

## EXTRACTS OF LETTERS WRITTEN HOME BY ANTHONY RAU 1950-1955

Virtually the only contact during term time between the pupils and their parents was by mail. Visiting the school by parents was rarely permitted; telephone calls were forbidden and an illicit use of the telephone was known to have resulted in painful consequences! Almost all the letters written by pupils to their parents have long ago been discarded. A rare exception are the letters of Anthony Rau's, who joined the school in 1950. Anthony Rau has taken the trouble to go through all his letters written between 1950 and 1955 and extract the relevant details. Unlike recollections written many decades after the events, these letters are a particularly important source of information, since it is like a diary, and was written when the facts were fresh in his mind. Gratitude must be expressed to Anthony Rau for his hard work in preparing these extracts and for his consent for them to be reproduced in this DVD.

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**Square brackets [ ] contain clarifying, new/additional, remarks.**

*16 May 1950*

To-day the Headmaster's Club (called The Outdoor Club) went for a cycle ride to Beacon Hill which is in Hampshire. It is 10 miles there and back. Four boys climbed up - I was one. Beacon Hill is higher and steeper than Bore Hill.

*6 June 1950*

There is a French play and an English play called "The Little Man". I'm in the "The Little Man" and I'm the Dutch youth who has to eat and laugh all the time.

I have just attended a debate on whether Blood Sports should be abolished (sic). It was very good. Rabbi Rosen spoke for it and against were M. Rose and P. Cohen (2 fourth form boys).

*13 June 1950*

Yesterday there was house swimming. The houses are blue and white, I'm in Blue. The races are as follows under 14 free style... breast stroke..... back stroke.... free style..... relay

*16 June 1950*

There is a new scheme in the school now, the school is divided into two groups. 1) Ants, i.e. people who take languages and not science, 2) science, people who take science, and not languages.

..... a new master who came last week from Israel, he is called Mr Cherrychefski (sic) ..... before he went to Israel he was in Sydney..... he is a very nice man.

*28 September 1950*

The new matron is nice.

I'm in dorm 5 with on my left N.V.Israel, right I. Sperber, S.D.Rose, other side M.Toben, S.F.Landy (the Rabbi's son), Buckman, D.Refson. Underlined means new boys. The new Israeli boy who on the Train with me comes from Jerusalem. His name is Dov Weinberger.

*5 October 1950*

The Tuck Shop is quite good but quite expensive.

We have now been issued with special Kuppel; they are blue and very nice.

On 19th Nov there is a music recital (Youth Aliah). May I go. It's at the Albert Hall.

*29 October 1950*

Last Thursday we had 3 educational films. (1) Back to the Land, about South Africa showing all the different farms. Ones that have become towns. (2) Modern Heating. 18 houses all built the same but with different heating..... (3) The Garden of Eden a show boat trip up the Tigris to a small native town.

*1st November 1950*

.... the whole school was gated yesterday

*5 November 1950*

Kop has not spoken to me or S. Levy yet. Levy has written to his mother to see if it is O.K. [Momy came to stay for the short winter holidays as it was impractical for him to return to Gibraltar].

*7 December 1950*

on tues. even. we have 3 films. 1:- 'Great Expectations', 2:- 'The Tree of life', about the lives of the natives in Congo. 3:- a walt Disney, not very good.

Dr S. Gaon, the Chief Safridi (sic) Rabbi, in this country came to light the candles to-night. It was recorded, & the school sang Moa Tuzur, and 2 other songs.

*12 January 1951*

There are 2 new masters. Mr Ellman from the Hasmorean Grammar School to teach maths & Mr Warner (Warner Bros. nothing to do with them) who teaches English & Classics.

P.S. (Latest) Clothing rules will be very strict. You might have to buy me another grey suit.

*16 January 1951*

Only black shoes & grey suits may be worn. So I cannot wear my brown shoes.

*31 January 1951*

The school pullovers (official, made by Harrods) have arrived; they cost 35/6d, And it is COMPULSORY to have one.

