

[REDACTED]

Wakefield

11.8.53.

Dear Tom,

Tomorrow I go to serve Her Majesty in her Royal Air Force. First I go to Bedford, to the reception centre at Gardington, and later I go to the Isle of Man. They have wasted no time in calling me.

I enclose a copy of Keep your feet still Gordy Hinary. I hope that you can decipher it. It is just as I took it from my brother, in mock Gordy. I found some information about modes when I came home. Modes originated in the days when the scale corresponded roughly to the white notes on the piano.

Any octave on the white notes is composed of five tones and two semi-tones, but the positions of the semi-tones relative to the first note depends on the first note. A tune within the octave C to C, which finishes on bottom C, is in the Ionian mode; and the 'scale' rises from C to C by jumps of tone, tone, semi-tone, tone, tone, tone, semi-tone. A tune in the Dorian mode, however, lies between D and D, ends on D, and is in a 'scale' which rises by jumps of tone, semi-tone, tone, tone, tone, semi-tone, tone. It is this change of position of the semi-tones in the 'scale' which gives the different flavours to the modes. (Note that in all this

the white notes only of the piano are used, i.e. the tune must be in the key of C. One exception is that the B was sometimes flattened to B^b since ~~the~~ B is an unstable note. Thus

Gently Johnny is in the ^{Hypo} Ionian mode, for on transposing it from the key of G to the key of C by pushing each note up three places, ^{one sees that} the tune lies between G and G, and ends on C.

The only black note used is, in transposition, B^b ; which is the one permitted black note. If you can get someone to play you the tune, playing B instead of B^b (in the key of G, play $F^\#$ instead of F), you will see what they mean by B being an unstable note.)

I can not leave civilian life without saying how much I have enjoyed dancing with you, and how grateful I am for your help and advice in many directions, and for your hospitality. I shall remember you and Joan while I am away and look forward to seeing you again.

Kindest regards.

Frank.

P.S. I will send my things on later; they are a present undergoing the final stages of laundering.

'Tis now Friday 13th and the day has started well. Heres an interesting extract from todays Manchester Guardian. The people of BLARMACH FOLDACH (26 adults and 24 children) a crofting community 4 miles from Fort William celebrated the Gregorian New Year last night with a ceilidh. At midnight Mr David Machachlan (Koopee) aged 80 was piped out as the old year, and Colin McDonald aged 3 entered as the new year. Provost John Gammichael of Fort William and Mrs AW Hobbs of Inverlochy Castle took part in the celebrations. We must look up the good folk of Blaromachfoldach if possible.

Best Wishes

Frank.