

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 49TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

April 4, 1940

My dear Mr. Raddall:

I have been reading your stories for quite a while in BLACKWOODS, and enjoying them greatly. Would there be any chance of you being interested in writing a book for us, and have you any subject in mind? If you have not, would it interest you to write us a book patterned directly on your stories, covering, let us say, Nova Scotia just before, during and immediately after the Revolutionary War? Before I came on your stories I had known vaguely what had gone on there, but only vaguely.

Do you happen to know the books of Kenneth Roberts, particularly NORTHWEST PASSAGE, RABBLE IN ARMS, and ARUNDEL? He is one of the authors published by our house, and I think a very notable one. He has been reading your stories in BLACKWOODS for three years, and maintains he has tried every way possible to get in touch with you. If this letter finds you, and you have no objection, I would like to give him your address.

With kind regards,

Theodore Roosevelt

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.

TR/meh

Answered April 9/40.

Dear Mr. Roosevelt,

Thanks for your very kind letter of the 4th.

I was writing of a novel ~~about an Indian~~ last ~~September~~ summer (my first) but the new war made my subject intensely and flat and I gave it up. Since then I have been trying (unsuccessfully so far) to get into one of the fighting services and I have given no thought to anything but short stories.

Should my warlike endeavours come to nothing I can think of no better way to occupy myself than in the writing of a book. ~~and a fact~~ The ~~story~~ ^{shadow} of a novel ~~deal set in~~ early Nova Scotian times has haunted me for a long time. Blackwoods brought out a ~~volume~~ collection of some of my early "magaz" tales in book form last Fall, & in his foreword John Buchan suggested a similar collection of my historical tales. Blackwoods thought it a good idea. I ~~am~~ ^{am} ~~plenty~~ ^{plenty} providing ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~magaz~~ ^{magaz} with enough ~~press~~ ^{press} historical ~~to~~ ^{to} make a book, ~~of~~ ^{of} course it was his intercession and possibly now Blackwoods may have changed their minds about ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~publication~~ ^{publication}. ~~They~~ ^{They} ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~Wicks~~ ^{Wicks} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~matter~~ ^{matter} ~~about~~ ^{about} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~publication~~ ^{publication}.

By all means give my address to Kenneth Roberts. I have read one or two of his books (~~but~~ ^{but} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~"Haddock's~~ ^{"Haddock's} ~~Journal~~ ^{Journal} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~Robt~~ ^{Robt} ~~Roberts~~ ^{Roberts}) and enjoyed them, though it seems to me that he saw the British with rather jaundiced eyes. If you make your villain too much of a poltroon, you dim the lustre of your own hero's victory over him.

merchants were out-and-out robbers and I should send away to a mail order firm. The mail order firms seem to sell everything under the sun, and it's really very interesting to look through the catalogue and see what people wear in this country and the names they have for things. Everything is illustrated and priced -- almost as good as window shopping in Folkstone.

Well, I must run along now. Mrs. Croxley is going to show me how to bake bread. With best love,

Your loving,

Flo.

P.S. They eat beans every Saturday night, baked in a pot with little pieces of pork and -- what do you think ? -- treacle !

P.S. Don't worry about me. I'm going to be all right.

Chapter Twenty

Spring began with the heavy rains shortly after Flo arrived and dragged through April and May in weeks of grey damp days and frosty nights, with bursts of sunshine and intense heat for two or three days at a time. Frost coming out of the earth left the roads impassable for weeks, rivers of glutinous brown mud; and then the mud turned hard, crumbled, turned yellow, and horses dragged the highway scrapers up and down to fill the ruts; and finally the road was hard and smooth and a light grey colour, and the two automobiles of Sawmill Dam and the fifteen automobiles of Newhaven rolled up and down and sent clouds of dust swirling over the waters of the river.

The hardwood bush on the ridge beyond the Croxley farm was brown and dull red and bare, and first the catkins came on the alders and hung powdery yellow and splendid, and then the leaves came to join the catkins, and the wild pear burst into a froth of white blossom like snow along the ridge, and when it faded the wire birches broke into leaf and painted the ridge a most delicate green. Then all the hardwood trees were in leaf, in a stroke, over night, and the hackmatacks put forth their fine green-yellow tufts, and the other conifers, whose green had looked so fresh against the snow, suddenly looked sombre and dingy, their new brown cones and broken bud-cases giving them a queer

LONDON OFFICE
DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY.
INCORPORATED
PUBLISHERS
MUSEUM 3528.

91, GREAT RUSSELL STREET,
LONDON, W. C. 1.

9th April 1940.

Thomas H. Raddall Esq,
c/o Blackwoods Magazine,
45, George Street,
Edinburgh.

Dear Sir,

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, a Director of this firm, has read with great interest your work in Blackwood's Magazine, and has cabled me asking for your address. As your publishers are not at liberty to disclose the address of their authors, perhaps you will communicate direct with Colonel Roosevelt at our New York office, 14 West 49th Street, Rockefeller Center, New York City.

Faithfully yours,

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN & CO. INC.

W. H. R. H. H. H.

no answer

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 49TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia,
Canada

April 23, 1940

My dear Mr. Raddall:

I know exactly the situation you are in, - much that in which I would be myself should this country go to war. I am pretty well by the age limit, but in fine physical shape, - better than a large percentage of the youngsters. Undoubtedly the powers that be would nod their woolly heads and say, "that old man had better stay at home". My Father had exactly this experience in the last war.

Yes, we would be very much interested in an historical novel on Revolutionary days in Nova Scotia. Also we would be interested in a history of that period, as I think I wrote in my last letter, the history covering, let us say, a short time before the Revolutionary War, the period of the War, and the years afterwards.

By the way, when I say history, I don't mean the "dry as dust", the Hallam or the Mowson. I belong to the group that believe in Macaulay and Macaulay's approach. I think that if history is to be of any value at all, it should be living and therefore that the author should place his characters in surroundings that he knows existed with incidents that he knows must either have taken place or been exemplified by similar instances, - in spite of the fact that he may not be able to prove this in documentary fashion.

To my way of thinking the good historical novel and the good history are very closely connected.

To revert to the war that is now in progress, I cannot get over the feeling that this move on Norway by Germany has been her first great mistake. By undertaking this Scandinavian venture she has placed herself where the Allies can meet her for the first time on at least even and possibly better terms. From what I know of the terrain I believe British soldiers, particularly soldiers let us say from Canada and New Zealand, will have a distinct edge on German troops. Also, they will have with them a friendly countryside and allies in the shape of the Norwegians, who are thoroughly at home therein. Machine warfare will be far less important and individual initiative and adaptability far more.

Also I have feared the effect on the morale of democracies of a long period of static warfare. This gives an outlet for action.

Do you ever come to New York? If so, be sure to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore Roosevelt

*I've got the Paid
Paper by Dipper Creek.
T.H. meh*

*Answered
May 14/40*

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 40TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

May 27, 1940

My dear Mr. Raddall:

Thanks for your last letter. I am delighted you will keep the idea of either the novel or a history in mind.

Yes, news from Europe is very black. I have been hoping against hope that a French counter-attack in force, severing the juncture of the German drive to the Channel from the main German armies, but it has not eventualized yet. I get more and more fearful of the situation of the troops penned in on three sides by the Germans and one side by the Channel.

Let us hope we will meet in person some time, and before that, if you feel like doing the book on either of the subjects suggested, or for that matter on anything else, do get in touch with me.

Sincerely yours,

Thucydide Roosevelt

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia

TR/meh

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 40TH STREET ROCKEFELLER CENTER NEW YORK, N. Y.

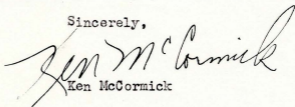
March 24, 1941

Dear Mr. Raddall:

I enjoyed your story about Joel Kane very much when it appeared in the February 22nd Saturday Evening Post.

On looking up your publishing record, I find that you have done one book for Ryerson. If you are not still committed there, and have some book plans, we should be most interested in hearing about them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken McCormick". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ken McCormick

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall
Saturday Evening Post
Independence Square
Philadelphia, Penna.

KMc/jt.

April 16, 1941.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Ken Roberts was kind enough to send down your letter and a copy of his in answer. The idea you are brewing looks most promising and we have every confidence that you could turn it into the novel that we have been hoping you would write for us.

Ken made the suggestion that I run up to see you. I would be very happy to do that, but I have a feeling that I could be more helpful if I paid you a visit later on. It may very well be that you will not need any editorial help on the work at all. At any rate, my experience has been that the problems which can sometimes be smoothed out by discussion do not raise their heads until the author has begun actual work on his manuscript. My suggestion would be that you go to work on the story and, if you feel, after getting into it, that a conference would be of some help, I would be only too glad to jump on a train and go up there.

