

# "NOVA RYA"

No. 3



"Aut Disce, Aut Discede"

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## EDITORIAL

We have completed one year away from home—one year in our new surroundings. There is no need for us to deal again with the successes with which we have met during the year that we have been away, or even to deal with the minor failures that we have experienced. Let us be content with saying that we can look back on the year with satisfaction.

During the beginning of the term the Head Master spoke to us once or twice about the inadvisability of leaving school early in order to join one of H.M. Forces. Although we admire the patriotism of all the people who are anxious to join any of the forces, it is quite obvious that this opportunity will come the way of everybody (at least, those in the Upper School), in time, and it is, therefore, more important for the time being that everyone should concentrate on completing his education as far as possible. The Head Master stressed the fact that education would play a very important part in the post-war world and it was necessary to begin building the foundations of the post-war era now.

Of course, we know that our older members cannot stay on for ever, and this term we are saying "Au Revoir" to a large number of Sixth Form people and also many of the Fifth. We wish them the best of luck for the future.

The new magazine has survived a year after all, in spite of the gloomy predictions of one or two people. When we inaugurated NOVA RYA it was intended that it should contain material of all types and not merely accounts of School affairs. For this reason we have had articles on the Navy, the Army, Scouting, films, swing-music, and this term we even turn to grand opera. It is rather to be feared that the amount of material concerned with outside subjects now overshadows the amount of material dealing with School affairs. We might add that once again the Editors have not been overworked on account of the large number of contributions handed in. While on the subject, we should like to make a mention of our appreciation of the new cover design, skilfully executed for us by A. E. Marson, who, curiously enough, was originally a member of the Lewes County School.

We look to the School for further support during the coming year, and feel confident that everyone will retain the high standard that has been set, not only in connection with the magazine but in all matters that affect the life and honour of the School.

THE EDITORS,

R. G. BURNETT,  
A. W. J. AMBROSE,  
G. G. SMITH,  
A. J. W. THIRD.

## OBITER DICTA

We were pleased to receive a visit from the Director of Education for East Sussex, Mr. Baines, who was at the School on Wednesday, July 23rd.

A new sign board was erected in the front garden of Ixworth Court soon after the Easter holidays. The Rye Seal is also in position over the front door.

Miss Seed, with very valuable aid from Form IV, is to be congratulated on getting the garden into such fine trim. Many busy hours have been spent in tending the neglected flower-beds and lawn.

Mr. Broome is now Secretary of the School Savings Group while Mr. Bagley is away.

A. J. W. Third, who joined the Bedford School J.T.C. in January last, took his Cert. A on Monday, July 7th. He passed and actually gained the first position. This success is especially praiseworthy since Third had given up J.T.C. training for over a year while he was at our School in Rye.

Cricket Colours were re-awarded to R. G. Burnett.

Cricket Colours were awarded to A. J. W. Third, P. Shearer, F. Breeze, G. Ashdown and A. D. Renville.



Hockey Colours were won by Kathleen King, Joy Hulett, Paulina Metianu, Daphne Finch and Peggy Dengate.

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Tennis Colours were won by Joyce Bull and Joan Beasley.

Betty Ford and Joyce Bull won the Junior and Senior Tennis Championships respectively.

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Gymnastic Colours were won by Deslys Jones, Joy Hulett, Margery Smith, Paulina Metianu and Daphne Finch. Gymnastic stripes were awarded to Joyce Bull, Gloria Bray, Eileen Munday, Helen Mills, Joan Hoad, Maureen Samaden, Ray Kirtlan, Julia Smith and Irene Farrant.

## A HISTORY OF THE EVACUATION

Towards the end of the second part of the "History of the Evacuation," it was mentioned—rather briefly—that many of the pupils of Rye Grammar School were recovering from the bad news that they could not return home for the Easter holidays. In order to prevent scholars from becoming bored by wandering about the town of Bedford, the School holidays were nominal only. The belated Speech Day had been held on April 8th and, on the next day, the end of term Assembly was held. On Thursday a book-check was held and then the so-called holidays began—they lasted from Good Friday to Easter Monday.

