

Appendix 3
Letters From Anthony Guise to his mother Mater
1930 to 15th June 1941

01/01/1930

From Tony **To** Mater

Comment Date? 1920s?

21 Ward

My Dearest Mummy and Daddy

I must write and tell you that I was up in clothes today for the first time, it was so nice.

I sat in front of the big fire in a teeny, weeny wee chair. Please Mummy and Daddy may I have a motor ?

I received a lovely long letter from Cousin Mary and a long letter from Mr Major. Will you please give my love and a big _____ to Cousin Mary next time you write to her.

I've just had a lovely bath and I did splash and made Nurse all wet. We did laugh at the mess on the floor, however we did enjoy ourselves.

Night night Mummy and Daddy

FROM TONY

14/03/1940

Comment Judging from a letter (4/12/1942) Tony joined up during March 1940

01/04/1940 From Catterick Camp

From Tony **To** Mater

Comment Date?

From Catterick Camp

From Dishforth in a Tent

Dear Mater

Thank you so much for the money and the letter.

Please do not worry about a parcel. The boys had had one or two and I wanted to put one in the kitty. Do not send any more yet as we are all going to Wales on 13th and I do not know how we shall be accommodated etc. Keeping food in a tent is difficult!!

Would you do me a favour, I am sure it will be a pleasant task.

Mrs Beattie

Scarcotes Farm

Hudswell

Nr Richmond.

Would you write to the above lady who has been very kind to me (and David) giving us tea and supper and making us welcome every Sunday (nearly) since we have been here. You remember I told you I had found a little farm? Well this is the one and I am sure you would like to write and thank here for the lovely times we have had at her farm.

Please don't take the lanyard bit too seriously; it was only a bit of fun.

Leave question is unanswerable.

Anyone who takes French leave up here is Court Marshalled and usually get 14 to 21 days in glass house – ask any of the boys about that! You see it is “deserting in the face of the enemy”, etc, etc!!!

So sorry to hear you are not well and that things are not too good at biz [business] however – I do hope that when you do manage to reclaim English Nationality, there will be some Government job open. I understand that unemployment is gradually being reduced and the ??????????????.

I hear that you have been to another fortune teller – tut tut! This one seems to contradict the other according to Yvonne's account.

Was wandering if I could send you some eggs – seem to get them without ration cards up here – about 2/6 a doz I believe.

Keep your pecker up old girl and I'll soon be home – it may be in 2 months time or perhaps sooner. But I hear that now we are to be actually at war stations, we shall get leave but once in 6 months and it is only 15 weeks since last leave!!!

Of course, we are entitled to 7 days within the next 5 weeks – that brings us to our 6 months service – still in the army you are entitled to NOTHING!!

Friend of Mrs Beattie has a farm in Fishguard in Wales but unfortunately it is about 30 miles from Manorbier.

Cheery Ho!!

All the best much love

Tony

NB I may write for my service chess when we get to a station.

24/04/1940 To V.A.Guise 57 Tooting Bec Gardens SW16 Post mark Richmond

From Tony **To** Mater

Comment Card

To V.A.Guise 57 Tooting Bec Gardens SW16 Post mark Richmond
Wednesday 24 April 1940
A Card

To Mrs V.A. Guise
57 Tooting Bec Gardens
Streatham SW16

Train leaves Darlington 9.00am arrives Kings Cross about 1.53pm Friday morning.

Thanks for the money.

Shall do my best to get home.

Am quite queer with another inoculation but unless I get any worse (very unlikely) I shall come – yes sir.

Very bad yesterday but feeling better today.

Love Tony.

P.S. Feel better now so shall definitely come home.

01/05/1940 Dishforth in a Tent

From Tony **To** Mater

Comment Date?

From Dishforth in a Tent

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All the best much love

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01/06/1940

From Tony **To** Mater

Comment Date?

