

3.

S28a

his/

writing may have had to that on the note to the Governor. The two documents written in my presence at Leyhill on 11-5-48 therefore would not have been of much value without scientific opinion.

However, on Wednesday 12-5-48 I was informed by Mr. PENN, Prison Commission that there was a further development and on Thursday 13-5-48 Mr. PENN showed me a report from the Governor at Leyhill, a copy of which I attach.

From this report it now seems that a prisoner, is the man who actually claims to have overheard a conversation between Springhall and A. Munn May and that repeated what he had overheard to the prisoner who after giving vent to his reactions in strong language allegedly said he would inform the Governor.

though supposed not to favour this course, now tells the Prison Governor that he helped to write the note. (We would assume here that his assistance was confined to advising on the manner in which the information should be worded, and that did in fact execute the actual writing.

I would point out that SPRINGHALL was released from Leyhill on or about 19-3-48 so that memory (on 12-5-48) cannot be expected to be reliable as to the actual words spoken, if indeed such a conversation did take place.

Assuming it did, however, I would suggest that as A. Munn May has been transferred from Leyhill to Sheffield, the danger from any existing plot to facilitate his escape has simultaneously been removed.

I am inclined to believe that the prisoner WAPPE's version of what took place is substantially true, and that once again the prisoner can be described, with good reason, as a liar.

Mr. PENN of the Prison Commission agrees that so far as police are concerned no useful purpose would be served by making any further enquiries into this case, and in the meantime I have returned to the Prison Commission the original anonymous note sent to the Governor and the files loaned to me for comparison

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT, 1958. March 2005

528a

4.

comparison/  
of handwriting.

In addition to the copy of the Governor's report dated 12-5-48, I attach original and copies of statement to me at Heyhill; the original of effort at reproducing in writing from dictation the words used in the anonymous note; and two photostatic copies (slightly enlarged) of the actual anonymous note.

I now ask that 3 copies of this report be sent to the Prison Commission (at request of Mr. PSMN). Also that this file be shown to Superintendent C.f.

*W. M. A. Head.*  
Inspector.

*W. M. A. Head.*  
BY SUPERINTENDENT

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1968. MARCH 2005

*SJA*

Copy in PF.37634, SPRINGHALL.

6 MAY 1948

NOTE:

Burley of the Home Office rang to tell me that orders have now been given for Nurn MAY to be moved from Ley Hill Camp Prison, the 'open' gaol, to Wakefield Prison.

Burley also told me that he thought they had discovered the identity of the anonymous informant, and the Home Office were making arrangements for the informant to be interviewed by Special Branch. In due course Burley will let me have a copy of the report.

*B. A. Hill*

~~B.A. Hill.~~

S.L.B.  
5.5.48.

B.2.a., Mr. Marriott, to see  
and p.a. in PF.66949.

*copy for Marriott*

~~*R. A. Hill*~~

✓

*82/13*

~~*MF/B2a  
7/5/48*~~

Confidential

All communications should be addressed to "The Governor" and not to any official by name.

526A

H.M. Prison,

Leyhill

Falfield

Glos.



5/5/48

Dear Mr. Marriott.

Thank you for your letter of 4th. April 1948.

Will you please note that Alan Nunn May has today been transferred back to Wakefield Prison, your instructions regarding this man have been forwarded to the Governor of that Prison.

Yours Sincerely

*E. Anderson*  
Governor.

Box 500  
Parliament Street  
London

REC'D  
CUT 6 MAY 1948  
B2a  
27-11-6949

file 101  
P.S.  
6-5-48

SECRET AND PERSONAL.

5256

IT.66949/B.2.0/HEa.

4th April, 1948.

Dear Henderson,

Many thanks for your letter of the 30th April, enclosing a letter addressed to Hum  
AY. The subject matter of the letter and enclosure  
is of no security interest, and from our point of view  
they may therefore be handed to AY.

Yours sincerely,

J.H.Marriott.

Major J. Henderson,  
Governor,  
H.M. Prison,  
Lezhill,  
Pulfield,  
Glen.

---

✓

11/1/52  
5256

SECRET.

All communications should be addressed to "The Governor" and not to any official by name.

*525*  
H. M. Prison,  
LEYHILL,  
Falfield,  
Glos.:  
30 Apr 48.  
-----



H. Marriott, Esq.,  
Box No: 500,  
Parliament Street B.O.  
LONDON. S.W. 1.

Dear Mr. Marriott,

The enclosed correspondence addressed to V.310/132 Alan Nunn MAY is forwarded herewith in original for your perusal, and for your instructions, please.

Yours faithfully,

*E. Henderson*  
Governor.

JSQR.

ENCL. *9* pages  
*See* MAY 1948  
TO *B2A*  
REF *P. K...*

Tel. No. :  
Whitehall 8100  
Ext.  
Our ref.  
Your ref.

HOME OFFICE,  
WHITEHALL,  
S.W.1.  
19th April, 1948

*hgha*

Dear Marriott,

*hgha*

Thank you for your letter of the 10th April (R.P. 66949) and for letting us have Sir John Cockcroft's views about the harm that might result if Munn May were to escape to Russia.

You may rest assured that attempts are being made to identify the writer of the letter.

Yours sincerely,

*W. S. Maule*

J. H. Marriott, Esq.

*HELD  
R 5*

*REC'D  
Cm 20 APR 1948  
to Box  
ref. R.P. 66949*



523a

Copy in PF.37634.

PF.66949/D.2.n/JM.

10th April, 1948.

Dear Burley,

Further to Bill's letter to you under this reference of the 7th April, on the subject of the possible escape of Alan Gunn ~~WY~~ organized by SMITHFIELD, I assure that every attempt will be made to identify the writer of the anonymous letter. If indeed he is a prisoner at Leyhill, I imagine there will be no great difficulty in doing this.

As soon as he has been identified, you will no doubt let me know the result of any direct questioning of him.

