

M KEENE
9 AMITY BLVD
COOGEE
WA 6166
17/3/96.

Dear Liz. What a wonderful birthday present,
the receipt of your package. I must thank my sister
Brenda for giving you my address. Well what else can
I say that probably many others have already said.
The two years at Willemstown were the most pleasant
and memorable of my school years, the values, standards of
behaviour, and education received had a great influence on
my future. I was no angel at school and could fill a
book with the pranks boys got up to, I hope the two
articles are of some use. Being a mixed school was of
tremendous benefit, we learnt to mix with girls and had
some terrific fun at the school dances etc.

In fact it was such a wrench to leave in July 1954
it took me ages to settle down in England again.

Even though it is only 19 hours flying time from Perth
to London I feel very isolated and it would be great to
communicate with other Ex 125 pupils. Of course August 1997
will be top priority, Australians call it Long Service Leave.

Thank you for contacting me looking forward to further
communication

Mike Keene

SARDINES

(CROWDED CLOSELY TOGETHER)

AT VARIOUS TIMES DURING THE YEAR STAFF MEMBERS WOULD ATTEND THEIR SATURDAY EVENING SOCIAL EVENTS, WITH MUCH RELIEF FROM BOTH STAFF AND STUDENTS.

PREFECTS AND MONITORS WERE LEFT IN CHARGE AND ORGANISED OUR OWN ENTERTAINMENT, BOYS BEING INVITED TO MIX WITH THE GIRLS FROM THE MAIN SCHOOL.

I CANNOT REMEMBER ALL THE DETAILS OF THE GAME OF 'SARDINES' BUT DO REMEMBER COUPLES WOULD GO OFF AND HIDE, THEN OTHERS WOULD BE SENT TO FIND THEM.

THE SQUASH COURTS WERE AN IDEAL HIDING PLACE AS THERE WAS NO NATURAL LIGHTING, AND WHEN IN TOTAL DARKNESS ONE WAS VIRTUALLY BLIND FOLD AND HAD TO FEEL FOR THE WALLS AND LET THEM GUIDE YOU. THIS I DID, BUT HAD A SUDDEN SHOCK WHEN MY HANDS CAME INTO CONTACT WITH A COUPLE WHO WERE IN VERY CLOSE CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER. THE COUPLE REMAINED SPEECH LESS FOR WHAT REASONS I CANNOT IMAGINE AND I RAPIDLY DEPARTED IN CASE IT WAS ONE OF THE PREFECTS.

M KEEN COLLINGWOOD
52-54.

HIDE AWAY

FORTUNATELY SOME OF THE FURNITURE PROVIDED FOR BOYS DORMITORIES WAS RATHER LARGE ESPECIALLY THE WARDROBES. THE RIGHT HAND SIDE WAS LOCKABLE WITH INTERIOR UPPER AND LOWER SLIDING LATCHES, THE LEFT SIDE WITH THE NORMAL EXTERNAL LOCK. I DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO AVOID HAVING TO ATTEND VARIOUS OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES. BEING IN POSSESSION OF A SCREW DRIVER IT WAS EASY TO MODIFY THE LOCK SYSTEM BY REMOVING THE LOWER RHS LATCH AND FIXING IT SUCH THAT THE WARDROBE COULD BE LOCKED FROM INSIDE. ALL SET TO GO WITH A PILLOW INSIDE FOR COMFORT AND ONLY THE SOUND OF THE DUTY STAFF MEMBER (ART TEACHER MR FOLLOWS) CHECKING TO SEE IF ALL ROOMS HAD BEEN VACATED. ON ENTERING THE ROOM HE MADE A QUICK SEARCH THEN HE TRIED TO OPEN THE WARDROBE, FINDING IT LOCKED I CLEARLY REMEMBER HIS EXASPERATED VOICE SAYING 'BLAST', SO AFTER THE SUCCESS I INFORMED ONE OTHER "MEMBER" FROM ANOTHER ROOM WHO LIKED THE IDEA. HE WENT A STEP FURTHER AND FIXED UP A READING LAMP INSIDE SO WHEN STAFF DID THEIR CHECKS HE WOULD BE NONCHALANTLY READING A SPICY NOVEL (OR DOING HIS SCHOOL WORK).

MICKEN COLLINGWOOD BOYS 1952-54

M. Kean S2-4

PRINCE RUPERT AT WAR

IN 1673 PRINCE RUPERT WAS COMMANDING 25 SHIPS OF THE ENGLISH FLEET, AND WAS SENT TO INTERCEPT THE FRENCH AND DUTCH OFF 'NORTH FORELAND'.

IT WAS EARLY ON A MISTY MORNING WHEN THE LOOKOUT YELLED "TWO FROGGY FRIGATES ON THE STARBOARD BOW SIR". PRINCE RUPERT'S RESPONSE WAS TO SUMMOND HIS 2ND IN COMMAND CAPTAIN SMYTHE, "CAPTAIN SMYTHE FETCH ME MY RED JACKET WILL YOU". "YES SIR," HE REPLIED, AND SET OFF TO THE OFFICERS QUARTERS THINKING WHAT DOES HE WANT THAT FOR. AFTER HANDING THE TACKET TO PRINCE RUPERT HE ASKED "WHY DO YOU WANT A RED JACKET SIR". PRINCE RUPERT REPLIED - "WELL CAPTAIN, IF I AM WOUNDED THE BLOOD ON MY TACKET WILL NOT BE NOTICED, AND THEREFORE NOT AFFECT THE MORALE OF THE ENGLISH SAILORS, OR BOOST THAT OF THE FRENCH". WHAT AN INGENIOUS IDEA, NO WONDER HIS IS AN ADMIRAL THOUGHT THE CAPTAIN.

FOUR HOURS LATER THE LOOKOUT AGAIN YELLED OUT.

"FORTY FROGGY AND DUTCH FRIGATES ON THE STARBOARD BOW SIR". PRINCE RUPERT CASUALLY RESPONDED BY SAYING "CAPTAIN SMYTHE FETCH ME MY BROWN CORDUROY TROUSERS WILL YOU."

Sig. Thanks for forwarding the back issues so promptly, a very pleasant evening was spent reading them instead of doing the usual preparation for next days lecture. Hope the enclosed is of some use to your collection and that the above maybe published. I'm much better informed ^{now} about Prince Rupert than ever before. PTO.

Have enclosed the cheque for the video and will make a donation at a later date. Looking forward to the next news letter. I have contacted Denis Pratt in Melbourne and Tom Fister in Perth who I met 25 years ago. Hoping to get together shortly.

All the best Mike

P.S. If all goes to plan my long service leave will commence in July 1997 so if you need any help with last minute organisation please let me know.

M. Keen SR-54

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