

DIARY: 1972

JANUARY

1 Saturday

No game of Rugby. Went to CYF's in the afternoon then to "Fiddler on the Roof" at 9 pm. Someone had let down front tyres of the car. On changing a wheel, corroded frame started to break.

2 Sunday

Mr Justice Huggins spoke to the Armchair group in the evening.

4 Tuesday

Found that Chung Pak Lam (4S1) had been killed from head injuries in the holidays. [*This was the third student to die. His class was on an outing and he was fooling at a concrete drain when he fell in and hit his head on the concrete.*]

6 Thursday

Went to Tsuen Wan Court for the inquiry into Tse Po Fun's death. Got paid \$15 for the morning's effort.

7 Friday

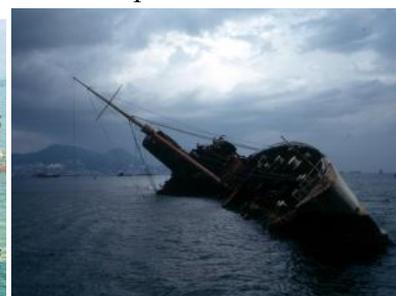
Morning off to attend funeral service but had already finished when most of us arrived. Got the electronics programme [from a school in Los Angeles] in the afternoon.

8 Saturday

HKSATA meeting at St Paul's College in the morning. Rugby against Navy – lost 28 – 16. Got a try from the wing.

9 Sunday

Collected offering in church for the first time. "Seawise University" (the former "Queen Elizabeth") caught fire and burnt all afternoon. It was a disaster alarm and the smoke was affecting the approach of aircraft landing at Kai Tak airport. Another chap and I went to the roof of the Ocean Terminal and watched it burn. In the evening Armchair group, films on India were shown. [*C Y Tung, the shipping magnate father of C.H.*]



Tung, the first chief executive of the HK SAR, bought the former “Queen Elizabeth” and converted it into a floating university. It was moored in the harbour (now reclaimed land) off the Mei Foo housing estate, undergoing renovation, when it caught fire. There were suspicions, never proved, that because all the fire doors were open, that it was deliberately scuttled as there seemed little use for a floating university. Most of the ship still remains buried under the former harbour. Note that the word “seawise” comes from the initials “CY”.]

10 Monday

The former QE I capsized today. Papers full of it.

12 Wednesday

Went for a run at Kowloon Tsai park after school.

15 Saturday

Played Sek Kong at Rugby and lost 23 – 13(?).

21 Friday

Filled in a staff questionnaire culminating several days of group discussion. [about what?]

22 Saturday

No game of Rugby for the seniors. Instead, played touch Rugby. Saw “Lloyd's of London” in the evening; an interesting film.

23 Sunday

Had breakfast with Linda and Bernie. CYF came round in the afternoon looking five years older with her new year style and clothes.

29 Saturday

Played HMNZS Waikato 3rd team, winning by 31 – 6. Got two tries plus a crack on my cheek from another player's head.

FEBRUARY

4 Friday

Foggy most of the day. No aircraft movements.

5 Saturday

Played RAF at Rugby winning 12 – 9. I got one try. Worked on Textbook 3 until midnight. At HK Club there was a NZ ball to celebrate Waitangi Day (though I did not go).

11 Friday

Had the day free as I'd finished marking my examination papers.

12 Saturday

Army team never turned up for the game of Rugby.

13 Sunday

CYF and I went to see “The Hellstrom Chronicle”.

15 – 17 Tuesday – Thursday

Helping to coach young kids at Rugby at St Georges School [an army school in Kowloon Tong] during these three mornings of the Chinese New Year holidays. Thursday evening, went to see “The Graduate”.

19 Saturday

Finished the chapters of Textbook 3 [i.e. Integrated Science for Hong Kong, Book 3].

20 Sunday

Served in church in the morning. Played Rugby against a stronger “Koalas” team losing 34 – 12. I got a try right on [full] time.

23 – 27 Wednesday – Sunday

Had the 'flu.

MARCH

4 Saturday

Beat Police II again 14 – 9.

5 Sunday

Did my first bit of sunbathing on the roof [of the YMCA] for the season.

9 Thursday

Mobile X-ray unit came to school.

11 Saturday

HKSTA [Hong Kong Science Teachers' Association] meeting in the morning. YMCA Soap Box Prix today though did not see it. Practices seven-a-side at Rugby in the afternoon.

18 Saturday

Went with Charles [Payne – another teacher living at the YMCA] to Queen Elizabeth Hospital to have a look over the X-ray block. Spent the whole morning there. No football in the afternoon. CYF came in the evening – did some study.

19 Sunday

Continuing warm again – maximum about 26⁰C. Went to Stanley [fort] to play Rugby against the Irish Guards; they won 18 – 4 in an unfriendly match.

22 Wednesday

Scandal broke out today about dismissals of homosexuals [?just teachers] at Ying Wa College [an 'elite' boys school]. Party (Japanese food) at Leon's in the evening. Derek Davenport, one of the dismissed teachers was there. Also present was Richard Hughes [a famous author].

23 Thursday

Form Upper 6 [nowadays called Form 7] started their exams today. Went to HEB in Kwun Tong in the afternoon to discuss royalties and contract for the NZ book [adaptation of HK books for lower ability students]. [HEB must have moved.]

24 Friday

U6 had their Chemistry exams today. HEB had a cocktail party for Keith Sanbrook and his accountant at the Hong Kong Hotel.

25 Saturday

Got the car oiled and greased. Spent the morning looking over [travel] pamphlets about Europe. Captained the YMCA 'D' seven-a-side team at HK Football Club stadium in the afternoon; we lost 10 – 0. Saw “Carmen Jones” in the evening. [The YMCA always had a Saturday evening movie for residents, guests and members in their hall.]

26 Sunday

Went with CYF and Tom Lung to Jordan and Lisa's flat for a birthday party. Lisa's first attempt at making a cake.

28 Tuesday

Went for what was probably my last run of the season at Kowloon Tsai [park].

30 Thursday

First day of the Easter holidays. Didn't feel like working. CYF came round in the afternoon for some study.

31 Friday

Warm (26⁰C) in the morning but cooled down later to about 15⁰C in the evening.

APRIL

1 Saturday

Birthday cake and cereal arrived from New Zealand. [*These would have been sent by Mum.*]

4 Tuesday

Went for a picnic with Form 3B to Pak Tam Chung (just before the High Island reservoir). Overcast and rained occasionally. Played soccer with the boys, getting three goals!