We are genuinely interested in getting a novel from you and would be glad to discuss a contract as soon as we have something more to go on. Why don't you give some further thought to the story and prepare a brief outline as soon as you get your plot developed sufficiently?

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

*Answered May 5.
Said I would send
synopsis when it
is ready.*

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

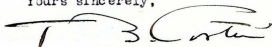
14 WEST 40TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

May 13, 1941.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Thanks for your note. I will wait for the synopsis, with some impatience I may say, because the idea impresses me as one of exceptional interest.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. B. Costain'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'T' and a long, sweeping underline.

T. B. Costain

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 49TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

June 16, 1941.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

I have been anticipating the arrival of your outline and am wondering if its non-appearance indicates that you are finding any difficulty in getting your story plan shaped to your complete satisfaction. If that is the case I wouldn't let it delay you in sending in some outline of the story. We are not expecting a detailed and carefully planned out scenario at this stage. All that we would like to have from you is a brief picture of the conditions which existed and the main story line which you propose to follow. You can't be sure in advance what you will finally do with your various story elements and it might prove to be unnecessary later if you were engaged on a detailed course of plotting before going any further.

Since I received your last letter I have read all the "Maga" stories and I want to tell you that I enjoyed them enormously. You have fine perception of the Scotch-Canadian character and a great gift for humor as well as color, all of which will undoubtedly be reflected in the projected novel.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

*Answered, with
outline of story, and
background. June 23/41*

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 49TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

July 2, 1941.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

We like the outline that you sent very much and feel that the stage has now been reached when we should like to tender you a contract to write the book for us. We would pay you the usual sliding scale of royalties on the retail price, that is, 10% on the first 2500 copies, 12½% on the next 2500, and 15% on all above 5,000. We would be prepared to make an advance of \$500 against royalties and I would suggest that this sum be paid you \$100 on signing of the contract and the balance at such intervals as you might indicate, the complete amount to be paid to you by the time you have the manuscript in our hands.

We have a large organization here and are equipped to handle all subsidiary rights, which we should be very glad to do, if you have no other facilities, on the usual percentage basis. Let me know if you would like us to handle these rights, that is, motion picture, first and second serial, radio, foreign, etc, and we will draw up our usual form of contract and send it on to you. Any points that you did not agree to would, of course, be open to discussion.

In the main, I agree with the story line you have laid down although there are some angles which I would like to discuss with you. I would like to write you at some length about these points as soon as we get the matter of the contract settled to our mutual satisfaction.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

Thomas H. Raddall

Liverpool, Nova Scotia

Copy

July 13th, 1941

Dear Mr. Costain,

Thanks for your letter of the 2nd. Your offer is attractive, and I should like to avail myself of your firm's experience and prestige in the matter of subsidiary rights. At the same time I feel that I can't go back on what amounts to a promise to my agent, Jacques Chambrun. He has been handling my short stories in the U.S., and some time ago I told him that if I ever did a novel he should see it. I've written him, explaining what's transpired so far, and stating that I want Doubleday to do the book. His book man is Howland, whom you probably know, and I wish you'd discuss the thing with him.

For my part, I'm now completing the historical research and am anxious to get at the writing. First, though, I'd like the benefit of your advice and suggestions regarding the story line, so the sooner the business end of the matter is completed, the better.

I leave tomorrow for a week or so about the isthmus, chiefly about Fort Cumberland, where I want to study the ground of Eddy's attack.

Sincerely,

Mr. T.B. Costain,
Doubleday, Doran & Co. Inc.,
Rockefeller Centre, New York.

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 49TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

*Dorans letter of 13th, 16th & 21st.
answered July 26th. Lola Costain
tentative sale of fiction novel in March,
1942*

July 15, 1941.

Dear Raddall:

Hewitt Howland of the Jacques Chambrun agency was in and we are getting the contract drawn here. I am leaving for a very brief visit in Ontario on Thursday of this week but the details of the contract will be all ironed out and it will be put through as quickly as possible. I thought that perhaps, in the meantime, I had better tell you some ideas that had occurred to me in studying the very interesting outline you have prepared.

In the first place, it seems to me that your Michael should be born in Nova Scotia. The chronology would allow for that, I think, and it would be better as it would associate him more closely with the soil.

Your chief difficulty is going to be to keep the romance an active part of the story. It would be comparatively easy to have Michael visit Boston, or New York, or Charleston on one of his father's ships and meet a girl there who later comes to Nova Scotia with Tarleton's Legion. This would plant the seeds of romance early but it would be next to impossible to keep the girl in the movement of the story except, perhaps, by the medium of letters, which is a device that generally proves pretty unsatisfactory to the readers. Wouldn't it be a better plan to have your girl a daughter of a member of the Halifax clique? She might even be the daughter of a British officer or a government official from London. If you put her in that setting she would remain in the story from beginning to end and could play a big part in Michael's release when he is caught with Uniacke and sentenced to death. That seems to me a logical story development and certainly, in that way, you would be able to develop a very satisfying romantic background.

Richard John Uniacke, by the way, shapes up in your outline as a strong and very fine character. I think you could do a lot with him. Make him the boy's mentor and guide and explain some of the uncomfortable aspects of the position of the Nova Scotian Yankees through Uniacke's comments and decisions.

I see one difficulty in placing the girl in Halifax and that is the need to establish a strong cord between Michael and the Loyalists who come to Liverpool after the end of the war and then go through great hardships which featured their first years there. I can see that Michael must have a personal interest in their struggles and sufferings and that this would be easy to establish if the girl had come North with them. Couldn't it be handled this way, however? - Michael's father is a ship-owner and I presume that his fleet would be engaged in coastal trade as far south as the West Indies. You could introduce into the early section of the story a visit that Michael pays to Charleston, say, where he comes in contact with wealthy shipping families and forms a great friendship with the son of one of them. Despite the fact that the two young men fall into opposite camps as soon as the political breach opens, they could continue warmly attached throughout the story. The young Carolinian could be a member of Tarleton's Legion and Michael would, on that account, be drawn into the struggles which follow the making of the early settlement.

These are some first thoughts which may not fit into your final plan but which I think are worth considering.

By the way, how long do you think it will take you to finish the novel? It is not our feeling that you should be rushed at all, but we would like to know approximately when we could figure on publishing the book.

I will be back here on Monday, the 28th, and will be glad to hear from you if there are any points in connection with the story that you would like to discuss by letter.

Yours sincerely,



T. H. Costain

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 40TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

July 16, 1941.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

As Mr. Costain wrote you yesterday, we are now drawing up a contract for your historical novel of Nova Scotia on the terms discussed with Mr. Howland of the Jacques Chambrun agency.

For tax purposes our contract people always ask us the citizenship of a new author and whether single or married. We are reasonably sure that you are a Canadian citizen, but need information as to whether you are married or not. Chambrun's office was not able to tell us. Will you, therefor, please drop us a note on that point?

Yours sincerely,



Ethel M. Hulse
Secretary to Mr. Costain

Thomas H. Raddall, Esq.,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 49TH STREET · ROCKEFELLER CENTER · NEW YORK, N. Y.

July 21, 1941.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Your letter dated July 13th came in directly after Mr. Costain had left the office for a brief vacation. He had, however, written you on July 15th, telling you that Mr. Howland of the Jacques Chambrun agency had been in to discuss terms of a contract for your Nova Scotia book with him, and giving some preliminary suggestions for the book, on the basis of your outline. Unless that letter has been forwarded to you, I presume it will be waiting on your return from Fort Cumberland.

The contract is now drawn and is going out to the Chambrun office today. If they find it all in accordance with their understanding it will, no doubt, be sent to you for signature very shortly.

Mr. Costain plans to be back here next Tuesday, the 29th.

Yours sincerely,



Ethel M. Hulse
Secretary to Mr. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 40TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

*Sent him a
copy of revised
version of outline
Aug 16th*

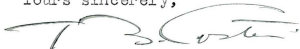
August 11, 1941.

Dear Raddall:

In your last note you mentioned having sent the revised outline of the story to the Chambrun offices. I have called them several times about it but they don't seem to have it there. I wonder if you have a carbon copy that you could send to me direct?

That was a fine short story of yours in the Saturday Evening Post of two weeks ago.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 49TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

Answered Aug 30/41

August 19, 1941.

Dear Raddall:

Thanks for sending on the outline. I think it is fine and that working from it you will be able to keep your story marching against the background of historical fact.