*8 February 1951*

On tuesday I went to the Riley & M.G. car works at Abingdon-on-Thames, it is 20 miles north along the Oxford Road from Newbury. I enjoyed it very much. Next tuesday the Science S. is going to E.M.I. at Hayes Middx. I hope to go.

*14 February 1951*

Last night we had films, 'Scot of the Antarctic' and a cartoon.

Mr Stamler had his appendix removed very late on Sat. night. The operation was successful.

Mr Sheresfefskey has the 'flu again

*27 February 1951*

To-morrow (Wed) afternoon, I, and some other boys are going to Newbury Grammar School to see Gilbert & Sullivan's Opera "The Yeomen of the Guard".

*5 March 1951*

The Opera in Newbury G.S. is on the day before we come home, it will cost 3/-, and it's not "The Yeomen of the Guard", but the "Pirates of Penzance".

*15 March 1951*

Yesterday (wed) a party of 51 boys and 9 of the staff (inc wives) went to Newbury Grammar School to see "Pirates of Penzance", it was very good indeed.

Next Mon., Tues there will be films, on Wed next there will be a fancy dress show, I'm going as a J.N.F. blue box. There will be prizes.

*1 May 1951*

Viscount & Lady Samuel are coming down next Sunday (6 May).

*7 May 1951*

Mrs Rosen is expecting another child.

A naval jet fighter which was going from Bristol (to London) crash landed on the air strip no one was hurt. A Biplane landed to see what happened, I took a photo.

The Americans are not coming with their B-36's for 2 yrs., they do not want Croockham House, but this one (Greenham Lodge).

*11 May 1951*

Half-term is June 17th

*22 May 1951*

On Wednesday there is a party going to Stratford, to Shaxpear's (sic) Memorial Theater to see Richard II I'm not going.

*30 May 1951 (Wed)*

I came up to London to-day to the G.E.C. (Osram) at Wembley, and wasn't allowed to phone.

On Tuesday I went to the Reading Power Station, it was very good and so was Osram..... I saw the manufacture of Bulbs, I was given some samples.

There was a school photograph taken last week one of the Senior's and another of the Seniors and Juniors the[y] cost 5/- each [N.B. 5/- is five shillings, a quarter of £1].

*12 June 1951*

The school photos are having 'CARMEL COLLEGE - 1951' or something to that equivalent printed on the top, they'll cost between 7/- and 7/6 [seven shillings and seven and six pence] ..... the cost will go on the [school] bill. I expect you will have received a single portrait size photo of me

Rabbi Rosen will not be here on Sunday, because one boy has his barmitzvah & Kop is going.

*June 1951*

[... there was much mention of - school? - trips to Israel. Possibly with Sherry or David Stamler (but both seemed to have been dropped, and another, by air, by Mr Gertner, brother of Levi.)

*26 June 1951*

To-day I went to the British Railways (Western Region) Maintenance (sic) Depot, at Swindon, in Wiltshire. It was very good, I saw how Engines, Tenders, and rails are made. [the engines were of course steam-engines]

*1 July 1951*

On Shabbat we get up at 9.30am and have a piece of cake and a cup of tea and then go to shool, there is no breakfast.

*6 July 1951*

Rabbi Rosen has gone to Helsinki (Finland) to a meeting of Jewish Youth. [13 July: Rabbi Rosen has returned.....]

The term exam begins on Sunday 15 July for 1 week.

*10 July 1951*

On Sunday night there was no prep because a dozen boys made a terrific noise during supper, even when told not to speak. And after supper there was a free fight among (sic) the same boys and another dozen, they made such a noise that Mr Coles heard them in his cottage and he came to see what was the noise was, he called an assembly immediately after shool for the whole school. The punishment was to assemble in the dining room for 10 mins. in complete silence then to go down to the shool also in complete silence and wait there for 10 more mins. and then to return to the dining room. This was repeated 6 (SIX) times by everyone. We started at 8.15pm and finished at 10.30pm. We walked altogether 1752 yards!! I worked this out by pacing the distance to shool and multiplying by 12, once there and once back. I had nothing to do with any of the disturbance at all.....

Mr D. Stamler has gone to his home in Chesham, Bucks, because his father is not at all well and has a bad heart. Mr Stamler's father comes up to London every day I think on business, and it is very trying for him.