Probably from Catterick

Darling Mater

So many thanks for the lovely cake... its very rich and very nice. And thank you for the money; I thought you must have made a pile sending all that amount and it was very useful as we got one of our rail passes last week and 2 or 3 of us had a drink or two.

But!!

Don't forget what I said about not sending any if things get too tight and you have to give up... only let me know so that I can regulate my expenditure.

We've done nothing much that I can mention as much of the hotter news is "Blue Pencilled".

Things are moving however.

Haven't anything definite on leave yet – but we live in hope eh!

Our grounds are very big here and two or three time a week we can get the necessary time off to stroll around – and as ½ the men at a time are confined to the barracks room you can sometimes find a patch of wood that is free of soldier blight.

Good luck old Girl.

Keep your pecker up.

God bless you

Love Tony

14/06/1940

From Tony **To** Mater

Probably from Catterick

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Good luck old Girl.

Keep your pecker up.

God bless you

Love Tony

01/07/1940 Dishforth in a Tent

From Tony **To** Mater

Comment Date?

Dishforth in a Tent

From Dishforth in a tent

About mid- July 1940

Darling Mater

Attached to my washing, you will find a note dealing with the odd bits of business – receipts and so on. So much for that.

Well at last it has happened LEAVE!!!

And I can give you some details too, which leaving accidents will hold good.

I leave here at 12.00 midday on Friday 19th July and have to be back by 7 o'clock on the following Monday morning 22nd July – IS IT WORTH IT? We get no travel warrant money or ration tickets and the fare will be about 30/-. Of course, I haven't saved anything – so it's up to you I am afraid old girl.

I more or less told Yvonne to tell you that we may get this leave – and I expect you have thought it all over by now.

Many thanks for the extraback sheet – it certainly came in very useful.

Life up here is very queer; we have but few opportunities of spending money but when we do spend it seems to go at a race and leaves you in the cart – you see to say the least things are on the grim side as far as living conditions are concerned and when we can get out, we have a drink or two to see how it feels to enter a civilised establishment and – WOOF!! it's gone. But that's the way of things.

Being adaptable I am not too miserable, and we are defending the realm, but gosh! if they gave us a trough to feed from, we couldn't be pigging it more!!

The station that we have been at for the past weeks is like unto the Sahara, miles away from everything in the middle of fields – and dirty sand – we breathe sand, eat it, drink it, smoke it. It gets in our clothes, our blankets, our hair and when it rains it turns into tons of yellow

PS please don't worry about cakes. We have not facilities for storing food and in case I was going to stop you sending them as the flour and stuff must be using up your ration coupons.

Love Tony

06/07/1940

From Tony To Mater

From Dishforth

July 6th

Dear Mater

First just a few words of "business".

Received last Saturday June 29th:- extra 7/- Thanks a lot! Received Friday July 5th 1 doz hankies and 1 swim shorts.

(I sent you 2 doz [hankies] home 3½ weeks ago so presume you still have some left) NO money arrived to date, so guess you want me to eke out last Saturday's extra. Done ok!

Am sending

18 hankies

4 Pants

1 Pyjamas

1 pullover (I have no use for this)

Some of the things – you will tell by the colours – I have tried to wash for myself – But unfortunately up here at Dishforth we have no facilities for washing etc and drying.

The baths are 1½ miles away.

September 1940

To Yvonne (aged 21) probably after Sept 1940

From Dishforth.

We may move again!

Thanks a lot for newsy and money.

Tentative leave suggestions – presumably operative within the next month:- 48 hours (at home) travelling time allowed.

No ration cards or money.

No warrant – we pay our own fare.

Please ask the Mater – Is it worth it? I am naturally only to anxious to come home, but for such a short space of time, it a bit stiffish – about 27/6 fare I think.

Next point. If Mater's Ok, hold yourself ready for a frantic appeal – nobody knows when they are going until somebody taps you on the arm and says Bugger off!!

I could find a place up here if Mater doesn't think it's worth it!