I have a few suggestions to make. At present you have Michael taking part in the abortive rising with Uniake, later joining Col. Allen's force and sharing in the defeat on the St. John River, and then being caught by an American privateer and put ashore in the woods. Isn't this too much? At three stages of the story you will have him sharing in disasters. I am afraid it will seem rather repetitious. Wouldn't it be better to drop one of the three? It couldn't be the first rising because that is of particular importance and serves to bring him close to Uniake, who will undoubtedly emerge from the novel as a very fine character. Also it provides a grand amount of suspense when he is condemned to death and the first attempts at his release prove hopeless. If you are going to drop one, and I want to urge strongly that you do so, it would be best to keep him out of the Allen effort. This is the really repetitious part and I don't see any way in which you could treat it as other than a detached episode in which Michael figured apart from all the other main characters in the drama. It doesn't seem to me to advance the personal story at all although I can see your desire to use it in order to maintain your steady narration of the historical developments. But couldn't this be done indirectly by discussions of the Allen failure among your people without projecting Michael into the middle of it?

It seems to me that you could spare the Allen defeat better than the story of Michael's capture by the privateer. And, in this connection, I want to make a suggestion which you may feel would be too melodramatic, but which I think would serve to accomplish a real purpose in keeping Betty actively

Answered Aug 30/41
8

*Told Costain
I wanted to
keep this
St. John
episode*

in the story. Earlier you had the Nugents, father and son, return to New York leaving Mrs. Nugent and Betty under the guardianship of Michael's father. Isn't it conceivable that something might make it necessary for Betty to join her father in New York and that she accompany Michael on his ship? You could then manage to have her among the group which is put ashore with Allen and she could accompany him on the long trek back through the woods. I believe you could develop the situation without making it seem far-fetched or illogical; and certainly, it would provide you with some grand sequences.

agreed

It occurs to me also that the selection of the land around Port Mouton by the U. E. L's is done on the advice of Nugent. This would provide a reason for the interest that Michael takes in the settlement and his strenuous efforts to help the unfortunate people when things break badly. He would naturally be more disposed to do this if the success of the settlement is vital to the Nugents. His attitude in that connection might very well provide you with a reason for bringing Betty to the point of overlooking political differences and capitulating to her love for Michael.

agreed

I think Fear is an unusual and colorful name for your other girl. I wish you could get a better one for Betty which has lost character through continuous use by light fiction writers.

Agreed

*Suggest "Anne"
Also advised him
I'd changed Michael's
name to David*

Yours sincerely,

T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 49TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

No answer!

September 8, 1941.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

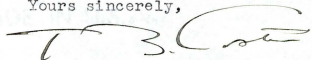
In the matter of the length of the book I think that will settle itself as you go along. In view of the time element and the amount of ground you must cover, I don't see how you could do it under 150,000 words. That, by the way, would be an ideal length for it. But, as I said, the story itself will settle that point.

There is no rule with reference to chapter lengths. It is not wise to make them too short as it gives the book a chopped up appearance. Sometimes, however, you may want to put in a short one where you have an episode that stands out by itself and doesn't require too much development. In other words, use your own judgment.

I see your point with reference to the Allam affair. You may find that you can cover it without using up too much space or it might be that David is sick or wounded and cannot take part. I am sure you will work it out so that the values will be correct and David will not be placed in the position of walking out on the venture after the first failure.

Glad to hear that you have made a substantial start.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 40TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

*Answered, with
fully answered questionnaire,
by picture, Sep. 24/41*

September 16, 1941.

Dear Raddall:

As a new author on our list we are going to need from you a fairly complete set of biographical details well in advance of publication. I enclose one of our 11-page questionnaires, designed to make it easier for you to supply exactly the material that will be most helpful. Won't you take time out to fill this in as carefully and as completely as you can, and return it to me promptly? The record will serve as the key source of information about you, and will be used in many ways.

The pocket pasted on the back cover of the folder is for holding pictures of you. Let us have several clear snapshots and a more formal photograph, if possible.

I'm sorry to bother you with this, but it plays an important part in our advance promotion work on every book, so I cannot urge your cooperation too strongly.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:h

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 49TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

September 30, 1941.

Dear Raddall:

I glanced through the questionnaire that you sent back for our Publicity Department and found it extremely interesting. Your contact with John Buchan was a fruitful one, I can see. I never met him but I always admired him both as a man and a craftsman. The snapshots are interesting and I should think some of them would serve our purposes nicely. If they need something different when the time comes, I will let you know.

You seem to be getting along beautifully with the novel. Forty thousand words is an evidence of such progress that I am beginning to think we will have the manuscript much sooner than we had figured. At this rate, you will have it in our hands, I am sure, before the middle of next year. Or is there a chance that it will be earlier?

Any time that you feel disposed to send down what you have finished I will be delighted to read it.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

Ans. Oct 21/41. Sold him to Columbia and the copy of I sent to. Offered to have it typed if he likes. Suggested "The Majesty's Junkies" for title.

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 40TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

October 27 1941

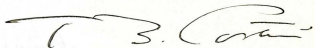
Dear Raddall:

My only thought in suggesting that you send in parts of the manuscript in advance was that there might be some points troubling you which you would like to discuss. Under the circumstances I would suggest that you go right along and send in the material in your own good time.

I am all in favor of the switch in leading ladies. (Is that better than heroine?) Personally I always prefer the girl who starts out to be a little wrong to the sweet home girl who is nearly always given the man at the finish. Your Mrs. Bingay sounds perfect for the purpose and the circumstances in which they meet and fall in love will give you a grand chance for romance. If you had a nice little home girl interested in him and had him pass her up for the fascinating Mrs. Bingay, I would be completely satisfied; I think practically every reader would also. I suppose at least 90 per cent of the people who read IVANHOE preferred Rebecca to Rowena and I think that the same percentage would be in favor of your snappy Tory girl.

The matter of the title will have to be allowed to simmer, of course. Offhand I rather like HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES, but of course you may think of something better. It does suggest that this is going to be another book about the Loyalists in America and that is something we want to a void.

Sincerely yours,



T. B. Costain

no answer

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia

TBC/meh

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., *Publishers*

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

*Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.*

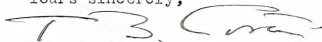
February 9, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

We had our last exchange of correspondence about the Nova Scotia book last fall when you reported something like 40,000 words of manuscript completed in its first, rough form and that you had decided to switch the leading feminine characters.

Without any thought of pressing you, I should like to know what progress you have been making with the book since then and would appreciate hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

Replied Feb 12. Saying I had 120,000 words written & hope to finish by mid-April.

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 49TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

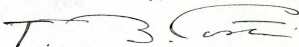
February 18, 1942.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

I am delighted to hear that you have made such progress with the novel. The preparation of the final draft will not take a great deal of time, I presume. We would like to figure on fall publication and, from what you say, that should be quite possible now. It would mean, of course, that we would have to have the complete manuscript by the end of June, or very soon thereafter. Does that seem practicable?

I wonder if you would like to send down such of the first draft as you have finished now. I know that an author hesitates to show unfinished copy but I am an old hand at this and can read a manuscript with that thought in mind. I would like to read it in advance in order to get a general idea of the story, and it seems to me that we might save some time if you felt free to do this. Any suggestions I might have to make could be made sooner and I can see advantages in an opportunity of doing this before you get to work on your final draft.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

*Mailed him Chapters 1-22 and
Feb. 22/42, together with map of wilderness
& plan of Fort Cumberland, both from
N.B. Historical Guide. Guaranteed
to have final M/S in his hands
by June 40*

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.

Publishers

14 WEST 49TH STREET-ROCKEFELLER CENTER-NEW YORK, N. Y.

Ans'd. March 21/42

March 2, 1942.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

It was good of you to send on the manuscript. I dropped everything when it reached my desk and read the chapters through. I am very enthusiastic about it and I am sure that you are going to emerge with an important novel.

without

I have a few suggestions to make, but please don't let any of them keep you from going right ahead with the book as now planned. If you felt disposed to act on any of them you could do it after completing your first draft. It has been my experience that it does not pay to drop a story when it is running along full tide in order to go back. I think you are getting a little too much of the historical background into it. I can see that, after the complete research you have made, there is a temptation to use the material that you have secured but there are places when you give too much of it with the result that the story does not continue to advance. When you come to the rewriting I would strongly advise that you shorten the sections dealing with happenings of the day; fewer names, fewer details. I am sure you will be able to maintain a steady picture of the things that went on ~~through~~ giving it all as meticulously as you do here. For instance, that long dispatch in the second book could be high-lighted.

In the first book I think there ought to be more of Fear Bingay. By the way, she is extremely good. You are going to have a lively, flesh and blood heroine and what a great advantage that always is in a story of this kind! She makes one appearance only in the first book. It would be fine if you could manage another meeting between the two, possibly early in the evening on that occasion when the two brothers are caught by the press gang. If that isn't possible she should be kept in the reader's mind in various ways. She would, at any rate, be in Davy's thoughts. He would get news of her. He should, for instance, know when she goes to boarding school in Halifax. Why couldn't he see her to say good-bye then? I am sure you could manage to keep the girl in the story without very much rewriting.

