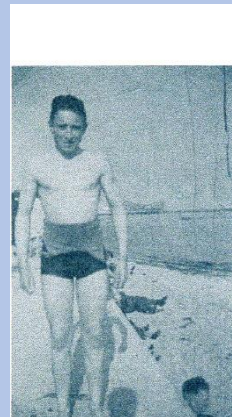


# Adrian Mole goes to Halton

*Extracts from his 1939 Diary.*

*A glimpse into an Apprentice's life, (an anonymous 38<sup>th</sup> Entry Apprentice)*

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- Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Apr Went to C of E Church at 7pm for Preparatory Holy Communion. Went to Aylesbury in afternoon and saw 'Men with Wings' at the Pavilion
- Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr Workshops all day.
- Tue 4<sup>th</sup> Apr Schools in morning. Received £4 deferred pay in afternoon. Most of the chaps in the room got £3-10.
- Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Apr Very excited. Got the 10.30am Easter Leave Special from Wendover. Managed to catch the 12.25 Clacton train from Liverpool Street. Changed at Colchester and arrived home (Clacton) at about 3 o'clock. Saw 'Balloo' in the afternoon and 'Little Tough Guy' in the evening with father.
- Thu 6<sup>th</sup> Apr Saw John and Watky and did a bit of air-gun practice at Musgrave's. Saw Helen home from the station. Went to the Odean in the evening and saw 'Texans' with John and Helen. Uncle Bob had arrived to stay, when we got back.
- A post-annotation to this entry (John – from Cirencester – was killed in a Corsair, in Aug 1944, flying from HMS Formidable against the 'Tirpitz')*
- Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Apr Did a bit of air-gun shooting. In the evening went out with Musgrave, his pal Clarke and Stanley McKay. About 10 o'clock, we went down to the shelter by the bandstand and saw a man 'raping' a girl. I was pretty disgusted.  
FROZEN – BUT THE SUN'S OUT  
My Mother has written, 'Charles at Home on leave at Easter, 1939 – 8<sup>th</sup> April (The date was probably the 9<sup>th</sup> April) This photo was probably taken by Uncle Bob.
- Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Apr Undressed on the beach and went for a swim with John. Then went out in the canoe. The water was rough.
- Tue 11<sup>th</sup> Apr Went for a walk in the evening with Joan and her (girl) friend and John. We went to the ruined fort.
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Apr Saw John and his mother off on the train. Later I returned to Halton by train, off Easter Leave. At Wendover, the buses ran in relays ferrying us back to Camp. Buses returning, went past the station in order to turn round. Another boy and I leaped aboard a passing bus and had the extra ride. I arrived back on Camp at 10.30am.
- Thu 13<sup>th</sup> Apr Workshops. Prepared engines for test-bench. Bullshit in evening for the King's visit.
- Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Apr The King visits Halton. Went to see 'Adventures of Robin Hood'. It was one of the best colour films I have seen.
- Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Apr Got engines on test-bench for running. Went to Aylesbury in the afternoon. Saw 'Duke of West Point'.



- Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Apr A free Sunday. Stayed in bed till 11 o'clock. Saw 'King of Alcatraz'.
- Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Apr- Ran Gipsy 1 in the morning. Started up first swing. Took out Austin 8 in the afternoon. It refused to start. Saw 'Crime School' in the evening.
- Tue 18<sup>th</sup> Apr Schools in the morning. Javelin throwing, down the stadium, in the afternoon. Went up in the hills, in training kit, in evening. Out over the railings at back. Lookout for 'Snoops'.
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Apr Solved trouble of Austin. Spark plugs not strong enough and was only firing on two cylinders. Had a little trouble with leaky radiator. Engine started first swing, but had to hold hand over partially over air-intake to keep it running. Mixture too weak. Went up in the hills over the fence. Coming back over the fence, nearly got caught by Sergeant.
- Thu 20<sup>th</sup> Apr Went to workshops in morning. Solved carburation problem with Austin 8. Level of fuel was too low in jet, owing to the float being set too low on the needle valve. Had Engines Exam in afternoon. Lasted 3 hours. Went up in the hills, in vest and grey slacks.
- 
- 'UP IN THE HILLS'
- Fri 21<sup>st</sup> Apr- Went to workshops, instead of Schools, in the morning. In the afternoon had the usual Friday Bullshit. Saw 'Love Finds Andy Hardy'.
- Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Apr Went to workshops. Changed from Preliminary Engines to Advanced Basic. After having lovely weather all week, it rained in afternoon. Read randy book – 'She Done Him Wrong' by Mae West.
- Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Apr- Rained on and off, all day. Was cold. Went on Church Parade in tunics. Nearly Froze. In afternoon, went to 'The Mystery of the Waxworks Museum' a horror film.
- Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Apr Started new routine. Workshops all day. Basics boring, after engines. PT was at 6.55am. Got a book from the library 'Thrilling Flights', by Johns. All true stories – mostly about Great War.
- Tue 25<sup>th</sup> Apr Went to Schools in morning for three period then on to workshops in afternoon. In the evening, scrubbed out bath. Received. Did bullshit in afternoon for Wing Commanders parcel, two letters, and local rag in the morning mail – and something else I nearly forgot, I went to dentist.
- Thu 27<sup>th</sup> Apr Laid out kit for inspection, early morning. Finished off scraping (exercise 10) in workshops. Wing Commander's Inspection, after Schools. Room, complimented. Saw 'Gangs of New York'
- Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Apr Schools in morning. In afternoon had rehearsal for AOC's Review. Saw 'This Man is News'. Got results of Engine Exam. Came 7<sup>th</sup> out of 60, with 69%.
- Mon 1<sup>st</sup> May - Workshops all day. Signed for 1" micrometer and 1-2" vernier. In evening, had to get cigarettes and matches etc (I don't smoke) out from behind pipes in drying room. Was at it for about 2 hours.

Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> May - AOC's Review. Inspected by Air Vice Marshal. Inspected our room and complimented us on it. Had rest of day off. Went to see Ronald Coleman in 'If I were King'. It was very good.

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> May Workshops in morning. In afternoon, did PT in Station Gym to the tunes of Station Band. Watched Station Sports after. Reading new library book, 'War in the Art'. Letter from father. Filled in leave-form. Went and played Campbell's bugle in the evening. (Note at back of diary: Boys that came low in Engine's Exam were told by Officer in 'C' Squadron Workshops Office that if they did not buck up, they would get their ticket.)

Thu 4<sup>th</sup> May Shops in morning and Schools in afternoon. Tried to get into flicks in evening but fourpenny's and ninepenny's full up – and they were queuing for the shillings. Lots of people from surrounding district.

Fri 5<sup>th</sup> May Went to Schools in morning. We were supposed to do PT on the aerodrome rehearsing for Empire Air Day in the afternoon, but it rained. So had afternoon off. Received pass and paid sub for Aldershot Tattoo – one shilling. Bought 'Flying', threepence and 'Air Stories', ninepence. Went and saw 'Bulldog Drummonds Peril' and 'Swiss Miss'. Both jolly good – but had to go in ninepenny's.

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> May Went to Shops in morning and watched models flying in evening.

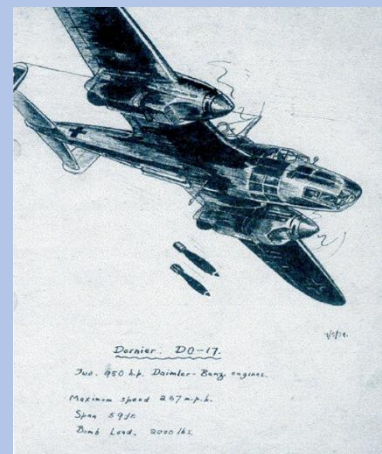
Sun 7<sup>th</sup> May Went to Holy Communion at 7 am – and missed Church Parade at 8.15. Did drawing of Dornier DO.17.

In afternoon went and saw hill-climbing trials (motor bikes and cars). Mad-brained chap crashed motor bike just before hair-pin bend.

Mon 8<sup>th</sup> May Changed Shops in Advanced Basic this morning. Got told off by Old Cooper the instructor. Went up to cookhouse this evening and played Bugle. Had bath after.

Tue 9<sup>th</sup> May Went to Schools in morning. Got 'Picture Post' from Helen. Went to Workshops in afternoon. Did Drawing of Sopwith Camel in evening.

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> May Went to Workshops. Got shoved to a bench, on my own, for fighting with Cherry (the rat). Went down to the 'drome. Rehearsal for PT. A Miles Hawk trainer stunted over while we did it. Went to see 'Call of the Wild'. Received a five shilling PO, from Mum and Dad.