5 Wednesday

Ching Ming day [Spring grave-sweeping day]. Overcast as it has been for most of the holidays. Went to help in football coaching but nobody there when I arrived so I came back.

6 Thursday

O. N. Wong's [teacher at school] wedding reception (at the Cafe de Chine).

8 Saturday

HKSTA meeting in the morning. Played HMS Diamond(?) winning 20 – 8 .

MAY

3 Wednesday

YMCA Rugby club AGM.

4 Thursday

Met Mrs Salisbury, Mrs(?) Todd's sister. from Oamaru.

27 Saturday

HKSTA AGM. I was elected chairman!

28 Sunday

YMCA Rugby Club went for a launch picnic to Lantau [Island]. Rained quite a lot.

29 Monday

HKSTA attacked by the "Standard" [newspaper] on its magazine articles on drugs.

JUNE

3 Saturday

HKSTA Chemistry teachers' meeting to discuss the new Chemistry syllabus.

5 Monday

Rex King announced his resignation [as principal of our school] and his appointment as head of Ying Wa College.

6 Tuesday

While sunbathing on the roof, had a visit from Ron O'Grady [from NZ].

JULY

[Holiday in England and mainland Europe July/August]

10 Monday

Left Kai Tak at about 1630 hours by Thai International Airways; took off over the land [Kowloon] this time. I was sitting next to a S.D.A. girl and we talked mainly about religion all the way to Bangkok. On arrival (2 ½ hours later) and after getting through immigration which was very slow, I took a mini-bus (US\$1 = 20 Baht) to the Hotel Empress where I took a room for US\$6 after the receptionist had hurriedly accepted this figure. Was offered two Thai girls but refused!

Went for a walk and met a scout trying to raise money for a jamboree in Norway. Also met a Thai-Chinese chap. Walked along the road, bought some milk (2B) and returned again being accosted by two girls in a taxi. Had a bath and went to bed.

11 Tuesday

Woke up at 5.45 am. Took a Number 29 bus (2 B) (could also have taken No 39) to the airport for the charter flight check-in. Somewhat chaotic! Had a 20 B breakfast before boarding our VC-10. We were frisked and our luggage searched. After take-off, they rearranged the seating and I ended up next to an American, his Thai wife and son. After 6 ½ hours, we stopped at Bahrain for refuelling at its lovely new terminal. Again, we were frisked. another 6 ½ hours and we were in London, 35 minutes early. Took the BOAC bus

(50 p) to town, the driver dropping me off near Chelsea Hospital where I caught a 137 bus (12.5 p) to Thiers' place, arriving at 7.30 pm. Later, Leung Ching Ping [former students at Ming Yin College] rang me up from his holiday work place in Wales. Went to bed at about 10 pm (though my body-clock time was about 4 am).

12 Wednesday

Woke up early because of the early sunrise. Had breakfast at 9.30 am then we set off in the van for the Royal College of Surgeons diploma presentation. Most people were dressed in suits – except me! Had to leave the proceedings halfway through to put money in the parking meter. After the ceremony, we looked through the Old Curiosity Shop then had lunch. Went for a look at the Chancery Lane silver vaults then to Far East Travel to check my return trip. Couldn't do this so will have to ring from the continent later.

Walked round to HEB and had a chat with Keith Sanbrook. Then called at the Lombard Bank to enquire about fixed deposits. Walked to Victoria [station] and caught a # 2B bus (12 ½ p) back.

13 Thursday

Took the 2B bus to Baker St (15 ½ p) then along to the Methodist Mission where I left Charles' radio, etc. Then bought two enormous break rolls for lunch and walked down Tottenham Court Rd where I was “accosted” by the Scientology people. They gave me a personality test but on discussing the results with them found that I didn't get on too well!

Proceeded next to Foyles and ordered A-Level Nuffield Chemistry books. Then down Shaftesbury Ave and Piccadilly to “France” to obtain information about that country. While walking to Hyde Park corner for the 2B bus, saw people going to the Queen's garden party! one couple even on a [bicycle] tandem!

14 Friday

After a difficult night in bed [?asthma], went to HEB for lunch. Rested in Hyde Park first then went around [to HEB] meeting firstly David Heap. He, Hamish and I then went to a restaurant (where one didn't need a coat!); the lunch wasn't so remarkable. Then walked to the Science Museum. To return [to Thiers' place], I eventually got a 137 bus from Sloane St.

15 Saturday

Didn't do much today. Sunbathed in the afternoon. Thiers and Barbara went to the Royal Festival Hall in the evening so I remained here with Terry and Sue [?children].

16 Sunday

Went to church in the morning. Sunbathed again in the afternoon.

17 Monday

The day I set off for the continent. Caught a suburban train from Gypsy Hill to Victoria (14 p) where trying to find the ticket office to get a ticket to Paris proved a shambles. Eventually got one that cost about £8 and consisted of train + ferry + train. Sat in a little square and wrote a letter to YF. Caught the 1505 train to Folkstone taking 1 h 20 mins. Then the [channel] ferry which took about 1 ½ hours in quite rough cool weather. At Calais, caught a train with hundreds of others to Paris. This took 3 hours arriving at 10.30 pm. With map and hotel guide, went to one but it was full. The people there were very friendly and a chap took me to another. Had a bath when I shouldn't have, so cost me my breakfast! Comfortable, but noisy.

18 Tuesday

After rising, did my exercises then walked up to Gare de L'Est. Met Martin [from Switzerland] and we booked a hotel together, the Hotel St Mary Galier (?) in Rue du Four for about 15F each per night. Got this from the Bureau of Information at the station. Took the "Metro" from Gard de L'Est to St Sulpice (1.30 F) then checked in at the hotel.

Bought a litre bottle of milk from a vendor (1.20 F) and drank it on the street. Walked down to the Seine and along the bank to the Isle de la Cite to the Notre Dame cathedral. Looked through them walked down the other bank, past the Louvre and Les Tuileries through the park to the Place de la Concorde. Bought a bottle of Fanta for 1.70F! Down the busy Des Champs Elysée to the Arc de Triomphe. Then down Av Kleber (buying peached along the way) to the Eiffel Tower, then back to the hotel.

Went to have dinner in an Italian restaurant. Pizza for 5.50F. Saw a woman stopped to park. The man behind wouldn't let her. He then pushed her car by the bumpers. She put on the hand brake and then went to do her shopping, leaving the man still sitting behind her car.

