

FEBRUARY 1946

3rd February

My dearest Darling,

After our lovely telephone conversation I need not discuss the question of coming back for the Trades Disputes Ball. I feel that it is right not to do it, however disappointing this may be.

I am so glad that Donald is so pleased.

It was sweet of both Mo and Nanny to react so charmingly. I wish it was justified.

It is really wonderful that you have -as is so obviously the case - showed Gilbert enthusiasm about the Chambers.

Your description of Sink was extremely funny. He sent me a really delightful letter about his stay. The funny thing was that he laid it all on for himself and in fact gave us a couple of dinners at the Grand but on other nights always found something to do with an infinite variety of people.

I am afraid that this fortnight's instalment is terribly bad, but I thought it might amuse Mo - and you - to have glimpses of herself at various early ages. I hope so.

Darling this is very scrappy but like Mr Birmingham I was really stuck for a plot and the enclosed took a lot of time.

My sweetest one there are now barely 157 hours to wait

Again my love

Your very loving David

4th February

(4/2/46)

My darling,

The plane does not go until 12 so I am adding these few words. You may think that the Americans look after our bodies rather than our morals. Just to disabuse you I enclose our present match book!

Angel it is now only 148 hours

Again my love

Your own

David

5th February

Tuesday

(5/2/46)

My dearest one

I don't know that there is very much for me to say but I am writing partly because I hope that I may get this further letter to you before you start and partly just for the pleasure of doing so.

I ought to say however, do not believe any stories of flap and plots out here which I understand have been headlined. They are completely without foundation. The Americans had a practice alert and hundreds of press men wrote it up. It is mildly annoying except that no one here worries about the press.

FEBRUARY 1946

I hope that you are going into strict training because everyone out here will want you to have a party with them. At the moment you are only booked up for the 4 days after your arrival. You have already got a permanent pass onto the floor of the Court and there is a move on foot to get you a special PX. At 10 o'clock to-morrow we or at least I shall be able to say that it is less than 100 hours.

My batman after immense concentration has selected the member of the German staff to be your personal maid. She speaks a little English. In fact so important is your visit that there is now a lock on the bathroom door and you will be unable to burst in on Khaki in his bath - or terra firma as the unlearned but in this case not incorrect used to say.

I am relying on getting the news of your time of starting from Sink or rather Vernon since he most charmingly asked if he could be admitted to our company of Christian names.

I do not think I told you but I wrote a fulsome and, I hope, accurate account of Georgette. Fortunately there was not a question, "when did you last see this object?"

At the moment the telephone lines to London have broken down again, but I hope that they will be operation by the week-end.

My darling this letter ought to be full of information. I told you, however when I spoke to you on Sunday that you should bring you blue dress and one or two little backs" or the equivalent and your black and tweed suits. Also some jerseys and warm undies. The secret here is to wrap up warmly when you go out as everything is strongly centrally heated. Towels encore for yourself.

Darling I do not know how I can wait until Sunday but it will arrive. Till the and always all my love with a special kiss to Pam & Mo for letting me have so wonderful a break

Your very loving

David

15 North Court
Feb. 5th

My own darling

Forgive this note. I have had Monica Deacon here for 2 nights & this morning had to take her round doing things she wanted to do & now I must get this off or I shall miss the plane.

It was such heaven talking to you yesterday & somehow hearing you once seems to make my visit become real instead of a dream & to make life make sense. I cannot tell you how much I look forward to it. I cannot get any good books that I want & it seems no use sending tripe so I shall wait in the hopes of the new ones. They are bad at Harrods now.

Your sweet letters for Pam & myself arrived this morning & I always get a beautiful laugh from them which does me good. Balls or no balls old Sink has asked me out to lunch.

I can think of little else than my visit & pray that nothing will stop it. Mo had slight flu last week which I did not mention as I did not want to raise a scare but she is quite well again & up & nobody has got it. Pam is working hard & doing well. It works out into a good regime

All my love, dearheart

Sylvia

FEBRUARY 1946

SMF in Nuremberg

19th February

Darling

This is from the plane just to say I am thinking of you & all we have done & I shall add a letter from the ground when I get home.

I know you understand & feel the same about not saying much when one says good bye so I do not usually worry that I should have said more. If we dislike something very much we have always said as little as possible. However I can now picture your life & surroundings which make them seem less remote & we are on the last lap. I hope & pray it will not be too arduous for you but I am now completely satisfied that you are making history in a real way & without any self seeking. You will get a reward.

