Oxford,
May 18th/54

Dear Mom & Dad,

I spent Saturday & Sunday in London & had a very interesting time. I caught the 8.40 a.m. train from Oxford arriving in London at 10.00 odd. From there I went over to Stebb-Griffiths to see about the case to fill out the Insurance form. It looks very nice all polished up. I shall go down to London this coming Saturday & bring it up to Oxford so that it will be already when you arrive. As I mentioned before the cost is about £4.7.5- plus about £2.5- for insurance licensing etc. Mr Worland is sending me a Pro Forma invoice in the next day or so which I shall send on to you. It will be put on the hire-purchase plan of ⅓ down & the rest not to be paid until the car is turned in or we sell it privately & pass the money on to him.

He told me that he is also arranging a car (Morris Oxford) for a Lieut & Charlie Borland who are apparently coming over together.

It would probably be better for you to send the money before you leave & then there would be nothing to worry about. The car will be insured in my name & we will have to sustain the first £10 of any damage. The policy also includes a £100 coverage for damage to luggage.

Mom, I will drive down to London to pick you & Carole up. The airports are between here & London so it saves going into the city. There are two: Northolt & London, so be sure to find out the correct one before letting me know the time of your arrival.

The three of us could then drive down to Southampton to pick up Dad when he arrives. It really isn't too far from here & would be far better than having you go to London & meeting you there.

I went from seeing about the car to London House where I saw Bill, had lunch & then set out with some friends to see the Queens return. I met Tonie at 1.30 & sat with her & some of her friends while they had lunch, then about 2.15 we went down to the Mall & found a place where the crowd weren't too thick. I scrounged some things for them to stand on (I could see over everyones head). The Guards kind the Mall at about every three or four

yards. We only had to stand about ½ an hour before she arrived & passed very close to us. It was a lovely sight with the Queen & Duke & the two children together in an open landau. They were preceded & followed by the 'Sovereigns Escort' of mounted guards. Afterwards we walked over ~~to~~ up to the Palace & saw her come out on to the Balcony. At this time we were on the left side (looking towards the Palace) of Queen Victorias statue. When you see the newsreel you will know that I am one of the ones.

In the evening I had a dinner at the Temple with Bill after which we went down & saw the Queen make her first appearance on to the Balcony in the evening. The whole Mall was lighted & looked a picture.

Four of us went down to the terrace of the Festival Hall where an orchestra was playing & then walked around London. I slept on some cushions made into a bed in Bill's room which was quite comfortable & cost me nothing.

Bill is coming up to Oxford for the end of 'Eight' week & we are going to a big dance being held at Pembroke College. It should be a lot of fun as I haven't yet been to a College dance. Tonie is coming up from London for it.

I do hope your smokes arrive Dad, is there any sign of them yet. A pat for Bo & love to you both

Chas

First fold here

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
AIR LETTER
AEROGRAMME

POSTAGE POSTAGE
E R
6D SIXPENCE 6D

Mr & Mrs C.T. Collis,
P.O. Box 489,
Hamilton,
BERMUDA

Second fold here

Sender's name and address: C.C.C.
Oxford,

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER
MAY BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

To open cut here

August 2nd

Dear Mom, Dad + Carole,

You will probably all be together when you receive this letter but at the moment both Mom + Carole are tossing in the high seas. I hope your voyage has been reasonably pleasant + that you struck good weather after leaving the coasts of England Ireland.

After the boat disappeared down the harbour I set out for London + arrived there about 8.00 + decided to put up at London House. I rang David Williams the next morning + we went to lunch at his club (Islington Sportsmans club) on Park Lane. In the evening he took me to a cocktail party to which he had been invited, then we went out as a group to dinner. Friday morning I decided to leave for Oxford so after picking up my mail at Mrs Anderson's I left about noon + came to Mrs Mattocks as you can see from the address. I am getting every thing for 5 gns. a week which is pretty good as I expected to pay £10.

