

TWENTYSEVEN

STALINGRAD SMH ELECTIONS MUSSOLINI'S END A HOILDAY IN DEVON
AND CORNWALL 1943

The battle in North Africa continued favourably for the Allies and Tripoli was occupied on 23rd January 1943. In May the North African war ended. In the meantime the Germans suffered a heavy defeat on 2nd February at Stalingrad.

The Allies were preparing to land on the Continent but the public knew not when and where. Armchair strategists were busy predicting the landing area. There was certainly hope in the air.

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My involvement with SMH increased. One or two of the small rooms on the top floor, normally occupied by assistant wardens, happened to be vacant. It was difficult for Mary to find volunteers with so many men and women having been called up. She offered one of the rooms to me as a "strong man" in case of an air raid or damage to the house. I cannot remember whether I moved in already in 1942 or in 1943. My job was to lock up at night, seeing to it that all windows were properly blacked out and the curtains drawn. I paid very little for the room and breakfast, less than I was in digs. I gained an intimate knowledge of the day-to-day workings of SMH, though on weekdays I was of course at work during the day. We had alternative Saturday mornings off at Bamag and every Saturday afternoon. When Mary had found an assistant warden a couple of months or so later I left.

Victor Tabbush and I had found a basement flat in Gower Street, on the same side as SMH and a few houses further down (something like No. 97). We entered the flat either through the main door, a few steps up from the pavement, or down a short flight of stone steps from the pavement to a small fore-court below pavement level protected by a wrought iron railing on the pavement level. Victor had the large front room and I a smaller back room. A short and somewhat dark corridor led to the bathroom with a geyser for hot water and a kitchen with a gas cooker. A back door led into a tiny untidy yard surrounded by tall brick walls shared with the neighbours on both sides and the back. The landlady lived on the upper floors. She was elderly, had Victorian furniture and occasionally asked us to tea; this was prettily served with good china and in the best of English tradition.

we had little furniture. Victor already supplied me with a bed and we managed to get bedlinen, towels and kitchen utensils. The only thing we had more of than we needed were wood choppers. We thought it would be nice to light a fire occasionally with wood we found in the yard and decided to buy one; we both came home with a chopper. It was my first flat and I enjoyed the space. We made our own breakfasts, did our shopping and on Sundays cooked a huge dinner, using up the meat ration on one meal. After SMH closed in the evening, Sandy Duff often joined us, being by inclination a night-owl. Over a pot of tea we talked and talked. Sometimes, when an air-raid was on, Sandy stayed until the all-clear siren. That could be early morning. His flat was only a few minutes away in a block facing Russel Square. Not once did I or Victor spend the night in a tube shelter. We felt reasonably safe in our basement. Bombs used to be small and even with a direct hit - so we argued - a bomb would have hardly penetrated to the basement. As we had two front exits and one at the back the chances of being trapped were minimal.

We kept open house. Friends from SMH, many of whom lived in Bloomsbury digs, were welcome and for them it was nice to be in a relatively spacious flat. We also gave parties with up to about 20 guests, which were enjoyed by everyone.

Our landlady had an elderly cleaner, who also did an hour or so every day cleaning and tidying up in our flat. One afternoon, when we returned from work, we found her slumped on the staircase and dead for a few hours. After that we had no more help and had to do the cleaning ourselves.