Everyone has been sweet & thoughtful on the plane & I now have the coat of one of the crew on my knees as we are very high. It is a bit bumpy but not unbearable. I am going to make my list of 'dates' during my visit for Pam to study.

*I shall try to get this off to-morrow with news from home.
Give John my love & keep so very much for yourself*

Sylvia

20th February

Wednesday 5.30

My dearest darling,

O'Neill has just offered to take a note to you and I am writing this with tearing speed. It was marvellous to hear that you had arrived safely after a not too bad journey although I know you would say the latter whatever had happened. It was also a sweet idea of yours which gave me immense pleasure to hear Pam's & Mo's voices.

You were extremely lucky and right to decide to go yesterday because there has been since 1 o'clock to day a tremendous blizzard which is whirring about masses of snow.

Khaki and Elwyn got in after an hour of circling about.

I cannot begin to say how wonderful it was having you here. The ten days went like a flash but everyone is saying how much they loved you and your being here which is very right & proper but also pleasant to hear.

We are getting down hard to the cross examination and once that is under way the end will be in sight.

Sweetheart once more a million thanks for coming out and all my love and kisses with 1 each for the girls

Your very loving

David

22nd February

Friday

My dearest Darling,

I have another opportunity of sending you a line as Mervyn is going today. There is really nothing to say but I write for the pleasure of writing to you.

FEBRUARY 1946

We have jumped into the preparation of the cross-examination with a bang. I have been reading transcripts and preparing notes every night. It is rather a good thing because it makes the change from your presence to absence easier when there is work.

I very much hope that we shall begin the Defence on Monday 4th March.

I hope that Pam & Mo are as well as they sounded. Give them my love and kisses. Things are stale, flat and unprofitable without you, but soon one will begin to see the end of another tunnel.

Until then and always my love

Your very loving

David

24th February
(24/2/46)

Sunday 11am

My dearest sweetheart,

Thank you a million times for your lovely letters. It was terribly good of you to write in the plane and again from home. I have an uneasy feeling that the journey was not quite as good as you so bravely make out, but I hope it was not too bad. At any rate I am more than glad that people say that you are looking better for your visit. I am feeling a new man as a result. I share your feelings so exactly about parting. It was small consolation that it has been snowing ever since.

I have told John that you have been in touch with Peggy and I shall be most interested to hear what you make of Mrs Phillimore. You may have heard from Mervyn who is having a week-end off in London. Harry is doing the same in Prague or as we say (Czechoslovak) Praha the home of Dr Blaha. I do not grudge them their breaks after my tremendous piece of good fortune in having you here.

You were absolutely right about the tempo of the trial suddenly changing. We have got three matters which are making us work

1. The preparation of the cross examination
2. The pruning of the dft's applications for witnesses
3. The organisations

Jackson will do the main cross examination of Goering and I shall do the main one of Ribbentrop Hess and Keitel. Mervyn will do Streicher, I shall do Doenitz and Raeder, Khaki Jodl and I von Papen and von Neurath.. I might let Khaki do Keitel if he does two subsidiary witnesses Generals Halder and Walimont all right. I shall also have to do any subsidiary cross-examinations of other dfts on points with which we specially concerned. I have directed the team prepare the cross examinations in 3 stages

- (i) a cameo sketch to show what they are driving at
- (ii) a full note of the facts
- (iii) a short note of what they consider the unanswerable & unescapable points

Mervyn has done the whole of Hess. I have worked the passages in the transcript which Miss Kentish collected into a work on Goering. I have done the cameo sketch and am half way through dictating the long note on Ribbentrop and Khaki has produced something on Keitel. I am going to finish Ribbentrop this afternoon.

The argument on the organisations will be on Wednesday or Thursday. I have circulated a twenty page note to the Defence so they cannot say that they have been taken by surprise. The American judges, who are very fancy about the opinion of posterity on themselves as jurists, are flapping about these.