Quite warm sleeping in the evening.

19 Wednesday

Had breakfast in the room at 8.30 am (should have been 8 am) – two rolls, hot cup of chocolate. Set out independently for UNESCO headquarters visiting Hotel des Invalides but not paying the 3F to see Napoleon's tomb; saw the "Soldiers' church" which is half (?) while Napoleon's remains are in the other. UNESCO couldn't interview me but gave me an address to write to. Walked to the Eiffel Tower and climbed to the second etage (3F). Had to come down in the lift as the steps were closed from noon to 2 pm. Walked to the Office de l'Tourism to get a [train] ticket to Dijon (44F). Met a chap from Scotland. Went to a shop where I bought milk (1.80F!) then proceeded to the Louvre where I called first at the

Photography department then to the Department of Egyptology (?) to get permission for a photo from Mrs Noblecourt. Walked back along Rue de Seine (good open markets there). Martin returned and later I went to a cheap restaurant in Rue Lobineau – steak and chips from 4.50F. Over the road was a market so bought tomatoes, carrots and peaches (latter 3F / kg). Wrote a letter to YF and to home [parents]. Consumed a third bottle of milk (1.50F). (Second bottle 1.15F).

20 Thursday

After “le petite déjeuner” Martin and I walked to the Luxembourg gardens. I took a photo for a French couple. Past the university sports' centre and church of Val du Grace (thinking it was the Pantheon) to the Pantheon. Didn't go in but just looked in from the entrance. Walked past the Sorbonne and back through the Latin quarter to the hotel looking for bread on the way. Finally got some in a supermarket near the hotel. Made lunch here. I rested for the remainder of the afternoon while Martin went to Montmartre but returned early because of rain. Had dinner in the usual restaurant in Rue de Lonimneau, followed by a third litre of milk (again) for the day. Electrical storm for the second successive evening.

21 Friday

Had breakfast a little earlier at 8 am at hotel “St Marie de Gallia”, 50 Rue de Four. Said goodbye to Martin then caught a No 63 bus from St Germain Blvd (fare \approx 2.50F – had to punch the ticket in a box). Caught the train to Dijon at the Gare de Lyon departing at 9.35 am. Mainly flat then rolling countryside. Arrived in Dijon at 12.15 pm. Much quieter than Paris. Took a No 6 (Bocage) bus to the Youth Hostel. Walked back to town and sat in a park (Darcy Place) for a while. Bought some milk (and a kind lady helped me to pick up all my booklets as I'd dropped them and spilt half the milk). Walked back to the hostel and checked in for one night [?]. Had dinner there for 5.50F (also had lunch [?in town] for the same price). Rooms with three beds in it.

22 Saturday

After breakfast – large bowl of coffee, bread and jam – walked into Dijon proper to look around. Down Rue J J Rousseau to Notre Same with its unusual clock on the top; this was after a detour to an open-air market. Quite dark inside the church. Then down Rue des Forges, an old narrow street with old buildings, around Place Fr Rude to the Place de al Liberation where the Town Hall is situated. It used to be the palace of the dukes of Burgandy. A civil wedding was about to take place. Across to the Palais de Justice and eventually to the Saint-Benigne cathedral. Walked back a mile to the Champmol Chaterhouse to see the well of Moses (the area is now a psychiatric hospital).

Coming back, this route was more or less repeated but included the Church of St Michel. Came back to the hostel for lunch (5.50F) having a plate of peas, meat and lettuce and then ice-cream. Finished lunch with Chantel [a girl I met] and spent 2~3 hours talking with her in the cafeteria. (She has four sisters; she is number 4, the oldest is married, mother divorced and remarried, was to see her father for the first time in her 20 years, studied languages; goes to some institute for two years to learn languages).

Then sunbathed for about an hour. Did some washing. After dinner, wrote a letter to YF then went for a walk around part of the newly reconstructed areas of Dijon.

23 Sunday

Turned out to be quite an eventful day. After breakfast, set out for the day's trip. Had to walk to town as the ordinary buses didn't operate that early on Sundays. Caught the Dijon-Beaune bus just in time (lucky my watch was fast!) at the Gare de Dijon (5.30F); took an hour passing vineyards on the right-hand side all the way.

At Beaune, visited first the museum but on finding it cost 2F, changed my mind. Then to the Notre Dame cathedral and the Hotel Dieu; didn't go round, just took a look at the courtyard and the impressive roof of this "hospital" built around 1440.

On enquiry about buses to Autun, found none left on Sundays so started to walk! Walked for about 1 ½ hours before getting the first lift for about 20 km to Norlay. Saw what appeared to be an aqueduct but turned out on walking up and past it to be a railway viaduct. Hot and tired, got a ride with two German teachers on their way south to a refresher course. At Autun, they parked the car and we walked to the Cathedral of St Lazarus. Of note was the stone carvings of biblical scenes in an upstairs room, and the capitals of the pillars. Bought a 0.50F ice-cream and continued through the undulating countryside to Cluny. There we had a conducted tour around the remains of the 15th Century (?) abbey though only a couple of the main towers remain. Cost 1.50F, half price as it was a Sunday (fortunate as I did not understand the guide). Bought a cup of coffee.

Continued towards Macon but they dropped me off at a turn-off about 7 km from Macon. Eventually got a ride and on arrival, found a hotel almost immediately. Checked in (20F including le petite dejeuner). Walked round looking for a cheap restaurant and in so doing saw most of the town. Bought 1 l of milk and about 9 pm ate at "Le Tonneau" (Rue (de) Gabriette ?) for 11F; took one hour but felt full. Didn't get to bed until about 11.20 pm.

24 Monday

After breakfast, walked round looking for the Office de Tourism; didn't seem to have one that operated. So, visited a tourist agency where a grumpy old man helped me. Walked to Gare de

Macon and took a bus (5F) to Bourg [?Bourg-en-Bresse]. A pleasant ride across rolling agricultural and pastoral fields and often tree-lined roads.

At Bourg, cashed US\$20 at the BNP – got a sweet for it! Took the train (~15F) to Aux-les-Bains (a grumpy ticket seller!). Journey only took 1 ½ hours and passed through steep tree-lined hills, past Lac de Bourget to Aix-les-Bains. There I took a train (no problem) for ~6F to Annecy arriving at 1420. Walked to the Office de Tourism and discovered it was difficult to get a hotel so went looking. Tried, and booked in at the Hotel de French – a dump really for 20F without breakfast.