Since dictating the above, I have learned that in the view of Sir John Cockcroft of the Directorate of Atomic Energy, no possible harm could be done if Gunn ~~WY~~ were to escape to Russia.

Yours sincerely,

J.H. Marriott.

S.H.E. Burley Esq.,  
Home Office.

DE/REP  
19  
15/13  
12/4/48



SECRET

571a  
Copy to PF 57634 - Springfield.

Ref: PA. 66747/313

7th April, 1948.

Dear Burley.

Many thanks for the information you gave to my secretary while I was away. and for your letter of the 5th April, regarding the anonymous allegation that SPRENGHALL is concerned in arrangements for plan in the escape of Dr. Alan NICHOLAS.

We are, of course, interested in the alleged attempt to get [NICHOLAS] MAY to the Russian zone of Germany. I do not think it necessary for us to inspect the original anonymous communication, but you will no doubt act on it in the course of the result of any investigations which the Home Office may be making.

Yours sincerely,

B. A. Hill  
B. A. Hill.

B. H. R. Burley, Esq.,  
Home Office.

BAH/1001

Tel. No.:  
Whitehall 8100

Ext.

Our ref.

Your ref.

HOME OFFICE,  
WHITEHALL,  
S.W.1.

5204

5th April, 1948.

SECRET

copy (+ copy of enclosure)  
in PF 57634 - Springhall.

Dear Will,

With reference to my conversation with your secretary on the telephone on Saturday, I attach a copy of the anonymous letter to which I referred. The Governor of Leyhill reports that the letter was found in the prisoners' letter posting box and is believed to have been written by a prisoner. I have shown the original to Thompson of Special Branch for his information and shall be returning it to the Prison Commission unless you wish to inspect it.

Yours sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature]*

H.A. Hill, Esq.

Encl. 1 page  
Cm 6 - APR 1948

TO SLB

REF

*[Handwritten notes and checkmarks]*  
✓  
✓  
✓

COPY

G.R.

Governor

As a Britisher I know it is my duty to let you know that there is a scheme afoot to organise the escape of "Hann May" from the prison, and to safely transport him from the country to the other side of the "Iron Curtain" the Russian occupied part of Germany.

Mr. Springhall has the arrangements in hand, which may take some time, but it may not, for our safety as a country this matter should not be taken too lightly, and should be investigated at once.

520Z

Mr. Hill.

On Saturday morning Mr. Burley, Home Office, telephoned.

He reported that the Governor of Ley Hill Prison, where Alan MURRI MAY is now serving his sentence and from whence SPRINGHALL was recently released, has reported that he has received an anonymous communication - presumably from another prisoner - to the effect that SPRINGHALL is concerned in arrangements for the escape of MURRI MAY; there was alleged to be a proposal to send him to the Russian zone of Germany.

Mr. Burley said that, being an anonymous communication, it is receiving the attention due to such reports. He will be sending you confirmation in writing but thought, as the report was a week old when it reached him, you should be informed by telephone.

S.L.B.  
3.4.48.  
1237

Copy in PF 376: " Springhall

~~Dr. Hill~~  
80  
7-4-48

SECRET AND PERSONAL.

5199

IF.66919/B.2.a/JIM.

30th January, 1948.

Dear Major Nash,

Having now had rather more than a year's experience of Nunn MAY's correspondence, I think that the time has come when we can very considerably modify the arrangements between us for dealing with it. As you know, the principal consideration which we have had in view has been the possibility that MAY's correspondence might indicate a change of heart which would make another interview with him profitable. It is clear that no such change of heart has yet taken place, but I am sure that we can rely on you to let us know as soon as you obtain any evidence of this. In future, therefore, I do not think that I require to see any of his correspondence, incoming or outgoing, unless you yourself consider that it contains anything of special interest. I should, however, like to continue to be informed of the identity of any visitors he has, other than members of his family. I should, of course, also like to know as soon as - if ever - there is any sign of a change in his general attitude to his own case.

Major G. Nash,  
Deputy Governor,  
H.M. Prison,  
Levyhill,  
Fulfield,  
Gloucester.

Yours sincerely,

J.H. Marriott.

*Handwritten signature*  
1/30/48  
22/1/48



Prison

Leyhill

Falfield

28/1/48

Gloucester.

5100

Dear Mr. Marriott

The latest letter written by Alan Munn Kay is reproduced below.

Yours Sincerely

Kesh Major, Deputy Gov.

Dear Ralph.

Thanks for your letter of Dec 21st. I have worried a great deal about the legal action against Miss West etc I will make my points seriatim.

1. I cannot start such an action without permission from the Home Office, for which I should have to send in a petition. This I have not done for reasons which appear below.

2. I haven't seen the articles complained of so I can only imagine the kind of thing Miss West would write. As you say the title alone is quite clear libel and it certainly hurts to be put in the same company as Joyce etc. However it is another question whether it is advisable to take an action now. Bear in mind the state of public opinion, as expressed in the newspapers and the speeches of our Statesmen, add that to the possibility that Miss West and her backers may enjoy support in official quarters; then add all the other people interested, e.g. Hollywood wanting to indulge in similar libels. I think it all mounts up to a very formidable outfit, not to be tackled without corresponding resources.

3. I have already experienced in Brixton the pleasures of legal affairs when in Prison.

I can assure you, it is one of the most severe punishments I have had. One is completely at the mercy of the lawyers - being delivered up to them - if not bound hand and foot at least very effectively under control. If I ever go to law I mean it to be when I am in position to attend to every step myself, to take advice certainly, but not to be completely under my advisers. This leads naturally and easily to point

4. It is essential to replace Kenwright before dressing of any action I have never met anyone so obtuse in the points involved in him, or better at prolonged action I have only known him move quickly twice, and both times it was in response to a request from ... Incidentally I have not had anything from him in this connection.