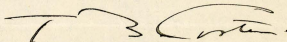
What happens to Luke after he escapes from his ship and returns home? The readers will be very much interested in him and I think he should not be dropped out of the story immediately.

I was rather at a loss to follow your meaning with reference to the birth of Joanna's child. Mark's behavior on the night of his marriage to her suggests that he is not the father. Do you intend to imply that it was either Luke or John? There is some additional motivation needed in here, or perhaps you haven't felt that you had the space to tell what is back of it. It is an interesting part of the story and, I think, is worth more attention than you have given it.

From Chapter XII on you have concentrated on Davy almost exclusively. I found myself wondering what had happened to Mark and Luke and Joanna. Isn't there some way you can keep them in the story? It might only be by means of letters or word-of-mouth messages. It seems to me important not to let any of the threads drop out of the pattern for too long a time.

These suggestions are not criticisms. You are doing a swell job. The characters are all natural and between them they enable you to put a great deal of variety and color on the broad canvas you have taken. Finally, I am delighted that you expect to have it finished by the end of June. That means a fall book; and I hope a very successful fall book.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

P. S. I return the manuscript by first class mail, registered. When you are ready to prepare the final setting copy, please have it done in double-space typing. I am retaining the two maps as we may need them a little later on.

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., *Publishers*

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

*Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.*

*Sent
April 27th*

✓
April 16, 1942.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Right now we are working on preliminary promotion material for the fall books and need from you a few pages of the actual manuscript of HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES. This is to be set in type and used in the flat dummy which we make up for our salesmen to carry on the road.

Will you, therefore, select some colorful or dramatic episode in the story thus far completed, and send us the two or three pages involved? We'd like to have it as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Ethel M. Hulse

Ethel M. Hulse
Secretary to Mr. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., *Publishers*

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

*Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.*

April 29, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

Thanks for sending on the sample pages so promptly.

Sorry to interrupt you with another plea but we'd like some further title suggestions from you. HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES is not good enough. It sounds more than a little like a juvenile book title. See if you can evolve something better, and we'll try too.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., *Publishers*

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

*Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.*

*Ans'd
May 12*

May 6, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

We are beginning to make up our fall catalogue and we are planning to give considerable attention to your book. This is just a note to say that it will be necessary to have the copy on the date you promised, or very very soon thereafter.

May we have some title suggestions almost immediately?

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, Inc., Publishers

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

*Ans'd air mail
May 19/42*

May 13, 1942.

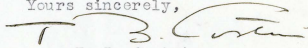
Dear Raddall:

There are several matters which we are now finding ourselves rather rushed to complete. One is the matter of the jacket. We have a very good artist selected and we would like to show a scene at the bottom of the jacket in which both Michael and Fear are shown. There is a good description of Fear in the material that we have here but nothing adequate about Michael. Would you be good enough to send us some details as to his appearance, the costume he would wear, etc.

In the matter of end papers, the best plan would be to show the old map of Nova Scotia which took in New Brunswick and part of Maine. We are having a very rough draft made of it, which we will send up to you. Would you then mark in what you think should be included? We would then get an artist to work on it.

About the title, we must have it settled almost immediately. Everyone is against "His Majesty's Yankees" as they feel that it would be a poor sales title in spite of its color and the fact that it is relevant. Get together half a dozen suggestions and let us have them within the next few days. The need for hurry there is that our salesmen's conference on the fall books comes week after next and we must be in a position to give them everything they need for their campaign.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office at above address.
ROOSEVELT CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Handwritten: Thank you very much
Doubleday

May 13, 1942.

~~1
2
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Dear Madam,
There are several matters which we are now finding out
before we can get things completely. One is the matter of
the jacket. It is a very good jacket selected and we
would like to show a scene at the bottom of the jacket in
which both Michael and Pearl are shown. There is a good
description of Pearl in the material that we have here but
nothing adequate about Michael. Would you be good enough
to send us some details as to his appearance, his costume
he would wear, etc.

In the matter of end papers, the best plan would be to show
the old map of Nova Scotia which took in New Brunswick and
part of Maine. We are having a very good map made for the
which we will send up to you. Would you then mark in what
you think should be included? We would then get an artist to
work on it.

About the title, we must have it settled almost immediately.
Everyone is against "The Harkness's Yankess" as they feel
that it would be a poor sales title in spite of its color
and the fact that it is relevant. Get together half a dozen
suggestions and let us have them within the next few days.
The need for hurry here is that our salesman's conference
on the Fall books comes week after next and we must be in
a position to give them everything they need for their
campaign.

Yours sincerely,

E. S. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Haddell,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

THC:R

1942

Dear Costain: I have your letter of May 13th. I have already sent you a list of title suggestions. With regard to the jacket, here are descriptions of Fear and David.

Year: nineteen, slim almost to thin-ness, long in the leg, but with the background of coming richness about the dress. A proud face relieved by the upward tilt of the nose, even the colour of new rider, and hair the colour of old. A small British Union in the corner would combine the cross of St. George and St. Andrew but would not include the cross of St. Patrick, as the union with Ireland had not then taken place. nineteen or twenty, tall, big in the bone. Eyes blue. Hair "as black and straight as an Indian's". A hawk nose.

I would suggest that Fear be shown sitting a horse in the "green riding habit whose full skirt fell like a green waterfall over the flank of her horse, but did not conceal a pair of expensive riding boots. Her jacket was cut in the tight-waisted military fashion, with large gold-braided frogs and silver buttons; and upon her hair sat a jaunty wide-brimmed hat with an enormous feather slanting back over her shoulder." She would be wearing a mannish stock about the throat, and a ruffled white jabot. The jacket has a large false pocket at the hip, ornamented with three silver buttons and gold-braided frogs. The cuff of the jacket is long, with three or four silver buttons. She would be wearing gloves.

David would be standing, looking up at her. His hair is unpowdered and tied in a simple queue with a small ribbon. He wears heavy shoes with pinchbeck buckles, white cotton stockings, plain black breeches buttoned below the knee with two or three buttons, a snuff-coloured waistcoat, and over it a plain blue coat unbuttoned for the sake of showing the waistcoat, the skirts of the coat falling away to a point just above and back of the knee. He wears a simple white stock and in his hand is a common blue thrice-cocked hat.

In other words, she is grande dame, while he is just a merchant's clerk dressed for the meeting-house on the Sabbath.

And why not, for the sake of the central theme of the story, show in the background the flag flown by the Nova Scotia rebels --- the usual American jack, with its thirteen red and white stripes, but with a small British union in the upper corner next the staff. This union in the corner would combine the cross of St. George and St. Andrew but would not include the cross of St. Patrick, as the union with Ireland had not then taken place.

Sincerely

Mr. T. B. Costain

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., *Publishers*

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.


May 22, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

Thanks for the material for the jacket which just reached me. We may not be able to get the horse in because it would bulk so largely that the whole suggestion of the cover would be romantic. This would not be advisable because we must in some way achieve a suggestion of scope. However, we are going to have Fear in riding costume, with the riding crop in her hand, and we are also going to try to introduce the flag if it can be fitted into the design.

I am sure you will be relieved to know that we have come around to your viewpoint on the matter of the title. It has some drawbacks but it has color and originality. So, HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES it is.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., *Publishers*

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

*Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.*

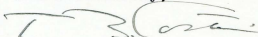
May 26, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

We are working out the jacket illustration on the basis of the descriptions you sent of Fear and Michael.

All right, since you prefer it that way, keep the manuscript intact until you can send it complete on June 15th. It shouldn't matter too much to us in our work now that we have your careful descriptions.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

*Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.*

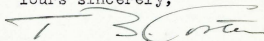
June 2, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

I enclose a rough tracing of the map of old Nova Scotia, or rather the section of it which our Art Department proposes to use for the end papers of HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES. This is sent you with the idea that you will indicate on it the various places and events mentioned in the story, that should be included. Our thought is to make it, to some extent, a decorative type of map.

Two photostats of the map are enclosed in case there are points beyond the lines of the tracing that you want covered. Please return both photostats along with the tracing, for our further work here.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

*Maps returned
June 9th.*

June 8th, 1942

Dear Costain,

Today I am sending you by insured mail the complete manuscript of "His Majesty's Yankees". I think you will like it. Dr. Martell of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia is most enthusiastic about it, calls it "undoubtedly the Canadian book of the year"; but that's flattery, of course. For myself I can say that this is a book I have wanted to write for years, and now that it is written I feel that the work is good. I have always believed that a romance with an historical background should be based on honest research, and this one is; the story of the Strangers is the story of the Yankees of Nova Scotia; at the same time I have not let the history and the tale get out of their proper proportions.