As in all previous years SMH had its AGM in March 1943. Weeks before, a list of candidates was drawn up for election to the Students' Committee. A day or two before the AGM, votes were cast in a ballot^{box} placed in the little porter's cubicle which was usually manned by an assistant warden or other member. I let myself be put up as a candidate and to my surprise came top of the list with a popular Indian called Musry - a Jew - having attracted only a very few less votes. Traditionally the person who topped the list automatically became chairman of the Students' Committee, a position of great prestige in the club. I was then friendly with a German girl, Gretl Philippi, and Mary disapproved strongly of our relationship on the grounds that it was against Christian ethics. She put her foot down and refused to have me as chairman. I had a long chat with her in her office and argued my case as well as I could but Mary was adamant. Quite a few members of SMH supported me and intervened with Mary on my behalf but without avail. The appointment of a chairman was delayed for days. Victor,

STUDENT MOVEMENT HOUSE
T W E N T Y - S I X T H B I R T H D A Y

E n t e r t a i n m e n t

1. Bulgarian Songs.....Mr. Naomov.
2. Scene from 'Un Bourgeois Gentilhomme' (Moliere)
Messrs. DUFF and PERL.
3. Indian Songs.....Mr. Marikar.
4. Sketch- 'A Slight Misunderstanding' (Author inknow)
George.....Mr. Schwitzer.
Henry.....Mr. Tabush.
Isobel.....Miss Neuburger.
5. Ukrainian Songs (with guitar).....Miss Jukova.
6. THE MUSIC GROUP.....Leaders Messrs. Weill and
Parkinson.
7. The Highland Fling (with bagpipes).....Pipe-Major Ian,
McDonald Murray.
8. Elizabethan Songs.....Mr. Henderson.
9. Sketch- A Tragedy (after Mr. Wm. Shakespeare)
Simon) Noblemen of England. Mr. Simon.
De Moubray) Mr. Moubray.
McDuff) Noblemen of Scotland. Mr. Duff.
McMusry) Mr. Musry.
10. T H E B I R T H D A Y C A K E.

MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS
November 20th.
1943.

136. programme of entertainment

Sandy and I poured over the constitution to find a compelling interpretation in my favour. Members discussed the finer points of the constitution for hours and there were heated discussions - but Mary stood her ground. Joseph Gimpel, a Pole and married, who had been chairman during the previous year was made to continue by Mary. Sandy became Vice-chairman and I joined the committee as ordinary member. Attached is [redacted], the SMH programme of events for the summer term, 1943. My name appears on the front page amongst the committee members. The programme is also interesting as it shows the special discussion groups organised in connection with the four reports on peace aims which we were then working on. (See further below). The programme is typical of the high level of activities. It shows that Joyce Grenfell entertained us one evening. George Yeh, Minister of Information of the Chinese Government talked about his country. Victoria Kingsley gave a song recital.

Though Mary thwarted my chairmanship, she was a fair person. To "compensate" me she proposed, and the Students' Committee approved, that I should become their representative on the important Finance Committee, the only student member on that committee. Everyone on it was much older than me; I got to know senior officials of the SCM and others. We dealt with all major financial and policy matters and I learned a great deal that later was useful to me.

I became never chairman of the Students' Committee, though I was re-elected 3 times in the following years and remained on the Students' Committee until 1947. I was the longest-serving committee member. Joan joined SCM in 1946, when I was still serving.

At the 26th birthday celebrations of SMH on 20th November 1943 I acted with Victor and Hilde Newlands (now Mrs. Bill Fisher) in a sketch "A slight Misunderstanding" Exhibit 136 shows the programme. The author of the sketch is given as "unknown" but if I remember correctly it was Mary.

Other highlights in the SCM programme in the year was a poetry reading by Stephen Spender. Donald Mackinnon, the Oxford philosopher, came three times I think. His line was an interesting amalgam of Christianity and Marxism. Professor Abercrombie, who was much involved in official post-war planning for London gave a talk on "Post-war planning".

Every Saturday evening dances continued. They were referred to as "hops" and mostly we danced to gramophone records. Afterwards there was a party of regulars at the Duke of Marlborough, a pub that never closed during the war and is still going strong.

