

Memories of Dad

Preface

Writing about your father is far from easy. The memories in this story, clouded by time, are mine alone. No one else knew him as I did.

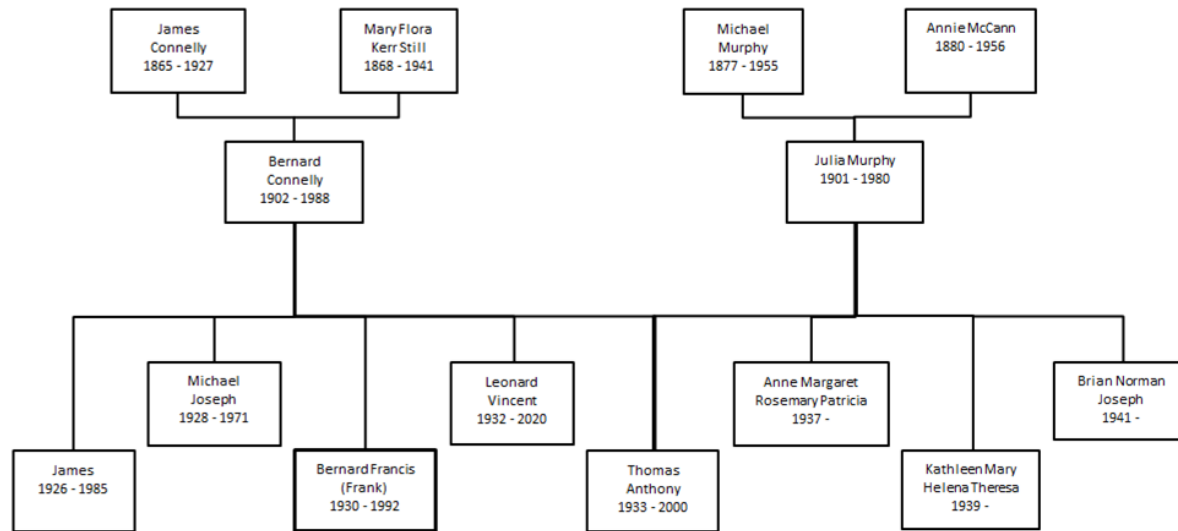
I was lucky enough to discover after his death, a diary of sorts. Full of single line entries dated between 1947 and 1992 outlining what was important to him. Interestingly there is not one birth entry, including any of his (five) children, great-grandchildren, nephews or nieces, friends, or relatives. None. But then I know he kept a pocket diary, the front leaf of which was given up to these celebratory dates.

During my deciphering of his sometimes cryptic and misspelt notes I learned many things. This was a man with dreams, and no doubt ambitions, a father, a husband, a friend to many and an enemy to few. A man who worked all his life, for limited financial reward. He liked a 'party' (mentioned 32 times in the diary) and he loved golf and Fishing (30 and 28 times respectively). He kept an eye on his finances (232 entries!) but was also in hospital an enormous number of times (80 entries).

He never lost his sense of humour and never, to my knowledge, complained about the mental and physical effort needed, when ill, to act normally in front of family and friends. Every entry is documented in this story and the interpretation of entries from the diary and events surrounding them, are mine so when I say that he was never in his life free of pain or medical discomfort of some sort, it is an assumption, but you only need to read the story.

Knowing a parent is difficult. Given the opportunity, few will tell you everything that happened in their life probably because it does not feel 'important' to them. Having spent a lot of time away from home myself, particularly at an age where it was becoming easier to ask questions and challenge or probe for more detailed answers, I can only wish I had asked more when the opportunities arose. And they did, but there was always 'something else' happening and nostalgia took a back seat. We live such busy lives.

Throughout the text I will refer to him as Frank, rather than dad, just to keep it simple and it's impossible to know someone who you have singular memories of, so I apologise in advance for any bias I have shown through the interpretation of his diary, it was not my intention. Anecdotes about the man from living friends and family and his generation of relatives are few but generally raise at least a smile. Bottom line is, he was my dad and I love him, warts and all.



Connelly Family

Chapter One – In the beginning

There is never one fact or secret about a life that explains someone. To think like that would be to misunderstand both people and stories. None of us could relate the unfathomably dense experience of our own lives, let alone someone else's'.

(Ref: The Moth and the Mountain: Ed Caesar)

Most births took place at home in 1930's Edinburgh even though the well-known Simpson Memorial (Maternity) Hospital had been on the go for some 50 years and the new Elsie Inglis Memorial Maternity Hospital open for almost five.

The 'New Hospice' at Abbeyhill, in Edinburgh, where Frank was born, is thought to be the initial building for the new Elsie Inglis Hospital and as giving birth in a hospital was a relatively new concept, so the strength of character and beliefs of parents Julia (nee Murphy, 24th July 1901) and Bernard (28th July 1902) must have been very strong.

Bernard had requested time off from his job as a Grocers Assistant at the Cooperative in Portobello for when the happy event occurred but found it unnecessary on a windy and frosty Saturday evening when Julia's labour began. In 1930's Edinburgh, Doctors and Midwives prevented husbands, friends and relatives from participating or observing the birth process which was considered private or even embarrassing to the patient. To the doctor and Midwife there were also issues of preventing infection, so Bernard stood outside for what seemed an age before eventually finding a seat in a side room during the labour period until the birth at 4 a.m. on the Sunday morning of 16th February.

Back at home at 6 Ramsay Place in Portobello¹, paternal grandmother Mary (nee Mary Flora Kerr Still, 24th October 1868 – 29th November 1941), who with grandfather James (15th May 1865 – 1st February 1927 and deceased just three years previously), had brought up Bernard and six of his siblings in the flat, watched over grandson Frank's two siblings, James (three) and Michael (one), with whom Frank shared a room and often a bed, and wondered how the family would cope with an additional mouth to feed.

Bernard Francis Connelly, known throughout his life as Frank, Frannie or Francis, was taken home by tram or the newer bus service to be met by his older siblings in the flat within the tenement where granny Mary had lived for over 20 years.



Clockwise from tallest, brothers: James, Michael, Tom, Leo and Frank. Probably taken in rear of 2 Wauchope Square Edinburgh, home of Granda and Granny Murphy – Private Collection

The sand or limestone traditional tenement building (still standing in 2021) was set in a quiet street within the heart of Portobello and comprised open plan living, dining and kitchen area and a number of small bedrooms. Views and natural light were sparse as only two rooms had any windows and whilst the local area may have been sleepy, the stair was anything but, with other flats housing families of up to eleven souls.

Life for the young family was terribly busy, with a constant stream of the many aunts and uncles arriving to see the new baby boy. Father Bernard (after whom Frank was named) worked long hours in the grocer's shop hoping that with hard work he would be noticed and promoted to ensure they had sufficient funds to keep his growing family.

Bernard was lucky to retain his job during the initial years of the 1930's which saw the Great Depression or Great Slump hit Britain. A period of national economic downturn which had its origins in the global depression, the Great Depression was Britain's largest and most profound economic depression of the 20th century and caused massive unemployment. Almost a quarter of the workforce was laid off or unable to find work. Times were very difficult for many families even though, for some, there was some unemployment benefit, so long as they attended the labour Exchange daily and didn't refuse any sort of work.

¹ It is believed that Portobello, a suburb of Edinburgh and famous seaside town, was named after the Battle of "Porto Bello" which was a 1739 battle between a British naval force led by Vice Admiral Edward Vernon and the Spanish defenders of the settlement of Portobello in Panama. It took place during the War of the Austrian Succession, in the early stages of the war sometimes known as the War of Jenkins' Ear.

Bernard and Julia's thrifty natures were stretched to ensure that all the children were clothed and there was always food on the table. Listening to the radio in the evening, news of the sailors striking for more pay in the Invergordon Mutiny² and the National Hunger March³ they must have wondered what the world was coming too. The children though were more interested in when the new 'Mars bar' would arrive in dad's shop.

In 1932, younger brother Leo (Leonard Vincent 8th July 1932 – 20th May 2020) was born and joined the, by now, much overcrowded space the family shared.

Bernard continued to ask the City of Edinburgh Corporation, which covered both the City and the Royal Burgh of Edinburgh where they lived, for a larger home and eventually, just as he was promoted to Manager of the Joppa Co-op a flat with more space became available for the family. Granny Mary breathed a sigh of relief as the family of six moved out but although they were flitting⁴ less than a mile and a half away from her and closer to the city, she would miss the hustle and bustle created by boisterous children in the old flat that they had called home for the past few years.

In 1933 after they, along with millions of others, had suffered hardship for almost three years, the Corporation at last found them a new larger flat. There were few possessions to 'flit' to the new flat on the top floor at 5 Northfield Broadway but with two bedrooms, a large kitchen, living room and bathroom, the family could at last spread out a bit. In the front bedroom were; James (24th July 1926), Michael (Michael Joseph 25th February 1928), Francis (as Frank was known by his brothers), Leo and Tommy. The other bedroom was Father Bernard's and a pregnant Julia. This was not for long though as shortly after settling into the spartanly furnished flat, the next of the siblings arrived just before Christmas 1933 and was christened Thomas Anthony (aka Tommy 13th December 1933). The new flat, set just off the wide expanse of the Broadway, separated the buildings from an expanse of green fields and the Figgate Park which would become a playground to young Frank's own children some 30 years later. Those same green fields also supported many WWII veterans and their families when the area was given up for the construction of short term prefabricated housing twenty years later.

Behind the block of flats main door lay six separate units, all with ample room for growing families. The entry hall acted as a conduit to the rest of the flat and on entering, one bedroom and the main living area faced the front whilst other bedrooms and the kitchen were side or rear facing. The coal fire was the only heat in the property and so a small stock of coal was kept in a hall cupboard or beside the fire.

² The Invergordon Mutiny was an industrial action by around 1,000 sailors in the British Atlantic Fleet that took place on 15–16 September 1931. For two days, ships of the Royal Navy at Invergordon were in open mutiny, in one of the few military strikes in British history.

³ The National Hunger March of September–October 1932 was the largest of a series of hunger marches in Britain in the 1920s and 1930s.

⁴ Flitting is the act of moving to a new house or leaving one's home, sometimes secretly so as to escape creditors or obligations.

Spectacular views from the front room stretched beyond the field and parks towards the sea at both Portobello and Musselburgh, perhaps on a good day as far as the Bass Rock some miles down the coast.

Elsewhere in Europe a new individual emerged that, in years to come, would change the face of the world. Adolf Hitler became the chancellor of Germany and opened the first concentration camp at Dachau. Stalin and Mao Tse-Tung were also emerging as post-depression leaders, but each had vastly different but equally despotic aims to rise to prominence and for all the wrong reasons.

Over the next few years, the family thrived and made many friends locally. The boys of school age, including Frank, attended St John's Roman Catholic Primary School, situated in Bath Street at Portobello and only 30 minutes' walk away, unless you were a boy who saw the Figgate Park as a great adventure then the homeward trip, especially in summer months, may have taken considerably longer.

The daily commute to the shop at Joppa usually took Father Bernard under half an hour but on some days, he set off earlier so that he might attend early mass at the St. John's Roman Catholic church in Portobello, which was on his route. The church had always played a large part in the family's life. Returning home eventually in the early evening and with his energy waning, he still found time to encourage the children with their homework before eventually eating family dinner and settling down to read before bed.

As the 1930's ended, news outside the war theme, included: a report by the Inverness Courier detailed an account by a local couple who claimed to have seen "an enormous animal rolling and plunging on the surface of Loch Ness." The story of the "monster" (a moniker chosen by the Courier editor) became a media phenomenon, with London newspapers sending correspondents to Scotland and a circus offering a £20,000 reward for capture of the beast. The Flying Scotsman steam train becomes the first steam locomotive to be recorded doing 100 mph and Germany announced rearmament in violation of the Versailles Treaty⁵. Britain reacted by ordering 300 Spitfires and the first experimental Radar was developed in Britain. King Edward VIII abdicate to marry Wallis Simpson and the BBC gave a taste of good things to come with the first public Television broadcasts in London.

At home Franks older brothers James and Michael prepared to leave primary school for their secondary education. The two catholic secondary schools in Edinburgh were St Anthony's, formerly the Leith Ragged Industrial School for Boys and Girls⁶ and children's home and Holy Cross Academy. Holy Cross had an enviable reputation as did the ever competitive Royal High School across the town. Both James and Michael thrived at secondary school but as the storm clouds of war approached so education was to change, and quite dramatically for Frank.

⁵ The Versailles Treaty or Treaty of Versailles, signed in June 1919 at the Palace of Versailles in Paris at the end of World War I, codified peace terms between the victorious Allies and Germany. The Treaty of Versailles held Germany responsible for starting the war and imposed harsh penalties in terms of loss of territory, massive reparations payments and demilitarization. www.history.com

⁶ On 26th March 1849, a meeting of the inhabitants of Leith adopted measures for the formation of an Industrial School in the town. It was proposed that the school would provide food, education and industrial training, and that the scriptures would be read daily. In 1861 it occupied 24-25 King Street, formerly the premises of the Leith Boys' Charity School, an institution formed to educate and clothe orphan children. www.childrenshomes.org

Pre-war preparations began well before the war officially began in September of 1939. Because the threat to lives was real and imminent the responsible Governmental Departments, in this case the Department of Health in Scotland, immediately reviewed options and began planning evacuations from key cities and towns for the most vulnerable individuals, including the very old and very young.

A letter was sent to parents Bernard and Julia (along with almost one and a half million other families throughout Britain) explaining how the evacuation was to take place and detailing what was to happen, when and what the children should take with them to their temporary (possibly up to a year!) homes including winter and under clothes, plimsolls, night attire and of course their gas masks. A separate instruction to the accommodating families outlined that 'In pursuance of Defence Regulations' they were hereby required to accommodate x adults and y children. For good measure it also stated that the accommodation given up should include 'shelter and reasonable access to water and sanitary conveniences'. Many evacuees found these benefits much greater than they were used to at home, particularly those from poorer neighbourhoods. The evacuees were not charged for facilities and the Government paid five shillings per adult and three shillings (equivalent in 2021 of £9.84 and £5.90 respectively) per child per week to the receiving families.



'Evacuees' – The Daily Herald

This was not a lot to feed hungry children with and many of the youngsters also found themselves employed as cheap unofficial labour. Initially evacuation was voluntary and many primary age children from Edinburgh left but, on the 31st August 1939, three days before war started, the order was given to 'evacuate forthwith' and most Scottish children were packed up and left for the Highlands or the Scottish Borders and primary schools effectively closed.

Gathering at St John's Primary with the other school children, Frank, then nine, along with brothers Leo (seven) and Tom (six), held tightly to his gas mask and bundle of clothes wrapped tightly in brown paper and tied with string. The Head Teacher, Mr Meehan (still the Head when son Frank attended the school twenty-five years later), Teachers and parents had explained many times to the children that the journey and their temporary homes would be exciting and that it was going to be an adventure so I'm sure many of the gathering children thought just that. Bernard had slept little the night before having recently volunteered for the Home Guard. Training was conducted in the evenings but sometimes went on into the small hours. Still dark at 5 am, he was also due at work in just a few hours but wanted to see the boys

before they left. Mother Julia held tightly to their hands for a few minutes longer and yet again rechecked the labels they had pinned to their coats. Baby Anne (Anne Margaret Rosemary Patricia born on 5th August 1937) whose second birthday they had celebrated only weeks before sat quietly in her pushchair not knowing that she alone would remain behind in the darkened city with her parents.

As the brothers said goodbye to their parents, they didn't realise that this was just part of an extraordinary movement of tens of thousands of people happening that day across the country. Waving madly, led by the teachers and volunteer armband wearing marshals, the chattering lines of children snaked out of the school gates heading towards Portobello Station, only a few hundred yards away.

Winding their way down the Duddingston Road then Southfield Place, they arrived at the railway bridge and followed the sloping path up to the station platform and the waiting steam train. Some WVS, Women's Voluntary Service, ladies were on hand to help look after some of the younger children and also had some hot tea ready for the army of helpers who had already been awake for many hours.

There were a number of carriages attached to the train and after being split into smaller groups, the nervously chattering children were led on-board to their allocated seats. Moments later and with a loud 'chooof' and much clanking and jerky movements, the train began the journey east. I imagine many small faces were glued to the windows for a last look at their teachers, waving back at them from the now almost empty platform, and their home town, which they might not see for a considerable time.

The journey continued through the built-up area of Joppa before passing Fisherrow by Musselburgh where granny Mary had worked at Mollendo House when she first came to Edinburgh, then Inveresk and into the fields beyond. The brothers must have watched, waited and wondered what they might find at the other end. It had been dark when they set out from home but as the Stations of Prestonpans, Longniddry and Drem came and went in quick succession, so the light became stronger, the fields greener and the children fewer as groups disgorged at each stop to awaiting 'new' families. Before long the Airfield at East Fortune, currently being refurbished for war use, flew into view and out again as quickly. The small station at East Linton was the penultimate stop and the now almost empty train and the brightening summer day meant that seeing out of the windows was no longer a problem so the boys watched keenly as the train sped towards their destination near Dunbar.

The usual childhood conflicts might have been set aside at the beginning of this journey as Frank being the eldest kept a nervous eye on his two younger brothers. After a couple of hours both Tom and Leo were becoming fidgety so when the train began at last to slow down going into Dunbar, passing the signal box set high above the rails, Frank may have breathed a sigh of relief.

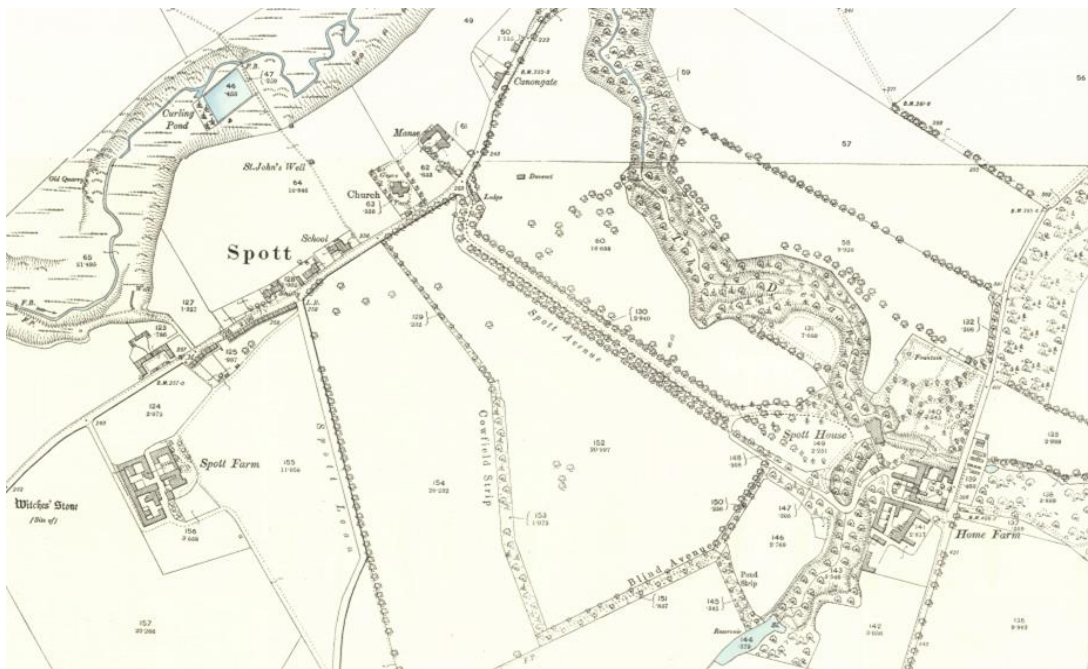
Lugging their packages with them, all the remaining children were ushered off the train and marshalled into lines on the platform. The smell of salty sea air and seaweed from the nearby beach was strong as the Connelly's, and many others, crossed over the bridge to the awaiting transport. Behind them they see a flotilla of grey warships peppering the Firth of Forth as far as the Fife Coast: A sure sign of terrible things to come.

The small community of Spott, some two miles South West of Dunbar, supported almost 350 people in 1939 with the majority of menfolk being employed towards the Northern end of the parish in farming, the sawmill and other mills. Some young women from the Land Army were also employed and drove

tractors and probably helped collect the children for the two-mile journey in a car or a farm lorry, which might have been easier.

After the short journey they turned left immediately before the primary school they were due to attend and drove up the Avenue to Home Farm and Spott House⁷, or the 'Big House', as it was known locally.

After settling in the boys soon discovered that meals, play and bedtime in the countryside were governed both by the weather and the time of year as work on Home Farm and the other associated farms came before everything else. When the crops needing harvesting everyone helped out, including the children and work could start at dawn and end when the sun set, backs ached or hunger demanded that rest and food was needed.



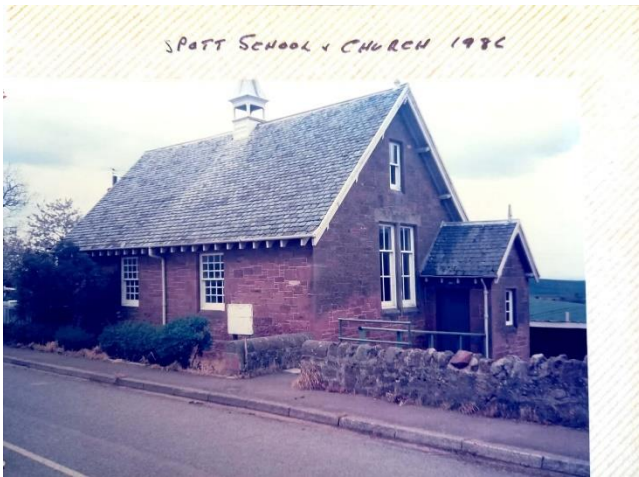
The village and environs of Spott - National Library of Scotland

British 'Double' Summertime, two hours in advance of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), was being

⁷ Spott House was originally a tower house, constructed in 1640, the family home of the Hays of Yester. It is reputed to have housed Oliver Cromwell during the Battle of Dunbar (1650). In 1830, it was purchased by James Sprot, who had the house remodelled by William Burn, the pioneer of the Scots Baronial style. The estate remained in the Sprot family until 1947, when it was sold to Sir James Hope. It was eventually sold to the Lawrie family, who sold it to the Danish-born Lars Foghsgaard in 2000. Following Foghsgaard's return to Denmark the estate was put up for sale in 2010, but after three years with no purchaser, was broken up into smaller lots of land or buildings in and sold in 2013. Wikipedia

introduced temporarily for the period when ordinary daylight saving would be in force to increase productivity (although during the winter this was reduced to one hour in advance of GMT) so the walk to school for the boys was in broad daylight.

Spott Primary School sat on the main road, in between the smithy and the church. The school had only two rooms with the toilets in the playground. The schoolteacher's house was adjacent. There were sometimes as many as 30 pupils on the school roll although this changed during the war to include the evacuees.



*Spott School taken by
Frank in 1986 –
Private Collection*

All ages were taught in the one large room. Mrs Baillie and Mrs Miller split the class into separate age groups including the younger and 'baby year' children and the older ones but because of the closeness between the groups of children, some younger children easily found their minds wandering from their basic ABC's to the sometimes more interesting lessons and stories being taught to the older children.

Playtime in the small school yard was a melee of games including rounders, kick the can and hide and seek being played but at lunchtime the boys could return home for a meal, up the half mile long tree lined avenue where on arrival, they ate in one of the large rooms, overseen by cook, until their lunch hour was up:

....although the house was big we only used the dining room on Sundays, the lounge hardly ever, and for most of the time we lived mainly in the 'study', the one warm room in the house, It was a large square room in which we had our meals, did our homework, wrote our letters home and, for those who could, played the piano. One wall was lined with books from top to bottom and in the evenings, we would blissfully sit round the fire reading books from the enormous range available to us and escaping into another world.....

Evacuation memories – Unknown Author

After school and on Saturdays, the boys took the opportunity to run down to play in the Spott Glen and burn⁸. The route there took them past the noise and flames emanating from the old smithy, a sure draw to young children but as unwelcome guests they were more often than not, chased away by the smith.

⁸ The Spott Glen and burn run from Little Spott in the south west through Oswald Dean in the north east before entering the Brox burn (Broxburn) then the sea. A 'burn' is a small stream. www.el4.org.uk

Continuing past the First World War hut which served as a village hall they would run on down to the burn and curling pond or the old quarry to play. Idyllic in those far off days when children were allowed to roam freely, staying out until they were hungry or skies began to darken.

Many years later Frank took his own sons, Frank and Peter, fishing for small trout in the burn. Never one to ask permission, he claimed near ownership of the river and Spott Estate and a long acquaintance with the gamekeeper. I'm sure he knew the man but by the nineteen seventies the gamekeeper was probably long dead. Nevertheless, in Frank's eyes, uninhibited access had been bequeathed.

On Sundays the weekly ritual saw families walk or cycle and converge on the village church to meet up with neighbours and kinfolk from the local parish. Most if not all the local houses and cottages were tied⁹ and housed the farm workers, who when not working on the farms could be seen in their own gardens growing fruit and vegetables for their families to eat.

Sunday night was 'bath night' and once used to the mere five inches of rationed bathwater (identified by a black line painted around the bath...) and having to 'share with a friend', it was a usual routine. The weekly bath rota was keenly observed as the water was, although sparse, hot from the stove and a delight, unlike the weekday lukewarm washing water. Finishing a Sunday with cocoa and listening to the radio when people like Tommy Handley starred in 'It's that man again',¹⁰ it must have seemed a million miles away from life in the city but that was not the case as even here, German bombing was possible so in the midst of the countryside blackout was observed and because of the size of the house, everyone had a 'blackout' job to do:

....every evening, before it got dark, every single window had to be blacked out with heavy black curtains which lined the normal curtains so that no chink of light escaped to give enemy pilots an inkling that towns and cities which could be bombed were down there below them. Air Raid Wardens patrolled each area (even in the countryside) to make sure that not a single chink of light was visible. In some rooms, curtains had been replaced by heavy boards which had to be clamped into place over the windows. It was the boys' job to ensure these were in place before dusk. Night after night the boys were tasked with this but sometimes to no avail so calling out in exasperation adults would remind them.....'If you don't do the blackout, you'll get no tea.

Evacuation memories – Unknown Author

After just a few weeks, and only a few weeks into the war, German bombers appeared over Edinburgh and later Glasgow, Greenock, Aberdeen and Dundee. The Luftwaffe was determined to target the industrial strongholds of Britain and Scottish cities were in their crosshairs. Shipbuilding, coal mining and huge factories churning out war and everyday essentials so were considered key targets.

⁹ Tied cottage is typically a dwelling owned by an employer that is rented to an employee: if the employee leaves their job they may have to vacate the property; in this way the employee is tied to their employer.

¹⁰ It's That Man Again (commonly contracted to ITMA) was a BBC radio comedy programme which ran over twelve series from 1939 to 1949. The shows featured Tommy Handley in the central role, a fast-talking figure, around whom all the other characters orbited. It was a character-driven comedy whose satirical targets included government departments and the ostensibly petty wartime regulations. Parts of the shows were re-written in the hour before the broadcast, to ensure its topicality. The show broke away from the conventions of previous radio comedies, and from the humour of the music halls.



The Humble Heinkel – www.thehistoryproject.co.uk

Stories of the German blitzkrieg¹¹ found their way into newspaper reports, news bulletins on the radio and cinemas, where the Pathé news showed black and white newsreel footage of the war making it feel very frightening and real especially for those who had lived through the last war only twenty years or so before. The fighting on screen may have shaped the boy's future as in later years both Frank and Leo would serve in the Armed Forces.

'A logistical nightmare' described the process to communicate, allocate accommodation and transport the evacuees. For some children (and no doubt some of the adults) it was a great adventure, for others it destroyed family life. By Christmas 1939, the feared German blitzkrieg hadn't happened, and three-quarters of the evacuees returned home.

Only weeks after the boys returned home, a Heinkel He 111 bomber was the first German plane to be shot down. The field near Humble in East Lothian was just 18 miles from their temporary 'safe' home at Spott.

In any event by February 1940 all the pupils who had either been evacuated to outlying districts or dispersed locally to Newcraighall, Craigmillar, St John's Guild House or St Angela's convent returned to the school to admire the recently constructed 'bomb' shelters which had taken up large parts of their play grounds.

¹¹ Blitzkrieg, which means "lightning war" in German, had its roots in earlier military strategy, including the influential work of the 19th-century Prussian general Carl von Clausewitz. Clausewitz proposed the "concentration principle," the idea that concentrating forces against an enemy, and making a single blow against a carefully chosen target (the Schwerpunkt, or "centre of gravity") was more effective than dispersing those forces.
www.History.com

A 'war bunker' had also been added into the large back garden of the family home and whilst other neighbours dug in their new Anderson shelters¹² the family added a sister for baby Anne and the boys. On the eighth of December Kathleen (Kathleen Mary Theresa Helena 8th December 1939) was born.

Edinburgh did not suffer as London had during 1940 with almost two months of continuous bombing (the 'Blitz') so life returned to something like normality however, with keen eyes for current affairs, the family observed how Germany had invaded its European neighbours: Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Denmark, Norway, Luxembourg, and Romania whilst the Royal Air Force undertook night-time raids in Germany in response. Germany, Italy, and Japan signed a joint military and economic agreement, and Italy invaded Egypt whilst closer to home France surrendered to Germany. The Battle of Britain had been fought but with losses so heavy, Britain began calling up two million 19–27-year-olds for military service luckily the family was saved from that as eldest son James was still five years too young.

The cost of food in the Joppa Co-operative and other shops fluctuated significantly depending on availability. Flour and bread seemed to stay about the same (7d and 2 ½d or about £1.64 and 91p today) but sugar had gone up by 25% between 1939 and 1941 and milk had gone up by 17% to 17d equal to £3.64p for a pint today. The average salary was £195 per annum (equal to £10,000 today) so the Government pamphlet 'make do and mend' which was issued by the British Ministry of Information and showed housewives useful tips on how to be both frugal and stylish in times of

Ration book photograph
courtesy of MYLearning.org

harsh rationing was timely. With its thrifty design ideas and advice on reusing old clothing, the pamphlet was an indispensable guide for households. Tips included unpicking old jumpers to re-knit chic alternatives; turning men's clothes into women's; as well as darning and altering.

The war continued but at last the Soviets joined the allies after Germany broke its pact with them. News on the radio included a terrible attack on American forces at Pearl Harbour which meant the Americans

¹² Anderson shelters were issued free to all householders who earned less than £250 a year, and those with a higher income were charged £7. Made from six curved sheets bolted together at the top, with steel plates at either end, and measuring 1.95m by 1.35m, the shelter could accommodate four adults and two children. The shelters were half buried in the ground with earth heaped on top.

officially joined the war. U-boat packs roamed the Atlantic but were disrupted following the capture of an Enigma machine allowing the British to break German codes.

Julia had fallen pregnant in the March and was due at Christmas but as the birth drew near, Granny Mary, who was now 73, fell ill and the continuous coughing she suffered from turned out to be Bronchitis. She died in late November just a month before the last of the family's siblings, Brian Norman, who entered life on Christmas day to a world at war. Her address on the death certificate was given as 5 High Street, Portobello which was daughter Elizabeth's home.

The Northfield House was even more crowded now with Sisters Anne and Kathleen sharing a camp bed at the foot of Bernard and Julia's bed whilst Tommy and Brian joined their brothers in the front room.

By 1942 Frank, who had successfully passed his final primary school examination, found himself starting secondary school but instead of joining his older brothers on the daily commute to Holy Cross Academy some three and a half miles from home, he found himself remaining in the secondary school part of St John's situated at 13 Bath Street although he later moved to the annex at 2 Windsor Terrace. Both were still within walking distance.



St John's Roman Catholic School at 13 Bath Street taken in 2021 – Private Collection

St John's Roman Catholic School opened on 13th December 1886 at 13 Bath Street, Edinburgh and had just 73 children. Closely associated with the church, a number of the teachers were nuns from the local convent. By 1910 they occupied two buildings; Bath Street and an annex at 2 Windsor Crescent in Portobello. By 1926 the roll had outgrown the accommodation and so a new primary school was built at Hamilton Drive with the senior or secondary pupils attending either Bath Street or the Windsor Place annex. Whilst Frank was at the Primary School in the mid 30's there was also an annex at Niddrie which later became the St Frances Primary School.

Chapter Two - The War years

American troops began to arrive in Britain just as Frank started studying at St John's secondary and like most young boys, tales of the war were never far from his lips, brought closer to home regularly via one of Mother Julia's sisters, three of whom served as Nursing Sisters throughout the war.

Julia Connelly had four sisters and two brothers. Three of the sisters; Mary, Annie (also known as Anne or Aunt Nana) and Helen, served in the QAIMNS (Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service) and whilst occasionally they were together, operated for the most part in different theatres of war from Europe to the middle and Far East.

As the war developed so there appeared battle names that became synonymous with WWII warfare: The 'Battle of Midway', which took place just six months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour and saw the US inflicting devastating damage on the Japanese fleet that rendered their aircraft carriers irreparable. The two battles at 'El Alamein', pitting last minute replacement Lieutenant-General Bernard Montgomery against the enormously successful General Feld-marschall Erwin Rommel and where the Axis army of Italy and Germany suffered a decisive defeat by the British Eighth Army and became a turning point in the North African campaign. Later in the year the Battle of Stalingrad began setting the might of the overextended German Army against the huge numbers of the Soviet Union. Marked by fierce close quarters combat and direct assaults on civilians in air raids, it was to become one of the bloodiest battles in the history of warfare, with an estimated 2 million total casualties.

Rationing, which had been operating since 1939, became more severe. The Germans were successfully attacking Atlantic convoys carrying much needed re-supplies from America and other countries. Ration books were issued which allowed families to collect many kinds of food but rationed to each individual in the family. Even though Frank's father managed a food shop, housewives including mum Julia, had to queue up at various shops [there were no supermarkets yet] and hand over ration coupons in exchange for food. Butter, sugar, milk, cheese, eggs, bacon and ham, jam and even sweets were in short supply. Children were allowed one egg a week although many were given powdered eggs as a substitute:

"Dried eggs are the complete hen's eggs, both the white and the yolk, dried to a powder. Nothing is added. Nothing but the moisture and the shell taken away, leaving the eggs themselves as wholesome, as digestible and as full of nourishment and health-promoting value as if you had just taken the eggs new laid from the nest" said a Government spokesman...

Schooling continued through the summer months of 1943 and so too did the fighting. Earlier that Spring the Battle of Stalingrad saw Germany's first major defeat and was followed quickly by the surrender of Italy. Jewish fighters inside the Warsaw Ghetto had risen up against the deportation or murder of around 300,000 Jews but mostly died in the attempt. This was part of Hitler's 'Final Solution'.

Frank's father Bernard continued to serve in the Local Defence Volunteer force or LDV's. Sometimes called the 'Look, Duck and Vanish Brigade' which had just been renamed the 'Home Guard' after Winston Churchill took a personal interest. Bernard's colleagues varied in age between 17 and 65 although there were a few even older and most had jobs during the day but continued to turn out 'unpaid' in the evening and at weekends. The Home Guard Handbook listed the main duties as: guarding important points, observation and reporting, immediate attack against small, lightly armed parties of the

enemy and the defence of roads, villages, factories and vital points in towns to block enemy movement. He was kept busy.

After 900 days, the siege of Leningrad ended and the secret plans for D-Day were well advanced. By the Spring of 1944 Frank's eldest brother James neared his 18th birthday, at which point he was liable to be conscripted, so the family's thoughts and emotions were mixed. For the boys, undoubted excitement at the thought that one of them might join the fighting but for parents Bernard and Julia, huge concerns that James could become another statistic to add to the 376,239 men wounded or 300,000 killed in the British Army. Almost one in every four men serving. Luck was on their side however and by James's birthday in July, the D-Day invasion had begun and the German Army was retreating.

During the late winter and early spring of the following year, even whilst bombing of London and Dresden continued, the end of the battle in Europe was in sight. Soon Adolf Hitler was dead and Germany signed an unconditional surrender. Meanwhile in the Far East the belligerent Japanese Army was withdrawing from China but continued to fight until August, when two atomic bombs were dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. World War II had ended after six long years and the remaining servicemen could begin to come home.

Following the end of the war people expected a better life than before the war years when the Great Depression caused untold poverty and hardship worldwide. There were major shortages in jobs and housing for those returning from war and there were still shortages of food, and materials generally. Around the world the start of a baby boom was in progress as couples married and had children.

Frank was 15 in 1945, James 18 and Michael 17. Youngest boy Brian was almost Primary school age and Leo, and Tom were at secondary schools, St Anthony's and Holy Cross Academy respectively. Kathleen and Anne were still at St John's Primary School where all the other siblings had gone before them. Life had changed for the whole family and now was the time to start afresh however, whilst war had ended so a new 'cold' one had begun.

Grandfather Michael Murphy (b. 6th June 1877), who had lived through two world wars and was now



seventy, was seeing many changes in his family and the world. From his home at 2 Wauchope Square in the Craigmillar district of Edinburgh where he lived with his wife Annie (Nee McCann c. 1880), he was regularly visited by his growing grandchildren including the seventeen-year-old Frank and his siblings.

*Bernard and Julia
outside the Bingham
House -Private
Collection*

He had been a Coalminer all his life and now saw the mines nationalised and a surge in British cars being exported to the United States. In 1946, when conscription was still in force in the United Kingdom, two weeks shy of his sixteenth birthday, Frank was 'posted to the 'Y' list, a designation that related to individuals in a holding unit, awaiting transfer or 'at home' but this didn't stop him joining the Army Cadet Force (ACF) and subsequently being 'released' to 'Z' class, a term indicating he was now on the Army Reserve list.

In the autumn of 1947 included Chuck Yeager piloting an aircraft, the Bell X1, to speeds in excess of 767mph and breaking the sound barrier, an alleged Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) being found in the Roswell area and the family moving to a larger house.

23 Bingham Drive was a four bedroomed upper villa flat with a good-sized kitchen and large living room. Julia and Bernard continued to share their room with the girls Anne and Kathleen, James the eldest had a room of his own (which gave him some added privacy for his insulin injections and the other boys shared the other two rooms.

Chapter Three - Army Life

From this point forward in the narrative, the standalone dates and details immediately following them are extracts written precisely from Frank's diary.

6 Nov 47 - Royal Engineers, Elgin (Frank's first diary entry)



*Frank (rear) and Army pal, Elgin
4th March 1948 – Private
Collection*

Whether or not the war had any influence on Frank, he, along with thousands of others, including older brother Michael, found himself conscripted when he came of age. As early as 1942, all males between the ages of 18 and 51 years old and resident in Britain were liable for call up for a period of eighteen months but whilst serving conscripts were being released by 1945, the military needed to keep its strength up so continued the tradition.

Although born in February 1930, the first indication of service is contained in his diary as noted above which confirmed that 3 months before his official birthday, roughly November 1947, he had 'signed up' but this does not tally with official documents which show that he enlisted on 20th May 1948 at Elgin and was assessed for selection to a branch of the Army after taking tests and so on. On 16th March 1948, he signed up to an AC 1^{5/12} or one year five months¹ which was based on his age and cadet service and his ROC (Required Operational Capability) was until 19-10-49. His assessment form (Army Form B214 – 'Qualification Form'), as well as confirming his home address as 23 Bingham Place, Edinburgh, and the facts that he had five brothers and two sisters, contained the following information:

Aged 18 years he had left St John's RC School in Portobello aged 14. (He claimed 3rd in class). He had been a French Polisher for three years, earning £2-7-8 and worked on both modern and utility furniture. Before that he had been employed as a Leather Crafter, making sheepskin rugs

¹ AC 1^{5/12} [= One year 5 months] – [The National Service Act 1947](#) announced that all able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 30 were to be called up. This was quickly changed to all 17- to 21-year-olds. The conscripts initially served for 18 months. From 1947, the period of wholtime service was two years. The [National Service Act 1948](#) and National Service (Amendment) Act 1948 repealed earlier Acts and provided for continuing national service in the armed forces for men for a defined period of 1½ years wholtime service and a total period of additional and part-time service of 5½ years.

and carrier bags by hand, Earning £2-8-6. He could drive cars, motorcycles and lorries up to 3 ton but whilst he possessed a license, he had never passed his test. He enjoyed playing musical instruments, including the accordion and football, X-country running and the high jump. When he wasn't doing all this, he liked going to the pictures.

His National Service Registration number was PVR 5143, he was 5' 10 ^{3/4} “, weighed 145 pounds and his attitude to cooking and/or medical work was ‘adverse’. This particular notation was one of many peculiarities of the military, where those branches of the service were undersubscribed so anyone showing ‘positive’ attitude towards them might well find themselves serving behind a counter or over a body. Not something I imagined Frank might enjoy.

Every recruit² is given five basic selection tests. The titles of these tests and the qualities that can be assessed from the results are as follows:

- DOM – Dominoes = General intelligence irrespective of education or experience
- PRO – Problems = Mechanical aptitude and knowledge of simple mechanics
- ARI – Arithmetic – Knowledge of arithmetic and simple mathematics
- VER – Verbal = Spelling and vocabulary
- INS – Instructions = Ability to read carry out written instructions

The results of the tests are shown in table form [in the above noted Army Form B214] as selection gradings thus: -

M. TEST RESULTS	S.G.	DOM	PRO	ARI	VER	INS	ASS	OR. IN	TTK	TTK	TTK	TTK
SCORE	23 24	12	17	25	38	43	44					
GROUP	4	5	4	4	3M	3M	M					

N. ENLISTED AND/OR POTENTIAL TRADESMAN QUALIFICATIONS
(Give below full details of civilian employment and describe work done)

Extract from 22034187, Sapper Connelly B.F – Qualification Form dated 16th March 1948

The figure under ‘S.G.’ [left hand column] derive from the results of all five tests; the lower figure can be taken as an indication on the scale – 1, 2, 3 plus, 3 minus, 4 or 5 - of a man’s general intelligence with ‘1’ being the most intelligent.

Each man is then interviewed by a PSO to assess his educational standard based on an eight-point scale ranging between illiteracy and University degree.

Frank’s educational standard was scored at 61 and he was noted as having ‘no potential for officer/non-commissioned officer’. Specific standards noted were: C.T. [collective?]/E.R. [unknown] and L.

²The Royal Engineers Journal Volume LXIX No 3 dated September 1955 (New Zealand)

[unknown] were all rated as '2' out of potential 1,2 or 3.

Once the assessment had been made³ a role for individuals⁴ could be identified, in Frank's case - Field Engineer.

Listed as 'A1' (Fit for service at home and abroad), One section still extant in 2001 - The PULHEM acronym stands for the following qualities: – P - physical capacity, U – upper extremity, L – locomotion, – hearing, E [or EE] – eyesight, M – mental capacity, S – stability of emotions. For each quality, the soldier is given a number. The standard of fitness under each quality is recorded by the figures 0 to 8; these figures are known as 'degrees'. Not all degrees are used for each quality.

In order to record in detail, the physical and mental capacity of an individual, medical classification under the PULHHEEMS system is considered and recorded under the following qualities. a. Physical Capacity (P). This quality is used to indicate an individual's overall physical and mental development, his or her potential for physical training and suitability for employment worldwide (i.e. the overall functional capacity). The 'P' grading is affected by other qualities in the PULHHEEMS profile, namely the 'U', 'L', 'HH', 'EE' and 'S' gradings. b. Upper Limbs (U). Indicates the functional use of the hands, arms, shoulder girdle and cervical and thoracic spine, and in general shows the individual's ability to handle weapons and loads. A reduced 'U' grading will affect the 'P' grading. c. Locomotion (L). Indicates an individual's ability to march/run. The 'L' grading refers to the functional efficiency of the locomotor system. This quality must therefore take into account assessment of the lumbar spine, pelvis, hips, legs, knees, ankles and feet. Observation of gait and mobility are also important. Any conditions affecting the function of the locomotor system will result in a reduced 'L' grading which will in turn be reflected in the 'P' grading. d. Hearing (HH). This quality assesses auditory acuity only. Diseases of the ear such as otitis externa are assessed under the 'P' quality. However, severe loss of hearing will affect the 'P' grading. e. Eyesight (EE). This quality assesses visual acuity only. Diseases of the eye such as glaucoma are assessed under the 'P' quality. However, severe loss of visual acuity will affect the 'P' grading. f. Mental Capacity (M). Indicates the individual's ability to learn Army skills and duties. Mental capacity is not subject to formal medical assessment at recruitment. However, the recruit selection procedure, including interviews, and the individual's academic record will allow judgement to be made on this quality. Subject changes are only likely to occur as a result of neurological disease or head injury. g. Stability (S). The S quality indicates emotional stability which grades the individual's ability to withstand the psychological stress of military life (especially operations). Amendments to the "S" grade are usually required in cases of psychiatric illness but are not restricted to these circumstances.

³ Personnel Selection in the British Forces, Philip E Vernon M.A. Ph.D. and John B Parry B.A. Ph.D., University of London Press 1949

⁴ Personnel Selection in the British Army: Recruits [Main Title] | IWM Film (iwmcollections.org.uk)

Franks were: P = 2, U = 2, L = 2, H = 1, E [left] = 1, E [right] = 1, M = 2, S = 2. Which gave him a medical grading of P2 – Medically fit for unrestricted service worldwide. Grading went from P2 – P8 (P8 – Medically unfit for service). There was no P1 grading.

The Personnel Selection Officer (PSO) made the following summary comments about Frank;

“Full well built lad below average intelligence – Smart and tidy appearance. Cheerful and helpful. Keen to try his best. Should responds well to training.” His employment recommendation notes; - Field Engineer.

After saying goodbye to his parents, brothers, and sisters he was posted to 8 TRRE (Training Regiment Royal Engineers) based at Pinefield Camp, Elgin which although only 150 miles north of Edinburgh meant any contact could only be by letter as the family had no telephone.

