

DECEMBER 1945

**December 1<sup>st</sup>**

*NB This will  
all wait for an  
idle moment*

*15 North Court  
SW1  
Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>*

*My own darling*

*I am thankful that you say in you last letter that you write because it is such an escape & not because there is any news. I am so exactly like that & it is the most awful temptation to write too much & too often just for the relief of it. There are a million things I want to say - all remarkably unimportant!*

*It was such heaven to talk to you this afternoon in spite of the fact that I always feel especially lost afterwards. Still it makes one realize that life will be fun again one day & that we shall be able to laugh at ourselves & the world with our own special (& as life goes on, I fear entirely individual) sense of humour.*

*I had the enclosed very charming letter from Rab to-day - & that will show you if you will ever get a chance to tend your garden! I look forward so much to seeing him & having some 'low-down' for you.*

*Melford is up rehearsing a broadcast which he is doing in the same series as yours - but not organized by Grace. I suppose through her - but in my view without great intelligence they had Michael & Melford on the same programme! The xxx John Watson & a psychiatrist(?). They made an impromptu which was so bad & (again in my view) unusable. Michael said it was so bad he would not do it - & went away for the weekend! Really people make no sense at all. Everyday I know more clearly that the only sane thing about me is that I know I am a lunatic. Why does nobody but our two selves grow-up!*

*However, we had all afternoon on the script & after one or two rather astringent passages I hope we have got it slightly better. Gosh! People are odd!*

*We have had more 'press' interviews. This time with the 'The Australian Consolidated' & I enclose the pictures which they took here yesterday afternoon. Angelic of Mo & - if I do look 1000 - very maternal of me! A charming & pretty girl of about 25 came for whom Mo fell & Mo got in a huddle with her as though she had spent her life being interviewed. Mo said she was hoping to get your story typed so that she could read it herself & this morning the girl rang up & said she would like so much to get it done & would send around for it. Really terribly nice. The dark blob by Mo is 'wonk' which the Australian fell on with a cry.*

*I wish my financial account was as good as yours. There seem endless extras. There is a bill for 11 from the Victoria Wine Co. - the tax on the car & so on ad nauseam - isn't it horrible? I am paying them all & going strong but it maddens me. Melford is paying his 4 - 4 -0 very regularly & for all for all outside entertainment so he is doing alright. There is a chance he may get the Barclays house after Christmas as they have bought a farm in Essex. It would be a good solution.*

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*I went & had a long pep talk with Gilbert yesterday & told him (which I believe) that there is a lovely time coming. I encouraged him to look again & harder for Chambers. I am sure you should have your own & he says Albert it is due to report & should be out by April. I do hope you think I did right & but I can't bear to think in a small room with Basil in the big one. It is all wrong.*

*It was terribly interesting seeing the film of the trial & Mo spotted you in that huge crowd quicker than anyone. It is an amazing set up & the camera has done full justice to the faces of the Nazi chiefs!*

*Darling, I have gone much too far. Not only is this too long - it is almost illegible I find. I meant to write a note & do all my other letters as we are taking Mo down to HAT tomorrow for Hat's birthday - & then I forgot! It is such heaven that you will be home for Christmas although it hardly seems possible. There is now just nothing in the shops so we have pretty well 'had it' as far as presents are concerned - not that that matters if we are all together.*

*Good night, my dearest, forgive this because it comes with my love*

*Sylvia*

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

*15 North Court  
SW1  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
(Monday 9.15pm)*

*My darling,  
That bloody man Trevor came in for ½ an hour at teatime & said would I tell you not to do anything as the income tax was taking it all (whatever that may mean!) Anyway, I hope to heaven this catches up with is letter in time to stop you being worried. Damn, more odd people!*

*Gosh, darling, I do miss you - more & more & more. I suppose it will be an excellent experience when it is over but in the meantime I feel it has done me all the good that is necessary.*

*Grace Goldie is trying to arrange a dinner with the Ogalvies for the lunch before Christmas & wants us to go. It will be too late to do little Pam any good but they want to meet you - I wonder why!*

*Talking of which I did tell you , didn't I, that Joan (Lawson) is now a neighbour? She has a small house in Monsel St. with two children & her husband has just gone abroad for a year. I meet her shopping She is a really nice girl there is no doubt - but the bromides -!*

*It brings back a lot of memories.*

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*Melford is working & supremely happy. How awful if success meant all the difference between being wildly miserable & wildly happy. However he must have money & I am thankful (for all our sakes) that it has come so soon.*