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My involvement in the public discussion on peace aims when still with the IFL in Stratford-on-Avon had given me experience which was useful when we discussed the post-war world at SMH. I have already referred to the organised discussions that were taking place and which resulted in four reports being published in August 1943. I don't have the one on "Education" but the other three are attached. Exhibit 140 The names of the overall committee which planned the reports are given in the attached exhibit. Its chairman was Ernst Knoblock. He also headed the sub-committee on the "Economics" report. Members of the overall committee came from Germany, England, India, Egypt and Czechoslovakia. Browsing through the reports now in 1986, I am pleasantly surprised at the breadth of their vision. In many ways they are quite up-to-date and applicable today.

Post-war planning was then a general topic in the press and specialised journals and books started to appear on various aspects. There was no shortage of reliable sources but what mattered most was to develop definite guidelines and not to lose ourselves in Utopian wishful thinking. We stood with both feet in the realm of reality - but we also yearned for peace and a better world to live in.

I only want to quote one paragraph because it is on a topic that I have mentioned more than once here. It occurs in the political report on page 2 and the paragraph is headed "Concentration on Disarmament" and reads:

" The whole League system was further discredited as a result of the policy of making disarmament the major issue of 'League' politics. This concentration on disarmament was a concentration on an effort rather than on a cause, and when the Disarmament Conference ended in a spectacular failure public opinion throughout the world lost confidence in the whole conception of the League". The wording is not very elegant. It must be remembered that the countries that openly rejected disarmament were Germany and Italy, the very countries that became the aggressors.

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SMH was asked from time to time to recommend speakers on international affairs at conferences. I thus attended an International Youth Conference in Southampton on July 3rd and 4th, 1943. At least one other speaker, Dr. Sudhin Ghose (I have a signed copy of his book "And Gazelles Leaping") from India, came from SMH. The Conference was organised by the International Relationships Sub-Committee of Southampton Youth Council. Both Ghose and I were amongst the main speakers. Another principal speaker was Kurt Hahn, founder of Gordonstoun school. The conference programme Exhibit 141 is attached. The conference photo 137 and reports on the conference in the

YOUTH FORGES LINKS OF FRIENDSHIP

Two South MORE



137. International Youth Conference, Southampton, 3rd and 4th July 1943. I am in the second row, first from right. Sudhir Ghose three rows behind me

YOUTH FORGES LINKS OF FRIENDSHIP

Twenty Nationalities at Southampton Conference

MORE than 100 delegates, representing 20 countries, discussed world problems with vigour and earnestness at the International Youth Conference in Southampton during the week-end.

Organised by the International Relations Sub-Committee of Southampton Youth Council, the conference was, delegates agreed, a success in every way. Hopes were voiced that more such meetings would be held.

Countries represented included Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, India, Netherlands, Thailand, U.S.S.R., U.S.A., and Poland. Delegates were the guests of Southampton youth club members in their homes during the week-end.

Delegates were welcomed to the town by the Mayor (Councillor B. A. Corry, D.C.M.), who was accompanied by the Mayoress. The reception was held at the Civic Centre.

"I feel sure that if you go on as you have been doing, and are doing, in your youth movements the work that lies ahead, difficult as it may be, will be much easier by the spirit prevailing among youth," commented the Mayor.

"If we are to succeed in any undertaking we must, first of all, secure goodwill. If the world is to live at peace when the war is over we must learn to understand each other. We must learn tolerance. I congratulate youth movements on beginning to understand each other."

ORIGINATED PLAN

Chantry Hall was crowded with delegates and members of the general public for the opening meeting on Saturday afternoon. Miss E. Yeo (chairman of the sub-committee) presided.

The chairman, on behalf of the sub-committee, warmly welcomed the overseas delegates, and particularly acknowledged the services of Miss B. Veal and Mr. Peter Broomfield, who, she said, were originators of the plan for holding the conference. The idea was to form a friendship which, it was hoped, would lead to greater things. To do that, it must be a friendship with a purpose.