Then I looked around the lake edge and the charming historical old town. Bought more milk and eventually bought an 11F dinner at a small bar/restaurant/hotel. Thunderstorm in the area. Walked back to the hotel in light rain.

25 Tuesday

No breakfast! Walked to the station and discovered the railway-bus terminus. Bought a ticket (15.50F) to Chamonix then went and bought milk, bread and fruit for brunch. Bus took over three hours to get to Chamonix after a long traffic jam as we neared the Mt Blanc tunnel. Took a bus at 1 pm towards the Youth Hostel. Sunbathed for a while then went for a hike up the hill to Cascade Falls and near it found a tourist chalet – 0.50F to enter, so didn't! Walked further to the tunnel entrance and then up to the edge of the Bossens glacier. Returned to the hostel to find it was full despite what the Office des Tourism had said. It was raining hard at this stage so after dinner walked down to the Chalet Bel Air; had to put on my wind/rain breaker for the first time. Walked down to the camp shop and had some soup, chips, milk and ham as my dinner.

24 Wednesday

Got up at about 8 am. Walked down to the town with an American chap. I had a litre of milk while he had some breakfast. Decided to go up to Le Brevant by the Telepherique, having had to pay only 7.50F instead of 15F because of Youth Hostel membership. Went up at about 11.30 am to the top. Spent about an hour there at an altitude of 2500 m. The cloud was just above us which made viewing of Mt Blanc difficult. Descended to Monpraz (?) from where it was easier to see Mt Blanc. The temperature there was about 17⁰C but felt cooler!

Descended at about 2.30 pm then bought a ticket to Geneva (17F). Walked back to the chalet-dormitory. Bought some fruit, bread and tomatoes for lunch/afternoon tea.

27 Thursday

Up with the birds at 7 am. The whole valley was shrouded in mist. Bought some breakfast before catching the bus to Geneva outside Les Bossons station. Bus was comfortable but I

needed to go to the loo urgently on arriving at Geneva. Crossing the border was easy; the police simply looked at the passport.

Walked to the Tourist Office then to the railway station where I found I could stay at the Youth Hostel. Walked there and though late [in the morning, normally after hostels are closed for the day], was booked in for two nights (5F – Swiss francs now - per night). Sat on the banks of the Rhone (extremely clear water) and had my brunch of bread, tomatoes and fruit. Then I walked round past the Arve River (extremely dirty) on my way to town. Looked around the old city including St Peter's cathedral.

Went back to the town and looked for a PTT [post office]. Then I had to get aerogrammes with the stamps. Came back to the hostel and had dinner around the corner. Then had a hot shower. Temperature today reached 24⁰C.

28 Friday

Had a reasonable breakfast for 2.50F, again just round the corner. Walked to the railway station to make enquiries then down to Quai Wilson [named after US President Wilson] alongside the lake, past the ILO building to the Palais des Nations. This piece of international land cost 2.50F for the visit. Had a guided tour around the building then spent about 30 minutes in the spectators' gallery listening to a debate on some socio-economic matter. I then walked round the grounds before setting off towards town again. Bought a litre of milk (1.10F) before going to the waterfront to see the Jet d'Eau. Called in at the railway station for more information (rather frustrating) before returning for a good dinner near the youth hostel. Then I planned where to go tomorrow and decided to skip Zermatt as it is awfully expensive.

29 Saturday

Had a 2.50F breakfast of chocolate, bread, butter and jam. Walked to the station and bought a ticket to Interlaken (29F). Took a train to Montreaux 40 minutes earlier than intended. Arrived there just over an hour later. The area is mainly built up with a number of farms. Hazy day so I couldn't see the lake.

At Montreaux, I took a trolley-bus (0.50F) and in 10 minutes was at the Chateau de Chillon. Had a look around it then took a bus (the same one!) back to town again. Had a litre of milk then took the “express” to Zweissimmen. A very interesting ride. We zig-zagged up the hills behind Montreaux then tunnelled our way through to the valleys inland, notably the valley of the Chateau d'Oetz with its green slopes and rocky mountains.

Arrived at Zweissimmen at about 2.30 pm (2 hours from Montreaux). Decided to stay in this lovely valley for the night as the ticket was valid for two days. The Youth Hostel was right alongside the railway line, about two minutes from the station. Went for a walk through fields

where hay was being made, then up a forested hill buying some milk and peached along the way. At the time, gliders were taking off from the nearby airstrip.

Checked in at 5 pm and had a dinner of “porridge/fruit salad”, mint tea, bread and butter. A large group of school kids (?) were also staying in the hostel.

30 Sunday

In the evening, I went for a walk past cows with their bells, and discovered a “Vita Parcours” course in the forest. The distance would be about two miles and some of the 19 exercises in the circuit were:

Free-standing: touching toes, swing arms into a crouch position, swing arms sideways, touch toes and fling back, split jumps (sort of), touch toes with opposite hand.

With apparatus: jumps over bar (bunny jumps), chin ups, swing on Roman rings, step ups onto a log, leg under log/arch back over a second log, push-ups with feet on log, hold log over head and swing sideways.

30 Sunday

Got up at 7.15 am when everybody else in the hostel was still sleeping. Had no breakfast but caught the 7.48 am train to Spiez. Changed trains (it was 10 min late) for the run to Interlaken-Ost station. From there I walked to the Youth Hostel. Arrived at about 9.45; they were still open but the office had closed at 9 am.

Left my stuff there and walked round this part of the city, having breakfast (1 l milk, rolls/tomato) on the way. Passed their aerodrome (with obsolete Vampires) and found a church with an English service which was just finishing but has communion after, which I attended. Then walked up to some animal park and slowly back to the hostel. Queued up at 4 pm for accommodation then had to change doors as they don't open the “Entrance” door. Had dinner after doing a little washing.

31 Monday

After the 2.20F breakfast, played a game of miniature soccer. Checked out then walked to the station where I had to wait until 9.40 am for a train. Direct to Bern where I got a do-it-yourself tour and looked round the lovely city. The clock tower (watched the 'things' move at 1 pm), the bear pit, the rose garden. Bought fruit, rolls, etc. then came back to the station, got my luggage from a locker and made lunch on the train. To Lucerne (total fare 23F from Interlaken - Bern - Lucerne) on a slow train that stopped at nearly every station and took about 2 ½ hours to get there. On arrival, got a ticket from a machine then boarded a trolley bus to go to the hostel. After queuing, was told to come back at 7 pm because I was aged over 25 [a rule that some hostels in Europe used to have]. Eventually I got in a four-bunk room. Had a good 5F dinner. Didn't get a sheet so had to sleep between two blankets – quite cold

and a little breathing trouble to contend with. In our room was an Indian studying at Leipzig and a Bangladeshi bloke studying in London.