When I arrived in Oxford all the results were up so I had a look at them + discovered that James Bannon failed + as a result of fact I agreed to meet him there. He looked very down in the mouth so I didn't say too much to him but I gathered that he will now go up to London + shot from central on the bus there. I wouldn't mention it any body as I don't know what James has told his parents.

Also he told me that Dulux has lost his Rhodes. Lord Elton, one of the trustees apparently wrote him a letter informing him of the fact. I went up + made an appointment to see Mr Williams which I did the morning for about an hour. He tells me that one needn't worry about Bermuda loosing the scholarship as it is a legal impossibility without the islands sanction. But he thinks that it may be a good idea to recommend to the Committee, or at least I suggested such, that all scholars have some prior university education. This doesn't discriminate against the poor

boy who has the Beit Scholarship to look after to that aspect of the problem. The Rhodes scholars had a good year in exams as there were 10 firsts out of 38. We also discussed the problem of my taking a 3rd yr. I have started doing a little work & at the moment have everything laid out in front of me. Sometime this week I will go down to have my eyes rec'd but as yet I have done nothing as they haven't bothered me at all, even when reading.

Oxford is very quiet in the summer although there are quite a number of tourists about. I have been to the theatre twice since I have been back.

I hope you got Dad's letter which I sent on to N.Y. They have fixed up the Quadrangle with a new gravel surface & are at redoing the dining hall; probably the first time in decades.

Give Rosie a pat for me & my hello to everyone. Love to all Charles

First fold here

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
AIR LETTER
AEROGRAMME

OXFORD
2.45 PM
4 AUG
1954

POSTAGE POSTAGE
E II R
6D SIXPENCE 6D

Mr & Mrs C. T. Collis,
P.O. Box 489,
Hamilton,
BERMUDA

Second fold here

Sender's name and address: Charles T. Collis
38 St Margaret's Rd.
Oxford

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER MAY BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

To open cut here

August 9th/54

Dear Mom, Dad + Cook,

You are all home now after your rather long but I hope pleasant trip. As yet I have received no word from anyone but I suppose something will come tomorrow morning. Life here is quiet + uneventful except for the occasional movie or play.

On Friday I went to see the oculist or rather optometrist + what a waste of time it was. He told me that there was nothing wrong with my eyes which were as good as a eagles. To give me glasses now would only aggravate any slight maladjustment + do more harm than good. I can now forget the £30 without any feeling of expenditure. He did say that any trouble I had was from strain + gave it to wear dark-glasses while driving was a good idea.

David Hill has received his tickets so we shall meet him in Edinburgh after spending a week with Mrs Gollayner in Glen Urquhart, Inverness-shire. Bruce returns here in about a week + we will set out in about two weeks from now.

Monday: I finished my revision on Torts yesterday + start contract today which I hope to finish on Sunday all being well. I am going up to London on Wednesday to be in court for the parking offence I have had since last April. It will cost more in the long-run but I am rather interested in the procedure so I think that it will be worthwhile. I am expecting some mail from Mrs Andrew tomorrow so am hoping to find a letter from you all. When I left London I forgot to tell her to forward it + only sent a note on Saturday giving my address. The house is full of old people as it was when you were here. Occasionally someone comes in for a couple of nights but half of the time I am here on the top floor by myself. Emily looks after me very well + did some washing for me on Friday + also sees that I get enough at meals. Yesterday morning she said that she didn't want anything for doing it "if that was what I was thinking" but she said that I could give her a box of chocolates or something when I left.

It really has hardly stopped raining in days + I am quite sure that there hasn't been one fine day since I have been here. Once it cleared in the afternoon or evening but never here the whole day. Dad was a long way off when he said the weather would clear as soon as he left. The temperature went over 70° at the beginning of the week for the first time in London since

the end of May. All the English people are hoping for it to clear but it never stays. I suppose Michael Lee is married now & on his way over here for his two month honeymoon in Europe. Bill has his car done up for him which he will use for getting about. Bill himself will be returning in about a week and a half to write that last exam & go into chambers here in London.