5. You will see by all this that I am, against taking the libel action you suggest, however I am arguing on very incomplete data I should very much like to stay Miss West's silly mouth and I am still given to conviction that this is the best way to do it. I don't think that the Statute of Limitations will prevent me taking action when I am out, even in 1953.

I think the general situation will then be more favourable and I shall be free, and after Miss West's blood or whatever it is that circulates in her, all this matter has not left much room for manoeuvre etc.

6. The Press has finally agreed to my name appearing on their August little paper, so I have written back agreeing to go on with the book and I now devote my spare time to it.

I have had a letter from Veall asking for a visit I will wait a bit until I see how the year's visits are going. I had another letter from the Powells before Christmas.

I don't think there is any other news. I am doing what is known as a nice quiet lagging and, having passed the 100 mark, indeed 106 of the way I am now on the middle half or flat part of the course.

Please give my love to Jillie

Yours Alan.

15697

Recd 125

SECRET

H.M. Prison  
Loyy Hill  
Falfield  
Gloucester.

23/1/48

Dear Mr. Marriott,

Typewritten copy of the latest letter to be written by Alan Nunn  
May is submitted for your approval,

Yours Sincerely

*Shank*  
Major  
Deputy Governor.

Dear Professor Paneth

Thank you for your letter of the 13th. December,  
I am very glad the Clarendon Press has agreed to the original arrangement standing.  
I have already had Home Office approval.

There will not be very much difficulty over books and Journals\_ I have had quite  
a few sent in to me.

I get the Physical review and ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Nature and can borrow from Bristol  
University library.

Of course it is not so convenient as if one had a technical library at ones elbow  
but it will serve, I have done some work in anticipation of starting, collecting  
material etc. but havont done any actual writing.

I hope to have more time to spare during the summer, from March to September when  
the educational programme will slacken off a bit and I should be able to get most  
of it done then.

Perhaps you will let me know what you have planned as regards the division of the  
work, and what amount of total space you are devoting to the Physical side, so that  
I can judge, to what degree of compression I shall have to work.

Please remember me to your Students and of course to Fay,

Yours sincerely

A. N. May

P.S.

Many thanks for your kind Xmas Card.

Addressed to

Prof. F. A. Paneth F.R.S.  
Londonderry Laboratory

For Radio Chemistry  
Sth. Road

Durham.

INCL..

24 JAN 1948

TO.....

B2A.....

REF.....



0 volume standard  
Y. Box 6408  
Hold Ks.

Date... 22 12 47

# His betrayal may harm us yet...

## THE TRAITORS ⑦ DR. ALLAN NUNN MAY

**REBECCA WEST** writes about the 'saluous and gifted' scientist who told atom secrets and condemned himself

IN the person of William Joyce there was condemned by the community the extrovert who seeks to find in politics what in other ages he found in religion, and usually makes his search on the field of Fascism, with its marches, its shouting, its bright colours, its blows, its violence.

been displaced by some still fiercer daemon. These Communist-Fascists spoke thinly and with a hesitancy that seemed to be assumed, that was exaggerated at times to a stutter, as if to make it plain that they renounced the body as unimportant and based all their claims on pre-eminence of intellect.

Six months after he was hanged there followed him into the dock Dr. Allan Nunn May, Lecturer on Physics in the University of London, the personification of the introvert who makes the same transference, but is better pleased by the secrecy and drabness of Communism; which is Fascism with a geographical and glandular difference. He was a scientist, and therefore as representative of his breed of Fascism as Joyce had been of his.

What more than this they do when they do this was shown when Dr. Allan Nunn May stood in the dock at the Old Bailey. Nature itself had done much to commit him to the Fascist-Communist choice, for he was poorly built but had a great head, bulging at the back like the head of a fetus, in a conformation often found in men of exceptional talent.

It had been the claim of the violent men who formed the Nazi-Fascist movement that they should be entrusted with power because they were endowed with a greater amount of physical strength and vitality than the mass of the population; an amount which would enable them to seize that power if it were denied them. It was now the claim of the scientists who formed so influential a part of the Communist-Fascist movement that they were endowed with a greater amount of special technical knowledge than the mass of the population; an amount which would enable them to seize that power if they were denied it.

He was very bald for a man of 34. Though he resembled William Joyce in the meanness of his physique, he had made a very different use of it. For Joyce had made himself a little knuckleduster of a man by hard exercise, but this man plainly had never remarked that he had muscles. Certain virtues flower from respect for the body, so he had them not.

The Nazi-Fascists shouted at the top of their lungs and more were in super condition. When heard over the air their voices suggested tall, stout, virile bodies, under perfect control, which were either richly invested with sex or lacked it because it had

In all other things as well, the trials of William Joyce and Dr. Allan Nunn May were the black and the white. When the Nazi-Fascist stood in the dock the court was full of his simple and forthright and ungifted followers, open in their grief. When the Communist-Fascist followed him into the same dock his complicated and secretive and able associates were elsewhere, aiming to feel nothing because only the Party was of importance.

THERE was no evidence at all against Dr. Allan Nunn May except his own statement. He had been interviewed by one of the most remarkable men in the

anxious to tear out the adjusted page of the ledger and add up the figures again. Dr. Allan Nunn May's destiny had depended on his interior life. At every point of William Joyce's life he had shown brisk competence. At every point of the episode which brought Dr. Allan Nunn May to the dock, and was apparently the only remarkable episode in his existence outside his scientific studies, he behaved like an idiot. No person of greater intellectual eminence has ever been charged in the English courts with a grave crime; no criminal has ever admitted to having behaved with greater folly.

HE had voluntarily entered the service of the British Government during the war, as the senior member of the nuclear physics division in the unit devoted to research on the atom bomb, and signed an undertaking binding himself not to give any information concerning his activities to any unauthorised person, and acknowledged that he would become subject to proceedings under the Official Secrets Act if he broke that undertaking.

Later, he said, he came to the conclusion that his researches were contributing to a situation dangerous to mankind unless they were made available to all scientists, of whatever nation. This was, of course, not a completely honest account of the situation. It omits the important

named in these instructions any material they wanted, no matter what his opinions about the transaction might be.

