

DIARY: 1970

JULY

[Trip to U.K.]

29 Wednesday

Left HK on schedule. Good flight to Bangkok. On the section to Tehran managed to get some sleep. The Sunday caught up with us before arriving at London, which we did exactly to schedule. Walked through the 'Green nothing-to-declare' door. Waited for TWA a 7/- [bus] trip into Kensington; other buses went to Victoria. Caught an asthma 'bug' which lasted all day. From TWA [terminus], a short walk brought me to the YHA [Holland Park, I think] where I checked in for one night – fee 8/6, breakfast 3/6, sheet hire 2/-. Had only 10 minutes before the 10 am lockout. Left for the 'city'. Walked to and through Hyde Park in very warm, fine weather; people (of many races especially Negroes) too were sunbathing Then across the road to Buckingham Palace. Missed the changing of the guard which is at 11.30 am. Down the Mall and Pall Mall to Trafalgar Square where I bought a peach and watched life there for about 15 minutes. I wondered why the pigeons avoided Nelson! Then for a rest in Church of St Martin's and odd down Whitehall to Number 10, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey which I thought was too crowded inside with tombs, etc. (and tourists!). My legs and chest were aching by this stage. Across Lambeth bridge to a hospital looking for Thiers. Intended heading for Lincoln's Inn but couldn't make it. After a rest, I took a train from Charring Cross on the Circle line (1/6) to Hight St, Kensington. It was crowded and with one stop to go I was very hot and felt sick – doubtless due to my 'chest' and my biological clock. Was very tired walking back to the hostel. Had two pints of milk (1/- each) for tea. After a warm bath, paid my bill and tried to check-in for another night. Went to bed early and slept surprisingly well.

31 Friday

Woke up early with the Sunday and got up at about 7.30. Managed to check in for another night. Had a good cooked breakfast (3/6) – cornflakes, two eggs, toast, milk. Took a train (after completing the book proofs) to Hyde Park corner (1/6) and walked along Park Lane through Mayfair to H.E.B. Ltd. Keith Sanbrook was busy so I walked down Piccadilly (eating a peach), called in at St James' church then to the circus; much smaller than I'd expected. Set off down Regent St and walked into Philip Kwong and his wife (HK 'Y' dancing class). Then back to HEB from where we went and had lunch. After this, returned and spoke to Alan Hill, the director. At lunch, was offered a job with HEB in Nigeria. From Green Park to Holburn (1/- Piccadilly line) where I went to Lincoln's Inn Fields in a fruitless search for Thiers. Then to the Embankment via the Courts and The Temple. Finally to St Paul's where I paid my 4/- and went up the the Whispering Gallery and other galleries. Quite a good view from the top.

Took a train back from St Paul's to Holland Park station (2/-). Had dinner – sausage, bacon and beans for 3/6 but couldn't get through it all. Washed shirt and socks in the laundry.

AUGUST

1 Saturday

Checked in again for another night, did my foyer sweeping duty, bought a pint of milk (1/-) and took a train to Sloan Square from where I walked to Victoria Station and BOAC [British Overseas Airways Corporation, now just BA] office. From there to Buckingham Palace to watch the changing of the guard (along with about 10 000 others!). After resting at St James' park, I took a train to Tower Hill where I spent several hours in the Tower of London and on Tower Bridge. Walked around the City of London which was much deserted as it was a Saturday afternoon. To the famous Guildhall, past old Bailey to Smithfields which of course was completely empty. After resting in a park opposite (where two small dogs tried to eat me), I walked to Tottenham Court Rd [station] for a 2/- ride to Golders Green. A phone call and ride took me to Alan Hill's place for a dinner party. Patrick Gordon-Walker, several African writers were there. I was given a lift back, arriving here [at the hostel] at about 11.40 pm, soon after closing time.

2 Sunday

Slept in a little then after breakfast walked to Notting Hill station and took a train to Baker St. Spent the morning visiting Madam Tussauds (9/-) - amusing character in the chamber of horrors who was pretending to be a wax model [but would then suddenly move]. Walked to Regent's Park for a rest then down Portland Place past the BBC, down Oxford St to Marble Arch – very small. Saw the speakers at “Speakers' Corner” then crossed to the Cumberland Hotel where I met Evelyn Fedder and where they wouldn't cash a [traveller's] cheque! Went to meet Sylvia (Leon Comber's friend) and then went to the City of London to see a number of historical churches that are easy to miss when by oneself. St Bart-the-Great and the -less, St Giles in Cripplegate without, St Mary-le-Bow. Watched TV in the evening and talked at Evelyn's place in the evening. Took a No. 28 bus (1/-) from St John's to Notting Hill.