Have communicated with Neil on his sad bereavement – Still its your life and what you have done is no doubt for the best – Tho' why James.

Wrote to Gerps asking her to come and see me – she kept on writing and asking me to phone – doesn't seem to realise that we are miles away from phones and nearly always on duty the day she asks me to phone.

Camping out in the raw, most uncivilised – we have to walk a mile to meals and baths – much too dirty.

J and G on the roadblock last night – pulled up a motor cyclist and his wife on the pillion. Rifle on guard with 16 inches of gleaming bayonet.

Wife... "Oh! Oh!... Don't please" as husband stopped within an inch of the bayonet. Then "giggle giggle! May I touch your bayonet, I've never done so... ouch! May I touch your respirator... ooh!" And so on... silly bitch...

Queer people up here – even the 'igh class pubs are filled with funny men of the prosperous grocer type especially dressed in 50/- style – Their women are expensively (dressed) but oh! so poorly turned out – most of the daughters seem to be "high school" educated and rather despise the fond p's (parents). Funny life... funny people.

But I found some Tetley Beer – draught Worthington and Youngers.

Boroughbridge – our nearest "town" is quite interesting as far as pubs is concerned – nothing else tho'. However, the pub give you the opportunity of spending about 3 times as much money as you have.

Note your remarks about Air Raids – getting them every night – get up and watch the bombs drop – but so far we haven't been nearer than 6 or so miles away although they often pass over head without knowing it.

Neil was in a panic about France – presume he fights on in England now – be quite amusing to fight on own ground – quite an at home match. Something we have not seen since the Cromwell campaign in the 17th century.

Sydney write occasionally and sends me a few B.S. cigarettes.

Michael sends me the Autocar each week. Don't hear much from anybody else. Tho' I have a letter and answer from Uncle Fred.
Did I ask you send swimsuit? bathing of sorts up here.
Please thank Mater for money – awful decent but don't let her strain herself – of course life is a bit boring. But then -----! We are all in the same boat – Eh!
All the best for the moment until I return ... Bung Ho!
Love Tony
Please thank Mater for letters and things. Give everyone my love and could you send me Mrs FitzGerald some time – Tony.

Reference to Neil (Yvonne's husband to be - 2nd quarter 1942) –

07/09/1940 London Blitz started

14/09/1940

From Tony To Mater

Comment Date?

Page 7

From Dishforth

For the 48 hrs, or to some friends in Middlesborough, so if you don't think it's worth the candle – don't worry about me!!
Much love to you and everybody
Tony

PPS Sunday

Since writing the above I have received your letter, suggesting I should come home. And untold wealth which I am sewing into my battle dress – The answer to the cup of distress was too, too overwhelming. Here some further news. If I can get 12.40 from York I shall be in Kings Cross by 5 o'clock and there is an 11.30 train that goes Sunday night – I think!!
The registered letter was held up. That is the reason I did not get it until Sunday.
I should keep the washing until I return.
On second thoughts I may send this letter separately so you will get it sooner
Much love until I see you – all the best
Tony

NB Please, please!! Altho' the leave is very nearly definite – DON'T bank on it absolutely. You know what the army is like by now.
T.

Since writing above living conditions have improved – we have moved again!!

01/10/1940

From Tony To Mater

Z Battery 107th AA Rgt RA
Halbeath Road
Dunfermline
Scotland

Friday

Guess date to be October/November 1940 but unsure

Darling Mater and Family

Well here we are! Gosh over 400 miles from home and we didn't even know our address for days. Bonnie Scotland... And is it lovely? It's terrific!! And when I get the chance to see some of it I'm going to write some fine descriptive stuff that will make you all jealous.

I arrived here in the advanced party (honour!!) by road and we came thro' the border country – mountains and plains, heather and firs, winding roads and little burns. Gad it was marvellous – not a house or human in sight, for miles and miles. We are just North of the Forth and on the ferry we passed the famous bridge – within 10 or 12 miles is Stirling and the Trossachs and Loch Leven, where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned.