I might see Rev Epstein..... he's the man who will come to teach here next term.

*19 July 1951*

On Sunday last we had a concert..... it was a piano recital by Ruth Oldman, she's Mr Elman's niece, Mr Elman is the maths master.

*26 September 1951*

There is a new system of classes. (Class II, III) Class IV (my class) and V, VI are just nominal, because I can learn any subject, ordinary or advanced level. Every boy has a tutor master (mine

is Mr Coles), who decides with the boy if he should do the subjects ordinary or advanced. I am doing all the subjects ordinary level. I now have to decide what I want to be.....

*30 September 1951 (Erev Rosh Ha'shanna)*

I am in a new dorm, with Levy, Joseph and 6 other boys. I was elected dorm monitor..... if there is a fire I have to see that all the windows are closed and the door. Also I have to take the dirty sheets up to the linnen (sic) room and collect clean ones (on clean sheet day).

On Tuesday night we had 3 films, "Tudor Rose", a Micky Mouse cartoon and "Hadassa", (an Israeli film on Israeli Red Cross. They were all quite good.

*3 October 1951*

On election day we are having a mock election, there are 3 parties. Conservative (candidate P.B.Cohen), Labour (cands. M.J.Rose & A.M.Sherman), Independent (sic) Liberal (cands. N.Feltz & I. Caller).

*18 October 1951*

The latest idea is that every boy, wherever he sits... collects his own food on a plate [in the dining room].

On Wednesday night a party of 12 members of the Science Society went to the "Newbury Weekly News" to see the editing and printing. I didn't go because as I live in London I will have the chance to go to "The Sun Graphic" during the hols..

Half-term is Nov 4th.

After having all those days off, for Yom Tov, we will not get a half-day, for about a fortnight, so I'm sending you my sweet coupons, because they expire before I'll get a chance to buy (use) them.

We have a new matron, she is tall, and nice, and comes from Australia, I've not yet spoken to her.

*24 October 1951*

Please could you have my name [put] down for one of the new Austin 7 cars. They cost £507/1/2 inc. tax.....

We had a wonderful Succoth & Simchat Torah was very nice & jolly, we had the Service in the hall. On Tuesday night after Yom Tov we had 3 films, an Israeli film in colour, not bad. A M.G.M. cartoon and "Mutiny on the Bounty", which was very good, the programme lasted 4.5 hours.

*29 October 1951*

In our Mock Election, arranged by the Union Society

Conservative 36 votes

Labour 34

Liberal 19

a cons. majority of 2, 1/10th less than the Real Election.

We had a Concert on Saturday Night [before supper]. I did not like it. The Concert was put on by the Carmel College Music Society. The 4 performers were Lilian Edwards (violin), Hazel Saunders (violin), Dorothy Groves (Soprano) and Mrs Stratton (Pianoforte). The programme was works by Purcell, Handel, Mozart, Puccini and Arne.

After supper we had a Union Society Lecture by Mr Warner..... he gave a running commentary on the (5 records, 10 sides) "The Sounds of Time". These records are HISTORY. They begin in 1934 & finish in 1948. You hear the voices of President Truman, President Roosevelt (sic), H.G.Wells, King George V. Hitler. Mosulini (sic) . Edward VIII. The BBC broadcast on Sunday morning Sept 3rd 1939. King Peter of Yugoslavia (sic) and the other Kings and Premiers of all other European countries. General De Gaul . Tommy Handley, Monty speaking to his private staff before the battle of El Alemein (sic). McArthur. A Belsen victim, meeting his mother after been released. V1's. V2's. W. Churchill. V.E.Day. V.J.Day. Ike Eisenhower. The ceremony in St Paul's Cathedral after President Roosevelt's death. Big Ben. Atlee. General Election '45. Goering and all the other trialed war victims during trial at Neuremburg (sic). Lord Hor Hor (sic). King George VI. Royal Family. Duke of Edinborough (sic). Archbishop of Cantabury (sic). Dr Weitzman, in May '48. Airlift to Berlin, for 319 days. And ends with all nations at the British Olympic Games, at London, in August 1948.....