*We had a most successful day at Ascot yesterday. Melford put his basic petrol into the car & we drove down. Mo never turned a hair & was in tremendous spirits all the time, so her car sickness is over for which I am more than thankful.*

*I will get you another library book & send it out with this - you have a list.*

*I simply hate having my bath in the morning now! But I do see that by being dirty I can't help you! What a singular self centred & selfish person Khaki must be. But aren't they all!*

*I hope it was alright to put in Joan's letter to Kentish with your last letter. You must see her everyday I assume.*

*Do you know that the thing that I look forward to most, I think, is dining with you in the House again. It must seem awfully remote to you, it has lost all personal meaning for me at the moment.*

*What a pointless letter. All my letters are, & still I write because I feel better when I do. If ever I feel jittered & fed up I come upstairs & drivel to you.*

*I must do some mending, All love for the moment - & for always, Sylvia*

**December 4<sup>th</sup>**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December

My dear and only love

I am writing this letter during Hartley's speech which is at the moment well into its second hour. As I have been considerably concerned with its preparation I think I can turn my attention to pleasanter things, only saying that he is putting it across extraordinarily well.

I feel very guilty about Mo's story. The position is however that we worked up to 6 on Saturday after which I had to give the "Haggis" dinner to Vyshinsky. On Sunday I had to go into my office in the morning and work all the afternoon on corrections on Hartley's speech; and again in the evening until 2.15 on my own small part of the British case. Yesterday we were working in the Court House until 7.30 and I had some work after dinner. The result has been that I have not had much opportunity for creative writing. I shall try and make a start tonight. How regretfully I thought of the wonderful week-end rests you used to provide for me.

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The "Haggis" dinner was a great success. Your talent and greatest performance in long-range cooking answered perfectly. The only contretemps was that the rest of the food arrived at 7.10 when our guests had arrived at 7pm. However an extra cocktail never did one's guests any harm, and dinner was ready by 7.45. We got the piper from the Scot's Guards to pipe in the Haggis and Russians enjoyed both that and the food. We had Vyskinsky, Gorschenen (the Attorney General) Gen Rudenko, Gen Alexandropov, another General, whose name I think was Shitarski, Colonel Paknovski & two interpreters. In addition Mr Justice Jackson. What happened to Uncle Tom Cobley and all do not know but there were only four British Hosts. A number of our people came in after dinner. I think it did some international good and no harm despite the slight obstreperousness of Khaki in the later stages of the evening. Mervyn Griffiths Jones brought two super guardsmen Major Lord Gilford and Major Willoughby who, looking extraordinarily out of place, told Vyskinsky how much they would like to go to Moscow. As the Foreign Office were paying I had a still more comfortable feeling.

On the sordid question of finance I have now been here 6 weeks and have spent £15 - 5. As that includes everything it is not too good but not too bad. If money were real it would be grand. I have earned 3195 guineas since I came out in addition to 850 before I came out. At the moment I can get no kick out of it at all. I only want to get back to you.

I think that there is a good chance of getting a break from the 21<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December, which with any luck would mean I should be home from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> December.

I shall write the message for Tommy to-night - I have already made some notes - and send them back with Reed to-morrow. I hope that I shall get Mo's story but that may have to wait until to-morrow as I have to do my part of the case to-morrow and may involve some work to night.

I am afraid that this is not a very inspiring letter. Frankly I am getting to the stage where a break will do me a lot of good.

Anyway I love you, if possible, even more my darling

Your very loving

David

PS I have done Tommy's message and Mo's story.

**December 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Dec 5<sup>th</sup>*

*Darling, I am just going to bed & have not brought up my pen but I want to write as I feel I can bother them again at Church House to-morrow. I have the new Agatha Christie for you & Jim Passant ( who like a perfect honey rang up to-night when he got back) said*

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*you were without - or short of - cigarettes. I shall try to buy some of your kind or if not send you passing cloud.*

*Mo's lovely tuck & sweet rhyming letter arrived to-day & delighted her.*

*There is one thing I should like your views on. I do hope to goodness I am doing right. I have popped Gilbert up to look again for chambers as I hear that in a month there will be absolutely nothing. It may be exaggerated but in any case you must have a place of your own - it is all wrong for you to xxx a little cupboard.*

*I am going with Gilbert to see 2 sets of chambers to-morrow. He is most friendly to me & rang up himself to-night to tell me what he had seen & to ask me to come & look. Surely it must be right to put a bit of this terribly hard earned money into something which will make you future more pleasant even if we have to economise a bit in the home. I doubt if there will be anything free until the new year but any Gilbert has seen have to be decided upon at once.*