3 Monday

Checked out in the morning for my round-Britain tour. Made a lunch (3/-). Took a train to Victoria Bus station – didn't leave for Battle until 2 pm. Thence to train station – wrong one – had to go to Charring Cross. Left on the 11.40 am (17/6) for the 1½ trip. I was the only passenger for Battle. Talked to the P.O. man for a while then walked to the village centre followed by a guided tour round the battlements and abbey associated with William the Conqueror. I never tipped the guide – don't think it is necessary! Walked through the village buying a bottle of milk. Eventually an elderly lady took me to Dallington followed by a

British Railway chap who took me on his delivery run to the ????. Met the old lady (and her dog) again. Walked to Cross-in-hand where a P.O. chap picked me up and helped me to get to Blackboys Youth Hostel. It wasn't open so waited on the grass outside. Booked in and bought tinned fruit and milk for dinner. Write a letter to CYF then walked to the main road in order to post it.

4 Tuesday

Got up later than usual due to the country air. Had breakfast of tinned fruit and milk. For duty, burnt all the rubbish in the woods. Walked with Philip and his father to the corner (½ mile) and said goodbye. A bus wasn't due for about ½ hour so decided to hitch-hike. A truck driver (in his own car) took me through the rolling country to Lewes where, after walking the wrong way, took a bus to Brighton (2/3). This stopped near the central pier so had a look around before taking a slow bus to Arundel (4/3). Approaching this village one sees the impressive castle set next to a quaint Victorian village. Looked round the castle (4/-) for about an hour then hitch hiked to Portsmouth, taking only one hour. The first [ride] was with an aircraft salesman who averaged about 80 mph to Chichester. The second was with an ex-HK soldier. He showed me over Portsmouth's hills and Rochester Castle before taking me to the youth hostel. Checked in then walked to an intersection and took a bus (10d) into town. Had a grill (4/2) then walked to the esplanade, passing Sunday huts, visiting a model village and listening to a band. Then another bus back [to the hostel] I had a 6d shower and went to bed.

5 Wednesday

As my duty, washed an enormous pile of dishes! Set out for Southampton/Winchester at about 9.50 am. Got a ride all the way to Southampton where the driver took me into town for a cup of coffee and cake. Then we had a look through Bargate – part of the ancient wall – and the museum above it. Set off for Winchester next and a woman (coming back from the zoo) took me to out of Southampton where a truck driver took me on a side road off the motorway to Winchester. Walked down towards the town, bought some milk, then across the weir and Alfred the Great to the huge cathedral with its square Norman tower. Visited Winchester School where I watched some people taking brass rubbings. At this point it began to rain lightly. Visited the small museum with a Roman mosaic, King Arthur's (?) court where a case on on about a man accused of stealing a bicycle and some eggs. Called in at a Chinese restaurant but their lunch menu was off so started to walk towards Stockbridge. Got a ride through the village. A second ride with a school teacher and his daughter got me to Salisbury. However, the youth hostel was full so, together with many others, took a bus (2/6) to Cranborne. On arrival. booked in, had a 6/- steak and kidney pie, chips, tomato, chips then with an American, walked through the village church and accidentally through the grounds of

an aristocrat's place. Bought some milk powder in the pub, came back, tidied up and went to bed.

6 Thursday

Raining quite hard on waking up. Had breakfast (4/-) and did the dishes. Rain stopped. Took the 9.45 am bus back to Salisbury then walked to and looked over the cathedral. Walked through the village and hitched a ride (eventually) to Amesbury from where I walked the two miles to Stonehenge. Paid 2/- to look at the Neolithic stones. A ride in a truck took me to Longleat animal farm. The distance from the entrance to the house was three miles. Hitched a ride with a young Welsh couple. A ticket (7/6) on the 'Safari' van took us through the wildlife area – the animals seemed a trifle frustrated however. After leaving the mansion grounds, a 'lord' (bowler, umbrella, monocle, etc.) and his 'lady' took me a few miles nearer to Bristol and even shouted me to a cup of tea in a small restaurant (with a sign “Sorry. No gents toilet.”). Immediately after, the Welsh couple met me again and took me to Bath from where a Scotsman took me into Bristol and to his home for tea and sandwiches. A bus into town (1/10) and another to Westbury (1/5) followed by a short walk got me to Peter's place at about 8.30 pm. Had dinner and watched “Edward II” by Marlowe on TV.

