DOUGLAS FAMILY

ANNIE V. DOUGLAS

Correspondence

54

On Train - Princeton to New York.

1954 Jan. 4

Mon Cher

I have had a very wonderful ¾ hour with Einstein. He has a massive head and a great sense of humour. I got to Princeton at 10:40 and walked on and on beyond the College Buildings and white houses of residents and then the huge Grad. School and on another half mile through fields and country side to the brick Inst. of Adv.St. - to be told Einstein was at home with a cold but would see me there. They kindly sent a girl in the Inst. bus to take me to his little white house in the Town - a housekeeper took me up to his study - a glass wall looking over fields and adjacent gardens - two walls of book cases, books and reprints. He in a large chair in his brown dressing gown with a brown silk muffler round his neck, his Secretary, a Miss Hoffman, by him at a small low square table with Math.MSS on it and ashtrays and a little carved monk.

He gave me one instance when Edd- had the insight to realize first that "the displacement field made the inertial field unnecessary" - I got him at the end to dictate to me that one sentence. He says every worker in this region has his own cosmology and who can say who is right. He thinks not Edd, nor Lemantre, nor Milne (much too uncritical) nor deSitter, nor Weyl.

He does not like the creation of matter theory of Jordan, Bondi Gold Hoyle. I asked him who were the greatest intellects he had met - his reply: Lorentz - "a towering" thinker and pioneer. He thought Willard Gibbs may have been in that category, but he never met him.

He liked, and admired, deSitter, Levi-Civita. Edd- and his old teacher of Maths in Zurich, MinKowski, but did not place any of them beside Lorentz.

Plank he thought had imagination and genius, but was uneven -

In his downstairs sitting room are two lovely inlaid wood against the wall cases and small cupboards - one had a top and a canopy and on a shelf of it a lovely small Madonna and Child, and two other objects of religious art and a Chinese Philosopher beggar-man statuette.

He said he enjoyed them as art - speaking about Quakers he said - "If I were not a Jew I would be a Quaker".

In his study a 'photo of Ghandi and of a Jewish Painter - Of Ghandi he said -"the greatest figure of our times" -

Einstein was Edd's guest at Cambridge - when Edd was made a Knight - he has happy memories of Edd in his home.

/He

He thinks all the 137 theory is an ingenious highly imaginative tour de force - but is not convinced that Edd. achieved anything in his fund-theory - nothing new has come out of it to give deeper insight into physical law. In his judgement Edd was not sufficiently self-critical - Of his Astrophysics no words are too high praise, however -

Also Einstein enjoyed Edd's beautiful use of English, but feels that any attempt to put Math ideas into words for the general reader - are inevitably misleading and he laughed and said "a scientist should remain obscure - when he popularizes he is being a fakir" !!

I am SO glad I went - a grand success - now I must run and will write tomorrow on train to Kingston . I go to a play with G. Richard now and catch midnight train to Montreal.

Presh Aunt Allie,

How are you? Thanks so for the card A letter fom Mary came on Wednesday. She sent you so much love and Bon Voyage. She has applied for a job in Whitehorse. Poor us ! I think she is getting tierd of the Air Photo job.

No word from the family since you left but I'm sure that the summer job is certain. Everything pretty busy here of course . I hope your crossing was clear and that you had a good landing in Brussells. What fun to think of you there seeing that great art gallery I hope almost too big. .

Bill phoned me the other day. There is a possibility that we might get Jill Stuchberry, who is going to do theology somewhere,here at queen's if we could offer her some advantages.
She is a really grand person, sectretary this year at McGill.She is a graduate of McGill School of Scoial wor Her undergraduate work was done at St. Andrews and she receives her doctorate from McGill this spring. We were wondering if ther was any possibility of a wardenship next year here? This would I think be the on way we would be able to afford it. She is of course a tip top personand would make a perfect warden. Do what you think wise and that will be the best thing

Andy,Ian and I went to Chalmers this morning Mather gave the sermon, he is really a fine person with with the soundest view of Christainity that I' ve ever heard from a minister.

