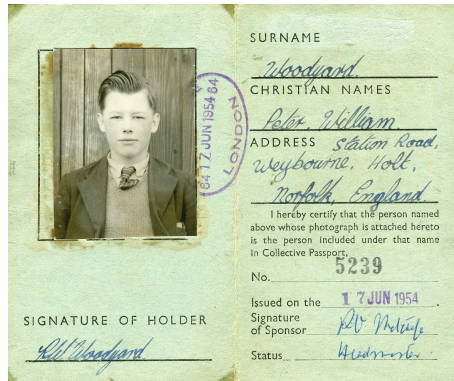


In July 1954 seventeen boys and ten girls from the Technical and Grammar Schools of Wymondham College set off by train to Newhaven Sussex where a Ferry to Dieppe and train through Northern France would take them to a war-torn Chateaux just South of Orly Airport Paris at the suburb of Viry Chatillon. The group were in the charge of Dave Goman accompanied by his wife, Cyril Hughes and Philip Bailey. The cost of the holiday was £18 and lasted three weeks.



Each student was issued the appropriate group passport documentation as at left signed by the Head Master R V Metcalfe.

France still bore the ravages of war. The Chateaux in which the students stayed showed signs of the occupation and the building still bore witness to the removal of all metals such as copper and brass on door and window furniture etc. which was used to satisfy the demand for such metal for the war effort.

The students slept on mattresses on the floor in two large rooms. The hostess was a charming French Lady who provided all food and delivered the most delicious bread and coffee for breakfasts. The coffee would be drunk from large bowls.

There were frequent trips in to Paris by train and one big trip to the Palace of Versailles which not all the students could afford to do. A lot of the time was spent getting to know the local area. Viry Chatillon was an attractive old village now part of suburban Paris. It had a Café where the students could practice ordering vin rouge or vin blanc and there was an outdoor swimming pool which was quite a novelty for students from Norfolk.



The same scene as at left above with replacement swimming complex extracted from Google Earth in 2009. Remains of old pool can still be seen.





Back row: Tony Howe, David Spinks, Terry Russell, Peter Woodyard, Madame Hostess, Jack Cassie, Sydney Banyard.
3rd Row: ? Collins, Graham Crane, Jack Brown, Brian Wynn, David Diggle, Ivan Hipperson, Paul Hazell, Ray Martin, Michael Harvey.
2nd Row: Sheila Bolton, NK, NK, Dave & Mrs Goman, C V Hughes, P Bailey, Jane Pearce, Michelle Howard.
Front Row: NK, Margaret Brown, NK, NK, Stella Carman, NK, David Armsby.



Three cards sent home with text as written on each card.
 Obviously a tendency to worry about money!

La Tour Eiffel

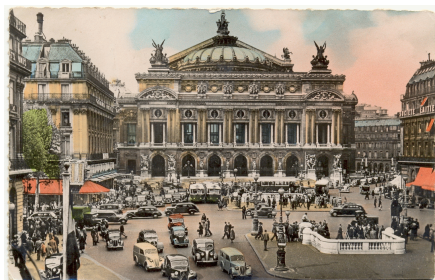
Vue de l'Avenue de New-York

"Having plenty of fun and dull weather. We had a smashing crossing. It was fit to lie and sunbathe on the deck. I will tell you about our hosts later on. Things are terribly expensive out here. It costs about 3/6d for fares every day, I don't know how I am going to manage, everyone else is the same. I took some photos from the top of Notre Dame today."



Notre-Dame de Paris

"I hope you are having the weather that we are having. We are going to the tower today. It looks as if we will have to climb up, as it costs 450 Francs (9/-). We haven't been able to go anywhere much because of the heat, instead we go to a smashing swimming pool nearby. We saw the annual fireworks display the other night (Liberation). It was marvellous."



Place de l'Opera

"Will be home Wednesday morning, probably stony broke. Cheerio for now."