The train journey north reminded him of the one to Spott eight years earlier but this time he was on his own.

The first order of business on arrival was to draw equipment. National Servicemen were issued with their kit, uniform (which often didn't fit) and boots and were then encouraged to settle in. Within five minutes however they were being introduced to veteran sergeants who, under pressure to train them in as short a time as possible, began immediately! As well as the necessary introduction to a murderous fitness regime, recruits also began the seemingly endless polishing of kit and equipment. Many regarded this as mindless and aimed at destroying individuality. However, this strict regime helped foster group identity and brought recruits closer together.

The day following his arrival, and before he had learned too much, He had to sign the Official Secrets Act. Usually this took the place of a ‘communal briefing’ followed by the signing of an Army Form which in itself is noted as an ‘in lieu of Army Form A/5120’, which has an unknown designation. Noted (although he had just arrived) as Sapper Connelly he stated;

“I acknowledge that I have this day had my attention drawn to the more important provisions of the Official Secrets Act 1911 – 1920

I further understand that any information that I receive or acquire in any way...is not to be divulged....’etc.”

Weapon training, drill, fieldcraft and so on were extremely basic and were not designed to produce professional soldiers. [My own Royal Marines training was 43 weeks.] Once trained in the basics the recruits attained a level of adequacy that would later be improved upon by receiving regiments in the front line. Six weeks is not a long time but was none the less exhausting..... Letters home were few and far between.

‘Endless drill, gruelling inspections, physical training, rifle practice, polishing boots and equipment, cross country runs, lectures in the art of warfare, fatigues of all sorts and all the time corporals and sergeants continually shouting and swearing from morning till night.’

Lance Corporal Adrian Cooper, Royal Engineers, 1947-49

Once basic training was completed, specialist training began and whilst the duration of that in 1947/48 is unknown, similar training today comprises 12 weeks of basic training followed by an additional ten weeks to become a Combat engineer.

Whilst never explicitly stating it I suspect Frank trained as a Combat engineer. He regularly pointed out 'bridges he had built', usually in Perthshire or the Highlands, which is typically a Combat engineer's role and within travelling distance from the Engineers training base at Elgin.



Port Meadow

*Typical Bailey Bridge –
Courtesy Museum of
Oxford*

Frank qualified as a 'Field Engineer Class III' on 20th August 1948, just three months after arriving at Elgin. After training, basic pay for a private soldier was 28 shillings a week in 1948 (equivalent £43.69 now) which compared poorly with a civilian average weekly wage of three pounds eighteen shillings (£121.71). Once the young squaddies had paid for any equipment losses plus the essentials; soap, shaving kit etc. they had very little left over for extravagances. A pint of beer cost them about a shilling so a night out with something to eat (fish and chips was about 1/3d) then the cinema (1/6d) and a couple of pints (2/-) totalling nearly five shillings which was just short of a fifth of his wages and likely resulted in a walk to and from the camp to save money.

After training, National Servicemen were often posted to one of Britain's many garrisons abroad including Borneo, Malaya and Egypt. Egypt was shunned by those in the know as it was notorious for freezing nights followed by blisteringly hot days. Disease was rife so the country was not sought after as a posting. Frank was posted to Egypt.

After a short trip home to see his family and friends, Frank was posted to 1 Engineers Store Group (UK) RE on 15th October where he was to remain until a position could be found for him. I imagine his duties included the mind-numbing minutiae of Army camp living including spud bashing and guard duties, as well as extension specialist training but this is not something Frank probably enjoyed which can be seen from an entry in his service documents in January 1949 noting;

'Sect 19 AA. Found drunk on Corporation Road, Coventry - Awarded 14 days CB by Lt/ Col Abraham RE

Section 19AA refers to the either a local camp order or more likely, the Manual of Military Law and the particular section undoubtedly deals in particular with 'intoxication' and its subsequent Army penalties. The 'Awarded' comment sounds like he did something good but the letters 'CB' means '14 days Confined to Barracks'. N.B When sentenced by a Colonel, as he was, which is an escalation of the

normal level of 'seeing his Officer in Charge, (a captain or Major) suggests the punishment could have been worse but he convinced his boss it was a one off!

At the end of January 1949, he was posted 1 ESG (Engineers Stores Group), near Long Marston, Warwickshire but this was only to be for a month prior to heading off to Egypt.

During this short stay at his third camp, he once more learned new skills and about new equipment. The Stores Group held everything from Pontoon's, Bailey's, Hafbe's, Lafbe's, Petter Engine's etc. Down to the smaller stuff. It was approximately 9 Square miles in area, had its own Railway sidings and Engine's and housed a Training Dog Handling unit. It was also used for 'trade training'.

Frank's pre-embarkation leave passed all too quickly and was shortened when a signal sent through the Signal Dispatch Service (SDS) indicated he was to;

'Embark UK and transit to MELF'

This was with effect from 22 February 1949 so at 19 years old, he found himself packing his kitbag and heading for Egypt.

During the war shipping was used to transport troops but because of the threat from U-boats, it generally went the 'long way around'. From a Liverpool embarkation point, ships diverted down the west coast of Africa, around Cape Town then up through the eastern side, the Indian ocean and the Gulf of Aden, before entering the Red Sea and depositing troops at Suez. By the end of the war shipping could generally follow the shortest route; passed Gibraltar then through the Mediterranean shortening the journey from four to just two weeks.

As a fit and outgoing young man, he was looking forward to his first posting and the challenges ahead, and life on-board was anything but dull. Although much time was spent reading and playing cards or dominoes on the mess deck, where he slept with the other embarkees, occasionally he could walk on deck. This restriction was to prevent the soldiers from getting in the way of the naval officers and ratings who were managing the ship. Daily routines were important and meals were split into port and starboard 'watches' so getting to the galley on your watch and on time was a must. Weapon training continued as did daily physical fitness, mostly comprising of static classes of push ups and sit ups, star jumps and running on the spot. Room was at a premium so no tactics were practiced but there were quite a few technical lectures so time passed quickly.

One anomaly in his service documents at this time show him promoted to Local P Sergeant at this time, perhaps to manage something or someone on board the ship but he relinquished the post just ten days later on 4th March, which was when he arrived 'in theatre'. His service documents note, as well as the rank relinquishment, that he was to;

'Disembark Mediterranean Expeditionary [Force] & Taken on Strength – X/IV

The Army never does or says anything simply so understanding the abbreviations and acronym's is almost a profession; X/IV alluded to 'Reinforcements in transit between the Base and a unit' who were

to remain on X (iv) (and the Base Depot strength) until they actually reach their destination and were taken on the strength by the unit to which they are proceeding....

4 June 48 - IWT Egypt [Service History records show he arrived in Egypt on 4th March 1949 and not the date as shown in his diary]

He eventually arrived on 11th March 1949 at the IWT or Inland Water Transport Squadron, part of M.E.L.F. - Middle East Land Force, which had been hugely active during the First World War when it employed over 30,000 people but had gradually been wound down to much smaller numbers. It's emergence again in June 1940 was no surprise when it became clear that conventional supply lines depending upon road transport were extremely unreliable in North Africa. Egypt had over 2,000 miles of navigable waterways, including the Nile itself, its huge Delta, and many miles of canals, and so this was an obvious way of moving the vast quantities of supplies. By late 1943 IWT's ranks had swelled again to over 2,000 people of all ranks and many nationalities including, British, Dutch, Indians, and Egyptians. Tugs, feluccas, and dhows were requisitioned and organised by the IWT. The Royal Engineers themselves developed special power and dumb barges including some experimental types made from concrete. The feluccas and dhows moved under their own sail or were towed by the tugs. The extent of the transport network was vast and very busy and linked key cities of Cairo, Alexandria and Port Said.



Map belonging to;

22034187 Sgt Connelly FB

(as noted on reverse)

Map of Egypt showing 'IWT' (Inland Water Transport) at Port Said and 'Moascar CRE' (Commander Royal Engineers based at Moascar) c.100 miles south.

The map relating to the photograph above is well creased, folded and very delicate. It includes writing on the reverse, completed by Frank, and indicating he had been promoted to Sergeant in or for his tour in Egypt and also lists his official Regimental number as 22034187. The notation of 'Moscar CRE' is probably referring to Moascar, now a WW2 cemetery, but which was an HQ area for regiments during and after WW1 and 2.

The Suez Canal was an economically and strategically vital route for both Middle Eastern oil and trade with the Far East. Britain maintained a military presence in Egypt to protect the canal under the terms of a treaty signed in 1936 however Egyptian nationalists resented the British presence in their country. As early as 1945, riots had broken out and the first British soldier was killed there.

Withdrawing from the Egyptian cities, British forces concentrated in the area immediately adjacent to the canal, known as 'the Canal Zone'.

'It really was an open sewer - it was pretty filthy. If anybody fell in the Sweetwater Canal... they had to have the full treatment for rabies, injections in the tummy and everything. It was the early days of anti-mosquito spraying of their breeding grounds in canals, swamps etc and all the waters around were being constantly sprayed by the public health people. So, nobody got the traditional malaria. But there was a lot of 'gippy tummy' [diarrhoea] - that was a fairly constant thing.'

Second Lieutenant Kenneth Baker, Canal Zone, 1953-54

Between 1947 and 1963, a total of 395 National Servicemen were killed on active service. The experience many men had of being thrown into combat situations, such as in Korea, Malaya and Suez, would never be forgotten. Men with minimal training were expected to fight guerrillas and cope with riots or civil war situations.

It's not known whether Frank saw gunfire or terrorists but the harsh desert climate, very effective at reducing resilience, and the constant menace of disease were the likely start point of many years of illness ahead for Frank.



*Egypt – Triumph
Motorcycles Trans
Continental.*

*Frank 6th from Left –
Private Collection*

In October 1949 Frank reported sick and complained of chest pains; he was X-rayed but was informed the result was 'normal' and so eventually, on 29th January 1950, he embarked once more on shipping to get him back to the UK and on 11th February, after completing 353 days with M.E.L.F, he was sent on Release Leave and effectively released to Class 'Z' (T) Royal Army Reserve. The 'T' indicates he was a Territorial, as were most servicemen during and just after the war.

In February 1950 he again reported sick, possibly on the ship that carried him home, with blood in his sputum. On arrival in the UK, he was allowed to return home with a final service date of 3rd March 1950 but found himself during this period attending a further X-ray, where it was noted later;

'Whilst on demobilisation leave this man was X-Rayed [at] a chest clinic and found to have T.B. He had no definite symptoms but his parents had thought he looked thin and unwell and encouraged him to be X-Rayed.'

25 Sept 1948 - Jake Harrison A. 73 years died

Although he had been serving less than a year maintaining a diary would have been frowned upon so at this very early stage in its upkeep the specific dates may have been contained in letters to family or as small notations in another book and entered in the diary later.

There was 55 years between Frank and Jake Harrison but they were not related and Jake was the same age as Frank's grandparents. Jake, short for Jacob, Jack or John does not appear in census or deaths contained within official documents held by Edinburgh's Register House, so his identity and relationship to Frank remains, at this stage, a mystery.

Father Bernard continued to work for the Co-operative and continued to implement the food rationing. Customers queued along the street waiting to buy their staples including ham, meat, cheese and tea, and of course sweets. Frank's elder brothers James and Michael were leaving home to begin their own full lives, Leo was considering joining the Navy, Tom was finishing his education and looking towards a scientific career and sisters Kathleen and Anne were following their brothers into secondary school.

Frank's letters home at the time spoke of the unending daily heat, unsanitary conditions outside the camp and the lack of places to spend any of his hard-earned pay. His mild but continuous coughing were beginning to annoy but visits to the nearest army medic were few and far between. His three aunts serving in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service were being demobbed and Frank hoped that his release would also be soon.

1948 came and went and the daily grind of active service went on. Daily routines in Egypt merged until one day became the same as the next and 1949 was ushered in with hardly a celebration and certainly no change in monotony from the year before.

The Soviets had by now developed their own nuclear bomb which increased global tensions and China became a communist country. News that the Berlin blockade¹ and clothes rationing at home had come to an end provided some relief and conversation for Frank and his many friends but life in a Khaki uniform continued unabated and they most looked forward to the end of their conscription period which for Frank, was now only months away.

¹The Berlin Blockade was an attempt in 1948 by the Soviet Union to limit the ability of the United States, Great Britain and France to travel to their sectors of Berlin, which lay within Russian-occupied East Germany. Eventually, the western powers instituted an airlift that lasted nearly a year and delivered vital supplies and relief to West Berlin. The Berlin Blockade, and the Allied response in the form of the Berlin Airlift, represented the first major conflict of the Cold War.

Chapter Four - I told them I was ill....

11 Feb 50 – DEMOB LEAVE

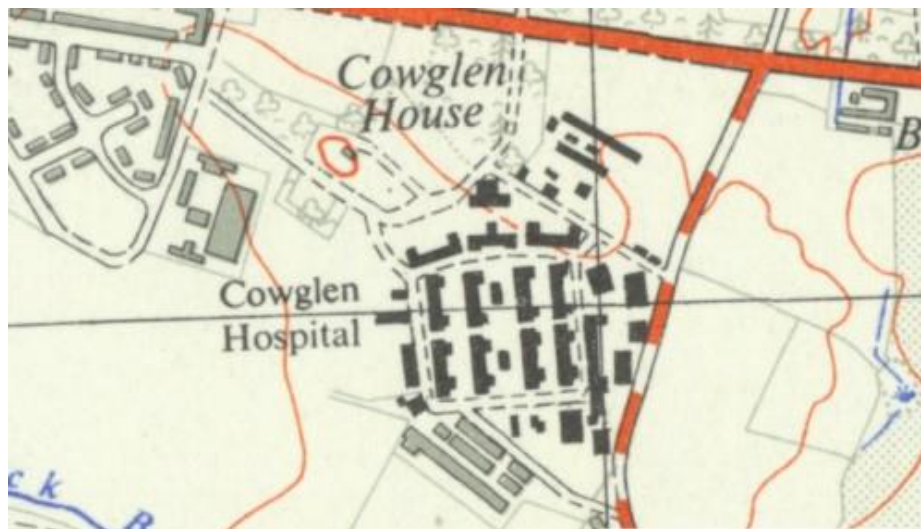
Now twenty but with a worsening chest condition he was being sent back home to a civilian life or 'demobbed' in military parlance. New thoughts flitted through his mind about life in Scotland, its milder than desert climate, and seeing friends and family again after a two years absence. Soldiers generally greeted demob with mixed feelings after losing friends in action or to illness and many would miss the camaraderie and time abroad. Frank didn't choose to stay on as a regular Engineer and was impatient to escape the monotony of life in Khaki on the front line. But by then, he knew he was ill.

21 Feb 50 – X RAY

One of many visits to hospitals began with those on 21st and 24th of February 1950 for X-rays. The cause of the by now incessant coughing which plagued him both asleep and awake needed to be determined before his official release from military service. During the month, as well as the X-rays, he had a medical (26th February) by a doctor Elder, a specialist, to formally establish what the army doctors suspected; that it was a form of Tuberculosis¹.

3 Mar 50 - LEAVE FINISHED

Whatever was determined by the Doctors and specialists he saw, by the 3rd March 1950 Frank's demob leave had finished and technically so had his time in the army however this was put on hold whilst they tried to alleviate his condition.



BMH Cowglen 1958 - Courtesy National Library of Scotland

¹ Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection spread through inhaling tiny droplets from the coughs or sneezes of an infected person. Mainly affecting the lungs, it can also affect the abdomen, glands, bones and nervous system. Symptoms include persistent cough, weight loss, night sweats, high temperature, tiredness and fatigue, loss of appetite and swellings in the neck. The organism causing tuberculosis - *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* existed 15,000 to 20,000 years ago and has been found in relics from ancient Egypt, India, and China.

13 Mar 50 – COWGLEN MILITARY HOSPITAL

Although noted as the 13th in his diary, Frank's military records – (Army Form W3017 – Notifications of admissions to, ~~or discharge from~~, a military hospital) note his admission as 11th. By the 13th, aged 20, Frank's illness had been confirmed as Pulmonary Tuberculosis or 'TB' as it was widely known so no time was lost in finding both a surgeon and a bed. BMH (British Military Hospital) Cowglen sat in a rural area just south of today's Pollok Country Park on the outskirts of Glasgow. It had been a Military Hospital during the Second World War after which it gradually became the Glasgow and Western Regional Hospital Board Hospital. Frank was sixty miles from home.

The TB disease is transmitted in a similar way to colds and flu so family members, who tend to spend more time in close contact, had a greater chance of catching the infection. Parents Bernard and Julia were under no illusions and not only wanted to protect the other children but also maintain their composure for Frank's benefit. As a young man he undoubtedly underplayed the severity of what was happening, hoping simply for the best.



*Frank spent much of the time
recovering in bed – Private
Collection*

Generally staffed by Doctors from the Medical Corp and QAIMNS², which Frank's three aunts had served in, Frank became an inpatient just four weeks after returning from Egypt.

15 Mar 50 – 1st COURSE STREP AND PAS

By 1950 there was clear evidence that the administration of streptomycin (STREP) and PAS (para-amino salicylic acid) considerably reduced the emergence of drug-resistant strains of tuberculosis. Streptomycin, which was given by injection, was expensive and had side effects including some patients becoming ill all over again when the TB bacilli became resistant. PAS was also still under development and when taken orally it sometimes caused anorexia, diarrhoea, nausea, and vomiting in patients.

²QAIMNS were formed some 12 years before the outbreak of World War One during a time of relative peace in the British Empire. The Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service replaced the Army Nursing Service (ANS) and the Indian

Nursing Service (INS) by royal warrant on the 27 March 1902. They were named in honour of Queen Alexandra. In 1952 they became Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps (QARANC).

This 'inpatient' time was likened to a chemotherapy regime for cancer patients but fortunately some of the best Doctors in the world, members of Professor (later Sir) John Crofton's Edinburgh team, recognised for its expertise in treating TB, were involved.

He may have stayed in hospital for just a few days or weeks at most but given the success elsewhere, Frank was looking forward to getting rid of his, by now, persistent cough and putting back on some of the weight he had lost.

Given the state of his health and the direct effect on his lungs and his ability to breathe normally, it was surprising that he continued to smoke his favourite cigarettes³, even doing so in the hospital grounds. It would be many years before their continuing effect on his breathing would cause him to stop.



*BMH Cowglen 1950.
Frank with cigarette and friend -
Private Collection*

Whilst Frank was lying in bed, the military machine was at work behind the scenes and so for simplicity and to allow readers to complete the story without too much interruption, the dates and exchanges of memo's and so on are noted over;

³ Towards the end of the 19th century cigarettes were popularised, causing a global lung cancer epidemic. Recognised as the cause in the 1940s and 50s, manufacturers disputed the evidence. Cigarettes were causing about 70% of lung cancer deaths.

17 March 1950 - Memo to Cowglen Military Hospital

Tel: Brighton 27301 In reply please quote: DE/DR.2

SUBJECT: Hospital Patient

CC,
Military Hospital,
Cowglen,
GLASGOW.

22034187 Sapper CONNELLY, F.F.

With reference to Army Form W.3017 rendered in respect of the above named.

Please note that Release Leave granted to this

'With reference to Army Form 3017 rendered in respect of above [Sapper Connelly B.F.] named.

Please note the release leave granted to this man expired on 5 March 1950. He should therefore, not be treated as a military patient as the conditions of the N.I. [National Insurance] Act apply in this case.'

*OIC RE Records
[Office in Command Royal Engineer Records]*

11 April 1950 - Letter to OIC RE Records re: Sapper 22034187 – Connelly B.F

Dear Sir,
Re. 22034187 Sapper
Connelly B.F.
On 2nd March I forwarded claim form
13 on behalf of above who had been
admitted to Cowglen Military Hospital
Glasgow. So far no weekly pay has

Dear Sir,

On Monday 2nd March I forwarded claim form 13 on behalf of above who had been admitted to Cowglen Military Hospital Glasgow. So far no weekly pay has been made to above, nor has his allotment been re-continued to Mrs Julia Connelly (mother) at above address [23 Bingham Place]. I will be obliged if you will have the above claim rectified.'

Yours faithfully

Bernard Connelly (father)

18 April 1950 - Army Form I.1237 (Medical Case Sheet) typed at Military Hospital Cowglen, Glasgow
– Re: 2203417 Spr Connelly FB Royal Engineers Aged 20 [with] 1year 9 months service

History - 'Whilst on demobilisation leave this man was X-Rayed a chest clinic and found to have T.B. He had no definite symptoms but his parents had thought he looked thin and unwell and encouraged him to be X-Rayed. He has had a Winter cough for years but productive for recent months and in Feb. '50 there was bloodstaining of the sputum. 'Seven months ago he had a pain in his chest and an X-Ray was then said to be normal. No toxic symptoms. For two weeks he has been in bed at home and on P.A.S.'

Family History - Non relevant Past History - Non relevant

O.E [on examination]: - He looks rather thin and unwell

C.V.S [cardio vascular system]: - N.A.D. [no abnormality/appreciable/apparent detected/ distress/ disease]

R.S: - Percussion note and breath sounds improved at R apex. Abdo: - N.A.D

Investigations and progress: -

Blood picture: - Hb [Hemoglobin]. 15.3gms. RBC [red blood cells count] - 4,750,000. WBC [white blood cell count] - 8,600.

Differential normal. MCH [mean cell hemoglobin] - 32.6yy

Weight 10st 7lbs. Sputum which is occasionally bloodstained is positive for A.A.F.B. [? Acid-Fast Bacillus. An AFB sputum test is a microscopy test for TB bacilli in the patient's sputum. This test is used to diagnose pulmonary TB.

B.S.R. - 15mm/hr (Westergren) [Westergren test is Sedimentation Rate Blood Test, Westergren, to help diagnose and monitor conditions that cause inflammation]

Continued

Chest X-Ray: - Bilateral extensive infiltration L more than R with a cavity and fluid level in apex of R lower lobe and probably cavitation at L apex.

'The patient was put on a strict bedrest and P.A.S was continued. At the end of one month he had lost a few pounds of weight.'

Summary and recommendation: - 'A patient with extensive bilateral cavitating pulmonary tuberculosis who will require prolonged sanatorium treatment. It is recommended he be boarded P.?, and accepted for the L.T.T.S.'

L.J.Mackay-Dick Major RAMC

19 April 1950 - Memo to Regimental Paymaster RE

'The attached letter from the father of above named is passed to you for your attention. There is no trace that Connelly's admission to Cowglen Military Hospital was notified to this office. Mr Connelly has been informed of action taken.'

OIC RE Records

5 May 1950 – Memo to OIC RE Records – Re: Sapper Connelly.

1. This Sapper, Ex I.W.T Workshop Coy, Port Said, admitted Cowglen Hospital while on demobilisation leave.
2. He handed in all his Army papers at the Demobilisation Centre at Aldershot
3. I would be grateful if you could inform me whether this Spr. Should be paid from Army resources or if he should make a demand on National Health Insurance.
4. He is suffering from T.B. and is likely to become a long-term patient.

Perhaps you could take up the matter with the Registrar at the hospital or with the sapper direct.

C.R.E [Commanding Royal Engineers] Lowland District

6 May 1950 – Medical report on a soldier (Army Form B179 – Medical Report on an Invalid)

1. This document is a 'Statement of a soldier concerning his own case' and the form is pre-written with words or statements added as necessary. Frank agreed that;
2. The injury/disability be accepted as due to military service
3. He had served in the UK and Egypt between February 1949 and February 1950
4. He was a lorry driver
5. The first symptoms of Pulmonary Tuberculosis appeared in July 1949 and he did not know the cause
6. He had been treated at Cowglen Military Hospital since 11th March 1950 and had previously been attended by Dr Wright, at Portobello, Edinburgh.
7. He had not had the disease prior to joining up
8. He consented to the release of his medical documents to his civil doctor
9. He confirmed he had been employed as a French Polisher by Patrick Thomson's, Edinburgh.

Statement of case (not to be divulged to the soldier)

'Reported sick at a chest clinic on 21st Feb[ruary] 1950 while on Demob leave in Edinburgh ending 3/3/50. No definite symptoms, but his parents sent him as he looked ill & thin. X-Ray showed bilateral T.B. He was sent home to bed and admitted to Cowglen M.H [Military Hospital] on 11/3/50. He has had a Winter cough for years, but productive over recent months and the sputum has been bloodstained. Chest X-Ray seven months ago said to be normal. No family history. No M.M.R on entry.'

The pre-written form goes on to note that;

1. Illness caused by infection. It did not so originate [in military service] but its origin was not so determined. There was no evidence of negligence
2. His present medical condition was fair but thin and pale, and his teeth were sound.
3. C.V.S n.a.d. [Cardio Vascular System = ?nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide
4. R.S. [Right Side] & ABDO [abdomen] Impaired peraision [excessiveness] note and breath sounds & holes {?} in R[ight] upper lobe.
5. Investigations. Physical weight 10stone 7 lbs. Urine normal. Sputum always & oe [?]. B.S.R. [Bubble Stability Ratio:?]15 mins/hour.
6. Chest X-Ray. Extensive Bilateral Tuberculosis infiltration with large cavity & fluid level in apex of R [right] lower lobe & probable cavitation on L [left].

Continued over...

Continued...

Treatment. Strict bed rest & P.A.S. [para-amino salicylic acid] 12 gm [grams] daily. Will require a prolonged period of bed rest & probably a R [right] phrenic crush & Pneumoperitoneum [therapy].

No operation or treatment had been advised or declined

Recommended discharge as 'permanently unfit.

Treatment under LOTTs [This could be Long-Term Oxygen Treatment Trial]

The report was accurate

The soldier should be brought before a Medical Board

The diagnosis was 'pulmonary tuberculosis (Open)

Army Form B179B (Statement by a Soldier Concerning his own Case (prior to completion of B 179 A))

The supplemental pages to AF 179 notes that:

The Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 'not attributable thereto [Army service], it has been aggravated thereby and remains so'

It was aggravated by service in Egypt February 1949 - February 1950

The condition effect will persist for at least 6 months

There was no evidence of disability on entry

He should be discharged permanently and recommended treatment

L.J.Mackay-Dick Major RAMC

8 May 1950 – Memo to Military Registrar

Memo - D2/DR2 - 'Information received from CRE [Commanding Royal Engineers] Lowland Division that he was admitted hospital during release leave.

Kindly forward copy of mans case sheet that same may be sent to Ministry of Pensions in order that they may be in position to determine whether his disability is attributable or aggravated by War Service.

Kindly treat as urgent. Please cause this man to be informed with regard to his present situation.

Colonel, Officer I/C R.E. records

9 May 1950 – Memo re 'Notifiable disease'

Army Form A35 (Infectious Diseases Notification Form) - Copy each to:

A.D.M.S. [Assistant Director Medical Services] Lowland District, Park Terrace, Glasgow

M.O.H. [Medical Officer of Health] for Glasgow, 35 Montrose Street, Glasgow

R.E.Records, Ditchling Road, Brighton, Sussex.

File

Sapper Connelly - Pulmonary TB - Isolated in Military Hospital Cowglen (in accordance with Regs [regulations] -

OIC RE Records

31 May 1950 - To: Secretary, Ministry of Pensions -Re: Sapper Connelly BF

The above named was admitted to hospital for X-Ray examination on 21 Feb 1950 whilst on release leave and is still a patient.

May this office therefore be informed if the disability is accepted as attributable to or aggravated by War Service - Relative case sheets attached. Release leave expired 3 March 1950

13 June 1950 – To: Regimental Paymaster RE

*'Further to my letters of 25/4/50 and 2/5/50 will you please inform me if you intend restoring above to the Army payroll with effect from 2.3.50 which date he was due to be demobilised, but before which he was reported ill, and admitted to Military Hospital, where he is still.
I will be obliged after so long delay to have a specific answer, before further action is taken.'*
Bernard Connelly (father)

13 June 1950 – To OIC RE Records Re 22034187 Sapper Connelly BF

With reference to your memo of 31/5/50 forwarding the case for the above named for decision under the Long Term Scheme, it would appear from the evidence that Connelly was not admitted to hospital as an inpatient until 11/3/50 i.e. after release leave had ended, and therefore 'we shall be glad if you will confirm 'that the case falls for consideration under the Long Term Scheme

Ministry of Pensions

16 June 1950 – To Ministry of Pensions

'It is confirmed that as this man was not admitted to hospital during release leave, he is ineligible for consideration under the L.T.T.scheme.

Please therefore return all documents forwarded to you under this office even number dated 31 May 50.'

OIC RE Records (Colonel H Thomas)

21 June 1950 – To OIC RE Records

'With reference to your memo of 16 June, the document relating to the above named forwarded with your memo of ?? May, are returned herewith as requested. For your information a disablement pension to his payment in this case (Pulmonary TB)

Ministry of Pensions

28 June 1950 – To OC Cowglen Military Hospital Re L.T.T. (Long Term Treatment)

Spr Connelly

'The above mentioned admitted to hospital on 11 Mar 50, cannot be dealt with under the L.T.T.scheme, as his Release leave expired on 3 Mar 50, copy of letter from Ministry of Pensions refers.

As this man is apparently unfit for further service, may the attached form AF B179 [Medical Report on an Invalid] be completed in order that he may be discharged from the Army Reserve under T.A Regs 1935, para 204-11.'

OIC RE Records

29 June 1950 – Memo to OIC RE Records – Re: Spr Connelly BF

'The attached correspondence concerning the above named released soldier is passed to you for necessary action. The soldiers account has been credited with pay to the end of release leave i.e. 2.3.50.

If it is your intention to extend the soldiers release leave please amend form AFO 1637D. Mr Connelly has been informed of action taken by this office.'

From Army Pay Office, Whitchurch, Hants

4 July 1950 – Memo to Officer Commanding Military Hospital Cowglen

'It is noted from the a/q letter that this man is being rejected from the L.T.T.S on the grounds that he was not admitted to hospital until March 11th, his release leaving having ended on March 3rd. It is felt that the following information should be brought to your notice in the hope that the decision may be reconsidered.'

- 1. In Nov. 1949 this man reported sick on account of chest symptoms and was X-Rayed at Alballa Hospital, Middle East. He was told this was normal, but we have not checked on this yet.*
- 2. His release medical examination was held in January 1950 at Port Said garrison camp. The patient then made no complaints.*
- 3. While on release leave, due to end 3rd March 1950, he went to a civilian M.M.R unit on 21st February 1950 at the advice of his parents who thought he looked unwell. On 24th February 1950 a full size film was taken.*
- 4. He saw Dr Elder, chest Specialist, in Edinburgh on 28th February 1950, who told him he had Pulmonary TB.*
- 5. On 1st March 1950 the patient sent his release book page 13 to the Ministry of Pensions stating that he was found to have Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*
- 6. On 3rd March 1950 his release leave ended. At this time the patients father got in touch with the Military Authorities and thus arranged for his admission here on 11th March 1950.*

Comments:

- 1. 'There is no doubt this man developed his extensive Pulmonary Tuberculosis while in the Army. He reported sick in November 1949 for symptoms of the disease. It was likely it was contracted at that time and it was missed. Minimal early lesions are not infrequently thus not detected. Efforts will be made to obtain that X-Ray film.*
- 2. It is frequently the case that after onset the patient has few symptoms of note until the disease is extensive. This failure to report symptoms at his release medical is not surprising.*
- 3. His extensive disease must have been present in January at the time of his release medical examination.*
- 4. Having discovered that he was suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis he reported this immediately to the Ministry of Pensions, and his father, while the patient was confined to bed, took early steps to get him admitted to the nearest Military Hospital, which was achieved within eight days of his release leave ending.*
- 5. This man has extensive Pulmonary Tuberculosis which was without doubt contracted within his eighteen months military service, and which will require prolonged treatment and will cause permanent reduction of earning capacity. It seems surprising that the fact of his delayed admission to a Military Hospital should interfere with his clear right to the benefits of the Long Term Treatment Scheme, on which depends his acceptance to Glen O' Dee Sanatorium run by the British Red Cross, who have accepted and advised him already from the medical aspect.*
- 6. His treatment is likely to require Thoracoplasty. As this cannot be performed here it would involve a very prolonged wait before this can be done if civilian resources are relied upon.'*

E.F Soothill Lieut R.A.M.C

5 July 1950 – To OIC RE Records Subject L.T.T. Scheme/ Sapper Connelly BF

- 1. Please find enclosed medical report indicating that the a/m [aforementioned] is in fact eligible for the L.T.T.S.*
- 2. I am in complete agreement with the enclosed medical report.*

*J McKay-Rick, Major R.A.M.C.
OIC Cowglen Military Hospital*

5 July 1950 - Memo to Mr Bernard Connelly, 23 Bingham Place, Portobello, Midlothian

'Dear sir, your communication addressed to the Regimental Paymaster RE have been forwarded to this office in order that a reply may be sent to you.

According to records maintained in this office your son 22034187 Sapper B.F Connelly was admitted to hospital on 11 Mar 50. AAs his release leave expired on 2 Mar 50 he cannot be brought back on Army pay.

His case however was transferred to the Ministry of Pensions, Blackpool, and this office has now been informed that a disablement pension is being paid in this case

OIC RE Records

10 July 1950 – Memo to The Secretary, Ministry of Pensions. Re: Sapper Connelly and L.T.T scheme

'Attached letter received from Military Hospital, Cowglen, Glasgow, is forwarded for information. Copy of the letter this refers to, is attached.

May this office be instructed of any action to be taken in this case.'

Royal Engineer Records Office

16 Jul 50 – PHRENIC CRUSH

At the time Frank had this operation almost a third of Pulmonary TB patients underwent a Phrenic Crush⁴ procedure. Known in many circles as 'therapy', it was thought that by paralysing a part of the phrenic nerve under local anaesthetic, the diaphragm would be pushed upwards by the abdomen resulting in pressure on the lung to collapse. Done under 'local anaesthesia', there is little or no shock so normally Hospital time was minimised.

29 Jul 50 – PP INDUCTION

Prontosil Pyrazinamide⁵, discovered in 1952 was incorporated into various regimens for the immune system treatment of TB patients. An Anti-bacterial drug it was widely used in the mid-20th century. Overtaken in the late-fifties by the use of penicillin, the side effects of Prontosil were wide ranging and included nausea, headache, dizziness, hallucinations and even psychosis in a number of patients.

31 Jul 50 – SECOND INDUCTION

1 August 1950 - To Officer I/C Records RE. Re Sapper Connelly BF

'The disability - Pulmonary TB - for which the above named is receiving hospital treatment is accepted by the Ministry of Pensions on the present evidence as 'attributable to' war service. As the date of release has passed supplementary payments will be made by the Ministry. For 'B' will shortly be sent to the Service Paying Authority. The documents are being retained

From Ministry of Pensions

At last Frank's father Bernard's determination and some common sense from the authorities paid off and they accepted that his TB had been caused whilst on active duty.

9 August 1950 - To OC Military Hospital Cowglen – Re: Sapper Connelly

'With further reference to your MHC/P/50 dated 5 July 50 and copy of this letter to Ministry of Pensions, Blackpool, dated 10 July 50. Copy of Ministry of Pensions reply is forwarded for information'

Office I/C RE Records

And - To Regimental Paymaster – Re: Sapper Connelly

1. *His disability has been accepted by the Ministry of Pensions as due to service.*
2. *Ministry of Pensions are making supplementary payments*

Officer I/C Records RE

⁵Prontosil is an antibacterial drug of the sulphonamide group. It has a relatively broad effect against gram-positive cocci but not against enterobacteria. Widely used in the mid-20th century, the discovery and development of this first sulphonamide drug opened a new era in medicine, because it greatly widened the success of antimicrobial chemotherapy in an era when many physicians doubted it's still largely untapped potential.

12 Aug 50 - TRANSFER TO GLEN O DEE HOSPITAL, BANCHORY

Six months after returning to Scotland and his first X-ray he was transferred to the Glen o' Dee hospital to recuperate. Not before time.



*Glen o' Dee Hospital 1950 –
Private Collection*

The first Sanatorium to be built in Scotland based on the 'fresh air' principle; it was constructed generally of timber (it would later burn down) and had been opened at the turn of the century. Every room had a balcony or veranda and the south facing wall had at least two thirds window coverage, all of which were designed to be kept open as much as possible and faced south across the river Dee.

The Sanatorium specialised in the treatment of TB patients based on the Nordrach System (essentially fresh air, good food and both physical and mental rest) which had been established some seventy years earlier in Germany.

After being a hotel for a period, in 1941 it was requisitioned by the army and at the end of the war purchased by the Scottish Red Cross Society who refitted it as a sanatorium for ex-service men and women suffering from TB. It was opened by Queen Elizabeth in 1949.

Time spent socialising was important but carefully orchestrated to maximise recuperation so any opportunity to develop new skills or find ways to enjoy the company of others and pass the time was important. When growing up in the 1960's our house was never short of rattan footstools which Frank had learned how to make during his time recuperating. The hot days of the desert were now replaced by late summer in the Scottish Highlands.

12 October 1950 – Admitted to Hospital

An Army progress report showing admission to [Glen O'Dee] Hospital is dated 12 October 1950 but its contents are included at the entry under 14th March 1952, at his release.

12 Mar 51 – AP INDUCTION

Having recently celebrated his twenty-first birthday Frank found himself back in hospital again, this time for an Artificial Pneumothorax Induction.

This procedure was quite common (but uncomfortable) at the time and after being given a local anaesthetic, a needle was inserted through Frank's chest wall to allow air to be inserted into the pleural cavity. Eventually pressure from the air would force the lung to collapse in on itself and to cease functioning correctly. Frank was already aware that it was thought he also had fibrotic adhesions between the lung and the chest wall which meant the entire lung could not be collapsed.

The final state of collapse could be maintained for a period of months or even years but would require Frank to undergo regular procedural refills of air in order to do so. He hoped this would be an end to it.

22 Mar 51- ADHESIONS CUT

After recovering from the AP Induction procedure, the next stage was to address the lung adhesions⁶ that the doctors suspected were still restricting his breathing. Frank had become used to the shortness of breath and was grateful that the coughing he had suffered for two and a half years had declined but the shortness of breath due to both the AP induction and the disease were a long-term issue. To try and alleviate his discomfort further, though not completely, the pockets of pus that had collected between the lungs and the chest cavity which were causing bacterial infection also had to be removed. Frank understood that the longer the disease infection remained in his lungs, the more pleural adhesions would form so was keen to have the procedure.

There was no indication of the method used to 'cut' the adhesions but cauterising was favoured as a method which meant that a pneumothorax (a collapsed lung) had to be induced to allow clear access. After the successful operation, a long recuperation time was absolutely necessary.

Visits by members of the family cheered him up considerably as did letters from a girlfriend, Jean Buchanan. Jean, at just a year older (14th December 1928), had spent time in Southfield Hospital in Edinburgh and many months bedridden at home being treated for TB so knew something of what Frank had gone through; she had been put in touch by a mutual acquaintance. An immediate bond was formed.

⁶ Adhesions are bands of scar-like tissue that form between two surfaces inside the body and cause them to stick together.

21 Aug 51 – TRANS TO TOR NA DEE

Frank was transferred to the Tor-na-Dee ('Hill by a River Dee') Sanatorium five months after the adhesion's operation.

Originally designed as a hydropathic hospital at the turn of the century, Tor-na-Dee had specialised in treating patients suffering from rheumatism but like many similar places was re-purposed when bought by the Red Cross in 1945.

Between then and 1950 it had been adapted to treat patients with TB, especially former military ranks. Detailed records were kept by staff which included concise details of health on admission and discharge, the method of treatment used, the duration of symptoms, and details of health in the years following discharge until death or full recovery.

23 Aug 51 - 1st stage Thoracapacity

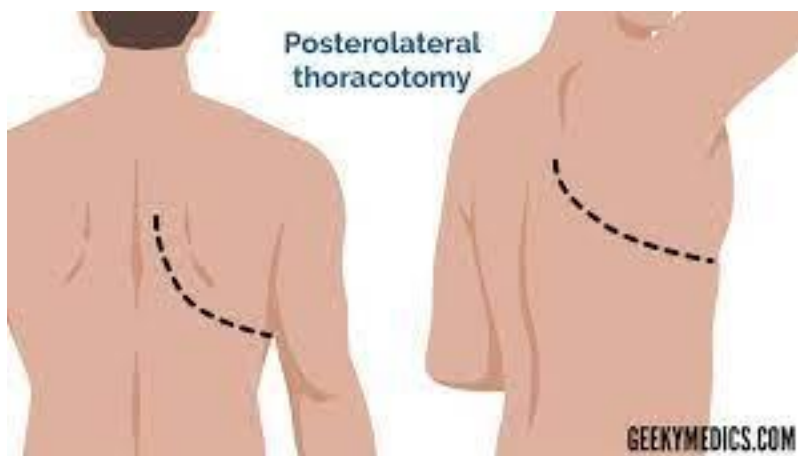
Only days after being admitted to Tor-na-Dee Thoracic surgery took place;

Radiopaedia.org notes on its website that '*Thoracapacity*' or rather '*Thoracoplasty*'; '*...is a surgical procedure that was originally designed to permanently collapse the cavities of pulmonary tuberculosis by removing the ribs from the chest wall and involved a resection of multiple ribs. Most thoracoplasties are performed through a standard posterolateral thoracotomy.*

The surgeon explained to Frank that they would be conducting a stage one 'posterolateral thoracotomy'⁷, which meant lying him on his side and removing parts of his ribs. After giving this procedure three weeks to repair, a second stage would be carried out on another set of ribs. They also gently explained that there was a 10% mortality rate with this operation.

Years later he explained to me that during the procedure they had placed a transistor radio beneath his pillow on the operating table, with the volume turned up loud, so that he 'would not hear the sound of the procedure' as they opened his body up!

⁷ Posterolateral thoracotomy', meant lying on one side (lateral decubitus position) whilst they resected or 'removed parts of' the 2nd to the 5th ribs. The 1st rib would be left alone to maintain the integrity of the neck and shoulder girdle. The incision and subsequent scarring would be from between the scapula and mid-spinal line and extend laterally to the anterior axillary line.



Courtesy of GeekyMedics.com

Thoracic surgery targeted the tuberculous cavity itself by removing it or collapsing the lung around it, and there was an expectation that either total or partial removal of a diseased lung might eventually prove curative. A long scar curving the length of his shoulder blade and a lifetime shortness of breath testified that the operation must have been anything but painless or curative.

6 SEP 51 - 2ND STAGE THORACAPACITY

Strapped up heavily around his chest, his short trip to the operating theatre seemed like déjà-vu. The second stage involved an almost similar process but this time ribs six to eight received the same treatment. The operation was a success.

During ward rounds a few days later; when sitting up, moving or even breathing was extremely painful, the Doctor explained to him that most thoracoplasties produce some degree of chest wall and shoulder deformity so shoulder movement may be restricted and some sideways curvature of the spine may occur. He also outlined how some patients develop progressive respiratory failure. Hospital food wasn't great either.

16 Sep 51 - STITCHES OUT

Ten days of hospital food and gentle, but necessary, physiotherapy later, and hurting from the neck down, Frank could sit himself up and was fit enough to walk about the strictly monitored ward. The days began at six with blood pressure and temperatures checked by nurses before breakfast was served. Sitting at the large table in the middle of the room was far from voluntary and it would be a brave man who stayed in bed in defiance of matron. His breathing was still short and laboured but was becoming easier and more comfortable daily. By ten o'clock ward rounds were underway and all patients would be sitting up in bed with covers arranged and tucked in tightly. Groups of doctors stopped at Frank's bed less frequently now and so he was grateful as this meant he was on the road to recovery.

29 SEP 51 - RETURN TO GLEN O DEE

Five weeks after the first operation he was returned to Glen O Dee Hospital near Banchory, where he had recuperated over 12 months before. A few days after settling in he was delighted when Jean and her sister Margaret (29th December 1923) Jean arrived to visit him after undertaking the arduous journey from Edinburgh.

Whilst corresponding by letter Frank and Jean had discovered they both shared a passion for dancing and promised that after release, they would get together and visit one of the many dance halls in Edinburgh. The Cavendish at Tollcross or Fairley's some thirty minutes away at the top of Leith Street were both discussed. Jean was fast becoming a regular feature in Frank's life and her sister Margaret, already married for eight years, acted as a chaperone to her.



Margaret, Frank and Jean in the grounds of Glen O Dee hospital 1951 – Private Collection

Margaret's time in the ATS⁸ during the war gave her something in common with Frank and shared stories of military life ensured conversation was never dull.

Confined to a wheelchair on occasion, Frank attended daily physiotherapy and exercise classes along with routine (by now) medications to help his recovery. All of his brothers, except Brian, the youngest, were working, whilst Anne was joined at secondary school by her sister Kathleen, recently finished at St Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic (Convent) School. Parents Bernard and Julia, now married twenty-six years, continued to live on Northfield Broadway but with ever increasing space in the flat as more of the family left home to start their own separate lives.

⁸ The Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS; often pronounced as an acronym) was the women's branch of the British Army during the Second World War. It was formed on 9 September 1938, initially as a women's voluntary service, and existed until 1 February 1949, when it was merged into the Women's Royal Army Corps.

4 Mar 1952 - DISCHARGED FROM GLEN O DEE 8:35AM

Noting the specific time in his diary was significant. It was a huge release for Frank and a relief to be going home at last. After two years of chemotherapy and operations and whilst hoping he was 'cured', he nonetheless understood that he would be forever afflicted with shortened breath. But he was strong enough now both physically and mentally to face whatever life threw at him.