Snow here and it is still coming down. Mary says that the skiing is still good in the Gatineau I may have to go along to the Colonel later on this evening

Yes.

I brought back my picture on Friday . Great ammusement in the household. Harry (Jeans Hussband) mad very ammuseing comments about it. But I think it looks much better here where it is not crowded in with too many other bright things.

I cant' think of much more news now so will get back to finish some essays that are taking much too much time.

Sovery much love precious Aunt, thank you so very much for everything you are really muchtoo kind. Great hopes for a publisher.

Love ,

Stop to Post it

FIRST FOLD HERE — PLIEZ D'ABORD ICI

AEROGRAMME

AIR MAIL - PAR AVION

KINGSTON, ONTARIO
11 AM
MAR 2
CANADA

10¢ CANADA POSTAGE POSTES

Dr. A. V. Douglas

I.F.U. W.

I Sedding St.

Sloane Square

London Sw 1 England

SECOND FOLD HERE — PLIEZ ENSUITE ICI

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS — NOM ET ADRESSE DE L'ENVOYEUR

P. Douglas

17 King St E

Kingston

Ont.

NO ENCLOSURE PERMITTED — NE RIEN INSÉRER

TO OPEN CUT HERE — POUR OUVRIR, COUPEZ ICI

TO OPEN CUT HERE — POUR OUVRIR, COUPEZ ICI

Quartz Lake
P.O.
June 21/54

Dear Aunt Allie,

Its ages since I should have sent you off a line to thank you for sending marshmallows etc. Its usual no bullion as in this quarter but not quite as dismal as I expected.

Well here we are in the bush! or what's left of it. What a time we've had really too amazing to describe fully. We landed in Quartz lake on Wednesday morning as you have probably heard from Mother. It took two trips of the little Norseman to get us in.

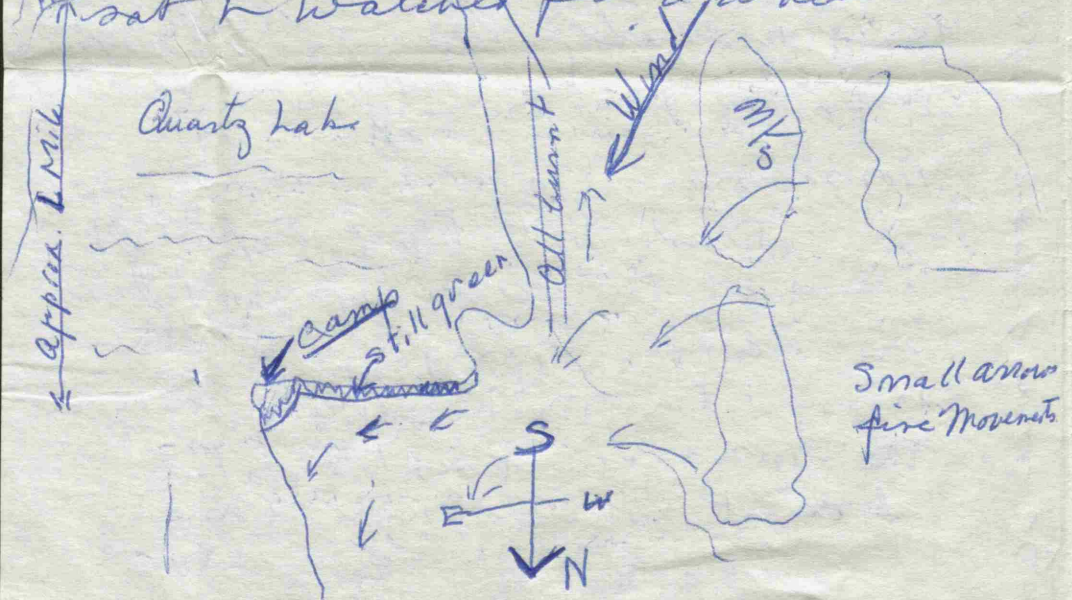
Dad Mike (the prospector) & I got the tents up and then in came Mary & the other prospector Dick. Mike early in the morning pointed out a ~~faint~~ white smoke coming

Bossnut love to you (Pussnut Pat)

for the lake – what a relief when we finally reached it! Then we had to wade along the shore about a quarter of a mile to camp & all the time the roar was getting closer & the sun was only a little red ball a whirling mass of black & brown red & orange smoke.