Thu 11<sup>th</sup> May Went to Workshops. Told I could go back to original bench. Got 70% zeal (?) marks. Got 3 shillings in Stamps from Aunt Edie for my birthday. Went to Schools in afternoon. Did a drawing of a Curtiss SBC-4 in evening.



Fri 12<sup>th</sup> May (I am 16, today) Searched for smoking-materials before going to Schools this morning. Received two parcels and four letter for my birthday. Got five shillings from Helen and five schillings from Uncle Bob. Altogether a total of eighteen shillings. Went down the 'drome for PT practise. Perishing cold. Magister and Battle flew around watching us.

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> May Workshops in morning. Changed from Basic Shop to Magnetos and Carburettors. Went to Wing Sports in afternoon. Saw 'Fools for Scandal' and 'Double or Quits'. Received parcel from Brenda.

Mon 15<sup>th</sup> May Went to Workshops all day. Had carburettor lecture in morning. Instructor looks like Karloff. Did carbs-practical in afternoon and learnt a bit about the Panther II A's carburettor.

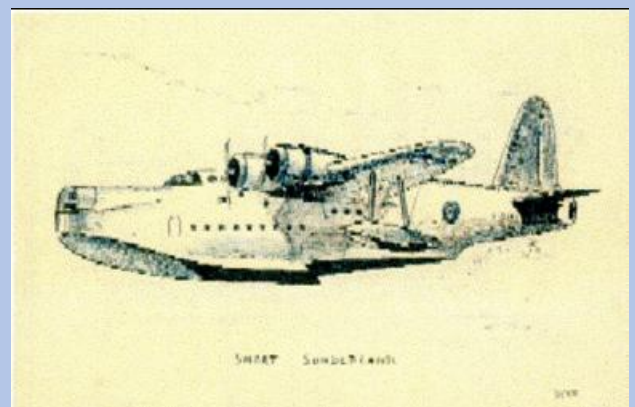
Tue 16<sup>th</sup> May Schools in morning. Workshops in afternoon. Put on Check Parade for talking in ranks by Sergeant Player. Did a bit of tumbling on six biscuits – and used a bed for part of the time.

Wed 17<sup>th</sup> May Shops in morning. Had practical. Took AVY70H carburettor to bits and assembled it. Went to Station Gym in afternoon and did PT. It took the rest of the afternoon to get a haircut. Did a bit of tumbling and had a cold shower.

Thu 18<sup>th</sup> May Went down to the 'drome and had PT rehearsal for Empire Air Day. Press and Movietone News were there. Had a cold shower afterwards and afternoon off. Went to see 'Dawn Patrol' in Aylesbury. Had Nieuports in it but they did not fly. Missed Identification Parade.

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> May Workshops in morning. Had two hours Schools in afternoon and had to go to barracks after. Did PT Display in evening. Saw Tutors, Magisters, Battles, Blenheims, Hurricanes and a Harvard and a Virginia.

Sun 21<sup>st</sup> May Went for walk in the hills in the afternoon, round by the waterworks. Drew a Short Sunderland.

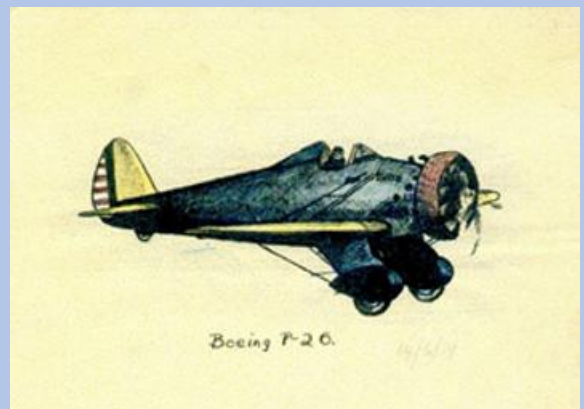


Wed 24<sup>th</sup> May Empire Day. Went to Workshops. Had theoretical carbs lecture. Did tumbling and horse-work on the Square – and sunbathed for rest of afternoon. Had a cold bath, and another one after lights out.