TIME OF INSPIRATION

Mr. R. Claude Ashby, J.P., chairman of the Southampton Youth Committee, said in the whole of his experience of youth work in Southampton, which went back more than 40 years, there had never been a gathering representing so many nations. It was something which, he believed, would be a red letter mark in the history of local youth work. His heartiest wish was that it

750,000 scattered over that vast continent.

The people who came from the villages lived very much in the same way as did their great, great, great grandfathers, and their mental attitude was very much the same. The immediate reaction of the typical villager to anything new was that his great grandfather lived to a great age without it, so why should he bother about it. The villager was not directly interested in politics.

The 10 per cent. of the native population to be found in the cities had a mental attitude which was very different. Everything that was done by their forefathers was regarded by them as wrong. They were always experimenting—introducing new laws and cancelling them. The view of the people in the villages was that the townsman was fond of running in a circle and boasting of how much progress he had made!

INDIA'S REPLY

Referring to India's reaction today to world affairs, Dr. Ghose said the menace of the Axis countries was regarded as a threat to the future of humanity as a whole.

Their reply to the Cripps' mission was the way their men joined the armed forces. They joined in such numbers that neither the Army nor the Navy could cope with them.

As the Prime Minister announced in his Guildhall speech a few days ago, the biggest voluntary force ever raised was in India.

Other speakers were Mr. Matej Schwitzer (Czecho-Slovakia) and Mr. S. H. Sung (China).

"Let us, the United Nations, who have come together by choice," said the latter, "resolve to create a world resting on the pillars of justice, co-existence, co-operation and mutual respect. Selfishness and complacency in the past have made us pay dearly in terms of human misery and suffering. While it may be difficult for us not to feel bitterness for the injuries we have suffered at the hands of the aggressors, let us remember that recrimination and hatred will lead us nowhere.

TO BETTER PURPOSE

"We should use our energy to better purpose, so that every nation will be enabled to use its native genius and energy for the reconstruction of a permanently progressive world, with all nations participating on an equitable and just basis. The goal of our common struggle at the conclusion of this war should be to shape the future so that the whole world may be thought of as one great state, common to God and man."

Following tea, which was served in St. Mary's British Restaurant, the conference divided into five discussion groups, each with its own chairman, leader and secretary, in order to learn as much as possible of the life and ideas of youth in the various countries represented. Consideration was given to ways of increasing friendship and understanding between them, so as to form a sound basis for international reconstruction.

138. Conference

Report in Southampton's "Southern Daily Echo" of 5th July 1943



The Mayor and Mayoress among the delegates.

FREEDOM THROUGH FRIENDSHIP AND KNOWLEDGE

Findings of Southampton Youth Conference

LEADERS presented brief reports on debates in the discussion groups at the final session of the International Youth Conference at Southampton, the opening meeting of which was reported in last night's "Echo."

Mr. F. L. Freeman, secretary to Southampton Education Committee, who presided, pointed out: "We in Britain have been dreadfully insular in our way of life in the past. In the future we must have more concern about the countries beyond that moat which is the English Channel." He could not understand those people who got restive because some others thought fit to talk of after-the-war in the middle of the war.

MORE CONFERENCES URGED

Miss R. Clark reported that delegates who spoke in the discussions over which she presided stressed that, on the Continent, most youth organisations were political.

The fact that the British standard of living was higher than that of most countries on the Continent should not make Britons self-satisfied; it should be remembered that Britain had not been invaded and had not lived under the constant threat of invasion.

One of the unanimous feelings in her group was that there should be more such international conferences. It was also suggested that the ministries of information of countries whose governments were now in Britain should be urged to send native actors and musicians all over Britain, and they should also send speakers to youth clubs.

It was felt strongly that London's lead should be followed, and that there should be an international youth centre in every capital in the world.

youth all over the world wanted most. Youth felt, too, that it should be under no social obligations unless it had full rights of citizenship.

Fascism prevails not only in Germany, Italy and Japan, pointed out Mr. F. R. Kankam-Boadu (West Africa), leader of another group which advocated the complete liquidation of Fascism throughout the world.

