

Aly Khan Letters

"aux armes" 7 fevrier 1940

Darling Aline

How are you? And where? Not anywhere near here by any chance? How I wish you had not been so silly about going to stay with us in Cairo. I stayed there for nearly a month and you would have loved it! Instead of being with us and having lots of fun, I suppose you did "la navette" between Deauville and Paris and I suppose now at Megeve having lots of fun and millions of admirers! By the way I was told Nico was still in Lausanne so perhaps you will see him.

Do not be lazy and write me pages soon, as I am longing to hear from you. Joan and the family are in Cairo, I imagine having great time as life was very gay there. My work here is really fascinating and so terribly interesting and there is so much to be got through that when my working hours are over I am so tired I go straight home and to bed.

How I wish you could be here, so often I think of you and wish that. I fear it will be years before there is a chance of my getting back, by which time you will have completely forgotten old friends and have many new ones.

How much I enjoyed those very short days in Cannes before leaving I only now finally realise. My address is: Lieutenant Aly Khan, Etat Major, Postale 601. Do not forget it please.

Love to you A.

"aux armes" 16 mars 1940

Darling Aline

"Many thanks for your night letter telegram". It was hardly longer, but I liked getting it so much. Try, if you write again, and to say a little more in your letters, to make it just a little longer.

One feels so far away here, you want to hear lots of things when someone you like writes to you, unless it means splitting ones head to find something to say then a postcard will do!

Tell me about your life – are you having lots of fun and being very gay? Did you stay in Deauville a long time, and what did you do there? How was the Doctor?

I am surprised that you were bored at Megeve. I was told it was such fun. How long are you going to stay there? And what are your plans afterwards? Solange wrote and said she had seen you once

in Paris. I think the earliest that I will get any leave will be the middle of September. I would of course come straight to Paris. Where will you be about that time? I will have about a month and will probably have to be in London for ten days out of the month. Here life goes on the same from day to day, one goes on waiting till one has to leave. If all our friends were not so far away the place would not be so dull. I have been away in the interior of the country "on mission" all last week and it was quite lovely, sleeping under a tent and the nights were lovely rather like the sand Dunes of Deauville but without their enchantment! The spring flowers here in the mountains are unbelievably beautiful millions of primroses, violets, wild roses and bluebells growing along the banks of the mountain rivers edge. But even then I would rather have the starry nights of Normandy after dining a "La Trinité". So often I wish I could have those days over again. Write to me some more please.

As always, Aly

PS. I apologise for my undisciplined pen!

"aux armes" le 5 avril 1940

Aline darlig

Thankyou for being so thoughtful and writing to me. I love getting your letters and it is sweet of you to write. I hope it is not a "corvée" for you! I was so amused your seeing those tiresome, and was delighted their disliking me as much as I disliked them!

You can always write to even by airmail to Etat major Postale 601. It is my only address and the most private one.

In your last letter you say you have just arrived from Megeve in the Bentley and that you are very tired. How I wish I could have been with you, I would have helped you to drive – and you would not have been so tired!!

I hope, all being as at the present time that I will be in Paris about the middle of September for one month to be spent between France and London. After that I think I will be able to go to India for a short time to attend to my personal work before going back into harness.

From what you say in your letter, I see you are beginning to get a swollen head about your golf again. I shall definitely have to get back to come and give you a good beating, otherwise you will become impossible!

Don't do too much with your sixty year old (?) friends. They like to "play" a lot, but are more those at the finish of the game!

Write to me very soon please. So many thoughts to you darling

As always, Aly