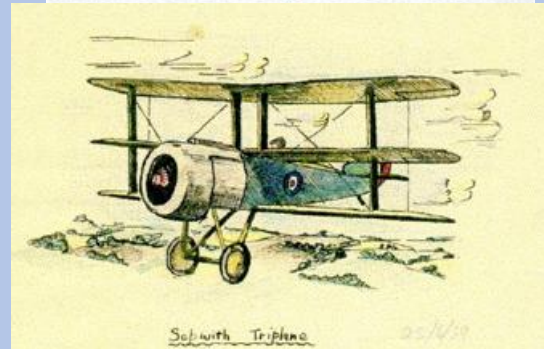
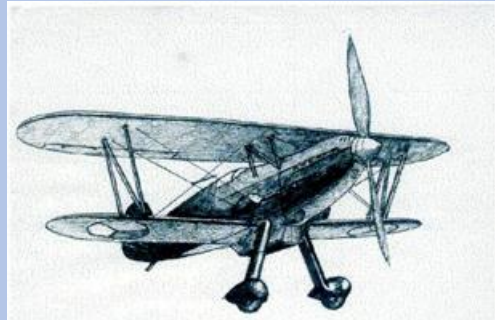
Thu 25<sup>th</sup> May Workshops. Did a sketch of the Panther IIA carburettor. Received pay £1 for leave. The officer on duty did not handle crowd very well. Had rest of afternoon off. Watered garden.



- Fri 26<sup>th</sup> May Go for Weekend Leave. Arrived home at 2.50 pm. Came with Watky from Colchester. Went with him to see 'Alexander's Ragtime Band'.
- Mon 29<sup>th</sup> May Went for bathe in morning. A bit cold. Had lunch at the chalet, then went out in the canoe again. Went roller skating at Butlins.
- Tue 30<sup>th</sup> May Had bathe in the morning at high tide. Then shopping with Mum and Helen, and lunch at the chalet. Arrived back at barracks at 10 pm.
- Wed 31<sup>st</sup> May A dull early morning but very sunny later. No PT or Gunfire (before-breakfast tea). Had carb-theory. Went swimming in afternoon. Instructor told me to stop behind – then he watched another boy and me, dive. Sunbathed after that and stood on my hands unsupported. Bought book 'Heroes of the Air' for two shillings.
- Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Jun Tried to skip Church Parade – but only three files let off this morning. Someone took one of the cookhouse kittens on to the Square. Sunbathed after church.
- Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Jun Had General Studies Exam in morning. In the room was a four-foot model of an SE5 fabric-covered with moveable controls. Had engineering science in afternoon. Entered for Wing diving competition.
- (Note: I believe that photos of this model were used to illustrate Kermode's book – 'The Mechanics of Flight. Vol I.)
- Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Jun Workshops in morning and started on magnetos. Had theory and 22 sheets of printed notes. Went to Aldershot (Torchlight) Tattoo. Started at 5 pm and got back at 2.45 am.
- Thu 8<sup>th</sup> Jun Went on Parade in morning and had the rest of the day off as it was the King's Birthday. Sunbathed and had a bath in afternoon and played tennis in evening. Stood on hands awhile. Good.
- Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Jun Morning: twenty minutes PT and forty-five minutes foot drill. Afternoon: forty-five minutes foot drill – and directly after this went (marched) to the 'drome with respirators on. Went into gas-chamber. Played tennis in evening. Broke Edward's tennis racket. Received pants from home.
- Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Jun Went to church in cinema. Very good sermon. Rained in afternoon. Saw 'The Invincible Menace'. Bought 'Flight', today – one and sixpence.
- Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Jun One of the cookhouse kittens was drowned by Room 1, after it had been trodden on. Went o Baths in evening. Practised diving. Found a piece of pipe and got a few notes out of it.
- Tue 13<sup>th</sup> Jun Went to Schools in morning and Workshops in afternoon. Added a mouthpiece to the piping – easier to play. Started drawing a Boeing PT26.
- Thu 15<sup>th</sup> Jun Usual Thursday Routine. Got piece of tubing about five feet long: it made a jolly good bugle. Nearly finished camouflaging the Workshops.



- Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Jun Went to Schools and had evacuation. All got out of the school in about half a minute – by each classroom following different coloured arrows in the corridors. Spitfires and Hampdens came over. Went swimming in evening.
- Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> Jun Went to Schools. Had another evacuation. Went to have a haircut in afternoon, but should have gone down to the Baths for 'C' Squadron heats: Worthington (our LAA) had forgotten to put it on Details. Went to the flicks and saw 'Yes Madam' and an Eskimo picture.
- Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Jun Had tool-check at 'Shops. None down. Swopped shops, ready for Monday's Basic. Found that I had been moved from C-2 to C-1 (Schools class): I was astonished. Drew an Avia Avia 534/2.
- Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Jun Had AOC's. A nice morning after a very dull week. Borrowed Cadman's American bugle. Mike Daly was moved to Room 4, owing to his quarrels with Worthington. Drew a Sopwith Triplane.
- Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Jun Workshops all day. First day in Basic Shop. Went to flicks and saw 'Joy of Living'. It was very good.
- Thu 29<sup>th</sup> Jun Went to 'Shops and Schools. Then had heats for Wing Junior Diving. One of the final six, picked for Wing Sports.
- Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Jun Went to Schools and had evacuation. Up the hills in afternoon. Came 2<sup>nd</sup> in Wing Sports at Junior Diving. Received a watch for a prize. Went to flicks after and saw 'Vicious Lady'.
- Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Jul PARENTS DAY. Went to 'Shops till 11am. Had dinner at 11.30. Met Mum and Dad off bus at Main Point, at about 1300 hours. We went to Barracks and had lunch behind huts. Then we went over cookhouse, workshops, schools, aerodrome, fair and baths. Watched polo and air display. Saw them off at 18.00 hours.
- Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Jul Had Free Sunday. Went up into barrack-block loft. Smoked pipe. Played tennis outside block and inspected new air raid shelter. Played Bugle. Had bath. Watch has lost five minutes since Friday.
- Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul 'Shops all day. In the evening, practised at Baths for B.K. Diving. Cpl Adzed caught me playing bugle in barrack room. Told me to play it outside, in front of Block. Played 'Georgia' and 'Reveille'.
- Tue 4<sup>th</sup> Jul Went to Schools and 'Shops; and in B.K. (Barrington-Kennett Trophy – all Wings competing). Diving, in evening, No.1 Wing came 2<sup>nd</sup>. In my last dive I almost knocked myself out on the bottom of the baths. Taken to hospital. I was told I had a broken nose.
- Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Jul Taken to operating theatre about 9.30 am and had anaesthetic (Pentathol – a new drug) injected into my arm. Put me out for 15 minutes. Woke up with plaster set on my nose. Sister joked about holes on my sheet. Went to sleep in afternoon. Wrote to Dad and Mum and Helen. In bed all day.



- Thu 6<sup>th</sup> Jul CO came visiting and said, "I hear you were very chatty yesterday on coming round". He also told me I could get up today. Got up dinner time. Reading a good book: "My Mystery Ships" by Gordon Campbell.
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Jul Got up at 6.30 am. One patient left us and an LAC came in. He is stationed near Oxford – they have Harvards and Oxfords. He is a Fitter IIA and has often been up.
- Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Jul Another patient left and three new ones came in – a sergeant and two LACs, I believe. One LAC is from Felixstowe and the other LAC from Pembroke Dock. The one from Pembroke Dock has been flying on Sunderlands as a fitter/air gunner. He once flew to Malta in a Singapore and on the way three Spanish fighters dived on them and then sheered off. He also told me that when he was in a Sunderland, some Gauntlets had dived after them and never caught them up.



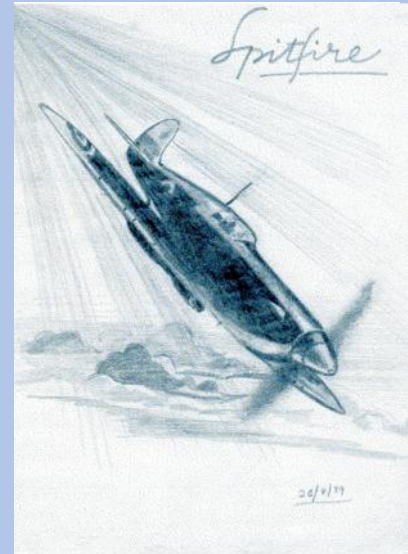
- Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Jul A little boy in to have his tonsils removed. Went to flicks with a pass and saw 'Bulldog Drummond in Africa' and 'Topic Holiday'. Got impetigo.
- Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Jul A chap from Cardington came in with nose-trouble.
- Tue 11<sup>th</sup> Jul A sergeant observer came in from Cranfield and also another bloke from Cardington. Four tonsil operations and a nose operation took place in the morning. One chap kept groaning afterwards.
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Jul New bloke came in today, from abroad someplace, as his squadron has just come home. He is a wireless operator.
- Thu 13<sup>th</sup> Jul An AAF bloke from somewhere near Kingston, came in, then wandered out to a nearby field.
- Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Jul Went to church at 11 am. Saw Uncle Bob and Helen in afternoon. Had tea at the White House Café. Uncle Bob gave me two shillings from himself and two shillings from Auntie Edie. Three new chaps in ward in evening.
- Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Jul Went up to massage room at 8.30 but ultra violet lamp was in need of repair.
- Tue 18<sup>th</sup> Jul Received 'Flying' and 'True Stories' from Helen. Went to massage room and had treatment. Mundel left, and a flight sergeant came in from Uxbridge. There is also

someone in from the School of General Reconnaissance. He has just returned from abroad.

- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Jul Impetigo getting better, gradually.
- Thu 20<sup>th</sup> Jul Forgot to get ultra violet ray treatment this morning. Saw skin specialist. He said the impetigo would soon be better. Squadron Commander came to see me and said that if my face rashes did not clear up in time for leave, he would see that I got my full amount. Went and saw 'Marie Antoinette'. A marvellous film. Sadness, love, excitement, beauty.
- Frid 21<sup>st</sup> Jul Had treatment for impetigo (a purple patchwork over my face). Started to read 'Death of a Hero' by Richard Aldington.
- Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Jul Had treatment. 'Death of a Hero' is jolly good. It is about the Great War. I have also been looking at the 'Flying Dutchman' by Anthony Fokker.
- Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Jul Went to the hospital church. 'Ginger' one of the sisters has left to get married. Saw 'Stranded in Paris'.
- Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Jul Had ultra violet ray treatment. Went to the flicks and saw 'Four Daughters'. It was very good.
- Tue 25<sup>th</sup> Jul Got discharged from hospital. The doctor told me I must not go swimming. Drew my kit and said Cheerio to everyone. Arrived at the Barracks and found the chaps doing nothing.
- Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Jul Went on Summer Leave. Drew our deferred pay in morning. Left 9.30 am, arrived Clacton 1.40 pm. Travelled from Colchester with Watky. Saw 'Q Planes' with him, in the evening. Went in the Shillings.
- Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Jul Went for a bathe, three times, in the morning. Was a bit rough. Went canoeing, but tipped-up on the start. A nice young lady helped me out. I fancy she was a Czech. Saw Musgrave, Povey, and Watkinson in the evening. Went on cars at Butlins twice. My second car kept getting the wheel wobble. Saw 'Gunga Din' at the Century.
- Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Jul Went for swim in the morning. Stella came in the afternoon. We went skating in the evening and I helped round. Went home with her but could not kiss her, because of the impetigo.
- Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Jul Took Stella out in the canoe in the morning. Very rough and she liked it. Next, Watky and I were starting off and we were beached by a wave filling the boat half-full. Bailed the water out with the Swimming Club megaphone.
- Tue 1<sup>st</sup> Aug I think my impetigo-rashes are going. Stella and I went for a swim down at the Club, and then we sunbathed on the beach. It was quite the sunniest day we have had.
- Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug Stella and I had a swim in the morning and went round to Butlins in the afternoon. Later, we listened to the band and I took her home and kissed her.
- Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug Stella joined the Swimming Club. Went for a walk in the morning and a swim in the afternoon, with gang. Stella and (her French friend) Helene did not go in. Went for a walk with Stella, but could not get rid of Watky. Stella gave us an apple each. Drew Spitfire in Stella's autograph album.



Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Aug John (from Cirencester) came round to our house yesterday. Saw Stella and gang this morning. In the afternoon went swimming with Joan, Jean, John, Watky and Tim. In the evening went roller skating with Joan, Jean, Stella, Peter, Tim and John. Learnt a new skating-trick. Took Stella round; then walked along the front with her. Afterwards, put Sloan's Liniment on parts I didn't know would hurt. Had to sit astride the bath.