At 10 o'clock on the following Tuesday the new term began. However, from that day until April 23rd only two hours every morning were devoted to lessons and there was no homework. During the afternoons, games, societies, etc., were held. One of the surprise matches at this time was a mixed hockey match against Newport Pagnell. Unluckily the School lost the match, but perhaps this was due to the fact that our mixed team had had insufficient practice. During this period of "semi-work" the A.T.C. devoted much time to practice in receiving Morse, while Mr. Morgan took charge of groups of cyclists who went to visit neighbouring churches. Mr. Morgan also arranged a visit to the Cosmic Crayon Factory.

On April 24th, the School settled down to a normal timetable and had soon forgotten the holidays. The term proceeded uneventfully, and cricket and tennis teams matched themselves against other sides. The School had varying degrees of success.

Many scholars returned to Rye at Whitsun for about a week, and those who remained in Bedford had the Saturday morning, Monday and Tuesday free from work.

A little later it was decided that the Boy Prefects needed further power in order to enforce the School Rules. After a long discussion the "Prefects' Meeting" was inaugurated and once a week the Prefects meet in order to deal with the more difficult cases of bad behaviour.

On July 1st the annual Sports Day was held, which foster-parents and a few parents attended.

Now the examinations are over, much to the relief of the Fifth and Sixth Forms, who have been taking the Oxford School Certificate and Higher School Certificate respectively. So we have completed our first year in Bedford, and there have been very few cases of people leaving. A special word of praise is due to the Second Form, who stood up so gallantly to their change to a new school and a new town.

A.W.J.A.

## HOUSE NOTES

### PEACOCKE HOUSE

*House Mistress:* MISS LETCHER.

*House Master:* MR. MORGAN.

*Boys' Captain:* O. W. SCHOFIELD.

*Girls' Captain:* PAULINA METIANU.

*Prefects:* MARGERY SMITH, J. FORD, V. I. APPS,  
A. J. W. THIRD.

This has been another good term for Peacocke and we have finished the year by winning the House Championship and Cock House Shields. This is an outstanding achievement, for nobody in



the School can remember its happening before—the last time was actually eighteen years ago.

The final results show that we were first in the following competitions :—Netball, Music and Speech, Running, Athletic Sports, Cricket and the much coveted Work and Merit competition.

The girls were second in P.T. and the boys came third. These results were rather disappointing, especially as the girls were only two points behind Sanders.

Good play from the juniors pulled the House up to second place in the Tennis, and we must congratulate them on their hard work.

Collections for charity have been good, and we raised a guinea to be sent away.

This is always a term when we lose our senior members, and we have to say “Good-bye and good luck” to Daphne Finch (Girls’ Hockey Captain), Ford (House Secretary), Apps (House Treasurer) and Schofield, who is the Boys’ Captain.  
P.M.

### SANDERS HOUSE

*House Mistress* : MISS SEED.

*House Master* : MR. DOUGLAS.

*Boys’ Captain* : R. G. BURNETT.

*Girls’ Captain* : DESLYS JONES.

*Prefects* : NOREEN BAKER, JOY HULETT, KATHLEEN KING,  
OLIVE PAINE, J. GREEN.

This year, owing to the loss of several valued members who did not accompany the School into evacuation, Sanders has not done so well as usual in the final results of the Inter-House Competitions. Next year a special effort must be made to raise the House to its old standards of achievement.

In several competitions, however, Sanders came first, e.g., Tennis, Gymnasium (girls) and Hockey. Sanders also managed to gain second place in Football, Netball (juniors), Gymnasium (boys) and the Work and Merit.

A special collection was made in the House for Rye War Weapons Week, and was sent to Rye, together with the money collected during the Summer Term.

Many members of Sanders House are leaving this term, including R. G. Burnett, our popular House Captain. The House’s best wishes are extended to him, and the following who are also leaving :—Deslys Jones, Noreen Baker, Joy Hulett, Kathleen King, June Hobbs, J. Green and A. D. Renville.

Burnett will be greatly missed by young and old in the House. He has taken the keenest interest in every sphere of School life and well deserved the Sports Captaincy which he has held during evacuation.

Renville has only been a year in the School, but during that time he has taken a sincere interest in its activities and has helped it in all possible ways.  
J.S.L.P.

### MERYON HOUSE

*House Mistress* : MISS TUNSTALL.

*House Master* : MR. BROOME.