Nor does his attitude towards the atom bomb explain why, as he himself confesses, he gave information concerning electronic shells.

It is difficult to understand why these scruples had not occurred to him when the post was first offered to him, as he knew the nature and aims of the work he had to do.

In any case his duty was plain. He could not disclose the results of his researches because he had signed an undertaking not to do so. No society, whether capitalist, socialist, or communist, can survive for ten minutes if it abandons the principle that a contract is sacred.

But he could have resigned from the post and explained his reasons to his fellow-scientists and to the general public.

HE did nothing of the sort. When in Canada, working at the Atomic Energy Project, he handed notes of his researches and samples of the metals he was using in his experiments—in spite of his pretence that he wanted to share his knowledge with all the scientists of the world—to a man who was simply a spy agent and who gave him no guarantee that he was going to communicate the secret to scientists of other nations, and was so far from being a scientist that there

agent had asked him. There was obviously a possible pitfall in these proceedings. Before the war Nazi-Fascist agents frequently pretended to be acting for Russia, and those remain with us General Franco and General Peron who are not passive figures on the international scene.

It was made plain during the trial that Dr. Allan Nunn May was the last person to detect such an imposture, since he was lacking in all natural shrewdness; and it is unlikely that he had the particular knowledge which would have enabled him to test the agent's credentials by questioning him. He becomes an enigma at this point; for though it is difficult to conceive what he was if not a disinterested scholar and Communist-Fascist, he accepted from this agent a bribe of 700 Canadian dollars, the equivalent of £160.

The bribe is said to have been 700 dollars and a bottle of whisky; but this is more bizarre than it was. It seems that the phrase should run: "700 dollars in a bottle of whisky." This sum is small enough payment for an act which might have brought its perpetrator to the gallows, but it is much too large to be put down as a reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses.

Then, after having taken the irrevocable steps of having acted as a spy for Russia and having taken money for his services, he went into reverse, and on his return to England failed to keep an appointment with a Russian agent outside the British Museum.

It was logical enough that when the English police approached him he should have made a statement admitting his guilt. But it was not logical that he should have withheld from them the identity of the

is impossible that what Joyce did could now harm anyone; he tried to do evil and failed.

But the samples of minerals Dr. Allan Nunn May gave the Russian agent, uranium 235 enriched and uranium 233, threw such light on elements in the form that the British and American conception of the atom bomb had taken that they were immediately flown to Russia; and if ever Russia drops an atom bomb on Great Britain or America the blame for the death and the blindness and the sores it scatters will rest largely on this fatuous and gifted man.

He was condemned to 10 years' penal servitude.

WILLIAM JOYCE had courage. Dr. Allan Nunn May had that which differentiates man from the brutes; he had not only that intellect but that kind of degree of intellectual power which can break down the smooth surface of appearance and uncover the reality which is now hidden from us, which can give man knowledge so new to him that he can become a new man.

But in the dock he proved that the new man will be no better than the old if he succumbs to certain temptations,

which for him will be specially strong. A man with so dynamic a mind will be specially conscious of the vacuum left by the disappearance of God; his legitimate pride in his special gifts will be great enough to swell easily into a pretence that he is God.

History has shown again and again that as soon as a man believes that he is a god he behaves far worse than the average human being.

The man of the past and the man of the future, William Joyce and Allan Nunn May...

**THE PRISONER WHO TALKED**  
Rebecca West will tell the story of Stoker Rose, the Royal Navy's only traitor, in her article next MONDAY.

H.M. Prison Ley Hill  
Falfield Glos. 17/12/47

5144

Dear Mr. Harriott

Below a copy of the latest letter written by Munn May.  
Yours sincerely

*Thash*  
Major Deputy Governor.

Dear Father,

Thank you for your letter. I'm afraid I have been rather behindhand with my letters - the only excuse - that I have thereby saved up a lot to use near Xmas and thereby add to the general postal rush. However there is very little to tell you in the way of news. Mary has probably seen you since she was down here and since then the Fowells have been down on a visit. Ralph has fixed up an account for me at bookshop and I can order books direct, and this seems to work and the first order has already been delivered, a great improvement on the old method of writing to Ralph and getting him to order the books for me, a process that used to take several months. I am glad you have managed to find a suitable P.G. it must be a lucky chance.

The main excitement here is the preparation for the Xmas show - a number of concert Green seem to arise before me, of course it will be alright on the night, but at the moment I am glad to have the piano between me and the audience. It makes quite a good shelter or slit trench, seriously though this is going to be one of the main social events of the Gloucestershire winter season. Policemen and Prison Governors are coming from far and wide, not to mention all the local staff here. I think this is a specially English aspect of the Prison system and everyone gets a lot of fun out of it, even including the audience. Well I hope you have a good Xmas,

With love to you both.

Yours Alan.

ENCLOSURE  
18 DEC 1947

*SS*  
B2A  
PF 66949  
Held RS - B2A 18/11

*Refile*  
in F/1005  
19/20/47

21/12

513A

H.M. Prison Ley Hill  
Falfield Glos.

16/12/47

Dear Mr. Marriot,

Below a copy of Hunn May's recent letter to his brother

Yours Sincerely

*Crash*  
Major.

Dear Ralph,

This is in lieu of a Christmas Card so please imagine for your self the Holly and Mistletoe decorations and the usual discouraging picture of the very uncomfortable Dickensonian Christmas landscape. I think this will be an austerity Xmas; with no snow, no blizzards, and only some over eating (relatively spackling) to make it seasonable. I think Mary and Aunt Fritie, and the Fowels have been here since I wrote last time. In her last letter Mary said you had opened accounts for me at Lewis's and Heffiers, acting on that I have sent off an order to Heffiers including the renewal of my subscription to the Physical Review, and the Mattauch Tales. I havent heard anything from them but I suppose they are busy with the Xmas Rush. I received a book which I think I requested from you in my last letter. Jeffreys methods of Mathematical Physics, for which many thanks. Meanwhile life is going on very uneve tually, preparations for the Xmas show are the main excitement. I have managed to get away with nothing more strenous than accompanying to some songs, having had quite enough public reproof, without inviting more by pretending to be an actor. Just at this moment we are having a chorale of the "Ode to Joy" on 16th and a quiet hour for me. Please give my love to Fritie, Merry Xmas to you both, and as merry as possible

With love yours H.M.

