

LETTERS FROM S.C.A. CAMPERS



Box 3

There were letters from boys similar in tone to King's letters but not quite so familiar. Many of these letters contain references to cricket and rugby and are most enthusiastic about Camp life - the jokes, Ouma, officers, etc. In many of them H. is thanked for what he has done for the writers. The letters show a deep regard and affection for H. There are letters from Edwin Swales, Aubrey Mason, McTavish, Duck Richmond, Theobald, Ronald Williams, Dalton, Dyer, Ian Rogan, Austin.

Most of the letters are from Karl Kuhne. They date from 15/8/30 to 14/5/34. There are 41 letters, mostly short, and very schoolboyish. He appears to be very fond of H. Some letters contain references to "Mush Mush", the words of which H. apparently gave to Pretoria campers.

Extracts from Kuhne's letters:

- 27.10.30I am longing to see you again - you really must stay more in Pretoria.
- 20.12.30 ...Well HOFFIE, I won't forget our talks that were very helpful to me.
- 14.1.31 Yes, HOFFIE, it will be really fine if we have a fortnight in camp again, but this time you must make it a fortnight and not just a few days.
- 9.2.31 I hope you find a place for Algy. I think it would be quite nice to have a car down in Capetown. HOFFIE, I think it would be safer for the public if you left Algy here - they don't know what a dangerous driver you are.
- 28.5.31HOFFIE, the only afternoon I have free is Wednesday.
- 11.8.31 HOFFIE, everybody except Connaughton can come on Friday.... HOFFIE, I will come up on Wednesday if you are not going out.
- 8.11.31Hope to see you on Wednesday after nets.
- 6.1.32 Thanks ever so for your fine letter. It has given me fresh hope. I only saw the results on Monday, and was terribly disappointed knowing that I had disappointed my mother and yourself, but now I hope again.....thanks for finding out in what subject I had failed - I had been worrying about that too.
- 8.3.32 Thanks for the trouble you have taken with this problem, HOFFIE - I think I understand it now.....Well HOFFIE I have started looking forward to 7 July. We will sure have a good time.

S.C.A. LETTERS contd.

(Extracts from Kuhne's letters)

- 3.4.32 Hoffie, I want to thank you for the fine evening you gave us last Monday.....I am looking forward to hearing ~~YOUR SING~~ ~~XXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ your song, Hoffie - I am sure it couldn't beat the Smelly Song. All the same I will have to learn it so that I can censor all the feeble verses, of whihc I suppose there will be an unlimited number. I won't say any more about it - only I want to hear it.....In your last letter you mentioned a certain young lady. Now I must say your detective service is pretty good.
- 18.4.32 I dare say good things are worth waiting for, but your song -When are you coming up, Hoffie? It seems quite a time since we last saw each other, although it was only about three weeks ago.
- 5.5.32 To keep fit for our fight I climbed up the hill at Fairy Glen twice today, and I am feeling just as confident as ever - I have developed an arm ~~xxx~~ headlock - best ever.
- 21.8.32 The campers will be only too glad to see you on Saturday night.
- 11.9.32 Hoffie, we are all looking forward to Saturday night. I wonder if we could force you to sing Mush Mush
- 22.9.32 Of course the part everybody enjoyed most was the eats. Mrs Hofmeyr sure knows what boys like. I wonder if she would like to come down to Camp - say just for visitors' day - to prepare the eats.
- 10.1.33 My mother arrived home on Sunday...so I am a bachelor no longer.....Hoffie, thank you ever so much for all the trouble you have taken to get me a place.

Extract from letter from H. to McTavish

- 22.11.31. Lest you should have any fears in the matter I also hasten to assure you that down in Capetown my shadow has not grown any smaller, nor my future any less outstanding.....For my part I am already beginning to count the months to next camp.

Extract from letter from H. to Rogan

- 29.7.28 I think the photos which you sent me are really very good., although in the group team it looks as if my trousers are falling down....I wonder if you could let me have the negatives so that I can send a few prints to some of my friends to show them that I am not too ancient at least to put on football togs and appear in the rugby field.

S.C.A. CAMP FILE contd.

On 24.1.34 Theobald wrote to H. re the chances of his getting an educational grant to enable him to continue his studies at the University as he wanted to become a teacher. On February 8, 1934, Theobald writes to thank H for the trouble he took to get him fixed up with a grant.

NOTE: Buttons sent to H. by Duck for a joke were in the file.

On 6th September, 1930, Mason, Grice, Dowdle, duRandt, Karl, and other "Zoompipers" were invited by H. for a day's outing, which was much enjoyed and appreciated.. In April 1931, there is reference to another "Zoompipers" re-union.