I attach one or two suggestions ~~from the~~ for the front pages of the book. I could give a long bibliography of source material but it seems to me that such a list is more likely to frighten than to interest the reader. The outstanding published studies on the subject are "The Neutral Yankees of Nova Scotia" by J.B. Brebner (Columbia University Press, 1937), and W.B. Kerr's "The Maritime Provinces of British North America and the American Revolution". Chiefly my sources were manuscript and state papers in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia; also the voluminous diary of Simeon Perkins and ~~some~~ other papers in the possession of the Queens County Historical Society. I have gone over nearly all the scenes in this book on the ground (all of the important ones) and of course I have lived many years in the town of Liverpool where the book has its roots.

Dr. Martell thinks I should write some kind of epilogue pointing out that many historical references in this book are exact: thus George Washington's warrant to the spy "Aaron Trusdell" is copied from the original document, so is Washington's letter concerning the proposed invasion of Nova Scotia; the indictment for high treason quoted in the courtroom scene is copied from actual indictments against the Nova Scotia rebels of '76 and '77 -- and so on. What do you think of this?

The map you sent is most unsuitable for this book. It belongs to a period much earlier than 1775, when many place names had been changed. Thus Liverpool is shown on the map as "Fort Senior or Rossignol", Yarmouth appears as "Forked Harbour", and Windsor as "Pisiquid". Cumberland is not marked at all. I shall have a sketch made showing the sort of thing we need, and will send it along in two or three days.

Some time ago George Blackwood (of Wm. Blackwood & Sons, Edinburgh) asked if his firm might have an option of the publishing rights of this book in Great Britain. I made no answer, not knowing your view in the matter and preferring in any case to talk about it when the book was finished. Blackwood is an old friend and I'd like to give him a chance to look it over if it does not interfere with my contract with Doubleday Doran.

You might add to the dossier in your files that I am now a lieutenant in the 2nd (reserve) Battalion, West Nova Scotia Regiment.

Sincerely,

Mr. T.B. Costain

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

June 16, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

I have just finished reading HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES and I want to congratulate you on having written an extremely fine novel. I think it measures up to the best of the historical novels written with an American setting, and that it fulfills the promise your shorter work has shown. It is particularly good in all the nature and woods stuff and I am sure that your research was thorough and discerning for I felt, in reading the story, that I was back in the period with your characters.

There are some changes that I think advisable and which would not take up too much time. They mustn't, in fact, because we are counting on getting the book into the earlier fall crop where it will have the best chance.

no

On page 243 where David meets Mark again after the long separation, there should be some little talk about home. After all, Mark has left a domestic situation there unsolved and he would have enough curiosity to ask some questions. I think it is important to fill in a little here because it gives you the chance to keep interest in the home life of the Strang family. David has been away for a long time and Liverpool has fallen into the background. Here is a good chance to bring that essential part of the story back into the readers' minds.

✓

Your story reaches its peak when David is tried for treason and Fear goes on the stand to save him. There is nothing that creates grim suspense like a man on trial for his life. I have covered many murder trials in my newspaper days and I can still recall the tenseness in the air. This is lost in David's trial because of the explanation that Francklin gives in the chapter before. The reader knows that David will not be convicted. I think it is of the utmost importance for him not to know of that until after the trial is over. Readers must be treated to the full suspense that the situation will then afford them. A smaller point occurs to me - the scheme hatched by Uniacke would not leave the choice of a

defense lawyer to chance. The young lawyer should stand up and announce himself as counsel for the defense. ✓

It seems to me also that you have overlooked one inevitable consequence of Fear's testimony - what her husband would do immediately after it. If he were in Halifax at the time, his honor would compel him to come gunning for David. If he is still at Cumberland, there would be no immediate danger but in that case there should be some talk of what will happen when he gets the word and comes back. Personally, I think you should have him in Halifax because then you create another very dramatic situation. David, of course, would be only too glad to meet him. You can't have a duel on account of the meeting of the two men later, but the imminence of it should be in the air and Davy's father and the rest of them should get him out of Halifax against his will in order to prevent violence. ✓

On page 396 you say nothing about what happened with Davy and Fear both in the boat. I know you wouldn't want to get them into any long conversation but there should be something of what happened - Davy's awareness of her, a look, perhaps one sentence of talk. ✓

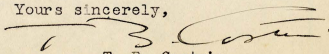
On page 409 you make him seem priggish for the first time. He would have something more to say to Fear than you put into his mouth. I know you don't want him to make any declaration because if he did it would take away from the full importance of the love scene which comes later; but to simply say "Good-bye" makes the reader impatient with him. I think you ought to look this scene over and see what can be done about it. ✓

Finally on page 431 I don't like the idea of the love scene following immediately after the fight. David has killed his brother and the only thing he would want to do at that stage would be to crawl off like a wounded animal. He could think of nothing else and it would be impossible for him to talk to anyone until he got hold of himself. The love scene should follow the next day or later that night.

None of these suggestions would involve you in any extensive rewriting except around the court scene and I want to reiterate my feeling that it is very important to make the most of the great opportunity you have there. This must be the high note of the story from the standpoint of drama.

Again expressing my admiration for the fineness of the book and my thanks for your faithfulness in meeting the date set, I am

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

T. B. Costain

P. S. I will hold the manuscript here as I feel sure you can work from your carbon copy on any changes you may see fit to make.

TBC:H

Dear Costain,

Thanks for your letter of June 16th. I have wired asking you to return the M/S, which embodies certain improvements I made after sending the carbon to Chambrun. Let me take your points one by one :

"On page 243 where David meets Mark again ... there should be some little talk about home." I can do this. But please remember that Mark is still mystified as to which of the brothers is the guilty seducer of Joanna, and while his suspicion largely falls on Luke and to a lesser extent on John, he would be diffident about opening up the subject even with David, who had preserved the same guilty silence as the others.

"The trial the reader knows that David will not be convicted". I cannot agree with you here. What Franklin ~~###~~ said before the trial was that he could open prison doors but he could not tamper with the courts. In other words, if David 's case came to trial nothing could save him. The prisoners were being held incommunicado in the Halifax gaol; the public did not know they were there. But once a case came to the courts the cat was out of the bag and Franklin's influence could not save the prisoner. I can make this clearer, perhaps, by having Franklin say definitely in the prison scene that if Uniacke failed to fall in with his proposition, then David must go to trial and the gallows.

Your point about the lawyer. It is customary in British courts when the prisoner has no counsel to appoint one from the barristers present. In modern practice the prisoner is permitted to choose his own counsel from those present by simply producing the sum of one guinea. The barrister so chosen must take the case, though he be the most ~~###~~ expensive lawyer in the land, and the guinea is his sole payment for his services. The ancient practice is a little vague; apparently counsel was appointed by the Judge. In my story the lawyer Threadbare is present and waiting for the appointment. ~~###~~ I have made it clear that there were no other people present in the court except the court officials and a few spectators "of the poorer class". All so something should be left to the reader's imagination. It is obvious that the appearance of Judge Morris, an old comrade in arms of David's father, on the bench instead of ~~###~~ Chief Justice Belcher, may have been arranged, if not by Franklin, by the Council itself. ~~###~~ The Council was not over-anxious to hang the Cumberland rebels, for fear of repercussions throughout the province. ~~###~~ They would not care a hoot about so poor a prisoner as David, but if they hanged one they must hang all -- and Uniacke had powerful friends in Halifax and in England. So ~~that~~ the reader can readily infer that Judge Morris deliberately chose Threadbare ~~because~~ Threadbare was standing in the court with David's father, and that Morris himself was anxious to see the prisoner acquitted. However I will ~~###~~ change the M/S to make Threadbare come forward and announce himself the prisoner's counsel.

"You have overlooked one inevitable consequence of Fear's ~~###~~ testimony ... what her husband would do." ~~###~~ I thought I had made it clear that Fear had left her husband at Cumberland -- deserted him in fact. ~~###~~ From the trial she went on to Aunt Shaddock at New York. Her husband could do nothing when the news reached him. In the first place as an officer and a gentleman he could not challenge so lowly a creature as David to a duel; that was absolutely against the code. In the second place he could not leave his post in Fort Cumberland while rebel forces remained on the St. John. In the third place David had disappeared into the blue; he was in fact ill to the point of death at the Jew's house, and as soon as he was able to be about, he slipped out of the ~~###~~ town. The reader should be able to see that Captain Helyer must have remained gnashing his teeth at Fort Cumberland, knowing nether the whereabouts of his wife nor David.

