

# MO

## *The Tom Harrisson Mass-Observation Archive*

### SUMMER DIRECTIVE 1987

Dear Observer,

Before all else, very many thanks indeed for the extremely useful work put in on the General Election. You have helped to create a unique document of great historical value.

The theme for the summer is **Holidays** - past, present and to come. Please read it through before you write, and remember that I am only suggesting topics.

First, however, there are some straight questions for working people. How much leave do you have a year, how flexible is it and what are the constraints on you to use it at particular times, either from the work itself or from circumstances outside it?

Summer Holidays in the past. Did you have any? If you did where did you go? Were there other holidays? What about the honeymoon? Second honeymoon?

Please write about annual holidays in recent years. Where did you go, or did you stay at home? When did you go? What type of holiday was it (e.g package, self-catering, house exchange, working holidays etc), what kind of accommodation (hotel, caravan, tent, other?).

Costs: how important, for example, is a holiday in comparison with other demands on the budget?

Who makes the plans for the holidays in your household? And whose interests determine what kind of holiday it is to be? What are your plans for this year?

What is your usual mode of travel and is that what you prefer? Are you subject to air, sea or car sickness? Do you suffer any degree of anxiety about leaving home?

Who goes? Some think its a good idea for the children to holiday on their own, and some couples like to go separately. What do you think?

When you're on holiday how do you like to pass the time - on a beach, sight-seeing etc? Do you always manage to do this? How are other people's likes and dislikes accommodated?

If you live in a holiday/tourist resort, how do tourists and holiday-makers affect you?

PLEASE TURN OVER .....

The British do seem to have a particular reputation for insularity and for misbehaviour, usually associated with drink. Do you have experience of this?

Have you yourself had any of the bad experiences with foreign hotels, British consuls, local people, or food that feature regularly in the popular press at this time of the year?

What would be your ideal holiday - dream at will and don't count the cost!

What other breaks of your own choice do you have in the course of the year?

Some people don't take holidays at all, in the way that I've been referring to them. If you are one of these please do, nevertheless, write about your view of holidays, and how you meet your own needs for relaxation, 'a break' or whatever.

FINALLY - A DAY DIARY. WHEREEVER YOU ARE AND WHATEVER YOU DO OR DON'T PLAN TO DO ON THAT DAY PLEASE KEEP A DAY DIARY, PREFERABLY NOTES MADE EVERY HOUR OR SO, ON AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY, 31 AUGUST. \* PLEASE SEND IN YOUR WHOLE CONTRIBUTION IN ONE BATCH AFTER THAT DATE\*\*\*\*\*

Whatever your holiday plans I hope that you will enjoy some fine weather - somewhere.

David Pocock

\*\*\*\*\*

#### SOME NOTES

1. Thanks to everybody who signed a copyright release form. Some have asked whether they are thereby prevented from publishing what they have written for M-0 elsewhere. No, they are entirely free to publish, though remember to keep a copy of what you send us if publishing is a possibility.

If you have lost your copyright form we can send you another but it would be embarrassing to nag on about this so will those who intend to sign the form but have not done so yet, please take this as the last word on the subject.

2. Most people are getting into the way of using their numbers only, for which many thanks. A name and address on a separate piece of paper certainly speeds up the processing.

3. Will those who use stamps instead of Freepost please use our ordinary address and postcode: BN1 9QL. The postcode BN1 1ZX is for Freepost only. If you use stamps and the Freepost code we may both be paying.

4. Judy and Ann will be away over the school holidays so please be patient, your work will eventually be acknowledged but there will be delays.