



## Tolkien's *Fæder his suna* letters to his son, Christopher.

### Sent during World War II

I was asked recently by a friend if I could put together a basic table to log Tolkien's *Fæder his suna* (FS) letters to his son Christopher. During Christopher's time away training in the Royal Air Force, he and his father exchanged many letters, and due to the constraints of war time, letters were limited in size and often how many words could be used. Tolkien devised a system to number all of his letters to Christopher so that he and Christopher could reference them without taking up valaubale room, and most importantly, so that Christopher could keep them in a sensible order. During this time, remarkable as it seems, Tolkien sent to Christopher many bundles which included his then in progress work on *The Lord of the Rings*. Christopher sent letters using a mix of numbers and letters, to which we know very few details about currently, and I have not attempted to log them in this document, although brief mentions of a small number of them are noted.

What follows is a simple table showing each FS letter with date and whether they are published in the new 2023 ediiton of *The Letters of J. R. R. Tolkien*. I have chosen to exclude references to the original volume as some of these letters are newly published and the original book does not reflect the true number of letters found under this numbering system. Some letter, namely still unpublished examples, are dated using a best guess, and in one case, Tolkien makes explicit mention of a FS letter date (FS 10), other *circa* dates, in fact most, are derived from Wayne Hammond and Christina Scull's *The J. R. R. Tolkien Companion and Guide: Part One – Chronology*. If a FS letter has no date, or any details at all, that letter is therefore unknown to us at the *Guide to Tolkien's Letters* and I have not guessed at the date even though I could give a genral dating between known letters. Not all of the letters here are reflected in the Guide currently, but in time they will hopefully be added and this table will be updated accordingly. It is shared publicly for those who might find it a useful reference tool for research, or for general readers who might want a handy table to see exactly where the letters are found. The letters which are noted here can be seen via the links provided and all of them are tagged accordingly and can be searched using the tag [Fæder his suna \(Father to Son. FS\)](#).

Fæder his suna (Father to Son. FS) No.	Date	Letter #	Page no. (Letters, 2023)	Notes
-	8 January 1944	54	see p. 95	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/88">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/88</a> This letter is not an FS letter but note that Tolkien says "So endeth Fæder lár his suna" and ten days later he begins his FS letters. It is the first instance we know of where Tolkien used Faeder/Fæder to Christopher but of course there could very likely be earlier instances.
FS 1	18 January 1944	55	96-97	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/89">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/89</a> In <i>Chronology</i> , Wayne Hammond and Christina Scull note that "Tolkien writes to Christopher, the first of at least eighty letters he will send to his son overseas in the next thirteen months, each letter and each page numbered..."
FS 2	25 January 1944	55a	97	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1392">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1392</a>
FS 3				
FS 4				
FS 5	Almost certainly February 1944	-	-	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1523">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1523</a> Mentioned in FS 15 - "...now I know you have got my 'fotobriefs' as far as FS 5."
FS 6	1 March 1944	56	98-99	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/90">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/90</a>
FS 7				
FS 8				
FS 9				
FS 10	24 March 1944	-	-	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1521">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1521</a> Mentioned in FS 11
FS 11	27 March 1944	56a	99-100	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1393">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1393</a>
FS 12	30 March 1944	57	100	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/91">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/91</a>
FS 13	3 April 1944	58	100-02	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/92">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/92</a>
FS 14	5 April 1944	59	103	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/93">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/93</a>
FS 15	8 April 1944	59a	103-04	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1033">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1033</a>

FS 16*	13 April 1944	60	104-05	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/94">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/94</a> *wrongly numbered as FS 15 by Tolkien.
FS 17	18 April 1944	61	105-07	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/95">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/95</a>
FS 18	23 April 1944	62	107-08	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/96">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/96</a>
FS 19	24 April 1944	63	108-09	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/97">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/97</a> continued 26 April 1944.
FS 20	30 April 1944	64	110-12	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/98">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/98</a>
FS 21	4 May 1944	65	112	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/99">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/99</a>
FS 22	6 May 1944	66	112-5	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/100">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/100</a> Tolkien mentions airletters "(Z)" and "(Y)" having arrived from Christopher.
FS 23	11 May 1944	67	115	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/101">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/101</a>
FS 24	12 May 1944	68	115	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/102">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/102</a>
FS 25	14 May 1944	69	116-7	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/103">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/103</a>
FS 26	21 May 1944	70	117-8	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/104">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/104</a>
FS 27	25 May 1944	71	118-9	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/142">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/142</a>
FS 28	31 May 1944	72	119-20	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/143">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/143</a>
FS 29	6 June 1944	-	-	Mentioned in FS 30 - "I last wrote on D. Day June 6."
FS 30	10 June 1944	73	120-2	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/144">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/144</a> continued 11 June 1944.
FS 31				
FS 32				
FS 33	27 June 1944	73a	122	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1395">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1395</a>
FS 34				
FS 35	7 July 1944	74a	124	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1396">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1396</a>
FS 36	7 July 1944	75	124-6	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/146">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/146</a> continued 9 July 1944.
FS 37				
FS 38				
FS 39	28 July 1944	76	126	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/165">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/165</a>