14 March 1952 - Medical Progress Report

The report shows admission as 12 October but is dated 14 March 1952. It notes;

- 1. Condition [of patient] - Good*
- 2. E.S.R. = 7mm (Erythrocyte Sedimentation R (reference values for men: 3-5mm/h)*
- 3. Negative TB in sputum*
- 4. Temperature = Afebrile (not feverish)*
- 5. Weight = 10stone 0 ½ pounds*
- 6. No complications*
- 7. Up all day on full exercise*
- 8. Right Lung - A.P. Adherent in lower zone but with adequate selective collapse of the upper zone, the disease in which appears to be controlled.*
- 9. Left lung - Two-stage thoracoplasty with satisfactory collapse.*

'Following a period of bed rest with pneumoperitoneum, a right A.P. was induced on 12.3.51 and the P.P. abandoned. After this he was allowed a little exercise and on 23.8.51 and 6.9.51 a two-stage left thoracoplasty was performed. The post-operative course was entirely uneventful. With these measures satisfactory collapse of the diseased areas has been secured but, in view of the somewhat extensive nature of his original disease, he has been advised to take things quietly for some time. If he does this, his ultimate prognosis should be reasonably good. He has been discharged (4.3.52) to the care of Dr G.H. Blennerhassett, City Hospital, Edinburgh 10.'

J.R Edge M.D. M.R.C.P. Senior Assistant Medical Officer

16 April 1952 – Final 'Confidential' Medical Progress Report (Other ranks)

Proceedings of a Medical Board convened (at Glen O Dee hospital) to report the progress of a soldier..., who is in hospital and for whom AFB 179 (Armed Forces Board) has already been completed: 22034187 Sapper Frank Bernard Connelly, aged 22, Army Class engagement currently 'Y' list Royal Engineers, has been [receiving] treatment at Glen O Dee sanatorium, Banchory, Kincardineshire. Originally disabled - 8 March 1950 with Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

This patient's present condition is described thus; 'This patient has two symptoms. He is a [febrile]. Weight 140 ½ lbs. E.S.R = 7mm (Western General). X-Ray - Right Lung; A.P. adhesion lower zone but with adequate selective collapse of upper zone where disease appears to be controlled. Left lung - 2 stage thoracoplasty with satisfactory collapse. Up all days on full exercise. See attached report by Senior Assistant Medical Officer. [dated 14 March 1952] - This is an almost identical detail of that report. This rank is 100% disabled but NOT permanently. It is likely to last twelve months. No treatment was refused. Now medical category D8 Orders given by the President of the Medical Board: - 'Proceed home with effect from 4th March 1952 and come under ??? of readiness'.

Signed RD Chandler Lt Colonel President

Chapter Five - Marriage and a House

Now twenty-two and gaining in strength every day Frank had to look for work. His training as a Combat engineer and service in Egypt gave him an aura of confidence other young men of his age lacked but he wasn't sure what direction to take or roles to seek. He loved Edinburgh so chose to remain in the city but with unemployment almost 4%, jobs were much sought after. Eldest brother James was an accountant, Michael had the police in mind; but not in Scotland, Leo had at last joined the Royal Navy and Tom worked as a Scientific Research Assistant in a laboratory in East Kilbride but none of these professions interested Frank so he decided to keep looking.

7 APR 52 - ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL ASPERATIONS [ASPIRATION] FLUID

Spending time walking around Edinburgh searching for work was hard going, particularly in the wet spring weather. During one of these many days a pain in his chest grew and became extremely uncomfortable. Fluid gathered inside his chest was affecting his lungs and other organs and without attention could lead to further difficulties. At this point in his life it was the last thing he needed. At the hospital in Craighleith they inserted a small needle drain (Aspiration) into his chest to remove the offending liquid which was followed up by a heavy dose of antibiotics to reduce the inflammation. His stay was days rather than the weeks or months he had become used to with previous illnesses.

30 April 1952 - Medically Unfit for Further Service

Army Form B200 notes:

*Total Service (as above) and Total pension qualifying Service = 1 year 287 days.
Military Conduct = Very Good.*

19 JUNE 52 – SELF EMPLOYED SALES REP

At last, his determination had paid off. Frank and his parents, Julia and Bernard, who he still lived with, were delighted that he had found something and at last he had some much-needed money coming in. Frank's ease of talking to people and his natural sales ability meant that selling would play a large part in his life but although used to trudging around town looking for work, selling was going to be challenging. (NB there is no indication in his diary of what he sold or who he worked for)

The next year passed quickly but without diary entries. Perhaps Frank was too busy working and seeing more of Jean to be much bothered by maintaining his diary or maybe, as love was in the air, his mind was on other things...

In London in December, a thick smog caused over 4,000 fatalities. This was caused because most home heating uses relatively low-grade, sulfurous coal for heating which increased the amount of sulphur dioxide in the smoke.

At the beginning of 1953, petrol rationing ended so more cars were on the roads and at the movies Doris Day played Calamity Jane. Dean Martin sang 'That's Amore', a new author Ian Fleming, had a book published; his first James Bond novel, "Casino Royale". and the United States tested the first hydrogen bomb on the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

After the death of her father, King George VI, Queen Elizabeth II became the Queen of England but the weather leading up to the formal coronation in June was described by newspapers as 'atrocious'. And so the year went on...

9 NOV 53 – REGENT LIBRARIES

Lasting eighteen months, the 'Sales Rep' role didn't suit Frank but as driving was one of his great loves, driving a library van would just be adding much more interest. Maintaining the many hundreds of books on the shelves whilst driving the sometimes-maniac streets of Edinburgh was a delicate business. Separation between the books and the driving seat had to be maintained but with a streetscape full of hills, slippery-when-wet cobbles and multiple other cars, delivery vehicles, buses and black taxi's, this was not always the case. Driving in Edinburgh however did give him the opportunity to use the hundreds of back streets which over the years would lead to many lengthy journeys that might have been halved had he used the main carriageways.....

As winter drew on, flooding in the south of England was exacerbated by the wettest January since 1767 and unusually high tides which resulted in widespread flooding and the loss of 300 lives with a further 30,000 evacuated from their coastal homes.

By the beginning of 1954, Frank and Jean had agreed a date for their wedding and planning was underway but whilst Jean made most of the arrangements, Frank was distracted by learning of the first colour television to be invented and that a new Alfred Hitchcock film 'Rear Window' had been released.

11 SEP 54 - MARRIED 10 AM ST CUTHBERTS CHURCH, SLATEFORD ROAD & CAVENDISH



*Frank & Jean Connelly
flanked by Bridesmaids Anne
and Margaret and Best man
Tom – Private Collection*

A short entry for such a momentous event! Frank was noted as a 'Travelling Librarian' on the marriage certificate and he and fiancée Jean were married in St Cuthbert's church, Slateford Road in Edinburgh. The church was closer to Jean's family home at 300 Calder Road where her parents Duncan (b. 10th May 1900) and Margaret or Meg (Nee Smith Clinkscale Taylor b. 23rd July 1897) Buchanan lived.

The choice of church was significant. Jean had been baptised as a baby at a 'mission' which was near the home when she was born but after her engagement to Frank, about which there is no detailed mention, she decided to convert to Catholicism even though it was not necessary. At that time thirty percent of marriages conducted in the Catholic church were of mixed faiths so changing faiths was not essential. She attended catholic faith lessons at the closest Roman Catholic Church, ST Cuthbert's, where the late Monsignor Connolly (no known relation) preached and thereafter they decided to marry there. She was baptised into the Catholic faith on 7th November 1953 and would remain devout throughout her life.

The event saw family arriving from far and wide although Frank's older brother Michael was unable to return from Hong Kong where he served in the police. He had written wishing them well and explaining that when married they would 'halve' their worries whilst doubling their fun'. Brother Tom acted as best-man and Sister Anne and Jean's sister Margaret as the Bridesmaids, stylishly dressed for the occasion. After the ceremony and as pictures were taken outside the church a passing chimney sweep was spotted and was encouraged to give Jean a 'good luck' kiss, which he duly did. The Edinburgh Evening News reported that there would be an 'upsurge in sweep apprenticeships'!

As the car taking the new bride and groom to their reception moved away from the kerb, Frank opened a window and threw a handful of pennies out onto the ground for the waiting local children. The ‘poor oot¹’ was a tradition going back many years and after scrabbling around on the street for the pennies, the nearest sweetie shop would be visited.

At the reception, Tom, as best-man, read out some of the many telegrams the couple had received including two from Toronto; one from Franks Aunt Helen and husband Tony and one simply signed off ‘all at 8 Chelsford’, which is an address in Toronto which could belong to Frank’s uncle Jim or Helen’s brother Thomas. Another which would have drawn hoots of laughter wished them ‘Good Luck and hope to see you soon’ and was signed off Elsie Inglis, the maternity hospital. Frank would retain the telegrams as well as the many invitation responses.

Charges to pay
s. d.
RECEIVED

POST OFFICE
TELEGRAM

Prefix. Time handed in. Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words.

At 10/16/17 m
From EA
By S\$

No. 249
OFFICE STAMP
PORTOBELLO
11/16/17
To 34 To
By 24 To

Mr. Frances Connelly 33 Bingham
Place Portobello - Edin.

To wish you and Jean
health happiness prosperity
in your married life from
all at 8 Chelsford

For free repetition of doubtful words telephone "TELEGRAMS ENQUIRY" or call with this form at office of delivery. Other enquiries should be accompanied by this form, and, if possible, the envelope B or C

(3/183) Wt. Y12729-P2514 200m paid 9/10 A.O.S.

One of the many telegrams the couple received on their wedding day – Private Collection

Their favourite dancehall, the Cavendish, was only a short drive away and the party arrived soon after the newly married couple. The wedding reception, where at seven shillings and sixpence a head (about £9 today) included on the dinner menu; vegetable soup choices of beef steak pie or cold roast, cabbage, peas, roast or boiled potatoes followed by trifle or jelly and ice cream and cheese with biscuits. The extended families tucked in to the feast supplemented by the best local Bellhaven beers.

The highlight of the reception, apart from the dancing which the new couple loved, was the cutting of the three-tiered iced wedding cake. Before the bottom tiers were cut up and distributed to the waiting guests, the top section was carefully removed and boxed up to be used in celebration at the christening of their first child.

¹ In the tenements of Edinburgh, as the bride was leaving her home for the last time with her father, small children would gather round the limousine or horse and carriage and chant “poor oot!, poor oot!”, hoping for good luck and prosperity. This changed over the years to take place after the ceremony.

4 OCT 54 – NEW FORD VAN PX £470 RXX £2,740

After a honeymoon in Llangollen, a small town in Denbighshire, Wales, famous for its Horseshoe falls and only ten miles from Jean's sister Marie (b. 15th April 1921) who lived with husband Harold (c.1918) in Wrexham, the happy couple all too soon returned to their rented flat at 10 Elgin Street, Edinburgh.



Mr & Mrs Frank Connelly cut their wedding cake – Private Collection

Jean worked as a Clerkess and Frank was branching out on his own with the library business. He needed his own van and so traded in his beloved car. Now whether the *PX* [Part Exchange] noted above was the amount he received for his car and the noted *RXX* (Received ?) was the amount left to pay is a matter of conjecture but the amount owing would have been almost insurmountable for a young couple. At the time, a new car would generally have cost about £700 (around £18,000 in 2021) and perhaps slightly more for a van.

17 Oct 1954 - MOVED TO 26 NORTHFIELD DRIVE / NEW CAR

A month after they are married, Frank and Jean move into a new home and also bought a new car. I suspect the 'new car' referred to the library van bought two weeks before and was simply noting its arrival rather than a second car but he wrote 'car' so who knows. Jean didn't drive.

Number 26 Northfield Drive was a prefabricated house or 'Prefab' as they were colloquially known.

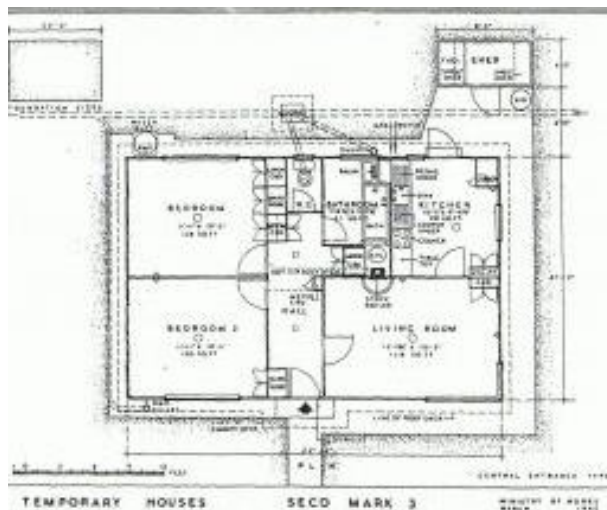
Made from pre-cast reinforced concrete panels bolted together and roofed with asbestos sheets, they were part of the post WWII drive to rehouse families who had lost their homes during the Blitz or servicemen coming back from the war. Frank and Jean considered themselves very lucky indeed to have a house of their own.

At a weekly rent of 12 Shillings and Sixpence (£15 in 2021) it was a large part of their joint wages. The two bedroom 'bungalow style' house had a living room, kitchen, toilet and separate bathroom and two good sized bedrooms, all connected by a short hall where an airing cupboard was recessed. Single glazed

(No double or triple glazing back then) windows on three sides were fitted with curtains (home made by Jean on her treadle Singer sewing machine) and the complete house was heated by a single coal fire situated in the living room.



26 Northfield Drive, Edinburgh. Family with Jean and Frank (far right) – Private Collection



Typical Prefab layout - similar in detail to number 26

They could not afford fitted carpets so linoleum was laid throughout with small rugs in the main rooms. The cold was kept at bay, at least in bed, where wedding gifts including; the green flannelette sheets from the McIntosh's, white and blue striped blankets from Sister Margaret and a Gold and white Alhambra cover from great friends Irene and Dave, at least gave a semblance of warmth in the winter. Elsewhere a walnut tea trolley from Frank's Aunt Helen (his mum's sister) and a brass topped willow patterned coffee table from Mr & Mrs Coyle at least meant they had somewhere to put cups and plates on. They would never go short of towels and there was a gifted wedding clock in every room! Many relatives gave the young couple gifts of money which meant they could put deposits down or even buy the necessary bed, settee and kitchen table and so on.

The first few weeks in the new house were spent decorating, which Jean enjoyed. It was now possible to paint emulsions directly onto plasterboard, which was cheaper than wallpaper, and this brought colour into rooms. Frank tried to help but the fumes from the paint immediately caused him breathing difficulties and quickly brought on coughing fits. Painting was to be a 'Jean' task.

13 NOV 54- HELEN & TONY MARRIED NEW ZEALAND

'Aunt' Helen (nee Murphy b. 22nd January 1916) - his mum's sister - had emigrated to Canada after the war along with husband to be, Anthony (Tony) Munley (b.16th May 1912) and were married there on 13th November 1953. Their emigration to New Zealand was not until 26th March 1959 so again this suggests that the diary was written much later and probably from other notes or memory.

Chapter six – Libraries-R-Us

2 APR 55 - ALEXANDERS PITT STREET, JOCKEY TEAM

There has been no record found yet indicating the nature of Alexanders business in Pitt Street, Leith, nor what function a Jockey Team played in it but moving from Regent Libraries was a change in direction and one hopefully for the better. The 'jockey' reference suggests a bookmaker connection but Frank was rarely if ever seen in these shops or known to have placed regular bets.

4 OCT 55 - GRANDAD DIES AGE 75

Frank's maternal grandfather Michael Murphy was one of seven siblings born to Michael Murphy and Mary MacDonald. He was born on 6th June 1877 at home in the small family occupied house at Arniston Place, near the village of Cockpen at a time when life expectancy was about forty years. By 1955 he had outlived most of his contemporaries by a significant margin. A coal miner most of his adult working life and used to working in dank, dust filled environments that most men could not tolerate, it was no surprise that chronic bronchitis was noted (as well as heart disease) on his death certificate. It was only astonishing he had lasted so long.

17 Dec 55 – BRONCHITIS

Frank understood that bronchitis¹ was becoming a common occurrence throughout his life particularly after the removal of a significant part of his lung during the thoracoplasty operation in 1951. The infection weakened him considerably. Frank's bronchitis was not the 'self-limiting' and 'inconvenient' disease described in text books, but something potentially much more deadly. He knew his wife Jean watched as he struggled with each breath and the fact that he was not hospitalized is puzzling but not surprising given he had spent so much time in hospitals in his twenties. Remaining at home in Jean's care, they both agreed, was a risk worth taking even though she was heavily pregnant with their first child and had also survived the disease herself some years before. Their house, separated but not isolated from others, allowed their closest neighbours, the Hastons, to occasionally talk to the couple over the low garden fence.

18 Dec 55 – FIN ALEXANDERS

Realising that his illness prevented him from working and also that it could last for months rather than days or weeks, he advised Alexanders immediately that he would finish. His third job in three years.

¹ *Acute bronchitis is a common, self-limiting but inconvenient illness, arising as a result of exposure to cold or to sudden changes in temperature or inhalation of irritating dusts or vapours. Starting with common cold symptoms and progressed to constitutional upset, fever, irritating dry cough, wheezing and rawness in the throat. It can be treated with antibiotics.*

On the 4th February 1956, at 10 O'clock on a Saturday morning, during one of the coldest spells of weather of the twentieth century, Frank and Jean's first child was born. The persistent easterly wind, frosty nights and snow across much of the country continued to make travel difficult but could not prevent proud, but frantic, parents Frank and Jean arriving at the baby unit at Elsie Inglis maternity hospital in Edinburgh to allow Jean to give birth to her and husband Frank's first child (me) Frank Taylor Connelly. I was named Frank rather than Francis (which dad Frank disliked) and Taylor after both Jean's mother and her grandfather, William Taylor (19th January 1860 – 26th April 1934) who had been a Cabinet maker throughout his life. I wasn't mentioned in the diary but notably neither are any of my siblings. I know Frank retained an annual pocket diary where, on change of diary, he lovingly wrote up the latest version, with the lists of birthdates of a whole host of people, including all of his children. On the birth certificate Frank is noted as a 'Travelling Librarian' but in the hospitals labour register as a garage attendant.



*Frank and Jean with
Young Frank – Private
Collection*

6 Mar 56 – CAXTON PUBLISHING

In 1956 The Caxton Publishing Company had been in business for ninety years and was headquartered in London at 84, 85 and 86 Chancery Lane, W.C 2. A major publishing house it had branches in a number of large cities, including, in some capacity, Edinburgh. Publishers of such luminaries as Charles Dickens and Walter Scott, it had a range of grand titles and had broadened it to include books for the promotional market including a wide range of subjects as well as; reference, military, children's, art, history, mind, body, and spirit.

4 APR 56 – FIN CAXTON PUBLISHING

Lasting less than a month with Caxton Publishing must have been a record of sorts for Frank but whether leaving was by mutual consent, frustration or falling out we'll never know but the underlining of the title is Frank's and suggests the latter. Worries just seemed to pile up especially as there was now a baby boy (me) to consider. The couple remained strong and confident of Frank's ability to find another income and could survive through Jean's frugality and inventiveness as well as the support of their extended families. The Caxton Publishing Group would thrive without Frank for another sixty years.

5 APR 1956 – BOUGHT NEW LIBRARY – NEW FORD TRANSIT £1,786

Never let it be said that the grass grew under Frank's feet. The day after he left one job he has invented



Ford Taunus Transit successor to the FK1000 – Courtesy Wikipedia

a new business! Whether the library came with the van or the books were stored elsewhere is a matter for conjecture and I suspect the focus was more on the new vehicle rather than the books. The 'Ford Transit', introduced in 1953 as the FK 1000, was the first production Ford to wear the infamous "Transit" badge [the beginnings of 'white-van-man'?]. It was built in Ford's Köln plant in Germany, its size and shape eerily similar to the Volkswagen camper van favoured by touring hippies. With a side opening door, low roof and limited internal storage space it was not built for book browsing but it was certainly a start.

14 MAY 56 – GRANNY DIED A/76

Frank's granny, Annie Murphy aged 76, had only outlived her husband by a few months and died whilst staying with her youngest daughter Helen - one of Franks nursing Aunts - and her husband Tony at The Old Mill cottage in Carstairs, Lanarkshire. Annie's death brought to an end that generation and her main cause of death, as reported by son-in-law Tony, was hypertension, senility and coronary thrombosis. The stress of caring for her dying husband and years of high blood pressure would have aggravated this. After her husband, her sorrow in life had been the death of her daughter Alice (24th March 1914 – 18th October 1921) of meningitis, when they lived in a miners cottage at The Jewel to the north of Duddingston in Edinburgh.

Annie was survived by a large family: Julia 54, married with eight children (including Frank); Michael 53, married with four children; Thomas 52, who had moved to Canada; Mary 49, now living in New Plymouth, New Zealand with husband Edward; Annie, usually known as Anne, 46, continuing her nursing services in the district surrounding Kirkmichael in the Scottish Highlands after completing her service as a Captain in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Royal Army Nursing Corp and Helen 39, living in

Old Mill Cottage, Carstairs and thinking of joining her sister in New Zealand. They, and her many grandchildren would mourn her passing.

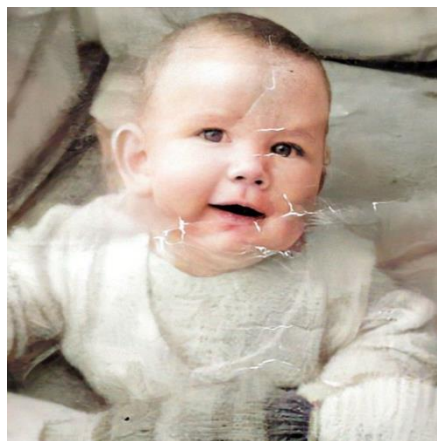
2 FEB 57 – WILLIAMINA ANDERSON HARRISON DIED AGE 72 YEARS

Although Jake Harrison could not be found in official records (*see 25 Sept 1948 entry*), with the limited information noted previously in the diary, his wife Williamina could. On her death certificate along with the cause, a cerebral embolism, was noted the name and occupation of her husband. John McMicken Harrison (c 1876 – 25th September 1948). They had lived at Doon Farm, Spott near Dunbar. With these details, a more comprehensive search of archives could be conducted and it appears that John Harrison had died in the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh from a combination of illnesses including carcinoma of the pelvis and broncho pneumonia. He had suffered for 18 months.

Known as ‘Jake’ throughout his life, the couple, with their family had lived on the Spott estate, where Jake was the gamekeeper and Frank and his brothers had evacuated to during the war. Frank returned to the estate many times over the years where his knowledge and use of almost unseen paths and small trout laden streams was a mystery, until now.

Life in 1957 was improving at last. Frank and Jean had settled into life in their own house, which was never short of visitors. Frank continued delivering books to his library customers and Jean, pregnant now with their second child, looked after the garden and the house and visited both mother-in-law Julia living only 500 yards away and her own mother Margaret, who lived at the other side of town and a bus trip away in the Saughton area. Both their husbands, Bernard and Duncan, were usually working during the day, Bernard in his grocers shop and Duncan as a record keeper, and as young Frank was only one year old, he was in bed in the early evening so day time visits were the norm. Weekends were savoured as family time with occasional visits to the ‘grannies’ so they could see how young Frank was growing but also entertaining the many friends the happy couple had.

Following a stormy June, July by comparison was sunny and hot when Peter Bernard Connelly was born on Friday 19th July 1957. The birth went well and a few days later Jean was able to make the trip home,



in the front of the library van, with baby Peter alongside her. The new baby was comfortably wrapped in the granny knitted shawl and placed in the grey collapsible carry cot for the journey and would be transferred to the family ‘cot’ on arrival at home. The front bedroom now had a single bed, which young Frank slept in and a cot for Peter.

*Peter Bernard Connelly 19th
July 1957 –Private Collection*

Life with two small children would be a big change and a greater challenge than anything the couple had gone through before.

Chapter seven – Jobs, jobs, jobs....

16 NOV 57 - ROGERS & KAYE REP

The library business was never destined to make Frank a wealthy man and earning enough to feed a family of four was a struggle so when a new job opportunity arose, he grabbed it with both hands. Rogers & Kaye were a Limited company based in Belfast and acted as agents for the American 'Rogers' sewing machines. Frank already had experience of selling and was hired as their representative in Edinburgh and Scotland, so more travelling was on the cards. Through the cold winter of 1957 he persevered, making his way for the most part door-to-door around the Edinburgh area. He was a good salesman with some of the gift-of-the-gab from both his mother and father's Irish roots. Continuing through the spring and summer months and as the children grew, he trudged up and downstairs in the ever-changing weather trying to persuade housewives that they should convince their husbands they were in need of a sewing machine and could afford the weekly payments. As summer turned to autumn and the leaves began to fall and rot, complicating the carriage of heavy machines over slippery pavements, the cough that had been building over a few weeks became persistent and a doctor's visit was needed. Jean worried because Frank disliked attending the doctor but each evening as the cough grew worse Jean's wise words grew stronger until at last Frank relented. At some point around this time, Frank also worked for PFAFF sewing machines and a photograph exists of the liveried van he drove.

17 OCT 1958 – OFF WORK CHEST 8 MONTHS

For such an innocuous diary entry the impact on Frank and the family (there were now two boys) was enormous.

The tuberculosis he had contracted in 1950 had already weakened and scarred his lungs and during the previous winter he had been poorly on a regular basis, caused in part by the slog of door-to-door sales in all weathers. Persistent coughs and colds continued to diminish his fundamental ability to breathe so serious illness was inevitable.

Throughout the winter of 1958 he remained for the most part, confined to bed in the back bedroom with an occasional change of scenery when he was able to negotiate the cold hallway to visit the living room. The green bed settee was opened out on these occasions to allow him a comfortable sleep by the relative warmth of the small coal fire. The change of view for Frank also served to allow Jean time to air the bedroom and change sheets and so on, a task she willingly took on. The dark winter months dragged on into the Spring of 1959 and as the clocks changed, so too did the weather and at last sunshine arrived after the long dismal winter months. Sitting in the garden when there was fair weather allowed a change of scene and quite literally, a breath of fresh air and Frank could admire his growing children as they toddled about on the still damp grass. The fresh spring air seemed to help reduce breathing pressures and the sight of green shoots and buds returning to the garden, all Jean's work, hinted at new beginnings and were a welcome sight.

Whilst he may have been given some form of sick pay from Rogers & Kaye during this eight-month illness, it's likely to have been a mere pittance so how the family survived is remarkable and testimony to Jean's skill with the purse strings and their extended families living close by.

22 JUN 59 – BACK TO WORK

After spending eight months mostly confined to the couples draughty prefabricated house, with the majority of time lying in bed, Frank was very weak, so before going back to work with Rogers & Kaye and needing to regain a decent level of fitness he did so by walking, slowly at first, around the garden, the streets surrounding the house and then the Figgate Park.

His time confined to home had been frustrating: his difficulty breathing meant that strenuous exercise, including cutting the grass with the long handled push mower, was out of the question; his love of books meant there were many around the house including copies of the Readers Digest's and a pictorial collection of war history volumes, but eventually he had read them all; housework, causing dust of any sort (hoovering, dusting, cleaning the coal fire grate out etc.), sent him into coughing fits, resulting in handkerchiefs becoming stained with blood and mucus.

The management at Rogers & Kaye welcomed him back but explained his position had been filled, albeit temporarily. Frank never showed disappointment and after some discussion and being the determined person he was, he was back trudging the streets again within a few days, hawking the vacuum cleaners up and down the cold and damp tenement stairs of Edinburgh hoping for the sale that would earn him the much sought-after commission.

Within days of starting back he realised he was taking on too much too soon though fortunately his manager saw Frank's potential and willingness to adapt and suggested that Frank might benefit from some time in the office whilst his recovery to a better level of fitness continued. His organisational skills were excellent and he coped well for a few months but office work was not his forte and day-by-day he grew more discouraged. Jean was immensely pragmatic and after discussing options, the couple decided that this particular daily grind for Frank could not continue and so at the beginning of the winter of 1959 Frank advised his employers that the time to move on had arrived.

10 NOV 59 – FIN ROGERS & KAYE

Leaving a job without having another lined up was a brave decision, particularly with two small children and at the beginning of winter. The glass fronted fire they sat around in the evening provided some warmth and this, when they could afford it, was supplemented with a green paraffin heater which stood in the gap between the settee and the single matching chair, blocking out some of the cold air coming through the single glazed windows. A carpet covered the majority of the floor whilst in front of the hearth a small fireside rug gave a focus for the two boys to play on until the heat from the fire made their faces glow red and they cuddled in on the settee with Jean. After preparing dinner, 'tea' in Scotland, in the kitchen, Jean carefully wrapped the potato peelings in old newspaper and placed them on the low fire. After the initial sizzle of the water popping and once the wrapped peelings had dried out, the resulting

blaze lasted only a few minutes but was a welcome burst of heat which warmed and brightened the gloomier corners of the living room and made the boys faces dance in the firelight.

Franks stomach had been giving him trouble recently and to alleviate the sometimes-chronic pain, he was reminded that when hospitalized years before he had been introduced to tripe cooked in milk, a dish designed to introduce an impressive amount of nutrients to the body but whose smell when cooking outlasted that of cooking fish. Relatively easy on the stomach, as his doctor had told him, he loved it, but Jean cooked it with the windows open, for the necessary three to four hours. Now that he was unemployed again, he also had time to return to his doctor for some more advice or medicine; it was something he could not put off much longer.

13 JAN 60 – XRAY STOMACH

“He used to eat Rennie's (indigestion tablets) like they were smarties”

The trips to the doctor before Christmas had resulted in a specialist appointment, the first stage of which was an X-ray. The forerunner for the procedure was usually a horrible tasting and difficult to swallow, 'like chewing rubber', barium meal concoction, designed, when swallowed, to highlight areas of interest for the consultant. It must have been incredibly frustrating to think there was ‘something else wrong’ after spending so many years in hospital, but there is no record of any actions carried out as a result of the X-ray so it has to be assumed tests were inconclusive and Frank just soldiered on.

“He was never without a small roll [of Rennies] in his pocket. He smelled of peppermint”

Margaret Connelly - 2021

18 JAN 60 – SELECT ELECTRICS GLASGOW

Although he never seemed to be out of employment for long, the stress from worry may have contributed to his stomach problems, but he persevered. A daily commute to Glasgow seemed worthwhile and would keep the wolf from the door a bit longer and he, unlike many commuters, enjoyed the journey.

9 FEB 60 – JOCK BOWMAN DIED

Jock (John Henry) Bowman (3rd March 1905 – 9th February 1960) died relatively young at just 54. Originally from Carlisle he had ‘migrated’ north as a young man eventually marrying a local lass, Janet Ramsay (25th July 1909) from Pathhead, Midlothian. Jock and Janet’s daughter Elizabeth or Betty, as she was known to all, was married to Harry Robertson Toolan (c. 1928) and Harry & Betty were best friends with Frank & Jean and so Betty's parents were also friends.

29 MAR 60 – MR TOOLAN DIED

Betty, having lost her father only weeks before, now found herself supporting her husband who lost his. Peter Toolan's (b. Ireland – d. 29th March 1960) death meant two young widows needed the support of

their children and their kin. Neither Frank nor Jean lacked empathy and loyally supported their inconsolable friends.

25 JUL 60 – FIN SELECT ELECTRICS

Six months in the daily commute followed by constant driving at work took its toll and so another job ended. Frank and Jean remained stoical but feeding two hungry kids, with a third on the way, meant unusually frequent trips to both grannies where an extra plate or two at meals had never been a problem.

5TH AUG 60 – EAST SCOTLAND VAC AGENCY

(NB. The change in date format in this entry does not appear to be significant. Future entries are highly varied)

Hardly two weeks had elapsed before Frank secured new employment. Back to selling vacuum cleaners meant more trudging around although by now Frank was confident enough to pass on his learning and skill set to others so more time was spent 'office' bound. Electrolux, Hoover and Kirby vacuums were the mainstay but whilst the emphasis seemed to be slowly moving from upright to cylinder, it just as quickly moved back again. New and improved 'tools' were regularly being advertised.



Courtesy - Electrolux Limited

10 Oct 60 – 3 WEEKS BRONCHITIS

Jean must have been anxious. Into her sixth month of pregnancy with their third child the last thing the growing family needed was Frank being ill again. Just two years previously he had been ill with a bad chest for eight months so being bedridden again meant that his employers were seriously considering his value to them. As before, the young couple coped. Frank was now thirty and Jean almost thirty-two and they had two children under five and another due in three months. After leaving the army then spending almost two years in various hospitals, Frank was on his seventh job in just eight years.

Just a week after John F Kennedy was made the 35th President of the USA, on the 27th January 1961, and during a milder-than-usual January, Frank made the short fifteen-minute journey to Elsie Inglis Maternity Hospital. Young Frank and brother Peter had been staying with granny and granda Connelly as Jean had been taken in to Elsie Inglis on 11th January with some labour issues (an ‘unstable lie’) but had returned home and played, watched over by Jean’s sister Isa (Isabella Lawson Bertie Buchanan 16th December 1925), who with her two children Kenny (12th April 1948) and Mike Birch (22nd September 1950), currently at school, were regular visitors.

Although he had been told to go home, Frank had sat quietly reading an old newspaper in a waiting area and contemplated the stories including; the American B-52 aircraft that had crashed in North Carolina with hydrogen bombs on-board, one of which began its arming sequence (!) after five of its six safety switches failed and wondered whether the potential 24 megaton explosion could do more damage than three children under five. Elsewhere the paper outlined the Governments proposal to join the European Economic Community (EEC) which he thought unlikely to happen.

Jean had to miss her favourite movie star Jeff Chandler on the hospital ward’s television set when labour began so was not best pleased. Babies have a way of making their appearance in the world with sometimes minimal notice and so she now found herself in a green walled cubicle on a high bed where a nurse occasionally popped in to check the delivery status (not to check how she was!) and a doctor attended less frequently to confirm what the nurses told him, tutted and left. She expected to be kept-in for a few days after the birth during which time she begin her recovery. As it turned out, David John Connelly did not want to wait too long that day and appeared healthily at 3:20pm.

After reading the paper and finding himself at a loose end, Frank adjourned to a nearby pub where he enjoyed a beer and his favourite table game, dominoes. Fortunately, he popped back to the maternity unit to check progress after just a couple of hours and so was on hand (but not allowed in) when Jean gave birth. On David’s birth certificate Frank is noted as a ‘Sales Representative’.

4 MAR 61 – FIN EAST SCOTLAND VAC AGENCY

It’s difficult to imagine what the couple thought and whether the end of another job was the company’s choice or Frank’s. Young Frank was due to start school soon and at this time of year, coughs and colds in the draughty prefab were the norm, so this was something else to worry about. The couple were uncomplaining and were fortunate to have extended family close by otherwise, who knows what might happen.

6 MAR 61 – SIGNED ON BUREO GEORGE ST.

Bills had to be paid and so against his principles but out of necessity, Frank signed on to the dole. The Labour Bureau or ‘broo’¹ as it was colloquially known was in the centre of Edinburgh on George Street, which paralleled the famous Princes Street. After finding somewhere to park the car (I never knew him to use public transport) and then queuing with the many others who attended, his frustration only mounted when it was explained that he would have to accept any work if available or lose the

employment benefit normally paid. He was paid the meagre amount of two pounds seventeen and six (£68.29 in 2021) which would have to last a week before the next visit.

10 APR 61 - ELECTRIC 'O' APPLIANCES²

Someone somewhere was listening to his innermost thoughts and only four weeks after signing on, a new job beckoned. Electric 'O' Appliances had been running for ten years in 1961 and was based in Scarborough, North Yorkshire. Formed by Gordon and Herbert Smith in 1951 they operated in the 'vehicles - mechanical components and parts' industry. Now whilst Frank technically had been an 'engineer' it was neither of the electrical or mechanical varieties but he did like to tinker and this, coupled with his outgoing and sales orientated personality made this new role all the more interesting.

8 MAY 61 – SALES SUPERVISOR

At last, his talent was being recognised and money was once again coming into the home. Frank got on easily with people but had strong views and did not suffer fools so keeping his own counsel was tricky.

8 JUN 61 – SALES MANAGER

Another promotion, the second in less than three months, and both Frank and Jean were delighted. With advancement though came more responsibility, never a problem, but also more travel, and further afield. However, things were definitely looking up. Jean was able to buy clothes and bunk beds for the boys which would give them some more space.

Whilst Frank and Jean were settled in Scotland, Frank's youngest sister Kathleen was living in the USA with husband Roy and giving birth to their second child in two years. Their first, Carol Patricia Nelson (1st August 1960) was born in Montreal whilst her younger brother, by twelve months, Roderick Joseph (29th August 1961) made his first appearance in Boston where the family had moved following Roy's career interests. Both Frank's older brothers were making lives for themselves, James and wife Hermione in America and Michael and wife Sadie in Hong Kong where Michael was already a Depute Divisional Inspector in the C.I.D. Leo and his wife Eileen were settled in Edinburgh with their first child, Brother Tom was continuing his training in a seminary outside Paris, Sister Anne and husband Andrew were

¹ Broo, buroo, b'roo and brew are informal Scottish and Irish forms of the noun bureau and were used to describe the act of being unemployed. On the buroo denoted 'on the dole' and the Scottish and Irish forms such as broo have come to specifically denote a Labour Bureau, i.e. a government office from which unemployment benefit is distributed, hence also the unemployment benefit itself being 'doled' out.

² Electric 'O' Appliances was formed in 1951 in Scarborough by Gordon Smith and his brother Bert after they left the forces. Starting out with vacuum cleaner sales they then branched out to assist vacuum purchases by forming Gweneth Commerce, who ran credit finance from 1954. They had a number of shops; Middlesbrough, Nottingham, Leicester and maybe Glasgow and did door-to-door sales. In the mid 50's they began forming vacuum parts from plastic for various makes then became a 'trade moulder' making anything for anyone including the 1959 MOD water bottle and canteen cup used worldwide.

expecting their first child in the Spring of 1962 and youngest Brother Brian continued to work for the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance in Newcastle. Frank's father was now a Master Grocer and managed the Co-operative store at 23 Magdalene Drive, Edinburgh where the short walk from his now free-off-children home less than a mile and a short walk away at 23 Bingham Place, Edinburgh.

Elsewhere in the world, Yuri Gagarin had become the first man in space and President John F Kennedy asked the US congress for \$531 million to put a man on the moon before the end of the decade. The first concrete blocks were being put in place to create a wall separating east and west Berlin and in Britain the farthing coin, in use since the thirteenth century, ceased to be legal tender. Jean carefully went through Frank's pennies jar to remove them.

Jean liked her music around the house and a group newly named the Beatles were appearing more and more. Frank was not so keen but did enjoy Acker Bilk's 'Strangers on the shore'. He was already miffed about the new 'panda' crossings which allowed pedestrians to push a button for a green man to appear allowing road crossings but stopping traffic, a frustration Frank could barely tolerate.

An outbreak of smallpox in Cardiff meant a trip to the doctors enquiring about vaccination for the boys but Jean was re-assured that almost a million people in the Wales Region were being vaccinated and it was unlikely to spread to Scotland.

22 APR 62 – JEAN BOWMAN DIED BETTYS MUM

Jean Bowman (Nee Ramsay 25th July 1909 – 22nd April 1962) died suddenly whilst attending the Spiritualist Hall, 20a Bath St, Portobello, Edinburgh. She was just 52. Only child and daughter Betty was one of Frank and Jean's closest friends and had suffered the loss of her father, John Henry Bowman (3rd March 1905 – 9th February 1960) only two years previously. Jean had been a committed spiritualist and it was fitting that she died in a place she loved. Daughter Betty followed the same faith.

2 JUL 62 – TOMS ORDINATION MILTON HOUSE [hotel]

Younger brother Tom gave up his scientific career in favour of one with the church. St John's Roman Catholic Church had always been a cornerstone for the family and it was no surprise that at least one of the boys chose the priesthood as a career. After training at a seminary outside Paris, France, he was ordained into the Roman Catholic Church at St John's, Portobello, Edinburgh (the family's place of worship), on Sunday the 1st of July 1962. The Milton House Hotel³ on Milton Road in Edinburgh, is

³ The Milton House Hotel - Built as a local Lairds house in around 1840 'Rosemount' remained a substantial family home till the 1870s when it became the home of Anglican nuns who created their own Chapel in the grounds. The nuns cared for 'young ladies in need of care and protection'. The 'young ladies' operated a popular laundry that funded the convent. It was bought by the Park Family in the mid-1950s who created a popular hotel, the 'Milton House' which was famed for its weekend dances.

It was bought by the hotel arm of Belhaven Brewery for a short time who renamed it Kings Manor. The hotel was sold to the Solley family in 1976 that have owned and operated it since that time. – Kings Manor.com

only a mile from the church and close to most of the family so was a regular function setting for them. Tom was looking forward to his first parish in East Kilbride, a recent 'new town' some eight miles south east of Glasgow.



*Tom in centre flanked by
Jake and Williamena
Harrison and above Peter
and Frank on far right above
young Frank – Private
Collection*

Between June 1961 and the February 63 entry (below), there was only two diary notes which underscores the level of intensity of Frank's workload. Seeing his boys was an evening joy but inevitably they were already in bed when he arrived home.

1962 sped passed with significant events happening on the International stage including; NASA launched their 'Ranger 4' spacecraft which crashed on the lunar surface; the Cuban missile crisis, where the Soviets helped Cuba build missile bases capable of firing Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBM's) at targets throughout the United States; Continental Airlines Flight 11 crashes after bombs explode, killing all 45 passengers and crew; The Rolling Stones performed their first concert; An attempt to assassinate French president Charles de Gaulle; Lawrence of Arabia and James Bond's in 'Dr No' are released and the television programme 'Z cars' appears for the first time; A Columbus Day Storm (a Cat 3 hurricane) has winds measuring more than 150 mph in several locations; 46 people died.

Frank, Jean and the boys continued their life

14 FEB 63 - PROMOTED AREA MANAGER TRA/TO SUNDERLAND

Frank enjoyed working for Electric 'O' Appliances and found not only was he a good salesman, he had a natural affinity with people and knew how to train and manage them. Driving was also a passion and something he was happy to do all day but the 'patch' he was promoted to manage was in Sunderland, which was at least a two hour drive down the A1, which also meant it was a two-hour drive back home at night. Bed & Breakfast stays were fine in the short term but Frank had no intention of moving the family south so hoped for a move back to the Lothians at some point. The long journey back and forward was unsustainable. Brother Brian was at the beginning of his career in the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance in Newcastle at the same time as Frank was in Sunderland some forty miles away

but with the long hours at work and spare time given over to meeting his new girlfriend Terrie (Theresa Hughes 28th December 1942), their paths rarely crossed.

“Perhaps brought on by the stress of managing the family alone for most of each week, mum was ill. I remember going with Brother Peter to live with Connelly grandparents at Bingham for two weeks which was close enough to Saint John’s Primary School for Peter and I to continue attending. I think David stayed with granny and granda Buchanan at the other side of town to help spread the load a bit. There were hushed conversations and hospital was mentioned where I believe mum was ill. The event was never discussed . *Frank Connelly 2021*

26 JUN 63 – FINISHED E’O’A

Good while it lasted, the travelling to and fro his workplace was just too far to manage realistically and the promise of a more local patch never materialised, so by design or default, Frank once more, after two years, was unemployed again.

8 JUL 63 – SELF EMPLOYED BEDFORD HOME ELECTRICS

His experience over two years had given him a huge skill and confidence boost so becoming self-employed again (...remember the Library...?) was a natural next step. He had his own vehicle and could design his own patch, working hours and workload. Never shy of hard work, he immediately set about getting new (and some old) customers for his new business. Boxes of parts of vacuum cleaners and washing machines were stored in the garden shed and the small two-bedroom prefab lost much needed space to machines awaiting repair. The family buried their beloved Alsatian Labrador cross, Barney, who they had looked after for years after cousins Kenny and Mike moved into a flat and could no longer do so.

9 JUL 63 – NEW FORD CONSUL £1-722

Confident of the success of his newest venture he bought (no sign of a trade in...) a new car. The column ‘stick shift’ style of the car was a change for him but there was increased room for the growing family, and the tools he needed for work. The boys loved sitting behind the wheel pretend driving and were able to slide easily between driver and passenger front seats because of their close proximity and vinyl surface. The built-in cigarette lighter allowed Frank to easily ‘light-up’ when driving and his new favourite brand ‘Embassy Filter tipped’ was never far from his hand. He, along with millions of others, believed that the filter on each cigarette would protect them from any harmful effects.

Jean’s sister Margaret, aka Magga, who along with Jean had visited Frank in hospital, had been ill for some time and in late 1962 was diagnosed with carcinomatosis. Whilst she received treatment for the cancer that had spread throughout her body, she was visited at Christmas by Sister Jean and the boys. Young Frank dressed as a policeman and Brother Peter as an Indian, complete with feathered headdress, helped lift her spirits and in early 1963 she went home to recuperate however after regaining some of her strength she again felt unwell and by the summer it was confirmed that the untreatable cancer had returned. A diagnosis of secondary carcinomatosis meant palliative care was all that could be offered

and shortly after entering the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital, overlooking the Pentland Hills in Edinburgh, she died aged just thirty-nine on 29th August 1963. Married and divorced twice she played guitar and drums when not working as a typist and lived life to the full. Jean had lost a devoted and much-loved sister.

On the 22nd of November 1963, John F Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States of America was assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

8 FEB 64 – XRAY STOMACH

Frank's stomach pains had returned during the previous autumn but by Christmas had become almost unbearable so four years after his last stomach X-ray he was back to ingesting a barium meal⁴ pre-X-ray once again. Frank had put up with the pain for some time but was now hoping the specialists could resolve the problem.

