million kisses and hugs from which you can deduct one each for Pam & Mo

Your very loving

David

12th August

*Highland Hotel
Shanklin
August 12th*

My own darling

Soon I shall be getting towards my last letter to you. Nothing has ever seemed so nice before.

I got your letter with the article from Monica to-day. It think t is really first class & was most tremendously interested in it myself. I feel sure nobody in this country has thought or know about these facts before. I only hope that Mon's paper is a worthy vehicle for it.

Oh I do so look forward to giving you a break. I only hope you will be allowed a little rest but even if you are not once you are really home everything will seem more possible

AUGUST 1946

13th August

13th

I began this last night & then we all went in a body to the theatre to see 'Young Mrs Barrington' - a not outstanding Repertory Company of Barry O'Brians. Eight of us. Three Gilpins, The Battys, Pam, Melford & myself.

Today Melford has departed to take part in the Winston 'do' at Dover to-morrow.

Dearest there is no news, but I do wish you were enjoying the dull & healthy seaside life. It is so much what you want. Lovely though it sharing a room with Pam it is rather too much like being back at school. I never get a second to myself as the room is always occupied by several Gilpins as well! I know I am a cad to complain & I don't really, but I long for a normal grown up existence.

I have asked John Wilson down for the weekend. The Gilps go on Friday & I thought Pam might feel dull. I hope you approve of this.

Once again my darling I think the Monica article is grand. I really do. You don't realise your own high standard.

All my love, sweet & thank you again for your thoughts of to-morrow

Sylvia

14th August

14th August 1946

My dearest darling

I am afraid that you will have had a gap in my letters because there has been a breakdown in our service. I therefore send you this word to say how much I am thinking of you to-day. I hope that it is not too bad for you.

I enclose a copy of a letter which I have sent Gilbert about the retainer from the Attourney. It is a frightful bore as I hate unpleasantness but I do not see what else I could do. I hope that nothing has appeared in the press but I really do not care if I could only get home

Never mind I begin my last cross-examination to-day and more Final speech is well under way. It is a good augury for us the way Mervyn has worked and Elwyn has slacked:-"I was so tired after my cross examination" which finished at 11.30am.

The delegation are giving me a final dinner on the 20th or 21st. Mervyn and Harry both said how much they would love if you could get out for it. You know how I would love it. I see all the difficulties but I thought you would like to know how much you are loved and wanted here.

Sweetheart I must go into the breach again but I must once more send all my love.

Yours forever

David

15th August

2.45 Thursday 15/8/46

My dearest love

I have to thank you for two marvellous letters which made such a difference to the last two days. Our hotel is temporarily unoccupied as Peggy, Sink and Jim Passant have gone today. I have, just as a makeweight

AUGUST 1946

been giving lunch to Mike Berry, Chris Taske, John Foster and those police people for the Home Office after interviewing - I suppose being interviewed but they all looked like first year undergraduates - Alan Michael, Alastair Forbes John Clifford and Mrs Clifford.

Still all that means nothing beside the fact that I have finished my last cross-examination and have only one speech to make. I am afraid that I shall not be home before the 25th with a possibility of the 28th but at any rate we have finished our work on the organisation including the speech. It is not, as I said, a publicity finder but it covers the ground.

I am glad that the PX was helpful and have sent off another today.

You are far too kind about Monica's article but I am glad that you liked it. It is interesting to strike a blow against pride and intolerance and regardlessness of other people's news.

.....Irene enjoying the dull seaside life a millionth as much as I do. I should have loved to potter round like young Mrs Barrington and lie on the shore. I wish that you were sharing the room with me. I should love to talk to you again at the end of a day. I think that it is a splendid idea asking John Wilson for the week-end and sweet of you to think of Pam in that way. Airy has suggested that I take the afternoon off so I am going back to read the Reluctant Widow.

5.50

I did so and as my car did not come at once I walked by myself along the main street outside the courts. It was a most eerie sensation having nothing to do. Moreover it was the second time that I had walked aimlessly in Nuremberg and the first time that I had done it alone. Last November Harry and I walked down to the Pegnetly and back at lunch time.

However I had the most wonderful laze on the verandah and finished the Reluctant Widow with enormous pleasure. I shall send it on to you in case you and Pam would like it.

I feel that the result of writing with this pen of Melford's is to produce an effect indistinguishable from a document captured in the most disgraceful depths of iniquity of the files of the SS.