We got to camp – tore down the tents, put all the gasoline drums in the lake, moved everything near the lake.

Dad started to back fire near camp – the wind was blowing away from the fire or we would have been roasted. Then we just sat & waited for a while.



(2)

over the mts – part of the Mount Wright highland. We took little notice of it but by the time many came flying in the smoke had become black & orange – most lurid. They told us that the fire was headed away from us. Mary was quite worried though.

However we all got settled in & next morning the fire seemed to have died down – the wind drops in the evening – we set off to look at the magnetite deposit which was closest so that we could get back easily if the fire was heading our way. We arrived at the beginning of the mineralized zone – & were geologizing etc when the fire started to rage in our direction. We all set off for camp –

We could see now and then a great wall of fire – now higher now dying down & what was more terrifying a roar of flame – like deadened thunder. I certainly have never been so scared in my life. We headed as quickly as possible

Then we started fire fighting as the main front moved past - to save our tiny remaining green strip facing south end of lake Dauphin was soon passed everyone exhausted - and camp soon reassembled.

What a day! Mary will describe most to you.

There seems to be possibly worth investigation here. Today after the fire we finished one deposit of Magnetite. Estimated tonnage small - 1/2 million only - but the proposed best show not yet visited due to fire & rain.

Dad has also had miserable bilious attacks similar to the London one two years ago or last year - this has not fetched up work because rain followed both attacks. I think its mostly disturbance of diet & too much exertion. Has been hectic rather. He's fine today & grand day of rest - pouring.

Wonderful country - views lakes etc. Mary in grand form. Hope will be able to get out on time for eclipse etc. Plane due Wednesday. Do hope things going well at home & hope you have good time at Cobourg!

I have written to Dorothy & Jim - everything forgot regarding Jim

Rimouski P.Q.
12/6/54.

Allie Darling,

Here we are! How I disliked leaving you at Ottawa. Time is often a nuisance. If I had not had to push down I'd have taken you back to K'ton. We did have such a lovely visit & I'm tremendously impressed with Eddington. It will be such a joy to have it in the press & what a triumph when it appears. Bless you - it is a tremendous effort & you have done a noble work. Pat's train gets in about 10.15 this p.m. and

then we have tomorrow to consolidate. The passages are all fixed & the Post Office here has instructions to hold anything which comes marked Poste Restante. Thursdays meeting with L.T. Porter was a success. He had won some firsts at the Cattle & horse show at Lachute & was in good trim. He introduced me to Mr George Jacobsen the manager of Town Construction and a fellow of the Arctic Inst. I think that the Bellechasse are an awfully fakey haphazard concern. Too many half baked ideas.

I'm going to try & get some sense into their heads & it may be that I can. L.T.P. was really very nice to me.
I got a pair of moccasins in Québec with rubbers which protect the feet & the ensemble is light & efficient. Nice low heels or really no heels at all.
O & M in good form. M. very nearly as full of opposition as ever but she tries very hard not to be too riled by me!
It will be such fun to hear all the news to-night from the Google

4

Camp. One of L.T.P.'s stunts now is to launch an attack p.d.q. right after this reconnaissance far to the East of where we are going now! Cornie. Blessed Pass - now & always I adore you.

Love love,

h.

Quarry Lake P.Q.
25/6/54

Allie Darling, Here we are marooned! The aeroplane should have been in on 23rd to take us out. It has not come yet! Hadn't I'm annoyed for I doubt if they will reach you in time. Oh how annoying! I'm dreadfully sorry for that would have been such a wonderful experience for her. I'm so sorry for your disappointment too.