Of course, there are no mountains just where we are, but it is quite interesting country.

In Dunfermline there is a minor abbey and an abbey church which will be worth a visit or two – also a very good ice rink – swimming pool parks – with peacocks and things and the usual compliment of cinemas and so on.
The Town seems to be very go-ahead and prosperous – it ought to be since Carnegie's Trust keeps the whole thing going.

I am sorry about the S.O.S. for money, incidentally it's come (it's Saturday now) but I celebrated a bit with Victor on our (possible) last farewell; and was quite broke. But it's awfully good of you to send so much – it will enable me to clear my debts and have something in hand for next week – I think it is

wonderful of you.... Tho' it makes me very sad that you should have to send me money when it ought to be the other way round and I know that you will be going short... Thanks and thanks again a lot.

How is the job and what about the passport biz? Incidentally, I was on the way to being recommended for a commission, but the nationality question is an insurmountable difficulty – Hard Luck Eh!!

God I shall be glad to get home – it seems such ages (nearly half a year) that I'm in constant dread that I will lose the TMH influence and become one of the hard bladders – you will probably have noticed that even now I am a little more stodgy uninteresting and Zestless. The damned army makes its business that you think of nothing else – do nothing else or say nothing else... but Army.

Oh before I forget... would you send me my chess set and board? TA!! I've actually found another human being... or very near one anyway and he plays chess!! so I can envisage some very peaceful hours to come. He's also got a bit of money so we can have a beer or so. There is another bloke in the battery... an N.C.O. who has £½ million and has the usual big car and does the usual dreary big things in a little way, and is so damned mean that if he buys you a beer you have to provide him two in exchange – Naturally I loathe him... Tho' he was little freer with the O'Goblins (Cockney slag for Sovereign) that wouldn't stop me milking him – pity he's so close even when drunk!!

All my love family Mater and all.

Tony

I will write and tell you all about Scotland.

14/10/1940

From Tony **To** Mater

Usual

Date sometime in Oct Nov Dec 1940

Darling Mater

So many thanks for your greetings card and the cash. I celebrated in a very mild way by going to Edinburgh for 24 hours – had a good lunch and called on the Stevensons – it was a Sunday and of course there was nothing doing – I enjoyed a quick chat with the family and tea etc.

Saw Deanna Durbin film at the Dockyard Centre the other day “Just Love” I believe it was called and on Saturday ENSA put on quite a good show called “Saloon Bar”. They have also put some billiard tables in so we get fair

diversions and with the Air Raid warning and the constant possibility of some action life is livening up a bit tho' the hours are still very long – I have been told that I am going to be relieved to give someone else a chance of command as I am getting settled down.

.....

01/11/1940 Grange Hill Camp Dunferline

From Tony **To** Mater

Comment Date?

Grange Hill Camp Dunferline

Dear Mater

Many thanks for extra spondulix etc and the chess board. Have had several games with the Sergeant Major – it certainly helps the evening out.

We move on Wednesday for Wales – then after a week or so we come back here and then – (we hope leave). It is apparently going to be speeded up – Huh!!

Thursday

Well Well!!

We're in Wales now – leaving here on Wednesday – terrific journey – all night 16 hrs in a special troop train... quite a lot of fun.

I will tell you all about it when I get home... lips are sealed, etc... But the weather is marvellous here; such a welcome change to FEEL the sun.

It's amazing how time flies – must be a week or so since I wrote and have masses of mail to answer but it only seems a day or so ago that I was writing. If rumour fulfils itself we have something pretty awful in store for the winter – still we are having quite a reasonably good time (for the army!) in Scotland and are storing up some memories for the winter months to come.

'Fraid you are in a lot of trouble at home old girl – keep your pecker up and when more nationalization papers come thro' perhaps you'll be able to get a government job.

Air raids in London must be quite a nuisance – we don't get much up in Scotland but our train was bombed!! Most of us slept thro' it!!