Just for information this is the forecast of the future time

16.8.46	Friday	re-examination of Juttner recalling of Funk ... documents
19.8.46	Monday	... documents
20.8.46	Tuesday	
21.8.46	Wednesday	final speeches of defence
22.8.46	Thursday	counsel for the organisation
23.8.46	Friday	prosecution Fyfe/.../Taylor
Monday	26.8.46	Champeter de Ribes Rudenko
Tuesday	27.8.46	Final words of defendants
Wednesday	28.8.46	COME HOME

I wish that it could be quicker but I doubt it. I have only two worries:

1 My speech will run to 4 hours instead of three & I have got to square the Court with the fact that Champelier de Ribes will only take 1 hour.

2 Donald has offered out of pure personal regard to let me go first and the question is whether Rudenko would agree. It would have been very important once but now I simply want to get finished and get home.

AUGUST 1946

I feel that I have inflicted enough musings in the sunshine upon you but it is wonderful relaxation for me. My sweetest one, I hope the remainder of the holiday goes well and send all my love with kisses for Pam and Mo and I look forward with an intense longing to see you again

Your very loving

David

*Highland Hotel
Shanklin
August 15th*

My dearest heart

I await eagerly the news of your progress. I do hope for the bottom of my heart that one day next week will see you through.

All continues well here & there is really no news so I shall not meander on as time is short now thank God.

I enclose a cutting from the Spectator which Joe sent me. It is a relief that some people see through the racket.

Everything is just what a seaside holiday should be & time passes in doing nothing.

Last night Pam & I took the Gilpins to xxxxx to see a very good rep. Company doing the Coward play 'Tonight at 8.30' It was a most finished performance.

If I hear nothing I shall assume you will not be back till we are on the 23^d

All love, my own

Sylvia

17th August

Saturday 17/8/46, 9.20pm

My sweetest angel,

The planes have all gone hay-wire and we have had no mail or newspapers for four days. I cannot therefore imagine clearly what letters of mine you will have got. I shall therefore bring my news up to date to-night.

The Barringtons have had frightfully bad luck. Charles their little boy of four, has taken ill and there is a fear of typhoid. Gordon O'Neill rang up to-day. John was out but as there was no plane to-day, he did not miss a day, and is going back to-morrow. I arranged his passage and for him to ring up Peggy as soon as he got in. I am glad to say that Charlie was a little better to-night. I hope that all goes well. I feel such a cad ever having criticised, even in the most friendly way, either of them.

Gordon was on the other hand quite cheerful about the prospects of our retaining the flat. He has a friend at Clifford Turners who are the solicitors for the Landlords; I am writing a letter to Gordon so that negotiations can be begun. It would be marvellous if it could be settled.

Gordon also raised the question as to whether you would like to come out for my final speech. I do not see how it could possibly come in before Monday 26th August. He seemed to think that it could be laid on for you to come out on the Sunday but you would fix details with him. His idea was that we could go on to Switzerland. I do not know about the latter because it would take such a lot of arranging, but we might be able to go to Prague or Vienna. Will you consider it? It would be lovely to have you here but I do not want to add another piece of work and responsibility.

AUGUST 1946

The French lawyers are very anxious that we should come to Paris for the 24th - 26th October. Unfortunately this includes the day I had agreed to go to Oxford. I explained about Pam just going into residence but said I should make enquiries about us crossing by plane on the Saturday if we could get back from Oxford in time. Again it is rather a rush - although slightly madly Fyfan. I am afraid it is rather more attractive at two months distance than at the time especially with the dreadful weather in October which one forgets when one gets a decent day.

Talking of this I was desolated to hear it had been cold and blustery with you. It is a horrible shame when you so thoroughly deserved good weather

I have had a ridiculous day. The tribunal was not sitting and everyone else was out shooting so I got up at 11 and sat in the sun. I read "To-morrow and To-morrow" by Stephen McKenna which was rather too much as it was all about disillusion after the last war. All the zip had gone out of the characters, Sonia, O'Reare, George Oakleigh and the rest. Moreover I think that they had been dezipped by McKenna and not merely in my mind. As they were all considerably younger than I am, I shall have to look out. The readiness for disillusionment is with us again. By which token Chris Taske gave me a copy of a magazine called Persuasion. There is a good article - I suspect by FC Hooper - on the Future of Toryism - finishing off with an appeal to put Woolton in as Chairman of the Party. It sets out the heads of a programme which is quite well done.