*You were featuring on the news to-night which gave me much pleasure.*

*Dickie Clyde has asked me to help him dine the Tommy Barnes on Friday so I shall radiate all the charm - & xxx!- I can!*

*Good night my dearest*

*Sylvia.*

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**

*15, North Court  
Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>*

*My own dear love,*

*You will probably get a letter from Gilbert by the same plane as this mixed lot of mine, telling you exactly the same thing, but in case he has not got it off - I shall tell you my version.*

*I told you last night of our search for chambers & this morning we saw some in 1, Temple Gardens. Gilbert approves & I think they could be most awfully nice. We'll spend all this bloody money on them, it will give me xxxxx xxxx xxxx to do that than anything else. The rent is 240 & there are 2 large & 2 two smaller rooms. The inhabitants (Was it Wilmer who was made a judge?- They are his) are leaving at Christmas & I suggested to Gilbert that you took over at once & we could put them in order - carpet them & so on - so that they were ready by the middle of February. They will not be taking all the furniture so you could see it Christmas & say what you want. Oh, my darling I do hope this does not seem the wrong move to you. I feel so bloody miserable about you & can only get a rest when doing something about you.*

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*Gilbert has been grand. As keen as mustard & taking me in on everything. In fact as usual not wishing to be too burdened by responsibility! He said 'Shall we wait till Sir David comes back to do anything definite? & I said 'No, do it to-day.' That seemed exactly what he wanted as he can now say 'it was her ladyship's idea' if anything goes wrong!*

*I got your angelic letter, Mo's story, Tommy's message & two books this morning. Thank you, my sweet.*

*I bet you need a change. Jim Passant says you are a perfect marvel the way you deal with all the temperaments - but no more exhausting occupation exists as I well know, & I long to spoil you at Christmas.*

*Gilbert is sending in fee notes up to the 19<sup>th</sup> Nov. for 1365 & has already been paid an early 400. He has put about 700 into the bank he says from fees paid so we shall survive, even though my financial performance is so lousy.*

*Melford says he is going to pay 10 - 10 - 0 a week for the holidays & I shall let him without a thought, he is very busy & making money, & God knows he owes it to you. There will be no difficulty about his going into a flat or house in the New Year without your having a twinge of conscience.*

*The message is fine. Exactly the thing & it is going off soon.*

*Really - I must stop. You will be going raving mad with all this messy writing & only just over a fortnight now, perhaps, oh darling*

*All my love*

*Sylvia*

*P.S. Gilbert is sending off cigarettes from your 'Veande Yewers' but I enclose 20 in case of delays.*

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Friday 7/12/45

My dearest one,

Thank you a million times for your lovely letter and also for your wonderful photographs of yourself and Mo which I have been showing unashamedly as a proud husband and father. I strongly dissent from the suggestion about my wife's age which you, but I could not be more delighted with the pictures. The Australian girl sounds fun and she certainly has the genius for squeezing the bulb at the right moment. It was very good of her to do

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the typing. Work must have touched her heart. When she goes far enough away - tell Reggie.

I was also glad to hear from Pam. It really sounds as if the exam had gone off all right. She writes in extremely good spirits. You know that all I want is that she should get what she wants. I loved her letter so much I should like you to see it.

I am extremely sorry but my pen has run out again.

You will probably have seen that the tribunal has decided to rise on 20<sup>th</sup> December, the Thursday before Christmas and to sit again on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January. That means that I might get home on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> at the latest even if I have to come by road rail and boat. With any luck I shall get a plane and be home a fortnight to day!- but it seems too marvellous to be within the range of possibility.

I have sent a note to Rab to say how pleased I was to get news of him. Your account of the Morris Stevenson broadcast was wonderful - much better than most plays I have seen. Michael is a terror. That childish egocentricity is frightening even in someone I like so much.

I have had a letter from Gilbert saying that you and he have been inspecting sets of chambers yesterday and that you have agreed on 1 Temple Gardens. They sound marvellous and I am most grateful. It will be wonderful if I can takeover some of the furniture. I quite agree with you that being in that small room would get me down.

Pour l'amour de Dieu, as the song says, do not worry about money. This awful trial (I am using it in the subjective sense) surely entitles us not to do that. Let me know at once if you would like more money and I shall send it. Also do not hurry Melford away while the trial is on and he is company for you although I think the Barclay's house sounds very much his cup of tea. How funny that the Peter Howards, at one time the Cunliffes and now the Barclay's banker after county life in Essex. What is the common factor?