7 Friday

Got up later than usual this morning. After breakfast, we went to town and had a look at the Cabot memorial tower – saw the hulk of the SS Gt. Britain in the near distance – the university and the museum. The afternoon was fine and hot so we sunbathed the whole time. In the evening, we intended to do to town but instead visited “The Black Swan” (or the “Mucky Duck”).

8 Saturday

Had a lousy wheezy night's sleep. In the morning, Peter and I travelled by train (5/- return) to Bath where we looked at the old Roman baths. We had lunch on the balcony of the “Pump room”. After buying a Venus fly trap and walking through the market, we returned to Bristol and watched TV.

9 Sunday

Peter and I went to the local Westbury Baptist church in the morning where Peter gave a talk on HK to some of the Sunday School. After lunch, the two of us went by car across the [river] Severn, past a trout lake to the ruins of Tintern Abbey (2/- entrance). Weather was fine and warm. Passed Fulton aerodrome on the way back then went along the Avon Gorge, which used to be a glacier, under the Clifton suspension bridge. Through a park then onto the toll

bridge (1/-). From there back to [his] home where we both had a hot 'mac-lemon; drink to 'clear our chests'. Watched TV in the evening.

10 Monday

Slept better during the night. Peter had to go for an interview at Patchbury School so I took a bus to town and a coach (10/-) to Oxford via Cheltenham (5½ hours). Had 'lunch' – pie and tomato – at Cheltenham during a stop. Arrived at Oxford at about 3.30 pm. Left my bags in Trinity College while looking around. Visited the Science History museum, the Sheldonian lecture theatre, the Radcliffe place and various colleges. Took a No. 8A bus to the youth hostel but it was full so was directed round to a church hall. Got a meal of fish fingers, peas, chips at a pub.

11 Tuesday

Slept OK during the night. Morning was fine and clear. Took a bus into Oxford, rested by the Radcliffe Camera, then spent ½ hour looking through the Science Museum. Walked 1 ~ 2 miles to the first roundabout, got a lift to the second then another lift in a left-hand drive car all the way to Stratford. Left my luggage in the Shakespeare Theatre then looked round. Church containing Shakespeare's remains, Anne Hathaway's cottage, Shakespeare's birthplace and Church St, etc. Took a bus intending to go to Leamington but got off and was able to book into the Stratford Y.H. Had a cold bath! Walked and jogged along the road a bit before going to bed. Some 'yanks' kept yapping until I told them to shut up. Good sleep.

12 Wednesday

Got the dishes done and set off. A one-armed man took me to Coventry Cathedral where I spent about an hour looking around. A No. 7 bus took me to the edge of town – on the way, yarned with the Indian bus conductor. A trucky picked me up and took me to the Stonebridge roundabout where another young driver took me to Lichfield where he turned into the M6 for Manchester. Intended to go to Shrewsbury but a bloke took me almost to Wrexham. On the way, we stopped for a cup of tea and sandwiches. Took a bus into Wrexham where I visited Jim Hill's friends, the Purslows. Phoned to Chester Y.H. then took a bus arriving at about 6.30 pm. Felt tired. Walked up the road, bought milk and chips having previously eaten the sandwiches Mrs Purslow made me.

13 Thursday

Had the dishes again as my chore. Set off walking down the road to Saltney where I cashed £10 – had to wait 1~2 minutes until 9.30 for the bank to open. Got a lift with a bloke to the Mold turn-off then another with a couple and their dog ("Kim") to St Asaph. Had to walk over an hour before I got the next lift from a fellow in a VW. He took me to Colwyn Bay

where I bought milk and fruit. While waiting for a lift, a kitten came to me and wouldn't leave. Got a lift to Bangor where we went across to Anglesey Island and back before proceeding to Caenarvon. Had a look (3/-) round the castle where Prince Charles was invested [as Prince of Wales] in July 1969. Had a meal at a Chinese restaurant then waited through fairly heavy rain for a 'white' bus to Snowden Ranger Y.H. Took one to their depot then ½ hour later in a mini-bus to the Y.H. It was full so continued in the bus to Beddgelert where I telephoned the Bryn Gwywant Y.H. then hitch-hiked to it. After a snack, I went for a walk along the lakeside.

