

STATION: LIPHOOK 2 MILES.
TELEGRAMS: PASSFIELD.
TELEPHONE No: PASSFIELD 6.

AL/3400

PASSFIELD CORNER,
LIPHOOK,
HANTS.

September 19th 1940

My dear Betty
How are

I am wondering how you and your husband are faring. I thought you had probably gone into the country to stay with that sister-in-law or in some other palatial residence. It is brave of you to stay put in London. I quite agree with you about the scandal of the big unoccupied houses: their basements should be used for the refugees from East London; but we have no access to ministerial authority.

Since the London raids have diverted German planes from camps and aerodromes, which surround us, we live a peaceful life with air alarms which turn out to be merely Germans hurrying overhead to get to the London area. At first we had battles in the air above us, gun fire and bombs a mile away; the countryside is far safer than the town, the chance of being hit living in a small house among woods, fields, hills and valleys is very remote. Sidney and I are not in the least affected; we remain in our bedrooms at night and I walk out whether or not an air raid warning is off or on. But Sidney's stalwart maid valet gets into a wild panic and my two girls were sleepless and my little group seemed likely to break up through mutual irritation. However that is all gone, and as my two servants, who have been with me for 11 years, have found a nephew from Canada, as a soldier here, they are able to welcome him when off duty.

I believe we shall win the war so far as resistance to Germany is concerned and probably a successful stripping of Italy of her African colonies; but to reconquer France and the other subject countries and occupy Germany - I don't think it possible.

The Maiskys come here every few weeks and they brought the Swedish Minister and his young wife. Do get to know him. Herr Pritz is a remarkable man, tall good-looking, and very able; not a diplomatist by profession but belonging to the wealthiest financial family in Sweden. He has been here two years. I gather that in a cold and cynical way, he is anti-German and anti-British and inclined to be pro-Soviet. But he is enigmatical and does not intend to give himself away. He asked to come here as he was reading Soviet Communism, and wanted to take stock of the autjors. Maisky is still contemptuous of that "pious old fool" Halifax and his many

P.T.O.

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amusing anecdotes about his rooted antipathy to the U.S.S.R.
He prefers Butler! What does your foreign office son think?
and what about the Boss of Tanganika?

Sidney is very well and happy, reads incessantly
and believes that all will be well eventually when the
human race has recovered from its fit of Nazi madness.

When raids have ceased to stop transport to and
from London do come and spend a day here.

Am an excited p. a letter to me
+ Redcliffe in my intent you - you know
Wants you return it. I don't suppose you
I.0 son is come to see it - for you
show it to me. *WATTS*
Beattie