19 FEB 64 – ADMITTED RIE WARD 7

Ten days after the X-ray Frank was admitted to the Royal Infirmary, in Edinburgh, after they had identified the cause of his stomach problem and decided that prompt admission was in his best interests.

23 FEB 64 – STOMACH OP

There was no other information in his diary relating to this stomach operation but years later he showed me a ten-inch scar running down from his sternum, not quite joining up with the long curling scar around his shoulder from his TB surgery, which suggests the operation needed access to other lower organs as well as his stomach. In any event, the recovery from the operation resulted in a hospital stay of just over three weeks, so this was a serious operation and something else to worry about.

14 MAR 64 – DISCHARGED HOSPITAL

The ward construction at the Royal Infirmary was depressing at the best of times but when seen at first hand, its typically high ceilings of the time, seaweed green walls, permanently open (for fresh air) windows and guarded by no-nonsense nurses overseen by a terrifying and indomitable matron, was deeply depressing place to even the strongest of men (separate wards for female inmates) so visits by Jean and the boy's as well as other family and friends were highlights of his stay. Visiting hours were strictly managed and between two and three pm and later seven and nine, queues formed at the doors so that visitors could run to see their friends and loved ones as soon as the doors were officially opened. Short visits trying to keep Frank entertained and brought up to date before a hand bell rang thus ordering

⁴ Barium Meal - A technique for examining the oesophagus, stomach, and duodenum. The patient swallow's barium sulphate to coat the lining of the organs, and a series of X-rays is taken. Oxford University Press

them all out again were the norm. Successfully discharged patient were celebrated by those less fortunate and Frank had many farewells to make andthere is only so much hospital food you can eat and a nice beer was sure to help recovery.



Frank (front left) and friends (Harry Toolan far right) c. 1946 – Private Collection

13 APR 64 - BUILDING HOUSE'S SEAVIEW AND GULLAN SELF EMPLOYED

Frank's second attempt at being self-employed repairing home appliances was not to be. The stress of constantly searching for new customers, repairing machines and collecting payments was difficult and likely exacerbated his stomach problem.

Building houses was a complete change of direction but general labouring or some minor electric works was easy enough. It was spring so the weather, though wet, was mild and that made life slightly easier and helped build his strength back up but building was both seasonal and dependant on a day rate construction market. Seaview was a small area between Portobello and Joppa in Edinburgh and meant a five-minute drive (he rarely walked anywhere) in the morning. The move to Gullane, at some point, extended the distance to twenty miles but still less than thirty minutes and a lovely coastal drive.

JUNE 64 – SIGNED ON BUREO

The vagaries of the building trade didn't suit him and although reluctant he signed back on the dole and journeyed once more to George Street on a weekly basis.

AUG 64 – BELLS TRANSPORT

Bells Transport was a transportation company before 'logistics' became popular. Working as a driver he drove a soft-sided lorry around Edinburgh delivering shop products including sweets. Whenever he saw

the family, he would stop the lorry and open a covered side to give the boys sweets from one of the many jars he carried on-board.

FEB 65 – FIN BELLS

Jean had, only four weeks before, given birth to the couple's first daughter, Margaret Maria Connelly, who was born at 4:25 pm on Monday the 4th January 1965 in Elsie Inglis Maternity Hospital. Their first daughter was cause for extra celebration and although Jean loved her boys to bits, a girl was a delight. The boys were once again spending some time with their grannies which meant Frank was able to get to the pub of an evening with dinner from the chippy on the way. Frank was noted on the birth certificate as an Electrical Salesman.

Jean was in Elsie Inglis only a few days and was grateful when Frank brought the car to pick her up. The journey home was short and after enjoying a night of reasonable, new baby, rest, the older boys were brought home by Frank, and David by Aunt Isa the same day. The family was together again and Jean loved it.

Frank struggled to find suitable work. One in every hundred work available men were unemployed and he didn't want that one to be him. Harold Wilson's Labour Government struggled with an inflation rate running at nearly 19% although they could still afford the enormous cost of a state funeral for Sir Winston Churchill, whose life would be celebrated by hundreds of dignitaries from around the world. Something always turned up.

MAR 65 – AREA SALES MANAGER E.O.A.

Frank returned to Electric 'O' Appliances a second time but whether the return was motivated out of necessity or in the hope that a base nearer home in due course was possible, is unknown. Either way the move was short lived.

21 AUG 65 – MRS TOOLAN DIED

Bridget Christie died on 21st August 1965. She had been brought up in County Roscommon to the west of Dublin, Ireland, before emigrating to Scotland and marrying Peter Toolan and giving birth to four boys and two girls, one of whom was Frank's friend Harry.

Chapter Eight - A Résumé

In the Autumn of 1965, Frank took stock. He had settled back into life with Electric ‘O’ Appliances and was enjoying it, albeit with the occasional itchy feet. Jean and he had now been married eleven years and had three boys and a girl. The house in Northfield was always busy with friends and family dropping in and the boys and their playmates were never away from the garden which gave access to their much-loved Figgate Park. The house had also started filling up with furniture including bunk beds for the boy’s room, a new wardrobe and dressing table and a record played come radio which was home to Jean’s record collection and where the family gathered nearby in the evenings to listen or watch the small television they rented. The ‘pièce de résistance’ in the living room was the ‘wurlitzer’, not the famed musical version but rather a china display and opening drinks cabinet (complete with mirrored back-plate and glass and cocktail stick holders) with side drawers and cupboards for storing the family heirlooms.



*Sons Peter and Frank in
the field beside 26
Northfield Drive 1963 –
Private Collection*

Frank was thirty-five now and still tall and slim, although recently he had started to put some weight on. At six feet he was about four inches taller than Jean and both had heads of dark full hair, with no grey, a trait that would remain with Frank all his life. He was happy and could now afford the small luxuries he enjoyed including his cigarettes and a beer or two of an evening. He had joined ‘the railway club’ courtesy of friend Harry and next-door neighbour Bill Haston and by its ‘club’ nature, prices were lower than the average pub locally.

Jean kept the house spotless and could be seen hanging washing and beating rugs in the back garden on most days or loading the children into the pram (Margaret inside, David on a top seat and Peter and Frank’s hands clamped to the sides, held in place by hers) and heading for the St Cuthbert’s Co-operative store or Hays for general shopping, which she stored under the prams bottom board, inside it’s over-wheel tray and hood or in an attached bag, before heading to the newsagents to pay the papers and milk

that had been delivered to the door during the previous week. The boys helped keep the house shining by rolling carpets up and donning old socks before sliding up and down to polish off the wax Jean had laid on the main floors which were then shone to a gloss by them taking turns to stand on the rotating buffer machine as Jean held on which, given the chance, would have increased revolutions until it escaped out of the front door.

Whilst Margaret spent days in the pram or wooden playpen, David played nearby with a fort and small soldiers and Peter and Frank disappeared into the long-grassed field next door to play hide-and-seek or into the Figgate Park to climb trees and catch fish, only coming home when hungry or it got dark, unless it was a school day. Monday to Friday the older boys walked the few streets but mile long journey to St John's Primary School, the homeward trip of which usually meant multiple detours via the Figgate Park which itself went door-to-door.

Evening meals, mostly with Frank in attendance, saw the family sitting around the extending dining table (a wedding gift) to tuck into mince and tatties, fish (on Fridays) or sausages and chips without puddings, which were reserved for lunchtimes when the boys returned from school for a break.

Visits to Frank's parents and in-laws remained regular with the Connelly's reserved for Sundays after church and the Buchanan's visited during the week after the boys schooling had ended for the day. Most visits included Jean and the boys with Frank 'putting in an appearance' at some point or picking the family up in the car to take them all home. Frank's father Bernard had recently taken on an additional role as USDAW union secretary (Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers) for the local area so was busy outside normal working hours helping to recruit, organise and represent workers in the retail, distributive, manufacturing and service sectors, however he was also a passionate churchgoer and maintained his strong beliefs. In-laws, Duncan and Meg, still lived at Calder Road at Sighthill, although talk was of downsizing. Duncan had retained his job as a Record Keeper at Register House in town for over ten years.

Jean's older sister Marie lived in Wrexham, Wales with husband Harold and boys Duncan (20th April 1955) and Owen (3rd September 1957) whilst Sister Isa and cousin's Kenny and Mike remained in Edinburgh. Frank's brothers and sisters were scattered with James and wife Hermione (Nee Kerr) in New York, Michael and wife Sadie (Nee McLaughlin King 9th February 1933) and sons Paul (12th August 1960) and Christopher (11th November 1964) in Hong Kong where Michael was a Police Inspector. Leo, recently finished in the Navy and working in television sales, who with wife Eileen (Nee McRae Lamb c. 1940) and sons Brian Anthony (19th July 1960) and Derek John (24th June 1965) and daughter Margaret Helen (15th January 1964) resided in the Liberton area of Edinburgh, Brother or 'Father' Tom was still in East Kilbride and devoted to the church and his parishioners and youngest Brother Brian had become married to Theresa (more of this later), was considering a move to the Diplomatic Service but for the moment remained in Newcastle. Both sisters, Anne and Kathleen, had been married for six years (with no mention in Frank's diary). Anne married Andrew Gillan (12th July 1937) in February 1959 and Kathleen married Roy Livingstone Nelson (5th April 1934) in the September of the same year. Anne and Andrew had a son, Norman Andrew (24th April 1962) and a daughter Sandra (30th April 1964) and lived less than a mile from the family in Northfield whilst Roy and Katie (Kathleen) lived in London with children; Carol Patricia (1st August 1960), Roderick Joseph (29th August 1961) and Susan Fiona (23rd March 1963).

Chapter Nine - ...and a Television

A wedding was always a glorious occasion and whilst none of the family, except his own, made it into the diary, they were none the less great family celebrations.

Brian Norman Connelly and Theresa Hughes said 'I do' at St Teresa's church, Newcastle before their reception at the Flora Robson Playhouse near Terrie's mum and dads. All of Frank's brothers and sisters made it with the exception of James who was abroad.

The bus hired by Mr & Mrs Hughes had picked up the Connelly clan and brought them south for the day and was scheduled to return later that night but after a 'splendid' day, Frank and brother Michael were hesitant to board the returning coach (there was a party in the offing...) until mum Julia stepped in to keep the bus on time by gently, but firmly, insisting. The happy couple were driven to the railway station where they boarded a train to Hexham then onward to Wall in Northumberland for their honeymoon.



The wedding of Brian & Terrie Connelly

Rear – Roy Nelson – Michael, Frank, Leo, Jean, Katie and Tom Connelly

Middle – Julia Connelly, Anne Murphy, Terrie & Brian then Bernard Connelly and Anne Gillan

Front – Susan and Roderick Nelson, Frances Hughes, Carol Nelson, David, Peter and Frank Connelly

– Private Collection

27 MAY 66 – NEW SHOP TOLL ELECTRICS BONNINGTON ROAD

Another foray into self-employment for Frank but this time with greater knowledge of the products. Bonnington Road in Edinburgh ran from Leith to Stockbridge and was a busy thoroughfare with small to medium sized businesses dotted across the area and bordered by tenements and houses. Plenty of ‘passing’ trade meant vacuum cleaners were dropped off daily by husbands on their way to work but parts for repairs were not cheap so the shop resembled a vacuum cemetery with half stripped machines, ransacked for parts, stacked or lying on the floor awaiting their owners return, hopefully with cash for the repair.

England won the World Cup, Petrol was five shillings a gallon, the Soviets and Americans were racing to be first to put a man on the moon, on the televisions (now appearing in more and more homes) children saw Camberwick Green when they ‘watched with mother’. John Lennon of the Beatles was quoted in the London Evening Standard as saying ‘we’re [the Beatles] more popular than Jesus now.

1966 was another quiet diary year but by the beginning of July Jean realised she was pregnant so began preparation for a new-year baby. Brother Leo and his wife Eileen’s fourth child, Sharon Lorraine (6th July 1966) was born.

At the end of 1966 to celebrate Hogmany and the New Year, Jean travelled by bus with the children to Sister Isa’s flat at Robertson Avenue in the Gorgie area. The timely visit had become an annual event and on arrival, Jean helped Isa with preparing food whilst young Frank, Peter and David played with their cousin’s Kenny and Mike’s Scalextric set and reel-to-reel tape recorder. In the evening, after David and Margaret had been tucked in to sleep in the box-room, friends and family began appearing for a party and sing-song. By midnight, as the older boys peeped through the often-opened living room door, they were treated to, amongst others things, a rendition of ‘April Showers’ by Frank. On New Year’s Day after breakfast, Frank and his family piled into the car he had for the journey home.

On Frank’s daughter Margaret’s second birthday on the 4th of January 1967, one of Frank’s hero’s, Donald Campbell, was killed on Coniston Lake while attempting to break the speed record. Later on that month, British Steel was nationalised and the UK and the US and USSR signed a space treaty.

The weather was typical ‘deep’ winter by late January and the family were hunkered down awaiting more snow and freezing conditions similar to those of just a few weeks before and a repeat of the bad winter of 66. Frank carried a shovel in the back of the car for emergencies but even getting the thing started in the morning was a nightmare. Each day he removed the newspaper from the windscreen (which helped keep the frost at bay) and the blanket from the engine before pouring a kettle of boiling water into the radiator to unfreeze it. It usually started after a few turns but if not, neighbours rallied round to push and ‘bump’ start it. The inside was like a fridge and with Jean expecting in just a few weeks he really needed to do something about it.

After celebrating his thirty seventh birthday with a plate of his favourite (which Jean hated cooking) tripe and onions in milk followed by a can of beer, Jean went to bed feeling tired and nauseous. Frank watched an episode of 'The Forsyte Saga' on television before turning-in himself.

The following day, Friday 17th February, Jean's contractions started as she got the boys ready for school so after giving them instructions to 'go to grannies' for lunch and after school and dropping Margaret off with Julia (thankfully starting the car on the first attempt), they made their way to Elsie Inglis Maternity Hospital.

The hospital had changed little over the years since young Frank had been born other than some newer equipment and variations in the nurse's uniforms¹. It would eventually close in 1988.

By now Jean was accustomed to giving birth and being attended by doctors and nurses who had more 'needy' mums to look after and able to wait with Jean now, Frank sat on a chair beside the bed and read the paper whilst Jean relaxed. An obstetrician, a doctor who specialises in care during pregnancy, labour and after birth, had spoken to the couple and asked if Frank would like to attend the birth, a trend that was becoming more popular and would benefit Jean but declining gracefully and with apologies to Jean, Frank headed for the door to the street and a nearby hostelry.

Returning a short time later he sat by Jean's bed until the baby could wait no longer and after Jean was moved into the delivery room without Frank, who continued to sit in a waiting room with other 'father's-to-be'. Not for long though and as tea time drew close a nurse sought Frank out to confirm Jean had given birth to a healthy baby boy at 5:45 pm and both mother and baby were doing well. He was elated. On the birth certificate of James Andrew, Frank is noted as an 'Electrical shop Proprietor'.

14 MAY 67 – MOVED TO 8 BAILIE PATH

By the middle of 1966 construction on the field next to the family home at Northfield Drive had begun and the prefab homes were being knocked down throughout the local area. A sand and cement bunker had been built twenty yards from the front door and the bottom half of the garden had been given over to site huts. The boys loved playing in the shells of the new houses and collected nails and other 'useful' bit and pieces they would use to build their own gang huts and dens. By the time James was born the writing was on the wall for the family and after Frank and Jean had applied to the Council for a three-bedroom house, Jean visited many to check both size and location. The couple settled on Bailie Path as it meant the boys could remain at the same school and although further from their beloved Figgate Park, there were numerous other youngsters in the area and the family quickly settled in. The house was mid-terraced and had three bedrooms with a lounge that ran from front to rear and a decent size kitchen. The grassed front garden faced onto a tree lined grass bank and private houses whilst the rear was given up to a drying area and led to a dead-end road.

¹ Nurse uniforms were derived from the nun's habit. Before the 19th century, nuns took care of sick and injured people so it was obvious that trained lay nurses might copy the nun's habit as they have adopted ranks like "Sister" - Wikipedia

The downstairs rooms were fitted with linoleum but Jean was determined that she would have fitted carpets as soon as funds allowed but the stairs and upper floor were carpeted, with a vivid brown and orange patterned carpet. The house was heated via a coal fire in the lounge and there was also an immersion heater for hot water.

4 JUN 67 – SOLD SHOP NEW CAR AUSTIN 10

Frank loved his cars and given the vagaries of commerce and self-employment, he thought the money was better invested in transport rather than the business.

10 JUN 67 – SCWS TRANSPORT

The Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd had been running since the eighteen hundreds and for the Co-operative movement as a whole, 1967 was to be a tumultuous year. For the previous decade it had been struggling against burgeoning high street shops and the beginning of out-of-town retail parks (Cumbernauld Shopping Centre opened May 1967) but with new leadership, changes were afoot. A new dynamic Chief Executive (not Frank) was appointed causing many board resignations and leading to many of the smaller shops closing or merging to enable competition against other retailers.

As a business they had around 400,000 shops, fleets of vehicles including logistics, funeral and coach hiring but had seen some damage done to their reputation following a strike by vehicle engineers and motor mechanics in Glasgow which lasted months. The Scottish fleet, including the new motor trade section, was easily the largest fleet in the country and Frank was glad to be part of it. He loved driving, anything.

24 JUL 67 – FIN SCWS

Four weeks was probably a record for Frank and how Jean managed or thought about his frequent job changes is any one's guess but FOUR WEEKS?

4 SEP 67 – ROBINSON RENTAL'S

During the 60's (and later the 70's) there were two big names in television hire, Granada; founded in 1930 which included a TV station, production facilities and motorway catering and Radio Rentals; who specialised in the rental of radios before seeing a market niche in television rental. Televisions were either rented on HP style terms or fitted with cash meters which allowed viewing when coins were inserted. Robinson (television) Rentals² was a relative newcomer to the market. At that time Frank's brother Leo worked for Radio Rentals.

Initially, this job meant driving around, the many streets of Edinburgh, to pick-up (because bills were

² Robinson Rentals was merged with Granada when the price of televisions, Video Cassette Recorders (VCR's) and other electronic products prices fell and their reliability improved and consumer behaviour changed from renting to buying. Granada would eventually merge with Radio Rentals in the 2000's to form Box Clever

unpaid) or deliver televisions to houses and flats. Lugging a large, twenty-seven-inch, TV up a number



Granada (formerly Robinson) TV Rentals shop in Edinburgh's St James Centre circa 1970. Frank on left – Private Collection

of flights of stairs was difficult but by resting one end of the box sets on a bannister occasionally and allowing himself to catch his breath, Frank managed. Collecting the money from the sometimes empty meters was often met with “the back just fell off” or “it’s never worked since it was put in” or the machines were full of foreign coins.

Frank carried a small cloth bag into which, after counting the cash, he would tip the coins.

Arriving home after a long day he then emptied the cash onto a table and the boys took it in turns to count the coins into one-pound piles.

The van that had carried the television sets was emptied at night and the televisions were either stacked in the hall of the house or tested for faults and repaired, usually from parts cannibalised from older, more damaged sets. All were switched on to check the quality of the picture or the backs removed to enable Frank to adjust; vertical holds (the cause of rolling pictures), brightness or contrast, to cut down the number of televisions returned to the shop.

There were no diary entries between September 1967 when he joined Robinson Rental and the March 1971 entry below, but there was plenty going on.

1967 had been an important year with not only the first successful heart transplant carried out in South Africa by Doctor Christiaan Barnard but also the UK Parliament passing the Abortion Act thus legalising abortion.

The pirate radio stations which had been popping up all over forced a re-organisation at the BBC causing the formation of Radio 1,2,3 and 4, Winnie Ewing won the first seat for the new Scottish National Party in a by election in Hamilton and the President of France, Charles De Gaulle vetoed the UK’s entry into the EEC.

At the beginning of 1968, baby James was one year old and Sister Margaret three so Jean decided she could start working again and got an early morning job in a newsagent only a few hundred yards from home. Young Frank delivered morning newspapers from the same shop and had recently started

preparatory school before joining Holy Cross Academy, whilst Peter and David attended St John's Primary School.

Frank's Father and Mother, Bernard and Julia, went on a world cruise and enjoyed catching up with their son, Frank's Brother James, and wife Hermione. Frank and Jean's best friends Betty and Harry Toolan moved into a new flat at Coillesdene by Joppa in Edinburgh and the Conservative MP Enoch Powell made his controversial 'Rivers of Blood' speech.

Frank enjoyed his job and managed home at a reasonable time each evening before settling down to dinner and the television. The house was never short of a television because Frank regularly repossessed non payers or damaged sets, religiously emptying his van of them nightly. Son Frank remembers;

"There was always a TV or two but rarely did one work properly. Vertical or horizontal hold or the volume control would be faulty or some would only receive one channel. There were also coin boxes on many. They were often stacked up in the hall beside the gold standard lamp come lamppost which also resided there. Carrying them in from the van was a nightly task and they were generally heavy, cumbersome machines. We all helped unload".

Frank Connelly 2021

The new gas fire that had been installed meant no more wet or windy trips to the outside coal bunker and brought a level of comfort to the house that the family enjoyed. Frank had been busy with DIY and had not only stripped the top of the dining table with the intention of French polishing it (although it was to remain in an unfinished state for many years) but also (with the boys) dug over and re-seeded the grass in the back garden.

By 1969 young Frank's school, Holy Cross, had merged with St Andrew's Junior Secondary and the combined pupils moved to a brand-new facility, St Augustine's at Broomhouse, which was the other side of Edinburgh and a one hour bus ride away. Son Peter had 'moved up' and was attending St Anthony's Secondary and in-Laws Duncan and Med moved from the family house at Calder Road to a more suitable pensioner's house in Saughton. Brother Brian had moved to London and joined the Diplomatic service and Sister Katie had qualified as a Social Worker.

There was talk of a new DIY Superstore opening in Edinburgh. Modelled on the successful pilot in Southampton and with DIY becoming more popular it was hoped that B & Q would prosper and provide a much-needed service to the local people.

In Northern Ireland where British troops had recently been deployed in support of the police, the Battle of the Bogside took place, the first major confrontation between British soldiers in support of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the protestant populace of Londonderry.

A new vertical take-off jet, the Harrier Jump jet entered service with the RAF and the Apollo 11 spacecraft landed on the moon with Neil Armstrong uttering the words 'One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind'.

The company Frank was part of was amalgamating with and rebranding as Granada and Frank's shop moved into the recently opened St James Centre shopping and hotel complex. Life continued almost normally.

In the following year Jean's sister Isa decided to train as a nurse and Jean thought she might follow a similar path and become a nursing auxiliary. Initially working nights when Frank was home to watch the family, she loved interacting with the staff and patients. Margaret was now five and started at St John's Primary School. She was walked down the road by Jean the first few days and then by older brother David until she was happy to walk the half mile herself. Youngest James was still two years away from starting but was at last enjoying more time with mum Jean.



Jean with a patient at the Eastern General Hospital – Private Collection

Chapter 10 - The Sad Seventies

On the 30th April 1970 Frank's in-laws, Duncan and Margaret, had been married fifty years and celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary by having a family party in the Westfield Halls in Gorgie, Edinburgh. Family and friends came from far and wide.



Franks in-laws, Duncan and Meg, celebrate their golden wedding anniversary – Private Collection

Decimalisation in the UK happened on the 15th February 1971. New coinage was issued to coincide with the change and the old coins returned to banks or kept for posterity. Frank and Jean had retained some pennies and halfpennies and Frank created a small coffee table from a wheeled television stand fitted with a top board then inlaid with pennies and a boxing medal centre piece won by Frank's Great Uncle, Pat McCann (c.1884 – 31st October 1968) and given to Frank before he had died three years before.

10 MAR 71 – MIKE DIED RIE NEW CAR BOUGHT HILLMAN HUSKIE £3.210

Frank's Brother Michael, aged just forty-three, was killed in a tragic accident in the Commonwealth Swimming Pool in Edinburgh. He left behind Sadie, his wife of twelve years and two boys, Paul and Christopher aged only ten and six. The family had returned from Hong Kong and settled into life in the Bruntsfield area of Edinburgh and were regular visitors to Frank and Jean.

17 JUN 71 – BOUGHT CARAVAN

Holidays when the whole family got away together were tricky because of the expense until Frank thought that a one-off purchase of a caravan would give them a permanent holiday location and, correctly located, meant he could still meet friends in the evening for a beer and game of dominoes. The blue and cream coloured caravan was sited near Eddlestone in the Scottish Borders, a mile (by road and track) from the main A703, Edinburgh to Peebles Road. Complete with a master bedroom, living space with couches that converted to beds, galley kitchen and compulsory striped plastic fly curtain it was dry and

cosy when filled by the family. The land around it was farmed but there were also woods and hills which meant there was plenty space for the boys. The small clearing where it was pitched only contained one other van which was seldom occupied so it was a peaceful area. Water was collected from a farm standpipe some five hundred yards away and was carried by hand to the site in 5 gallon plastic containers. It was marvellous and after dropping the family off on a Friday evening, Frank would sometimes return the short drive to Edinburgh for a pint or two.

Young Frank was fifteen now and disliked school. Frank, no scholar himself, talked to his oldest son about the potential of the army but after looking at some brochures, Frank opted for the RAF. Unfortunately, after the compulsory medical and a number of subsequent tests, he was sent to see a specialist who explained that he had a heart murmur and could not join the Armed Forces unless it was operated on. Late in 1971 he was admitted to the Royal Infirmary for the operation, which was a success and left home just two weeks later for an extended stay with his great Aunt Nana, the District Nurse in Blairgowrie, to recuperate.

Some months later, Father and son returned to the RAF careers office on Lothian Road in Edinburgh only for young Frank to be told that because he had undergone a heart operation, he was no longer eligible for the RAF. The pair turned around to leave but young Frank directed their footsteps into the Royal Navy office next door and had signed up within weeks for the Royal Marines.

In June 1972 he was the first of the children to leave home when he joined the Royal Marine Commando's, to undertake some of the toughest training in the world.

22 OCT 1972 – DUNCAN DIED AT HOME

Jean's father Duncan Dewar Buchanan (10th May 1900 – 22nd October 1972) signed up to the Royal Navy during the First World War 'Hostilities' having lied about his age, stating his birth date as 12th September 1899 which suggested he was 18. After training in engineering, gunnery and other field training at HMS Victory Royal Naval Base (RNB) between October 1917 and January 1918 which was him undergoing his 'join up' induction. His service number was K46593 and he was noted as five feet six and a half inches with brown hair and brown eyes. He became a Stoker and served until 1st December 1919, including three months in the Mine Clearance Service.

After marrying Meg (Margaret) in 1920 they had four children; Marie, Margaret, Isa and Jean.

On completion of his Naval service and moving into Edinburgh, he became a miner then a Rodent Exterminator followed by some time as a Record Keeper and Scrap metal workman before ending up as a messenger at the General register Office in the centre of town.

After his children left home to enjoy their own lives and grow families and towards the end of his working life, he and Meg moved close to Frank and Jean that meant almost daily visits by the boys to run errands, cut grass etc. but he was unwell by this time. A life-long smoker of 'Players Navy Cut', the cigarette of choice for many Naval veterans, he smoked constantly and combined with the coal dust the

effect on his lungs meant he had little energy to do jobs around the house himself. He died at home of carcinoma of the bladder.

Jean, who was very close to her mum, visited daily to take in shopping and complete housework. Mother Margaret was 75 now and had lost a husband and daughter. It was time to look for a smaller house that could be maintained easily.

In early November, Frank, Father Bernard and Brother Tom, travelled to Deal in Kent to watch Junior Marine Frank complete a pass-out parade in celebration of completing the first six months of his Royal Marines training. Staying only a few nights in a local hotel the trio had watched on proudly as young Frank was presented a 'most improved physically' certificate and, with his squad, undertook a drill display. Pending the following days move to the Commando Training Centre at Lympstone in Devon and a further three months of combat training, the group celebrated with a meal in the local town.

13 DEC 1972 – ISA DIED WESTERN HOSP

A few days after Frank and Jean had moved Meg into a pensioner's flat, Jean's sister, and the children's most loved Aunt Isa, died in the Western General Hospital. She had suffered for months with blinding headaches and been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour. She had divorced from her boy's father (Edward Stanley Birch 10th August 1925) almost twenty years before and brought them up on her own to become fine young men and had remained in her Nursing role until just four months before her death. She would be sadly missed by Frank, Jean and the boys whose memories of her included regular visits carrying boxes of pies and cakes and trips to her house for New Year celebrations.

8 FEB 73 – FLUID ON KNEE

A recurring injury caused swelling and was not only painful but made walking difficult and it was deemed an operation was necessary.

15 FEB 73 – DISCHARGED RIE

Well bandaged up on the Thursday morning he was unable to drive but, managing to avoid public transport, he was collected by Brother Leo and dropped off at home with strict nurse's instructions not to put weight on it and keep it immobile for a few days. Fat chance.

17 MAR 73 – PRO DISTRICT MANAGER

The same, other than through amalgamation, employer for almost six years for Frank was novelty to say the least. He enjoyed his job and Jean enjoyed hers. The children were all at school or working and all seemed right with the world. A promotion now was some icing on the cake and he enjoyed the extra responsibilities it brought. Second son Peter was leaving St Anthony's School soon and was searching for a job in hairdressing and David was about to start at the recently built Holyrood Secondary School at Duddingston.

18 MAR 73 – NEW VIVA STATION W £4.500 PX £2.100

Trading in, and up, was a regular occurrence and only a day after his promotion Frank had bought a larger car. The Huskie was a much smaller car and he had negotiated a good deal on it. The Viva would easily get all the family in, plus the odd TV set.

19 APR 73 – OFF WORK, BACK 24/4/73

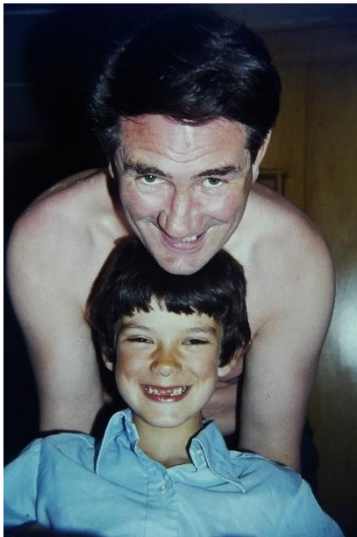
4 NOV 73 – XRAY SPITTAL ST

After a week off in April, the pain in his lower back had continued and after various visits to the family doctor, an X-ray appointment was made but the results non-specific.

20 NOV 74 – ERIC ROBB SUSPENDED

Eric Was a friend of Frank's who worked beside him but after an issue arose, he was disciplined. Frank was frustrated with both the issue and the way it was dealt with by the Company but other than being an ear for Eric to bend, he could do little.

Another year-long gap in the diary, since November 73, for no explained reason, during which time; young Frank completed his Commando training and left to serve with 41 Commando in Malta, Peter was employed as a Hairdresser at Ricky & Scott Hairdressing in the Leith area, David was in second year at secondary school and considering career paths and Margaret and James were both at primary school and looking forward to Christmas. Mother Julia volunteered at Lambs House, an old folk's home in Edinburgh, Brother Tom had moved to a new Parish St. Benedict's parish in Easterhouse and Sister Anne had re-married Robert Ferrier Cameron (4th December 1932) in a quiet ceremony in the Registrar's office in the Canongate.



*Frank with son James
– Private Collection*

17 DEC 74 – ERIC ROBB FIN

Hugely frustrated at this outcome Frank talked to Jean about leaving the Company but Jean's common sense must have prevailed and he remained.

9 MAR 75 – UNCLE MIKE DIED

Michael Murphy (20th October 1902 – 9th March 1975) was Frank's mother Julia's brother and after marrying Amelia Wilson Garvie (c.1904 - 1981) in 1923 in St John's Church in Portobello he went on

to have four children, cousins to Frank; Irene, Ann, Julia and Melinda (who in 2018 at the age of 73, emigrated to Ontario, Canada and in 2023 still resided in Credit River Retirement Residence in Mississauga, Ontario). A Coalminer to trade, Michael had started work when machinery was starting to make an impact on mining in Britain although it was years behind other countries such as the USA. He lived in the miner's cottages at the Jewel at Duddingston in Edinburgh.

12 MAR 75 – FUNERAL MILTON ROAD 16:30

21 JUNE 75 – XRAY NECK

26 JUNE 75 – DM'S MEETING BARNTON HOTEL 10AM

Two years into his promotion to District Manager meeting were the norm and the Barnton Hotel convenient for DM's coming from the northern and western areas. Frank thought his time could be put to better use but was never short of opinions and so was well regarded by colleagues and general management.

8 JULY 75 – WARD 20 RIE FLUID

Frank's knee continued to play up and had swollen to a considerable size, making walking or in fact most movement, very difficult and frustrating.

*15 SEP 75 – MUM & DAD GOLDEN WED**

Bernard & Julia's marriage was actually celebrated on the 14th of the month and the significance of the asterisk above lost through time. In 1925 the couple had married in St John's Church, Portobello, before settling down and having eight children between 1926, when the miners followed by a general strike occurred and martial law was declared in Britain, and 1941, when Britain declared war on Finland, Hungary and Romania. An eventful time to have children.

29 SEP 75 – XRAY FLUID DR IMRIE R.I.E

24 SEP 75 – AUNT MARY DIED NORTHERN HOSP

Mary Cullinan (Nee Murphy 3rd April 1906 – 24th September 1975) was sixty-nine when she died. At twenty-five she had started a career as a State Enrolled Nurse (SEN) before enlisting in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, QAIMNS, in 1941 along with Julia's two other sisters, Anne and Helen. After serving abroad during the war her taste for foreign places remained and she emigrated to New Zealand where she met her husband to be, Edward Cullinan. Edward was born in New Zealand on 17th July 1895 and was therefore ten years older than her. He had served in New Zealand's Army Reserve in 1916 – 1st Division Taranaki but died on 21 November 1964. After marrying Edward, she continued in the nursing profession working at Blenheim Hospital and the maternity annexe at Hawera Hospital. Mary returned to Scotland to help her sister Julia celebrate her golden wedding but took ill not long afterwards and died suddenly at the Northern General Hospital (demolished in 1996 in favour of Safeway) on Ferry Road, Edinburgh.

21 NOV 75 – WARD 20 RIE CLEAR

With treatment the swelling and damage to Frank's knee had been repaired and although promising faithfully to keep his weight off the leg for a few more weeks, he was missing his bowling outings.

17 DEC 75 – STAFF DANCE COMADOR HOTEL (CONDOR ROOM)

The Commodore Hotel at Granton was to the west of Muirhouse Mansions which in turn stands on the north side of Marine Drive, across the road from Edinburgh Caravan Club campsite, about half a mile to the east of the beach at Silverknowes. The Hotel was a popular venue for dinner dances.



Bernard & Julia Connelly celebrate Golden Wedding. Mary Cullinan sitting to right – Private Collection

10 MAY 76 – RON GILBERT SUSPENDED

15 MAY 76 – BOUGHT NEW CAPRI (FORD) £4077

By 1976 both young Frank and brother Peter had left home, David was fifteen and deciding on a career which left only Margaret and James, as well as Jean, to transport around on the occasional joined-up visit or holidays, hence a two-door car. The Capri was his favourite. Powerful and elegant with enough under the bonnet to encourage ardent admiration from petrolheads everywhere.... It's longevity was in doubt however;

“I remember especially when he crashed his Capri when we were at the caravan. Mum sent me out with a torch to walk to the main road to see if I could find him. I eventually heard him first doing some serious cursing and trying to get his upturned car righted. Eventually a farmer was convinced to come out with chains and a tractor but not before mum and Jimmy arrived looking for us all”.

Margaret Connelly 2021

27 MAY 76 – TRA TO KIRKALDY

The Kirkcaldy area population was growing and so Frank was tasked with setting up and running the new shop and salesforce. An hour-long drive at the start and end of the day was not difficult and much easier travelling across the Forth road bridge than it had been using the old car ferry just ten years before. The sting in the tail though was the queues at the toll booths where people still wanted to debate or oppose payment.

3 SEP 76 – JERRY HARPEN SUSPENDED

Frank was never keen on suspending or disciplining staff preferring to set standards which he expected others to achieve and maintain. Viewing any ‘disciplinary’ as a personal failure, he worried about where he had gone wrong but when viewed by an inevitability, took action and stood by his decisions.

18 AUG 77 – MEG HOLYROOD 18 AUG 77 – 8 SEP 82

Another indication that the diary was written after the event when this entry, in the same pen and hand, notes a school leaving date five years in the future. Daughter Margaret, called Meg by family and friends alike, had started at Holyrood Roman Catholic High School following Brother David who had begun there four years before. Margaret had been called Meg from an early age, a name favoured by her granny, Meg Buchanan, she also answered to Margaret and Mags.

22 NOV 77 – AUNTY JOSEY DIED

Josephine Connelly (Nee O’Neill 3rd March 1907 – 25th November 1973) was the wife of Franks father Bernard’s husband Alexander (3rd March 1907). The couple had lived in Portobello for years but had first met as children when both families lived at the Dalhousie Cottages at Cockpen, just outside the city. Josie had been a mill worker before her marriage and Alex variously noted as an Engineer fitter and a Lamb Trimmer, which was perhaps a summer job [or my poor interpretation].

26 NOV 77 – FRANK AND JENNY MARRIED LIVERPOOL

Frank, now serving with 41 Commando Royal Marines, was based and lived in Deal, Kent. Frank and Jean had agreed with him that as wife to be Jenny’s (Nee Mawdsley 7th June 1949) parents lived in Formby, thirty miles north of Liverpool, it was simpler to marry and have a reception locally and so the night before, car loads of relatives made the journey the 250 miles from Edinburgh to various hotels and B & B’s in the Formby area before attending the registrars ceremony in Southport. After the ceremony



Son Frank and Jenny Connelly flanked by son Peter and bridesmaid Helen – Private Collection

everyone travelled back to Jenny's parents Herbert (24th January 1907 – August 1990) and Gertrude (5th December 1910 – 26th June 1983) Mawdsley's house for quick photos and a bite to eat before moving on to the Formby Country Club for an evening's dancing and drinking.

10 DEC 77 – CAR CRASH QUARRY RD W WRIGHT KIRKCALDY

Eighteen months of driving back and forward was generally not a problem for Frank, although this was sometimes conducted the morning after the night before..... This accident saw the police breathalysing¹ both drivers, which worried Frank.

14 DEC 77 – HIRE CAR G. DAVIES RT 28 DEC 77 OWN RETURNED

The damage to the Capri was not extensive but it was removed from the scene by the police and not returned for a few days. Meanwhile a hire car from Godfrey Davis was obtained for two weeks over the Christmas holidays.

¹In 1967 the Breathalyser Act was given Royal assent. Transport Minister Barbara Castle introduced the breathalyser as a way of testing a person's BAC (Blood Alcohol) level at the roadside.

28 MAR 78 – DUNCAN’S WE WALES

Duncan Williams (20th April 1955) was Jean’s sister Marie’s eldest son and was marrying Rachel Margaret Helen Owens (21st June 1955) in Wales at St Mary's Catholic Pro-Cathedral², Wrexham. With

Margaret and James in the back of the recently repaired Capri, whose sportiness and capability was somewhat greater than Frank’s driving ability, the family set off for Chester where Rachel’s parents lived. With Jean’s foot hard down on an imaginary brake pedal on the passenger side, they covered the 250 miles in just under four hours (including a short comfort break), the family arrived and booked into their accommodation prior to the festivities.

19 MAY 78 - £100 18MTS

As a result of the accident in December of the previous year (and after repairing the roof of the Capri a number of times) Frank was fined and banned from driving for eighteen months. For someone who used their car for business on a daily basis and

who loved driving, anywhere anytime, this was a severe blow. The effect on the family was minimal but Frank had to get back and forward to Kirkcaldy on a daily basis, which was not easy. An eighteen month ban for just a driving accident was unusual at that time but with the addition of alcohol, the judge took a harsher view.

23 MAY 78 – SOLD CAPRI £1956K SOLD

After driving the Capri for just two years it was gone, and at half its purchase price too. To travel to Kirkcaldy using a bus followed by the train took the best part of two hours so Frank approached his manager about working closer to home.

6 JUN 78 – TFR TO ACCOUNTS BONNINGTON ROAD

Fortunately, there was a position available but Frank still needed to get a bus to work, which he detested. Still, Jean was glad he had retained his job.

²A pro-cathedral is a parish church that is temporarily serving as the cathedral or co-cathedral of a diocese or has the same function in a Catholic missionary jurisdiction that is not yet entitled to a proper cathedral, such as an apostolic prefecture or apostolic administration. Originally the Cathedral Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, Wrexham, St Mary’s was a Roman Catholic parish church. It was built in 1857 to replace a chapel in King Street.

Chapter Eleven – The end of an era

4 SEP 78 – REDUNDANT (11 YEARS TO THE DAY)

Alas all good things must come to an end. At forty-eight Frank was far from the scrapheap but jobs with his skills and experience did not grow on trees. In one way the couple were lucky as the family were gradually flying the nest: Young Frank was married and wife Jenny had given birth to Frank and Jean's second grandchild, Sarah Jane (6th May 1978) (Brother Peter and his wife Rose had previously had a boy, Andrew (12th August 1976), Frank was still with 41 Commando in Deal but was now part of their Surveillance Troop. Peter along with wife Rose (Nee Rose Irene Freeman 11th February 1957) and two-year-old Andrew worked, after a short spell with British Rail as a Track Worker, had begun a management apprenticeship with the Co-operative. David had left home for a flat come bedsit in Portobello and was starting a career as an Apprentice Mechanical Engineer with the National Coal Board. Margaret, now thirteen, was at Holyrood High School and youngest James about to go there.

The family had lived in Bailie Path as long as he had worked at Granada (Robinson Rentals) and the location suited them all. They had made many friends and were settled so chose to remain there whilst Frank looked for new work.

5 SEP 78 – SIGNED ON BUREO

20 JAN 79 – HARRY SCOTT WARRISTON 1979

A funeral and cremation centre visit for another old friend

24 JAN 79 – LEITH NAUTICAL COLLEGE WARDEN

After three months of looking, and cursing the time he had wasted standing at the Bureo, he had a job again. The college had been operating as such since 1903 but moved to the newly built Milton Road campus only months before and was just a mile from home. Formerly a Navigation school it was created a college in 1903 with classes in Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture, wireless telegraphy, classes to fishermen, deck boy's courses and catering, radar and electronics. The boys' courses were taught on Training Ship Dolphin, a former war ship that was located in Leith dock. Frank's role in trying to keep sixteen-to-twenty-year-olds in check was never fully explained but suited his ex-military mind perfectly.

14 FEB 79 – MOVED CARAVAN TO DARNHALL FARM

19 MAR 79 – EASTERN GEN HOSP DR KELLET LIVER ENLARGED STOP DRINKING

A salutary lesson for Frank. His drink-drive escapade and any learning from it had gone unheeded and whilst the walk's to and from the pub on an evening were good for his never perfect health, even two or three pints with the odd 'chaser' (a normal night) were killing him. The message from Doctor Kellet was unequivocal and I can't remember him drinking (much) after that.

5 JUNE 79 – XRAY STOMACH AND LIVER

12 JUNE 79 – PAINTED CARAVAN

27 JUNE 79 – UNCLE WILLIE DIED

Willie Gearty (18th March 1900 – 27th June 1979) was a short man when compared to the six-foot-tall Connelly clan and was also a good deal shorter than his wife Alice (Nee McCann c. 1900 – 21st September 1965), Franks Great Aunt, who had died fourteen years previously.

27 JUNE 79 - GEORGE BISSETT CREMATED DIED 25TH JUNE 79

12 AUG 79 – FRANK TFR TO DEAL

The rented house that son Frank and his family occupied was being returned to the owner and so the family was moving slightly closer to his work. Although they had few of their own possessions, Frank had offered to drive down to help the young couple flit but Jean's common sense prevailed and they chose to drive the 500 miles for a holiday after the family had settled.

3 SEP 79 – MRS SINCLAIR FUNERAL JOPPA 6 SEP 79

11 SEP 79 – SILVER ANNIV TEA HELEN TONY FROM NEW ZEALAND

Celebrating twenty-five years of marriage was something to enjoy and tea with Aunt Helen and husband Tony, visiting from New Zealand, was splendid. The couple lived in the beautiful city of New Plymouth in the Taranaki region on the north island of New Zealand with daughter Anne Marie (17th December 1957) and son Michael (15th October 1959)

18 SEP 79 – XRAY CLEAN UNTIL 1983

The X-ray was to check in particular Frank's liver which had been noted as 'enlarged' three months before so having stopped drinking as much, the news that he did not need another for three years was excellent.

28 SEP 79 – AUNT NANA MOVED TO GRANT ROAD BLAIRGOWRIE

Now in her seventieth year, Frank's aunt was moving from a large two store flat on the edge of Rattray & Blairgowrie to a much smaller, pensioner style house, which suited her and her dog and cat well. Frank had helped clear the old house and various artefacts from her years of living abroad, were noted down and entered into her will as bequests to the family.

21 OCT 79 – BOOKCASE BOUGHT £20

19 NOV 79 – LICENCE BACK

Two celebrations in a month were great news and Frank was delighted to get his licence back. Friends had rallied round for the past eighteen months to ensure he had a lift to go wherever he wanted and rarely, if ever, used the available public transport.



Frank visiting his Aunt Nana (Anne) – Private Collection

27 SEP 79 – BOUGH 4 TWINTUBS TUMBLE AIR DRYERS LNC

The LNC refers to Leith Nautical College so I suspect they were being bought by and for the college.

4 DEC 79 – INDASCOPE ¹ [Endascope]NOTH GEN HOSP

Even fifteen years after his stomach operation he continued to have problems. The endoscope was not a new invention but the first time Frank had the procedure. Not comfortable but he'd try anything to get to the root cause.