*1 November 1951*

Rabbi Rosen has bought a Austin A40, black no.MLP722

*9 November 1951*

On Mon. night we had a film show consisting of 2 Israeli films & "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde". It was very good, not absolutely like the book.

On Monday morning Kop came round all the classes and collected all the money that parents (& rich uncles) had given their boys on Sunday. He collected the money because he made a rule that no money other than pocket money was to be received by boys during the term.

Kop wants the whole school here EVERY year (in future) for Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur & Succoth. What do you think about this idea?

On half-term some parents asked if their boys could go home in future for half-term.....

Next Tuesday.... people from the Oxford & Cambridge Examinations Board are coming to inspect BOTH masters and boys. This means we'll not have a half-day on tues, but probably thurs which is better because it is market day.

*12 November 1951*

Mr Sumner the Geometrical & Mechanical Drawing teacher will teach me for 3 years instead of 4, still covering the whole syllabus (sic). [He was sacked before the move to Wallingford]

We are now in quarantine for mumps. Only one boy has it.

(the following Sat night: There are now 15 boys with mumps here, and one at Crookham. And on Sunday morning: I am now in the sick bay ... so I have got the mumps after all. Too bad ... At any rate we get better food here and I will have to miss the exams, but I don't want to).

*21 November 1951*

On Sunday afternoon Mr Coles was giving an extra chemistry lesson to Lower 6th. there was some boiling potassium chromate, which was bubbling furiously..... and it splatted into his right eye. His eye was seen to by Mr Avesgouch who was teaching biology next door. Mr Coles wore an eye shield for 2 days.

Rabbi Rosen has gone to a Nursing home for 10-14 days, he said that he wanted to rest (?)..... when he went out he was limping a little as though he did not want to be seen.

The food here is deteriorating.

My term exams begin on Wed. 5th dec and finish on Mon.10th Dec.

*6 December 1951*

..... there are now 32 boys ill, nobody's quite sure because if you start counting by the time you've finished another boy has reported ill.

Miss Aeriens, the cook, has just come in [... to see those ill]

*16 January 1952*

We will have films once a fortnight, not once a week.

Mr Stamler is housemaster. He also teaches hebrew.

*21 January 1952*

I have joined the chess club. It has a subscription of 1/6d per term or 2/6d per year, so I have will pay 2/6d for the year.

*8 February 1952*

[in a comment about a Daily Telegraph article] Mr H. Todd (the piano master) said to me that he thought it a was a stupid idea.

What do think of the King dying? It was announced to the school by Rabbi Rosen on Wednesday morning at 11.30am. To-day at 10.30 there was an assembly in the hall, we heard over the radio the Proclimation (sic) of Queen Elizabeth the Second.

*Wed. 13 February 1952*

On Sunday the whole of Vth form is going to see a performance of St Joan (G.B.Shaw's play) at Christ Church Studio Theatre, 156A Albany Street, N.W.1. The seats costs 4/-

*Fri. 22 February 1952*

The performance of St Joan was very good..... the theatre seats about 55 people, there were 35 seats booked by the school. The coach left after the performance, at 10.45pm and arrived back at school at 1.45am.

*15 March 1952*

I went to the Esso Oil Refineries at Fawley on 4th March. It was very interesting and good. I saw one of the "Queens", she had 3 funnels.

Rabbi Rosen is going to travel 28,000 miles starting on sunday, he will go to Israel, Karachi, Australia, N.Zealand & America, he is going for Mizrachi. (I think).

Mr Homan a master at Crookham, died last tuesday evening, he was in a coma.

Did you have a nice Purim? We did. The Megilote (sic) was read in 40 mins. Mr Gilbert and Mr A.M.Magulies came down with their wives, Robin G[ilbert] also came. We had a nice meal. And then there was fancy dress, I didn't dress up. There were some good dresses, "King Farouk", a "chain gang" and "the girls King Arhaorevtoush (sic) rejected".

*Sun.23 March 1952*

Rabbi Rosen has not yet gone on his trip, he will be going during the holidays and he will return 2 or 3 weeks after the begining (sic) of next term.