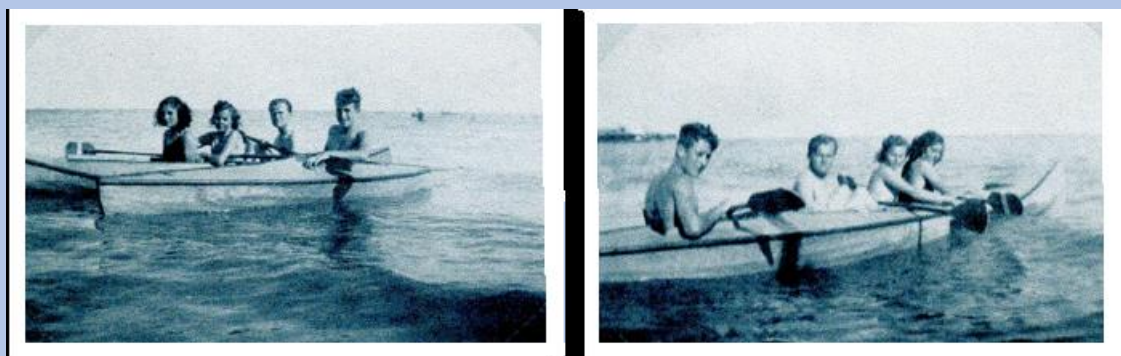
Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Aug Went to St. Paul's at 11 am for the Childrens Morning Service. Went swimming and canoeing in afternoon. Went for a walk (via flying field, farm, etc) to Jaywick with Watky, Helen and Stella. The Jaywick Model Railway have got a new locomotive. We saw the last coach derail as it went round a bend. No damage done. Afterwards, took Stella for a walk – and we sat down on running-board of a car.

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Aug Went down to Club, and Helen and her friend, Nancy, went in canoe. Had swim in afternoon and went and watched the skating in the evening. Broke away from the gang, with Stella, and we walked over the fields at the back of St. Monica's. She was marvellous.

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Aug Went down to Club. Took Stella out in canoe. Went skating on road, just after tea, and saw Stella on the rink, later. Made up for last night's losings.

Thu 10<sup>th</sup> Aug David (an old friend who used to live at Clacton) came to stay the night at Castle Road. Had dinner with us. Went to see 'Jamaica Inn' at Palace in afternoon. Went to Butlins in evening.

Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Aug Went out in Canoe and took snaps. John took Helene and Stella in the big canoe and I was in the little one. Went as far as the buoy. Out with Stella in the evening.



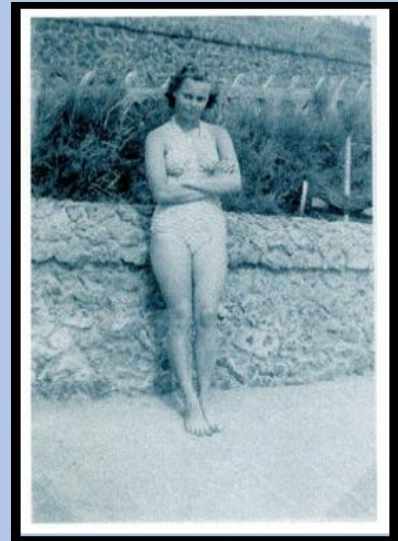
Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Aug Went for a canoe and a swim in morning. Went out in canoe in afternoon and took snaps of pier, etc. Took snap of Stella. Saw destroyer, anchored about a mile off Clacton. Saw 'Four Feathers'. Drew, in Watky's sister's autograph album.

Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Aug Went out in the canoe with Stella – and in for a swim by diving out of the canoe. Went for canoe in afternoon; and got ratty in evening, for almost nothing at all, but made it up with Stella.

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Aug In morning, went down to the Club for the last swim – and I also took the canoe out. Went down the town and said goodbye to John and his people (I never saw him or them again); and Stella walked home with me and kissed me goodbye. The Journey to Halton took 8¾ hours (went to a news-theatre in London)

Thu 17<sup>th</sup> Aug 'WE'RE BACK' - Shops in morning, Schools in afternoon. Felt very blue: home-sick, lovesick, etc. Worse than any other leave. Checked for haircut – I was OK. Read Bible to ease pain in heart. Found three-foot slit in bed-sheet.

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Aug Shops in morning (Exercise 11). At dinner, pastry tasted like a mixture of bread and cardboard. No pay. Had drill in afternoon. Saw a slack squad drilling on the Square, and of course Tim was in the midst of it. Paid out twopence for my Permanent Pass.



*John and me in his  
Grandparents Garden.  
August 39, I think in Clacton*

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Aug This morning, noticed the letter I had written home was still in the rack. Had only a penny stamp on it. Went to Workshops. Auntie Edie sent me some Devonshire cream. Interviewed for First Year's work by FO Evans at 'Shops. Wrote to Stella.

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***... and two weeks prior to World War Two being declared, that's where 'Adrian Mole's Diary' ended. Whatever became of Stella?***