7 DEC 79 – DANCE L.N.C

12 DEC 79 – BOUGHT TOYOTA COROLLA 2000 £2400

¹ Kussmaul is generally credited with the first gastroscopy in 1868. Although unrecognised at the time, the illumination problem was solved around 1878 by Thomas Edison, but 25 years elapsed before the incandescent lamp was incorporated into endoscopes.

12 DEC 79 – EXCESS INSURANCE GROUP

It was marvellous to be driving again but the insurance (after being banned) was ridiculous, and Frank told them so. The Toyota was considered a small family car but the rear wheel drive and 1300cc engine nonetheless gave it a 'sporty' feel, which Frank loved.

At this stage in writing and for no other reason than Frank had just celebrated his Fiftieth birthday , it's time to take stock.

In February of 1980 Frank and Jean had been living in their house at Bailie Path for nearly thirteen years and had now bought it. Son Frank was living in Deal, Kent with wife Jenny and daughter Sarah Jane; Peter was back living at home after separating from wife Rose and their son Andrew; David was engaged in Nursing but working part time at Cinderella's Nightclub and playing keyboards with the 'Tactyx'; Margaret was heading towards exams at school and was also considering a career in nursing and James, the youngest at thirteen, was at Holyrood High School and enjoying the Scouts. Frank was driving again after his ban and was enjoying his new job at the Leith Nautical College and Jean enjoyed her own nursing experience. Both Frank's and Jean's parents lived nearby and were in reasonable health and friends and family regularly dropped into the house to say hello and life was generally good. In the wider world the XIII Winter Olympic games opened in Lake Placid, New York and would be dominated by the Soviet and German teams; an oil tanker explosion and subsequent spillage of Greece resulted in thirty seven million gallon spillage; France was testing atomic bombs on Mururoa atoll; Margaret Thatcher was the British Prime Minister; Kenny Rogers's singing 'coward of the county' reached number two in the charts but was being outsung in the USA by Queen and their 'Crazy little thing called love'; In America, a B movie actor, Ronald Reagan, was challenging to be the next president of the United States, where anything is possible.....

28 MAR 80 – FRANK JENNY LEAVE

7 APRIL 80 – DAVID THORBURN KILLED ON MOTORBIKE

11 APR 80 – DAVID THORBURN FUNERAL 10:30

Davie Thorburn had been a friend for forty odd years and was a regular visitor to the house. He would be missed by Frank, Jean and friends alike.

21 JULY 80 – HALLS TO EXMOUTH

Although Frank, Jenny and toddler Sarah had been up to Edinburgh to visit just four months previously, a holiday in sunny Exmouth was a must and so Jean, with Frank's help, packed the car for the five-hundred-mile drive. After some debate Frank agreed not to drive the whole way without stopping for which daughter Margaret and son James would be forever grateful. On arrival they all wanted to see as much of the family as possible but as Frank was working away, their time was devoted to granddaughter Sarah and seeing the sites.



*Frank and Frank outside 22
Sturges Road, Exmouth –
Private Collection*

8 AUG 80 – FRANK BACK

3 OCT 80 – URSLAA DIED R.I.E.

Mary Ursula Connor (Urslaa 21st Oct 1924) was the daughter of Bernard's sister Nellie (Helen Connelly 13th January 1895 – 15th May 1971) and a cousin of Frank. At fifty-five years old she still had many years ahead of her but died young in Edinburgh where she lived with husband of twenty four years Raymond Athole Mackenzie. Her death was registered in the George Square ¹ district of Edinburgh.

7 OCT 80 – FUNERAL 10AM ST JOHNS

¹ George Square is a city square and registration district in Edinburgh, Scotland. It is in the south of the city centre, adjacent to the Meadows. It was laid out in 1766 outside the overcrowded Old Town, and was a popular residential area for Edinburgh's better-off citizens. In the 1960s much of the square was redeveloped by the University of Edinburgh, despite the protests of the Cockburn Association and the Georgian Group of Edinburgh. Most but not all buildings on the square now belong to the university

Chapter Twelve – Time stands still

3 NOV 80 – MUM DIED IN HOUSE 4AM

Julia Murphy was born at the turn of the twentieth century in 34 Dalhousie Cottages, Cockpen, a parish in Midlothian some 7 miles south east of Edinburgh. The eldest of seven children born to Michael Murphy, who himself was from Cockpen and Annie McCann, originally from Sheffield. After schooling she began a career in domestic service but was also a ladies companion before meeting and then



*Bernard & Julia Connelly
(standing) with brother
Alexander & wife Josephine
1925 – Private Collection*

marrying Bernard in September 1925 at the family church, St John's, Portobello. Devoted to her family and her community she was a volunteer at Lambs House in Edinburgh, an old folk's home.

8 NOV 80 – MUMS FUNERAL 10AM ST JOHNS

Julia's service was conducted in the family church of St John's, the Roman Catholic church she had attended all her life. Her son and Frank's brother Tom was able to officiate although burying your mother is difficult without conducting the ceremony as well. Julia is buried in the same graveyard and not far from her mother and father, Mount Vernon cemetery in Edinburgh.



Michael and Annie Murphy gravestone



Julia Murphy gravestone

Mount Vernon cemetery – Private Collection

2 DEC 80 – BOUGHT HOUSE

Buying a house is a massive investment but Frank was now fifty and Jean almost fifty-two. Late in life to be taking on such a huge debt but the Council house at 8 Bailie Path was part of the Governments manifesto pledge as part of their right-to-buy ¹ scheme. The mortgage would have been large even with the Government discount and with interest rates at 14%, monthly payments were a significant part of Frank and Jean's wages.

22 JAN 81 – BOUGHT NEW CARPET £82 EXTRA PX

A new carpet and with some skilful negotiating, paid with a part exchange for the old one!

25 APR 81 – BOBY CARR DIED

Robert Swan Carr, 'Bobby' to kith and kin, was a piano player, much in demand for sing-songs. One of Frank's longest standing friends he had the benefit of living 'just round the corner' and was in the house regularly. His piano playing was legendary as was the cigarette that RARELY left his lips, only occasionally venturing to the piano edge where it regularly burnt the varnish off. He was fifty-nine.

¹ The Right to Buy (RTB), prominent in the Conservative manifesto of 1979, was introduced by the Housing Tenants Rights etc. [Scotland] Act 1980 and established a legal right for almost all secure tenants of three years' standing and applied to almost all properties where the landlord was a council. Sale price was a discounted market valuation taking account of years of tenancy in any relevant dwelling: starting at 33% (for three years), increased by 1% for each additional year, up to a maximum of 50%. In addition there was a cash maximum (initially £50,000) that could not be exceeded whatever the years of tenancy.

28 APR 81 – BOBYS FUNERAL 11.30 MILTON ROAD

20 MAY 81 – MRS AITKEN DIED

Alec, her son, was a friend of Frank's and long-suffering decorator of Bailie Path whilst Mrs Aitken was one of the women in Frank's life whose table he was always welcome at.

16 JUN 81 – AUNT MILLIE DIED

Millie (surname unknown) was married to Michael Munley, brother of Anthony (Tony) Munley who in turn was married to Helen Murphy, Frank's mother's sister!

19 JUN 81 – FUNERAL 10AM MILTON ROAD

22 SEP 81 – JEAN CITY HOSPITAL

Jean had been to her Doctor's and consequently referred to specialists for clarification and treatment after complaining of abdominal pains.

27 SEP 81 – JEAN OUT OF HOSPITAL

The summer months had been long for Jean who finding discomfort with the warm weather had sat indoors most of the time. The time was made more difficult with son Peter's divorce finalising so access to their five-year old grandson Andrew was also limited. Daughter Margaret was sixteen and son James fourteen so could almost look after themselves but Frank persevered and cooked evening meals.

28 SEP 81 – XRAY EGH DR KELLET

17 NOV 81 – WEST GEN HOSP SCAN LIVER

23 NOV 81 – EAST GEN HOSP SCAN LIVER

30 NOV 81 – DR KELLET CLEAR ?

The question mark is a puzzle. After being told in March 1979 that his liver was badly enlarged it suggests that he was hopeful after seeing Kellet that he would be given the all clear, although it's not confirmed at all that he had given up alcohol completely.

8 DEC 81 – BOUGHT NEW LANCIA 2000 PSH16S £1150 PX £850

Another new car and after just two years. He did love his Corolla and this Lancia never really featured as importantly to him as previous cars.

19 JAN 82 – J SPOTT SICK FLU BACK 29-1-82

No one we knew so I suspect Frank was keeping notes in his diary about his staff at the college.

3 FEB 82 – DENTIST 11/2 12/2 25/2 £21 TOP SET

Never an apple a day man meant at a day-off fifty-two Frank was having the remains of his top teeth removed in favour of a set of dentures. He had never been keen on the dentist and thought out loud on occasion that his teeth would outlast him.

15 FEB 82 – NEWTONGRANGE GLASSES £25-0-0

Not just the teeth then but the eyesight also. These things start to happen to a body eventually. Favoured for reading and peering over at the television, Frank carried a pair wherever he went. Such a simple change but he took great comfort in being able to read smaller print than previously and even added the occasional book to his normal newspaper library.

23 FEB 82 – INSPECTORS 10:30 LNC

Inspections of schools and colleges was the norm and as Frank and the team of wardens was effectively 'front-of-house', a good impression was essential. Frank's love of regimentation meant, albeit briefly, he, and the team, were the centre of attention. These days were tiresome and the minutiae of logistics and preparedness readied for the inspectors, even when simple, none the less stressful. There is nothing worse when an important individual or team arrives to do business with the college but finds they cannot park or access the building at the very beginning of their tour.

26 FEB 82 – MR HUGHES DIED TERRY'S DAD FUNERAL 28/2

Owen Hughes was born in Blackhill, Consett, County Durham on 6th January 1906 and had been a miner before winning a scholarship to Oxford whereafter he became a Civil Servant. Known as 'Tony' to family and friends, his two children with wife Gwendolene were Theresa (Terrie), married to Frank's brother Brian in 1965 and Frances.

15 MAR 82 – TERRY BRIAN HERE TWO DAYS

16 MAR 82 – CAR WINDOW REPAIR £27.80

17 MAR 82 – JEAN C/ UP CITY 1:45

Jean's stomach was very swollen and painful and as yet and after this check-up, the cause was undiagnosed.

18 MAR 82 – JEAN INTO CITY WARD 5P

19 MAR 82 – JEAN FLUID OF STOMACH

The build-up of fluid was pressing on organs and nerves alike and was very painful and meant something as simple as sitting down became a deliberate, time consuming and agonising task.

27 MAR 82 – TRICIA INTO CITY

TRICIA or PATRICIA BIRCH was Franks nephew Kenny's wife. The couple had three children, Adam, Paula and Sandra and lived to the west of the city, at Kirknewton.

30 MAR 82 – JEAN DISCHARGED

After twelve days Jean was discharged from the City Hospital and whilst in less pain than when she went in, the cause and subsequent diagnosis of ovarian cancer was a shock to them both. At just fifty-four she was still a relatively young woman. The couple decided not to tell their children until a decision on chemotherapy was assessed.

24 APRIL 82 – PICK UP JENNY KINLOSS

On the 1st of April son Frank, who was now a Royal Marines Sergeant was recalled from leave to his unit for what was to become the Falklands War. His wife Jenny with children Sarah (four) and Lisa (one) had travelled to be with friends in Kinloss before breaking their journey to her own parents by stopping over with Frank and Jean. By the 24th the small group of 'M' or Mike Company of 42 Commando where Frank and 100 others served were secretly enroute for the Ascension Islands stop-off point before sailing south to the soon to be ice locked island of South Georgia. It was hoped an assault on the Argentine base, displaying the finest military professionalism and British determination, might persuade the Argentine Army occupying South Georgia and the Falkland Islands to return home without loss of life or bloodshed.

6 MAY 82 – GRANNY HORSBURGH DEAD 1:15 MORTON HALL

Nephew Kenny's wife Tricia Horsburgh had lost a beloved Granny.

10 MAY 82 – LETTER FROM PETE MC JOJO £16.74

Pete McGregor had been one of Frank's friends since childhood but now lived in New York where he was an X-ray technician. His occasional trips to Scotland were almost festive with he and Frank touring the old haunts and catching up with old pals.

11 MAY 82 – GRANNY BUCHANAN EYE TEST

At Eighty-Four, Jean's mother was unable to get out and about on her own but still cooked for herself and was in reasonable health. Living only a few hundred yards from Frank and Jean, Jean popped down most days to see 'mammy' and drop off messages.

12 MAY 82 – JEAN IN CITY – OUT 15TH IN 20TH OUT 25TH

Intense Chemotherapy was necessary but there are no details of the specific treatment. Jean was ill and Frank visited at every opportunity. The prognosis was not good.

Chemotherapy is an aggressive form of chemical drug therapy meant to destroy rapidly growing cells in the body. It's usually used to treat cancer, as cancer cells grow and divide faster than other cells. There

are a number of side effects including; feeling tired, sickness, hair loss, increased risk of infection, sore mouth, dry sore skin, diarrhoea and/or constipation. There are no guarantees it will be effective 100% of the time.

25 MAY 82 – BOB TULLOCH HOSP CITY WARD 5

28 MAY 82 – JEAN IN OUT 29TH

31 MAY 82 – BOB TULLOCH DIED

2 JUNE 82 – JEAN IN CITY OUT 5 JUNE

4 JUNE 82 – BOB TULLOCH FUNERAL 11AM

15 JUNE 82 – NEW FRIDGE £199 LESS £30 = £166

A discount was always asked for and debated, with Frank usually coming out on top.

16 JUNE 82 – JEAN HOSPITAL

Attendance at the City Hospital was becoming almost a daily occurrence at this point and Jean was getting very weak. Helped, and sometimes carried to the car for the short journey she tired easily.

21 JUNE 82 – GEORGE ROSS FUNERAL 11AM WARRISTON

23 JUNE 82 – JEAN HOME

The effects of her illness were obvious and Jean was spending more and more time in hospital. When she was at home, Margaret, now just 17, cared for her now very poorly mum on a daily basis. On more than one occasion she had hurt her back when lifting Jean out of bed but persevered.

26 JUNE 82 – HOLS TO KENT

The journey was surprising at this time given Jean's illness but she was a determined woman. The ten-hour drive to Deal in Kent to see young Frank's wife Jenny and the children; toddler Sarah (four) and baby Lisa (eleven months), who had returned from their own holiday with Jenny's parents in Formby, Lancashire. Son Frank, who had been based in South Georgia as part of the Falklands war, the surrender for which had been signed just two weeks previously was enroute back to South Georgia after travelling to Southern Thule in the South Sandwich Islands where the last surrender of Argentinians had taken place a few days before.

Jean's illness was now known to be terminal and with young Frank being so far away, with the prospect of being iced in for a southern hemisphere winter, she wished she could speak to him. A telephone call was placed and with the help of the Royal Navy and a satellite, Jean was able to speak to him on the ship although not once did she mention her illness.

“Captain Nunn asked to see me and said he had some bad news. He had known for some weeks but thought that the knowledge of mum's illness and the prognosis might be difficult for me to take during the ongoing war so had kept it from me. His own brother Richard, a gazelle pilot whom I knew, had died on the Falkland Islands and it had hit him hard emotionally he thought telling me would have a similar effect. The ships skipper said a phone-call was being arranged and I could attend the radio shack and speak to mum. It was a poor line with lots of call delay but at least I could say hello. Saying goodbye was the hardest part”.

Frank Connelly 1982

1 JULY 82 – NEW WATER TANK £60 TOTAL £96.72

2 JULY 82 – TOMS 20TH YEAR OF ORDINATION 2.7.62

17 JULY 82 – FRANK HOME SOUTH GEORGIA



8 Bailie Path decorated for son Frank returning from the Falklands – Private Collection

Frank, Jenny and the girls made the journey from Deal to Edinburgh almost as soon as he got back from South Georgia. The eight-thousand-mile journey (for Frank) via the Ascension Islands and using a RoRo ferry, military jet, train and car took almost two weeks but Jean clung on determinedly to see her eldest son, and see him she did;

23 JULY 82 – GRANNYS BIRTHDAY 85 YEARS

Meg Buchanan had outlived two of her own children, Margaret and Isa, and had nine grandchildren and seven great – grandchildren. She had lived through two world wars and survived her husband Duncan of fifty-two years. She enjoyed her simple life and with help, was still able to get out and about.



Front row: Jean, her mum Margaret, Sister Marie and daughter Meg - Rear: Frank, Son David with girlfriend, Young Frank, Jenny and baby Lisa – Private Collection

29 JULY 82 – DADS BIRTHDAY 82 YEARS

Frank's father Bernard Connelly had also lived through two world wars and outlived his wife Julia of fifty-five years, who died in November 1980, and his son Michael who had died in a tragic accident eleven years before. He had seven surviving children and eighteen grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. He had worked until, at the pensionable age of sixty-five, he had retired from his position as a Manager with the Co-operative and settled into voluntary work with the church and its various associations.

27 AUG 82 – BACK TO WORK HOLLS WHAT HOLLS ???

27 AUG 82 – MR BROWNS PRESENTATION 4PM RECORDER

29 AUG 82 – JEAN DIED 10:15PM IN THE HOUSE IN MY ARMS

There can be nothing so difficult as watching a loved one die. Jean had suffered badly and at fifty-three had still been a young woman. Frank was devastated as were the rest of the family. Jean had enjoyed her life, full of smiles and laughter and will be remembered and missed by everyone who knew her. After meeting in 1951 the couple had overcome many hardships before settling into a reasonably comfortable life where their family and friends were constant reminders of the happiness they enjoyed. With Frank's career path I'm sure there were more than a few times where frustration caused tears but any crying she did was hidden from view. Frank would miss Jean terribly.



Marie, Isa, Jean and Margaret April 1936 – Private Collection

[Although the sisters appear in the same style of uniform in the photograph above, Isa and Jean were said to have attend Balgreen Primary but there is evidence indicating that Marie also attended Lorne Street Primary and Margaret Tollcross, perhaps caused but not directly related to their home location at the time.]

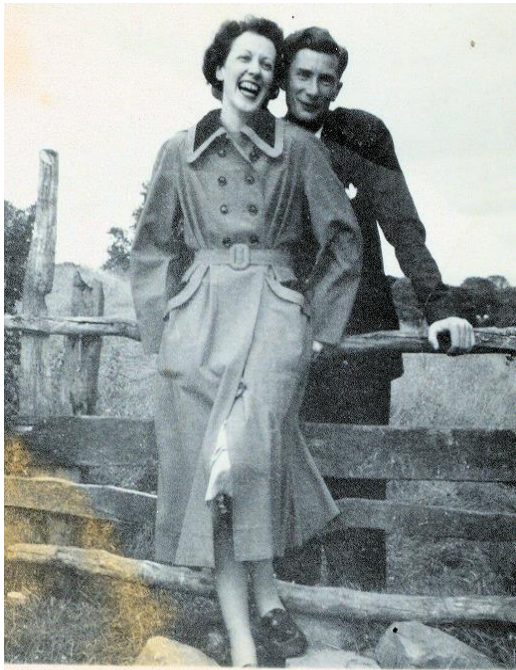
1 SEP 82 – JEANS FUNERAL 10AM ST JOHNS 11AM S/FIELD CREMATORIUM

Frank's brother Tom officiated at the mass celebrating Jeans short but full life at St John's RC church where she had prayed since her baptism into the catholic church in 1953. The gathered family and friends mourned her passing before moving to the Seafeld crematorium where her body was returned to ashes. A small plaque noting her passing was placed alongside Frank's mother's gravestone in the Mount Vernon cemetery in Edinburgh.

Jane Taylor Connelly 14th December 1928 - 25th March 1992

Born to Duncan and Meg Buchanan in Downfield Place in Edinburgh, Jane Taylor Connelly (Nee Buchanan) known to everyone as Jean, had attended Ballgreen Primary School before her Secondary education but the records, although showing her sisters attending James Gillespies in Edinburgh, show no record of her own attendance.

After Secondary school she worked in an office for a few years until she and Frank met and married, nurtured a loving family and developed a home where they and their five children had grown. Frank had gone through numerous jobs and almost as many cars whilst Jean had gardened and painted and decorated the homes they shared and brought up their five children. She always had time for others and when not visiting her own parents and in-laws would visit other friends and family. She had a heart of gold and brought up her children to respect and help others, which they all did. As soon as circumstances allowed, she returned to work but typically found most joy when working as a nursing auxiliary. She hurried everywhere as if there was never enough time in the day; carried bags of 'messages' (shopping) from shops all over the town (fish from Portobello, biscuits from the Co-op in Bread Street, bread from Piershill) to her house and to her beloved 'mammy's' house; she washed, cleaned, ironed, painted, wallpapered, shouted, scolded, laughed, sang, whistled (she liked a tune), comforted and encouraged. She lived to see some grandchildren, who she loved like there was no tomorrow. She survived two sisters and her father. RIP



*Jean and Frank on Honeymoon in
Wales 1953 – Private Collection*

5 SEP 82 – FRANK PAINTS STAIR

8 SEP 82 – NURSES FROM EASTERN HOSP £54 MR MOSELY £5

The donation from the Easter General Hospital was from nursing staff Jean had worked with and befriended. Mr Mosely was a shop owner in Portobello and where Betty, Frank & Jean's friend worked.

Chapter Thirteen – Starting over

23 SEP 82 – NEW CAR NEW FORD POPLAR PLUS 1100 GSG 437X £3.450 PX £1.100 LANCIA PHS 165

29 SEP 82 – ERIC ROBB PHONED FROM SOUTH AFRICA

After losing his job eight years before, Eric, one of Frank's many friends, had emigrated. Enjoying the sunny African climate, he had suggested that Frank think about joining him but Frank's heart and life were in Scotland. They remained great friends.

27 SEP 82 – MARGARET STARTED WORKING AT NURSING HOME CHALMERS CRESCENT

Although this was paid employment Margaret as yet had only the experience of nursing Jean before she died, so this was a real challenge. Frank wholeheartedly supported Margaret in this new role but must have wondered where his family were all disappearing to.

5 OCT 82 – MARIE AT STATION

After Jean died, Marie was the only surviving daughter of Frank's in-law's, Duncan and Meg. Living in Wrexham meant it was a considerable distance to journey to Edinburgh and as she didn't drive, the train was most efficient. Both her son's, Duncan and Owen, now had families of their own and lived even further from Edinburgh so the journey was made alone. She often stayed with friends in Edinburgh as there was generally little room at her mum's pensioner flat or with Frank.

6 OCT 82 - BALL OF FORD LAIDLAW £2.430

Ford Laidlaw's was a car sales & repair garage on Baileyfield Road. This final and complete payment was for the Ford Poplar bought just a month before and 'Ball' perhaps the contact at the garage. [Laidlaw's garage at Baileyfield would continue to trade at the site until 2021]

7 OCT 82 – JAMES NEW COAT £20

Jean had probably taken care of this sort of thing when she was alive but left to his own devices and rather than taking James to the shops, cash more likely changed hands and the fifteen-year-old would have gone shopping on his own.

11 OCT 82 – HOT TANK REPAIR

Trivia but although just a month since Jean had died, life did not stop whilst Frank mourned her.

11 OCT 82 – JAMES WEEK WORK – GAYFIELD CONSTRUCTION

A week off school trying out a job you may take up sounded good and with images of designing skyscrapers fresh in his mind, the reality of helping to make sash windows likely brought James back to earth with a bump.

20 OCT 82 - £250 TO ABBY LIFE ASSURANCE PENSION RET/MENT TAX R.3D 1 £75

Whilst it is possible that a pension tax was levied, the two amounts seem at odds with one another and at fifty-two, Frank was too young to be receiving a pension (except military) and was also still working.

22 OCT 82 – NEW BLINKER

A new indicator for the car was needed. Sometimes it worked... sometimes it...

4 NOV 82 - PAINTER KITCHEN £58 STAIR ROOF £52 O/S WINDOW DOOR £50

Alex Aitken, Frank's long-standing decorator and sometimes drinking friend was called in to spruce up the house. There was no mention of painting out the dark multi-coloured circles that daughter Margaret and her friend Alison had painted on the single bedroom wall and which would probably be seen long after the house was demolished

6 NOV 82 – TONY HEART ATTACK NEW ZEALAND

At seventy, Tony Munley, husband to Frank's Aunt, had been married to Helen Murphy for a week shy of thirty years. He had been a physical training instructor and this fitness served him well at this time so his hospital stay was a short one.

19 NOV 82 – MEG FIN NURSING HOME

After less than two months working in the home at Chalmers Crescent in Edinburgh, daughter Margaret finished there and left to start a new career, in nursing.

22 NOV 82 – MEG STARTS EDINBURGH HOSPITAL

At seventeen, Margaret had opted to train as a nurse only to find on one of her first days she was sitting alongside brother David who had also opted for this career.



*Margaret and David Nurses
Training School April 1984*

23 NOV 82 – GEORGE MARTIN NOTICE IN TO QUIT JOB

24 NOV 82 – MEG INTERVIEW CARLTON TERRACE

6 DEC 82 – DR MARTIN BOOTS JIM £21.95

9 DEC 82 – GEORGE MARTIN LEFT COLLEGE NIGHT OUT MILTON HOUSE

I suspect that whilst there may have been no love lost between Frank and George Martin, GM leaving and the night out are coincidental and purely Christmas driven.

17 NOV 82 – ALEX AITKEN DIED

Only weeks after his friend Alex had been to the house to decorate, his father, also known as Alex was dead aged seventy-four. Frank did not show much emotion but he knew all his friend's parents and would have lifted a small whisky in his memory.

18 DEC 82 – OFF WORK COLD & XMAS HOLLIS

22 DEC 82 – ALEX AITKEN FUNERAL 3PM

23 DEC 82 – DINNER DAD PM.D.J. SELF

Frank's father Bernard, after whom he was named, was eighty now and had been on his own since his wife and Frank's mum Julia had died two years previously. Whilst the PM in the entry is self-explanatory, the initial D and J are less so. The only family members with those initials are Frank's son's David and James.

6 1 83 - SHIRTS PANTS SOCKS JIM £16.24

Another style of date entry maybe indicating that change in this new year was welcomed. Frank had always kept records of large transactions e.g. cars, but in registering sock, boots, coats etc. his attention to money is interesting and perhaps shows the level of detail he did not need to know when Jean was alive.

10 1 83 – FRANK MOVED HOUSE TO IVYBRIDGE

Eldest son Frank, wife Jenny and the two girls, Sarah and Lisa had bought their first house at 26 Torre Close, Ivybridge in Devon. Frank was still serving in 42 Commando Royal Marines where he was a Troop Sergeant. The families first house had three bedrooms, a garden and a garage to the rear and was located on the periphery of the small commuter town. The house cost £21,995.

17 1 83 – DOCTOR EXAMINED STOMACH

21 1 83 – STOMACH CLEAR

25 1 83 – AUNT NANA BIRTHDAY PRES (LATE) HAS FLU

Frank regularly drove the seventy miles to see his aunt, usually with at least one of his sons or daughters in tow. The drive was always broken by a stop at a shop to buy roles, sliced meat and cake or biscuits to ensure the health was maintained after the event, prone as aunt Nana was to scraping mould of jam or bread or using same to make a trifle, a trait not lost on Franks daughter Margaret who recalls;

“We arrived and said our hello's and soon after had some lovely vegetable (safe-to-eat) soup followed by trifle. Imagine my surprise on quizing Aunt Nana regarding the texture of the sponge only to be told she had run out of cake so used brown bread instead...”

Aunt Nana was faultlessly courteous and never opened presents whilst she had visitors, preferring to open them in solitude perhaps when she needed to be reminded that she was not alone in life but would then put pen to paper or card and write thankyou notes.

9 2 83 – JIM NEW SLACKS £11.95

The bill was adding up... Interesting though that Frank used the term 'slacks' instead of trousers when I know he used the latter generally. He may have considered the term stylish when buying trousers for almost sixteen-year-old Jim, whose correct title of 'James' had long been abbreviated or replaced. The rest of his children had also suffered and; Frank became 'Frankie boy', David 'Dave', Peter 'Pedro' and Margaret 'Meg'.

15 FEB 83 – DAVID INTERVIEW JOB GREECE BRIGHTON

Frank dropped David off at Waverly Station for the trip to London overnight then onwards to Brighton for an interview with Young World, who supplied couriers for holiday companies. When David's friends had explained the role, it had sounded exotic but after the interview he decided that nursing had better prospects.

25 FEB 83 – LEO IN WARD 20 KNOCKED DOWN BY CAR

Leo at fifty-two was Frank's younger brother by just two years had been badly injured in the accident and was admitted to hospital.

26 FEB 83 – INSURANCE PAY OUT £92.81 JAMES

Although the family rarely had two pennies to rub together when the children were small, they had none-the-less taken out insurance policies not long after each birth, perhaps as a method of saving for a rainy day.

29 MAR 83 – EASTER HOL'S

24 APR 83 – MARGARET STARTS TRAINING NURSE

20 MAY 83 – STOPPED MEALS @ COLLEGE

The meals were relatively cheap at the Jewel and Esk Valley College ranging from 30 pence for breakfast to 79 pence for dinner but Frank frequently debated this and regularly wrote to his union representative at the National Union Of Public Employees or NUPE outlining that attendance at meals to monitor student behaviour was part of his role and therefore mandatory and as such meal payments should be rescinded. It would eventually take eight years before the dispute was settled and meal payments returned to the wardens. Frank knew how to persevere.

30 MAY 83 – NEW CAR NEW TOYOTA ESTATE £5,285 PX POPLAR £2,750 B £2,535

Frank did love his cars so although the Poplar was only eight months old, a change was made. An estate was an unusual choice as he didn't really need the space. Gone too were the days when he filled the back of his van with heavy 'tube' style television repossessed from HP non payers, which he diligently had the boys empty every night.

1 JUNE 83 – TEST CAR TO GLASGOW SP 110 MPH

Frank had recovered his license some three years previously but the M8 was a good road which he had driven enumerable times so he threw caution to the wind to test out his new car.

9 JUNE 83 – MRS FERGUSSON DIED RIE

Frank's next door neighbour at Bailie Path had been the Fergusson's, Bill and Agnes. Bill had worked for Crawford's the bakers and took young Frank along as a Saturday boy when delivering wedding stock. Their two son's, Ronnie and Graeme had both been interested in motorbikes and Ronnie had also been a speedway rider before emigrating to South Africa some years before. They, at number 9, and the King's at number 7 had been great friends to Frank and Jean and the family. Why he never referred to her by her first name is a sign of respect Frank had for the family.

11 JUNE 83 “ “ CREMATED 11AM SEAFIELD

11 JUNE 83 - £14.50 INSURANCE TROUSERS BETTY SELF

One of the mysteries of abbreviated text...

28 JUNE 83 – MRS HALLIDAY FUNERAL 11PM PIERSHILL

The Halliday's lived near the family in Northfield. The exact number of children they had is unclear but Margaret Halliday was in young Frank's primary school class and there was certainly an older sibling. In Northfield Drive their house was the first one towards the Mountcastle area which had a long front garden. I don't remember Frank or Jean being friends with them and to my knowledge they never visited the house but attendance at the funeral meant there was a good chance Frank would meet other old friends and neighbours. In 1983 people still bought the local evening paper to read, amongst other things, the obituaries.

4 JULY 83 – MRS MOSLEY HOSPITAL

16 JULY 83 – VISITED JENNY HARRISON EAST LINTON

26 JULY 83 – MRS MOSLEY DIED

I have a distant memory of an old family friend of Frank's parents, Bernard and Julia, named Mosely, but the date is also close to that of Gertrude Mawdsley, a similar sounding name, who was his eldest son's mother-in-law. She died on 26 June 1983 in Formby, Lancashire.

27 JULY 83 – BOUGHT 3 PIECE SUITE FROM JEAN & ERIC £150

29 JULY 83 – MEETING MISS JOHNSTON 11AM

29 JULY 83 – DADS BIRTHDAY

30 JULY 83 – MRS MOSELY FUNERAL SOUTHPORT

Gertrude Mawdsley was born Gertrude Whitfield in Lancashire on 5th December 1910. She married Herbert Mawdsley a painter and decorator circa 1934 and the couple had five children including Jennifer who was Frank's daughter-in-law. The family had lived in Formby since the early 1930's

4 AUG 83 – MEETING WITH MZ ROBERTSON

The abbreviated and sometime cryptic references to titled characters suggest formal meeting at the college. Never one to suffer fools, Frank regularly 'made his case' to authority figures, usually on behalf of others although on this occasion the reason has been lost to time.

15 AUG 83 – AUNT NANA VISIT

At seventy-four, Anne Murphy was still fit and active. No more bicycle riding but regular walks with her current dog provided decent daily exercise. Her driving ability was deteriorating by now and the odd knock and scrape of her car became a discussion topic during these visits, as did the mechanical capability of the machines and the regular trips to the garage to repair them. It wasn't that she was easily deceived or gullible just that she lacked knowledge of the cars meaning Frank often went back to the garage to find out; why they hadn't repaired the tyre rather than replacing, why there was yet another set of new wipers, why the vehicle had failed the MOT just weeks after a major service and on the points specifically attended to at that time...

23 AUG 83 – CAR SERVICE £45.60

2 SEPT 83 – NETTY HIGH DIED 6.30AM LEITH HOSPITAL

Janet Hill Redpath, Netty for short, was eighty years old when she passed. She had married George Charles High in 1930 in Edinburgh but a connection to Frank has yet to be found.

9 SEPT 83 – MEETING MISS JOHNSTON AOK

When Leith Nautical College moved to be part of Edinburgh College in 1978 there were great plans. In 1983 however the Scottish Education Department reviewed Nautical Education in Scotland and a decision was made to close the College and transfer naval education to what is now Glasgow College. Undoubtedly the meetings were to appraise staff of their personal circumstance relating to the college and the AOK 'All OK' notation indicates Frank was happy with the outcome which would see him retain his job in the same location but with new masters.

10 SEPT 83 – DINNER JEAN & ERIC WOOD BETTY SELF

Betty Toolan and Frank and both their partners (Harry and Jean) had been friends for years. In 1983 Betty's husband and long time friend of Frank was ill with a lung/chest complaint that necessitated him using oxygen. He was unable to easily climb the stairs to their flat at Coillesdene House in Joppa, Edinburgh and so it comes as no surprise to see her accompanying Frank.

17 SEP 83 – FRANK & JENNY HOME

26 SEPT 83 – NEW WARDEN STARTS ANDY STEVENS

2 OCT 83 – CAR SERVICED 10670.2 MILES

The accuracy to a decimal point shows Frank's attention to [some] detail but also his pride in his car. No mechanic was going to get away with nipping home at lunchtime in this car...

11 OCT 83 – XRAY EASTERN HOSP B/L TESTS

With the amount of X-Rays Frank had taken over the years it's a wonder he didn't glow in the dark. The 'B' would be blood tests and the 'L' lung but the type of tests conducted could vary.

17 OCT 83 – PAT O'KEIFF DIED

20 OCT 83 - “ “ CREAMATED

Patrick and Margaret O'Keefe and their son Brendan lived on the ground floor of the flats at Magdalene Drive, about one hundred yards from Frank & Jeans home. Margaret had worked with Jean in the newsagent's shop for many years.

22 OCT 83 – BETTY & SELF TROSSACH HOTEL

23 OCT 83 - “ “

There was only five months separating Frank and Betty and they enjoyed each other's company so it isn't appropriate for me to draw any conclusions at this stage. Betty's husband Harry had been ill for almost two years with emphysema, caused in part by his days as a steam train fireman where the smoke and dust undoubtedly damaged his lungs and partly due to his lifetime addiction to the cigarette. He struggled to climb the stairs to the flat at Coillesdene and whilst his attachment to an oxygen bottle at this stage was not permanent, his general health was deteriorating.

5 NOV 83 – WEEKEND @ ERIC AND JEAN WOOD NEW RING FROM BETTY

16 NOV 83 – BETTY SELF J & ERIC HOUSE

29 NOV 83 – TOM IN NAIROBI UNTIL 8TH DEC

14 DEC 83 – ELECTRIC BLANKET FROM BETTY

22 DEC 83 – ALL STUDENTS AWAY

25 DEC 83 – FAMILY DINNER

James and Margaret were still living at home, David was in a rented flat shared with friend Davy Stewart and Peter was divorced with an eight-year-old son so may have been living at home again. Son Frank had just finished another course at the Marines training centre and was preparing for another winter deployment to Norway. All or some of them may have been present for the Christmas dinner but there don't appear to be any photographs or particular memories associated with this day.

Chapter Fourteen – New Beginnings

26 DEC 83 – IONA HOTEL DINNER TWO FAMILIES 18 AT TABLE

The Iona Hotel in Strathearn Place was the venue chosen by Frank and Betty to get the two families together. There was eighteen at the table which included; Betty, daughter Marjorie and husband Frank Calikes, daughter Maureen her husband Andrew Strang and son Nicky, Frank, son Frank his wife Jenny and daughters Sarah and Lisa, sons Peter, David and James and daughter Margaret. We had all known each other for years so there was little formality and from memory there were no grand announcements, just a family dinner.

1-1-84 – PARTY AT DAVID AND BETTY NEXT DOOR

Davie and Betty Ward had been Betty's next-door neighbours for years. Davie had taught Frank's son David at the National Coal Board training facility at Newtongrange when David had been training as an engineer. A New Year's day party was second only to a Hogmanay one but there was always something going on in the block of flats where Betty and Harry Lived. Before Betty and Davie had become next door neighbours, they had lived at Tower Street, now Figgate Street which was just around the corner from where Betty and Harry lived at Berry Square. After Davie died, Betty would live on, dying at home in Coillesdene in 2022 aged ninety-nine.

2-1-84 – DAD IN FOR DINNER

9-1-84 – START WORK HOLS FIN NOT IN

Reading like a contradiction, the first two statements can work together – Finished holidays so back to work – but are then contradicted by the 'not in'. Perhaps he was paid for the day but had no duties so stayed home?

9-1-84 – IN BED SUSPECT FLU DR CALDER CALLED

This might explain the reason for the contradiction above. In the eighties Doctors still made house calls.

10-1-84 – CHEST VERY MUCH TIGHTER VERY LITTLE MOVEMENT

With a history of lung problems Frank did not want to take any chances. He was used to being in hospital and having breathing difficulties, similar to those he had experienced when he had TB, but when he was in the house on his own, things must have looked difficult.

17-1-84 – PHONE DR NO MOVEMENT IN CHEST VERY PAINFULL AMBULANCE

Typically Frank would not have explained to daughter Margaret or son David, both of whom were in nursing or son James who although he was still at school, had his head screwed on, that he was feeling so bad but at this point he had been struggling to breathe for a week...

18-1-84 – CALLED WARD 6 E.G.H.

18-1-84 – INTENSIVE CARE 3 DAYS

1-Feb-84 – DISCHARGED HOSP

After contracting what he thought initially was flu, Frank ended up spending two weeks in hospital including three days in intensive care. His lungs, he only had one and a bit after his 1951 Thoracoplasty procedure, were shot and he knew it, but outwardly life would continue as normal. He was not one for grumbling.

We were never short of stools or coffee tables in our house because Frank was always making them. The stools were made from a sturdy wooden frame then covered with a rafia, a string like material, interlaced in various colours and knotted discretely, a skill he had learned and never forgotten, when recuperating in Glen O Dee hospital many years before. The tables were a new invention and comprised a redundant television trolley covered with a plywood sheet which was then decorated with tiles and edging or old copper penny and halfpennies and covered with a sheet of glass. His favourite table had as a centrepiece a boxing medal won by his great uncle Pat McCann and which itself was then surrounded by copper coins. The table and his increasingly diverse brass collection was polished regularly on a Sunday for years. Not for him the thought of settling down in front of a television to watch Britain's Torvill and Dean dominating the ice skating at the Sarajevo Winter Olympics where they skated to acclaim to the music of Ravell's Bolero.

8 Feb 84 – HARRY INTO NORTHERN GENERAL HOSPITAL CHEST

Harry was stoic but very weak and could not walk far without stopping for a rest. The oxygen bottle now made a regular appearance but so too did the fly cigarette. Although Frank had given up smoking some time before I recall Betty still smoked at this stage but was trying to give up, for Harry's sake.

11 Feb 84 – VISIT FROM DOUGIE & MAY TO HARRY

Dougie, May and Frank had known each other for as long as Frank had known Harry. Dougie had a window cleaning round in the Galashiels area where the couple lived with their three children but rarely came north, except on family occasions. White haired but tanned and weather-beaten through spending all his working life outside, he and May enjoyed a quiet life in the mill town some forty miles south of Edinburgh.

17 Feb 84 – HARRY DISCHARGED 1AM

Probably pm after morning rounds had been completed but even if it was after midnight, Frank would have travelled to pick up Harry before seeing him safely home.

19 Feb 84 – VISIT DOUGIE AND MAY IN GALA WITH HARRY 2.30PM LEFT 4.40



*Frank, Harry and Dougie Toolan in
Galashiels -Private Collection*

*NB. Note the parking on double yellows –
They cared not a jot.*

22 Feb 84 – MEETING MISS JOHNSTON REF WAGES & TIME

Frank had been off sick from work since 9th January so a meeting with staff from work was welcome as he was keen to return.

1 Mar 84 – MOVED GEORGE HIGH TO 12/2 ROBERTBURNS AVE

5 Mar 84 – DR LECKETT HAPPY WITH RESULTS

In all likelihood a reference to Frank's own health after his hospital stay in February and the results referred to being possibly an improved but not yet clear of lung infection. Good news anyway.

6Mar 84 - DR CUMMINE LINE TO START WORK 20 MAR 84

Ten weeks had now passed and although keen to get back there were a lot of things he wanted to do in the house before he was working again full time but he lacked the necessary energy.

6 Mar 84 – CARPET FITTED STAIR £233.78P

7 Mar 84 – KEY HANDED BACK TO GAYFIELD MR G HIGH OLD HOUSE

I suspect the 1st March entry address for George High was Robertson Avenue as there is no Robert Burns Avenue in Edinburgh but the Gayfield address for the return of his old house key is unusual unless the house was privately rented and this was where the owner lived.

15 Mar 84 – ORDERED NEW BATHROOM SUITS £366.50P

16 Mar 84 – SUITE FITTED

Bought on the Thursday and fitted on the Friday must be a record of sorts. Even with Frank's ability to get people to go the extra mile this was good going and he must have been mightily pleased. He had time to enjoy the new suite for a long weekend before returning to work the following Tuesday which he hoped would be dry if not cool as the weather men were predicting.

26 Mar 84 – WALLS PLASTERED J COUTS £30

26 Mar 84 – JOINED MILLERS FOUNDRY BOWLING CLUB £30 + £2 FEES

Although the bowling club was only one and a half miles from home, Frank took the car. It was just convenient. Bowling, he thought, might get him outside a bit more and after buying himself some bowling shoes and a set of bowls, the club became a regular feature in his life.

Thomas Miller founded Miller & Co Engineers and Founders Ltd in 1867, when the main products manufactured were tram and railway wheels, brake blocks and rolls, all of chilled iron. Other items produced included gas meters and iron frames for pianos. Rumour had it that the products were so good that when the machines they were part of finally gave up, the rollers were in such good condition they were returned to the factory to be used again. The 3.7 acre site was situated off Lower London Road in Earlston Place where the Meadowbank Retail Park lives in 2022 but the bowling club was at Farrer Terrace, adjacent to Fishwives Causeway in Edinburgh. The club was bought by the members in 1984 and became a private club. Years later son David would turn the by now unused bowls into shaving dishes and small ornamental pots.

27 Mar 84 – EST TO GENERAL ACCIDENT FOR GREENHOUSE

I don't remember the greenhouse being used for much, we were never a 'fresh from the garden' sort of family. Maybe the occasional tomato plant. Possibly storm damage or the odd football breaking its glass?

6 April 84 – EASTER HOLLIS

Whilst Frank was enjoying his well-earned Easter break the National Union of Mineworkers, NUM, were striking against a reform introduced by the Conservative Government to privatise the industry. The Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was pitted against the might of the NUM and their president, Arthur Scargill. Few other national unions supported the strike because there had been no official national ballot but the introduction by Arthur Scargill of flying pickets and the subsequent violent confrontations with the police left many injured and many more wondering what the country was coming too. Frank was not a supporter of the Tory Government but neither did he support the violent tactics brought about by both sides. The first AIDS¹ hospital was opened in the USA.

¹ Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) was a disease that had been known about since 1981. The infection interferes with the body's immune system and increases the risk of developing common infections e.g. TB. In 1984 it was widely associated with the gay community. By 2020 the disease had caused over twenty million deaths worldwide and there remains no broadly available cure or vaccine Wikipedia

12 April 84 – PLYMOUTH 9.45AM TRAIN ARRIVE 5.55PM STAY AT FRANKS

Son Frank, his wife Jenny and the girls lived ten miles outside Plymouth in a small commuter town named Ivybridge. The house was three bedroom and the couples first and as it was not large a certain amount of bed shuffling was necessary but Frank was delighted, as always, to see his grand-daughters Sarah and Lisa who were five and two respectively.

12 April 84 – DUKE CORNWALL HOTEL 3N £87.94P

A short break in the middle of a stay with family can only mean one of two things; they fell out or Frank had arranged with Betty that they would have a short break. I suspect but cannot remember distinctly, it was the latter. I don't ever remember arguing.

25 April 84 – 9.15 TO EDINBURGH ARRIVE 8.10 2 HRS LATE

30 April 84 – HARRY CHECK UP N.G. HOSPITAL NOT TO GO BACK

The underlining of the word suggests Frank was frustrated by the doctor's inability to cure his great friend's illness. Harry was not in a good way and continued to fight for every breath.