[warning from Rabbi Rosen - new clothes restrictions next term]

*2 May 1952*

Epstein takes me for physics now. Mr Roberts takes Latin.

*[received] 11 May 1952*

On Friday afternoon the water pipe burst between us and Pidgeon Farm, so we had no water (hot or cold). On Saturday afternoon the water board people began to look for the leak, to begin with they couldn't find the pipe, (there are no plans of pipes in the grounds and they were laid 80-100 years ago). At about 7.30pm, to-night they found the leak or at least one leak so now we have a few drops of water each.

It was officially announced by Mr Coles, this morning that the whole school will be sent home for half term. From Thursday 29th May to Tuesday 3rd June. Why? Because this is the longest term and the school cannot get any domestic staff on Whitsun Weekend.

*21 May 1952*

Lots of trees in the grounds are being cut down, because the school is short of money. There is a rumour(sic) that the school will get £10,000 for the trees.

Kopul Rosen is not back yet and everyone is extremely (sic) pleased.

*26 May 1952*

There is a rumour that the school will buy a building that is near Reading and Basingstoke, it has 5,200 acres and a tennis court also, it is enormous.

*[postmarked] 3 July 1952*

There is a rumour that the school might move to the new place (if we buy it) during the winter hols, Some people from the Air Ministry (I think) came round the building and grounds (here) checking the condition of it.

..... Murray Roston came at the beginning (sic) of the week. He is a very nice chap.

The airfield has had quite a lot of improvements done to it. On the side nearer Newtown, they have built a railway and tunnels connecting some underground work-shops. On the other side, nearer here, there is about a half-dozen underground petrol filling stations. I estimate that each holds about 60,000 gallons.

Some people were here the other day from Calcutta (India). Rabbi Rosen met them there. Rabbi R. hopes that they will present us with a Safer Torah, in a silver case, as they use in India.

*9 July 1952*

Mr & Lady Justice Karminski came down two weeks ago; I expect you saw it in the J.C on page 5 and on page 6..... Levi Gertner was here yesterday.

The building the school wants to buy is called Branshill House and was owned by Lord Brocket; there was an article about it in the Daily Telegraph on Tuesday (centre page).

*Sun 13 July 1952*

Mr Coles is in hospital, no-one is quite sure what is the matter but i believe he is having an operation on his leg. He has told me that about 18 years ago he had an accident and his leg was injured, I don't know if there is a connection. He is expected back before speech & sports day.

*17 July 1952*

There is a man (working) here now, his name is Mr Auerbach, he comes from Berlin and was a Chasen (Reader in shool/shule) somewhere in Germany before the war.

*22 July 1952*

Mr Coles is up again, his leg (left) is better, but he still has to rest alot.

*22 September 1952*

There are 7 or 8 new boys. 3 from Glasgow, 1 from Norway and Samson [who a cousin had met in Wengen, Switzerland that summer], 2 coming from Belgium and one from Paris.

I saw the Brabazon flying over here the other day.

The new road round the airfield is nearly finished, it is quite good.

[ED: the Brabazon was the largest piston engined airplane. The 'airfield' was known as Greenham Common and housed American bombers and missiles; later it was where the "CND" had their protest camp]

*1 October 1952*

Mr Stamler has left. He now goes to Oxford. He and Robin Gilbert and David Pearl (sic) (and his sister) came down for Yom Kippur. On Kol Nidre we began at 7.15pm and finished at 8.45pm. On Yom Kippur we had the Morning Service from 10-12.30 and Mussaf from 2-3.45pm and Mincha, Nila and Maarive from 5pm to the end of the fast. The meal they gave wasn't bad. First we had a snack of cakes and then a half-hour later we had a proper meal of meat and sausage.

John Cobb's accident has proved one thing, it will be a long time until we have a jet flying boat. (This is my own statement).

*10 October 1952*

Last tuesday..... there was an interesting lecture at 7pm (supper was at 6pm) by Squadron Leader Tungstol about careers in the R.A.F..... he was shot down over Leipzeg (sic) during the last war and was a prisoner for 5 years.