Also Helyer makes it clear in his conversation ^{afterwards} with David on the St. John that he went to the Yorkshire farmer at Cumberland and "sweated the truth out of him", and he ~~sees~~ believes that Fear had done this not so much to clear David as to hurt her husband. In other words, Helyer ~~had~~ satisfied himself that Fear's testimony in court was false, and he ~~goes on to~~ attest his faith in her virtue --- "a wife more honest never breathed."

"On page 396 you say nothing about what happened ^{with} David and Fear both in the boat. This is a good point. I shall remedy this with some conversation between them, or at least I shall make David aware of her presence in some way.

"On 409... to simply say Goodbye makes the reader impatient with David." I see your point here. The situation is difficult. As you point out, I can't have him declare his love at this ~~point~~ stage. ~~Of course~~ He believes that she is grieving over ~~his~~ her husband's death, that she is returning to her family. I'll see what I can do with it.

Choral "On page 431 ... I don't like the idea of a love scene immediately after... David has killed his brother." Nor do I, ~~but I have made it clear that David, hard-cased by suffering and war, is not the kind to creep off and weep afterwards. Mark refused to kill Luke; David obeyed his father without hesitation. He has in him the ruthlessness of the old man himself, and the whole theme of the book is David's metamorphosis from an indolent easy-going youth to a living and breathing image of his father. Of course he has pangs over the deed, and it is this very distress which breaks down his self-imposed silence and makes him demand Fear now. He must have her. In her arms he can find relief and forgetfulness, nowhere else.~~ ~~but I have made it clear that David, hard-cased by suffering and war, is not the kind to creep off and weep afterwards. Mark refused to kill Luke; David obeyed his father without hesitation. He has in him the ruthlessness of the old man himself, and the whole theme of the book is David's metamorphosis from an indolent easy-going youth to a living and breathing image of his father. Of course he has pangs over the deed, and it is this very distress which breaks down his self-imposed silence and makes him demand Fear now. He must have her. In her arms he can find relief and forgetfulness, nowhere else.~~ I could avoid this situation by having Mark kill Luke, since it is essential for the drama of the story that one brother kill the other on his father's order. What do you think? I still think David should be the one. Mark is too easy-going for such ruthlessness. *central*

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., Publishers

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

June 18, 1942.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

This is just to let you know that we have mailed to Mr. Howland of the Jacques Chambrun office today, the check for the balance of the advance due by contract on HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES on receipt of complete manuscript.

As you know, the amount called for is \$400. With the U. S. 15% withholding tax deducted this makes our check to Jacques Chambrun, \$340.

Yours sincerely,

Ethel M. Hulse

Ethel M. Hulse
Secretary to Mr. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool,
Nova Scotia.

*Wool Costain
July 2 asking him
to confirm this tax
rate, as Chambrun
deducts 27 1/2 %*

(copy)

June 18, 1942.

Dear Mr. Howland:

I enclose check for \$340 in payment of the advance of \$400 due by contract on receipt of the complete manuscript of HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES, the historical novel of Nova Scotia by Thomas H. Raddall, less the 15% U. S. withholding tax.

Yours sincerely,

Ethel M. Hulse
Secretary to Mr. Costain

Mr. Hewitt H. Howland,
Jacques Chambrun,
745 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., Publishers

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,

ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

*MSS changed
& forwarded
July 3/42*

June 23, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

I see your point in each case but I think you can accomplish what I wanted by less radical suggestions than I made in some cases. In each case a question arose in my mind as I was reading and I think the same question mark would come up in the minds of most people reading the story. The main thing is to find how best to satisfy the question mark.

Perhaps you can get around that point about the trial in the way you suggest. Whatever you do, however, make sure that the shadow of the gallows is going to hang over the next chapter. It should be in David's own mind that he is not going to have a chance. He should be reconciled to conviction and death. When the reader knows this, David's courage in wanting to prevent Fear from giving her evidence will be all the finer.

As I am a Canadian by birth I knew about the custom of selecting defense counsel. I overlooked your reference to the fact that no other lawyer was in the room. Perhaps the reference should be made a little more specific.

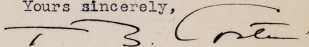
The fact that Fear's husband is at Fort Cumberland makes it impossible for him to be in Halifax, of course, at the time of the trial. Still, you are overlooking a chance for a further interesting point of the situation by passing over the possibility of a conflict between the two men. I think you ought to put something in without a doubt. When I came to that part of the manuscript I was wondering what was going to happen and I was very much disappointed when nothing did happen. I think you should, at any rate, have some talk between David's father and the lawyer, or some other character, in which they would express anxiety about what was going to happen and the necessity of getting David away before the husband could appear on the scene. Shouldn't there be some discussion also as to what is going to happen to Fear herself? Now that we are on

the subject I must confess I did not like having the old man brush her aside that way. After all, she has saved David's life and that entitles her to some consideration from him. A thought has occurred to me as I dictate that the discussion about the husband might take place between the father and Fear. Why shouldn't he go to see her in a stern and disapproving mood but nevertheless feeling compelled to do so? In the talk between them the question of the husband's attitude could come out. Fear might know that he is on his way to Halifax and warn the father that David must be taken away at once. That wouldn't take very long to do and it would fill a gap which I felt and which most readers would feel also, I think.

It is quite clear, of course, that David cannot make love to Fear during the scene on page 409. The reader should feel, however, that David himself isn't going to let the girl drift out of his life. That is what I objected to, I think, the weakness of his attitude.

In connection with the last scene don't you think you could overcome what I felt there by having a few words exchanged between David and his father? I am sure that it must be David who kills Luke. Mark, as you say, is too easy going, while David is a chip off the old block. A few words between them as man to man equally responsible for the killing of Luke would undoubtedly remove the suggestion almost of callousness which you can't help feeling when David goes right into his love scene. Again, that would take not more than half a page to put over.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., *Publishers*

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

*Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.*

July 6, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

As Miss Hulse wrote you, our check for \$340 was sent to the Chambrun office on June 18th. This was in payment of the \$400 balance of the advance on HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES due on receipt of complete ms., less the U. S. withholding tax at the current rate of 15%. A copy of the letter is enclosed.

There seems to be a queer little mix-up on the part of the Chambrun office, which I hope you'll have no difficulty in straightening out.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Full-Rate Message	
Day Letter	D L
Night Message	N M
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a full-rate message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

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THOMAS H RADALL

LIVERPOOL NS

REVISED MANUSCRIPT RECEIVED CHANGES FINE

THOMAS B COSTAON

817PM

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., *Publishers*

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

*Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.*

August 19, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

We are sending you today by parcel post, special handling the galley proofs and proofs of front matter, together with the setting manuscript of HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES. I'm sorry to say they have come through a little late, so I hope you can give them immediate attention and get them back to us within a week, after receiving them. Please make sure to return the manuscript along with the proofs, as we need it for further work here.

I haven't read the story through again in galley form but I have dipped into it here and there and am more impressed than ever with the strength and beauty of the writing which you have put into it.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., Publishers

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

*Answered air mail
Sep 14/42*

September 9, 1942.

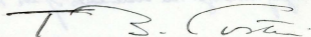
Dear Raddall:

We have just been discussing publicity plans for the book. We are going to do quite a little in advance of publication, including a full page in Publishers' Weekly, which is the trade paper of the American booksellers.

It was necessary to postpone HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES from October 9th to 23rd but that is perhaps just as well. You will be in ahead of the great rush of fall books which can be anticipated in November, at any rate.

I am enclosing a proof of the jacket which we here are quite enthusiastic about. It has a lot of carrying power and strength, I think.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

TBC:H

Dear Captain,

Thanks for your letter of the 9th enclosing
proof of the jacket for His Majesty's Jankees. I
like the jacket itself, but the printed matter on the
reverse contains errors which should be changed.

Strang's name is David not Michael.

David Strang had only one love affair, which occupies the whole
book

3) The matter concerning myself is in error in that it states
that I & my wife are "pictured in costumes of the period
of this novel"; ~~but~~ my wife's costume would pass
under this description, but mine is that of the Nova Scotia
militia, period 1870, a fact which many people would
be sure to recognise & point out. ~~It is~~ ~~not~~ ~~so~~ ~~palpable~~
an error would throw an unfortunate
reflection on the historical matter contained in the book
itself. ~~It is not so~~ ~~palpable~~ ~~an~~ ~~error~~ ~~would~~ ~~throw~~ ~~an~~ ~~unfortunate~~ ~~reflection~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~historical~~ ~~matter~~ ~~contained~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~book~~ ~~itself.~~

Why not use some other photograph, to avoid confusion in
this matter of costumes? And why not stress the fact
that I have lived practically all my life in Nova Scotia,
am Nova Scotian by education, marriage & everything else,
& perhaps mention that I am a lieutenant in the
2nd Batt. West Nova Scotia Regt - a regiment recruited,
largely amongst the descendants of the Nova Scotia Jankees.

