

REPORT OF VISIT TO LEAMINGTON SPA MILVERTON COMBINED SCHOOL
GREAT HEED ROAD: 4TH. JUNE TO 4TH. JULY (1984)

The Sierra Leone Airlines Plane took off at Lungi Air Port on the 4th. June 1984 at 10:00 p.m. and landed at Gatwick Air Port at 7:00 a.m. At the Air Port I looked like a sacrificial lamb being led to be sacrificed because this was my first external flight and to see many kinds of people. However I walked behind the other passengers leaping with my luggage because of sprain till we reached Immigration office where our Pass Ports were examined and endorsed.

I continued my journey under the Airport shed with my luggage on a trolley looking out for an exit or some one who could help me find my way to Leamington, Suddenly a relief came to me by hearing Bob's voice among the others who had seen me and dashed to me, embracing me formally and we walked out of the shed.

Still wondering like Alice in Wonderland we left Gatwick Air Port for Leamington and drove for three hours arriving by 3:00 p.m. After a few minutes chart I went to bed for a nap being tired and sleepy. In the evening friends came in to see me, to name a few Mrs. Jane Knight, Jane Lane, Miss Sheilagh, Alice, and some parents and some OWL people.

On Wednesday 6th. June Bob, and I went to school, met the staff and was introduced to the children in the assembly by the Head teacher. I brought fraternal greetings from the staff and pupils, PTA and Management of Methodist Primary School, Bo. That same evening an unforgettable drinking party was thrown at Bob's house attended by OWL people, P.T.A. people, some teachers, this lasted up to mid night.

On the 9th I participated in the Leamington Festival of International understanding and Peace, Some Sierra Leone Students and I helped to cover up the booths.

On the 11th I made a self Time Table involving myself in active class room teaching and this was approved by the Head Teacher. At first I found some difficulties with the children who speak very fast but I over came this very soon and found real joy and happiness in teaching.

On the 16th. Bob and I left Leamington by train for London. This visit was very interesting, the streets were crowded with people celebrating the Queen's Birth Day. I visited many places of interest - Trafalgar Square, Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Thames and her Bridges, London Tower, St. James Park, Buckingham Palace. In the evening we returned to Leamington (Kondo tired with London though not with life). This visit was thrilling because I rode train after thirteen yeas since the phasing out of Railway in Sierra Leone.

I participated in two school Excursions organised by Classes 1 & 2 and Class 5. To Moreton Morrell College of Agriculture and Avoncorft Museum of Buildings. I was very much impressed by the way the children were divided among the teachers who conducted them throughout. A big hand to the organisers (Mrs. Walton and Macauley).

I also visited Alcester school, where Miss Ann Parker, teaches, Stratford Upon Avon Shakespears' birth place and the school he attended, Kenilworth Castle, Manchester, Walsden the home of the Crowthers, Rugby of Tom Brown's School Days, Coventry, Myton Secondary School, Jephson's Gardens, Warwick Castle and other places of interest,

Two special events were organised by the P.T.A, to meet Mr. Kondo socially: (1) On Tuesday 26th, at Swan Hotel, Kineton where I first played skittles. (2) On Sunday 1st, July at Binswood Field, The P.T.A. people, staff and pupils and other people organised a soccer match on an undemarcated field which I enjoyed very much.

I also attended three church services with Mrs. Jane Lane at Trinity Methodist Church, Rev. Neil Trainer my former Circuit Minister in Bo, Sierra Leone preached on one occassion.

Tuesday 3/7/84 the staff gave me rousing send-off in the staff room. On Wednesday 4/7/84 Komba Dumbar, Bob and I left Leamington. for Gatwick Air Port via London. We had lunch at Mrs-Kaikai's place and left for Gatwick by 7:00 p.m. and arrived aft 8:00 p.m. went through the necessary Immigration and Customs arrangements then Komba and Bob returned to Leamington. I later joined Mr. Sellu, a Sierra Leonean who was travelling to Bo too, he helped me immensely with my hand luggage through out the flight.

My return flight took off at 11:00 p.m. and landed at Lungi Air Port at 6:00 a.m. I made a brief stop in Freetown and finally travelled to Bo on 6/7/84, joined my family, staff and pupils.

I wish to register my appreciation to the P.T.A. people, staff and pupils the rest of the Leamingtonians for making my visit possible and enjoyable. I further extend a Big Hand to Bob my Counterpart, host, guide (Mrs. Kondo) who made me happier through out my stay.

In conclusion I wish to register that the idea of giving and receiving in a creative co-operative atmosphere is the key to building to a better world, a better tomorrow for the little ones after us.

Once more may I say thank you.

W.G.KONDO