The whole school ate in the Succah for the first three days, but it grew so cold and windy, that Kop told everyone to eat inside. There are also lots of wasps which are a nuisance.

The new place near Salsbury is called "Norman Court" and it used to belong to the Singers (Sewing Machines) and we will buy it if the Ministry of Town & Country Planning don't object to a school being on that site.

*16 October 1952*

On Simchas Torah we were given some beer, it was absolutely foul, even the masters who are drinkers thought it was shocking.

[There is a school party to] Stratford-n-Avon, the home of S-peare to see Macbeth at the Memorial Theatre.

*22 October 1952*

On our way back from Stratford the coach went to Broadway for Tea-supper at the invitation of Prof. & Mrs Goitein [parents of Michael]. We arrived back at school at 9.15pm.

Last tuesday evening I went with 15 boys and Murray Roston to see "The Merry Wives of Windsor" acted by the Salsbury Players ..... at the Corn Exchange, Newbury.

*25 October 1952*

On Friday night the school was robbed of some money (supposed to be our pocket money, I say, therefore about £15), the office was ramshacked (sic) the police were called in.

Mr Roberson (Alias John Connel of the Evening News) came and lectured on Journalism, he is related (I believe) to Mrs J.C.Gilbert. He spoke very well for 45 minutes.

..... Mr Avescough, the biology master, gave an opinion on a boy's broken bone (having fallen down some stairs).....

We do not get enough FRESH fruit and vegetables, could you [my parents] complain to Kop next Sunday [half term]?

*6 November 1952*

What do you think of Eisenhower being elected President?

There is a new hebrew library here, it is called "The Daniel Rosenblum Library" and consists of books on Jewish Subjects. He (D.Rosenblum) gave £50 worth of these books to Carmel College.

*19 November 1952*

We now have a P.T. master. He is very good, I have not yet discovered his name. P.T. is now a compulsory subject.

There are two rumours (sic) going round at present. One that the whole school will be going to the Weizman Memorial next tuesday at the Albert Hall and the other that there will be an outing to the British Oxygen Co. in their main London works (in Wembley).

Apparently the airfield is costing the British Government £4.5m complete. The Americans have it on loan for 5 years. Two Yanks have been killed.

*2 December 1952*

The NEW QUEEN ELIZABETH II STAMPS will be issued on Friday 5 November.

Exams begin next week (Monday - Friday).

*16 January 1953*

I gave the yod [pointer] (the one that I made) to Rabbi Rosen, he said that it was very good except that the finger was too short, he explained to me why, he also hinted that I should make another one with a longer finger.

*29 January 1953*

There will be a party coming to see Paul Scofield's performance of "Richard II", it is at the Lyric in Hammersmith. Mr Warner was unable to buy seats cheaper than 12/6d [for the matinee].

*? February 1953*

On thursday Miriam Moses came down to the school, just to have a look. She did not stay more than 2 hours.

*27 February 1953*

The daffodils are almost out here, the croci are. Rabbi Rosen is not here this weekend.

*5 March 1953*

Yesterday there was a football match against The Hasmonian, we won, the score was 5 - 2.

*18 March 1953*

Yesterday, tuesday, Lt. Comander (sic) Buckley RN came down and talked for about 45 minutes on our Fleet, then showed 2 short films on the [Royal] Navy, one was about submarines and the other about aircraft carriers. It was all very interesting.

*8 May 1953*

The food is better this term and there is still the quantity. The chef left and Miss Halberstadt is in charge of the kitchen.

On Wednesday the Chief Rabbi of Holland came down with a few visitors, before going over to Crookham.

Next term will begin on October 4th or 5th, after the move to Wallingford.

*14 May 1953*

A party of boys went to the Cantelli concert at the Albert Hall on Monday night..... it was in memory of Weizman.

*18 May 1953*

Kop. Rosen is in London this week-end for the wedding of Mrs Rosen's Brother to Miss Samson.

*22 May 1953*

Chazen Mendel, from Johannesburg, S.A. and a Mr Rubin from Israel were our guests for Yom Tov, the Chazen has a wonderful voice. The cheese cake we had was simply awful, it had no flavour whatsoever.

