

simon tittley

AWOL Bass Player

In the eighties I worked as a producer for WEA International, based in Bangkok, Thailand. I had arranged through Pete Briggsfish, a drummer I had worked with some years earlier, to use his band to record an album in the UK, with a Thai artist. The band included the brilliant 17 year old Tony Franklin on fretless bass...

In December 1984 I arrived back in the UK, which was experiencing sub-zero weather. We met up at a freezing rehearsal space in the centre of Birmingham. Tony's basses were there, but no Tony. Pete explained, somewhat sheepishly that Tony had recently left them to join another band ! He introduced me to his replacement, a rather tired-looking 40 something blues bassist...

I wasn't happy at this unexpected turn of events. I really loved Tony's playing and thought it would add a lot to the album. So who was Tony now playing with, I demanded to know. Pete told me...

Tony Franklin had just joined Jimmy Page and Paul Rogers in their new band The Firm!

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