... the end of my last quarter - only three more to do.

ENC

17 DEC 1947

TO B2A

REF. PE 66 949

H.M. RS

REV  
EX

H.M. Frison  
Ley Hill  
Falfield  
Glos.

5726

15/12/47

Dear Mr. Marriot

A copy of Hum May's last Letter is reproduced below.

Yours Sincerely  
*Paul* Major.

Dear Mary

Very many thanks for your letter and for sending in the music which arrived safely and has been in great demand since.

I haven't heard from John but have taken him at his word, and sent an order to Hoffiors for some books-I will write to him soon anyway.

The Powells came out a week ago, which brings my visiting account up to date. I don't think there is any other news, the only excitement being the busy preparations for the Christmas show with all the last minute usual snags-however it will be bright on the night.

Hope your Flat doesn't disappear over your head, I am sending this there in the hope that you haven't been expelled lock, stock and barrel.

Will do my best I don't write again before Christmas-all the best and love as far as possible. Hope to eat myself silly-or as near as the moon allows, and I hope you will be able to do the same. With much love

P.S. I've got a letter to all concerned: (of Auntie Trixie, Seattle.) am writing to them.

*for Mary*

RS:  
PL. pa in 1F86747

1520  
15/12/47

*Refer*

20/6.

Secret

All communications should be addressed to "The Governor" and not to any official by name.

H. M. PRISON.

Lay Hee  
Jaejeed

H-12-47

Gloucester

RS  
18-11-47



Dear Mr. Harvill Sir  
Name H.A.

Reference your letter No. TF. 00949/B.2.a./JHM

dated 18-11-47

The <sup>undesignated</sup> attached report is submitted

The Governor

Sir, I respectfully beg to state for your information that I conducted the visit between 13-11-47 and 14-11-47 to Mr. Gouell.

The conversation was of a domestic nature & nothing unusual took place.

I am yours obediently  
W. L. Cooke  
Officer

All visits for Mr. Gouell will be carefully conducted & anything said out of normal conversation will be reported to you

Yours sincerely

Chashmaji  
Deputy Governor

18/11/47

No. 937 (16676-14-4-26)

SECRET AND PERSONAL.

511-

PF.66949/B.2.R/JIM.

18th November, 1947.

Dear Major Nash,

Many thanks for your letter of the 14th instant, enclosing a letter from Nunn MAY to Dr. C.F. POWELL. So far as this department is concerned the letter may go forward, and I return it therefore herewith.

If it is convenient I should like to have a report of anything of interest which transpires at the meeting between POWELL and Nunn MAY.

Yours sincerely,

J.H.Marriott.

Major G. Nash,  
Deputy Governor,  
H.M. Prison,  
Lea Hill,  
Palfield,  
Gloucester.

-----  
enc.

RS  
Pl. Pa.

BSn.  
18/11/47.

11/11/47  
21/11/47



SECRET

H.M. Prison  
by Higgs  
Jaejied  
Gloucester

14-11-47

Dear Mr. Marriott

Enclosed find a letter  
from him may to Dr. C.F. Powell.  
for your perusal a return  
so that I may post it here.

Yours sincerely

(I think) Deputy Governor.

ENCL. 1 letter

15 NOV 1947

TO.....R.S.F.....

8/11

21/11/47



All communications should be addressed to "The Governor" and not to any official by name.

H. M. PRISON,

Ley Hill

Falfield

509

27/10/47

Held

RS

Gloucester

PF 66949 - Box 6408



Dear Mr Marriott or Mr. Reed.

Below find a copy of a letter written by Dr. Nunn May to his sister on 26/ 10/ 47. addressed to Miss Mary Nunn May "Bedratham" Barnet Green Nr. Birmingham. for your information

Yours sincerely

*C. Rash*  
Deputy Governor.

Dear Mary,

Many thanks for your letter (of the 10th) to which I am afraid I have been rather slow in answering. I will ask for a visiting order for you and Guest, which should be enclosed with this; if he can't come and you can substitute someone else (an Aunt or Uncle, perhaps Uncle George would like to come? I find it very difficult to guess.) let me know and I will send a revised order, and if it is too late for that, have one left at the Gate for you.

I haven't used much of the super paper yet not having really got down to writing the book, but if you have it handy you could bring some of the thinner stuff,

Have you heard anything of Ralph and Jackie? Ralph was going to open an account for me at Heffers bookshop in Cambridge so that I could order books from them direct instead of through him.

I haven't heard anything from him about this so I expect it has slipped his mind. I don't want to order things from them only to be told that they know nothing of the arrangement.

Can you lay your hands on any popular music? We are getting up a Christmas show, but we seem to be devoid of music except for my classical stuff, and a lot of overtures and marches arranged for small orchestras. I want some recent popular numbers - the idea being to play them on two pianos, so double copies would be a blessing - it would save a lot of copying.

I have unearthed some selections from "Snow -white", and the "Bing Boys", but we need several more of the same sort - just a piano or trio if possible.

Also a copy of the "Scottish Students Song Book" would help but I think it is now practically unobtainable. I am sending to "Bedratham" because you sounded as though you might leave the flat any minute and I suppose they will know your address whilst your hazy landlady might not.

Hope you are keeping well

Love Alan.

EM...

Dec 28 OCT 1947

TO

BIB.

REF... P.F. 66949 - Box 6408

No. 937 (16676-14-4-26)

SECRET.