Last Friday a boy went into the sick-bay, he had a rash and a temperature. On Shabbat the doctor came and said that he has measles, he (the doc) also put the school in quarantine.

*26 May 1953*

Yesterday there was a school outing to see Antony & Cleopatra at Stratford-on-Avon.  
[plans were being made for the Coronation break].

*18 June 1953*

To-day a photo of the whole (senior & junior) school was taken, but this time it was taken in front of the building, not on the playing field as it was last time.

[in a P.S.] How much should I contribute to the Coronation Forest? The School wants to have a grove to its name.

*25 June 1953*

Philip Chody teaches extra maths.

*2 July 1953*

I have contributed 1/6d to the Coronation Forest and 1/-d to The Kindergardens in Israel, K.R. asked us to give a sum every term to the latter, and for the school to adopt one of the Kindergardens.

*8 July 1953*

On Sunday ... there was a cricket match against Norwood Jewish Orphanage, we won by 20 runs.

*17 July 1953*

Mr Schlesinger teaches French.

The airfield is almost complete. On Monday morning two Hastings aircraft of the R.A.F. Transport Command landed here. They unloaded and took off again. I watched them from the roof.

This place is invested (sic) with flies, mosquitoes and other flying insects, most of which suck your blood or bite you, it is most disturbing and itching.

*23 July 1953*

.... on Tisha B'Av one of the boilers caught fire, so, one or two other boys and me fought the fire (the flames were over 12 foot high) with acid-soda extinguishers, for about 15 minutes, then the Brigade arrived. We had the fire under control.

K. Rosen is going to speak at the Jewish Conference in Geneva at the beginning (sic) of next month. Jackie Epstein is also going to Switzerland (Montreaux).

**from Carmel College, Mongewell Park, Wallingford, Berks.**

*23 October 1953*

Last Friday night K.R. announced who were to be the new prefects and sub-prefects as all but one sub-prefect had left. Five prefects and five sub-prefects.

Last night Mr Cox (Art Master) and I went to Oxford to see the Japanese Film "Rashomon" (X-cert), it was very good.

*6 November 1953*

A dozen workmen here went on strike to-day because they have not been paid (by C.C.) for about a month, they are mostly electricians.....

*26 November 1953*

Last night there was a film show here, we were shown "London Town", with Sid Field, Petula Clark and Kay Hammond, it was quite good. We also saw a geographical documentary film entitled "Latitude and Longitude". The reason for the revival of the cinema shows.... is that a large number of parents demanded it.

*22 January 1954*

On Feb 4th there will be an outing to the Flemish Art Exhibit [at Burlington House] and to a concert at the Royal Festival Hall in the evening.

*29 January 1954*

The weather has been shocking the last few days, we have had about 4ins of snow and extremely (sic) low temperatures. .... There is no water in the labs. or here in the study block!

*11 February 1954*

At the Royal Festival Hall, Kopul Rosen appeared with two gentlemen, one, a governor (B.Wober) and the other was The Director of "The Overlanders" (the film), K.R. said that he hopes the latter gentleman will make a documentary film of Carmel College!

*17 February 1954*

The day before half-term will be a busy day because there will be two outings; one, in the morning to Huntley & Palmers' Biscuit and Cake Factory in Reading the other to see the EVEREST Film (Ascent of Everest) in the afternoon.

*10 March 1954*

On Tuesday K. Rosen went to Israel. On Monday he consulted his doctor in London as to whether he should go because on Friday, Saturday and Sunday he was more in than out of bed with shingles (I believe). He is due back before Purim.

Last night (Wednesday) there was a school outing to see "Coriolanus" (sic) by Shakespeare at the OLD VIC.

*19 March 1954*

Kopul Rosen returned from Israel on Wednesday evening - he was in time for the Purim Celebrations, which went off as usual.

At last the new subs. [sub prefect] ties have arrived.

Last Monday there was an outing to A.E.C. in Southall..... apparently it was very good.

*25 March 1954*

Yesterday some people came down from the Zionist Federation, among them were Levi Gertner, Dr Fox and another gentleman.