14 Friday

After the usual preliminaries, set off at about 9.15 am. Had to walk several miles before being picked up and taken the rest of the way to Beddgelert. Walked a short way when a family took me to Portmadoc. Walked across a causeway parallel to the railway line (should have walked on the line) then eventually got a lift to Harlech Castle arriving at about noon. Had a 10/- dinner while there then set off for Llangollen getting two lifts before arriving Barmouth where a lifeboat had just been launched. A long walk for about 1½ hours when O got a lift to Dolgallen. Then an old man took me almost to Lke Bala. Another farmer took me into Llangollen. In the evening, I had a look around the village and visited the place where the annual international Eisteddfod is held.

15 Saturday

Left early (8 am) and walked to town. Caught a bus (5/3) to Chester – took 1¼ hours. Started to rain but didn't last. Walked around the Roman wall past a Roman garden to Eastgate, looked through the sandstone cathedral and along the Rows. Then, a chap took me around the outer ring road to the Birkenhead road. Couldn't get a ride so took a slow (very slow!) bus (3/7) to the Birkenhead ferry. A 6d ride took us across the Mersey to Liverpool. Walked up to the centre of town then to the Roman Catholic cathedral. A couple of rough-looking schoolboys took me to the Exchange station where I took a one hour train ride (9/-) to Bolton. Raining. Walked through the city precincts to the No 9 bys which for 1/- took me to Aunty Olive's [in Bury. Olive was the younger sister of my grandmother, Granddad's mother]. Watched TV in the evening then went to sleep in a double bed. [*Not mentioned in my diary but Aunty Olive informed me that Grandma had passed away just recently.*]

16 Sunday

Wet and stormy all day. Listened to the radio, read the paper and in the evening watched TV.

17 Monday

Became finer but still very cold. Didn't do much in the morning but in the afternoon walked down to Brightmet and saw the factory and the house (838 Bury Rd) where Grandma lived and worked. Was about to speak to the chap from 838 when a car pulled up and asked for directions. Watched TV in the evening.

18 Tuesday

Fine day again. Said goodbye to Aunty Olive and took a bus to town [?Bolton]. Then a coach to Carlisle (23/-). At Penrith, stopped for an hour or so and was able to look at the castle ruins and also the last minutes of the 8th test at the Oval between England and the Rest of the World [must have been on TV]. The latter team won though I missed seeing the winning run. On arrival at Carlisle I took a local bus to the Y.H. In the evening, I walked into town where I spoke to an elderly chap outside the North toll-gate. He took me to the castle, the "Irish" or West gate, west wall, Tithe barn, cathedral, Guildhall and the law court. Eventually found a fish and ship shop, ate the food and just managed to jump onto a bus going back to the hostel.

19 Wednesday

Got away fairly early (9 am) after breakfast and chores (cleaning wash basins) and took a bus to town. Met my old friend just as I was entering the Tullie Museum. We looked around that then visited Carlisle Castle. After getting a pass from the Officers' mess, we had a look around the Keep including the dungeons (no light, wet stone for liquid refreshment!) and the battlements. Following this we went to an Old-people's restaurant for a cup of coffee. Lastly, we walked to the bus station where I took a bus (18/3) to Edinburgh arriving at about 3 pm. A No 15 bus (6d) took me to the bed and breakfast place I'd been told about in Carlisle. I booked in then walked down to Edinburgh Castle and had a look round and a view over the city. After buying a ticket for tomorrow's military tattoo rehearsal (7/6, reduced from 10/-) I went round to and walked up the Scott memorial (287 steps for 6d). Along Princes St then back to the guest house after chicken and chips. Started to rain in the evening.