This afternoon I worked out my income tax position roughly for myself. (N.B. THIS ENDS HAPPILY). On the best position - assuming John Senter and the accountants bring it off - I shall only have to pay in tax for the current two years £11,273

5 th April 1945 - 5 th April 1946	3131	
5 th April 1946 - 5 th April 1947	<u>8142</u>	
		11273

On the worst position I shall have to pay £16284

1945 - 46	8142
1946 - 47	8142

In any case

(a) <u>already</u> paid	1847
(b) <u>already</u> overpaid in a previous year and claimed back	200
(c) <u>already</u> bought in tax reserve certificates	<u>6300</u>
	8347

So to be completely clear to 5th April 1947 I have to find either £3000 or £8000. This sounds a lot BUT

(d) I have still got in the bank	3500
(e) I have still to be paid	9000

At the moment we are either £9,500 or £4,500 in hand

AND

(f) there is still 7 months to run until April 1947 during which time I can reasonably expect to make something.

Further my liability for the year 5 April 1947 to 5 April 1948 is also £8142 so that we have not the fear of an enormous liability towering up beyond what we have in hand. After all again I can reasonably hope to make something during that year. This liability would not arise at all if I changed my occupation.

I am afraid all this is complicated but the result is at the worst we are for the first time not "putting for the half" financially and at the best we have also for the first time £5000 in hand over our immediate needs not counting the £500 or so you and Pam & Mo each have in War Savings Certificates. I have only written all this to show you that you need not bother about money. I should have sent you £200 to drive home the argument, but I have not my cheque book with me so I shall send it by the next plane.

AUGUST 1946

I broke off to talk to John. He is wonderfully brave but obviously worrying about Charles being alone in Great Ormond Street Hospital. I do feel for them.

Angel I am afraid that this is a long a rather tedious letter. However the end is near. Until I see you again God bless and kiss Pam & Mo

Your very loving

David

18th August

P.S. Sunday morning

I am glad to say that Charles Barrington has had a better night. I am greatly relieved.

The idea of the £200 was £100 current expenses and £100 as a quarterly allowance for you. If it were not so much nuisance it would be almost worth having a No. 2 account so that you would keep it for your own needs. As however you are far too generous to do that anyhow, it is probably not worth the bother

Again my love. D.

PPS I know you will understand that I have not been converted to money-grabbing. It is only that you have shared so many difficult times that I should like you to share the hope of a little ease of mind in this inferior direction.

*Highland Hotel
Shanklin
Isle of Wight
August 16th*

My own darling

Since sending off your short note yesterday I have had two lovely letters from you in our envelope & a call on the telephone from Gordon O'Niell. What a mad bore all this delaying is. Poor sweet, though I am extremely sorry for myself I am even more sorry for you. I know how you are beginning to feel & being you, you don't begin to feel like it until you are being driven pretty barmy - Dear God! As you so rightly say.

I gather too, that air transport is breaking down badly & G O'Niell's seems in a bit of a flap about it. I hope & trust you will get this letter. Perhaps you might be able to ring up next Friday. Even that seems like heaven with no contact at all.

What a bloody man the A.G. is. He really goes too far in his conceited lack of any decent feeling. Has he no gents ideas at all? I think your letter to Gilbert is just right, friendly but firm. He really should have seen it for himself but I am rapidly coming to the conclusion that nobody sees anything.

It was sweet of you & Mervyn & Harry to want me on the 20th & 21st. You, & I hope they, realise how much I should adore to there. It would be nice to do just what one wanted for a little time - but there it is. With transport so uncertain it adds to the difficulties & I ought to see them home. Anyway perhaps the dinner will be put off now the trial looks like lasting on. Gordon says you fear for the 29th. Hell!

Still it will end sometime & then I will do anything you say & think only of you for at least 3 whole weeks.

Darling take care of yourself. I know you are over done & must relax soon

All my love sweet

Sylvia

AUGUST 1946

19th August

Monday 19/8/46 at 4.30

My dearest Sweetheart

Yesterday afternoon I was overjoyed to receive your wonderful letter of Friday. It was a great light in my darkness.

John got off all right and arrived safely. I am very much afraid, however, that Charles has got typhoid and is having a bad time. I spoke to John last night and he was already very anxious. It is a question of keeping up his (Charles') strength. I rang up to-day but both he and Peggy were out. I hope and pray that all will be well.

By the same post as I got your letter I got one from Gilbert to say that all was well with the retainer. He had explained the position to Gibson and Weldon and returned it without any offence being taken - at any rate by Burroughs. Chris Shawcross is father-in-law. It was so obviously the right thing to do that I really do not mind what people think - although it was troublesome at first. Mike Berry says that Beaverbrook is on Hartley's tail now wanting an apology for himself.