AUGUST

1 Tuesday

This is Switzerland's national day so many things closed down at noon. After the 2F breakfast, walked to town and deposited my bags in a railway station locker. Organised an excursion ticket for the rest of the visit to Switzerland: Lucerne → Meringen → Gletsch → Zermatt → Italian border for about 53F. Then set out to look at the old town including the old [crooked] bridges over the river, the well and one of its towers. Visited the Lion monument; very interesting to see how Lucerne was once about 500 feet under a glacier and at another stage was a tropical beach.

After that visit, bought some lunch then sheltered on the footpath for a thunderstorm to pass – watched drivers are their habits! Then slowly walked to the old city again and sat down in a square to eat lunch. Some Swiss “bover-boys” were letting off rockets and whizz-bangers, for what reason I wasn't sure.

Returned to the station, picked up my tickets and luggage then took an earlier (2 pm) but slower train to Meringen. It had to climb and descend rather steep gradients. Raining hard at Meringen but got to the hostel OK and checked in almost at once. Meringen is situated in a valley between cliffs with spectacular waterfalls.

Went for a walk before dinner. Quite a good dinner.

In the evening, the whole town turned out for the local August 1st celebrations. First, a march through the main streets by the local band, a visiting girls' band from Holland, “William Tell and his Father”, etc. The assembly gathered in a park for music, traditional dancing, a long speech by the mayor and fireworks. The bonfire fizzled out probably due to the earlier heavy rain.

Quite cold so wore a pullover and also a wind breaker. Had quite a lot of breathing trouble in the evening.

Meringen is noted for its remembrance of Sherlock Holmes. This was the valley in which he defeated Moriarty. A plaque commemorates this as does a London “Baker Street” name plate.

2 Wednesday

After breakfast (coffee, bread and jam), walked to the station and caught the bus to Gletsch. Towards Grimsel Pass, we stopped at a huge reservoir and at the pass itself (7100 feet) stopped for 30 minutes. As the mist lifted, we could see the Alps clearly. The descent into Gletsch was about 1000 feet along a zig-zag road. Caught the cog-wheel train to Brig at noon,

reaching there at about 1.45 pm. Took a train to Visp (5 minutes) then walked to the youth hostel. Walked around the town with a Japanese boy before checking in for two nights, at 5 pm. Had a dinner (soup, meat, potato, lettuce) then wrote to YF.

A nice, relatively clear day today.

3 Thursday

Had a good sleep. Woke up to a fine day. Set off for Zermatt (with my wind-breaker) at 9.10 am taking 1 ½ hours to get there. The Matterhorn was in the clouds and stayed there all day. Walked around the village then up a hill for a better view of the mountains. It was 13⁰C in the valley and cooler up top. After waiting in vain for the Matterhorn to clear, started to walk down. It started to rain and by the time I had reached Zermatt it was raining quite hard. Cashed a [traveller's cheque] at a bank, bought some bread, and ate it in a wooden shelter.

Left at about 3 pm, arriving back at Visp at 4.15 pm. Bought my ticket to Genoa. After dinner (soup, lettuce, spaghetti), walked down to the station for a while. Had a cat visit us during the night. I thought someone was stealing my blankets at first.

4 Friday

Helped with the dishes after breakfast, as in usual in this hostel. Took an earlier train to Brig and at 10 am caught the train to Genoa. Had two Dutch boys with me part of the way; they were hoping to get to Belgrade. Later, I told some Italians it was a non-smoking compartment and they obliged, though others didn't seem to worry.

Got to Genoa in four hours, one hour less than expected as the clocks here are on one hour. Caught a bus (Route E for L120) to the hostel; it seemed to be more than the 3 km [youth hostel] book said. Walked the promenade, then checked in (L600) and had dinner (L650).

5 Saturday

Breakfast (L150) consisted of a bowl of coffee, two break rolls and jam. Decided to stay for another night instead of a night at Pisa. Soon after 8 am, I walked towards town, saw the "Michelangelo" [cruise ship, I think] coming in and got a ticket to Rome (L4300) at the station. Walked through parts of the old city though felt rather tired.

Decided to walk up the hill for a view but on seeing a cog-railway, made for that. Cost L70 and it went awfully slow and vibrated a lot. Same price down. Walked around the port area, had a long rest in a small park, then returned to the hostel and had a complete wash.

6 Sunday

Set off early without the hostel breakfast. Bus cost L130 (dearer on Sundays!) to the station then caught a DD express to Pisa. It was ½ hour late and I had to stand all the way (2 hours) in the corridor.'

At Pisa, took a bus to the Tower area. Went to the top (L500). Returned to the station and waited for the next fast train. As it was a R (Rapido), it cost a supplementary L850! Had a seat all the way to Rome however. Arrived at Rome at about 4 pm. Took a 67 bus (in the wrong direction initially) to Peter's place [Peter Bennett, a former classmate at high school who was working in the NZ consulate in Rome].

7 Monday

Had a good night's sleep on a very comfortable couch-cum-bed. After breakfast, Peter took me to town and dropped me off at the ??? From there, I walked to the capitol then spent about 5 to 6 hours in the Forum/Palatina areas . Quite warm and got quite hungry in there.

From there, I had a look at the Coliseum and the Church of St ?? Then walked to the NZ Embassy and came back with Peter. After dinner, Peter, Elyane and I visited various areas around the city.

8 Tuesday

Peter dropped me off at St Peter's Square. Spent 1 to 2 hours in the cathedral but wasn't impressed very much with it. From there to the Vatican where for L500 one could visit the Art Gallery and museums. The Sistine Chapel was the most interesting part. I was a bit lost in understanding the frescoes until a couple gave me there radio to listen to. In turn, I gave it to another couple of blokes. The visit to this part of the Vatican finished at 2 pm, which was closing time.

By then, it was summer siesta time with most shops closed. Bought something to eat then walked to what I thought was the Pantheon; it was actually the National Museum, the site of [the Emperor] Hadrian's tomb (I think). Slept in the adjoining park for an hour as I was tired. Then walked via the P. Navonna to the Pantheon and the church behind it (Christ and the crass and gold sandal/fig-leaf). Walked to the embassy and came back with Peter.