20 Thursday

Overcast, miserable morning. In the afternoon, it started to rain. Walked down town and called in first of all on Mr Barr and had a long talk on the Scottish Science Syllabuses. Then I walked down to SSSERC and had a session with Mr Medine looking at the apparatus designed for use by [science] teachers. Had lunch in a Chinese restaurant then walked in the rain to HMI buildings. Mt Ritchie wasn't in nor was he at home so I came back to the guest house and had a rest before ringing up Messrs Ritchie and Jardine. Arranged to see the latter tomorrow. Put on two pullovers then walked down to Edinburgh Castle to attend the military tattoo. Very cloudy with occasional drizzle. Cold! Groups from Canada and Brunei [taking part in the tattoo].

21 Friday

Cold and damp with low cloud in the morning. After breakfast, I walked round to George Watson's school to see Jim Jardine. Got caught in a shower on the way. Had a yarn and a look round his laboratories. We then went to his place, situated between the two bridges and had lunch. Later, Jim took me to town where I went to Mr Ritchie's office to collect a lot of educational information. Came back to the hotel for a rest. Wrote a letter then went and bought fish and chips in the foggy evening. Had a bath on returning.

22 Saturday

Weather started off promising. Along with about 100 others, I cashed some [travellers'] cheques at the American Express office then walked round the northern part of the city for a while buying two (lousy) NZ apples on the way. Came back to the Chinese restaurant in Hanover St for lunch but as they had no menu, I went next door. Enquired next about trains/buses to Newcastle then walked up to Cotton Hill. Very low cloud everywhere. As I was walking towards Meadowbank Park, I followed a queue which apparently was heading to a soccer match. Returned to the athletic stadium where it started to rain. Called in at the Hollyrood House palace then walked back to the hotel soaked through. Had a bath and shampoo, paid my bill and packed up ready for [departure] tomorrow.

23 Sunday

Said my farewells at the hotel then walked in the drizzle to the bus station where I caught the 10.15 am bus to Newcastle. Called in at Berwick-on-Tweed; looked unsuccessfully for milk. Arrived in Newcastle at 3.30 pm. The bus was very slow but cheaper (21/-); the train is 38/- but takes only 2½ hours. Walked to the Venture bus station and caught a bus to Shotley Bridge. Bought some milk. Hitched with an American girl to Edmundbuyers Y.H. where I bought ham, potatoes, peas and pineapple for evening dinner. Cleaned up all the cookers etc. after my meal.

24 Monday

Didn't have breakfast at the hostel as I couldn't get any milk. Kissed the Liverpool girl goodbye (at her request!) and walked off into the morning mist. An elderly chap took me to the Consett-Durham turn-off where I bought milk and tongue sandwiches for breakfast. The same chap picked me up again and took me into Consett where I cashed two cheques. A workman then an off-duty policeman took me to Durham where I walked up the hill to the university cum-castle and cathedral. After looking at the latter, I got a lift with a professional grocer to Darlington. Then a three-wheeler ride along the A1 then to Thirsk followed by a meat vendor's van to the lovely city of York. Looked around the Minister then walked to the

old market place, the Shambles (lane which used to be for butchers), Clifford Tower and the castle. Took a No 9 bus (6d) to the hostel and cooked myself a dinner. After that, I walked to town for a free walking tour with a guide. Places of interest: Roman wall, gate, sewage moat and wall, early Saxon church, Monk gate, Shambles, whip-ma-whop-ma gate. old mediaeval narrow street, castle gate (where Dick Turpin is buried), Clifford Tower (suicide of Jews in the time of Richard III) and museum.

25 Tuesday

Dishes again as my chore! Walked into town and out the other side. Got a lift to the A1 with a British Railway chap who gave me a supply of biscuits. A trucky took me a few miles down the A1, then followed a long wait and another truck ride to the Doncaster turn-off. A ride along the motorway then another to Sherwood forest, which I didn't realise was there. Then another driver took me to Nottingham and to his place for lunch. Two hours later, I took a bus to town and another to the railway station (3 pm). As the trains didn't leave for another 1½ hours, I hitch-hiked to Grantham in two rides, the second with two teacher trainees. In the evening, I walked round the village with an Australian chap.