The trial has recently got a move on owing to the stream-lined British case. I have ceased to care really whether Hartley steals the credit or anything else if we can only get the thing over. Strictly between ourselves there may well be developments which might speed it up but I never look beyond the present crisis. This is caused by the fact that Jackson and the American judge (Francis Biddle) do not really get on. Biddle was Jackson's Solicitor General and Jackson has not my philosophy or, to be fair, Biddle, Hartley's friendliness. I am trying to find a way of harmonising their differences via Norman Birkett. The result is that I have to go in tomorrow and be prepared to go and see the judges though I have given our delegation a day off to celebrate their really first-class performance in putting in our evidence. It does not worry me as I do not shoot, and there is nothing else to do.

Miss Kentish was complaining tonight of a headache and a sore throat so I have implored her to stay in bed to-morrow - not saying that I am thinking of myself. I sent her a bottle

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of Vick by my driver so I hope that she does not get ideas. If you had seen my Army driver you would have found it a little difficult.

It was extremely clever of Mo to spot me on the film. It must have been interesting. You can imagine the atmosphere with all those lights - which make it like a June day-on top of the central heating.

It is a funny life. Apart from saying "good-morning" cheerfully to Ruth Glover I had not thought about her, I'm afraid, when 2 days ago Khaki said to me "I've asked your friend Mrs (sic) Glover to dine on Friday. I thought you wouldn't mind." I said "Charmed, I'm sure" Ruth came to-night and she and Khaki have gone on to a party at a hospital. In fairness she did ask me but I should prefer to go to bed with "The Adventures of St Edward Leithen". Heaven knows what my bed-fellow might have been at the hospital.

I am sorry to miss Mo's birthday. Still, from your letter we were fairly wise to get some shopping done for it in October. I wish I could get something here, but, despite a careful watch, nothing seems to turn up. Still as you say it will be a great thing if we are together for Christmas. In case I can get this off on a plane to-morrow I shall once again send you all the love in the world with once more a million thanks and a little love to Pam & Mo

Your very loving

David

P.S. Will you tell Gilbert that I am very pleased with the chambers & to close with them. I shall write to him by the next train.

**9<sup>th</sup> November**

Saturday (beginning of Dec)

My dearest Darling

Owing to a sudden sharp frost the transport broke down and I did not get into my office until 9.40 and was just able to hand my letter to you to Mrs Frost of the FO to send on to you. I therefore omitted Pam's letter which I now enclose.

I have had your lovely letters and shall write you again to-morrow but I want to thank you enormously and to say what a difference they make to me. I am also most grateful for the library book and the cigarettes.

I have already told you in my last letter and written to Gilbert that I want him to take the chambers. It is no good your taking so much trouble and thinking so much about me. I am sending this with Tuck and two small stocking things and a comb which may be useful.

God bless and again my thanks and love

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Yours

David

P.S Khaki came back as reported by the batman

"Did you hear Mr Roberts come in, Sir?"

"No"

"He woke us all up at quarter-to-three, Sir. I think he must have brought the sentries in - there was an awful row, Sir."

Just as well I was not in the party!

D

**10<sup>th</sup> December**

My dearest Angel

I have done a chapter for Mo for her birthday which is not very good. It is a description of entirely imaginary seventh birthday of your grandfather and my great grandmother. Patrick Gray is my real great-great-granduncle who proclaimed Prince Charles at Dingwall but it is a little bit heavy. Your great grandmother is anyway given a sense of humour if slightly third form. Anyway I hope that it reaches in time for the birthday.

I wonder if you have heard any news of Pam.

I am not going to inflict another letter on you so simply once again send much love

Our adoring

David

**12<sup>th</sup> December**

Wednesday 12/12/45

My dearest Angel

What wonderful news about Pam! I got your letter half-an-hour after another sweet one from you to-day, and I feel just like you about it. You may have by now got my last two so you will know how I have been thinking about it. The only fly in this very lovely ointment is that we cannot share your joy. I shall try and ring up or send a message to you for Mo's birthday and tell you myself how glad I am. Pam has been so tacitly marvellous that she could not deserve it more. Like you I have had some very mauvaises quartr d'heur. Harry Phillimore has a lot of connections with Switzerland through the Protecting Power organisation for P of W and through the International Red Cross, and he will be glad to make enquiries if Pam would like to go there for a month or two before she goes up.

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I was interested in your letter about Gilbert and the chambers. He is a funny one, and the difficulty is that he is really trying so hard to help. I cannot believe that a week tomorrow is the "last day of term" and if the weather is anything like decent, the day after that I shall be home.

