

Roll: **19760228-6423**

Camera: **Zorki 4: ZO4**

Film: **Ilford HP4.**

**Subject:**

Mary

**Notes:**

My first day at work in London was for the DHSS in Wembley on Monday 1st December 1976 but from there I was posted to Supplementary Benefits in Romford starting on the Tuesday. Frames 14 and 15 are of Romford so they have to be after Tuesday 2nd December but I now believe they are from as late as March 1976. The film is the only roll found so far of Boots Panchromatic and the frames are perfectly in sequence. What strange creatures we were then. Through most of October and November I was living alone in Birmingham and wonder what I was doing with myself. I took no photographs during those days.

There is nothing either taken in Ilford or Stratford where we lodged through December and early January. I am surprised to find that we had in fact made such a go of life in Stratford, we saw the band Key Largo in a Stratford pub 18th Dec. I do remember seeing a band of that name but do not remember their music at all.

19th December after drinking in the Exmouth Arms with Maggie's work mates we went for a Chinese in Stratford - "not too good." I think I remember that meal I complained about the soup which was supposed to have bamboo shoots but didn't and the staff argued about it. I think I made a deduction from the bill.

Then according to Maggie's diary we saw Key Largo again. I wonder if this as error as the description "Rock Band Key Largo - very good.", reads like a first viewing.

There was a dreadful fight at the bar in the pub where a tall long haired chap smashed a bottle to threaten a smaller slightly tubby chap in a light grey suit. The bloke in the suit knocked him down, smashed the top off of a glass and screwed it into the other blokes eye socket, absolutely calm and ruthless. I had never seen anything like it and hope I never do again. The barman told the long haired chap's mates to carry him outside, presumably to avoid trouble with the police, before they called an ambulance, then he came from behind the bar with a mob and bucket and cleaned up the considerable amount of blood. Everyone carried on without turning a hair. I knew then I was not going to live in Stratford or anywhere near it if I could help it.

Saturday, we went shopping in Ilford and to what I now discover was an old coaching inn, The Angel, for lunch time drinks. Then "on to Barking". Maggie lost Carolyn's books? and had to buy some more.

Back to Ilford where went to the cinema to see "Lady Sings the Blues" which was an "excellent movie" and "American Graffiti", "long and boring - surprised how most people found it good". The latter surprises me as if asked I would have said that I'd never seen American Graffiti all the way through, only bits on the telly. After the pictures we went for a meal in a "fairly good Indian restaurant in Ilford".

We moved into Clissold Crescent on my 24th birthday 10th January 1976.

I went on a training course at Billingham in County Durham in March 1976. On the Friday afternoon 27th February I hired a Ford Escort from "Hireconmy" and had to cross London in "Rush Hour Hell" then set off for Nottingham. "decided car (would) not do over 80-85 (but) discovered pubs would closed (if we continued at that speed). Car did 90-95. "Told to stay at Mary's Hmmm!?".

Saturday 28th went to the Wolds at dinner. "Roy raved at me" In the afternoon we watched Destry Rides Again and Gunfight at the OK Coral, presumably on telly, Then off to the TBI.

Sunday went for a drink at the Hussars and then set off for Banbury I think to drop Maggie off at a relatives who lived there, then I set off for Esh to stay with Kris and Carl. "the worst crosswinds ever been - never felt so done in driving... stopped twice for tea .. cruising at 80-65 to Leeds then 50-55 (when not in the wind) what a drag."

Jeez if I had a drink at lunch time now and set out on a journey like that I'd be asleep within 10 minutes of setting off.

The setting I assume is Perry Road.

**People:**

Mary Hardy, Maggie Hughes and unknown.

**Dates:**

Assuming I have the right occasion this would have to be 27th or 28th February.

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**Frames:**

Z04-A0023 19760228 19:00:00 Mary.

Z04-A0024 19760228 19:01:00 Mary.