5080.

H.O.W. No.....10382.....

File No...PF.66949.....

G.P.O.

Please cancel the operation of the H. O. W. on the following:—

Name.....Alan Nunn MAY.....

Address or Telephone No. ....Home, Erison, Leyhill, Falfield, Gloucestershire.....

Date 7.10.47. .... Signature *Alan Nunn*.....

~~SECRET~~  
6.10.13  
2/11/47

Form 18/P.G./500/B.47.

SECRET.

5071

PF.Y.66949/B.1.b/JIM.

1st October, 1947.

Dear Major Nash,

In the absence of Mr. Marriott, who is at present on leave, I am writing to thank you very much for sending on a copy of a letter written by Alan Nunn MAY to his sister Miss Mary Nunn MAY, dated 28th September.

Yours sincerely,

*R. T. Redd*  
R.T.Redd.

Major Nash,  
Deputy Governor,  
H.M.Prison,  
Ivy Hill,  
Fulfield,  
Gloucester.  
-----

W.F.B.B.  
1/10/47

29/9/47

H.M. Prison Ley Hill  
Falfield Gloucester.

*Joba*

Dear Sir,

Below find a copy of a letter written by 132 Nunn May to Miss Mary Nunn May, Flat 21 Pitmastron Court Mosely Birmingham 21.. for your information,

*Atk* Major  
Depy. Governor.

28th Sept. 47.

Dear Mary, Many thanks for your letter, and for the post card from La Baule. The first batch of typewriting paper has arrived and is now in my possession-but isn't this frightfully expensive? I never saw such paper before-it seems sacrilege to use it for anything short of writing to a Duchess. I really only need cheap and ordinary type writing paper- especially as most of what I do is rough drafts which are turned inside out several times before anyone else sees them. I'm sure you can use them for writing to Scotty's more luxurious patients: anyhow I asked for 2000, not 5000 sheets so am afraid the whole thing is rather a middle: still thank you so much for dealing so promptly with the request. Of course it is quite O.K. to have in the sheets and things-anything you like and can find. I saw Ralph and Saille last week, they seem to have been under the impression that this place is 14 miles north of Gloucester and having got within hailing distance spent a lot of time exploring local mansions. I hope they managed to find the way to Hull all right. I don't know if Guest is still flush with (indecipherable) to bring you on a visit. I'm afraid I haven't answered his letter- perhaps you could apologise to him for me and ask if he can still arrive. I shall understand if the transport situation makes it impossible- He because of petrol- you because of his driving. Anyhow let me know- or if you can plan to come down any other way. This would be next month some time when I should have another visit due to me. I don't suppose visits will be very easy during the winter, so I aim to get as many as possible before then. I hope your Holiday was a success- you should have had good weather. How is the Flat going on?

Love Alan.

led 30 SEP 1947 ✓  
TO: ~~S-3~~ B1B.  
REF: 660/113

*[Handwritten signature]*

JHM

SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL

5056

H.M. BRISON  
KEY HILL  
FALFIELD GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Dear Sir

I have to report that on 25.9.47 NUNN HAY's visit was held and carried out in the correct manner, and that only family affairs were discussed.

Yours sincerely

Chas Mayor.  
Deputy Governor.

26-9-47.

ENCL

See 27 SEP 1947

ISIB

FILE ..... (Handwritten notes)

(Handwritten notes)

Handwritten initials/signature

Handwritten notes

*505a.*

SECRET AND PERSONAL.

IT.66949/B.1.b/JIM.

27th August, 1947.

Dear Dennett,

Thank you for your letter of the 25th August, enclosing an outgoing letter written by HUNA MAY.

From my point of view I am very sorry to hear that you are leaving Leyhill, but as this represents promotion for you I offer you my very hearty congratulations. I hope that we shall meet again one day.

Yours sincerely,

J.H.Marriott.

J.A.Dennett Esq.,  
Deputy Governor,  
H.M.Prison,  
Leyhill,  
near Falsfield,  
Glos.  
-----

*[Handwritten signature]*

July 2nd. 4.

132 MAY

August 24th. 1947

504a

Dear Professor Paneth,

Thank you for your letter of the 13th.

I must apologise for not having replied before to your previous letter. I am sorry for any inconvenience that this has caused you, the truth is I have had some little difficulty in making up my mind about the book. In the first place I have waited till I have settled down here and know fairly well how much spare time I have - always a difficult thing to predict: and in the second place I have so far only had a precis of your letter to my brother which he sent me in May, and I have not seen him or heard from him since.

As regards the time needed and materials: I think it is possible for me to do the job here. I have accumulated most of the note books and data I need, and though some of the essentials are missing I hope to be able to get them. I am able to borrow books on occasion from the Bristol University Library. I have gone so far as to make some preliminary notes for some of the Chapters.

As to the O.U. Press, I find the FORKEIR disturbingly vague though of course I only have my mother's shortened account of the matter to go by. It must be clear that there can be no question of publication of any of my work without proper acknowledgement in full on the Title page and in all the other usual places. I gather the O.U. Press has some difficulty in accepting this, but I can't make out what else they have in mind. I shall carry on with the writing for the present on the assumption that the O.U.P. will agree. If they do not, then of course that is the end of the matter, though I shall very much regret it. In saying this I don't want to appear arrogant or ungrateful but I am afraid of a false position arising,



2.

unless this is made clear at the start.

As you know I arrived here in March. I spent my first three months in the Tailors shop, and was then transferred to the Library where, naturally, there is more opportunity for reading and study. I get the "Physical Review" now after strenuous efforts, and also "Nature" so am able to keep fairly well up to date.

The main characteristic of this place is the speed with which the time goes. The weeks flash by hardly being noticed, and one just manages to keep count of the months.

I was very pleased to see the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ accounts of the ..... of your new laboratory, my best wishes for its success.

