

News (Adelaide, SA : 1923 - 1954), Wednesday 12 January 1949, page 5

Memories of Billy Bunter

Remember Billy Bunter the fat boy, Tom Merry the captain of St. Jim's, Arthur Augustus D'Arcy ("Bai jove, deah boy!"), and Harry Wharton of Greyfriars?

Creator of these illustrious characters of schoolboy fiction—along with their colleagues Levison, the Cad of the Fourth Form, Coker of the Fifth, and many another—is living at the age of 70 years at Kingsgate, Broadstairs, Kent (England).

A letter from him received in Adelaide this week says he is still writing about Tom Merry & Co. He is Mr. Charles Hamilton, who writes under the name of Frank Richards.

"I suppose there is hardly an 'old boy' in South Australia—especially of the generation now in their 30's and 40's—who doesn't recall the thrills and week-to-week expectancy of following the adventures of these schoolboy heroes," said Mr. Gordon Madigan, of the Lands Department, today.

He received the letter from Mr. Hamilton, in thanks for "a very pleasant surprise" which reached the author on New Year's Day.

It was a food parcel from three South Australians. Mr. John Drage, of Kingston, S.E., Mrs. Frank Brame, of Largs, and Mr. Madigan.

Having learned that the author of their favorite childhood tales was still living, they sent the parcel as a token of appreciation.

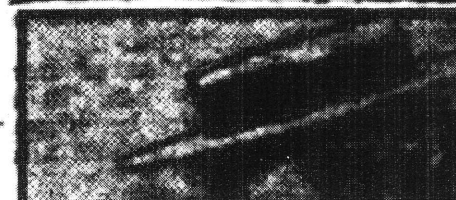
"Although the parcel did not arrive in time for Christmas Day, it came on New Year's Day, which was just as good if not better," Mr. Hamilton said.

"For at Christmas we get a little reckless with our rations

and a somewhat lean period follows."

He said a packet of dripping was "sufficient to bring a beautiful smile" to the face of any housewife or householder in Britain.

The author said he was writing a new story on Tom Merry's summer holidays "up the river" while the weather outside his home was fearfully cold and a north-east wind was blowing slates off the roof



National Library of Australia

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article130240960>