Education should be directed towards world citizenship. In religion, his group felt, denominational differences were undesirable.

AN ESSENTIAL

Intense nationalism had been the main cause of misunderstanding among the peoples of the world, it was felt.

The Rev. Ben Dakin, Toe H, summarised the findings of his group in these words: "We are firmly of opinion that the essential thing in life must be the understanding through personal development of friendship and contact.

Mrs. Wraith reported that her group advocated the exchange of young workers between countries, and added: "We found that we have so much more in common than we have to separate us."

A young Polish army officer, who spoke in place of Mr. Kur's Hahn, who was unwell, urged youth to remember that it was about to enter a world that could not possibly be like the one that was passing away.

The meeting closed with an expression of deep gratitude to Southampton youth organisations for making such excellent arrangements, and for all the hospitality extended.

minded the crowded congregation, which assembled in the ruins of Southampton's blitzed Mother Church for an international and undenominational service.

Members of youth organisations joined the delegates for the service, at which the preacher was the Rev. Ben Dakin, Regional Chaplain, Southern Command.

That courage must be based on faith was the theme of his address. Youth would do well to see that only by acceptance of the role of the suffering servant, as exemplified by Isaiah, could they reach fruition of their hopes of a world fit for coming generations to live in.

Such a faith naturally demanded belief in a personal God, who took men into a higher realm than they themselves could, by their own capacity, achieve.

There was an orchestra and a choir of 50, under the direction of Miss Eva Thorne.

HAPPY REUNION

At the concert and social held at the Chantry Hall, an exhibition of their traditional dances and a comedy sketch depicting life under Nazi rule were given by the Austrian delegates.

Mrs. Wolkavinska and Mrs. Jenks gave a fine rendering of three Greek songs. The music was provided by the Eastleigh Swing Sextet.

139. Conference report in Southampton's "Southern Daily Echo" of 6.7.43. I am on the right in the 2nd row. Ghose right in the back.

"Southern Daily Echo" are on pages 287 and 288/9 respectively.

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While involved in writing our reports an event of great importance occurred when the Allies landed in Sicily - "the soft underbelly of Europe" as Churchill called it poignantly - on 10th July 1943. The European front was opened by the British 8th Army under Montgomery, which had done so well in North Africa, and Patton's 7th US Army. Now that the Allies had a foothold in Europe, hopes were rising rapidly for final victory. But fighting was exceptionally tough, first against the Italians and later against the Germans as well. Every mile was fought for and progress was slow but gradually the whole of Southern Italy was conquered. Mussolini was forced to resign on 25th July 1943 and was arrested. He was exiled to Ponza and later to a hospital in the Abruzzi mountains from where he was rescued by German parachutists in September 1943. He returned later to northern Italy and was shot by partisans on 28th April 1945.

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Our reports completed and the war going well, Victor and I set off on 7th August (?) 1943 for a fortnight's holiday. We travelled by train to Newton Abbot in Devon. Our rucksacks were not too heavy and straight from the station we started to climb towards Hay Tor. Victor's principle was to take as far as possible the most direct and shortest route, no matter how steep. We walked through meadows, across mountain sides strewn with boulders and crossed rivers. It was exhilarating to be in the open air, far away from London and without risk from air raids. Nor were there any signs of the war around us. Sheep grazed contentedly and people went about their business as usual. In the late afternoon we arrived at Hay Tor which is a massive granite outcrop from a broad rounded grassy hill. It was warm and the air was clear and we had a magnificent view of the hills and valleys in all directions. We asked at a near-by farmhouse where we could stay for the night. A caravan stood on the farmland, normally inhabited by a painter. As our good luck would have it, he was away for a few days and we were given the keys of the caravan. This was choc-a-block with unfinished canvasses, an easel, paint pots, brushes, the man's clothes, and pots and pans but we were quite comfortable for the night.