26 Wednesday

No duties. This was left for those who had slept in. This hostel does not provide breakfast. Set out early for Cambridge getting the first lift to RAF Cranwell turn-off followed by an air force van to within five miles of Cambridge. An old small French car completed the trip by about 10.30 am and then broke down. Walked to the Y.H. and deposited my luggage then walked back to town. With a do-it-yourself guide, I walked around the city taking 3½ hours instead of the supposed 1½ hours. Was feeling rather tired when I walked back to the Y.H. and waited for it to open. Walked back into town in the evening for a look round, especially the small side streets. Bought some food from a supermarket. Talked most of the evening on returning to three Australian girls.

27 Thursday

Breakfast, which lacked in quality, was at 8.30 am. After duties (emptying rubbish tins – three minutes), took the 0947 train (3/5) for the 20-minute ride to Ely. Walked to the cathedral for a look round, then started to hitch for Bury St Edmund's. Got the first lift in a truck as far as Newmarket and after walking along a road and past racehorses being trained, was picked up by another driver and taken to Bury St Edmund's. Looked through St Mary's and the old abbey grounds then set out for Colchester at 2 pm. A man and his son took me a little way then in a Rover TC to Sudbury followed by a salesman to Colchester. After stopping for a cup of tea, we went to the Y.H. where I left my luggage and visited the Castle

museum. After checking in, and cooking my own dinner, I did another self-conducted tour around the town, visiting places of importance. Arrived back quite tired.

28 Friday

Last day out of London. Washed up after the six of us had had breakfast. Walked to the A12 but it was about 30 minutes before I got a lift, the first being with an engineer to Chelmsford. A couple of minutes later another lift took me to Ilford where a tube from Gaunts (?) Hill to Goode St (4/-) got me to the University of London. After a run-around, I found the Department for Tropical Studies but Mr Wilson was away. Walked around to Heinemann's and spoke to Hamish for a couple of hours. Booked a seat for "The Winter's Tale" paid for by HEB. Took tubes to Y.H. and booked in. Didn't do much in the evening.

29 Saturday

Spent the day at Windsor visiting the castle and Eton College. The bus each way cost 5/7 (Green Line 704 or 705). Quite interesting passing London airport where a plane lands every 1½ minutes and similarly for taking off. A very enjoyable day. After dinner and duties washing pots and pans, I went to the Aldwych Theatre for Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale". Seated in the second row from the front. At half-time, a chap in the street said that is his day we could see these plays for 3d at the Old Vic. Took a train back to the Y.H. getting here at 11.29 pm, one minute before closing time!

30 Sunday

Had breakfast a little earlier than usual then took a train to Sloan Square (1/-) and Bus 137 to Central Hill (3/-). Got to Thiers and Barbara's quite early. Had coffee then went with Thiers to church. Small congregation. Several West Indians there. Had [midday] dinner then went to Hampton Court palace – disappointing – and the maze. Bought ice-creams for 2/- each!! Went to the banks of a canal for a picnic tea then to Heathrow where, for a while, we watched planes landing. Back to the hostel. Left my tie in Thiers' car, I think. Talked most of the evening.

[End of trip]

SEPTEMBER

14 Monday

Typhoon Georgia approached HK necessitating Signals 7 and 5. Schools were closed for the day. After noon, the weather cleared a little. Managed to get to Rugby practice.

15 Tuesday

Mid-autumn (evening) festival. Thousands packed the Peak for to glimpse the full moon which appeared occasionally through the clouds. Miss Poon announced wedding plans.

16 Wednesday

Official "moon-cake" holiday.

23 Wednesday

Today was the first of our English-speaking mornings at school. Got \$14.40 in 10c fines for the library. Returned Workbook 1 and Teacher's Guide 1 proofs to HEB. Had second Rugby trials in the evening.

24 Thursday

Turned out to be a very dramatic day. About 6.50 pm I was speaking to Jim Hill [probably in the corridor] when a high-pitched buzzer went off in the toilet. Three men ran down to investigate. On arrival, the said blokes were rushing back to Room 401 with the American from Room 412. I was grabbed and questioned but asked them to identify themselves. They were police. I was taken into Room 401 but refused to answer unless I was charged. The guy from 412 was being interrogated as to where he lived and what he had been doing that day. I was taken along to my room and got Jim Hill to tell the cops where I lived. Then they told us that a man was threatening to kill and that the 'thing' was about to go off. After writing an official report, they carried on with their investigations.