Yours sincerely

A. N. MAY

P.S. My love please to Fay;

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H. R. Frison,



26 AUG 1947

Leyhill,  
near Kalfield,

Glos.

25. 8. 47.

Dear Mr Marriott,

Herewith please find a copy of a letter written to Prof. F. A. Paneth at Durham, by Miss May. This letter has been posted today.

Owing to a spot of promotion, (undoubtedly richly deserved) I am leaving here for Liverpool but my successor MR. G. Nash will be continuing to carry on as I have been doing in connection with May's letters.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

*H. R. Frison*  
✓ s/o Governor.



No. 037 (21042-6-6-40)

Alan . ~~101 500 51~~ 12 AUG 1947 BIB  
 . Copy of letter written by Nunn May to his brother Ralph. dated 10.8.47

Dear Ralph,

I have sent a visiting order to Father which will absorb my July and August rations. I will send you one next month. Mary said you and Jullie would be able to come then, and I would certainly like to see you. Let me know when you expect to come. Mary can give you full directions for getting here.

About periodicals. The Physical Review has started to arrive, in fact I have had all the numbers since Jan. 1st 1947 issue. Last week a parcel arrived from the A.S.W. containing the same issues of the Phy Review over again. I returned them with thanks. It was nice of them to be so helpful, it could'nt be helped that they were about ten days late.

I'm afraid my hastily dictated covering note may have seemed rather off hand, so please thank them for me. There is still no signs of Science Abstracts. The other periodicals arrive regularly, though Time is still forwarded on from Wakefield, they seem to be a Prison behind in their addressograph machine. One parcel of music also arrived safely for which many thanks. I have seen some new books advertised, and the bookseller having triumphed over Phy. Review at last might start on them -

DIRAC. QUANTUM MECHANICS. (New Edition, the 3rd) O.U.I. Both  
 JEFFERIES & SMITH. METHODS OF MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS. C.U.P. 30/-

I am still hoping to get the Pattach(?) tables which were advertised recently in Nature again. Two non technical books, HALDANE'S "Banned Broadcast and other Essays" and CORNFORTH "Science @ Idealism" IAVENHILL & FISHER" and to close the request section -- RAZOR BLADES and again needed. A packet of five will save the day.

How does the new film tax affect you? It must have been clear that something of the sort would happen-- the main surprise is that it wasn't sooner. I hope the prospect of making English films good enough to stand being seen three times over in the local cinema will inspire you. However many troubles it may cause you, I can't help being glad at even a gesture of independence. I hope it is more than that, and that it isn't too late.

I am now in the library in which my duties vary from cataloguing the books and helping people to pick out the good "Westerns" and keeping an eye on the cat which has chosen one of our cupboards as a nursery for her kittens. We tried hard to get her to stay in a nice open basket in the fresh air but she always carts them off to the darkest corner of the cupboard. If she could lock them in, she would. A typical Prison cat I suppose. I hav'nt done anything more about the book as I'm not sure yet how much possibility there will be for writing. The main characteristic of this place is the speed which the time passes and one has to keep a close watch on the weeks as they flash past, so I'm

I'm

not sure how long it would take me to do a job of this sort. At the moment I am trying to get as much fresh air and sunshine as possible, and am not very keen on taking on more writing work in my spare time on top of an indoor job. However I will talk about this when I see you.

Please give my love to Jullie. I hope you are thoroughly settled in the house by now.

Yours.

Alan.

SECRET AND PERSONAL.

502a

IF.66040/B.1.b/JRM.

11th August, 1947.

Dear Donnett,

Alan Dunn MAY.

I must apologise for not having acknowledged your letter of the 1st August, but I have only today returned from leave.

I am very interested to hear your view as to MAY's failure to react satisfactorily to the influence of life under your care, and I am inclined to agree with your opinion that he may very well never come out of his shell. At the same time, we still have a long way to go, and I am by no means ready to give up hope. You will no doubt let me know of the first sign of any break in his armour.

Yours sincerely,

J.H.Marriott.

J.A.Donnett Esq.,  
Deputy Governor  
Leyhill Prison,  
Nr.Falfield,  
Gloucestershire.

OX

All communications should be addressed to "The Governor" and not to any official by name.

H.M. Prison **501A**  
Leyhill,  
near FAIRFIELD,  
Glos.  
1. 8. 47.



Dear Mr Harriott,

Herewith please find a copy of a letter written by my son to his father and posted to day.

My son is as reserved as ever and although very very pleasant, is still in his shell, and I'm beginning to doubt if he will ever come out of it. He is studying very hard and seems to have settled down well at this prison.

Yours faithfully,

ENCL

one page  
613

A. Bennett

No. 937 (21012-6 0-40)

5014

All communications should be addressed to "The Governor" and not to any official by name.

H.M. BORSTAL INSTITUTION.

Loyd Garrison,  
near WALFIELD,  
Glos.



Copy of letter sent by Lunn to his Father. July 31st. 1947.

Dear Father,

Many thanks for your letter. I have already sent the visiting order off to my father when it came, but now there is another one due, so I hope you will still feel up to the journey. Probably Berkeley Road is not the nearest station but Charlfield, however that is about four miles away and, although taxis are available it is somewhat expensive with having to get them to wait.

As you suggest the best way is probably Gloucester by bus and the times you give are correct as far as I know. One bus stop is nearer (2 - 3 miles) at Walfield, and there may be a taxi available there too. My car probably give you some idea of the time it takes as I believe they made enquiries when they were here. I am writing to my father asking for a visiting order for you both which also be connected with this. Let me know when to expect you-- though naturally I shall not expect you if the appointed day turns out to be pouring with rain.

Please thank my father for the camera set which arrived safely, and has been in frequent use since. The Physical Review has started to arrive -- all the numbers since day but as I have some reading to catch-up on -- and the parcel of music from Ralph and Julie, so I am now fairly set up for reading and amusement. I am writing to Ralph and Julie who I believe want to come down next time-- which will be September or thereabouts.