Next day we rose early and walked across Dartmoor Forest in an almost straight line to Widecombe - immortalised in the folksong - and to Post-bridge. I forget where we stayed that night but next morning we walked on the road as it happened to be the shortest way to Two Bridges. South of this township we left the road and descended more or less directly towards Plymouth. We came across a large number of stone circles, quite a large village it must have been, far from the road and also crossed a river by

a Roman Bridge. These were the first prehistoric and Roman remains I had seen in England. Our direct descent, far away from a path, landed us in thick almost impenetrable undergrowth and walking through it without a machete was quite an effort. Nor could we see where we were heading for as the undergrowth was taller than we. Suddenly there appeared before our eyes a most lovely view: a long lake, shimmering serenely in the sunny air. Relieved of having escaped the dense undergrowth and sweating and weary, we slaked our thirst, took off our heavy boots and sweaty socks, rolled our trousers up and blissfully cooled our extremities. But hardly had we stretched out for a well deserved rest when a Jeep sped towards us on the road skirting the lake. Two cross-looking men sat in it and harshly asked what we were thinking of doing here? Hadn't we seen the large notice board at the gate forbidding entrance to unauthorised persons? And how did we get in with gates locked? Didn't we know that this was the Burrator which supplies Plymouth with water? There was great fear at that time in the whole country that the enemy might poison water supplies and that Germany might parachute civilians to do this job. I let Victor do all the talking. If they had heard my accent, we might have been interrogated, which would have certainly spoiled our holiday. We were told to put our socks and boots on as fast as possible and were escorted unceremoniously to the gate. At its side was a large notice-board forbidding entrance to unauthorised persons, just as the chaps had told us but of course we had not seen it. We continued our walk on an asphalted road. In Plymouth we saw some bomb damage and there was an air raid in progress, so we left as fast as we could. We took the ferry across the Tamar and soon turned off the road again to take the cliff walk to Dowederry. We were thirsty and drank rough cider from the wood in a pub with a lovely view of the sea bathing in the evening sun. We were contented and enjoyed the seascape but could hardly get up and stagger off to find a B & B.

The next day we continued in glorious weather along the cliffs to East and West Looe and on to Polperro which I still think is England's most picturesque fishing port.

One day we had a swim on a nice sandy beach but I can't remember where. The beach had been mined and there were warnings all along to that effect, except at one stretch of 200 - 300 yards where bathing was permitted. Having changed into swimming trunks we pranced down to the water's edge between rows of red flags. It was one of those days when the sea was smooth with a bluish haze on the horizon. We were enjoying our swim when suddenly out of the blue haze two German fighters dived with a mighty drone

straight for us strafing the beach with machine gun fire. We ran back as fast as our legs would carry us to the relative shelter of some rocks, where we had left our clothes. Even worse was to come when anti-aircraft guns, further back and hidden to us, let loose a shower of exploding shells which rained shrapnel. It was all over within seconds. The aircraft turned tail and we picked up 1 - 2 inch jagged pieces of lethal shrapnel on the beach.

Still continuing the cliff road we crossed the Fowey to the town of the same name. It was the home of the poet Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch. Where we stayed I can't remember. We walked next day northwards along the river to Lostwithiel. We continued - getting one or two lifts - to Tavistock, a charming little country town. We found a B & B and having negotiated the price for the night we went to our room and started to unpack our rucksacks when we both took a sudden dislike to the room. It was difficult to discover the reason but it may have been the furniture or the musty smell. We quickly laced up our rucksacks again and quietly stepped out over the low window sill. We walked fast to get away from the place and found much nicer accommodation on a nearby farm.