The other day when I had lunch with David in London a friend of his at the club joined us. He is a young solicitor who has done awfully well in some big firm & I was able to see from what he was saying, how a lot of lawyers make money in Bermuda. Apparently Bermuda & Nassau are used a great deal in Company Letterheads for international monetary reasons & various lawyers (or some in particular) get so much a yr. for representing the Co. & holding annual general meeting which in fact amounts to no work at all. & they do anything other than take a slight cut of the dos they get extra.

Life seems to be very little to write about as my life is very uneventful at the moment. Give Rex a pat & my hello to my friends at home. Love to all

Charles.

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
AIR LETTER
AEROGRAMME

ILFORD
45PM
AUG
1954

POSTAGE POSTAGE
ER
6D SIXPENCE

First fold here

Mr & Mrs C. T. Collis,
P.O. Box 489,
Hamilton,
BERMUDA

Second fold here

Sender's name and address: Charles T. Collis,
38 St. Margarets Rd.
Oxford.

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER MAY BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

To open cut here

Glenurquhart,
Inverness.
August 29th/54

Dear Mom, Dad + Carole,

Bruce + I are now well settled up here in the Glen + enjoying it immensely. We left Oxford on Monday arriving in Edinburgh on Wednesday where we spent the night before proceeding to Inverness. Mrs Jollyman met us in her Austin Lobby at the station + then we drove down the Loch here for about 12 miles before turning west into Glenurquhart which is sparsely populated but very lovely. The house which is very large, is set at the base of a hill about 8 miles from the Loch + looks south at the well protected slopes of the Glen. We own all of the land about although most of it is rented to a tenant farmer who also tends her own garden that are full of such year vegetables beans, cauliflowers etc. The net result is that our meals are wonderful being so varied + well cooked. We eat such vegetables till they run out of our ears + seldom go through a meal without second helpings of everything.

Besides ourselves there is also Mrs Jollyman's niece + her adopted daughter + on Wednesday Mrs Macdonald herself arrives. I have a bedroom with a large comfortable double bed to myself as does Bruce + the two of us share a bathroom (there being five in the house). There is a wonderful library in the house that is supposed to be the best private collection in this part of the country as well as a lovely bathroom which we can use.

I know Dad that you will be most envious for on Friday we were duly given a shotgun + shells + allowed to go rabbit hunting with a net bag of three. The woods are full of them + she is glad to get rid of them. Two were duly served at lunch yesterday but fortunately the gardener does the skinning etc.. We shall probably go out every day this coming week although on Wednesday the season opens for partridge. I will let you know later how we make out. I am told that the fishing here is also quite good but although our hostess has a boat on the loch nearby she has no tackle.

Yesterday afternoon we went to the Clan Highland Games + saw them throwing the Kabar etc which was most pleasant, after which we were invited to a cocktail party not far from here where I met Sir Hector + Lady Thomson the former being the half brother of Rev + Mrs. Strong.

The life here is most quiet + pleasant + I should put some weight on, at least if I don't it will prove that I am incapable of doing so. Breakfast isn't until 9.00 a.m. so you can see that we get plenty of sleep.

The other day when passing through York I saw Jock Tweedie + his wife but couldn't stop more than to introduce myself as I was in moving traffic. I shall probably meet them at the Falcon next week-end. We have tickets for some of the loveliest performances + as the Queen will be in during that week we may have her with us.

Last week I received an invitation in Oxford from the Dalhousie society inviting me to a dinner-dance on Nov. 11th at the Dorchester with the Duke of Edinburgh as guest of it at the opening of a new Canadian Universities society which is an Amalgamation of the old Toronto McGill + Dalhousie ones. With the great freedom allowed to me I shall now be able to attend without worrying about the leave. As a lot of my mail is in Oxford I received a letter from about 2 weeks although I know it isn't [illegible] you haven't written. A Pat or Rose to love to all, Charles

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
AIR LETTER
AEROGRAMME

POSTAGE
ER
6 SIXPENCE

Mr + Mrs C. T. Collis,
P.O. Box 489,
Hamilton,
BERMUDA

First fold here

Second fold here

Sender's name and address: Charles T. Collis
C.C.C.,
Oxford.