Well a lot of things have been happening. We met Pat at Rimouski & got on board the M.V. Jean Brillant on Monday am & sailed across

the St L. to Fortaille
on N. Shore & then
to Baie Comeau & all
the other ports of call to
Sept Iles. We got there
early Thurs. Afn. & did
not disembark until 6 am
We went to Hotel & had
breakfast & then got in
touch with Mike Walsh.
Dick Reed came in later
by 'plane. We slept
there & next am bord.
went out to airport &
Pat, Mike & I went on
1st load. O wave us off!
Then the 'plane took
us up 175 miles due north
following the valley of the
Ste Marguerite for part
of the way.

Then we sighted Mt. Wright & came down in Quatty lake. The 'plane unloaded & taxied to the head of lake with me & I jumped ashore & brought down a canoe which was cached up there. Then the 'plane took off & went back for Mary & Dick Reed. In the meantime Pat & Mike & I put up a tent. The sky was clear & glorious sunshine. We saw a faint cloud, rather like a mist rising to the west & Mike said that is a bress fire. Very soon it increased & dense smoke rose. Mary arrived about

then & toward evening the fire seemed to die down. Next day it was smoldering & we went up to see one of the deposits. The wind came up & we saw the flames & smoke increasing so we made tracks for camp. It was a cross country race but we got to camp before the fire! We pulled down tents & got supplies, bedding &c close to the lake shore. Some of the food &c right in the water! Then we set the brush close into the clearing on fire & the wind swept these flames back towards the main fire.

We lost 1/pr. socks, 4 fly nets & 1 axe but otherwise everything OK. Mary spied the big drums of aviation gasoline so we rolled these into the lake. She & Pat were simply marvels of hard work. They waded out & threw water from the lake around the margins of our clearing & the moss & scrub trees did not catch past a certain line. Mike & Dick worked like heroes & the camp was saved. So then we had to pitch the tents all over again, some of our tent poles were burned. And then this beautiful green lake just became

a blackened mass all along its margins except on the N.E. side.
Next day we continued with our prel. work.
Then there was another day of field work, then a day of rain - then a field day & then on 22nd a real attack on the most important Sectn of the lake. The 'plane was to come 23rd but the ceiling was down but it could have come towards evening, yesterday it could have come & today. Thank goodness O. is at Supt Hrs

for she will not leave us to perish!!

Yesterday I got my preliminary report written & that is one blessing. The area will have to be mapped.

So that's our news to date & I'll add something later when it happens!

Mary has been absolutely wonderful on this trip. Mike & Dick are full of admiration for the way she hops along here, there always full of go. Pat is the same grand person -

8.

Solid twine. He is going to come back & put in the camp at head of lake.

Later

Plane came & we got out!

Lost 10'10"

G.

Dean A. Vibert Douglas,
Queen's University,
Kingston, Ontario.

Sept Oles.
11/7/54.

Allie Darling,

A wee note off to you today to send you my love & thoughts. Fifty years – half a century it seems like ages.

We flew back today as I do not think much of Jacobsen's area.

A lot of it sand, some of it hilly, some tremendously rugged dissected plateau.

We landed in a lake with great canon-like walls but with easy sand approaches & John & I climbed up about 900 or 1000 ft on anorthosite.

We saw a lot of rock but very little Mineral. My advice to Porter is to forget the Asia.

I do hope all goes well with you & all at Quillis. You will have got our telegram on 12th. Office closed today. We have had some strenuous days. When I get to Quartz Lake I can go more easily for a bit. Love to you

Precious Puss Darling. G

12/7/54.

Allie Darling, when you fly to Europe if you go by way of Goose you will be on the train from Sept Iles to Goose which passes right over Eon Lake. They call it A-on or AEon not ee. The country around Eon is where we have been pond hopping. The big 'planes were flying very high overhead. The Dept. of Transport (D.O.T.) are putting in an emergency landing there with a 300 foot radio tower.

The high blocky country to the S.W. is where we saw the best signs of mineral but even that was pretty meagre!

I thought it would be fun as you fly if it is a clear day to get them to tell you when you were over Eon. Many maps have been marvelous for this work.

I do hope Stinger says yes! Great love, my darling Sister & my Precious One. Now old time, Hurrah we've just spoken!

H.