

Officers mess R.A.F.
St Eval
N^r Wadebridge
Cornwall.

Dear All,

How's things? & everybody sober again after the wedding? It must have been a wonderful affair, beating the wedding of McPhee to a frazzle. I got the shortbread off, & thanks very much for it. I did enjoy it, & the blokes to whom I spared a very little piece liked it too.

We're moving to another hotel about 8 miles from this one, tomorrow, so you'd better use the mess address. We loose quite a bit of money (4/9 allowances) so I'll have to think of some ways of saving money.

I'm sorry my old flannels are no good, & thanks a lot for offering to get some from J.L.G., but won't it cost you 8 coupons? I shouldn't like to leave you short on these. I don't know yet whether we are allowed any, or no. If I get 'em, I'll send some on. Talking of coupons, I've sent the ration card for this fortnight, you may be able to get a few things for it. If I recall, I didn't bring one last time so this'll square it.

Weather here has been fine today, but I'm afraid I've overdone it & got my back slightly fried. I suppose I've got to go thru' the red stage first, before the brown. On the whole, the weather is a damn sight colder than

Expected for June in Cornwall.

I just heard today that the gunner I picked up at Schwenor (Ritchie the Dundee bloke) is now a prisoner of war, & not dead, as was first reported.

We landed at Schwenor one night recently. It looks much the same as it did.

You were asking about blitzes down this way. We haven't had one for quite some time; two or three a while back were quite heavy, but no great damage or casualties.

It's now midnight, & I've just finished packing. I just managed to squeeze everything in, after getting rid of some books

We go quite regularly to the
place you mention in France.
It isn't too far away & is most
important as far as shipping goes.

Now, as I must get up at
H. 30 tomorrow, I'll stop.

Love

Charles

Dear all,

6-8-41

Dear All, Thanks

Thanks for your letters, & I was pleased to know the holidays were going off well. I dare say you are back home now & into the swing of things again.

Things are going OK with me, the weather has been some-what better of late & I've been doing a bit of swimming. I'm just getting the idea of surf riding. The breakers down here are even bigger than at Tince at times.

I'm afraid I've lost your last letters, so they won't be properly answered.

We have a new Squadron
doctor now, an Edinburgh
man, very young.

I'm afraid nothing very
much happens here. - I've
run out of news already.
I'm hoping to finish here
sometimes soon, & perhaps
go to Canada, as well.

And I might get leave in
Oct.

That's all

Much Love

Charlie

748067,

Mrs.

McLean Sgt
Sergeants Mess
217 Squadron
R.A.F.
St Eval, nr Wadlbridge
Cornwall.

Dear All,

I got here O.K., but it took some time - till Monday at about 5 pm. I got to Exeter 5 hrs or so late, on Sat. And there were no trains till Monday.

My uniform isn't here yet. If it has reached you, send it on right away, as things are a bit difficult without it. Nobody will believe I'm in the R.A.F. let alone I've got a commission. There's very little to do down here so far. We might not do anything for a

week or two. We're supposed to be studying.

Till my uniform comes I'm in the Sgt's mess, so I'm calling myself a Sergeant temporarily. I'll give you the new address later.

I still feel pretty fed up after my journey.

The other two commissioned-lads haven't arrived as yet. I think their arrival was postponed for some reason or other.

I don't know if their uniforms have reached them or not.

This is all for now. I'll write you a fuller letter later.

Love Charlie.

TELEPHONE: PADSTOW 150.



OFFICERS' MESS,
ROYAL AIR FORCE STATION,
ST EVAL, N^o WADEBRIDGE,
CORNWALL.

29-8-41

Dear all,

I'm sorry I've been lax in writing of late, but I have been kept fairly hard at it, - on the ground & in the air. As I'm fairly good at working with compasses - adjusting them & so on - I'm now Officer in Charge of compasses, & it gives quite a bit of work.

I suppose you'll be still on holiday - most of you, & I hope you have enjoyed it.

We've had one or two parties down here again. Lady Millbank, who has a home down here, asked us to a Cocktail party. In return we asked three of the young ladies who were then down to our mess - Lady Sarah Churchill, Lady

Carline & Murchill + Miss Barbara
somebody or other. They're some
sort of relations of Winnie.
The night they visited us was
one of the best I've spent.
Just now I've a slight touch of
conjunctivitis again. I've been off
flying for a day. I've made it writing
correspondence appears. Ginger Hunter's
mother + girl friends keep me busy (He is
prisoner of war)

Well that does for now, as I've
thousands of letters to write

I hope you come back all brown +
fit

All my love

Charlie

TELEPHONE: PADSTOW 150.



OFFICERS' MESS,
ROYAL AIR FORCE STATION,
ST EVAL, N^o WADEBRIDGE,
CORNWALL.

Saturday 27th.

Dear All,

Thanks for your letters, which came today. If you see Don Miller, congratulate him on his efforts. Maybe I'll write him, anyway. Just now I'm trying for a posting, on a new job, where I don't know. I get leave on the 3rd Decr., so I may be able to tell you then if it's come off.

As for posting to Canada I don't know when that'll be, if ever.

I've bought this car now, & will have to start learning to drive it soon. The Commercial Bank were writing me this morning, reminding me I'd overdrawn, too. I'll have to square them.

I think I told you we'd visited Nantes. Well this is from the "Mail"

of the 25th —

"according to Vichy radio last night a tremendous fire at Nantes destroyed valuable stocks of mineral oil in a warehouse"
That was us.

And with that "line shoot" I close
Love
Charlie

**TANKER BOMBED BY
BEAUFORT**

TIMES
6/9/41

**AT ANCHOR OUTSIDE
FRENCH HARBOUR**

The following Air Ministry statement was issued yesterday:—

A Beaufort aircraft of Coastal Command on patrol off the coast of Brittany on Thursday night attacked an enemy tanker. Another aircraft of the same command bombed a factory at La Pallice.

The Air Ministry News Service states that the tanker, a vessel of 300ft., was bombed and hit just outside the French harbour of Granville, at the entrance to the Bay of Mont St. Michel.

The Beaufort had patrolled the coast searching for German supply ships creeping along the coast under cover of darkness. The tanker was at anchor 400 yards outside Granville. It was low in the water, apparently heavily laden, with several light derricks in the bows and amidships. The vessel was outlined clearly in the bright moonlight, and the Beaufort attacked on the beam in a shallow dive. Medium and heavy bombs were dropped in a short stick, and the tail gunner saw a large white cloud of smoke rise.

Another Beaufort of the same squadron concluded an offensive patrol over the French Atlantic coast with an attack on La Pallice. The roads were empty of shipping, but industrial buildings to the north of the port stood out clearly. The Beaufort's bombs were aimed at the factory of the Compagnie Industrielle Des Petrolles, and the rear gunner saw debris flung high by the explosion.