According to the best of my recollections we then went to Dartington Hall to attend a Fabian summer school. I had become a Fabian in 1941. The Society was founded 1884 and recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. It was named after the Roman General Fabius Maximus Cunctator. This is rendered in the dictionary as "one who delays, lingers, hesitates". I do not know which of the epithets the founders had in mind but judging from the political attitude the Society adopted during the war I would have thought that "ditherer" would have been appropriate. Amongst its early members were Bernard Shaw, the Webbs, H.G. Wells and Keir Hardie. Amongst prominent members at that time were G.D.H. Cole, his wife, her brother Raymond Postgate (who started the "Good Food Guides"), Harold Laski and others. Their politics were a rather moderate form of non-Marxist socialism and they did not get involved in political propaganda. They had, however, an active research department and published tracts on all sorts of topics - as long as they were not too controversial. One I remember was called "The Herring Industry" - hardly a topic of socialist vanguard politics. The Society also provided a forum of discussions which at that time was perhaps its most important function.

Dartington School near Totnes was and is a remarkable institution, open to both boys and girls and was then one of very few co-educational boarding schools in England. It promoted free expression and had an unusual curricu-

lum. It was one of the few progressive schools in the country both with regards to its curriculum and the way its pupils were encouraged to develop their personalities. Part of its philosophy was a return to Nature and the combination of manual skills with intellectual pursuits. Around it grew up handicraft shops. It was also known for boys and girls using the same swimming pool simultaneously without swim suits. All the pupils had gone away for the summer holidays.

We were perhaps 40 - 50 at the summer school. We had formal talks and discussion groups and there were many opportunities to continue discussion during walks or in the evening over a cup of tea or a glass of beer. Mrs. Cole was there, Dick Crossman came for a couple of days to give a talk and lead a discussion, and also Lord Nathan, the Labour leader of the LCC (the GLC until end March 1986). The most colourful person was Professor Joad, well-known to millions of BBC listeners for his weekly appearance in the "Brains Trust". Whenever a question was fired at him on those appearances, he started off "It all depends what you mean by . . .". Joad was rotund, short, wore a goatee beard and had a rasping voice. He was casually dressed, didn't wear a tie (very unusual for an older man, then) and rather an enfant terrible, enjoying the good things in life as well as disseminating philosophy in a popular way. One of the problems he was deeply involved in just then was a moral one: should we uphold the nudity rule in the pool or should we, merely temporary tenants, break it. After some discussion a compromise was arrived at - in the best of Fabian Society tradition: during the day swim suits will be worn, after sunset bathing in the nude will be permitted. Joad was heard most evenings after sunset entertaining Fabianettes at the pool.

in Italy fighting continued. Naples wasn't taken by the Allies until 1st October.

As I was unable to take the exam after my two terms at University College I had taken a correspondence course in chemical engineering. At the end of the course I had to take a written exam. In a letter dated 21st December 1943 I was informed by the Technological Institute of Great Britain that I had passed my exam. See exhibit 140. Though the Institute had no great reputation, the course was very useful and had helped me in my work at Bamag. It also provided me with a good grounding for the 5-day exam I took later for the Institution of Chemical Engineers.

Bamag as in previous years had a Christmas party. See exhibit 141. Incidentally my wage had been increased to £ 6/0/0 a week.

The
TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN
CORRESPONDENCE TRAINING IN ALL BRANCHES OF ENGINEERING AND ALLIED TECHNOLOGY

OUR REF
JAC/GI/41260

TEMPLE BAR HOUSE
LONDON · E·C·4
TELEPHONE · CENTRAL · 5940

21st December, 1943

M.K. Schwitzer, Esq., A.M.Tech.I.(Gt.Brit.),
103, Gower Street,
W.C.1.