FS 40	?29 or 30 July 1944	-	-	<i>Chronology</i> , entry for 29 or 30 July 1944.
FS 41	31 July 1944	77	127-8	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/166">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/166</a> Tolkien says that Christopher's "long airletter (no. 24 of July 11) arrived this morning..." Continued on 1 August 1944.
FS 42	?8 August 1944	-	-	
FS 43	12 August 1944	78	129-30	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/167">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/167</a>
FS 44	?13 – 21 August 1944	-	-	
FS 45	22 August 1944	79	130-1	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/168">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/168</a>
FS 46	3 September 1944	80	131	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/169">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/169</a>
FS 47	?4 September 1944	-	-	From FS 54, "...holding up of our letters by uncertainty between 6 Sept when my 47, acknowledged, left and 15 Sept when my 48 (written on 10 Sept) and my 49 went off."
FS 48	10 September 1944	-	-	From FS 54, "...holding up of our letters by uncertainty between 6 Sept when my 47, acknowledged, left and 15 Sept when my 48 (written on 10 Sept) and my 49 went off."
FS 49	c. 11-15 September 1944	-	-	From FS 54, "...holding up of our letters by uncertainty between 6 Sept when my 47, acknowledged, left and 15 Sept when my 48 (written on 10 Sept) and my 49 went off."
FS 50	?22 September 1944	-	-	
FS 51	23-5 September 1944	81	132-4	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/170">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/170</a>
FS 52	30 September 1944	82	135	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/171">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/171</a>
FS 53	c. 30 September - 6 October 1944	-	-	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1524">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1524</a> From FS 54, "Just as I was off to post with my FS 53, your 52, 55, 56 arrived. On Wed..."
FS 54	6 October 1944	83	135-7	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/172">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/172</a>
FS 55	12 October 1944	84	137-8	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/173">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/173</a>
FS 56	16 October 1944	85	138	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/174">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/174</a>
FS 57	23 October 1944	86	138	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/175">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/175</a>

FS 58	28 October 1944	88	139	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/177">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/177</a>
FS 59	1 November 1944	88a	140	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1399">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1399</a>
FS 60	7-8 November 1944	89	140-4	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/178">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/178</a>
FS 61	?9 November 1944	-	-	
FS 62	13 November 1944	89a	145	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1400">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1400</a> Tolkien mentions FS 60
FS 63	?23 November 1944	-	-	
FS 64	24 November 1944	90	145-6	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/179">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/179</a>
FS 65	29 November 1944	91a	148	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1401">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1401</a> Note that on this day, Tolkien also sent letter #91 which included a "a small consignment of 'The Ring'"
FS 66	4 December 1944	91b	148-9	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1402">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1402</a>
FS 66 [sic] 67	10 December 1944	91c	149	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1403">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1403</a> FS 67
FS 68	18 December 1944	92	149-50	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/217">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/217</a>
FS 69	19-23 December 1944	-	-	
FS 70	24 December 1944	93	150-2	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/218">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/218</a>
FS 71	28 December 1944	94	152-3	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/219">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/219</a>
FS 72	?29 December 1944	-	-	
FS 73	7 January 1945	94a	153-5	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1404">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1404</a>
FS 74	9 January 1945	94b	155	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1405">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1405</a>
FS 75	15 January 1945	94c	155-6	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1406">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1406</a>
FS 76	18 January 1945	95	156	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/220">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/220</a>
FS 77	? c. 19 -29 January 1945	-	-	
FS 78	30 January 1945	96	156-61	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/221">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/221</a> continued 31 January 1945.
FS 79	? c. 1-10 January 1945	-	-	
FS 80	11 February 1945	97	161	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/222">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/222</a>
FS 81	17 February 1945	97a	161-2	<a href="https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1407">https://www.tolkienguide.com/guide/letters/1407</a>

Christopher notes in the *War of the Ring* that he "returned to England in 1945" and "the constant correspondence between us naturally ceased," and with that, the FS letters came to an end.

Works cited:

*The Letters of J. R. R. Tolkien: Revised and Expanded*, edited by Humphrey Carpenter with the assistance of Christopher Tolkien. HarperCollins, 2023

*The J. R. R. Tolkien Companion and Guide: Part One – Chronology*, Wayne G. Hammond, Christina Scull. HarperCollins, 2017 revised and updated.

*The War of the Ring*, edited by Christopher Tolkien. George Allen & Unwin, 1990.