I suppose that it is because we are all so anxious to finish - but the trial is going with agonising slowness. People are beginning to panic as to whether we shall finish by the 31st August, but I think that this is overdoing it. The thought of even a day or two's further delay makes one definitely childish about getting home. I had already promised myself that I should ring up on Friday evening. Even a resumption of telephone calls would be a tremendous advance.

I should love you to come out for the speech - now looking like Tuesday 27th or Wednesday 28th. Whether we go on anywhere you will consider. One must not be silly in the desire to get home, and miss the chance to wander in Central Europe which we will never have again.

I enclose the cheque for £200 of which I wrote.

I do not think that there is anything else except to redouble my love and to ask you to give a little to Pam and Mo

Your very loving

David

*Highland Hotel
Shanklin
August 19th 1946*

My own darling

Time is dragging along & will in time reach the end of August no doubt.

It is awful for you being held up with your last speech. I do know what a train it means & I think of you so much.

We had a successful weekend with John Wilson. He & Pam got on awfully well, bathed, xxxx, & played tennis & ping pong. He is an unaffected unconceited boy. For which relief much thanks! He may not be very clever but one can't e everything.

Your PX arrived in the nick of time with its usual lovely rhyme. I do love them so. Mo must have told the Mac xxxxxx about them (I didn't) as when the parcel arrived Mrs Mac said 'does this mean another lovely rhyme!' She was so sweet about it I forgive her all her superficial bonner.

AUGUST 1946

We had just finished everything & English sweets did not begin until to-day so it has never been more welcome.

Monica seemed delighted with your article & Mr Bateman (her boss) is sending you some whiskey she says. I hope it turns up to support us through the autumn. We shall have a lot less without Melford's quota - Even if there is a lot less drunk as you thought to yourself!!

Dearest heart. I must go. I shall perhaps hear your voice at the weekend.

All my love forever

Sylvia

20th August

PS Tuesday 9.45

I have just rung up the Barringtons. There is hope that it is Septicaemia which is bad but not as dangerous as Typhoid. Charles is a little easier. They were very touched by your ringing up.

Again much love

D

*Highland Hotel
Shanklin
August 20th*

My own darling

Your letter arrived just after I had posted mine to you. It was lovely to hear news of you written the day before. I gather John had posted it as it came stamped from Kensington.

I am sorry about Charles. It really does give one the jim jams & makes one thankful for one's own nemesis. I have written a line to Peggy.

I do quite know what Gordon said to you. He was full of enthusiasm when he spoke to me about our going to Switzerland. Somehow it seems a lot of trouble to take when all we want is to be together. At least as far as I am concerned.

About coming out next Sunday. I think & hope you know how much I should love it, but sudden plans to free myself seem terrible hard to make. I do hope this does not sound stupid to you & that you will understand. Perhaps we can talk at the weekend, it seems difficult to get answers to what we think in time to make plans while I am down here.

You are the most sweet & generous lamb. And I do think you are, or even could, be money-grabbing. It was so lovely to get my mind straight about our income & you have made it so clear that I could follow it easily. In spite of my obvious battiness about money, I think a no. 2 account would be a good idea - & interesting, & I shall talk to my bank about it.

We had an invitation (on terrifically thick paper!) to Harvey Moon's wedding in America. It is very nice that he remembers us in the midst of his return to life & I shall write to him.

The weather is still far from good. It is a curse, but it does not keep us in & we are all very well.

I think Paris would be rather fun after Oxford if it could be worked. A few Fyfe madnesses would do me more good than anything else in the world I think.

AUGUST 1946

Anyway, let us see.

Oh darling, I do love your letters so. They do me such a lot of good.

Good-bye, for now, my sweet. As usual all my love

Sylvia

21st August

Wednesday 21.8.46

My dearest Angel

The object of this letter is to let you have copies of various letters which I am sending.