1 May 84 – BACK WORK HOLS END

10 May 84 – CK FOR HOTHOUSE £101.95

The cheque from General Accident was welcome. I don't think he ever had another greenhouse.

10 May 84 -UNCLE WILLIE DIED E.G.H

Willie Gearty died in 1979 and I can find no other Williams in the family tree who may have survived to 1984. There were of course myriad friends and friends of family members where Frank might also have used the term of affection.

14 May 84 – FUNERAL THEN SUFFOLK HOTEL 11.30

4 June 84 – DR KELLETT EGH CLEAR NOT TO GO BACK

At least some good news that the lung infection that had incapacitated him earlier was now completely cleared up.

15 June 84 – ELIZEBTH GOURLEY DIED FUNERAL 11AM

Elizabeth Burns Gourlay was a long-standing friend of the family. Initially a friend to Anne Murphy or Aunt Nana, she was a schoolteacher who taught at St John's Primary School where most if not all of generations of Connelly's had been educated. Known to most if not all of her former pupils as 'Miss Gourlay', she was a Kerr through her mothers line and related to the Kerr's at Northfield Drive.

27 June 84 – UNION MEETING MR WILSON

30 June 84 – NEW SUIT FROM BETTY

30 June 84 – FRANK TO IRELAND

Son Frank was with 42 Commando and was being deployed to the Borders of Northern Ireland for a four-month tour. Acting this time as the Unit Search Advisor he was to be based at Drumadd UDR Barracks in South Armagh. His four months tour would be broken up with a four-day Rest and recuperation, RNR, period at a date to be determined. Frank thought he might visit Jenny who was with the girls in Plymouth still.

15 July 84 – HARRY TO GALA HOLDS

16 July 84 – PLYMOUTH

25 July 84 – HOME FROM HOLDS

4 Aug 84 – WED NORRIES WEDDING CRAIGENTINNY CHURCH

Frank's nephew Norman Andrew Cameron was marrying Fiona Ann McMurchie at Craigentenny church not far from the Northfield area where his mum, Frank's younger sister Anne, lived. The wedding would be a gathering of the clans and was not to be missed. Catching up with friends and family would be a great day out.



*Norman Cameron marries
Fiona Ann McMurchie
August 1984 – Private
Collection*

4 Aug 84 – TOM IN HOSPITAL HEART ATTACK

Frank's brother Tom had thrived since taking over as the Press Officer for the Catholic Church in Scotland but this meant many long days and late nights. The combination of church duties much have caused enormous stress levels and so a heart attack was almost inevitable. A hasty visit was arranged to the hospital in Glasgow where he was being cared for was made.

12 Aug 84 – JENNY & KIDS HERE PICK UP FRUIT MARKET 11PM

A long journey by train with two children, now aged six and three would not have been fun and arriving at this time of night meant it was well passed their bed time. The Fruit Market in Edinburgh was now a former fruit market and had been re-developed ten years earlier into what remains in 2022 as the Fruitmarket gallery and the City Arts Centre. The Arts Centre building originates from 1899 with the more recently added 1938 building housing the gallery. Like the Binns clock at the West End of Princes Street, it was a regular meeting place and remains so.

10 Aug 84 KOMISCHE BALLET 80 PERSONS

Not usually something Frank would have entertained previously but Betty's influence saw his outlook broadening, albeit late in life. The 80 persons suggests a very small venue and in 1984 there were few of these in Edinburgh except during the International Festival which took place, and still does, annually in August. During this time hundreds of temporary venues were opened ranging from established concert halls to household living rooms where performers from across the globe entertained the masses..

N.B. The date of 10th August has superseded the 12th in his writing suggesting a later catch up.

20 Aug 84 – EDINBURGH MUNICH 180 PERSONS

22 Aug 84 – BERLINER ENSEMBLE 115 PERSONS

Each of these and the following entry are all festival entertainment but the nature of each remains lost until more research can be conducted

24 Aug 84 - INTERNATIONAL HOUSE 112 PERSONS

LOUNGBOROUGH DRAMA CENTRE 30 PERSONS

WALLSEND BOYS CLUB 40 PERSONS

HILDA PARK FOOTBALL CLUB 37 PERSONS

Strangely none of these sound like entertainment types, more like football clubs and a restaurant so whether this was the name of drama groups, types of entertainment or a note of buses in the car park remains a mystery.

25 Aug 84 – BRENDA & ROBERT WEDDING GALA

Brenda Grierson Toolan was marrying Robert Murray Gibson

26 Aug 84 – STUDENTS BACK

22 Aug 84 – PAINTED BACKROOM FRONTROOM

Daughter Margaret was living in nurse's student accommodation which meant only Frank's and son Jim's bedrooms were occupied. The smaller front room was easily painted with two coats in a day and being summer and able to leave windows open, Jim would hardly be inconvenienced. As Frank couldn't paint friend Alec was shipped in for the task.

15 Sep 84 – MARIE PHONE IN

A red-letter day for Frank's sister-in-law living in Wrexham. Up until now she had occasionally telephoned [long before the advent of mobile phones] from the red phonebox at the end of the street or from a friend. Her mother, and my grandmother, Margaret Buchanan thought she could do without so on rare occasions when she was visiting Frank's (she was eighty-four now), Frank ensured she was able to phone her remaining daughter for a catch up.

23 Sep 84 – BETTY SELF MOAT HOUSE NEWCASTLE 23 – 25th

16 Oct 84 – DAVID INTERVIEW ROSLYNLEE HOSP 11AM JOB SECURED

Son David was nearing the end of nursing training and was applying for positions and looks to have been successful on his first attempt. Rosslynlee Hospital was a mental health facility near Roslin outside of Edinburgh and had been opened as the Midlothian and Peebles Asylum in 1874. It joined the National Health Service as Rosslynlee Mental Hospital in 1948 and became Rosslynlee Hospital in 1960. After the introduction of Care in the Community in the early 1980s, the hospital went into a period of decline. Nothing like going in at the deep end. Rosslynlee closed in 2011.

5 Nov 84 – MEG ASHLEY AINSLIE HOSP

The Astley Ainslie Hospital is a community hospital in the Grange area of Edinburgh and is operated by NHS Lothian. The hospital dates from 1923 when David Ainslie, who had died twenty-three years earlier, left money to build a support institution for the Royal Infirmary that would specialise in convalescence. It opened with only thirty-four beds and the grounds were landscaped by Roland Edgar Cooper, just prior to his becoming Head Curator of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Frank had spent time there recuperating after one of his many hospital visits in the sixties and I remember going to see him sitting in the grounds on a warm day where he showed brother Peter and I the stool he was making.

Daughter Margaret was pleased to be working and earning at last and thought that after the long and arduous training she would enjoy some time to herself at last. It was just a thought.

28 Nov 84 – PRESENTATION DAVE & MEG W.G. HOSP

On completion of their training which had lasted almost four years, the light was at the end of the tunnel. A presentation to all students was to be held at the Western General Hospital at Crewe Toll in Edinburgh and whilst there is no mention in Frank's diary of going out for dinner afterwards, I'm sure a celebration of sorts would have taken place with undoubtedly a glass raised for Jean who would, like Frank, have been so proud.

8 Dec 84 – INGLISTON MARKET

A stall type open air market had opened the previous year and was housed between the Highland show ground and the airport runway. You could buy almost anything from food and household goods to clothes, records and CD's, phones, furniture, flowers, bric-a-brac and so on. A day out at Ingliston with perhaps a sausage roll and a coffee in the open air was a delight to Frank and apart from buying the odd item for the house, he loved browsing the antiques and collectables, hoping perhaps for a new piece of brass to add to his collection. The market would last for another thirty-one years eventually closing down in 2005 to make way allegedly for the new runway, which in 2022, is still awaited. At its peak there were over five hundred stalls with many of the owners seeing this as their full-time job.

14 Dec 84 – FRANK & FAMILY TO GERMANY

Son Frank was to be attached, as the only Royal Marine, to an Army Regiment in Bielefeld, Germany. Part of the British Army of the Rhine, BAOR, 10 Regiment Royal Corp of Transport needed a training sergeant to prepare them for their upcoming tour of Northern Ireland and Frank had been selected. This was a much sought after posting because not only were you allowed your family with you, allowing much needed home time, but you were an ambassador for your own regiment.

14 Dec 84 – OPTICIAN

15 Dec 84 – BETTY HAY E.G. HOSP



Elizabeth Johns Hay, known as Betty, had been a friend of Jeans for many years and had married John Murdock Middleton in 1957. The couple had two daughters; Lynne Nancy born in 1959 and a younger sibling Jeanette Elizabeth. A visit to an old friend was always welcomed.

Betty Middleton, Nee Hay with Jean
c.1960– Private Collection

17 Dec 84 – JIM TO LAGANLEE

Lagganlia Adventure Training Centre provided [and still does] high quality Outdoor Learning courses and more advanced Adventures and Expeditions, within the beautiful Cairngorms National Park. Many schools have sent groups of urbanised children and young adults to take part in outdoor adventures

including skiing, canoeing, walking etc. Son Jim, at sixteen was a keen outdoors person and was already a member of his local Edinburgh Venture Scouts group. The stay was usually a week long.

19 Dec 84 – MARIE STATION 9.30

17 Dec 84 – DOCTORS 5.30

18 Dec 84 – JOHN PAID BACK £200 BALL N £105

Daughter Margaret recalls that Frank regularly loaned money to friends but kept his diary 'encoded' lest prying eyes should see and comment.

25 Dec 84 – 4.10 AM HARRY TO RIE DIED 10.47PM

Harry and Frank had been 'pals' for over thirty years and had seen good and bad times together. Harry or 'scattercash' as he was affectionately known to friends was still young at fifty-five but emphysema had plagued him for years and eventually cost him his life.

“I had been home earlier in the year and was asked if I fancied a pint at the Ormelie pub, just along the road from the Coillesdene flats at Joppa where Betty and Harry lived. I drove dad's car to the front entrance and dad took the lift up and brought Harry, complete with oxygen bottle back down. Dad was far from fit but Harry weighed next to nothing. As it was only three hundred yards to the pub, we would take the car but before we got in Harry asked if there was 'just time' for a cigarette.”

Frank Connelly 1984

29.12.84 – HARRY SEAFIELD 9.30 MANOR HOTEL 10.30



Rear – Frank on left, Harry - second from right)

*Front, left to right - Maggie & Hugh Lovatt,
Betty and Jean)*

*A night out at the Hamilton Lodge 1953 – Private
Collection*

31.12.84 - JEAN & ERIC WEDDING YORKSHIRE

Chapter Fifteen - Weddings

6.1.85 – *PHONE INTO GRANNYS*

At long last Meg Buchanan, Frank's mother-in-law, was getting a phone installed into her pensioners flat at 31/4 Magdalene Drive. She had lived in the wee flat without one since 1972 but this would enable her to phone Frank or Marie whenever she needed messages, a hand with something or just to chat.

1984 had been a year of change for Frank. He had renovated and painted lots of the house, illness as usual showed itself although many visits to hospitals were for friends benefits rather than his own, and his relationship with long-time friend Betty was reaching a new level.

The news remained full of headlines relating to the continuing miners' strike, which had begun in March. At its peak there had been 150,000 miners striking throughout Britain resulting in an enormous knock-on effect to other industries. Separately, outside the Libyan Embassy in London, WPC Yvonne Fletcher was killed by a shot fired from the Libyan Embassy and in October the Provisional Irish Republican Army, PIRA, exploded a bomb in a hotel in Brighton intending to kill the top tier of the British Government.

Elsewhere in the world; the Space Shuttle Challenger launched its tenth mission in February and included astronauts using propulsion jet backpacks for an un-tethered spacewalk, a terrible famine was taking place in Ethiopia which saw 10 million people facing starvation, a shooting at a MacDonalds burger bar in California ended in a gunman killing twenty people, A Union Carbide Pesticide plant in Bhopal, India leaked toxic gases killing more than 3,500 locals and in a bloody climax to two years of fighting, the Indian Army attacked the besieged Golden Temple at Amritsar, where Sikh separatists were barricaded in. The resulting artillery barrage and ferocious gun battle caused the deaths of 100 soldiers, 500 rebels and scores of others killed.

At the end of the year China and the United Kingdom agreed the handover of Hong Kong back to China in 1997 at which time 156 years of British rule would come to an end.

The family status:-

Son Frank and family were in Germany; Peter was planning his autumn wedding to Lindsay Tuffield. David was doing the same for his nuptials with girlfriend Julie Thain. Margaret was looking at new houses which she planned to move into with boyfriend John McGlaughlin and James was in his last term at Secondary School and sitting his Higher exams.

Franks brother James, working in New York, was planning a holiday in Mexico, Leo was still living in the Liberton area of Edinburgh and working for Radio Rentals, Tom was parish priest at St Cadocs, Anne lived quietly in Northfield with husband Robert and Kathleen and husband Roy were doing the same in London. Youngest brother Brian had returned home from Korea and settled into the daily commute into London but was looking forward to another posting abroad.

Father Bernard, now eighty-two, kept well and still got out and about regularly to visit the elderly and sick of the parish.

6.1.85 – COLLEGE OPENS

6.1.85 – START WORK

8.1.85 – DUNCAN DRUMMOND CREMATED WARRISTON

17.1.85 – BL TEST 110 HIGH

There's no indication [typical...] of any medical issues raised recently in the diary so a blood pressure test was out of the ordinary. High blood pressure rarely has noticeable symptoms but untreated can lead to heart attack or stroke. Normal blood pressure for most adults is defined as a systolic pressure of less than 120 and a diastolic pressure of less than 80 so it looks like Frank's diastolic pressure was high. Elevated blood pressure is defined as a systolic pressure between 120 and 129 with a diastolic pressure of less than 80 and *when the bottom* number of blood pressure (diastole) is over 100 mmHg, it may be called diastolic hypertension, DHT. There is no indication of any treatment prescribed but it's likely to have included; a focus on heart-healthy foods, reduced salt intake, less coffee [although I don't remember him ever drinking coffee and rarely tea...], less sugar and less alcohol but then he rarely drank nowadays.

18.1.85 – JACKIE TOOLAN DIED

John Toolan, known as Jackie, older brother to Harry and Dougie was born c.1922 in Edinburgh and started working on the railways at the age of fifteen. Eventually he became a Locomotive Fireman and married Ann Ross Brown in December 1945 at St David's Church, Viewforth in Edinburgh but emigrated at some point after this to Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, and worked on the railways. After starting as a Fireman and passing exams he became an engine driver working on a daily basis as a train driver at the Bancroft and Rhokana [mining] Corporation, in Swaziland. He also worked for a short period as a turbine generator operator but then moved back to the trains as a locomotive driver, his first love.

18.1.85 – JAMES DIED IN MEXICO CITY HEART ATTACK

Frank's oldest brother James was fifty-eight years old and had been working with British Petroleum, BP, as an accountant in their New York Office. The news would have been passed to Frank's father Bernard by James wife Hermione.

21.1.85 – JAMES CREMATED IN MEXICO

17.2.85 – MEETING COLLEGE 9.30 DAVID NEW HOUSE 159/17 BROUGHTON RD

24.2.85 – R.B. HOTEL BETTY MEG NEW HOUSE BUXTON [Buckstone] LOAN EAST

15.3.85 – UNCLE ALEX DIED HEART ATTACK

Alexander Connelly was father Bernard's younger brother by five years. At seventy-eight he had lived a full life. Born the same year as the RMS Lusitania set out on her maiden voyage and Baden-Powell led the first scout camp, Alexander, Alex, was born on 3rd January 1907 along with his twin Sydney, who only survived his first two years. When he married Josephine O'Neill in 1931 he was thirty and worked as a lamp trimmer, which was known to be someone who maintained oil lamps onboard ships. I have yet to find any record of him as a merchant seaman. He lived for many years at 8 Brighton Crescent and is listed in the valuation records of 1940 as the owner of the property, something he and Josie could not have afforded on a lamp-trimmers pay. He and Josephine had four children during the years 1935 and 1942; Michael, Elizabeth, Leonard and James.

19.3.85 – MARJ & FRANK GLASGOW DINNER

Marjorie Toolan, Betty's daughter, and Frank Calikes had been married eight years and continued to live in Glasgow where Marjorie had made her home.

20.3.85 – ALEX FUNERAL 10.50 MANOR 11.30

26.3.85 – SIGNED UP NEW TOYOTA TRICEL

29.3.85 – NEW CAR DELIVERED £5,791 PX £3,291 TERCELL



Frank with one of his Toyota's – 1985 – Private Collection

30.3.85 – HOLIDAY SOUTHPORT BETTY TEST NEW CAR

15.5.85 – JOHN TROTTER VALUED HOUSE

14.5.85 – MORRISON & MURRAY “ “

24.5.85 – ON MARKET

20.6.85 – 14 CALLERS

Perestroika was a political movement for reformation within the Communist Party of the Soviet Union during the 1980's widely associated with the Communist Party general secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and his glasnost, meaning "openness", policy reform. Frank entertained many visitors to the house at Bailie Path but gave little away in negotiation whilst maintaining his own version of openness. He was in no hurry and was actually busy planning a holiday to Europe.

4.7.85 – HOLS TO AUSTRIA BETTY SELF GERMANY ITALY ECT

Ten days holiday was just what the doctor ordered and he and Betty headed off to enjoy a well-earned break touring Europe. Whilst it notes in particular Austria, Germany and Italy the 'etc.' could mean anything from another small country to half a dozen more. I suspect the holiday was by coach as the distances covered were large, even for Frank.

15.7.85 - HOME

21.7.85 – BACK TO WORK

1 Aug 85 – 22 GERMANS TO COLLEGE LEAVE 17th

5 Aug 85 – MARJORIES BIRTHDAY CRAMMOND BRIG HOTEL DINNER

6 Aug 85 – DAVIDS PASSING OUT PARADE

Son David had decided to give up Nursing a year previously and had now completed his first year of police training at Tulliallan College in Fife. Frank attended the pass-out parade

*Frank and son David at Tulliallan
Police College August 1985 –
Private Collection*



4 Sept 85 – DAVID & JULIE WEDDING ST MARYS AND COMODOR HOTEL

Julie Thain was a nurse when she married Frank's son David who had just completed his police training so they both had a career full of shifts ahead of them with each being on duty but not necessarily at the same time. Ships that pass in the night might be an overused phrase but this young couple had it all ahead of them. There was little difference in age between them and at twenty-four, their lives stretched ahead with seemingly endless possibilities. After the service the couple and their families and friends adjourned to the Commodore Hotel near the foreshore at Silverknowes where they enjoyed music and dancing as well as food and beverage. Originally known as Broomfield, a house bought by William Wilson writer to the signet, it became a hotel in the 60's and has since been a Scottish Gas office. In 2022 it is the Backpackers Inn.

9 Sept 85 – COLLEGE SOLICITORS REF MRS MCRAE 3PM

12 Sept 85 – 10AM COURT INDIA BUILDINGS HR MCREA COLLEGE WON

Intriguing but no further information about the event being discussed. The courts in this building at that time were generally Justice of the Peace, JP, courts and dealt with minor matters such as traffic issues, fraud etc. Whatever the reason Frank came out on top.

14 Sept 85 – NEW PANASONIC VIDEO £400

In 2022 the video player [and tape], although still relevant, has become a thing of the past. Originating in Japan in 1976 by the JVC company, the VHS or Video Home System machine had to play a recorded tape for at least two hours and maintain a similar quality to the original transmission. There was competition from a design named Betamax, which was smaller and lighter, but JVC allowed the tape specification into the public domain so anyone could produce them and thus won the battle for dominance. A lover of most things technical, Frank delighted in recording programmes when he was out and then cataloguing the tapes in red boxes for future reference. The cost of the device, which was about the size and weight of two boxes of paper, would be about £1000 today.

18 Sept 85 – MAY & GEORGE TEA PICK UP MARKET ST 7PM

20 Sept 85 – BETTY BIRTHDAY

21 Sept 85 – DINNER AT FRED & MORAG PICK UP DAVID JULIE 7.30

Daughter Julie was born the same year her father Fred (Frederick) William Thain and mother Morag Christina May had married. Fred was a stonemason by trade and was a lecturer at Edinburgh's Telford College.

24 Sept 85 – VISIT MRS TUFFIELD LINDSAYS MUM PENECUIK [Penicuik]

1 Oct 85 – BETTY & SELF BLACKPOOL WEEKEND

3 Oct 85 – MEG PASS OUT PARADE TULLYALLAN [Tulliallan College]10.30AM

7 Oct 85 – GOLF JIM MCRAE

9 Oct 85 – SURVEYOR ONEIL (REF SWANN) £28.000

Never a fan of comma's when a full stop would do, the house at 8 Bailie Path had been valued for a buyer at twenty-eight thousand pounds.



*Left - Frank and
Daughter Margaret
(Meg)*

*Right – Frank's son Peter and Lindsay
Tuffield wedding day - Private
Collection*



14 Oct 85 – LEDBETTER £27,500 CASH OFFER

19 Oct 85 – YOUNGSON NO BID

23 Oct 85 – BETTY SELF CHURCH FR RAE 6.30

Neither Betty nor Frank were practising Catholic's although Frank still had ties through father Bernard and brother Tom. Frank may have had some pressure from family to marry in the church because at this stage of his life, even the Christmas midnight mass had become a thing of the past. What Father Rae thought we will never know...

26 Oct 85 – PETE & LINDSAYS WEDDING GROSVENOR HOTEL 3.30PM

Son Peter married Lindsay Tuffield in the Grosvenor Hotel, Grosvenor Street in Edinburgh on a cool but dry autumn Saturday. After the service, the reception was full of family and the many friends the couple had and all enjoyed good food and music whilst celebrating the happy event. There were few thoughts about mortgage interest rates which had just dropped to 12% and as the DJ played Jennifer Rush singing about 'The Power of Love', Peter was able to give Lindsay his full attention because his team, Heart of Midlothian, now enjoying their third season in the Scottish Premier League, were not playing that day and had beaten Arbroath 4-1 the week before.

27 Oct 85 – HOUSE SOLD £28,150

The house at 8 Bailie Path looks the same in 2022 (although it might cost you in the region £90,000+ now) as it did when it was sold. All of Frank and Jean's children had grown up in it but after eighteen years they had all, except Jim who was still studying, moved on so it was time for Frank to do the same. The three-bedroom house was empty these days.

4 Nov 85 – MRS KEEGAN FUNERAL 10AM ST JOHNS

16 Nov 85 – CHURCH INS FR RAE 6.30

23 Nov 85 – BETTY & SELF MARRIED ST JOHNS 4.30 LEGION 5.30

So Betty and Frank, who had known each other for over thirty years, married. There are people missing from the photograph including son Frank, who was working abroad, Marjorie and Maureen and Tom, Frank's brother.

St John's Roman Catholic Church in Portobello had been used for generations of Connelly baptism, weddings and funerals but the former were celebrations [although formally funerals nowadays are known as celebrations of a persons life...] as was Frank and Betty's. Service over, the attendees walked or drove the four hundred yards to the Royal British Legion club on Baileyfield Road [retirement flats in 2022] to continue celebrations with some much-needed sustenance. I imagine the beverage costs significantly eclipsed the £9 16/9d it had cost Frank when he married Jean thirty-one years previously.

24 Nov 85 – PEEBLES HYDRO HOTEL

It's not clear whether the newlyweds stayed for a week or just the weekend but as it was only twenty odd miles away, it was easily drivable in an hour and allowed them the break they so richly deserved.



Wedding reception of Frank & Betty – Private Collection

Left to Right; Sister Anne, Brother Brian & wife Terrie, Son David & wife Jules, Frank, son Jim, Betty, Nephew Mike & wife Laura, Son Peter & wife Lindsay, John McLaughlin & fiancé, Frank's daughter Margaret, Sister-in-Law Marie. Front – Meg Buchanan and Bernard Connelly – Private Collection

Chapter Sixteen – and More Weddings

1 Dec 85 – WARDROBES FITTED £1-100

Betty's flat at Coillesdene was the scene for refurbishment now. With the Bailie Path house now sold, Frank and son James would move in as soon as the two-bedroom flat was ready. The fitted wardrobes in the main bedroom would take up a whole wall and free up much needed space taken up by free standing wardrobes etc. Jim was starting an engineering degree course at Leith Nautical College where Frank worked but would live at Coillesdene for the moment. The £1,100 noted in the diary would be £3,546 in 2022.

4 Dec 85 – SHOWER SCREEN FITTED £84.50

25 Dec 85 – DINNER & HOME XMAS

6 Jan 86 – BEDROOM FURNITURE £486 COMMETT

14 Jan 86 – KITCHEN ESTAMATES

18 Feb 86 – HALL FURNISHERS TO VIEW KITCHEN

27 Feb 86 – KITCHEN REFURBISHED NEW UNITS & TILES £4000 [£12,896 in 2021]

The kitchen in the flat was a small one. Two could sit comfortably, four at a real push, with just one long work surface with a small L shape at one end. They paid a lot.

27 Feb 86 – HOPKINS W/C, SPIN DRYER, DOUBLE OVEN, MICRO, HOB

9 Mar 86 – BATH ROOM TILED £300 & BATH FRONT

27 Mar 86 – DROVE ROUND NORTH SCOTLAND WEEKS HOLS

Frank kept a diary for this and other trips and although the date noted above shows in his diary, maintained at the time, as being a 'run' down the coast. The trip up north actually started on the 31st of March with the diary entries including mileage, fuel used, stopovers and locations visited summarised as follows;

“3.30pm leave home, arr; Banchory 7pm. Leave 9.30, Turriff, MacDuff, Portsoy, Lossiemouth, Nairn, Inverness at 5.15, mileage 162. Leave 10.50, Boat-of-Garten, Aviemore, Spean Bridge, Kyle-of-Lochalsh (7pm). Over to Skye, visits, leave 5.15, 186 miles to Fort William. Stirling, Falkirk, South Queensferry, home, mileage 866 Friday 4th April.”

There are too many places named to note them all but there was never a straight line between any of the places they stayed so in essence, they meandered, stopping for tea lunch or dinner where they fancied with not a care in the world. Just enjoying each other's company and Frank enjoying the driving.

7 April 86 – GOLF DUDDINGSTON

9 April 86 – PLUMBER SHOWER

13 April 86 – PETE CH STALL AT INGLISTON 11AM

14 April 86 – START COLLEGE

17 April 86 – HASLETT REPORT TO POLICE MUSS V P/PANS

Goodness only knows what was going on here. The end piece looks like Musselburgh versus Prestonpans but what the police report has to do with anything is anyone's guess although certainly related to his work at the college.

22 April 86 – SWOP WITH ANDY

27 April 86 – NINEMILE BURN TO VIEW NEW CAR

28 April 86 – DINNER GREENCRAIG DAD KATE ROY

2 May 86 – C348TSG NEW CAR BOUGHT NEW CARINA II TOYOTA £PX 4000 £5.600

2 May 86 – WEEKEND LONDON

The car was new to Frank but had been previously owned. The 13,168 mileage though suggests it was only a year or so old and was about to be put through its paces...

*“2nd May 86 Leave home – 013168 miles [odometer] 10.30. Lunch at Penrith, petrol at Watford Gap - £16.68. Arrived Leatherhead, Black Bull, 9.15pm (445 miles). Brighton.
9.50 – 0134765, 10.45 heading for London, 13.15 leave London, petrol at Luton (£11), 19.40 petrol (A1) - £14. Arrive Carlisle 22.30, stay o/n. Leave Carlisle 11.15 – 014196, Gretna, Dumfries & Galloway, Girvan, Ayr. Home 19.20 mileage 014404.”*



Frank and Betty 1985 – Private Collection

Good grief. The pair of them zig zagged across England then did a tour of Dumfries in three days. Frank did love his driving and Betty must have enjoyed the journeys just as much.

8.5.45– WAR FINISHED 1PM

Forty-one years previously the war in Europe had come to an end and although Frank had only been fifteen at the time, it had made a lasting impression on him.

13 May 86 – DR COOK E.G.H

16 May 86 – SPRING HOLS INVERNESS OBAN SKY WEST COAST

31 May 86 – DINNER MIKE LAURA MORAG FRED MANOR HOTEL

3 June 86 – CAR SERVICED £40

5 June 86 – CRISSIE IN DECCONNESS HOSP

The Deaconess Hospital at the Pleasance in Edinburgh was an NHS facility but had previously been a hospital which provided nursing training to Deaconesses. Deaconesses were part of a non-ordained ministry for women in some Protestant, Oriental Orthodox, and Eastern Orthodox churches to provide pastoral care, especially for other women, and which may carry a limited liturgical role as well.

Chrissie was Betty's sister-in-law and was her deceased husband Harry's older sister by thirteen years.

9 June 86 – BETTY CITY HOSP 1.45 WARD 3

17 June 86 – DAD HOLS 12.30 STATION

23 June 86 – DENTIST 10AM

24 June 86 – DOCTORS 5.15

Unfortunately, the Doctors or 'quack' as Frank tended to refer to them was still a regular feature in his life but Frank kept reasonably well albeit surviving on a diet of pills of one sort or another.

28 June 86 – BETTY CITY HOSPITAL

2 July 86 – WED ANNIV ANNE JOHNY ANTHORN CANADA ANNIVERSARY KINGS MANOR

Research has yet to uncover whose wedding anniversary this is or who Johnny Anthorn in Canda was.

9 July 86 – DENTIST 8.45 £21-

12 July 86 – HOLLS FLY RIMINI FROM GLASGOW

26 July 86 – HOME HOLS

30 July 86 – CRISSIE BISSETT DIED

Christina Mary Bissett nee Toolan was born in the second year of The Great War in 1915 to Peter Toolan and Bridget Christie. She had married George Bissett and had two children, Christina and John. When she died she was seventy years old.

4 Aug 86 – CHRISSIE BISSETT MORTONHALL CREMATORIUM

6 Aug 86 – BACK TO WORK

14 Aug 86 – GOLF GEORGE STEWART

17 Aug 86 – VISIT AUNT NANA

29 Aug 86 – MEG & JOHN WEDDING

Daughter Margaret married John George McLoughlin. After marrying in East Preston Street Registry Office, the close family joined others for the wedding breakfast at the Sweethope House Hotel in nearby Musselburgh before the happy throng, probably minus some of the older generation, moved on to Cinderella Rockefellas. Cinderella's had originally been Tiffany's disco in St Stephen Street, Stockbridge but became Cinderella Rockefeller until it sadly burned down in 1991.



Mr & Mrs McLoughlin – Private Collection

“ Originally we had planned to marry in 1985 after we bought our house but when we caught up with family after Pete & Lindsay's marriage to announce our intentions to do the same, David, then my dad, announced they were marrying in the next couple of months so we decided to put ours back.”

Margaret Connelly 2022

Meg's brother David and wife Jules both worked at Cinderella's around that time and made sure there was champagne on arrival.

5 Sept 86 – DOUGIE RUSSELL GIRL WEDDING WOODSIDE HOTEL

13 Sept 86 – RAYMOND LAFFERTY WEDDING BRAID HOTEL

Raymond Paul Lafferty was marrying Nicola Gillian Buist. Raymond and Frank's son David had been friends from school and Raymond was a frequent visitor to Bailie Path, hence the invitation to Frank.

20 Sept 86 – BETTY BIRTHDAY (DRESSING GOWN)

26 Sept 86 – WEEKEND BANCHORY DAVID BETTY SELF BETTY

2 Oct 86 – DAVID PASS OUT TULLYALLAN

After two years training, son David had completed all his police training and would start shifts imminently.

6 Oct 86 – BETTY OFF DRIVE COAST

17 Oct 86 – DENTIST 12PM

20 Oct 86 – GOLF 8.30 DUDD [Duddingston] BETTY 4PM

22 Oct 86 – CAR CRASH DENTIST 8AM CRASH 9.34 DRUMBRAE CAR TRD V4S818R

There is no indication of damage or injury and the letters 'TRD' have no meaning known.

23 Oct 86 – DENTIST 12PM

27 Oct 86 – COLLEGE START

31 Oct 86 – BETTY MAUREEN 8.35 TRAIN TO LONDON W/END DENTIST 9AM

1 Nov 86 – BETTY GROSVENOR HOTEL 018349494 EXT 1265

2 Nov 86 – BETTY WAV STAT 8.30

4 Nov 86 – DENTIST 8.45

One visit to the dentist every six months is usually enough for most people but Frank had now visited four times in three weeks. Rather him than me.

6 Nov 86 – DAVID PASS OUT 9AM

7 Nov 86 – JIM MCRAE GOLF

8 Nov 86 – DOUGLAS NANCY PRES/SHOW 2PM

Douglas was ex policeman and his wife Nancy, real name Agnes McLean or Bowman, was Betty's cousin. They used to meet weekly at the Mount Royal Hotel in Portobello.

12 Nov 86 – DOC 10.20 PETE 10.40

14 Nov 86 – JANET RUSSELL POLICE CLUB 7.30

15 Nov 86 – FIRE PLACE JOE MCALPINE 104 BATH ST GLASGOW £361 FIRE £106

16 Nov 86 – FRANK HOME

23 Nov 86 – WED ANIV DINNER LONGNIDDRIE INN 7.30PM

26 Nov 86 – PETE 10AM GOLF

27 Nov 86 – COLLECT MARIE 12.45 STATION

30 Nov 86 – DAD TO STAT 10.45 HOLLS GRANNY MARIE TEA 4PM

1 Dec 86 – FIRE HEARTH 63 X 20 [Inches]

3 Dec 86 – PICK UP FIRE GLASGOW 10.30 CLERK BELL

4 Dec 86 – MEGS PASS OUT 9AM MARIE TO STATION 6.45AM

So, daughter Margaret had also now completed her police training and would be back out on the beat in no time. I wonder if she knew what she had let herself in for.

5 Dec 86 – JANITORS NIGHT OUT

8 Dec 86 – TICKETS LEGION £5 EACH PICK UP BETTY 4.30

13 Dec 86 – BETTY FELL BROKE ARM W.G.H PLASTER ON

17 Dec 86 – BETTY CITY HOSPITAL WARD 3 2PM VISIT FIN 7.30

18 Dec 86 – VISIT HOSP 6PM 7PM

The break to Betty's arm must have been a lot worse than first thought so an extended stay was necessary.

19 Dec 86 – COLLEGE HOLLS

22 Dec 86 – BRENDA GIBSON (NEE TOOLAN) WARD 12 E.G.H

Brenda was Betty's husband Harry's niece but as Frank and her dad, Dougie, had been friends and the family all lived around the Galashiels area, a visit might cheer her up.

22 Dec 86 – XMAS DINNER MARJORIE & FRANKS TAKE FIRE

The 'take fire' reference is to remind him to take their old fire through to Glasgow for daughter Marjorie and her husband Frank.

26 Dec 86 – LEGION DANCE

27 Dec 86 – FAMILY PARTY HOUSE

28 Dec 86 – DAY IN HOUSE

29 Dec 86 – VISIT GRANNY

1986 had been an epic year for one reason or another. As well as family and friends marriages, the world seemed to be changing, and not always for the better.

In January the American flagship space programme was dealt a devastating blow when the Space Shuttle Challenger was destroyed shortly after it launched. Tragically, all of the astronauts on board were killed in the explosion and the programme was suspended for two years whilst safety was improved.

In April the Soviet Nuclear reactor at Chernobyl exploded causing a massive release of radioactive material across much of Europe. The power station in Chernobyl, Ukraine (which was still a part of the Soviet Union at that time) exploded releasing large amounts of radiation and radioactive material was released into the local environment, effecting the health and safety of thousands of people including plant workers, clean-up workers, and the local population. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced by the disaster as the Soviet Union evacuated and closed off the surrounding area within 18 miles of the nuclear plant. Parts of Sweden and Finland, were also hit with contaminated dust and air from Chernobyl as it travelled through the atmosphere.

In the UK, the first case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), more commonly known as Mad Cow Disease, is found during November. The disease, which would go on to infect over 150,000 cows in Britain, began years earlier in 1984. Symptoms of BSE included a progressive deterioration of behavior and neurological functions, like an increase in aggression and an unsteady gait, leading to death. Millions of cattle were culled to stop the epidemic, ending around 1998 in the UK.

A gallon of petrol was £1.79 [the same for a litre in 2022], a bottle of whisky £7.59, 20 cigarettes £1.34, a Sinclair Spectrum home computer was £159, a mobile phone [there weren't many then] was £2,200 and the average house price was just £48,000.

1-1-87 – PARTY DAVID & BETTY

Frank did enjoy a party and there was bound to be an opportunity for a sing along so 'April Showers' was never far away. I'm sure he took time to reflect on the past year or so, because it had been busy; probably grateful he had a decent job, because unemployment was at nearly 15% of the workforce, he hadn't attended the Commonwealth Games, held in Edinburgh for the second time, and hated the traffic chaos that ensued but as an Edinburgh man born and bred, it likely brought a smile to his face. And he remembered with a grin, the skirmishes with students in the college, not a patch on the rioting earlier in the year in prisons throughout the UK when dozens of prisoners escaped, set prisons alight, smashed windows and dumped burning mattresses... but similar.

Son's Peter and David had married Lindsay and Jules respectively and daughter Margaret had married John, plus he had re-married and sold the family home. He and Betty had refurbished the flat and covered

thousands of miles driving the length and breadth of the island and they had also agreed that after the sale of Bailie Path they would start looking for a new house together, perhaps in the countryside which he loved, but he was enjoying life and comfort in the flat so there was no hurry...

2-1-87 – PARTY MIKE & LAURA

3-1-87 – JOHN MEG DOWN

4-1-87 – GLASGOW MARJORIE & FRANK

5-1-87 – START WORK HOLS FIN

Frank looked forward to going to work but the weather of late had been cold and there had already been a number of snow falls, much of which was still lying about. The drive to work took less than five minutes but scraping the car windows and warming the car up took twice as long.

6-1-87 – GOLF DUDD GEORGE STEWART

7-1-87 – GALLA & SELKIRK BETTY WARD

8-1-87 – HOUSE FORM TO COUNCIL OFFICE BETTY BOOTS

9-1-87 – TOM & ALICE DOUGIE & MAY MARY & MARY PARTY

10-1-87 – PARTY BOB & LOTTIE'S

11-1-87 – VISIT MARJORIE & FRANKS NEW HOUSE TAKE HEATERS FROM MO

12-1-87 – BETTY HOSPITAL (FIRST SNOW)

Interesting that he mentions the weather, probably for the first time in this diary. I've not looked back over the whole document but I wonder what significance it had. Newspapers at the time reported heavy snow falls across Britain leaving houses, towns, roads, railways and motor vehicles stranded.

15-1-87 – GEORGE HIGH BANK BETTY VISIT R.I.E 2PM

16-1-87 – SHOPING VOUGE FOR WALL UNIT

17-1-87 – BOUGHT WALL UNIT WALNUT (£1.308 SALE £675)

The Vogue shop in MacDonald Road was a puzzle palace of nooks and crannies with dim lights and a myriad of sales people hiding in the shadows. Frank loved a bargain and when he bought the walnut finished wall unit it became his pride and joy. The shop was taken over by the Sterling Group and eventually demolished and flats built.

19-1-87 – BETTY HOSP 11AM VISIT G [George]HIGH CASH £91.42 FROM BANK

21-1-87 – 11AM RAMOND RONE ORGAN LESSONS PHONE WHEN READY

Frank enjoyed playing the piano and knew it could be better. I don't think he ever had lessons but we had a piano at Bailie Path for a while and given the chance he would happily play away.

22-1-87 – VISIT TO TORNESS POWER STATION LUNCH BELLVIEW HOTEL J LAWLESS

23-1-87 – TOWN 9AM BETTY CHEQUE TO DIGEST £13.95

25-1-87 – DRIVE TO BERWICK ON TWEED THEN KELSO, HAWICK, GALLA TOWN 4.30

27-1-87 – VISIT FRANK AT ARBROATH DAVE MEG MARJORIE HERE FOR A FEW DAYS

29-1-87 – LUNCH @ LAURISTON FARM BETT MARJORIE SELF

30-1-87 – BETTY CITY 9.30

31-1-87 – PARTY HOME DAVIE BETTY BOB & LETTIE & SELF'S

2-2-87 – BETTY W/G HOSP 11AM

4-2-87 – FRANK MAUREEN & FRANK BIRTHDAY GOLF 12AM PETE JOHN

5-2-87 – VISIT AUNT NANA BETTY MEG . SELF

6.2.87– R.I.E BETTY 10AM EAR

5.2.87 – VISIT FROM FRANK JENNY & KIDS, DAVID & JIM

8.2.87 – WORKING DAD VISIT 1PM

9.2.87 – BETTY INTO WARD 3 CITY 2PM EAR CHECK

10.2.87 – BETTY EAR OP

11.2.87 – BETTY HOME PHONED GEOFF & JOAN HAYLING ISLAND

15.2.87 – RUN TO NINE MILE BURN PRICED RENAULT 21 £9.450 PX £6000

Chapter Seventeen - Celebrations

16.2.87 – BIRTHDAY GOLF JACKET WHISKY £15 PLUS

Frank was fifty-seven and enjoying life. Although there were still niggles with both his and Betty's health, things were generally OK. The flat had been refurbished and he was enjoying the environment and his marriage. He and Betty had made lots of trips in the new car and managed, even with his work hours, to see more of friends and family than ever. Betty could also drive but around the time they married and began living in the same house, she had given up her blue hatchback in favour of being Frank's co navigator although judging by their circuitous routes when they travelled, a map [this was long before SatNav...] was the last thing on either mind. They both enjoyed the journey more than their arrival anyway.



Frank with sisters Katie and Anne and brother Leo at the Coillesdene flat – Private Collection

17.2.87 - BORDERS

18.2.87 – BUILDING SCREENS FOR DRYING AREA

20.2.87 – STORE CLUB 7PM DAVID & BETTY

22.2.87 – STIRLING & PERTSHIRE RUN 168 MILES

25.2.87– HOSPITAL ENT 9.30

27.2.87 – MEET GEORGE DENNIS & JIM LEARIES 8PM

Names do pop up occasionally in Frank's diary that have never appeared before and such was the fate of these two who merited an entry and then disappeared from the face of the earth. George and Jim may

have been work colleagues or social friends but the names have never cropped up and don't appear in any college documentation that Frank kept. The fact that it was noted in his diary and includes surnames suggests it was important but as to why, we will never know.

28.2.87 – LUNCH BRITISH LEGION NANCY & DOUGLAS

2 3.87 – PAPERS TO PURCHASE HOUSE £6,300 SEE ALAN TROTTER 4PM

The purchase of 3/2 Coillesdene House was another milestone for Frank, and Betty. The flat had been valued at £21,000 but with the Right-to-Buy scheme, the accumulation of rental payments reduced this considerably. Betty was about to own her first house with Frank and there was no mortgage. Strictly cash.

4.3.87 – JOHN BROKE LEG IN TWO PLACES IN RIE

5.3.87 – BETTY & SELF VISIT FRANK & JENNY HOME 6PM

Sone Frank and family were now living in Arbroath where he was serving with Comacchio Group Royal Marines as a Troop Sergeant. Frank was part of P Company which with O Company and a Headquarters element, were responsible for the protection of the UK's nuclear weapons and its off-shore installations. The drive to Arbroath was ninety miles but for Frank & Betty this meant a nice jaunt and probably lunch out.

8.3.87 – RUN WITH DAD BETTY

12.3.87 – CAR SERVICED P/BELLO RD £55.99

15.3.87 – RUN E/LOTHIAN & BORDERS 79 MILES

17.3.87 – DONALDS PARTY 7.30

20.3.87 – DUNFRIES MOFFATT TOTAL 168 MILES

21.3.87 – JOHN ROBERTSON HOLLS LAKE DISTRICT

25.3.87 – MRS MILLER BURIED AT SPOTT 2.30 DAD TOM & SELF ATTEN

Mrs Miller had been Frank and Tom's teacher at Spott Primary School when they had been evacuated during World War Two. Whether Frank or his father had kept in touch is unclear, the fact that they attended her funeral suggests she made a lasting impression on the boys almost fifty years previously and would be missed.