*Boys’ Captain* : G. G. SMITH.

*Girls’ Captain* : WINNIE ALLEN.

*Prefects* : CYNTHIA BREEDS, A. W. J. AMBROSE.

During the term, and indeed throughout the year, we have been struggling against great odds—the result of being smaller in numbers than Peacocke or Sanders.

However, we have met with a certain amount of success. We managed to obtain the second position in cricket, due no doubt to our having many members in the 1st XI. Our efforts in tennis have not had such good results, for we only have the last place ; this is the side that shows our inferiority in numbers.

All members who took part in the Annual Sports are to be congratulated on gaining us the second position. Next year perhaps we shall be able to return to the first place, which we held for so many years.

In gymnasium the boys really proved themselves by coming first with 36.8 points in advance of Peacocke ; the girls came last, however.

Although we came second for work during the year, the third position for merit makes us last in the Work and Merit Competition, which is certainly a very disappointing result. It seems to indicate that all members of the House are not pulling their weight.



The results of the year's competitions put us second in the House Championship contest.

House collections during the term raised sufficient for us to send 7s. 6d. to Rye's War Weapons Week, and still have some money in hand.

Our best wishes for the future are extended to Winnie Allen, Cynthia Breeds, Peggy Dengate, S. Vincent and P. Shearer, all very enthusiastic members of the House who have now left us. G.G.S.

## RESULTS OF THE HOUSE COMPETITIONS

The House Competitions for the School year 1940-1941 have resulted as follows :—

FOOTBALL : Meryon, Sanders, Peacocke.

HOCKEY : Sanders, Peacocke, Meryon.

NETBALL (Seniors) : Meryon, Peacocke, Sanders.

NETBALL (Juniors) : Peacocke, Sanders, Meryon.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUN (Senior and Junior) : Peacocke, Meryon, Sanders.

GYMNASIUM (Boys') : Meryon, Sanders, Peacocke.

GYMNASIUM (Girls') : Sanders, Peacocke, Meryon.

ATHLETIC SPORTS : Peacocke, Meryon, Sanders.

SPEECH AND MUSIC : Peacocke, Meryon, Sanders.

CRICKET : Peacocke, Meryon, Sanders.

TENNIS (Senior and Junior) : Sanders, Peacocke, Meryon.

WORK AND MERIT : Peacocke, Sanders, Meryon.

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP : Peacocke, Meryon, Sanders.

Thus Peacocke becomes Cock House—the first time for eighteen years.

## THE SCHOOL AND RYE WAR WEAPONS WEEK

After Mr. Bagley had left the School, Mr. Broome became Secretary of the School Savings Group. A few days before the Rye War Weapons Week started, he asked the members of the School Group to try to complete their certificates in time to be included in the week's results. He also asked any members of the School who belonged to other Savings Groups to transfer to the School Group.

The response to this appeal was gratifying. Fifteen certificates were completed and £1 was deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank making a total of £8 10s. 0d.

Greater efforts are to be made this year to induce more people to join the Group and to ensure a 100 per cent. membership.

J.S.L.P.

Form IIIA raised £1 8s. 4d. for Rye War Weapons Week by means of a raffle and also the selling of mascots. Daphne Breeds made woollen mascots and sold them at 2d. each, collecting 8s. 0d. altogether. By means of the raffle 12s. 10d. was raised. Everybody gave generously, and most of the staff contributed as well. Meryon House very kindly gave 7s. 6d. collected at one of their House meetings; and we would like to thank all for their help.

K.M.B.

## SPORTS DAY

In the Editorial of last term's magazine it was shown how the School carried on in war-time when in strange surroundings. Further proof of this was given on Tuesday, July 1st, when the annual Inter-House Sports Competition was held. The sports—held rather later than usual—took place in the Rugby Football Ground during the evening because of the oppressive afternoon heat. The scholars were pleased to welcome foster-parents who came to yet another School function, and also a few parents who are now living in or near Bedford.



The customary great enthusiasm seemed to be more noticeable than usual, but perhaps this was due to the enclosed stadium. Some of the usual races had to be omitted owing to the lack of necessary equipment, and in their places novel events caused much amusement. As had been anticipated, Peacocke House, whose teams were far stronger, had an easy victory, but there was keen rivalry between the other two Houses for second position.