Looking forward to seeing you both,

Love,  
Lunn.

P.S. I had some qualms about your undertaking the rather tiring journey.

I hope you will be all right. There seems to be time to get some thing to eat in Gloucester on the way down and again on the way back if you go into Gloucester by the 5.49 from Gloucester forgoing the 4.28 to West Gorton for the sake of a cup of tea.

Crossed  
out by  
N. Kay.

No. 937A (18136-6-1-13)



B.I., Mr. Hollis.

15 Please for in 500a  
Pr/669-17/4 P1 2/17

I spoke to Hoare of the Home Office this morning at your request and briefed him on the forthcoming meeting between the Home Secretary and the delegation urging the reduction of the sentence passed on Dr. Alan Nunn MAY.

Hoare wanted to know what comparative sentences had been passed in cases of prosecutions under the Official Secrets Acts. I told him that SPRINGHALL had been sentenced to seven years, and I thought Anna WOLKOFF had received a similar sentence. As far as I knew, apart from court martial cases such as that of IRBY, these were the only major prosecutions brought under the Official Secrets Acts in recent times.

I pointed out that the Official Secrets Acts have a very wide scope and extend from really serious cases, such as MAY, to very minor breaches such as a man retaining a pass after he had left a Government Department. I thought, therefore, that a comparison of sentences passed under the Acts was not the right way of approaching this matter.

I thought that MAY's additional sentence of three years on that of SPRINGHALL was justified by the nature of the information which MAY had passed. It is difficult to see how anything could be more serious than passing information on atomic matters, as this subject is in its early scientific development. Hoare said that the delegation was going to urge that the information which MAY had passed had subsequently all been made public. I pointed out that, in my view, this did not alter the situation as again in a scientific development of this nature it was of the utmost importance that a foreign Power did not get information at an early stage upon the then present state of development, as this would enable them to develop their research on more modern lines and might save them considerable time.

Furthermore, MAY himself had refused to tell the authorities to whom he passed the information. He is thus quite unrepentant and, if he is asking for equity, he should do equity.

Hoare thanked me for the information and said he would now be in a position to brief the Home Secretary. He intimated that he did not think there was much chance of the Home Secretary acceding to the delegation's request.

B. A. Hill  
S. A. Hill  
S. A. Hill

S.I.B./10.7 47.

Copy of letter written by Munn May June 23rd to his sister Miss Mary Munn May Bedruthan; Barnt Green, Nr Birmingham.

Dear Mary.

Many thanks for your letter (of 8th). I'm glad you are feeling better now. Well, I'm asking for a visiting order for you and Auntie Trixie which should be enclosed with this. I hav'nt heard from Ralph, so I don't know when he can come.

[I saw ~~you~~ the week after I wrote to you. By the way they will be pleased to put up ~~any~~ who comes to visit and wants to stay the night in Bristol.

Of course, if you can give to having a car then there's no need, and anyhow, its quite a journey from Bristol, here. Let me know when you hope to come so that I shan't be caught with my gardening boots on. If you bring your own tea sugar and oats, you (not me) can have some refreshment.

I hav'nt heard from Ralph since I wrote you last, but my New Statesman seems to be coming all right so I suppose he has renewed the subscription. I wonder if you could find out from him the position of my subscription to the PHYSICAL REVIEW and SCIENCE ABSTRACTS; neither of which have appeared yet. I should like to know whether I can ever expect to get them, because if not I will set about obtaining them through someone else. Also the parcel of music which they were about to send here on April 27th, has'nt arrived yet. I asked for Beethoven Sonatas and some Bach transcriptions -- this isn't specially urgent since I have my music from Wakefield now, but there is just the possibility that they have been sent off and got lost on the way.

I hope you manage to find somewhere to live soon. I should move into a very expensive flat - which will make Betty raise your acre a lot, - you can always slide into a cheaper one later! You see what a fraudulent mind one acquires in these places.

My garden is looking pretty thin as I could'nt resist the temptation to eat the lettuces when they were young and tender; neither can save particularly good cabbages and - (??? J.A.D. It looks like rudes) I am carefully nursing two potato plants which look very sick indeed to me, very dark purple to black in places. However the radishes are doing fine, and although the onions don't seem to get much bigger they are holding their own. Considering the very small amount of work I have done, the return is not so bad. I wish I could find something else but thistles which like this soil -- it is 90% clay - and even the thistles don't do so very well. The real enthusiasts have been transplanting soil, leaf mould, compost, and heaven knows what, and treating it with all manner of things, to discourage slugs and encourage the lettuces. However I feel that to do a whole afternoon's work per lettuce is, on the whole, uneconomical. One may as well do something quite unconnected with food, like playing the piano or learning a language. Most of my spare time has gone lately in some very involved calculations I have got myself involved in. I keep wondering whether the result is going to be worth the effort, but as one can't tell till one gets it one may as well keep on.

For this I have been able to borrow books from Bristol University which is very helpful. The book is temporarily suspended.

Looking forward to seeing you,

Yours Alan.

Give my love to Father.

I forgot to give Lowell's address;  
11, Mansfield Terrace, Bristol. (I think).

~~Send the card in, please Nov. 2, (1941)~~

*Alan  
21/10/41*

SECRET

499a

166913/1-6/47

30th June, 1947.

Dear Bennett,

Thank you for your letter of 25.6.47 enclosing a copy of a letter written by Wynn Lay to his niece, dated 2.6.47.

Yours sincerely,

J. Marriott.

J. Marriott Esq.,  
County Director,  
Royal Air Force,  
RAF Staff College,  
Cranwell, Lincoln.



20 JUN 1947

Leyhill Prison, 498A

Near FALFIELD,

Glos.

25. 6. 47.

Dear Mr Harriott,

Herewith please find copy of letter  
written by Mann May to his sister, Mary.  
Posted June 21th.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. J. J.

Copy of letter

BIB. ✓

1 F 669/149

1614 R 5 . C 2.24/6