26.3.87 – ALL WARDENS ON DUTY R/DIGEST PLACES OF THE WORLD £21.95

27.3.87 – PLACES OF THE WORLD £21.99 R/DIGEST

29.3.87 - RUN N/BERWICK DINNER BAR ITALIA

30.3.87 – BETTY WESTERN

31.3.87 – DAD & BETTY TO FRANKS

1 APRIL 87 – OPEN DAY

2-4-87 – DENTIST

3 4-87 – TERM COMPLEAT (EASTER)

6 4.87 – DRIVE TO COTSWOLDS (COLD COMFORT FARM DUNDESWELL)

6.4 87 – ANDOVERFORD CHEFELHOLM GLOS

7.4.87– VISIT OXFORD AND BATH

8.4.87 – ONE NIGHT BLACKPOOL

9.4.87 - HOME

14.4.87 – DAN GIBSON FUNERAL

17.4.87 – AUNT NANA OUT OF HOSPITAL

18.4.87 - SELKIRK

20.4.87 – BACK TO WORK TERM STARTS

22.4.87 – JIM MCRAE

23.4.87 - DENTIST

25.4.87 – LOCH LOMOND

26.4.87 – DUNS FISHING

30.4.87 – FIRST ORGAN LESSON SELF & BETTY 7.30 £3.50 EACH

2 MAY 87 – MARJORIE MOVED HOUSE KILBARCHAN TO KELVINSIDE

4.5.87 – GARAGE & GRANNY

8.5.87 – GARAGE BONNET RESPRAY £50

11.5.87 – OFF SICK COLD BETTY 11AM W.G. HOSPITAL

15.5.87 – ORGAN 11AM

17.5.87 – GEOFF NEWMAN DIED

18.5.87 – DR BRYDEN 9.20

20.5.87 – BETTY TO GOSFORD PARK HOTEL NEWCASTLE CONFERENCE

22.5.87 – BETTY HOME

25.5.87 – DENTIST

28.5.87 – VISIT AUNT NANA MEG & DAD CAR IN GARAGE FOR SALE

2.6.87 – NEW WIPERS

9 6 87 - DENTIST

10 6 87 – OPTICIAN 1.30 DR DICKSON 9.20 AM £69.40

11.6.87 – JOHN ROBERTSON HOLLS

13.6.87 – PARTY KENNY HOUSE 8PM

17.6.87 – DR DICKSON 9AM

19.6.87 – WED PAUL & CATHERINE MARGARET DRYBURGH WEDDING (MERLIN)

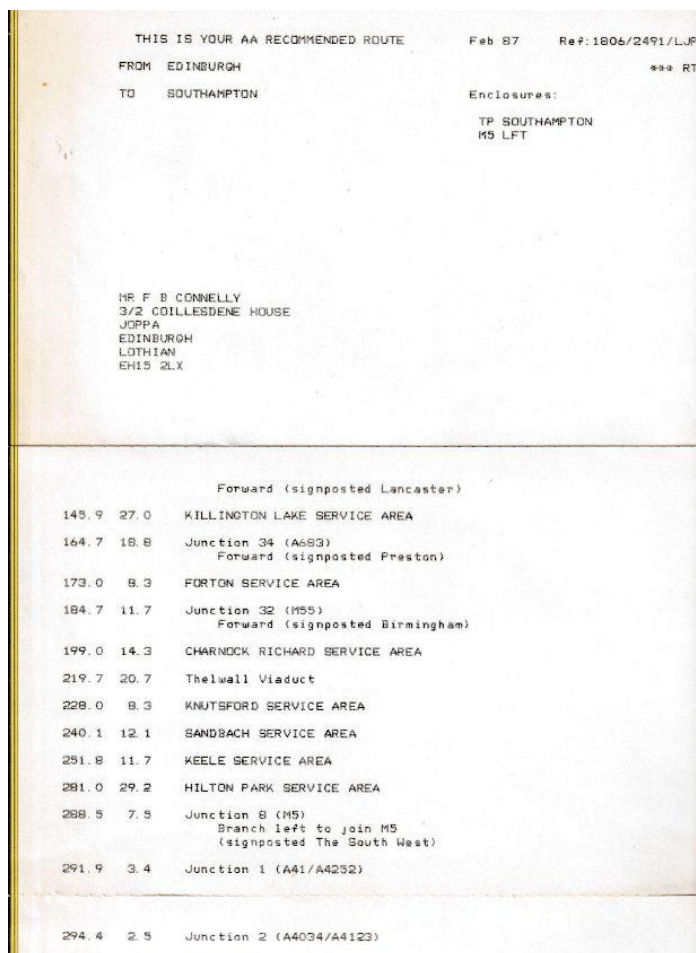
21.6.87 – DRIVE SOUTH HOL'S ARR. JEAN & ERIC 22/6/87 WINDSOR 23/6/87

24.6.87 – FLIGHT No UH44Z SOUTH HAMPTON TO JERSEY (HELD BACK 2 HOURS)

NB. There is a yellowing AA route map dated Feb 87 that survives from this time that has a route planned step-by-step from Edinburgh to Southampton. The seven A4 style page document is serrated at each page as if you can tear the individual pages off which seems a bit pointless but the effect was probably caused by the type of printer and the associated paper the AA were using at this time. Remember there were no Sat Nav's in those days. Of course, there was AA map books but the route finder was a free service to members along with a key that would open every AA box in Britain. I don't know if this was a journey not taken or they decided to deviate or not go all the way there.

25.6.87 – ISLAND COASTAL TOURS £6.50 EACH, MEALS £8-10 TOTAL £21.10P

26.6.87 – SHOPPING ST HELIER. EVENING TOUR PORTELET INN & TARTAN CLUB TOTAL £10-



AA Route map (partial) Dated Feb 87 – Edinburgh to Southampton – Private Collection

27.6.87 – HIRED CAR (£27 – 3DAYS) & TOURED UNDERGROUND BUNKER (£4) TOTAL £35-

28.6.87 – CARNATION GROWERS. FLOWERS SENT TO GRANNY (£5-) TOTAL £10-)

30.6.87 – GLASS CHURCH & SUNBATHED ON ST OUEN'S BAY MEAL IN INN TOTAL £10-

Betty seems to be writing the diary during this trip and monitored their spend closely.

30.6.87 – FRANK BOUGHT DUTY FREE, TROUSERS & SHIRT (£41) FOR SELF. NECKLACE £23 FOR ME TOTAL £70

1ST 7 87 - FRANK GOT RING (£40) FLEW TO S'HAMPTON 14.35PM VISIT HAYLING ISL. TOTAL £114- AND DROVE ON TO WORTHING FOR DINNER AND /NIGHT STAY.

Frank's friend from Army days lived on Hayling Island and he phoned occasionally and its unlikely to have passed up a visit to see him when they were so close.

2.7.87 - DRIVE ALONG SUSSEX COAST TO FOLKESTONE & DOVER, THEN ON TO EDINBURGH ARR. HOME 7AM ON FRIDAY 3RD JULY TOTAL £15-

From another small 'trip' diary we know they left Worthing at 9.50am then drove to Dover to visit Dover Castle and the Hovercraft Terminal before heading north to London, on to Toddington then Preston (where they stopped for petrol - £14.60) before turning for Edinburgh. WOW, allowing for occasional rest and meal stops they drove between them about twenty- one hours, the majority of which were overnight, before arriving home at 7am and about 592 miles in total from Worthing to Edinburgh!

3.7.87 – BETTY & SELF MEAL AT CRAMOND BRIG FRIDAY EVENING TOTAL £27

James V of Scotland, father of Mary, Queen of Scots, had his palace at Linlithgow and would travel through the Cramond area regularly to get from Linlithgow into Edinburgh. Crossing the River Almond at Cramond is the old Cramond Brig, a bridge that provided access for traffic across the steep valley, and in 1532 James V was travelling through the area without his entourage when he was attacked by five robbers as he crossed the bridge.

A local man named Jock Howieson saw the fight and ran to help the stranger who was outnumbered by his assailants. Having successfully seen off the robbers, Jock Howieson escorted the man - who he didn't know to be the king - back to his home, where he provided a basin of water and a towel for him to clean his face and recover himself.

The king introduced himself to Howieson as a courtier in the palace at Holyrood, serving James V of Scotland. He told Howieson that he'd like to reward him for his help and kindness, and invited him to visit Holyrood where he would show him around the palace.

Howieson was pleased to accept the man's invitation, and was told that he should make his way to Holyrood the following weekend, and at the palace gates to ask for him by name, the 'Goodman of Ballengeich'.

The following week Jock Howieson travelled to Edinburgh, and presented himself at the palace gates, asking to be met by the Goodman of Ballengeich.

Presently the man emerged from the palace and greeted Howieson warmly. They began to tour the palace, and Howieson was asked if he would like to meet the king himself. He accepted the invitation, and at the doorway into the grand gallery where the king was assembled with his court Howieson was told, "You'll know the king immediately you enter the room, as he will be the only person wearing a hat".

As they entered the room, filled with people, Howieson looked around in vain for the king, but all he saw were courtiers removing their hats - turning to his guide he saw that the Goodman was still wearing his cap. Howieson reflected, "You said the king would be the only man wearing his hat, and as you and I are the only two people wearing caps - and as I know that I am not the king - then you must be him".

Howieson removed his cap and knelt at King James's feet. The king asked Jock if there was anything he wanted, in recognition and thanks for saving his life at Cramond Brig, and Howieson replied that all he desired was to own the farm on which he worked as a labourer.

The king duly rewarded Howieson with a gift of the lands and occupation of Braehead Farm, on condition that Howieson and his family always be ready with a basin of water and a cloth for the king to refresh himself anytime he passed through Cramond

Braehead remains in the ownership of the Howieson family, and in 1822, when George IV visited Scotland on his royal tour, descendants of the Howieson family attended the king with a basin of water, as James V had requested three hundred years previously.

*4.7.87 – BETTY, DAVID & BETTY & SELF DRINKS AT HOME. VISITED ALAN TROTTER [Solicitor]
1 HOUR*

6.7.87 – BETTY STARTS WORK

10.7.87 – VISIT TO TRUDI & MARGARET 7.30

13.7.87 – DR KELLETT EHG B/TEST XRAY

This was likely the Eastern General Hospital near Seafield in Edinburgh [flats in 2022] with the informal EGH jumbled. It's not the first time Frank jumbled letters around or misspelt relatively simple words but it's not clear whether this was a problem unresolved through schooling or something else.

14.7.87 – E.G.H ECG TEST THERMOGRAPHS

'Thermography' is a test that uses an infrared camera to detect heat patterns and blood flow in body tissues. Whether this was Frank's lungs that were becoming a problem again or something else is unknown. Certainly, the ECG or electrocardiogram test is used to check the heart's rhythm and electrical activity but there is no mention elsewhere in the diary that he suffered heart problems. NB. In 2022, Digital infrared thermal imaging (DITI) is the type of thermography that's used to diagnose breast cancer. DITI reveals temperature differences on the surface of the breasts to diagnose breast cancer

15.7.87 – DENTIST 10AM

17.7.87 – PICK UP AUNT NANA HELEN & TONY 12 NOON

19.7.87 – TOMS SILVER JUBILEE ST JOHNS & MANOR HOTEL



Brother Leo, son's Frank & David, Frank , Brother-in-law Roy, Tom, sister Katie, son Jim, Anne at the right – Jubilee celebration 1987 – Private Collection

Twenty-five years since Frank's younger brother Tom had been ordained into the priesthood and time for a celebration.

I don't recall, at this stage, where Bernard was, perhaps he took the photograph, or indeed who the two ladies on the right are, perhaps there was another table nearby and that photograph remains hidden elsewhere.

21.7.87 – BACK TO WORK

22.7.87 – *MARIE UP PM*

23.7.87 – *GRANNY BIRTHDAY 90 YEARS OLD*

At Ninety, Meg Buchanan, although rarely crossing her doorstep, still enjoyed seeing family regularly and still liked a chat. The cake was large as was the amount of birthday cards she received from family and friends although there were few friends who were still alive. She was frail nowadays with skin like tissue paper and lived of less than a sparrow would eat but she was still strong mentally and regularly spoke her mind.



*Meg Buchanan at 90 with
grand-daughter Margaret
and Great-grand-daughter
Lisa – Private Collection*

23.7.87 – *NEW CONTRACT TO DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION*

27.7.7 – *DADS BIRTHDAY*

28.7.87 – *ON [Shift] FOR ANDY*

30.7.87 – *FRANK & JENNY GREENCRAIG*

A hotel and restaurant near Aberlady, East Lothian.

5.8.87 – MEDICAL 2.30 STANDARD LIFE DR SYME 22 ANNANDALE ST

Laterally, Betty had begun working for Standard Life but evidence of her role is still to be uncovered. The Company was a large 'mutual' insurance company based in Edinburgh but with branches overseas as well. The medical, at number 22, was likely related to life insurance that, as an employee, Betty would obtain at a premium rate although what the doctor thought of Frank's health will forever remain a mystery. At that time Standard Life employed about 8,000 people globally and had a large presence in Canada and India as well as the forty-six UK Branch offices and almost 5,000 staff employed throughout the twenty-six offices in Edinburgh, including as it turned out at 23 and 52 Annandale Street.

11.8.87 – FRANK & JENNY

12.8.87 – DENTIST NEW TEETH £46 0-0

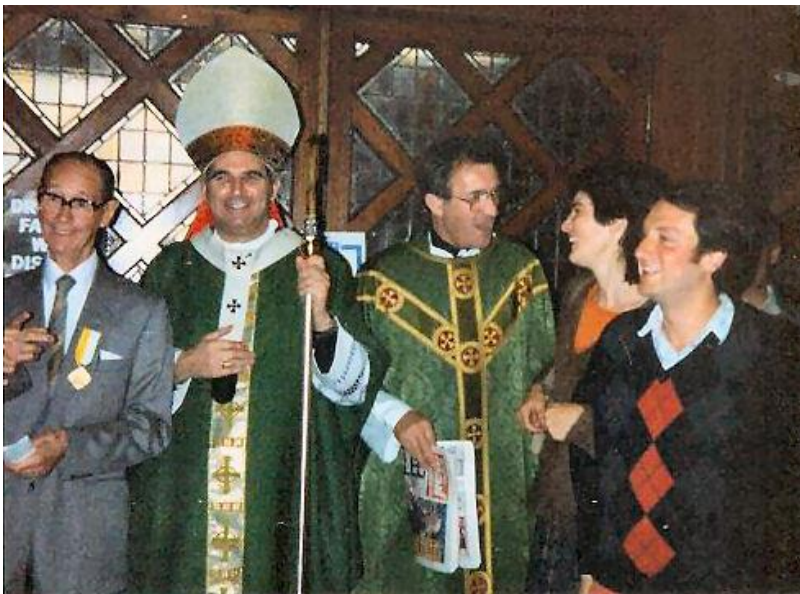
14.8.87 – MET BETTY & MOSHE GEORGE HOTEL

14.8.87 – NANCY & DOUGLAS CRAMMOND BRIG DINNER £35 DOUGIE PAID

More friends perhaps but not the Dougie Toolan as his wife was May.

15.8.87 – CARPET FROM PETE TO ANDY AND MO'S HOUSE

23.8.87 – DADS PRESENTATION WITH PAPEL MEDAL 1130 MANOR DRINKS & LUNCH £15



Bernard, Cardinal Gray, son Tom and grand-daughter Carol at St John's church – Private Collection

Frank was delighted but probably not surprised his father had received this meritorious award. Bernard had told family and friends of the ceremony some weeks before and was presented with a papal decoration for his more than sixty years of distinguished service to the church by long-time friend and Cardinal, Gordon Joseph Gray, an Edinburgh and Holy- Cross Academy man, like himself, and head of the Catholic church in Scotland. The 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice' (Latin: For Church and Pope) decoration is an award of the Roman Catholic Church. It is also known as the "Decoration of Honour" and is conferred for distinguished service to the church by lay people and clergy. It is the highest medal that can be awarded to the laity by the Pope.

23.8.87 – MAGGIE & HUGH TO DOUGIE & MAY GALA 6.30

26.8.87 – BETTY HOSPITAL 10.50 PARTY 7.30 TOM ALICE HUGH/M/DAVID

28.8.87 – JEAN & ERIC 7.30 CRAMMOND BRIG

29.8.87 – MEGS [Daughter Margaret's] AND SHOW 7.45 CHURCH HALL CLARK ROAD

30.8.87 – KAILZIE GDNS SEE ARCHIE HENDERSON

Kailzie Gardens is in the Tweed Valley a mile east of Peebles. It has a superb walled garden with plantings of many unusual shrubs, laburnum arches, a rose garden and wide herbaceous borders. It also boasts one of the best examples of a Mackenzie & Moncur glasshouses still in existence filled with fuchsias, pelargoniums and exotics. The walled garden is surrounded by a range of specimen trees including the oldest larch in its 15 acres of woodland walks.

31.8.87 – BETTY GOLF & GIFFORD STING BY WASP PM HOPETON HOUSE

1.9.87 – CONTRACT TO EDUCATION OF EXCEPTION

2.9.87 – POLICE GUN CLUB

Another non-specific entry that stirs the imagination. Frank certainly had friends in the police

7.9.87 – E/G/HOSP 10.40 DR MACHENZIE 15.3 LBS

Could this be a reference to weight loss? I can think of no other reason why a weight, under a stone, would be entered next to a doctor's name.

9.9.87 – MEG & JOHN HOLS

18.9.87 – DADS CONFERENCE 3DAY B/POOL 19TH GLASGOW BETTY & SELF

20.9.87 – BETTY BIRTHDAY PAINTER @ DADS £60-

20.9.87 – WATERSIDE RESTURANT 7.30 £31-

22.9.87 – E.G.H 9.45 BONE MARROW EXTRACTION DR KAYE

Bone marrow is a spongy substance found in the centre of the bones. It manufactures bone marrow stem cells and other substances, which in turn produce blood cells. Each type of blood cell made by the bone marrow has an important job. Red blood cells carry oxygen to tissues in the body. Bone marrow aspiration [draw in]/extraction and bone marrow biopsy can show whether your bone marrow is healthy and making normal amounts of blood cells.

23.9.87 – MEG & JOHN HOME FROM HOLS

1.10.87 – GRANNY INTO E.G.H WARD 9

6.10.87 – AUNT NANA'S EHG MARROW RESULT U/S

An 'Unspecified' problem is never a good one and the pain of a bone marrow extraction, not unnoticeable. But what was the problem? There is no previous indication of Frank being unwell at this point. A bone marrow exam offers detailed information about the condition of your bone marrow and blood cells.

Bone marrow aspiration and bone marrow biopsy can show whether your bone marrow is healthy and making normal amounts of blood cells. Doctors use these procedures to diagnose and monitor blood and marrow diseases, including some cancers, as well as fevers of unknown origin. Bone marrow has a fluid portion and a more solid portion. In bone marrow aspiration, a needle is used to withdraw a sample of the fluid portion. In bone marrow biopsy, a needle is used to withdraw a sample of the solid portion. Doctors use these procedures to diagnose and monitor blood and marrow diseases, including some cancers, as well as fevers of unknown origin.

Mayo Clinic

It may have been ordered if a blood test was abnormal or didn't provide enough information about a suspected problem like; diagnosing a disease or condition involving the bone marrow or blood cells, determining the stage or progression of a disease, investigating whether iron levels were adequate, Anaemia, cancers of the blood or bone marrow or haemochromatosis. With a potential list like this Frank must have been worried but typically, never said a word.

12.10.87 – SIGNED HOUSE DEEDS

Purchase of 3/2 Coillesdene House, Joppa, Portobello, Edinburgh. Although the couple had agreed when Frank sold Bailie Path that they would buy somewhere new, this transaction showed that they had decided, for the moment, to stay put.

16.10.87 – FISHING DINNER ZOO PARK £10 DOUGLAS RUSSELE BOYS

17.10.87 – MARJORIE & MALCOLM D MO'S 3PM

Who is Malcom D?

18.10.87 – SWISS BAND IN COLLEGE

19.10.87 – BETTY BLACKPOOL & NICKEY VIKING HOTEL 0253 48411

19.10.87 – MARIE UP FROM WALES 12.30 STATION

21.10.87 – TOM PAID £32 PAINTER

22.10.87 – TOM IN BONSECOURS HOSP MANSION HOUSE RD S/LON OPP HERNIA

23.10.87 – BETTY HOME FROM B/POOL

26.10.87 – LINDSAY & PETE ANAV

31.10.87 – MAY & DOUGIE WON £45000 @ NATIONAL BINGO

The equivalent in 2022 of around £150,000, this was an amazing win by any standards.

1.11.87 – DRIVE TO BORDERS TEA & PEEBLES

2.11.87 – ERIC & JEANS MOVE TO SPAIN £100 CAR TAX

4.11.87 – CAR NEW CLUTCH FITTED £160

4.11.87 – FIRST BANK ORDER TO HALIFAX - £43.12

5.11.87 – MRS FLYNN TO FIFE

7-11-87 – JONNY ANTHORN DIED IN CANADA

9.11.87 – HOSPITAL MR KELLETT 10.10AM ALL CLEAR

12.12.87 – (KINGS THE STEEMIE) GOLF 10AM JIM

'The Steamie' was a play by Tony Roper about one Hogmany when four Glasgow women of various ages gather at the local wash-house to do their last laundry of the year. Sharing memories, jokes and talk, usually about their partners, it's sad, nostalgic and funny and received critical acclaim.

15.11.87 – GLASGOW CAR SHOW DINNER @ MARJORIE'S

19.11.87 – DR CHEST COLD AMPACILIN

21.11.87 – AUNT NANA NEW ZEALAND DINNER @ LAURA'S

Anne Murphy, Aunt Nana, leaves to visit her two sisters, Helen and Mary, in New Zealand around this time.

23.11.87 – WED ANAV DINNER WITH NANCY DOUGLAS, WATERSIDE £57-

26.11.87 – FRANK HOME ON LEAVE

Although son Frank was normally based just an hour away in Arbroath for the past few months, he had been on operations in Kilkeel, Northern Ireland, only a few hundred yards from the Irish border and was back for a break from the small twelve-man detachment operating shoreside in support of the Royal Navy on Carlingford Lough.

1.12.87 – NEW WIRELESS CASSETT £130

18.12.87 – BETTY ON HOLS XMAS GRANNY INTO HOME UNTIL MON 21ST

This was by way of a trial for Meg Buchanan. She was becoming more and more isolated and frail so a break at a Church of Scotland home, Queens Bay Lodge, which was only a few hundred metres away on Milton Road, would help re-balance the books.

19.12.87 – DRINKS AT DOUGLAS & NANCY'S

20.12.87 – ON DUTY

21.12.87 – HOLLS XMASS

25.12.87 – DINNER @ HOME MARJORIE & BETTY

26.12.87 – PARTY ROYAL HOTEL 8.30

31.12.87 – MEGS PARTY NEW YEAR

At the end of the year, Frank might have reflected on his health, wealth or happiness and perhaps all three. He was not a man to dwell in the past and continued to enjoy both planned and spontaneous events. Some of the eighty's phenomenon did rub off on him including the Video machine or VCR and the Filofax which he had for a short time. He disliked the current Prime Minister, Maggie Thatcher, with a vengeance and blamed her for the recession the country had gone through but contrarily, admired her for her decision to free the Falkland Islands some five years before. It had been an interesting year.

Chapter Eighteen – Ill's and Wills

1-1-88 – NEW YEAR PARTY BETTY & DAVY

The parties were no longer as boisterous as in years gone by with just a few neighbours in for a drink and to reminisce about years gone by. Perhaps a singsong with some nibbles. Betty liked a wee brandy



but I'm not at all sure if Frank drank at all now. There had been some good times though and long may they continue. They were settled in the flat so thoughts of moving somewhere else drifted to the back of their minds.

Coillesdene House, Joppa, where Frank & Betty lived since October 1987 and Betty had lived previously with Harry since 1960 – Private Collection

6-1-88 - CAR CRASH ACCIDENT 11.30 AM MRS WILSON 5 DICK PLACE GRANGE RD. CAR WRITTEN OFF PC KEVIN HILL P/STATION 6677272

Such an innocuous entry when involved in an accident that totals your car. Must have been more than just a 'bump' or a shunt for the car to be easily identifiably 'written off', even before the assessor has seen it. Most likely resulted in injury to Frank and/ or the other party but no description of ambulances or general hurt.

8-1-88 – HIRE CAR EDIN CAR HIRE £210 14 DAYS NISSAN E654HFS

10.1.88 – START WORK

11.1.88 – DOCTOR CRASH CHECK UP

The crash a few days previously must have caused some sort of lasting injury and with his car a write-off, perhaps whiplash or arm/ chest injuries occurred?

13.1.88 – GRANNY INTO QUEENSBAY NURSING HOME

The Christmas visit had been a success so at ninety Meg Buchanan was moving into the car home full time. Grandson Kenny helped move a few possessions into the one bedroom that would become Meg's resting and relaxation space so only a limited amount of furniture could go with her with the remaining items being stored by Kenny. It was a big step for her but Frank & Betty, along with many other family members, were quick to visit to help her settle in. The room was a decent size and whilst having a small view of a part of the garden, which was good, it was not on the ground floor so using a lift was necessary.

17.1.88 – PETE MOVED INTO NEW HOUSE 82 MILTON ROAD EAST 6692606

22.1.88 – DOUGIE RUSSELL INTO RIE 25TH JAN

28.1.88 – PAID ALAN TROTTER £306.3P CK [Cheque] MADE OUT WILLS

I, FRANK BERNARD CONNELLY residing at Three/two
Coillesdene House, Portobello, Edinburgh wishing to
settle the succession to my estate on my death provide
as follows:

(First) I do hereby nominate and appoint as my executor
my wife, MRS. ELIZABETH BOWMAN or TOOLAN or CONNELLY
residing with me at Three/two Coillesdene House,

*Extract of the Last Will
and Testament of Frank
Bernard Connelly –
Private Collection*

At fifty-eight Frank decided that making a will was a sensible thing to do. Betty also made a will and between them they paid Alan Trotter, the Solicitor.

30.1.88 – OFFER FROM INS £5-200

1.2.88 – LETTER FROM ALICE & TOMMY

2 FEB 88 – CLAIM TO MRS CROOK NORWICH UNION FOR RENTAL £644

4.2.88 – FRANKS BIRTHDAY CARD SENT

Frank maintained a small pocketbook diary where he noted birthdays but one has never turned up amongst his possessions.

5.2.88 – CHANGE OVER HIRE TO BLUEBIRD PAID £105.22P

9.2.88 – 11.45 DOCTOR

10.2.88 – BETTY TO ENT 10.30

11.2.88 – LAWYER SIGNED WILLS RECEIVED £644. RENTAL CASH ALSO CK [Cheque] FOR £5.200

The £644 was monies returned by Frank's car insurance after he had to rent a car after his smash up and the £5,200 payment for the written off car itself, for which he had paid just £5,600 eighteen months previously. Not a bad deal at all; It's a wonder many garages let him back if he was making money all the time!

13.2.88 – JIMS PARTY @ PETE'S

15.2.88 – NEW CAR BOUGHT NEW CARINA II £8,209 E29 JSF

15.2.88 – TAKE RENTAL CAR BACK

16.2.88 – RENTAL CLAIM £322 OWN BIRTHDAY

17.2.88 – JIMS 21 BIRTHDAY GOLF WITH PETE P/BELLO

20.2.88 – PARTY AT DICK & GRETTA'S 7.45

23.2.88 – DOUGLAS & NANCY'S 8PM

29.2.88 - £322 FROM NORWICH UNION FOR CAR HIRE

4.3.88 – DAD HEART ATTACK

At eighty-five Bernard continued to lead a busy life; not only visiting the elderly of the parish but maintaining his own home, cooking and cleaning for himself and so on. A heart attack was not unexpected but there were few tell tales signs of illness in Frank's diary.

4.3.88 – VISIT GRANNY

8.3.88 – BRIAN LEAVING INDIA

14.3.88 – MEG SOLD HOUSE DRIVE TROSSACHAS

16.3.88 – BETTY NEW TABLETS

21.3.88 – DAD DIED 10PM SLEEPING IN CHAIR

Bernard Connelly had lived a full life and outlived Julia, his wife of fifty-five years, his two eldest children, James and Michael and all nine of his siblings. A family man and devout Christian, his love for his church was only eclipsed by that for his family.

22.3.88 – BETTY @ DOCTOR

25.3.88 – DAD FUNERAL 10AM ST JOHNS 12AM MILTON HOUSE HOTEL

29.3.88 – BETTY DR FORD LEITH HOSPITAL 11AM

30.3.88 – BETTY DOCTOR 8.15

3.4.88 – MARKET AT DREM

7.4.88 – FISHING @ KELSO DOUGLAS PHILIP & STEVE

11.4.88 – START WORK

12.4.88 – BETTY ALL CLEAR DOCTOR 4.30

13.4.88 – DR SELF 9.25

14.4.88 – FUNERAL MARY RAMSAY 12 NOON SEAFIELD (AUNT)

Mary Kilpatrick was an aunt of Betty's through her uncle Andrew Litster Ramsay whom she married in Joppa on 30 December 1936 at St Phillips church. Betty's mother was Janet (Jean) Ramsay and Andrew was her brother.

15.4.88 – AUNT NANA RETURN FROM NEW ZEALAND

Anne Murphy had been away since late November and had been visiting her sisters in New Zealand. A great lover of chatting and a wee dram it must have been a marvellous trip.

17.4.88 – GOLF AT DUDDINGSTON

17.4.88 – DISCOVERY SHIP DUNDEE AND JENNYS

At the beginning of the 20th century Antarctica was still an uncharted wilderness. The 1901 British National Antarctic Expedition was the vision of Sir Clements Markham, President of the Royal Geographical Society. Markham saw the aims of the expedition as purely scientific. Being the first to reach the South Pole was never one of the objectives. By 1900 he had raised the necessary funds and needed a ship, and a man to lead the expedition. As a major whaling centre Dundee's shipyards had long experience of constructing ships robust enough to travel through the Arctic pack ice. It was this expertise that Markham harnessed to build RRS Discovery, the first vessel to be constructed specifically for scientific research. While the design was based on the great Dundee whalers, there were some modifications to be made.

Markham wanted "*a naval officer in the regular line... young and a good sailor with experience of ships under sail. He must have imagination and enthusiasm... be calm, yet quick and decisive in action.*" His search ended with a young naval officer he had first encountered twelve years earlier, Lieutenant Robert Falcon Scott. Scott took personal charge of all preparations for the expedition. Forty-eight men started the journey south, each one hand-picked by Scott. Scientists apart, the complement was a mixture of merchant and naval seamen. After five months at sea, Antarctica was eventually sighted on January 8th 1902. The main purpose of the expedition was scientific.

On November 2nd 1902 Scott, Wilson and Shackleton set off to cross the Great Ice Barrier and explore the frozen desert beyond. With them were nineteen dogs pulling five sledges laden with 1,853 lbs of supplies and kit. One by one the under-nourished dogs began to die. The men too were beginning to suffer dreadfully. They carried on until December 30th, when, at latitude 82° 17', they reluctantly turned for home. Shackleton was in the advanced stages of scurvy, incapacitated and coughing up blood through his congested throat. Against near impossible odds they arrived back at Discovery on February 3rd 1903. They had trudged over 950 miles in 93 days, travelling further south than any man before them. By December 1903 there was 20 miles of ice between Discovery and the open sea but on February 16th controlled explosions were used to blow Discovery free from her icy prison and the expedition headed for home.

Landfall was made at Spithead on September 10th 1904 to a rapturous reception. By 1979 Discovery was in a serious state of dilapidation but after a grant from the Maritime Trust, in 1986 a new home was offered by Dundee Heritage Trust and on April 3rd Discovery berthed at Victoria Dock.

www.rrsdiscovery.co.uk

19.4.88 – HADDINGTON CHURCH ST MARYS MET JENNY HARRISON

This is an unusual location for Frank to meet an old friend so perhaps JH was associated with the church and Frank was meeting her during her 'working' day?

20.4.88 – GOLF PETE PORTOBELLO JAMES INTERVIEW MILTON KEYS [Miltonkeynes]

21.4.88 – PUMPTURE IN GEORGE ST PICK UP JIM STATION

23.4.88 – DRIVE TO GLASGOW INVERARY - LOCHGILPHEAD

26.4.88 – BETTY DR REID FISHING 10AM DOUGLAS NISBETS FARM CAUGHT ONE

28.4.88 – FOLDING BED TO MARJORIE GLASGOW MARJORIE OFF WORK

29.4.88 – BETTY LEITH HOSP 9.30AM RIE 11AM

2.5.88 – SE GEORGE BETTY ENT 11AM

3.5.88 – AUNT NANA CHANGE SPIN DRYER FOR W/MACHINE

This was a task right up Frank's Street. Undoubtedly, he selected a washing machine that would suit his aunt and likely got rid of the old one at the same time. Swopping the machines over before fitting the new one was something he enjoyed.

6.5.88 – FISHING TYNE (1)

7.5.88 – FRANK & JENNY KIDS SKEGNESS

8.5.88 – MEG & JOHN MOVE HOUSE TO 62 HAINBURN PARK EH10

9.5.88 – BETTY BACK TO WORK

12 13.14 – FISHING TYNE W/LEITH TWEED (3)

Having checked his diary twice, the date above is, as written. Maybe automatic pilot or the dates over three days although the next entry suggests a return visit to the Water of Leith.

13.5.88 – FISHING W/LEITH & BALERNO (1)

Of course, you have probably realised that the numbers in brackets are the number of fish he caught. Not prolific by any means but a certain measure of enjoyment, carried over no doubt from his youth when he fished at Spott.

14.5.88 – FISHING TWEED STANDARD LIFE @ PEEBLES

Because Betty worked at Standard Life, she, and thus Frank, was afforded the privilege of fishing the beat of Kingsmeadows House, which the company maintained for the use of staff. The house, stables and extensive grounds were sold off to a developer after the millennium when they successfully converted the main house to flats and continues to build in the grounds. But no fish catch noted.



Frank after fishing mishap circa 1980 – Private Collection

16.5.88 – VISIT AUNT NANA & DAVID REPAIR HOOVER AND GARDEN

By no means was Frank lazy but on these occasional trips to see Aunt Nana, taking along someone for the drive, in this case David, wasn't really about David enjoying a day out, more likely HE was the gardener whilst Frank repaired the Hoover.

17.5.88 – VISIT FROM BRIAN TERRY & MR HUGHES

18.5.88 – GOLF, PETER FRANK & GEORGE C/TINNY NET 71

19.5.88 – FISHING & GOLF LANGWANG

20.5.88 – FISHING TYNE

22.5.88 – DINNER @ MINTO HOTEL, BETTY RUN EAST COAST

25.5.88 – TYNE W/DOUGLAS (ONE)

27.5.88 – GOLF WITH JOHN

28.5.88 – BETTY & SELF ASHLEY PARK HOTEL £15BB

A small diary entry noted by Betty for the 29th states; 'Supper at G. Western Hotel [now the Burnett Arms Hotel, Banchory], Frank spoke to Lord Cowdray of Dunecht whose estate is at Loch Skene, 360 acres'.

Frank would have loved chewing the fat with someone of title such as this but also been able to hold his own in conversation, even if he did bluff a bit!

2.6.88 – *GOLF*

2.6.88 – *FISHING TYNE DOUGLAS STEWART PHILIP (NO CATCH)*

4&5TH.6.88 – *MEGS PARA/JUMP DAVID VISIT COLLEGE*

8&9.6.88 – *FISHING TYNE PETES SPINE DISC & NERVE*

Sounds painful and as son Peter was on his feet all day as a hairdresser he either couldn't work or was in constant pain as he continued.

10.6.88 – *DAVY'S NEW HOUSE £50,00.50 BETTY HOSP*

20.6.88 – *HOLS, BETTY DOC 3.30*

24.6.88 – *MARINE HOTEL [Cornwall]*

[From Franks short trips notebook] After leaving home at 7.45, Frank and Betty drove to Abington for breakfast then Stoke-On-Trent for newspapers (?!), stopped briefly at Exeter for fuel and arrived, after driving 600 miles, at 9.15 pm to stay at the Marine Hotel, Newlyn in Cornwall. A long way to go for the papers...

25.6.88 – *COTTAGE FROM CHRIS & CATH JOHNSON EAST CLIFF COTTAGE*

They had a cottage in the ancient village of Marazion booked for the week so visited a co-op for supplies before settling in however, no sooner had they risen the following morning than they were off, driving around Cornwall to see the sights, enjoying fish suppers, Flambards theme park and various museums.

7.7.88 – *VISIT AUNT & UNCLE ERNIE WORKINGTON SURREY*

Not satisfied with enjoying a week off, they drove on at the end of the week and visited Brighton then Folkestone, before embarking on a day trip to Boulogne the following Monday. On the Tuesday they set off for home late, stopped at Scotch Corner for fuel and arrived back at the flat at 3.30am on the Wednesday morning. In ten days, they covered 2,751 miles.

Ernie Burrett was married to Isabell Ramsay who was Betty's aunt; Her mother's sister.

6.7.88 – *DROVE HOME ARRIVED 3.30AM 2751 MILES IN 12 DAYS*

12.7.88 – *BETTY DOC (TOM 5PM DINNER)*

18.7.88 - *FISHING*

20.7.88 – *BACK ON DUTY*

22.7.88 – DOUGIE & MAY PARTY GALA (NO GO) WORKING

23.7.88 – GRANNYS PARTY @ MEGS ALL FAMILY PETE ATTACKED BETTY TO PALMIST WORKING

A strange mixture of diary entries with almost a passing reference to son Peter being attacked mixed in with a party and a palmist. Peter, who lived in Milton Road in the Brunstane area of Edinburgh had been for a night out with [snooker] friends on this particular Saturday and was making his way back on foot down Lothian Road with friend Gary when they noticed a gang of lads following them. Peter stopped to light a cigarette at a bus shelter and Gary walked on but was being harassed so Peter shouted at the gang. The gang then turned-on Peter who was able to shout to Gary to 'run' before the gang set about him, causing him a lot of injuries, to his head in particular. After the gang made off, Peter made his way up Lothian Road intent on going to the Royal Infirmary some 800 yards away but stopped to phone wife Lindsay, who was staying with friend Carole. The pair immediately left to pick him up and after being checked out at Accident & Emergency, he was advised to go home. Although no doctors follow up was necessary, he was badly beaten and took time off work to recover. Gary did return to the scene with his father but saw no sign of the gang who were never caught or punished. Peter's brother David visited him and took photographs but it is not known whether the pictures were ever used for criminal injuries compensation although typically, Peter would have just let sleeping dogs lie.



Frank, and children, David,
Frank, Jim, Pete and
Margaret February 1988 –
Private Collection

24.7.88 – GEORGE HIGH HOSPITAL LONGMORE

27.7.88 – CAR ALARM FITTED £135

31.7.88 – GOLF JOHN FACE CUT BLACKPOOL

Another list of disconnected entries with little rhyme or reason.

4.8.88 – NEW PORTABLE COLOUR TV (COMMET) SERVICE 26 LEWIS

8.8.88 – GOLF GOGARBURN

11.8.88 – KAGYO SAMYELING TIBETAN CENTRE TEMPLE 2.50PM

Founded in 1967 the Centre is located in a peaceful valley on the banks of the river Esk in Scotland. Kagyu Samye Ling was the first Tibetan Buddhist Centre to have been established in the West. I wonder what Frank would have made of this?

15.8.88 – STAFF RESUME DUTIES

16.8.88 – ENROLEMENT NIGHT CLASSES

17.8.88 – FISHING LOCHLEVEN 6:30 TO 16:30

19.8.88 – JIM COPELAND HOLLS

22.8.88 - “ GOLF CRAIGENTINNY

24.8.88 – JIM GEORGE SELF ABERDOUR

26.8.88 – PETE MAGNUS SELF DUDDINGSTON

7.9.88 – DAVID & JULIE AWAY

9.9.88 – ROYAL 12 NOON INFIRMARY GASTROINTESTINAL & LIVER DEPT EXT 23 DR FLEMING

12.9.88 – EMMET CASSIDY DIED CITY HOSPITAL FUN/R [FUNERAL] 15TH

14.9.88 – AT DOUGLAS & NANCY HOUSE 7:30

15.9.88 – BETTY DINNER AT CARLTON HILAND [HIGHLAND] FOR TOM RETIREAL [RETIRAL]

26.9.88 – NANCY PICK UP DOUGLAS 1:30 W.G. [WESTERN GENERAL]

28.9.88 – COUPON 22.5 POINTS £27.85

Frank had done a ‘coupon’ for years. By placing a ‘x’ in the box next to the teams you thought would play to a draw, the weeks coupon and payment was then picked up at the door by a collector and entered into the draw.

For nearly 100 years, playing the Football Pools has been a tradition for generations of families. I can picture Frank waiting for the Saturday teatime scores, clutching his coupon and marking off the score draws, hoping to win big. 24 points was the big win with effective forecasting of eight out of the ten

marked on the coupon.

The Football Pools was born (Littlewoods Football Pool as it was originally called) in Liverpool by three friends who each invested £50 of their own money and printed the very first 4,000 coupons which they distributed outside Manchester United's Old Trafford ground but it was the entrepreneurial flair of one, John Moores, which determined the venture's evolution into the biggest football pools business the world has ever seen. At its height, up to 14 million people played the Pools every week, staking more than £50 million. by the early 50's more than 10,000 staff were checking up to five million coupons weekly. Pools were pioneers in the technology age, designing and commissioning the first high speed optical scanners for its checking centres in 1961 and then in 1966 being one of the first businesses in the UK to install an IBM 360 system.

12.10.88 – PICK UP DOUGLAS 8:30AM HOSPITAL

14.10.88 – ROYAL INFIRMARY ULTRASOUND SCAN X-RAY DEPT 10:30 AM

14.10.88 – AUNT NANA TO NURSING HOME COLINGTON FRANK PICK UP

Every so often, Anne Murphy would have a short break at a nurses nursing home in Colinton, Edinburgh. 23 Pentland Avenue was designed by Sir Robert Lorimer, 1893-6 and was predominantly a 2-storey, stepped double L-plan house with English Arts and Crafts features and some traditional Scots detailing. The house was built for Miss Guthrie Wright, who is believed to have been Lorimer's aunt. Lorimer also built the 3 neighbouring houses for Miss Guthrie Wright, numbers 21, 40 and 42 Pentland Avenue. In her will Miss Guthrie-Wright left this house as a home for the nurses of the Queen's Nursing Institute, which was founded in 1889, of which Anne Murphy was a long serving member

25.10.88 – PAID ABBEY LIFE £350 BY CHEQUE

26.10.88 – PETE & LINDSAY ANNAV 1985

29.10.88 – (BRIANS) MIKE PICK UP 8:30AM TAKE TO DAVIDS

29 & 30/10 – J. ROBERTSON MOVED HOUSE 29 & 30 OCTOBER

1.11.88 – DOUGIE RUSSELL DIED

5.11.88 – DOUGIE CREMATED WARRISTON 11:30AM

10.11.88 – DINNER ROYAL MOSS GOLF CLUB 7PM

21.11.88 – BETTY HOSP WESTERN

20.1.88 – GEORGE HIGH DIED

22.11.88 – RIE TESTS ON STOMACH AND LIVER

More and more tests but with limited results, which Frank rarely, if ever, shared with family.

23.11.88 – BETTY HOME HEART TEST ALL CLEAR

28.11.88 – INTO WARD 28 LIVER & STOMACH EXAMINATION INDISCOPE

29.11.88 – FASTING (DR PIPER MRS) (DR HOWARD)

30.11.88 – BEARRIUM MEAL ENDESCOPE 9 30

30.11.88 – DISCHARGED 4;30

Frank must have been in constant, or at least regular, pain but makes no mention of this anywhere in his diary, preferring to simply note attendance and outline purpose of hospital admissions.

6.12.88 – BACK TO WORK CAR SERVICED 2/12/88 £65

On the 21st of December 1988, Pan Am Flight 103 was blown up over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing a total of 270 people.

Shortly after 19:00 on that day, while the aircraft was in flight over the Scottish town of Lockerbie, it was destroyed by a bomb that had been planted on board, killing all 243 passengers and 16 crew in what became known as the **Lockerbie bombing**. Large sections of the aircraft crashed in a residential street in Lockerbie, killing 11 residents. With a total of 270 fatalities, it is the deadliest terrorist attack in the history of the United Kingdom, as well as its deadliest aviation disaster. Libya is suspected of involvement

24/12/88 – NEW WORK BENCH

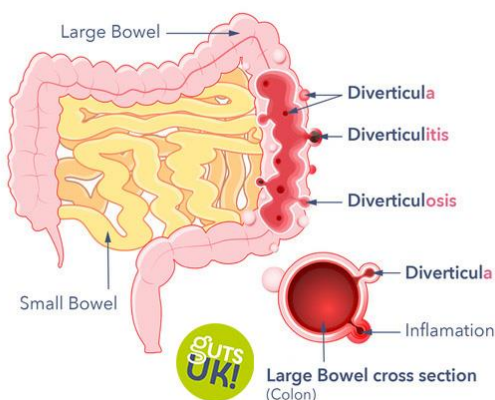
24/12/88 – NEW GOLF TROLLEY AND BAG

9/1/89 – MAGIE LOVATT DIED IN CANADA

10/1/89 – RESULTS FROM RIE HAVE DIVERTICULITIS V/VNS GULET & BOWEL

Diverticular disease is a diagnosis given in people who have symptoms and is extremely common. Between 1 in 3, increasing to 1 in 2 people will be affected during their lifetime.

- **Diverticulum:** A diverticulum is a small pouch about 1cm in size which sticks out from the wall of the large bowel.
- **Diverticulitis:** Diverticulitis means the condition that occurs when a single diverticulum or several diverticula become inflamed or infected.
- it is still uncertain what causes diverticula to develop.



gutscharity.org.uk

Research indicates that the 'VNS' stands for 'Vagus Nerve Stimulation' which it was thought at that time might reduce pain and discomfort. It is also believed that Diverticulitis can be hereditary so Frank may have picked this up through his mother or father.

13/1/89 – BETTY RETIRES 9.30 HAIR 11AM OFFICE DRINKS LUNCH

15/1/89 – FRANK MOVED TO BENEDICT RD 72 SAME PHONE NUMBER

24/1/89 – PETE MADE MEMBER OF BRITISH LEGION 7.30

Because Peter was not an ex-military man he needed to be proposed and seconded by existing members of the club, which in Peter's case was not a problem as he knew many, if not most, of the members.

6/2/89 – BETTY'S ALL CLEAR FROM DR REID

10/2/89 – PAID £176 & £7 TO COMMERCIAL UNION

14/2/89 – R.I.E ENDESCOPE NO MORE TREATMENT POSSIBLE

Writing that 'no more treatment possible' about yourself must take some doing. Frank, pragmatic as ever, makes a simple diary entry thus signifying that a part of his body has failed to repair or respond to treatment. It is not possible to identify what illness or damage the entry is referring to nor what the prognosis was but it says a lot about the calibre of man Frank was that he doesn't even break stride between this and the following entry.