*? ? 1954*

[start of summer term] I left the train [from Paddington] at Cholsley and cycled here with Mr Cox, we arrived about half-hour before every one else.

*7 May 1954*

Mr Hooper, our coach, has appointed me to be [the first] Captain of Rowing in the school [this was ratified a few days later by KR].

*14 May 1954*

The swimming pool here is working, it is lovely, because it is in the sheltered open & can be heated!

*25 June 1954*

Next thursday I shall be going to the Henley Royal Regatta. We will sit in punts on the river all day and will watch various races, including the Public Schools events and the Russians.

*16 July 1954*

Sports Day, Sunday 25th July: there are three sports events rowing at 2.15pm followed by a P.T. display and athletics, which in turn is followed by tea and Prize-giving. The Guest of Honour is I believe to be (one of the) Montefiores (?).

*1 October 1954*

[Rosh Ha'shanna] was pretty much as usual, that is to say Kopol R. was in a bad, rather shocking temper because he finished 3 minutes or so later than he said he would. I think he blew the shofar very well, I rather liked the service especially not having a choir.

The new physics master is rather nice. He is a Dutchman, a Dr Beale (or Bejl or Bile) [actually his name is spelt Bijl]. At the moment he is doing some research at the Clarendon Labs. in Oxford.

*6 October 1954*

The school has now been divided up into 3 Houses (no more Gilbert and Alexander) - I have been appointed Captain of one of the houses also I have been made a prefect.

*16 October 1954*

The Houses are called Gilbert, after J.C.Gilbert; Alexander after A.Margulies and Montifore after one of the new (present set of Governors). The respective [house] colours are: light blue; bright red; gold. My house is Alexander..... being House-Captain takes a lot of work.

*1 November 1954*

The school Bursar is Mrs Walker. Tomorrow tuesday is KR's birthday and I believe that he is speaking at a JNF or JPA Dinner (in London).

*20 November 1954*

The visit to the Clarendon Labs in Oxford was most interesting, the second fellow who took us round was a Dr Rosenberg..... so when we arrived at the tea place he said "Now boys put your caps on because Kopul Rosen might object" this was extremely funny.

*4 December 1954*

There is a lot of 'flu about. 25 boys are down.

The river is in flood and there will not be any rowing, Mr Hooper says. The water, you might call it the River Thames, has covered the front lawn and surrounded the Study Block.....

On tuesday the Ox. County Medical Board Nurses Acc. came down and gave us a mass T.B. test.

*21 January 1955*

To-day is the last day of the Ministry of Education Inspection.

*25 January 1955*

Kopul Rosen is going to Paris for a week or so (I think it is for a Rabbinical Conference).

Half-term was extended by 2 days as Kopul, and the masters seem very pleased about the visit of the examiners, although the official result is not out yet.

*11 February 1955*

Last wednesday there was a party to see St Joan at St. Martin's Theatre (London).

*4 March 1955*

Wednesday last the whole school was again X-rayed for T.B. This was different from last term because it was unaccompanied by a skin test and it was a Berkshire Unit.

*6 March 1955*

To-morrow night will be again, as is usual on Purim a Gala-Night. Fancy dress etc.

Very early on wednesday morning Kopul Rosen is leaving for S.Africa. He is hoping to return via Israel where he will continuous discussions about opening of a sister-school there.

*28 April 1955*

Lessons began in full swing last Friday. Yesterday there was a Haber Society outing to Southampton Water Works at Otterbourne (near Winchester)... it was really very interesting.

*6 May 1955*

On Bank Holiday (May 30) Hooper wants us to row against a Wallingford Crew in the Wallingford Fete, Kopul has given permission.

*12 May 1955*

Tuesday and Wednesday last Coles was away, he was on Jury in Oxford.

*25 May 1955*

In our mock election last monday, the conservative candidate was elected by a substantial majority.

*18 July 1955*

Mr & Mrs Nagley were down for the whole weekend, it was a pleasant suprise for us remaining older boys who were here 4.5 years ago. He seems to be getting on in Liverpool very well indeed now.

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