Cheerio for the moment (I am just about to check mate my opponent).

Do hope I shall be seeing you all soon...

My love to you and all.

Tony

Dear Nita
So sweet of you to send me that money idea.
You've been holidaying – eh! Well well... I'm afraid that it hasn't been the same as previous years – still it's a break.
Mater has probably told you that we shall be getting some leave – God willing – within the next 3-4 weeks.
All the news when I come home again.
Cheerio then my dear.
Love Tony

Dear Yvonne and Marie
So sorry that I have not yet answered your letters.
I shall soon – all the best until I write.
Give my love to Neil and all at home and the gang.
Love Tony

28/12/1940
From Tony To Mater

Bdr A. B. Guise
107th AA 2 Battery RA
Grangehill Camp
Kinghorn Fife

Date estimate 27th – 30th December 1940

Dear Mater

So many thanks for everything for tons. I am terribly sorry I was unable to come home.
However there are rumours of leave!! They say I might get some in a month or so.
I guess you had a pretty good time... if only that the boys turned up.
Owing to you sending some money I was able to have a fairly good time and New Years Eve should be a wow!! Up here I have 2 or 3 invitations to parties – but I shall probably spend it with Pat and Ronnie and Margaret – a neat foursome – too much fun.
Have not been drinking much these days, so 15 whiskies on Xmas Eve absolutely finished me... ME finished on a few whiskies... apparently I was picked up out of the gutter and carried home by a couple of lads out rather late... quite a spot of luck eh!!

On Xmas Day we of course gorged Turkey and what nots. Then a quiet afternoon and so on with Pat... just got in for the 10 o'clock parade in Boxing Day morning. And then off again for baths "pick me up" and a night at Kirkcaldy.
Quite a simple program but not too bad considering all things.
Am of course quite hard up – but the gals are sports and we share most of the ex'es.
Did a sherry party on Saturday.
New Year shall pack a tooth brush and with a couple of bottles of sherry "a good time should be had by all".
My thoughts were with you all the whole time and it helped me to be happy knowing that you would be looked after. Did Neil and everybody come?
A little biz Darling!!

1. Have you retrieved my clothes? Please do.
2. There may be some at Gleneldon Road but I am very worried about those in store.
3. Would you send me:
Some more of my cotton hankies.
Some more of my linen hankies.
My grey suit and the old loose sports jacket that I got off Victor.
My good brown shoes and the brogues that I think might be Paul's.
My regimental and a few other ties.
Socks and shirts and pyjamas.

I can leave them all in a case at Pat's and during our 48 hrs ex duty I can get into Civvies.
Please do try to rescue my clothes old Darling and stick them in a cupboard at home – cause this time when I come on leave I'm going to have a positive orgy of Civvy clothes changing – my God !!
How I hate this uniform.
You don't tell me how you are getting on at home with p. guests [paying guests] and so on – expect you will be a millionaire when I see you again.
All my love old thing to you and everybody.
Give my love to Nita and tell her that I shall soon be writing. Give my love to Peter and so on.
Much love.
Tony

28 December 1940

To YVONNE

Reference to 7 months in Scotland Had only been there for 3-4 months

I got drunk

And are you married

Barren is the news etc

I fell into a wicked school on Xmas Eve had comparatively few whiskies and was picked up out of the gutter in the small hours – too degrading.

Gorged on X Day – lots of fun!! During the evening, and... Ahem!!! Just made the 10 o'clock parade Boxing Day morning. Sherry party on Saturday.

I am looking forward to New Years Day... packing a tooth brush and Pat and Ronnie and Margaret and I are going to have a sorta neat and tidy foursome.

That's the program simple and nothing like our usual bouts or the time I bet you had... still it wasn't too bad considering.

Neil wrote the usual but ????? to give me the dope... how's things!!

Too bad about Jimmy – Have we done the thing re Paulus and Tricksy? Is John at Shrivenham?

