

From John Wren-Lewis

Address until mid-August:

June 28th 1983

47, Jalan Melor
Taman Uda Jaya
Ampang Jaya
Selangor
West Malaysia

Dear Mr. Robertson,

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of 17th May and enclosures, which we found awaiting us when we returned from a two-month spell of jungle-bashing in Perak, Kelantan and Pahang. You have answered my specific questions very clearly and fully and we are ~~most grateful~~ most grateful.

Your extract from Stewart Wavell's letter, however, raises a new and extremely exciting hare. We had heard of him from several people out here, but no-one had suggested that he might be able to help us, and I'm not sure that anyone here still has his address. From his letter to you, however, it seems that here is someone - the only person we have yet met in the course of this whole research - who is actually prepared to say, on the basis of personal knowledge of the Temiar, that they really did practise dream control. What a pity he didn't publish his book on the subject, or at least keep the manuscript! But in their absence, I should like very much to put a few questions to him directly, and since you haven't passed on his address, I should be most obliged if you would forward the enclosed letter for me. By all means read it first if you wish.

As far as your own information is concerned, there is only one outstanding point on which I have further curiosity, and that goes back to your first letter (25th March) in which you threw off the remark that the night of the Noone recording was "not an easily forgotten experience." Since the only images I have in my head of that night derive from the purely imaginary reconstructions now being made from your printed notes by armchair ethnographers in the United States, a sample of which I sent you, I should be very interested to have any further reminiscences from you that might substitute a more accurate picture. You have already corrected the major factual mistakes of the American stories, ie. the notion of your hearing about the Japanese invasion that very night on the radio and of Noone promptly disappearing into the jungle to form an aborigine guerrilla force. If you would care at any point in the near future to jot down any other memories of that memorable night which would fill out what is already available in the printed notes, we should be very interested indeed to read them. On the other hand if it is too much trouble, or you feel you have nothing significant to add, there is no need for you to reply to this letter at all.

We heard about Tony Beamish's death from Bill Bangs when we were in Kelantan. I shall never know now whether we met at Bush house on Anne Symonds brains trust or not.

With many thanks again to both you and your wife for all your help,

Yours sincerely,

JW Wren-Lewis

P.S. The address at the head of this letter will reach me directly until mid-August, when our friends who own the house come back from holiday in England. On the longer term, should you ever want to get in touch, the Petaling Jaya address will forward mail to us wherever we are.