T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Radbali,
Liverpool, N. S.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., *Publishers*

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

September 18, 1942.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

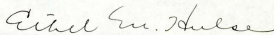
Your letter of the 14th came in during Mr. Costain's absence on a short vacation so, I want to report for him in connection with the errors you found in the jacket copy on the proof sent to you.

That proof was not the finished jacket. It is our practice, in making up what is known as a dummy jacket, simply to reproduce the catalogue copy on the back. I am sorry to say, the catalogue copy on the book ran just as you saw it there, with the two errors in fact concerning the book, and the inaccuracies in the little biographical sketch. The catalogue was prepared in June and, of course, there is nothing to be done about that at this stage.

However, that copy appears nowhere else where it can meet the public eye, and I am assured that it will not appear on the jacket for the edition. At present it seems probable that there will be copy used on the back of the jacket to promote the sale of war bonds, and that no picture of you will appear there.

It is good to have the additional note consisting of Lord Tweedsmuir's statement from the foreword of your book of short stories, and copies have been made both for our sales department and for possible use by our advertising and publicity people.

Yours sincerely,


Ethel M. Hulse
Secretary to Mr. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., *Publishers*

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

September 22, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

As you know I was away when your note came in but Miss Hulse seems to have handled all the points you raised. The catalogue copy had to be written so far in advance that we had to act on suppositions rather than facts. Your original plan was to have two love affairs for your hero, Fear and the daughter of a U. E. Loyalist. That plan you dropped as the story developed, quite wisely, because it resulted in a single interest love story which is always sound; but I was under the impression that you intended to have the triangle when the copy was first prepared. We will, of course make use of the other photograph in publicity matters.

That is a very good idea you advance for making use of John Buchan's foreword. We will certainly follow it up. We are hoping also to get a quotation from Kenneth Roberts to use in advertising and publicity. A set of galley's has been sent to him and we expect he will read them and get in touch with us before the book is launched.

I am enclosing a rough proof of the first gun in the campaign, which takes the form of an ad in Publishers' Weekly, which, as you probably know, is the trade paper of the booksellers.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., *Publishers*

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Ans'd Oct 6

October 1, 1942.


Dear Raddall:

We have our sales force in this week for conference and Mr. McClelland of McClelland & Stewart, Ltd. of Toronto who is down here with quite a part of his force has the most encouraging reports about what he plans to do with HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES in Canada. They seem disposed to make a great effort with the book and I know that they are going to put every ounce of drive that they can into their sales campaign.

It is too early to make any predictions but every indication we have so far is favorable. There is an enormous rush of books this fall of course and that makes it hard to make any one title stand out, particularly when it is a first appearance, but in spite of the handicaps we are feeling very enthusiastic about HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES.

I have just been talking to Mr. McClelland and he made the suggestion that you might get some good material from the old Halifax Register. He says it goes way back to the time of Drake and there might readily be some names and items there that would suggest possibilities for future books. It seems to me quite probable that you have already examined the Register and know everything on it but I wanted to pass the word on to you. Mr. McClelland is a great admirer of your work personally and is anxious to see a succession of novels from your pen.

Yours sincerely,


T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

October 21, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

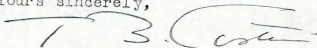
The printed copies of HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES are now available. I am quite pleased with the appearance of the book and it seems to have made the same impression on everyone here. The jacket has quite a little quality and has the desirable poster effect also. The end papers turned out quite well, I think.

Your six author's copies were sent on the 19th addressed to you in care of Jacques Chambrun, which is the usual procedure when an author has an agent.

Kenneth Roberts has sent us a quotation to be used in advertising and publicity which indicates that he liked the book very much. He wrote:

For several years I've followed Thomas Raddall's Nova Scotia stories in Scotland's Blackwood's Magazine with profound interest, and I'm certain that his new and first novel, His Majesty's Yankees, is only one of a series that will make him famous. He's a top-holer. Don't miss him.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, N. S.

TBC:H

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

*Ans'd
Air mail
Nov. 12*

November 2, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

Just to keep you advised as to how things are going, the book came out on Friday of last week. There haven't been any reviews in the New York papers yet, but I expect there will be in next Sunday's papers and I will send you copies.

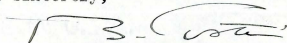
In the meanwhile, I am sending you with this proofs of the ads which are being used. We are giving it a good play and hoping that sales results will warrant us in keeping it up.

The final figures are not yet available on the advance sale but it will be somewhere around 4,000, including the 1,000 which Canada ordered. This, we think, is an admirable advance sale for a first novel in such a crowded year. At any rate, we feel quite satisfied and we are hoping that the reorders will come along briskly.

I have heard many people in the organization, who had not had a chance to read it before, say that they have now read the novel and they are most enthusiastic about it.

One of these days we must begin to talk about another novel, don't you think?

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., *Publishers*

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

*Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.*

November 13, 1942.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

One of our book store customers has requested an autographed copy of HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES, and the store has referred it to our Sales Department, who, in turn, has asked us to send you a copy of the book for this purpose. This sort of thing is always a bit of a bother, but we usually try to comply.

The copy is going to you under separate cover and I enclose addressed label and 24¢ postage for its return. So, I hope you won't mind too much. We do not know the name of the customer, so only an autograph is needed.

Yours sincerely,

Ethel M. Hulse

Ethel M. Hulse
Secretary to Mr. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

*Returned ~~to sender~~
autographed, Nov 18/42.*

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., *Publishers*

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

November 17, 1942.

Dear Raddall:

Thanks for your note. I am delighted that you are beginning to mull over the idea of another novel. HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES is getting a fine press and the opening phases of the sales campaign seem entirely favorable. The reorders ran over 500 copies the first week, which is a hopeful sign.

All of us here agree with Ken Roberts about the advisability of doing another costume story first. You might do just as good work if you turned to a modern theme but you would not make as much impression on the reading public that way. We are strongly convinced that it would be easier to identify yourself with readers if you continued in somewhat the same vein as the first novel. The modern novel could come later and there would be no danger then of any lack of identification in the minds of book buyers. You must be the judge, of course, but let me refer you to the final sentence in the review from the New York Times Book Review of last Sunday, which I am enclosing. That is the kind of comment that should be considered in shaping your future course.

We are having the twelve copies of HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES sent to you at your author's discount of 50% as you request.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY INC.
Publishers

14 WEST 49TH STREET ROCKEFELLER CENTER - NEW YORK, N. Y.

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3000

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ads in U.S. Papers
Re: Majesty's Junkies

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall
Liverpool
Nova Scotia



~~2. MR. COSTAIN~~

Oct. 29—21935—Schwab & Beatty AA—Times—4 Proofs

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"74th Colony" in the War of '76*

Bristling with human conflict and passionate adventure, this is the stirring Revolutionary War story of Nova Scotia . . . of freedom-loving young David Strang battling press gangs on the Halifax docks, spilling Redcoat blood in the savage assault on Fort Cumberland, and courting the beautiful Fear Bingay who willingly destroyed her reputation to save his life. KENNETH ROBERTS says "One of a series that will make Raddall famous. Don't miss him." At your booksellers. \$2.75

**HIS
MAJESTY'S
YANKEES**

by Thomas H. Raddall
DOUBLEDAY, DORAN



Changes involving engravings for the next day's issue should be telephoned to the Advertising Production Department before 1 p. m. in order to facilitate making necessary changes for the first edition. Your cooperation in this will be appreciated.

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THE HOUR BEFORE THE DAWN by *W. Somerset Maugham*. His first full-length novel in three years. \$2.50

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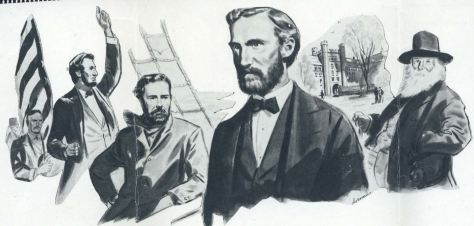
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Doubleday, Doran GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Atlantic Monthly
Dec 1942



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HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES
by Thomas H. Raddall



Doubleday, Doran

*My Times B. R
Nov. 8, 1944*

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HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES is full of passionate adventure and human conflict, but it's packed, too, with unforgettable vignettes of colonial life—moose-hunting with the wild Micmac Indians, candle making and rum drinking and bundling—red-blooded fiction that will thrill every reader.

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HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES

from
subscribers
weekly
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Sept 19

Pam North had an Aunt who was

(YOUR CUSTOMER'S FAVORITE AMATEUR SLEUTH) (ON HER MOTHER'S SIDE)

built like a snowman  **sported a**


(BEFORE PRIORITIES) (275 LBS. WITHOUT HER MAKE-UP)

yellow wig  **had buried four**

(14 K)

(6 FT. UNDER)

(4)

 **husbands, and thought**

(1. DINWOODIE 2. EUSTACE 3. ANSLEY 4. HOLMES)

somebody wanted to bury her! The

(SUPERMAN, PERCHANCE?)