Am missing everybody frightfully at this time of cheer etc... But having taken advantage of certain of Scotland's amenities for the first time for 7 months (most frightfully celibate) – no money!!! – I am arousing myself – and as Pat is quite the blood and can guzzle a pint with the best we get on frightfully well.

Frightfully intense the Scots bitch!! Starts talking marriage after the 2nd evening – what ho!!

Give me the dope on the lads and lassies – and on Terry etc –

Didn't hear from her over Xmas – suppose you had a finger in the morning bags that arrived – Thanks a million old dear – Pray for me. lots of love Tony

To Yvonne

Assumed to be from Kinghorn Dunfermline

Approx date 6 Jan 1941

Post New Year

No news as yet from home as to who and what came over Xmas – are you dead.

Am living in an unamusing state of penury – we got paid very early in the week and of course I spent it all on... New Years Eve!!! A memorable night Gosh.

The real binge started at 12 o'clock but before that I had already been out to dinner at some pukka friends and got quite merry... making the usual quaint statements and shocking the local big-wigs with a short dissertation on Birth Control– too freq. They nearly gave me an orange box.

At 11 o'clock David and I came back to Kinghorn where we met the girls – drank until 12 o'clock and then – first footed – which means that you call on all your friends in turn and drink with them – then they join you and the increased party goes on to the next and so on; we called on numberless houses in this way until 6 o'clock in the morning and then back to the house with Pat – turned up at the Camp at 8 o'clock next morning and was out again at 11 o'clock on the same stunt until about 2 pm. This has been going on for four days and I am feeling a bit wreckish – but gosh what a lovely time!! Didn't come up to home celebration – but it was the best binge I've have had in the Army and terrific fun. Do give me the low done on your celebrations.

Re OCTN. Afraid my news was little premature and I got a bit worried as another laddie here went thro' very quickly – but apparently the War Office had been chewing the cud over the Guvnors' [Mater's or his father's] nationality – and I thought it was all U.P. but I have just heard from the War Office that my application has been accepted – yippee!! and that I am to hold myself in readiness – hope to be telegraphing you soon now my dears – so keep praying – I've still Division to see – but they should be easy.

About 3 of us will be going from this Battery – not bad eh! And there will someone I know.

Keep praying and with a spot of luck and a lot of hard work I shall be seeing you in a few months dressed like a gent.

Rumours of leave for me in 2 weeks time – I wonder and Hope!!!

All my Love. Tony

06/01/1941

From Tony **To** Mater

Assumed to be from Kinghorn Dunfermline

Approx date 6 Jan 1941

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All my Love.

Tony

05/04/1941 **Tony's Birthday**

06/04/1941

From Tony **To** Mater

Comment Date ?

[All the best everybody – for a Ripping Easter]

13/04/1941

From Tony **To** Mater

Comment This may be the wrong year . Ref. The comment about sending a detail

Address – Usual

Birthday 5th April

Probably Easter Sunday April 13th, 1941

Darling Mater

Many thanks for the 10/-

Yvonne bumbled somewhat over my not having acknowledged the 25/- you sent for my birthday – I am sure that I did!! on Monday and Tuesday when I sent my Easter greetings to you... I gave the letter to somebody else to post, so in case you haven't or won't receive it, many thanks for everything...

However, you may have the letter by now.

Sorry to hear about the failure of the allotment. Leave it as it is for the moment and you might try again later. Thought your P.G.s were there permanent Dash nuisance Eh!

Have you seen Mrs Stevens about recommendation from her "Phoppe"?

Have a relief detachment sent down on Sat so have been in an absolute whirl of work and confusion the new bloke to train etc.

Managed to get a couple of hours this morning (Sun) to fit in my Easter Duties. Can only rarely manage church these days. It seems very funny having a drink of tea before going to communion (on active duty we are allowed and advised to do this).

Yvonne asks how I manage access to the stores – easy – being in charge of the whole troop here. I am also i/c stores and can have what I want.