- 1 Letter to Gilbert explaining my draft accounts which are attached for ultimate use by my accountants. I think old Gilbert is willing but he requires the most elaborate guidance, and if possible the ability to correct me on some points! I am sending you a copy in case John Senter will have a look
2. I have had an invitation to take the chair at the big meeting for the municipal campaign in Liverpool on Thursday 10th December . This is when Shennan makes his declaration of municipal policy. I have accepted this subject to your agreeing that the date is all right. It will probably turn out to be an important debate in the House but that is another story. I enclose a copy for you and my reply which please send on if you agree.
3. I had an old invitation from the British Legion for "a Friday in October" I wonder what your view is I thought that it might be better to do it on Friday - 11th October rather than mess up another weekend by suggesting Friday 18th October. I have sent you my letter to Tommy enclosing copies of the invitation from the Legion and my reply. If you approve will you please send it on also.
- 4 The only other engagement in October is Friday 25th October when we shall go to Oxford. I think that the idea of Paris is really out the question. It will be an awful bore when the time comes and might spoil both visits, whereas if we went on a later occasion we might have time for some fun. They have got a room for us at Oxford.
- 5 I enclose a message that I sent to the Juniors at Belmont

I hope that it is not too much of a bore for you looking through all this or too depressing when you think of the way people were going to bugger us about. However Oxford should be fun and Liverpool will naturally ask me a good bit at first. Anyway I have read a few pamphlets showing the mess the present Govnt are making and we can only improve things by stirring public opinion.

It looks now as if we shall finish by Friday or at worst Saturday 31st August. My speech ought to occur on Wednesday 28th August. I wonder if you will be able to come out. I do hope so. The dinner has been postponed until Thursday 29th August. At the moment I have a bit of a low feeling that this trial will never end and it seems a marvellous idea to go back with you on Saturday 31st August. Perhaps however by next week I will feel inspired for Prague or Vienna if you would like it.

I hope that you have heard that the news of Charles Barrington is so much better. He had no temperature yesterday and it seems that is not typhoid but septicaemia. This is bad enough but it can be dealt with by Penicillin etc and it removes the fear of his temperature going up so high that his strength could not fight the typhoid. I hope that all is well and am really rejoiced that things look better.

The Hotel has started again. Lord Wright has come for the night, and I have got to take him to an American dinner. It is just the straw which bends if does not break the camel's back.

AUGUST 1946

I wish it was over but I hope that you will come out which would change it all. Forgive this ill-written scrawl.

Oceans of love and some to Pam & Mo
Your very loving

David

23rd August

Friday 5.10pm (23/8)

My dearest darling

Thank you a million times for your two letters of the 19th & 20th. I got at the same time the letter of the 15th with the amusing "Spectator" cutting. I saw the hand of Joe in its composition or certainly inspiration as well as its reaching you. It is no joke even for Hartley if they take on the Press. I am glad that you enjoyed the Coward play.

Time has slowed down until it is hardly moving at all. The position tonight is that we have finished 2 defence speeches. On this showing I shall speak on Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning and there is a very good chance of the trial finishing on Saturday 31st August. At any rate we have laid on a plane for Sunday 1st September.

I think I told you that John has much better news. He was coming back on Thursday but the transport broke down so he is coming to-morrow. They still do not know what it is but they consider that the danger his past.

I am very glad to hear that John Wilson's weekend was a success. He always seemed a very good type. Lack of conceit is a tremendous asset.

I am glad that the PX was useful. I am sending another lot which, I hope, will reach you before I do.

I enclose a list of the 3 books that I sent back direct to Harrods. I have sent back "The Unkindly Cup" to you. If you could get something out to me which I could read on the plane coming back (Think of it - coming back!) it would be marvellous but I have no suggestions, which is very unhelpful. Some whisky from Mori's boss would be far more useful than any money that he could pay!

I fully understand about your not coming out. You have not only yourself but six others to think about and it would be very difficult to leave them before you had got things straight. I frankly should much rather come home than go on anywhere. I was only thinking how much you deserved a break. We can have a word to night about this and also about Paris. In any case whether we decide to go or not it might be worth asking Gordon O'Neill to find out about the present state of the cross-channel air service and the price. We are not going to let anything interfere with our having an occasional hop over to the continent. After all we have both given quite a lot for me to familiarise myself with Europe, and we might as well try and keep up with our knowledge and acquaintances.

Sweetheart I shall not write more until I have had a word with you this evening but I send my love.

I have just had a thought. I was not going to come in to morrow. The tribunal is not sitting (Biddle to Salzberg (our old friend) Lawrence to Berchtengarden (... Old friend) Burkett to Germish, good luck to them). I thought that I would take an Morning and work at home - Mervyn is doing the same - with the final points of the speech. I had better therefore send this off in case I cannot get a letter in the plane tomorrow.

Sweetheart once again continents of love with an odd country to Pam & Mo, Your very loving
David.