

# INFORMATION SHEET



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## Waiting in the Wings Letters of a Pilot in World War II

The Second World War left no corner of Europe unaffected, and was to touch lives in every country. Young British librarian Len Manwaring was no exception; answering his country's call to arms, he would soon discover a life turned upside down when he enlisted in the Royal Air Force and saw a tour of duty which involved time serving in North America and South Africa as well as closer to home in a United Kingdom that was fighting the constant threat of invasion. Yet just as difficult for Len was the prospect of leaving behind Joan, the girl he loved, with whom he would correspond throughout the entirety of the war.

Now, in this special anthology of letters, airgraphs and other authentic materials from the time, Gaye Manwaring presents the remarkable story of her parents' extraordinary romance, set against the backdrop of an era-defining global conflict. Illustrated with many photographs from the 1940s, *Waiting in the Wings* is the story of how true love can endure in the most challenging of circumstances - even a war which saw Len and Joan separated not just by their duties in the armed services, but by the distance which lay between whole continents.

Presented with social and personal commentary from the author throughout, *Waiting in the Wings* is a unique account of a love affair that stood the trials of war and the test of time; a timely reminder that light can shine in even the darkest days.

### Author Biography

Dr Gaye Manwaring has recently retired from the University of Dundee where she was a Senior Lecturer in Education. She worked in higher education for fifty years and was awarded the MBE. Her academic interests were educational technology, curriculum development, evaluation, distance learning, mentoring and wellbeing. She is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (now Advance HE) and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. She has published 29 chapters and articles, acted as consultant on 6 other publications, created 18 educational packages, as well as numerous learning units and online modules as part of her normal teaching responsibilities.

She took an honours degree in zoology at the University of Exeter followed by a PhD in biochemical genetics at the University of Edinburgh. She had a joint appointment in Zoology and Education at the University of Glasgow, designing self-study audio-visual learning materials for students. Twenty-five instructional packages on biology were published by Longmans.

Gaye has worked extensively with international students and her academic career has taken her to Canada, USA, Poland, Eire, The Netherlands, Croatia, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia and Eritrea. She ran staff development courses for lecturers at the Universiti Sains in Penang in Malaysia, and took leave of absence to work for six months at Murdoch University in Australia. She taught for many years on the Teaching Qualification for Further Education Lecturers and on Dundee's courses for new university teachers.

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