9 Wednesday

Had another good sleep. First point of call today was the Villa Borghese to look at some of the sculptures/art work – very interesting. Walked through the landscaped park, across the “viaduct” to the Pinico and then for a panoramic view of part of Rome. Then down to a church (which was closed) and to Thomas Cook's to enquire about a visit to Pompeii. Walked then to the embassy but Peter had gone to the airport (to meet the NZ Chief Justice), so walked back towards the railway station. Had lunch then to the National Museum which

closes now, however, at 2 pm. Enquired from the station about tickets to Pompeii then came back by bus. Wrote letters home and to YF.

10 Thursday

Peter dropped me near the station. Spent 1 ½ hours at the National Museum then went over to the station and got a return ticket to Pompeii. Bought some stuff for lunch (pears L200 a kg, peaches 200-400L, tomatoes 100-200L) then walked past the Coliseum and FAO to the Piazza de St Sebastian, then along the Via Apia. Had lunch in a small park then past “St John in Oil”. Walked further along the Apian Way to Quo Vadis church then up to the San Callisto Catacombs which didn't open until 3 pm so continued on up to the St Sebastian church and catacombs. Had a look (L300) but somewhat disappointed. (Some Italians across the road in an argument about something.)

Spent the next 1 ½ hours walking further up the Appian Way, past the tomb of St Cecilia, Hippodrome, tombs and finally a rotunda (largest along the road). Then caught a tram to the station and a bus home.

Peter and Elyane had a couple of friends for dinner. Reminded me of HK with multi-lingual people.

11 Friday

Spent the day at Pompeii. Arrived there at about 11.30 am. Bought 'lunch' and ate it inside the old city (L150 to enter). Spent 3 to 4 hours inside.

Came back [to Rome] on a 'D' train (slow!), which took four hours. Then the bus broke down though it was fixed in five minutes. Had to enter Peter's building via the dark garage.

Hotter and more humid today (temperature 35⁰C; Florence 37⁰C yesterday, 38⁰C today).

12 Saturday

Last day in Rome. Peter and Elyane took me down to the station. Got there at about 10.45 am. Queued up to get change then found we could get it at a tourist place over the square. Then queued to get the ticket to Florence (L2800). Bought a litre of milk (in a plastic bag) and had a little lunch.

Got into the train and found a window seat. And was it hot waiting for it to leave! The compartment had many soldiers on leave. Nearly four hours to Florence. Once, ash from an ejected cigarette butt hit my neighbour and me.

Arrived in Florence at about 6 pm. Took a 17 bus (red) to the hostel and checked in for two nights (L650). All told, I drank 2 ½ litres of milk today!

13 Sunday

Had a ½ litre of milk for breakfast. Took a No 17 bus (L60) to town. As it was a Sunday, every place I visited was free! Using the map as a guide, worked my way from the railway station up to the Michelangelo Square. Visited churches, art galleries and public places.

It was very hot! Met the Japanese bloke who was at Visp with me. Went to the station to get a ticket to Venice (L2300). Returned to the hostel.

14 Monday

Had a litre of milk for breakfast then took a bus to the station. Caught the 9 am bus [?train] to Venice arriving soon after 12.30 pm. After travel, etc. enquiries, walked round until I found a diary. Bought a litre of milk, potato chips (L180/L100), sat on the edge of a canal and ate them.

Caught a No 5 “bus” [actually some kind of ferry] to the hostel (L50). On arrival, rested inside, wrote to YF, then waited until 6 pm for registration. Our showers did not work and those down a floor were cold! Dinner (L650) was not terribly good!

15 Tuesday

Got up a little later. National holiday today – no milk shops open! Took a Vaporetto (L30) to St Marco square. Then walked through the narrow streets and across the canals to Stephano Square then slowly round the Grand Canal area to the Rialto Bridge. From there, slowly around to the railway station [which is on the mainland] where I bought a ticket to Salzburg (L5900!). Across the bridge and to a park where I rested for an hour, then more wandering.

Caught a No 4 'bus' along the Grand Canal to ST Marco Square. Very active – artists, restaurants, pigeons, a hovercraft and 'guards' turning 'improperly dressed' people away from the cathedral. After several (4) grapefruit drinks, returned to the hostel just as a brief thunderstorm broke.

16 Wednesday

Office opened late. Got my card, took the boat, ran when at the station – 10 seconds late, the train was just moving from the platform. Walked round to the same shop as Monday and bought 1 litre of milk then back took the 9.27 am train as far as Treviso, changed and continued to Udine arriving late at 11.40 am.

Cashed a cheque into Austrian schillings, sat down for some lunch, had another litre of milk then sat out the wait for the 4.22 pm train to Villach [in Austria].

Arrived in Villach at about 5.30 pm (lost one hour in time) and walked to the hostel and checked in. Walked round, bought ice-cream and ½ litre milk at an automatic dispenser. Saw some of the shopping area before returning to the hostel.

17 Thursday

Had a very good night's sleep. Breakfast was glasses of milk and jam-filled bread rolls. After farewelling the 'old dear' and sweeping the room, walked through Villach to the station, buying potato chips (fried) on the way.

Caught the train to Salzburg – took 3 ¼ hours. Changed from shorts to longs in the train. On arrival, bought lunch (ham – 9/- for three slices!!) then to the hostel and checked in. Overcast and cool.

Walked around a bit in the evening then had a dinner (22/-) at a local pub; the 'sound of music' had attracted me.

18 Friday

Quite cool during the night. Up at 6.45 am for an early compulsory breakfast. Checked in again for second night and was ready to 'do' the town by 7.45 am.

Walked round this side of town first – Mozart's house, Mirabella Palace and gardens. Then across the river to an old church and the old part of the city. Got as far as Mozart Square when it started to rain. Continued between the showers – Glockenspiel place, cathedral, old university and Franciscan church. I didn't bother about the Katacombs but walked up to and around the castle. Very wet and cloudy.

Came down and bought some lunch (17/-!) which accidentally included some butter milk (for the second time). Changed it later. After lunch, looked at “The Sound of Music” nunnery then walked up to the castle again as it had stopped raining.

Went to the station and got a ticket to Innsbruck (160/-) and waited for the rain to stop before returning to the hostel. Had an evening meal (31/-) in a restaurant in town with an Aussie chap (cream soup, ham and eggs). Followed this with an ice-cream (6/-) on the way back.