15/2/89 – JOHNS BIRTHDAY

17/2/89 – STEVE LEAVES COLLEGE NIGHT OUT JIMS BIRTHDAY

16.2.89 – BIRTHDAY DINNER AT ABOTSFORD RES/T ROSE ST

18.2.89 – TOM IN ROME

23.2.89 – *ALL WARDENS MEETING WITH STEVENSON COLLEGE*

28.2.89 – *LETTER TO HOUSING DEPT REF CARETAKER HOLLS FROM COLLEGE*

13.3.89 – *ANNUAL FISHING MEETING ANGLERS CLUB 29 DUNDAS ST*

17.3.89 – *COLLEGE RESESS [recess]*

18.3.89 – *DONALDS PARTY*

21.3.89 – *DADS ANAV 1 YEAR START WORK*

25.3.89 – *DR CAMERON CALLED IN 4.30 5AM WARD 3 RIE*

Six weeks after writing that no more treatment was possible, Frank returns to hospital for more tests. Again, there is no information that tells us whether this was the same complaint referred to in his Valentines day diary entry or if this is a totally separate complaint. His body was letting him down badly.

26.3.89 – *TRA WARD 29 DR FINLAYSON & SURGEON*

27.3.89 – *X RAY INDISCOPE*

29.3.89 – *BEIRIUM MEAL & XRAY*

30.3.89 – *DR FINLAYSON & DR McLEAN NO RESULTS YET*

31.3.89 – *DISCHARGED RIE*

4.4.8 – *BETTY & NANCY ROYAL SCOTT HOTEL LONDON CANCELLED*

11.4.89 – *BOUGH [bought] BOSH DRILL AND LIGHTSHADE B/Q*

21.4.89 – *CAR VALLET 7AM £28*

24.4.89 – *HOSP RIE 8AM*

25.4.89 – *SEEN DR FINLAYSON INDISCOPE 11AM*

27.4.89 – *DISCHARGE RIE*

28.4.89 – *FELL ON PATH BRUISED RIBS*

29.4.89 – *VISIT KATE & ROY OWNS [Owen] WEDDING SWINDON*

5

5.5.89 – *FISHING ON TWEED*

6.5.89 – DR IN HEAVY CHEST COLD HOLIDAY TUMBLE [Tummel] BRIDGE CANCELLED

16.5.89 – VISIT DAVE MILROY, JACKIE & MAY FISHING GALA WATER

17.5.89 – STANDARD DINNER CALEY HOTEL 12.30 FISHING 7.30

The dinner referred to would have been Betty's Standard Life retirement dinner when retiree's are allowed to invite existing or previous members to help the celebrations along.

25.5.89 – DR SIGNED OFF

29.5.89 – FISHING KELSO & PETE PULL LIGHSWITCH BATHROOM £4.25

30.5.89 – CH WITH DR CUMMINS

31.5.89 – START WORK 4.30

7.6.89 – FISHING HARLAW & THIRIEMUIR [Threipmuir Reservoir]

9.6.89 – PETES HOLLS MENORCA

12.6.89 – HOSPITAL RIE 9AM WARD 29

13.6.89 – FROZE TWO VANES [veins]

14.6.89 – DISCHARGED RIE

17.6.89 – BOBS RETIREAL PARTY

19.6.89 – CLIFTON HOTEL SCARBOROUGH £133.70 P £17

20.6.89 - “ “ P £15.50

21.6.89 – PENBROKE HOTEL BLACKPOOL £264

22.6.89 – WINTER GARDEN B/POOL SHOW CATS £20 P £18

23.6.89 – HOME 3PM TOTAL CASH £597.30

26.6.89 – PHONE HUGH 666-0014

27.6.89 – GEORGE PETE SELF GOGAR GOLF CLUB RAINED OFF 7TH HOLE

30.6.89 – PICK UP AUNT NANA FOR COLLINGTON GRETA DOWN

1 7 89 – MO MOVED HOUSE

2.7.89 – BORDERS LIBRAL CLUB MAY DOUGIE & FAMILY

3.7.89 – LEGION HUGH F B & SELF

4.7.89 – START WORK

7.7.89 – FISHING COBINSHAW STEWART & PETE £8 PER HEAD

9.7.89 – 18 ITALIANS HOME

10.7.89 – DINNER AT RIVERSIDE HADDINGTON MARG BETTY SELF

11.7.89 – PETE JOHN SELF TO VOGRIE GOLF

14.7.89 – DOUGIE TO CANADA

17.7.89 – KATE ROY TO ICELAND

17.7.89 – BETTY TO LONDON NICKIE & NANCY BARBICAN HOTEL

21.7.89 – BETTY HOME

30.7.89 – TOM INTO ROSSHALL HOSPITAL FOR BYPASS

The pressures from coordinating the church in Scotland's information flow whilst maintaining good relationships with other journalists and attending to his own flock at St Cadoc's must have been immense so it's no wonder at some point it would make Tom ill.

Coronary artery bypass graft surgery usually lasts 3 to 6 hours. But it may take longer depending on how many blood vessels are being attached. Blood vessels can be taken from the leg (saphenous vein), inside the chest (internal mammary artery), or the arm (radial artery). Other blood vessels in these areas are able to compensate for the loss of these blood vessels after the operation.

One of the graft vessels is usually taken from the chest (internal mammary artery). Once all the graft vessels have been removed, the surgeon will make a cut down the middle of the chest so they can divide the breastbone (sternum) and access the heart.

During the procedure blood may be rerouted to a heart-lung bypass machine. This takes over from the heart and lungs, pumping blood and oxygen through the body. The heart will be temporarily stopped using medicine while the surgeon attaches the new grafts to divert the blood supply around the blocked artery. Afterwards, the breastbone will be fixed together using permanent metal wires and the skin on the chest sewn up using dissolvable stitches.

Tom was going to need some recovery time and would be sore for a while.

31.7.89 – TOM HAD OP CAME THROUGH GOOD



*Tom (right) with Cardinal
Gordon Joseph Gray,
Archbishop of St Andrews and
Edinburgh – Private Collection*

2 AUG 89 – BETTY HALF DAY TOUR GLAMIS CASTLE

3 AUG 89 – BOUGH NEW CAR CROLLA £9.148. PX £6800 BALL £2.348

“ “ - ALARM OUT OLD IN NEW CAR £69.00

6 AUG 89 – VISIT TOM

9 “ 89 – TOM BLOOD TRANSFUSION

10 “ 89 – TOM MUCH BETTER

11 “ 89 – HOLIDAYS 3 WEEKS

15 “ 89 – TOM HOME FROM HOSPITAL

16 “ 89 – FISHING LOCH LEVEN 6PM TO 11PM

17 “ 89 – KATE & ROY HERE

22 “ 89 – GARAGE FIRST SERVICE

25 “ 89 – CAROL & BOYFRIEND HERE MEET GREYFRIERS BAR

26 “ 89 – PETE HOME FROM AMERICA

29 “ 89 – PETE & SELF TOUR HIGHLANDS JOHN O GROATS OBAN MULL IONA

31 “ 89 – HOME THROUGH STIRLING 886 MILES

Another epic drive for Frank and friend Pete McGregor.

4 SEPT 89 – MARIE FOR TEA SEE GRANNY STAYING 20 JOHN KERR COURT

5 “ 89 – START WORK

8 “ 89 – PARTY @ LEGION PETE & 14 YEAR OLD N/FIELD BOYS

9 “ 89 – RUN STIRLING & BETTY MEGS HOUSE UP FOR SALE

11 SEPT 89 – RIE WARD 28 TRA/TO WARD 7

12 “ 89 – OPP FREEZE VANES DISCHARGE 8PM

More veins frozen but its not clear if these were the same ones frozen just weeks previously or newly identified ones.

14 “ 89 – BRIAN TERRY HERE TO VISIT

15 “ 89 – MR MONSVOLL FUNERAL PORTOBELLO G/YARD 11.45

15 SEPT 89 – BETTY TO MANCHESTER PICKADILLY HOTEL

20 SEPT 89 – BETTYS BIRTHDAY NECKLACE & HARVESTER HOTEL

26 “ 89 – LINDSAYS BIRTHDAY 8 ½ % PAYRISE SHELVES MO & NICKY

Although inflation was running at just above 5%, this was a substantial pay rise and would put more petrol/ car money in Frank's pocket.

19 “ - PETES CARPET

1ST OCTOBER 89 – BETTY AT TARROT CLASS FRANK & JENNY & KIDS HERE

26 OCT 89 – PETE & LINDSAYS 4 ANAV

3 NOV 89 – WALTON FISHING DINNER ZOO PARK £13.0.0

6 NOV 89 – BETTY TO PARIS 5 DAYS

21 NOV 89 – EILEEN CONNELLY FUNERAL 23/11/89 2PM

Eileen McRae Connelly, Nee Lamb, was born in 1940 to Charles Balhary Lamb and Helen Pennycook and had married Franks brother Leo in 1960. Soon after giving birth to four children the couple separated,

due in part at least, to Eileen dependency on alcohol. When she died aged 49 she was still living in Edinburgh but it is not known whether the couple still had any contact.

21 NOV 89 – UNCLE ANDREW [LITSTER] RAMSAY FUNERAL 24TH 11.30

22 NOV 89 – ANAV DINNER HARP HOTEL 8PM FOR 23/

24 NOV 89 – MEG MOVEING HOUSE TO MUSSELBURGH

26 NOV 89 – FRANK & JENNY ANAV

1 DEC 89 – MEG MOVED TO 51 STONEYBANK GDNS

4 DEC 89 – MEG AND GALE HOLIDAY TO TUNISIA

5 DEC 89 – JIM INTERVIEW BEDFORD

15 DEC 89 – STAFF DANCE KINGSMANOR

16 DEC 89 – MARGARET FLYNN AT HOME FUNERAL 21ST MORTONHALL

Margaret Flynn lived with her husband and son Keith just one hundred metres from Frank's house in Bailie Path. The Flynn's had lived in the same ground floor flat in Magdalene drive since at least the time when Frank and his family moved to the area in May of 1967. Keith had gone to the same secondary school as son Frank and Margaret worked with Jean in the Milton Road Post Office on the dawn newspaper shift.

17 DEC 89 – REG CURZON AT HOME FUNERAL 20TH SEAFIELD

19 DEC 89 – LAST DAY AT COLLEGE

20 DEC 89 – HOLLS XMASS

25 DEC 89 – XMAS PARTY MEG, MO, MADGE, FRANK, JENNY & 2 KIDS AND SELF'S

As 1989 came to a close, Frank might have considered some of the family events that had occurred during the year which, although dominated by hospital attendance for himself and Betty, also included weddings and fishing, both of which he loved. Global news from the year included;

George H Bush becoming the 41st President of the United States, the last Soviet Union armoured column left Kabul, ending nine years of military occupation since 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini, Supreme Leader of Iran, issuing a fatwa calling for the death of Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie and his publishers for issuing the novel *The Satanic Verses* (1988), The first of 24 Global Positioning System (GPS) satellites is placed into orbit, Twelve European Community nations agree to ban the production of all chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by the end of the century, Tim Berners-Lee produces the proposal document that will become the blueprint for the World Wide Web, In Alaska's Prince William Sound, the *Exxon Valdez* spills 240,000 barrels of oil after running aground, Margaret Thatcher's new local government tax (the poll tax) is introduced in Scotland.

The Hillsborough disaster, claims the lives of 94 Liverpool F.C. supporters in Sheffield, Motorola introduces the MicroTAC personal cell phone, the world's smallest mobile phone – (a brick), In what is known as the Tiananmen Square Massacre, troops armed with assault rifles and accompanied by tanks fired at demonstrators and those trying to block the military's advance into Tiananmen Square. The protests were forcibly suppressed when the government declared martial law and sent the People's Liberation Army to occupy parts of central Beijing. Estimates of the death toll vary from several hundred to several thousand, with thousands more wounded, British police arrest 260 people celebrating the summer solstice at Stonehenge, F. W. de Klerk is sworn in as the seventh and last State President of South Africa. The Guildford Four are freed after fourteen years' imprisonment in Britain.

The fall of the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989, was a pivotal event in world history which marked the destruction of the Berlin Wall and the figurative Iron Curtain and one of the series of events that started the fall of communism in Eastern and Central Europe, concluding a 2-day meeting off the coast of Malta, U.S. President George H. W. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev release statements indicating that the Cold War between their nations may be coming to an end.

Chapter Nineteen – The Nineties

6 JAN 90 – MEGS PARTY

9 1 – 90 – START WORK COURT & BETTY

13.1.90 – DONALDS PARTY

11/1/90 – NAP DIED CITY HOSP

18/1/90 – NAP FUNERAL

19/1/9 – BETTY AND GRETA TO RAVELSTON DINNER

27/1/90 – PARTY BETTY, DAVID GRETA & DICK & NANCY

30/1/90 – PHONED PAUL & KATIE

1 FEB 90 – PHON TOM GILKRIST WAR PENSION B/LEGION

3 “ 90 – DONALD & DOROTHY IN FOR DRINKS

15 “ 90 – JESSY DEARNESS DIED CREMATED 11.30

16 FEB 90 – BIRTHDAY DINNER @ PIRRIES COATS GARDENS (FAMILY)

21.2.90 – COLLECT TV CABINET BALL £150 PAID

23.2.90 – METRO NEWCASTLE 2 HERESITIES STATUES APR £99.85 FOR £29.95

28.2.90 – CANCELLED READERS DIGEST

6 MARCH 90 – MEETING TOWERBANK REF PUMPING STATION (PROM) 7.30

7 “ 90 – DENTAL HOSPITAL 11AM

10 MAR 90 – STEWART & JACKELINE WEDDING GALA ST NINIANS CHURCH

12 “ 90 – WARD 28 RIE 11AM

13 “ “ 90 – OPERATION 9.30

14 “ “ 90 – DISCHARGED 9.30

Hospital appointments and attendances had become so commonplace for Frank, the entries were now being restricted to the point of uselessness. Three days in hospital for anyone, at any age, was not something you kept quiet but Frank did.

20 “ “ 90 – *BETTY & NANCY METRO HOTEL EDGEWARE RD LONDON*

21 “ “ 90 – *RIOT IN REFECTORY 5.50 5 STUDENTS INVOLVED*
NI.35 D. CROUCH NI 41 P. CARTER NI.38 C RENDAL NI 39 B STUART
+ NI 42 SHANE STEDMAN SACKED PLUS OTHER STUDENTS INVOLVED

}

23 MAR 90 – *BETTY & NANCY HOME*

25 “ “ 90 – *MOTHERS DAY DINNER AT FARRIERS FARM TRANENT*

27 “ “ - *FISHING*

28 “ “ – *GOLFING GEORGE PORTOBELLO*

31 MAR 90 – *WEEKEND NORTH LOOK AT RAF TARLAND HOUSE*

Sir Alexander MacRobert purchased the Burnside Estate (now known as Douneside House) as a holiday home for his family in 1888. During the early 1900s, the MacRobert family added extra rooms and a tower, transforming the property into the spectacular country house and gardens which are to be admired today.

Sir Alexander and Lady MacRobert had three sons, all of whom died under tragic circumstances. The eldest, Sir Alasdair, was killed in pre-war times during an aviation accident in Luton. His younger brothers were both commissioned in the Royal Air Force, Sir Roderic as a pilot and Sir Ian as a pilot officer. Both of them were killed within six weeks of each other during the Second World War. The MacRobert family were well known locally as significant philanthropists, which is why, following her sons' deaths, Lady MacRobert decided to set up a charitable trust in their honour.

[<https://dounesidehouse.co.uk/about/history/>]

BOOKED IN TO GLENLUI HOTEL BALLATER £40 + £30

1/ APRIL 90 – HOME

2-4-90 – JIM STARTS AT M.O.D. BEDFORD

4.4.90 – DENTAL CLINIC CLEAR

10.4.90 – PICKED UP MARIE @ POLWARTH GRANNY FOR TEA

12.4.90 – HOLLS £248 ARRAN, OBAN MULL, IONA, TOBERMORY, FINORT

PETROL: £30 — (ACCESS) TRIPS
 ARRAN: — THURSDAY
 FERRY: £34 —
 FOOD: £1-50, £35-50 (ASH)
 HOTEL: £50 — (CHEQUE)
 OBAN: — FRIDAY
 HOTEL: £46 — (ACCESS) NINE
 MEALS: £12-50 (CASH)
 MULL & IONA: — SATURDAY
 FERRY: £30 — (CASH)
 MEALS: £17-50 (CASH)
 2 COASTERS PRESENTS £2 — (CASH)
 FLOWERS (CHOC/MILK) £5 — (CASH)
 TOTAL HOL. COST: —
 £248-50p.

Stick it - added to the
 diary after a trip —
 Private Collection

2 5.90 — BACK TO WORK

7.5.90 — PICK UP BOB DENHOLM & GEORGE BORDERS

15 5.90 — BOUGHT FISHING TACKLE FROM JUNE BREMNER £10

18.5.90 — MEETING AT COLLEGE 8.30AM JIM NIMMO & J.R.

21.5.90 — J.R. ON HOLS LETTER TO WAGES DEPT MRS DRUMMOND

22.5.90 — REPORTS TO JIM NIMMO JAMES EXAMS ALL PASS

23.5.90 — B [£]598.65P 6 VENETIAN BLINDS £167.0.0 FITTED

24.5.90 — JAMES & GALE VISIT ALSO KATIES ROY GOING HOME TUE 29TH

29.5.90 — J.R. RETURNS TO WORK

5.6.90 — FINISH WORK HOLS

11.6.90 — FLY FROM GLASGOW TO PULA YUGOSLAVIA £574.0

12.6.90 — BUS TO PULA AND SAIL TO LINFJORD

13 6 90 — WALK INTO TOWN ROVINJ

14 6 90 — PULA

15 6 90 — DRIVE TO POREC

16 6 90 — TOWN

17 6 90 – TOWN & 18TH

19.6.90 – TRIP TO LIPICA HORCES AND POSTOJNSKA JAMA CAVES



*Betty and Frank in
holiday emergency style
– Private Collection*

20.6.90 – ROVINJ FOR DAY

21.6.90 – TOUR TO LAKE BLED

22.6.90 – HOTEL & SEA

23.6.90 – FASHION SHOW IN HOTEL

25.6.90 – HOME 9.10AM PLANE TO GLASGOW ARR 11AM

4 JULY 90 – START WORK W/SCREEN WIPERS 69 ITALIANS IN 1.30AM

9 “ 90 – CHIROPDIST 10AM

11 JULY 90 – CAR SERVICE £84

13 “ “ - DOCTOR 9.45

15 JULY 90 – DINNER @ MIKE LAURA TED LIZ KENNY & TRICIA 2PM

16 JULY 90 – FUNERAL JEAN JOLLY DIED 13/11/90

23 JULY - HARRY HOLLS 24/7/90 GLASS WORKS 3PM

25.JULY.90 – JIM HOME TICKET £48 FUNERAL OF CAMBIE FAMILY

29 JULY 90 – JIM BACK TO BEDFORD £50

30 “ “ - BETTY & GRETA S/LIFE DAVY W FIRE GEORGE TO NANCY RUSSELL GARDEN

31 JULY 90 – AUNT HELEN VISIT 11AM

AUG

4 8. 90 – MARGORY'S PARTY ARGYLE ARCADE 8PM

5.8.90 – JIM HOME

6 8.90 – ANDY HOLLS

7.8.90 – DAVID & JIM TO GREECE HOLLS

18.8.90 – BOMB SCARE COLLEGE 1.52AM CLEAR 2.30

20.8.90 – HOSPITAL WARD 29TH 2 DAYS OP DR PATAL

The detail above was highlighted by underlining in the original diary but although the significance of the event has been lost to us, it obviously made a great impression on Frank.

22.8.90 – JIM DAVID HOME GLASGOW 04.25

25.8.90 – RODDY NELSON MARRIED @ HULL AUNT HELEN NANA & TOM REP FAMILY

27.8.90 – ANDY BACK FROM HOLLS

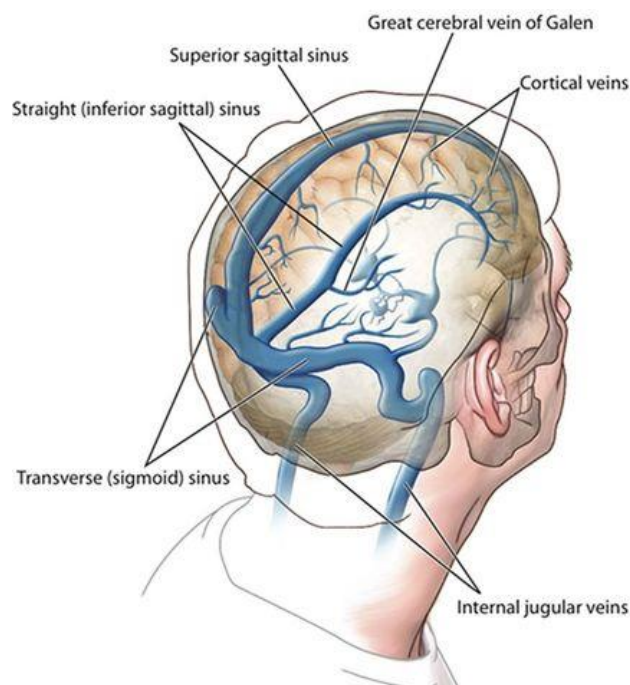
2.9.90 – STUDENTS BACK

3.9.90 – CAMERA REPAIR £24.15

19.9.90 – MEG HOME FROM HOLLS

22.9.90 – MIKES 40TH BIRTHDAY

24.9.90 – HOSPITAL WARD 29 VANE IN FRONT OF BRAIN (BURST) TU FR. STUDENTS



The closest I have been able to research the connections between the headings 'vein' 'burst' and 'TU (or O) FR is a medical definition for cerebral venous sinus thrombosis or CVST which occurs when a blood clot forms in the brain's venous sinuses, which are at the front of the brain. This prevents blood from draining out of the brain. As a result, blood cells may break and leak blood into the brain tissues, forming a hemorrhage. The event can also cause a stroke but there is no evidence of that.

1-10-90 – HOME 5PM OFF WORK FOUR WEEKS MINIMUM

This event was significant but there are no references to treatment.

2.10.90 – IN OFFICE WITH LINE J.R. ON HOLLS

4 10 90 – NEW CAR INSURANCE COMP £150.99

5.10.90 – LUNCH WITH DAVE, MEG & JIM

10.10.90 – ABBY LIFE PAID £350 B/ROOM HEATER REPAIRED THERMO £35.30

12.10 - NEW ELECTRIC BLANKET £29.50 DRIVE GULLANE

15.10.90 – AT STOWE

16.10.90 – DUNFERMLINE & FIFE LETTER FROM HELEN

18.10.90 – AT CHIROPODIST

20.10.90 – DAVIDS PARTY & JOANS 60TH B/DAY PARTY HAYLING ISLAND

21.10.90 – FRANK & JENNY & KIDS VISIT

21.10.90 – AUNT MARY COLLINS (BOWMAN) DIED

22.10.90 – REFUND £48.97 CAR INS

25.10.90 – AUNT MARY FUNERAL WARISTON

26.10.90 – AUNT NANA DIED NINEWELLS HOSP

Confusion reigned when Anne Murphy died when son Frank attempted to register the death only to find there appeared to be no record of her birth. The funeral was not due for a few days and the staff at the Dundee Registrars office continued to dig for the correct detail that would enable a death certificate to be drafted. Eventually her birth date was identified and was found to be days away from the day she celebrated on, changed no doubt because of the proximity to a saints day, which coming from a good catholic family, she would have celebrated.



Anne Murphy with one of her numerous pets – Private Collection

29.10.90 – DR CUMMINS 10.5AM LINE

30.10.90 – AUNT NANA FUNERAL 10AM BLAIRGOWRIE

Whilst the death certificate had yet to be issued, the funeral did go ahead with her nephew Tom officiating.

3.11.90 – GRETA & DICK PARTY

4 11 90 – CHRISTENING AT NORRIE & SHONA HOUSE

5.11.90 – BLAIRGOWRIE EMPTY HOUSE

6.11.90 - “ “ “ “

The small pensioners house at 3 Grant Road, Blairgowrie, had cupboards full of trinkets, embroidered linens and still wrapped Christmas and birthday gifts. Many items were taken to local charity shops with Frank's son David, taking her cat home with him.

9 NOV 90 – BANK GEORGE ST (GEORGE MARTIN SISTER 10AM MORTON HALL

12 11 90 – VISIT TOM DIXON WARD 7 R.I.E

22.11.90 – THATCHER VOTED OUT

23 11.90 – ANNIVERSARY DINNER SHEEPSHEED

24.11.90 – SANDRA'S CHILD £10

26.11.90 – DR BRYDEN 9.40

28.11.90 – 31 STAMPS £6.12 OVERSEAS MAIL

DEC 90

3.12.90 – STAMPS £4.90 & £1.65

6 12.90 – JOAN 7PM

8 12.90 – JOANS BUS 10AM WEATHER SNOW AND RAIN GALES

31.12.90 - £522.97

Chapter Twenty – and More Hospitals...

2-1-91 – SHOES £50

4.1.91 – MEGS BIRTHDAY TRAY & HANDKIES BOUGHT SLIPPERS SOCKS £10.50

10.1.91 – HANG PICS FOR MEG 9/1/91 CH TO DIGEST £21.95

14.1.91 – BACK TO WORK

16.1.91 – WAR IRAQ & BAGDAD 11.57 FIRST BOMBS

21.1.91 – REMOVE BLINDS

23.1.91 – WINDOWS FITTED

24.1.91 - “ FINISHED PAID £2.642 WERE £2.992 LESS £3.50

25.1.91 – VARNISHED AND FINISHED

2.2.91 – SANDRA AND DAVID BENSON MARRIED 10.45 NEWINGTON REDG

4.2.91 – MAUREEN & FRANKS BIRTHDAY

7.2.91 – BRIAN AWAY TO ASCENSION ISLANDS

11.2.91 – UNION MEETING CANCELLED JIM WALLER HEART ATTACK

12.2.91 – CAR IN FOR SERVICE AM

13.2.91 – UNION MEETING MR SEAWARD 4PM COLLEGE

15.2.91 – DINNER FROM MEG, SELF BETTY & JIM BIRTHDAY PIERRE VICTORRIE

*16.2.91 – BIRTHDAY DINNER FROM MARJORIE & MO ABBOTSFORD PRES WADERS SOCKS
& G/GLOVE*

17.2.91 – JIMS BIRTHDAY TEE SHIRT

18.2.91 – WADERS BACK TO MIKES [TACKLE SHOP, PORTOBELLO]

25.2.91 – MEG SOUTH TO CONVALESCENT HOME

1.3.91 – MEG HOME WEEKEND SKING W/END

4.3.91 – P.£20 [PETE?]

5.3.91 – L £250

9.3.91 – KILSPINDIE HOUSE HOTEL LUNCH (2) £13.40 + DRINK

10.3.91 – HOLLIDAY

17.3.91 – COUNTY HOTEL DALKEITH LUNCH (3) £21.70 + DRINK

30.3.91 – CROWWOOD OSTLERS HOTEL “ (2) £15.75 + DRINK

3.4.91 – NEW BED £599. MATRESS

6.4.91 – MOFFAT RUMBLIN TUM RESTURANT BETS DO £3.40

7.4.91 – DAVY MILROY DIED ISOBELLA (WIFE) PHONED

10.4.91 – FUNERAL MORTONHALL 12.15

13.4.91 – OVERTIME ANDY

14 & 15 91 – OVERTIME TONTINE HOTEL PEEBLES TEA AND SAND/W

25.4.91 – HARRY HOLLS

26.4.91 – GASTROINTESTINAL LIVER 9.15AM R.I.E

18.4.91 – O/T ANDY

20.4.91 – MRS LAFERTY DIED

22/4/91 – TYPEWRITER SERVICED BROTHER £25-0-0

29/4 - O/TIME

1/ MAY 91 – UNION MEETING @ TORPHICHEN ST JIM WALKER (CHAIR)

1/ MAY 91- OVERTIME HARRY

3/ “ 91 – ANDY BACK

7 “ 91 – BLOW TEST RIE CANCELLED AUGMENTIN TABLETS 375MG

10

Augmentin 375 Tablet 10's belongs to the group of medicines called antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections of the ear, nose, throat, skin, bone, soft tissue, joints, urinary tract, and respiratory tract. A bacterial infection is a condition in which harmful bacteria infect our body. Infectious or harmful bacteria can make you sick and reproduce quickly in your body.

13 “ 91 – DR 1020

14 “ 91 – GRAVE STONE ORDERED A/NANA £358 £130 GOLD LETTER

16 “ 91 – RIE 9.30 BLOW TEST

23 “ 91 – PAID £1868 HOLIDAY TO CYPRUS 14 DAYS

23 “ 91 – ANDY ON FOR ME DAVIDS PARTY (TATLERS)

24 “ 91 – ON FOR ANDY

26 “ 91 – DAVID AWAY TO NEW ZEALAND

Son David was taking an extended holiday to the far side of the world and had packed a bergen and various bags to take with him on the journey. He wore his kilt from day one and had Scottish pennants made to hand out throughout his journey. He had planned his trip to last almost a year and hoped to see the USA including; New York, Buffalo, Chicago, Denver, Flagstaff, Grand Canyon, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Hawaii then on to complete a grand tour of New Zealand, Bali, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing, before returning home.

26 “ 91 – BOOKED HOLIDAY IN ANNABELLE HOTEL PAPHOS 5 STAR £2902
£1628 + RIVER CRUISE 3 DAY £
+ CASH £838.03P 1% ON TRAVEL CHEQUES 2% ON CASH

2 JUNE 91 – LAST DAY WORK

4 6 91 – FLY TO PAPHOS CYPRUS ANABELLA HOTEL 5 STAR £2.902

“Dad told me that when driving down a hill one day in the hire car, he tapped the brakes gently before a corner only to find there were none... Betty held herself tightly to the seat whilst Frank negotiated the remaining hill and bends to the bottom, chuckling as he did, before stopping safely at the side of the road.”
Frank Connelly 2021

12.6.91- BOAT CRUISE TO HIFA [HAIFA] & JERUSALEM £218 + £99.10P

Betty had been to Israel before and found an affinity with the people there but this was Frank's first trip to the area since his service in Egypt in 1948.

18.6.91 – HOME

23.6.91 – PERTH & BLAIRGOWRIE GRAVE STONE PICS

Son Frank had picked up the gravestone from Edinburgh and had also been in touch with the cemetery to confirm the plot number. When he arrived at the cemetery, he dutifully counted off the stones from left to right to arrive at one of four new plots. As a double check he also then counted from the right,

only to find he ended up on a different burial site. Placing the book shaped stone on the one he vaguely remembered and keeping fingers tightly crossed, he reported to the cemetery officials who intended checking out with their records. Frank was going to check too and fortunately (for son Frank), the stone was on the correct internment.



*Frank on holiday in Cyprus -
Private Collection*

24.6.91 – FISHING SELKIRK

25.6.91 – VISIT TOM DICHRIE

26.6.91 – JIMS CAMP RINGOUR FARM LOCKKEN NEW GALLOWAY

27.6.91 – VISIT A/DICKSON P.M.R

30.6.91 – DINNER COUNTY HOTEL DALKEITH £25

1ST JULY 91 – WARD 28 RIE DR FINLAYSON 10.30

3 JULY 91 – HOME CORTERIZED 3 VEINS

5 JULY – HOLS FINISHED

6 JULY 91 – HUGH LOVATT WEDDING CANADA VISIT JIMS CAMP

7 “ 91 – VISIT GRANNY VISIT MO’ HOUSE

8 JULY 91 – ANDY HOLS PHONED DR FINLAYSON IN 29 [reference to ward 29]

9 JULY 91 – START WORK

13 “ 91 – DINNER COUNTY HOTEL PEEBLES £11

14 “ 91 – WORK

15 91 – VISIT FROM TOM

19 “ 91 – MARRIE AT FRIENDS FOR GRANNYS BIRTHDAY

27 . 91 – KATE & ROY VISIT LEO AND ANN G/FRIEND

29 91 – HOSPITAL W28

30 91 – 3 VEINS INJECTED ULCERS DISCOVERED IN SAME
COURSE OF TABLETS SUCRALFATE

Sucralfate is used to treat and prevent duodenal ulcers and other conditions as determined by your doctor. It works by forming a barrier or coat over the ulcer. This protects the ulcer from the acid of the stomach, allowing it to heal. Sucralfate contains an aluminium salt.

31 91 – HOME FROM HOSP

5 AUG 91 – JIM WALLER MEETING @ COLLEGE 7PM

6 91 – ANDY BACK FROM HOLS

9 “ 91 – JIM HOME HOLS

15 “ 91 – JIM BACK TO GOSPORT

22 “ 91 – CAR SERVICE 4 NEW TYRES £281.98P

26 “ 91 – HOSPITAL WARD 28TH

27 “ 91 – CORTIZO VEINS VARICOSE

28 “ 91 – OUT HOSP

29 “ 91 – DEPT MEDICINE DR R GROSS PRESURE BLOOD HEART & LIVER

31 91 – KATE AWAY HOLS

1 SEP - RUN TO BORDERS

4 SEPT – LETTER TO INSURANCE RENEW POLICY START DRIVING

There does not appear to be a diary entry preventing him driving but the wording above suggests that at least for ‘insurance purposes’ he had stopped and was now officially starting again. The cessation of driving is slightly at odds with the entry on the 22nd which puts his car in for service.

4 - FRANK MOVED HOUSE TO MUSSELBURGH

5th - PETE MCGREGOR HOME FOR HOLIDAY

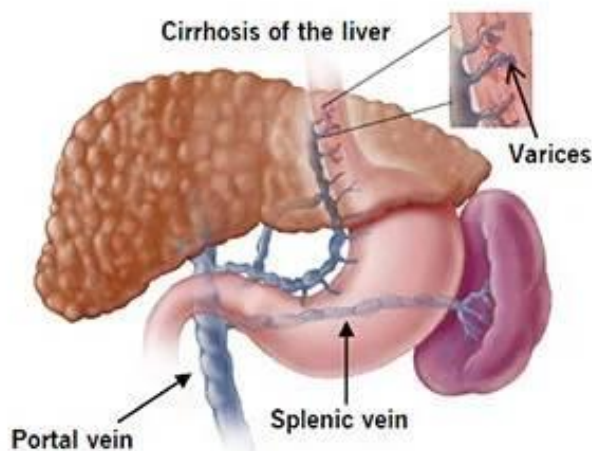
11TH ANAV 29 YEAR

I'm not aware of any significant anniversary in September 1962 or the years either side of it, as relating to this entry. The entry in his written diary is clear so there is no margin for error. It was actually 37 years since he had first married Jean so perhaps just some confusion in counting back had occurred and perhaps an indication of his state of health.

15/9/91 – PETE AWAY TO FRANCE £100

26/9/91 – BETTY BIRTHDAY 62 MO & MARG MADE MEAL I WAS WORKING

23.9.91 – HOSP WARD 28 10.30AM CORTORIZE VIENS IN OESOPHAGUE



Oesophagus is the relatively straight muscular tube through which food passes from the pharynx to the stomach.

Any type of serious liver disease can cause oesophageal varices (Varices are veins that are enlarged or swollen). Cirrhosis is the most common type of liver disease. More than 90% of these patients will develop oesophageal varices sometime in their lifetime, and about 30% will bleed.

The portal vein delivers blood to the liver (The liver is the organ that cleanses toxins/poisons from the blood). Oesophageal varices usually occur in people who have liver disease.

Blood flow through the liver slows in people who have liver disease. When this happens, the pressure in the portal vein goes up. High blood pressure in the portal vein (portal hypertension) pushes blood into surrounding blood vessels, including vessels in the oesophagus. These blood vessels have thin walls and are close to the surface. The extra blood causes them to expand and swell.

If the pressure caused by the extra blood gets too high, varices can break open and bleed. Bleeding is an emergency that requires urgent treatment. Uncontrolled bleeding can quickly lead to shock and death. Cauterisation was, at this time, probably the only treatment possible for Frank. Bleeding oesophageal varices is life-threatening condition and can be fatal in up to 50% of patients. People who have had an episode of bleeding oesophageal varices are at risk for bleeding again.

25.9.91 – HOME TO BED HEAVY COLD

27.9.91 – MEETING J WALLER COLLEGE 5PM

28.9.91 - BETTY IN BED FLU MEG MOVED HOUSE

4/10/91 – DR GROSS BLOOD TIME TO CONGEAL

13.10.91 – GUN CLUB START JOANIE

15.10.91 – BOOKED CAIRN HOTEL XMAS DINNER DEP £66 12 HEADS

20.10.91 – BREICH INN FOR LUNCH £8.79 FOR 2

21/10/91 - FRANK & FAMILY BLACKPOOL HOLS

22/10/91 – 10.30AM ABBY LIFE MR COLIN WATT CANCELLED POLICY

“ “ - £350 PER YEAR TO BE REFUNDED 9 YEARS

It is highly likely that the condition Frank was being treated for was included in this insurance policy as ‘reportable’ and designed not to pay out if you were diagnosed with or underwent a medical procedure for one of the specified illnesses. At this point in Frank’s life, again, it is highly likely he understood that his condition was deteriorating and terminal but his diary entries show him carrying on as normal.

23.10 - FISHING MARKEL

25.10 - PETE LINDSAY 6TH ANNAVERSARY

27.10 - FRANK BACK TO CAMP

29.10 - CHIROPODIST 10.30AM

11 NOV – BILL KERLEY DIED

At almost twenty years older than Frank, William Barrie (his mother’s maiden name) Kerley, known as Bill throughout his life, was one of Frank’s neighbours from number 6 Baillie Path and a lifelong friend.

12.11.91 – NEW DOORS

16.11.91 – ANNMARIE WEDDING

16.11.91 – NETHERABBY HOTEL NORTH BERWICK LUNCH

20.11.91 – CLUB & PETE

21.11.91 - “ “

23.11.91 – ANNIVERSARY BETTY & SELF 6 YEARS

25.11.91 – HOSPITAL

27.11.91 – FRANK & JENNY ANNIVERSARY 14 YEARS

29.11.91 – MIKE CONNELLY & MARGARET WEDDING ST JOHNS 3PM LUNCH GOLF CLUB

Mike was Frank's cousin on his father's side and he married Margaret McNeill or Gordon. There are two certificates on the Scotland's People website but although the dates are the same as is the registration district, each has a different surname and neither certificate is available publicly.

29.11.91 – BANK £2544 FROM ABBY LIFE

These are the proceeds from Frank's life insurance which was no longer effective.

7.12.91 – VISIT FROM KATE & ROY, ANN & ROY, LEO & ANN



Anne, Frank, Tom, Katie, Leo and Brian, Connelly (siblings) – Private Collection

14.12.91 – XMAS SHOPPING

27.12.91 – COLLEGE CLOSING XMAS HOLIDAY

At the close of 1991 Frank and Betty were celebrating six years of marriage and life for the couple seems, excepting hospital visits, to have carried on as in years passed.

The war in Kuwait continued, as did the prosecution of the Kurds by Saddam Hussein but the Royal Airforce joined other allied aircraft in bombing Iraq and an SAS patrol, Bravo Two Zero, was deployed. Downing Street had been mortared and Victoria and Paddington Stations had been bombed by the PIRA. Unemployment rose above 2.4 million. The Prime Minister, John Major, abolished the Community charge but replaced it with a Council Tax. Queen lead singer Freddie Mercury dies in London from AIDS induced pneumonia. The British hostages John McCarthy and Terry Waite were freed. First ever controlled and substantial production of fusion energy was achieved at the Joint European Torus, Oxford. A grand jury indicts Bank of Credit and Commerce International of the largest bank fraud in history, accusing the bank of defrauding depositors of US\$5 billion. Soviet President Gorbachev arrives in London to ask for aid from the leaders of the G7. Many countries declare independence from the former, now collapsed, Soviet Union. The Supreme Soviet meets for the last time, formally dissolving the Soviet Union

6.1.92 – START 6TH JAN

1/1/92 – 1PM PARTY AT FRANKS 1PM PARTY AT DAVIDS WARDS

2/3RD - MUSS AND TOWN SHOPING RUNNING SUIT MEG BIRTHDAY

4/1/92 – MEGS BIRTHDAY 27 YEARS

13/1/92 – PAID A.A £25 RELAY £35 COVER TOTAL £60 YEAR

18/1/92 – FRANK HOME WEEKEND

20/1/92 – GLASSES FROM ASDA £43-

24/1/92 – 13 YEARS COMPLETED AT COLLEGE STARTED 24/1/79

27/1/92 – FRANK TO NORWAY

30/1/92 – 4 ARMY & 8 KILLED

31/1/92 – AGNESS LEAVES COLLEGE

28/1/92 – THANASIS GOURZIS O/D DRUGS JUMPED WINDOW 3 UP R.I.E

Life as a college warden suited Frank, in part because you were never quite sure what was going to happen next. There were no ‘ordinary’ days.

1/2/92 – MAUREENS BIRTHDAY PARTY 7.30 GREAT (NIGHT)

4/2/92 – FRANK 36 & MAUREEN 40 BIRTHDAY

The following entries were written into Frank's diary by Betty.

9/2/92 – *FRANK EMERG. ADMITTANCE TO WARD 29 R.I.E.*

5/3/92 - “ *DISCHARGED FROM WARD 29. CANCER DIAGNOSED*

9/3/92 - “ *EMERG. ADMITTANCE BACK TO WARD 29.*

20/3/92 – *FRANK DISCHARGED FROM WARD 29 R.I.E.*

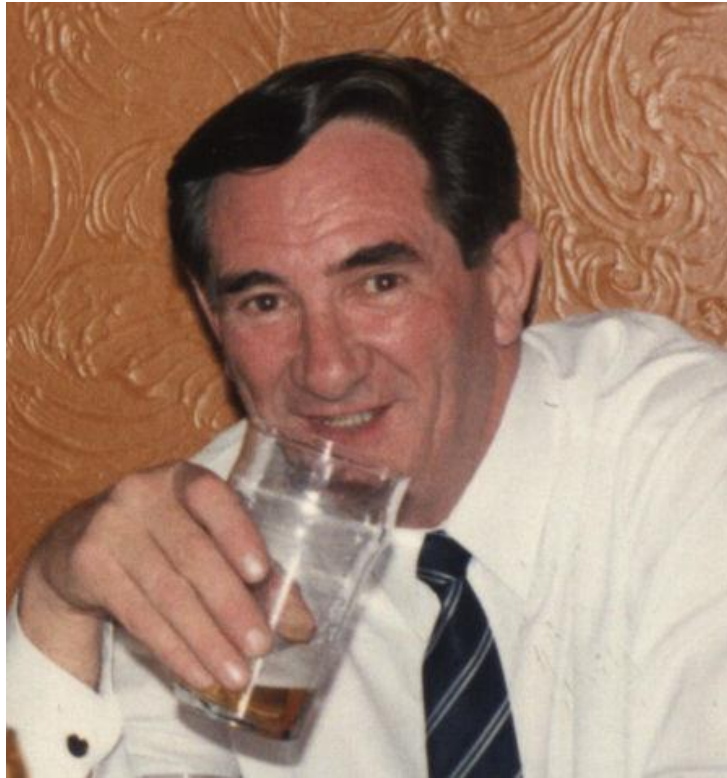
22/3/92 - “ *EMERG ADMITTANCE BACK TO WARD 29 (DIDN'T KNOW ME!)*

Frank passed away at 7pm on the 25th March 1992 in the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh attended by his brother Tom. His cause of death was noted as Carcinomatosis and Liver cirrhosis. He was sixty-two.

CONNELLY – At the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, on March 25, 1992, Frank, beloved husband of Elizabeth Toolan (nee Bowman) and the late Jean Buchanan, devoted father to Frank, Peter, David, Margaret and Jim, father-in-law to Jenny and Linsey, stepfather to Marjory and Maureen, grandfather to Sara, Lisa, Andrew and Nicky. Requiem Mass on Monday, March 30, at 10 am, in St John's Church, Brighton Place, Portobello and funeral thereafter to Seafield Crematorium for 11 am. Remains to be received to church on Sunday evening at 5 pm. Family flowers only, please, but donations would gratefully be received by the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, Liver Research Fund. Sadly missed. RIP.

CONNELLY – Betty and family would like to thank everyone for the lovely floral tributes, cards and contributions to the Royal Infirmary Liver Research Fund. For the care and attention Frank received from doctors and nurses in Royal Infirmary, Special thanks to Cardinal Gray, Canon Rae and Father Tom Connelly for the beautiful mass at St John's Church and all who attended, also those present at Seafield Crematorium. Forever remembered with love in our hearts and prayers.

Betty continued with the diary until July but entries were financial amounts paid out and/ or received from Frank's estate. She continued to live for another twenty-two years and died peacefully in a local care home.



Frank – Private Collection

Epilogue

I don't remember who or how I was told dad was in the infirmary but I went straight there and sat with him along with brother Pete. We chatted with him but he appeared to be asleep as there was no recognition of us. His brother Tom arrived and after sitting with us for fifteen minutes, suggested that Pete and I went for a coffee then came back. We were only gone a few minutes when he died.

He must have suffered the last few years of his life but never spoke about it or moaned about his lot, that takes determination and courage.

You only ever have one father and my dad was special. I can't explain what made him what he was or why he holds a place in my heart; he worried me at times but also made me laugh and I respected him. I was lucky to have spent so long with him enjoying his company.

Frank Connelly December 2022

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Professor JOHN T MACFARLANE, DM FRCP MRCP and Professor MICHAEL WORBOYS. Version 10.5 dated 5th March 2006 courtesy of Cambridge University Press

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Tom Rutherford - SN/SG 6762 dated 22 November 2013

<http://www.treverlen.org.uk/>

EJ Brack, Head Teacher St John's RC Primary School May 1987 (centenary year) extracts by Christine W Burns