

PC 16/5/3/31
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GMP
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NATAL.

15th March, 1981.

Dear Ann,

As usual it's taken me much longer than it should have to get down to answering your letter. It was nice to have it and your news, even if not so nice to hear about the gall-bladder having laid-you low for so long.

After that visit to Cape Town which I last told you about I wrote to Cromwell and, after a long time, got back a sad letter from him, telling me that he had had a stroke and been in and out of hospital and was virtually incapacitated. I asked Dot Cleminshaw to try to see him, which she managed to do eventually. Back from her came another sad letter about his condition, so we decided to make an appeal to old members to give him something to cheer him up over Christmas and the start of the year. I wrote a letter to everyone I could think of and George Rodger agreed to receive the money and so we were able to give the old man something before Christmas & I hope something more since then. I haven't heard the final result from George yet.

Our daughter, Vanessa, who is in London and based on the Hains, has just been staying with us for a few weeks. While she was here we went with Alan on a day's visit to Elliot and adjoining black spots, so that she could report back to the Hains on Elliot. He joined the Party at a house-meeting they had when they were living in Lady-smith when ~~the~~ we first started, what now seems a thousand years ago. I hope you'll see them (and Vanessa) when you're at York. Also Bill Hoffenberg, who is at Shepherd Yard, Kinwarton, Alcester, Warwickshire or else at the Medical School at Birmingham University. Tell him what I've already told him -- that he owes me a letter.

Have you seen Alan Paton's autobiography, Vol. 1, telling the story of his life up to "Cry the Beloved Country"? Generally felt here to be very good. Alan is in England at the moment for its launch ing there. He is staying with Allan Friedmann, Marion having died late last year. Alan (P) is the only person I know who has had anything to do with Adrian over there. He went and stayed with him on his last visit. Nobody else seems to talk to him. I don't know whether Eddie's release will have helped Adrian or not. The poor fellow wrote to Eddie (I hope I haven't told you this before) and Eddie wrote back, but he said that, although he harboured no bitterness, he didn't want to be associated with Adrian in any way. Poor Adrian. What can one do that will help? Nothing, I suspect.

Anyway, talking about York, I think Jonty Driver is somewhere near there, not that I knew him particularly. I mention him because his biography of Pat Dunagan has just been published, although I haven't yet seen it. I was given the manuscript to read and comment on, but I hear that a lot of the original was cut out in the editing by the publishers -- which may not leave a great deal of a book.

Alan, incidentally, has written another novel, which David Philip hopes to get out in the middle of the year. It is very much the Liberal Party story, and is intended to be the first of three. Not bad at 78. But he is still remarkably lively. Selby is a little

a little less so, which isn't surprising for '95, or whatever he now is but he is still involved in all sorts of things.

(The situation here is not very promising. We have suddenly had an election thrust upon us. One hopes that the reason is that the F.W. Botha government wants to get itself another five years in office so it can introduce its "reforms" before the rightwing of the NP really gets going. The trouble is that its "reforms" really don't amount to anything at all, so that the problem remains.

Not much else to tell you, except that we are all well, going on hoping for the best, but expecting the worst.

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