19 Saturday

Bought some lunch at the supermarket then set off on the 9.12 am train to Innsbruck. It was rainy, cloudy. poor visibility and cold. Had a German living in Switzerland with his Greek wife nest to me on the train. They invited me to stay with them in Basel. Noted snow on the hills.

Arrived in Innsbruck at 1.30 pm. The information office had no free map. Found the hostel then walked round the town in the cold and wet. Checked in at 4 pm then worked out my route through Germany. Had dinner (26/-) in the hostel basement accompanied by a pop band which earlier was being filmed for TV. Upstairs is a gym. The clouds lifted to reveal a blanket of snow [on the hills]. Then went for a walk around the town. Happened to be in an

old square at 8 pm to hear mediaeval music played from the old king's balcony. Went to bed with my pullover on. The temperature went down to less than 8⁰C!

20 Sunday

Slept in a little. Had a roll/tomato for breakfast – left over from yesterday. Checked out. Walked around the old town then to the station where I decided to go to Augsburg via Garmisch rather than to Munich (only 136/-). Left my luggage at the hostel and walked first to the Olympic rink then to the ski jump. Weather was fine but the clouds were reluctant to lift.

Caught the train at about 1.30 pm firstly to Garmisch where there was confusion about which train I should continue on. On to Wielheim and another change for Augsburg. On arrival, cashed cheques and found my way to the hostel.

Walked round the town for a couple of hours. Had dinner (hamburger, chips for D2.30) at a snack bar.

21 Monday

After the usual continental breakfast, checked out then had a look at the outside of Augsburg cathedral. From there to the station where I bought a ticket (DM77) that would take me all the way to Brussels. Caught the 9.30 am train to Ulm, which took about an hour. Checked my luggage at the counter and walked to the tourist office where I got a do-it-yourself walk round the town.

First stop was the cathedral (50 pfg). Then to the old Fisherman's village which I think has been painted up for the Olympic Games [held in Munich that year]. Along the brown Danube River. Bought some lunch (expensive - ½ l milk DM0.50, bread 0.15, 1 pear/peach and 2 tomatoes 1.35)! Ate it in a rose garden by the river. Started to spit [with rain] and became colder. Continued walking past the Kornhaus then back to the cathedral and station (DM1.20 for stored luggage).

The train to Stuttgart took an hour. After enquiries at the tourist office, took a No 5 tram (didn't pay as it was a punch-card system) but got off as I was getting lost. Walked to the hostel. After dinner (DM3 including potatoes), had a shower and did some washing.

22 Tuesday

After breakfast, started the day by looking over the Bible museum. From there to the city market-place then to various squares and then to the Schlossgarten. Bought two aerogrammes then went to the design centre but it was closed.

Through the gardens to the railway station where I phoned London to confirm my return flight – it cost DM10.50! Continued down the green belt and after buying lunch, ate it in a

very wild area of land. Continued across the river to the Daimler memorial – it was closed. Walked to the Mercedes-Benz works for a tour around the museum.

23 Wednesday

Set out after breakfast. Walked to the railway station and caught a slow train to Heilbron.

Passed first industrial areas then along the Neckar River with vineyards and villages.

Changed at Heilbron to a railcar which took us to Neck??? Caught the train from Wurzburg and arrived in Heidelberg at noon.

Got a map (30pf!!) at the tourist office, bought some chips and walked with a student (think he was Indian) studying in the US, to the hostel. A Japanese tour group was checking in (the same group we had at Stuttgart).

Walked to the old city and up to the castle. Back down to the Kornplatz and a tourist office for another 30pf pamphlet. Back to the hostel and checked in for two nights (DM13.80 for bed, breakfasts and sheets). After a good dinner (DM3050) (large sausage, chips, mixed vegetables, soup and a pear), watched some fellows in the neighbouring sports ground training for Rugby league.

24 Thursday

After breakfast, walked slowly to the station to enquire about trains; ended up catching a 9.14 am bus (DM1.20) to Schwetzingen). (The next stop was Hockenheim where Jim Clarke was killed). Anyway, on arrival walked to the palace, bought a litre of milk (DM0.93) then a ticket (DM1.20). Spacious gardens, Temple of Venus, mosque were to be seen. The Rococo theatre was closed. Bought 500 g+ of bananas (DM1) then took a train (DM1.50) back to Heidelberg to Bismark Square.

Walked to the old university, the Church of the Holy Ghost, past a “porn shop” to the tourist information office in Kornplatz where I asked for free information and was told there wasn't any! On enquiring why Stuttgart was free she said “Stuttgart has less [*sic*]visitors than Heidelberg!!” Up to the castle again for a while for a look (DM1) at the Apothecary Museum, which was a little disappointing. Walked around the palace and down to the station (Heidelberg-Karlstor) where I saw ships using locks on the Neckar. From there up the Hirschgasse and up the hill to Hitler's open-air theatre and the ruins of St Michael's Basilica on the top of the hill. Descended by means of tracks to some old ruins then back to the hostel for a warm (barely) shower.

Had dinner (DM3) – three eggs, potato, tomato and pear). Bought some clear soup (40pfg) from a machine. At about 11.40 pm I was woken by someone in the room. He felt a bed and when he knew it was not occupied, “knicked” a blanket. I went out later to investigate but he'd gone.

25 Friday

Had to get our beds checked before our cards were returned. Walked to the station and caught an early train to Worms. As the railway information didn't open till noon, I bought some milk, walked around then returned to the office. They couldn't help me so off to Lutherplatz where I looked at the monument to Luther. Then to an information office opposite the cathedral where a somewhat useless "guide" was available for DM1.50 so didn't go into the cathedral. Had a quick look through the museum, then back to Luther's monument and the station. Caught a slow train to Mainz.

Arrived in Mainz at about 12.45 pm. Got information (free!) then walked and bussed (without paying!) to the hostel. Left my luggage there and walked to the Gutenberg Museum via the Rhine promenade. Had lunch at 3 pm. The museum was most impressive; also got a souvenir page of St John's gospel from a [reproduction of a Gutenberg press]. Couldn't get into the cathedral so walked back to the hostel where checking-in wasn't until 6 pm.

After the DM3.50 dinner (soup, meat balls, spaghetti and stewed apple), I went for a walk across the park and back through a funfair which begins tomorrow. Had a good sleep. Had to go to the toilet during the night. The basement ones were locked but found one on our floor.