FEBRUARY 1946

We started the pruning of the dft's witnesses and documents, Saturday, in open court. The other delegations have, strangely enough, left this detailed task to me and I spent the day until 4 o'clock bobbing up and down arguing with German counsel. I thoroughly enjoyed it. We only got their lists about 12 on Friday so it meant a fair amount of work in which John was wonderfully and unselfishly helpful. Khaki was also wonderful. When the court rose at one, he said, "I have arranged for a massage at two. Do you want me, I'll stay if you like but we have discussed these matters." I said "No, I don't" There was not much else to say. I really don't mind but it struck me as odd. He has just come in and been perfectly charming and I feel rather a cad for mentioning it.)

We continue this pruning to-morrow.

You will see that things are becoming more like an ordinary case in atmosphere but being Nuremberg it was broken last night by a terrific party given by the Soviet delegation in honour of the Red Army. I drank vodka, ate caviar and danced with 6 Russian interpreters and induced Geoffrey Lawrence to propose the health of the Red Army which he did charmingly. Gorshenin (the Soviet AG) Nikitchenko, Volschkov (the judges) Rudenko Smirnoff & Shaynin (prosecution) Dmitrieva Tania & Teethandflatov (or at any rate that's what she looks like) jointly and severally deplored your absence. They had specially invited you and each individually said how sorry they were that you were not there. Your attention to the Soviet case has had international repercussions - for once entirely favourable.

I am terribly sorry that an instalment of Mo's story looks rather difficult. Will you explain that I shall try, as I said, but there is fair amount to do. I hope that Pam & Mo continue to be well. You don't know how I want to get home.

Darling this letter is far too long but I thought that you had been so sweetly interested in the trial you might be able to bear to hear how it is going on

I adore you and send you all my love.

Your very loving

David

25th February

15 North Court
SW1
Feb. 25th 1946.

My darling

I got a letter from you this morning. I also heard from Gifford that you had sent one by them but O'Niel (the swob) must have forgotten to post it. Anyway, I know it is coming & is a treat in store.

What an age it seems already since I saw you, but it is still a beautiful memory of one of the happiest & gayest 10 days I have ever spent.

In a way I am glad to hear that you are working so hard, it begins to sound like the revving-up before the end.

I went to fetch Mo from Duncan Sandys last night & Duncan said 'I gather David is carrying the whole thing - he is certainly making history - & it will do him a tremendous lot of good.' It means nothing but is pleasant to know how people feel. You had a good press when you spoke the other day.

This afternoon I am going to try for some library books for you. I expect they will last you a long time but will put you to sleep. Pam is writing to tell you of her 'wizzard' weekend amongst the pink coats of Essex. She is very funny about it

FEBRUARY 1946

I have asked the Hales to dinner to-night to cope with Mrs. Phillimore as they are friends of hers. Everyone is wonderful to me from the delegation. I feel I must do everything I can to repay.

Gifford's party is at Posters & the 400. So Pam's experience grows.

I am just going to watch Mo's dancing & want to take this on the way, so good bye for now, my sweet

Your very loving

Sylvia

O'Niel's letter has just arrived with the PX from Lansdown House - a thousand thanks, my sweet

27th February

15 North Court

*From the train
Feb 27th*

My darling

Just the beginning of a letter after getting onto the midnight & before getting in to bed.

I have done the 'inaugural' meeting at Green Lane & a party given by the Councillors at Buckfield. Everyone was perfectly charming & the men all treat me as one of themselves so it will tide over till you return if I do it fairly often. Your message which I read was a great success & I told them all a great deal about Nuremberg in which they were most genuinely interested.

The young conservatives from the University were at Green Lane & have made me promise to get you to go up & tell them about the trial as soon as you get back. They say you are the only big personality on Merseyside. Human nature being what it is the audience seemed quite unmoved by a torrent of high thinking Conservatism from Shannon, Touring, Macdonald Stuart & myself but when Bert Minnow in his extraordinary drunken way said 'you must join - especially the women - you often find a husband that way' - half the audience joined!!

I must get into bed it is snowing like mad & rather chilly. I only got a sleeper through Mapley practically pulling Lime Street down. You must reward him heavily on your return - he won't take a penny from me - it is very sweet if a little embarrassing.

28th February

Feb 28th

My darling. This is just to report my safe return at 7.20 this morning & to say that I found everything in order.

There is no news - it is awfully flat when you are away & I just potter on from one date to another. Did I tell you the xxx Hales had asked me to be god-mother to their son? He is being christened on Saturday.

I had a busy in the xxxx & now I must go & collect Mo as Nannie is out. So I must be off

All my love, dearest

Sylvia