I am tremendously anxious to see your portrait and to hear about everything from the visit to Liverpool to bridge at Joan ..... A lot of water under every kind of bridge since she made her classic remark.. I am also extraordinarily pleased about Mo's watch. It will be a real excitement. I hope that my birthday mail has arrived on time. Mrs Kentish very decently put in some tuck as the PX was not open.

The war office has sent out a wireless so we now here the 9 o'clock news which makes us feel less cut off.

Thank you also for the library books and Mo for her gorgeous letter. I am afraid that the last instalment of the Wishing Doll was not up to scratch but we are really busy on the one hand drawing our briefs in the cases against the individual defendants, and staving off as always international complications. It will be quite extraordinary to have a few days away from it.

My sweetest one, once again I join you in being happy for Pam and send all my love of which you will pass on a small share to Pam and Mo

Your very loving  
David

**14<sup>th</sup> December**

*I never said the story  
was terrific & an  
enormous success*

*15 North Court  
SW 1  
Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>*

*Darling love,*

*It seems an eternity since I write to you although it was only just before I went to Liverpool. I got in at 7am on Thursday (after a very good sleep) but the day was devoted to Pam who was fabulous but really rather strained up & exhausted poor little lamb. She was going to bed when you rang & after a hot bath some dope & a light dinner in bed she slept for 11 hours & was miles better this morning when she went off to school again. I am sure she has 'made it' quite obviously she had got on - especially with 'Lucy' the new Head. It is wonderful, isn't it? I never stop touching wood & being thankful.*

*I went to see Mo in her Nativity play this afternoon but the most interesting part of my day was a lunch to which Rab asked me in the House. He was perfectly charming & and said he had asked me to a strictly business lunch as he wanted you to keep in touch with how things were going. With one accord they say they are lost without you & you must get back soon because nobody (especially I gather, the Socialist law officers!!) knows any*

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*law or can be helpful about bills in the House. The party consisted of Lord & Lady Davidson, Majorie Maxie, Henry Brook & myself - an odd assortment. I*

*It was primarily designed to discuss Ashridge & the future of Conservative Education. Rab had the right & very big ideas but was as usual a lit intangible. Old Davidson talked a great deal & said very little & Lady D. made slight sense in a very loud voice to which people had to listen. I saw Henry watching my face once or twice with a twinkle - I only hope I was being cagey!*

*There has evidently been a major jitter about the vote on the American loan which divided the Conservative Party & causes Winston & Anthony to say they would resign, but by the following morning they had returned to normal! It is all very nostalgic to hear the talk but it does not mean enough - especially after the recent visit to the more realistic north & you are needed in a big way, my darling.*

*Both Rab & Henry are ringing you over Christmas. Henry is coming round as he will be in London & Rab hopes to get up to see you. It really is hot stuff xxx it is easy to see that.*

*Oh darling, you will just get back in time to save my sanity. I have so much to say & I can't get it onto paper quick enough - anyway so you can read it.*

*I suppose it will not be much good writing again after to-day. The heavenly long letter which you wrote last Sunday arrived to-night. It is wonderful to know that you do tolerate longer letters. If you knew how I long for yours with your inexhaustible sense of humour about yourself & your fellow men*

*Please god you will finish this ruddy trial quickly & that we can get your chambers in order in time for your triumphal return. Gilbert sees you doing about 15 or 20 briefs in a year - & nothing else. Being reasonable I must say*

*My darling - all my love*

*Sylvia*

**17<sup>th</sup> December**

*15 North Court  
SW1  
Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>*

*My own darling*

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*I was just sitting down to write this (it was 2pm with us) to take to Church House in the hope of a plane getting to you by Friday when the telephone rang with your sweet voice again.*

*I don't care what it is you want - a quotation, the time to cook a haggis or any other thing, it makes me feel nearer to hear you talk.*

*I hope you got some letters to-day, it is maddening when they are delayed.*

*Darling you must eat your sweet ration. I know you must need it & you send it all home. Of course it is marvellous but do you eat any?*

*I have had a lovely day looking out your sheet & getting all your medicaments which makes your return seem more real.*

*Peter Tod will be here for the night on the 21<sup>st</sup> to take Pam out to the Savoy. He has been most persevering about it & I feel so sure you will agree with me in giving Pam a good run of fun now but keeping the choice wide!*

*She may feel worried at going out but your return might get put off to Saturday - & anyway I rather want to talk to you myself.*

*I shall not write more as you probably will not get this letter until January 2<sup>nd</sup> by which time it will be a letter out of date.*

*Till Friday & for always my love*

Sylvia