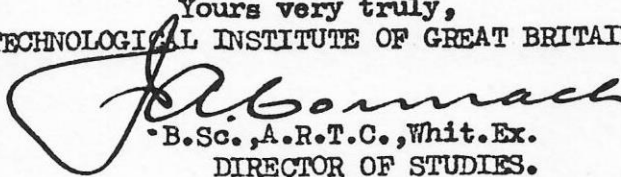
Dear Mr. Schwitzer,

I have the honour to inform you that at a meeting of the Advisory Committee held on the 17th day of December, 1943, it was decided that your work and conduct in the course of study in preparation for the Associate Membership Examination of the Institution of Chemical Engineers and your success in that examination are sufficiently meritorious to entitle you to the award of the Diploma of Associate Membership of this Institute in respect of Chemical Engineering.

This Diploma entitles you to designate yourself an "ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN" and carries the right to the use of the letters A.M.Tech.I.(Gt.Brit.) after your name.

The document, duly sealed and signed, is forwarded herewith. Please acknowledge its receipt and accept my congratulations on your success.

Yours very truly,
for THE TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN,


B.Sc., A.R.T.C., Whit. Ex.
DIRECTOR OF STUDIES.

Encl: Diploma.

140. I never used the A.M.Tech.I. as it had no standing in the profession

Once more there was the "activity play at 3PM. I knew quite a few of the lines by heart, though I had never participated in it. Christmas dinner, I need to remember I spent with Jean and John at their Putney Flat. They had a holiday that year and went to the sea for one week early 1945. John had learned that his father safely escaped from Malaya but unfortunately died on his way back in South Africa. There was a New Year's Eve dance at 3PM. The mood amongst members was certainly better than in the years before. Progress in Italy was slow but steady and Germany was suffering one setback after another in Russia. The day when the second front was going to be opened on the Continent couldn't be far away.



141. Bamag Christmas party 24th December 1943 in drawing office at Universal House. Sitting fr.l. Peter Stone (now in Australia), Joe Chaplin (in white jacket, holding) Miss Mello (a tracer), her sister 2nd fr. right. 2nd row sitting fr. l. Frank Cox, A.H. Manning, centre, on his l. Bregmann. 3rd row standing, 3rd fr. r. old Mr. Korn, on his r. Hans Abel. 4th row fr. l. "Knobby" Clark, on his l. young Abel, centre Wisniewski (w. glasses); I'm r. back, head almost touching paper chain; Leonard Barton a little below me (girl's hands on shoulder)

Once more there was the "activity play" at SMH. I knew quite a few of the lines by heart, though I had never participated in it.

Christmas dinner, I seem to remember I spent with Jean and John at their Putney flat. They had a holiday that year and went to the sea for one week early 1943. John had learned that his father safely escaped from Malaysia but unfortunately died on his way back in South Africa.

There was a New Year's Eve dance at SMH. The mood amongst members was certainly better than in the years before.

Progress in Italy was slow but steady and Germany was suffering one setback after another in Russia. The day when the second front was going to be opened on the Continent couldn't be far away.

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Mother's life in 1943 had gone on more or less unchanged, judging from the meagre correspondence. She and Ernő were still living in their two room plus bathroom flat in Budapest. They still had one servant: Eszti from Bratislava.

Mother's health which had never been good since her thrombosis, was improving. She had two holidays that year. One in February in the hills where she did much walking. I assume this was Gyöngyös, where she stayed with Boris and which is near the Kekes hills. The second holiday was for five weeks in a spa near a lake, presumably Balaton, where she took again carbon dioxide baths. She felt much better after this holiday.

It was still not possible for Anni to visit her, despite of Anni's "Ausnamestellung" or exempted position in Slovakia and Mother's in Hungary. This referred to the fact that though of Jewish extraction, they had some privileges as Roman Catholics. Anni and Pali continued to live in Hlohovec and saw Granfather frequently. Anni reports that he has become weaker and frail. Mother's furniture had been moved to a store in or near Hlohovec and Anni was inspecting it from time to time. Pali was working and making good money, which surprised me pleasantly. Pali's mother lived with them and Anni reports that she is not getting on too well with the old lady.

Boris and her husband Pista celebrated their silver wedding that year. George was working for his doctorate.