Later, Room 412 was sealed, the toilet finger-printed and the guy from 412 bundled into a car and taken away. At that time I was the only person in the YMCA who knew the details though most knew the place was bristling with cops.

As it turned out, he had sent a letter to BOAC's manager demanding US\$100 000 or else a plane would be blown up and the YMCA toilet [on my floor] was to be the place where the money was to be collected. The resident in Room 401 /loaned' his room to the cops and spent the night in a hotel suite for \$180 at their expense.

25 Friday

Afternoon tea farewell party for Bill and Joan Painter on the roof. Everybody curious about what had happened to me and what I knew [about the incident yesterday].

29 Tuesday

Went to the International Hotel for an evening get-together and Swatow dinner. The evening was the coldest for September in 35 years at 19.3°C.

30 Wednesday

Warm (not hot) dry day – very nice. The guy from Room 412 appeared in court today on charges of threatening to blow up two BOAC VC-10 aircraft.



OCTOBER

4 Sunday

Cross-harbour swim in the morning. Two minutes faster than last year taking 28 minutes. A European boy was drowned – the first in the history of the race – possibly due to [swallowing oil from] the thick layer of oil near the finish.

7 Wednesday

Had lunch with Leon Comber at the “Good Date” restaurant. Turned up for a game of Rugby in the evening but it had been cancelled because our navy opponents had to be on call due to No 3 typhoon signal being hoisted.

8 Thursday

Public holiday – Chuen Yuen festival.

10 Saturday

Double tenth – Nationalist Chinese [Taiwan] day. Played my first game of Rugby for the “Vandals” against RAF at Kaitak. We won 33-6.

12 Monday

Got my car back in the late evening.

14 Wednesday

Played against BMH at [HK Football] Club ground. Won 30+ - 6.

19 Monday

Played against HMS Lynx. Won 16-10. Not a game I want to remember. In the second half, I let my opposite number score. At half-time, we lead 13-0.

28 Wednesday

Lost to LRRC(?) - an army team. Damaged a tendon and ligament in my left foot after 10 minutes. Played on as a passenger for the rest of the game.

30 Friday

AGM of YMCA but didn't go to the meeting.

NOVEMBER

10 Tuesday

Dodgson [the guy who threatened to blow up the airliners] was acquitted of his blackmail charge! Quite surprising!

12 Thursday

Holiday for most schools – Sunday Yat Sen's birthday. Leon Comber married to Takako Kawai today. Reception in the evening in the Miramar Hotel.

13 Friday

Teachers had a beach BBQ in the early evening at the usual place near Tsuen Wan.

DECEMBER

1 Tuesday

Cocktail reception at the Miramar Hotel for Keith Sanbrook [from HEB in London]. After that, we went to the Foreign Correspondents Club for dinner.

2 Wednesday

Had “drinks” in the Peninsula Hotel early evening followed by a Chinese (Cantonese) dinner in the Orchid Garden restaurant. Senior and intermediate boys held their cross-country race today. First rain for several weeks.

3 Thursday

Girls and junior boys held their cross-country race.

4 Friday

Pope Paul visited HK for several hours in the afternoon. Drizzling for his appearance in the Government stadium. Four teachers and about 20 students attended [??from our school].

9 Wednesday

Had my first game of Rugby since injuring my foot. Played against HK Schoolboys winning



25(?) - 0 after having a lead of only 5-0 at half-time. I got two tries, the second after dodging several players. Injured my left shoulder.

14 Monday

Went to Rugby practice though didn't play a game due to injured shoulder which hurts really only when I sneeze!

17 Thursday

Whole day at Boundary St sports' ground for [school] heats. Lovely autumn day. [Staff] Had lunch at a restaurant on the corner of Nathan Rd and Prince Edward Road.

18 Friday

Afternoon for finals of athletic sports. Teachers came second in the race against old students, scouts and prefects.

23 Wednesday

Last day at school [for the term]. Had a service followed by a trampoline demonstration by the HK champion. After that there were class parties – I went to one and managed to tip soft drink over myself. School dance in the evening.

25 Friday

Worked in the morning. Run in the afternoon [probably along the foreshore around to Hunghom and back]. Evening dinner at Sherwood's with some chaps from HMS Intrepid.

27 Sunday

Went to Clearwater Bay with some girls to visit Form 5 boys who were camping. Had a swim – cool but enjoyable.