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER MAY BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

Open out

Sept. 18th/54

Dear Mom + Dad,

I arrived back in Oxford on Wednesday after disposing of the car in London for a modest price. The market has been a bit slack since early summer owing to a larger number of cars available for the home mkt. The actual fact I got £440 for it which is £95 less than paid + was to be expected for we were to get between £80-£100 on turn in. There were, however, a few other expenses which must be included in it. I will put a chart @ the end of the letter.

You would never guess where I spent Wednesday morning before coming back up here. Well, I told you that I sometimes stay at Shelley's flat when in London, so I made it my headquarters this last time. Shelley went home + I stayed on with a S.A. doctor who was there + we looked after ourselves. On my last evening there he consented when I suggested going to the hospital. We left a little before 9.00 & went to the Hammersmith + then up to the Dos. next room to the operating theatre. I was fitted with a cap, mask, gown + rubbers + allowed to go into the theatre + watch the operations. There were two theatres side by side + Bromy suggested watching the other list as he might be a little too bloody. This I did + saw them remove a tuberculous gland from a girls neck. I then went next door to watch Bromy remove a stomach stool right next to the table between the anesthetist + the anesthetist. I was like a [illegible] surgeon. I saw them remove the stomach, sew up the ends + then the sewing of the chap together again. Bromy explained a number of things as he went along so that it was all very informative. One got an excellent idea of operating technique + theatre routine. They talked + joked a good deal (the men at least) + the whole atmosphere was very informal. It is very interesting to see how one is handled during an operation. Bromy then had a break + we had tea before going back to do a 'piles' operation. After this which was very short we had lunch at the hospital restaurant + I set out for Oxford.

Did I ever tell you that I received an invitation to a dinner-dance at the Dorchester on Nov 11th at which the Duke of Edinburgh will be present. It is the inaugural dinner of the new Canadian Universities club which is an amalgamation of the clubs of the various institutions. A whole bunch of us shall be going so it will be most enjoyable although it is a little far away to think much of it now.

It is a long time now since I received any mail, in fact upwards of two weeks but I expect there will be some tomorrow. A bunch of papers have arrived which I have read to get caught up on the news. At the moment I am doing a little study to try + get ready for my collections in a little less than three weeks.

The car cost £495.0.0.
Interest on the money not yet pd. 12.12.0
£507.12.0 - total cost of car.
Insurance 8.2.6
Tax 8.15.0
£524.9.6 - total cost to get a rond.
Resale value £10.0.0
114.9.6 - difference after resale.
Exp. pd. by me:
Passport in Oxford (cheapest) 6.0.0
Broker + giving 11.4.8
£131 14.2

As you sent over £165, the difference which I will have to send back is £33-6. This may seem a little cruel to you but it is still cheaper than having a car.

Did Carole get the cable I sent her last week on Sunday? Will everything happen so quickly I forgot temporarily about it + suddenly remembered when it was right upon me, so I didn't have time to send a present. I hope she doesn't feel badly. I spent half the morning writing her a letter several pages in length giving a full report of my trip in Holland.

When I was in London the other day I saw Bill who gave me that Weidenhof + told me all of the news. Thank you very much Dad, I was just running out of the letter. Give Rosa pat + say hello to my friends. Love to all, Chas

Fold here

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
AIR LETTER
AEROGRAMME

OXFORD
FEP
1954
A

POSTAGE SIXPENCE 6D

Mr + Mrs C. T. Collis,
P.O. Box 489,
Hamilton,
BERMUDA

Second fold here

Sender's name and address: Charles T. Collis,
C.C.C.
Oxford.

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