

FLIGHT OFFICER Olivier REPORTING —

The letterhead bearing the name of the "land" ship mentioned below was removed by censors

We are fortunate to be able to bring you, with the permission of all concerned, this fascinating, intimate letter from



Walking down a London street:
Laurence Olivier and wife Vivien Leigh



to



Laurence Olivier

Douglas Fairbanks Jr.
and Mary Lee Fairbanks

Dearest Doug and Mary Lee-

c/o Admiralty, London

This is a fine time to take to thank you for your most generous thoughtfulness in sending us that cable about the Hamilton picture. It was terribly sweet of you - bless you both.

Duggie, we heard with great fondness and admiration of your gallant efforts on this country's behalf - your tireless loyalty to us is most wonderful, as there must be times when it is terribly difficult for you, and times when to say the least of it, it cannot have been to your advantage to be someone who has been so fond of us. Don't misunderstand me - we know how these things are, and we are filled with admiration for your courage - and gratitude for your loyalty and pride for your friendship.

I can't give you my address as I may be moving soon - but the "ship" overhead is a "land" ship and one gets "shore leave" to go down the street to the post office. "Signals" instead of letters - and a little party of men waiting just inside the gate with their bicycles held stiffly behind them, is called a "liberty boat."

It's a good job and feels useful. I'm a pilot in an Air Gunmen Training Squadron and it's very good experience. I got my wings quite soon, which was a blessing and I hope to be promoted in a week or so.

Viv, praise God, is with me and we live by the sea quite a few miles from work, to which I dash at a most ungodly hour (worse than pictures!) on a motor-bike! It's all so different as you may imagine! I worry very much for Viv the nights when I have to be away tho' God knows we've been lucky lately (famous last words!) and she's a model of tact with the officers' wives!

Anything that might bring about a separation is our constant dread. But by and large, I can't remember ever feeling such contentment. We get to London once or perhaps twice a month, and it's incredible how much one enjoys things which one has heretofore taken for granted!

It sounds an odd thing to say but life really feels more peaceful than it ever did before!

Good-bye now, our dear friends. Our devoted love to all our pals - our beloved Colmans, the Bruces, the Hunters, Kanin, Cukor, George Sanders - and anyone and everyone we know if you happen to meet them.

With love to both from both -

Laurence

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