Gerps has sent me some pyjamas, for my birthday – black with pink and green stripes... very tasty!!

Shall go into Edinburgh for Easter Monday and take Harké to the Zoo or something – she is quite a good sport, tho’ a little on the pneumatic side – she’s mad about music and wants to be a singer.
You write such quaint things old girl all about money burdens and how wicked everyone is, and you seem so bitter that I find it difficult to answer your remarks.

You have such a good friend in Widdy and charming people like the Adams and Andersons surrounding you. And old and good friends like Nita – That I find it difficult to appreciate that you are lonely – and you have music and an occasional drink and that all we have. You are a silly old Girl to worry about money... I used to worry for you, but things always seem to turn up somehow and you never seem to be without the odd pound or two... Still my dear you will never live without worrying – but just don’t worry too hard old thing. Everything will come alright in the end; and nowadays it is just a question of living from day to day and hoping for the best.

Have no more excitement up here yet – pity!!
Queer thing – you wrote on Thursday and I got the letter on Sunday – Yvonne wrote on Friday and I got it on Saturday. The post is very unreliable.
All the best old dear I do hope you had a Happy Easter – if I hadn’t gone to church this Easter would have been the same as any other day – or Sunday – they are all the same.
All my love.
Tony

01/05/1941 Middlebank House

From Tony **To** Mater

Comment Date?

Middlebank House

Must be before mid May 1941 Middlebank House is in Dunfermline

Darling V,
Introducing Donald... pal of mine. Has met Gertie, the Andersons and Stevensons – we do things together.
Fix him up with bath & meals etc and get Widdy to show him the local dumps and tell the girls to look after him. Know you’ll all like him, he is quite used to me.

Don was in training as a Sergeant. The girls were of course Tony’s two sisters of 22 and 20 years.
--

Am going on Wed for another bloody interview – Say a prayer!!
Shall be seeing you 20th June 1941 if not before; am going to try and wangle it. Are you blown up?? Haven’t heard from you for 10 days or more.
All my love old girl to you and everybody and give D the best time that the old goddamned blitz and city will permit.
Love Tony.

07/05/1941

From Tony **To** Mater

107th AA 2 Battery RA
Middlebank House
Inverkeithing

Sorry old Darling
That I have not written before, but the letters go to above and then come here to the site.
The money absolute manna this week as I only got 1/-!! That beastly fake debt that [they] only insist on cleaning up within a week or so – shall be in the same predicament next week I expect.
Have signed the papers making a voluntary allotment of 10/6 to take effect until the board has reached a decision.
So glad to hear you have a couple of P.G’s [paying Guests]with Peter and Jimmy they should help you over the old style.
You keep on mentioning Yvonne’s marriage – is it a go?
Should be seeing you in a month or so again. Vague rumours of overseas – Shanghai or Singapore or something – hope to be at school by then tho’.
Nothing doing much this week, it’s just all work up to the moment with an occasional thrill as we man the guns, but nothing much yet.
Cigs are going up to 2/- a packet – what are we going to do then?
Am feeling rather tired as only get 1 nights sleep in two and I have just come off duty.
Shall be writing again with some more newsy later in the week.
Did I tell you that I visited Mrs Stevenson – queer biz: I only saw her daughter thro’ the house – seemed to be full of people. We spent 3 or 4 hours there and beat it.

All my love to you and everybody.
Tony

11/05/1941 London blitz finished

13/05/1941 Middlebank House - under canvas

From Tony **To** Mater

Comment Date?

Estimated 13th May 1941 from Middlebank House

Darling Mater

Have just returned to H.Q.s and got your letter and money, for both of which many thanks.

They have just called us in from the gun sites and we move!! Of course the information is at the moment secret... but it is not abroad. If you have not already sent the money to Middlebank House, don't bother to send it until I wire you a new address. If you have sent it don't worry as it will arrive sometime – probably quite quickly if it is registered.