26 Saturday

At breakfast, some bloke was complaining because he had to have coffee for his meal when he and his wife had never had it before. Took a bus (DM1) to the station having bought some [food for] lunch near the bus stop (including 1 l of cheap milk for DM0.69!). Took the 10.45 am train to Bingen; had two chaps with me and had to pay a supplement as we were on an express! In Bingen, got a ticket to Boppard [on a boat I think], having to pay only DM2.50 instead of DM8.60 because having the rain ticket.

Down the Rhine arriving at Kaub soon after noon where I got off for a couple of hours. Had lunch on the promenade after leaving my bags at the station, walked up to the castle, which turned out to now be a hotel. On the way down, I cut through a vineyard. Caught the next boat to Boppard. The wind was quite cold on the decks. On arrival in Boppard, found my way to the hostel and checked in [The hotel is named "Humperdink House" as it used to be the home of the composer of the same name]. Went for a walk and on returning felt quite tired. There were three of us only for dinner. Not bad – soup, sausages, potatoes, salad and 'nigger kisses', i.e. chocolate-coated meringues. The four of us who were in the hostel talked for a while in the evening.

27 Sunday

Stayed in bed until about 8.30 am then had the usual breakfast. Played with the Alsatian dog before leaving “Humperdink House”. Walked to the promenade then to the station for a train to Bonn, which took only one hour. Put my things in a locker then walked round Bonn for a couple of hours. Had a lunch of a hamburger, chips and salad.

The train to Cologne took about 25 minutes. As the cathedral is next to the station, had a look then to a tourist office to find out how to get to the hostel. Walked there with two girls and checked in. After “dinner” (Soup, bread slices and meat), went for a two-hour walk around parts of Cologne, including a park with with imaginative playing areas, and a castle.

28 Monday

After quite a good breakfast, walked to the cathedral then bought a gift for YF. Somehow, my stupid mind was an hour cock-eyed in its thinking and the train I got to Aachen was a local one. As it turned out, it wasn't much slower.

At Aachen, had a look round the cathedral area, had lunch then caught a train to Brussels which took 1 hour 40 minutes. Walked to the hostel to find it closed (in spite of what it said in the handbook). Made enquiries regarding airport transport and tax (100F!!) then went for a walk with two English girls until the hostel opened. After dinner, I went for a walk round some of the shopping areas.

29 Tuesday

Had my hair “coiffured” for F120; took about 45 minutes and included a shampoo, dryer, shave (with a cut-throat razor, not an electric one). Then I walked down Baudoain (?) Boulevard to the Basilica and back to the Nord Station area for milk and chips. Went to the WC in the station, which cost 2F!! Took the Sabena [Airlines] train (aircraft-type seats) for 40F to the airport. At 3 pm, checking-in started and for me it didn't take long – about 13 minutes. Flew out at 6 pm – late! Sabelair used a Sabena 707. Called in at Tehran, Bombay and Bangkok. Then with Thai Airways to HK – excellent service. Arrived back at about 10.45 pm. Not terribly hot!

Cost of travel in UK and Europe

Budgeted for US\$12 a day (July 13 – August 29; 48 days)

Date	Total cashed	Remaining	So spent	Budget
July: 19	110	50	60	84
20	132	51	81	96
23	156	59	97	132

24	156	36	120	144
26	192	51	141	168
28	192	20	172	192
30	212	22	190	216
31	222	16	206	228
Aug: 1	242	25	217	240
3	252	30	222	264
7	262	8	254	312
8	292	31	261	324
13	378	22	356	384
16	400	22	378	420
20	430	26	404	468
25	450	10	440	528

Spending: $440/48 = \text{US}\$9.17$ per day

SEPTEMBER

5 Tuesday

Back to school for a staff meeting. Had a Chinese lunch together [probably outside in a restaurant]. No kids at school. School had been repainted during the summer holidays.

9 Saturday

First HKSTA meeting – at HKU together with Mr Jeffrey. Second Rugby practice for me [since returning].

13 Wednesday

In the evening there was a practice riot – Police v Gurkhas. One practice was in TST was held on the streets outside. So noisy and realistic, I thought the army had revolted! Didn't get much sleep.

19 Tuesday

As HKSTA chairman, I attended the SEAMEO-RECSAM meeting opening in the Lee Gardens Hotel. After that, I went to the Goethe Institute to enrol for a German [language] course.

In the evening, I attended a cocktail party at the Lee Gardens Hotel. Rained hard later and I had to wait by the Star Ferry for nearly an hour. Wearing my \$360 new suit.

23 Saturday

Public holiday – the day after the mid-autumn festival. YMCA 'B' team lost to BMH [British Medical Hospital?] 10 – 4.

30 Saturday

Lost to the Navy team 30+ - 4. I got one try. Our team was really a disorganised shambles.

OCTOBER

6 Friday

Staff went on a picnic and BBQ to Ho Fuk Tong school [in Tuen Mun]. I was supposed to have gone but after waiting two hours in the staffroom, found that all the cars were full, so came home instead.

14 Saturday

'A' Level Chemistry examination meeting in the morning [for markers]. In the afternoon, our so-called 'B' team Rugby team was defeated about 74 – 0!

16 Monday

Chung Yuen public holiday.

21 Saturday

Took the Form 1 workshop at school in the morning. [Demonstration lesson for teachers.] Has a HKSTA [committee] meeting after this. In the afternoon, lost to HMS Hydra 21 – 12.

22 Sunday

Cross-harbour race in the morning. First day of standard time.

27 Friday

HKSTA had a 'Meet the president' dinner [?] at a Chiu-chow restaurant - \$30 each!

28 Saturday

Lost our Rugby match against [HK Football] Club Selection by about 24 – 4.

NOVEMBER

4 Saturday

A 'Y' Selection team beat HMS Devonshire 11 – 9. Asian Rugby championships start.

23 Thursday

Holiday as it was the CCC sports day [i.e. for all CCC schools]. Rained all day. The Russians backed down and took the spy Ho to Siberia on their boat.

24 Friday

Took part in a “Point of View” panel discussion on education here. A Baptist College [now University] chap and a young kindergarten mistress were also on the panel.

25 Saturday

Lost our game of Rugby against HMS Tamar [not a ship but the name of the Naval HK building in HK].

26 Sunday

The governor [Murray MacLehose] came to church [Kowloon Union] for a St Andrew's service [he is a Scotsman].

28 Tuesday

School 'Speech Day' in the evening.

29 Wednesday

Post speech day holiday. Lovely, fine day.