(IT WOULD TAKE 3 STRONG MEN 7 DAYS)

result was murder  **, but not of**

(RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BREAKFAST ROOM)

Old Boiler Plate.

(PAM'S AUNT FLORA)

The new Mr. & Mrs. North mystery

(THE NORTHS HAVE APPEARED IN THE NEW YORKER, ON THE STAGE, IN THE MOVIES, AND IN 4 BOOKS)

"HANGED FOR A SHEEP"

(PEACHY TITLE, HUH?)

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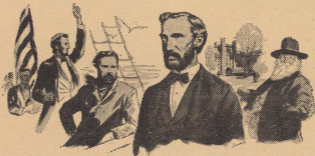
(OF THE MISSOURI LOCKRIDGES)

is the cats! 

(WE HAD TO GET THAT IN BECAUSE THERE ARE
TWO CATS ON THE JACKET)

J. B. LIPPINCOTT
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A SHEEP**
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Whitman.. **GIBBS..**

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Doubleday, Doran



GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

November 24, 1942.

Answer attached

Dear Raddall:

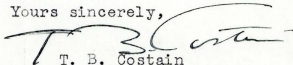
First about sales. We have printed 9,000 copies and we are working up toward the 6,000 mark in sales, 2,000 of this being in the Canadian market. The fact that we have had to go into a third edition so quickly is very promising and, as you know, the reviews have been uniformly very good.

This raises the point in our minds as to whether it wouldn't be wise for you to consider starting in on another novel without losing too much time on short stories. Certainly it would be advantageous for you to have a novel published next year. Unless an author has developed a big following it is difficult to do much for him if he appears at only long intervals. I would like you to think over your financial situation and let us know what kind of a proposition you would want in order to make it possible for you to start at once, or very soon, on a second novel. The proper basis would be to think in terms of a monthly payment to be considered as an advance against the new book, or against general account.

Another question: Would you want us to discuss the details of this with your agent in New York first?

The order for twelve copies of HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES contained in your last letter was put through immediately. However, on the following day our Billing Department called to say that they were able to send only two copies to you at a time. This is necessary in order to comply with the postal order which allows mailing only 4 lb. 6 oz. to one person in Canada per week. You will, therefore, eventually receive the entire twelve books, but they will come to you week by week in small packages.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

Liverpool, N. S.
Nov. 30/42

Dear Costain,

Thanks for yours of the 24th. H.M.Y. has certainly made gratifying progress in its first month. And all the signs are good. McClelland & Stewart's man, Foster, ~~declares~~ predicts a best-seller rating by Christmas. I attended an autograph party staged by him in Halifax, and was interviewed over the radio, and so on; the Nova Scotia newspapers have been giving the book a great play. I'm getting "fan mail" from all over Canada and the U.S.A.

All this is fine, but as you will readily understand, the income from a moderately successful book is not calculated to make the author rich. In other words I can't give up entirely the writing of short stories, especially when people like the Post and Collier's are asking for my work in that line. The Post (according to my agent Chambrun) are asking for a modern novel from my pen, suitable for serial ~~publication~~ publication. All this leads me to doubt whether I can turn out a decent historical novel (which must involve research) by next summer. Frankly, I'm puzzled about my proper course. I have in mind a novel, a sort of "tale of two cities", the story of Halifax and Louisburg, which were built as military projects at huge expense as part of the struggle between France and England for the mastery of North America. The rivalry between the two fortresses ended, as you know, with the conquest of Louisburg and a systematic destruction of all its buildings and works. Triumphant Halifax even carried off much of the stone from the ruins to put up fine houses for its merchants and officials. The story would follow the rising curve of rivalry, with a climax of course in the siege by Wolfe and Amherst and the erasing of Louisburg from the map. And I have in mind (besides your own advice) the advice of Ken Roberts to the effect that a series of good historical novels was a better investment in the long run than the quick and fat returns of the short story market.

To drop everything and concentrate on an historical novel, I should require at a minimum \$200.00 a month until the job is done, and a proper job would take not less than a year.

With regard to my agent. I let him take a commission on "His Majesty's Yankees" because I had promised to let him see a novel if I should ever write one. Actually, as you know, the negotiations were direct. In the matter of a second novel I feel that nothing is to be gained by discussion with him. He has already told me (in urging a modern novel) that an historical novel is next to impossible to sell to magazines. What is your opinion? I want to do the square thing.

This letter will probably strike you as rather muddled, but I'm setting down my thoughts as they occur to me. I have one obligation which I must discharge before settling down to write a book. Maclean's Magazine has asked me if I'd fly to Labrador and do some articles on the developments up there, provided they can get transportation and the censor's permission. I've said Yes. If the deal goes through I shall be away two weeks or a month, depending on flying weather -- not at its best just now.

Sincerely,

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

December 22, 1942.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

We went into executive session today about the matter of our future relationship with you and I may tell you that everyone is most enthusiastic about HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES and the reception it has had; and the feeling is very strong that we should be able to persuade you to do another novel for us as soon as possible. Your idea of a novel based on the Halifax-Louisburg Feud is an extremely interesting one. We feel that it would be a logical successor to HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES and perhaps in some ways a still stronger book. Certainly it is a theme that would give you a chance to increase the hold that you have established with the first novel.

We are prepared to finance the writing of the novel to the extent of \$250 a month for a year, that is, \$3,000, and to start as soon as you are ready to start yourself. You, of course, must be the judge about how you can arrange your affairs but, after twenty years in magazine publishing, I feel that I can say that there is very little future in short-story writing. You can advance your prices for each short-story but you are always starting over again in the sense that you have to develop a new plot for each story and the public will soon forget you if you do not keep appearing continuously in the big magazines. Novels, on the other hand, do build up an author's reputation quickly and permanently. A serial comes somewhere in between. It is not likely to be very successful in the book market, in fact it might hurt your standing in the trade if it sold less than your more serious novels would do. All in all I feel that in advising you to do another novel as soon as you can we are not only on solid ground but that it is advice that I would give even if I had no publishing interest.

Undoubtedly you have made your trip to Labrador by this time. It must have been interesting. Did you know that I was editor of Maclean's Magazine a long time ago.

Yours sincerely,



T. B. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

TBC:H

see back

Dec. 28/42

Dear Costain,

Thanks for your interesting remembrance of Xmas. Leacock is always good, whether the year be light or sober, & who is better qualified to talk about Montreal?

Thanks also for your letter of the 22nd regarding the future relations between your firm & myself. Your proposition to finance ~~the writing~~ the writing of the next novel with cheques for \$250 monthly for 12 months is entirely satisfactory. It is understood that royalties on "His Majesty's Yankees" will be paid in the usual manner independent of the above arrangement (that of course after deducting the \$500 advanced against H.M.Y.)

Then with regard to the contract for the forthcoming novel, I feel that clause 5 of the old contract is unjust - "on all copies of the work sold in the Dominion of Canada one half the foregoing percentages of royalty shall be paid". I realize that you have to pay an import tax in Canada, but that the Canadian price is higher, and it seems to me the Canadian sales have been in sufficient volume to show ~~that~~ a decent profit. Why not the same royalty on Canadian as on U.S. sales?

One ~~other~~ ^{more} thing * I've decided that Chamberlain ~~had~~ ^{will} not be handling this book, therefore clause 32 ~~of the old contract~~ should be changed for the new novel. All payments should be made direct to me.

I've not made my Labrador trip yet. Maclean's advise that the matter is held up, probably until spring, pending some sort of ~~arrangement~~ ^{in the ownership}. I didn't know you were former editor of Maclean's; ~~though I have for many years~~ I would like a useful prelude to the book business.

P.S. What are the sales of H.M.Y. so far?

DOUBLEDAY, DORAN AND COMPANY, INC., Publishers

GARDEN CITY, N. Y.

Please address reply to New York Office: 14 WEST 49TH ST.,
ROCKEFELLER CENTER, NEW YORK, N. Y.

December 31, 1942.

Dear Mr. Raddall:

Will you kindly let me know if you would care to have the setting manuscript of your novel, HIS MAJESTY'S YANKEES, returned to you? It has now served its purpose so far as we are concerned and if you do not care to have it back, we will destroy it.

As we are cramped for space to hold these manuscripts, I should appreciate an early reply.

Yours sincerely,

Ethel M. Hulse
Ethel M. Hulse
Secretary to Mr. Costain

Mr. Thomas H. Raddall,
Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

*Write
Yes.
Jan. 6/43*