Have done nothing terribly exciting recently – since I've been back at the H.Q. the boys say that there have been two terrific air raids. I've been making up on some lost sleep so actually they haven't disturbed me. We are all under canvas at the moment and shall be at the New post – however it's warmish and therefore not too bad: In fact one night so many people got into my tent that I slept out in the open!! Have got a tent to myself now.

I am afraid I shan't be able to trip into Edinburgh now – a pity because I love that city. Moving is of course always exciting and in the new place we shall get tons of action. It is all going to be rather fun.

Note with some interest your visit to the medium... I do wish you wouldn't dabble in these things old girl. Still if it gives you any satisfaction!!!

Haven't heard from any of the gang recently.

Cherry Ho the noo!!!

All my love to you and everybody – be seeing you soon... I hope.

Love Tony.

20/05/1941 Turfhill Camp Kinross

From Tony **To** Mater

Bdr A. B. Guise 1526211

It will be Kinross

But I am not yet sure of the correct address

20/5/41

Dear V

Please excuse the delay in acknowledging the money you so kindly send by telegram.

I don't know how you were fixed – but I make the amount about right up to the 18th and 19th (I usually get it on a Monday y'know – but it didn't arrive on the 12th ...).

I purposely awaited until today before writing as I thought I might have some news to impart.

Since you wired, I presume Donald stopped with you on Friday. Thank you so much for taking him in. I hoped you liked him. He is a nice chap. Gerps is very fond of him and he gets on very well with the Edinburgh people and I am sure he loved all of you.

Have had rather an exciting and rather a busy week – you know I was working like hell for my third *task*. *I feel* that made life rather exacting and quite trying at times but that is nothing to what I shall have to go through at Kinross and Shrivenham before I get "*afsils*". The board met yesterday (Monday) and those of us who passed are going to divisional school for a couple of weeks starting Wed 21st (tomorrow). I shall then get 7 to 14 days leave and then to Shrivenham for 3 months hell... If all goes well, then by the middle of September I shall be posted (probably up here again) as an officer but should get a week or two leave first.

So say a prayer for me at Kinross.

Incidentally I rather celebrated the happy event – we were all hopelessly exhilarated at passing the board... it was so stiff and there were several rejected – that meant I am afraid I got spent up – would it be asking too much my dear to get you to telegraph the money on to Kinross on.... say Saturday, I think.

Bdr Guise 1526211 Kinross Camp Kinross Scotland would probably find me for a telegram.

Note in pen on letter

2 ½ for letter

1/10 for telegram

congratulations have written mother

23/05/1941 Turfhill Camp Kinross
From Tony **To** Mater

Bdr A.B.Guise 1526211
OCTU Wing
Turfhill Camp
Kinross
23 / 5 / 41
Dear V

OCTU = Officer Cadet Training Unit Turfhill House is a large house which sits on the edge of Balado Camp

Above is address until June 4th then I come home on leave... I think.
Have only had a day here so don't know what this pre OCTU is going to be like; but on the whole up to now the living conditions are quite good. We have tons of polishing and hours of folding blankets and so on, and the inspections are sheer murder. You are threatened with the glasshouse etc if any of your bootlaces are twisted!! However, we have a servant to wait on us at meals and we get chinaware and special grub and so on. Also, about half of the blokes are gentlemen and it is rather fun to talk to men that understand you.

The course is a good idea to give us a start and a general idea of what we shall get at Shrivenham.

The major has been damned nice and is going to help me all ends up and the Captain has given me books and things... so with your prayers etc! should be able to pull this thing through.

Incidentally you might have a look around to see if you can find an old Sam Brown belt, you might meet up with an ex officer or Uncle Fred may know of somebody – the reason is that an old belt is much better than the new type and they polish much better.

All the very best for now Mater.

Love to all.

Tony

PS I am a little distant at the moment – we are in the middle of an argument on R.R.R. ugh!!

[R.R.R may refer to rest and recuperation]