The final results were :—

1st	Peacocke House	....	....	....	67½ points
2nd	Meryon House	....	....	....	57½ „
3rd	Sanders House	....	....	....	48 „

The Head Master, after welcoming the visitors, thanked, on behalf of the School, the Bedford Education Committee, who were responsible for obtaining the use of the Rugby Ground. Mrs. Jacobs then presented the Sports Shield to a representative of Peacocke House. The other trophies could not be presented as they are still in Rye.

Both the scholars and staff who had helped with the arrangements were thanked. Mr. Bagley, who usually organised the sports was greatly missed, and it is to be hoped that he will have returned to the School in time for next year's Sports Day.

Among the performances worth mentioning is A. J. W. Third's, who won the 100 yards in 11 seconds. T. R. Cowper had an easy victory in the 880 yards; both Third and Cowper are members of Peacocke House, which won all the events they took part in.

Sanders House was very unlucky in the 220 yards, when A. E. Marson, who was leading, strained a muscle in his right leg when only about 20 yards from the tape, thus losing the race. He was also unable to take part in any other event.

The individual results were as follows :—

Event	Winner	House Order
100 YARDS—		
Senior Boys	Third, A. J. W.	P, M, S
Senior Girls	Helen Mills	P, M, S
Junior Boys	Jury, J.	M, P, S
Junior Girls	Ray Kirtlan	P, S, M
80 YARDS—		
Girls (under 12)	Kathleen Waterman	P, M, S

# THROWING THE CRICKET BALL—

Senior Boys	Breeze, F. K.	P, M, S
Junior Boys	Wood, P.	M, P, S

# HIGH JUMP—

Senior Boys	Burnett, R. G.	S, M (equal) P
Senior Girls	Margery Smith	P, M, S
Junior Boys	Simpson, L.	M, S, P
Junior Girls	Julia Terry	P (equal) S, M

# 220 YARDS—

Senior Boys	Third, A. J. W.	P, S, M
Junior Boys	Simpson, L.	M, P, S

# POTATO RACE—

Girls (13 and under)	Betty Ford	P, S, M
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# DRIBBLING THE HOCKEY BALL RELAY RACE—

Senior (Mixed)	—	M, S (Peacocke disqualified)
Junior Girls	—	S, P, M

# THREE-LEGGED RACE—

Boys (13 and under)	Pritchard, S. H., and Samaden, L. V. Cutting, B. F. C., and Paine, G. F.	S, P (equal) M

# THROWING THE ROUNDERS BALL—

Senior Girls	Margery Smith	M, P, S
Junior Girls	Julia Smith	P, S, M

# 880 YARDS—

Senior Boys	Cowper, T. R.	P, M (equal) S
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# FORM RELAY—

Girls	—	P, S, M
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# STANDING BROAD JUMP—

Senior Girls	—	P, S, M
Junior Girls	—	P, S, M

# SLOW BICYCLE RACE—

Open	Adams, R.	M, S, P
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LONG JUMP—		
Senior Boys	Bates, J. D.	M, P, S
MIXED TEAM RACE—		
Senior	—	P, M, S
Junior	—	M, S, P
RELAY RACE—		
Senior Boys	—	P, M, S
Junior Boys	—	M, P, S
A.W.J.A.		

## THE CONCERT BY THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

When it was announced that a school party would attend the Young Peoples' Concert given by the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Corn Exchange on Monday, July 7th, there was a greater response than expected, as sixty pupils desired to go.

Our own party, along with those from other schools, assembled punctually outside the Corn Exchange at 2.40 p.m., but it was nearly 3 o'clock before we were in our places, and the concert did not start until a quarter of an hour later.

After the Orchestra had taken its place and the National Anthem had been played, Dr. Malcolm Sargent welcomed all those who were attending their first concert.

Dr. Sargent then introduced the instruments of the orchestra, described their work and explained the theme of the first piece—"The Overture to 'The Wasps'," by Vaughan Williams, a modern composer.

Next, the conductor gave us a brief survey of part of Handel's life and explained the setting of the "Water Music," which was then played as an example of eighteenth century music.

The third piece was "Parvane," by Faure, which, although composed in this century, was the music for an old-fashioned dance.

Last came a selection in three parts from Wagner's opera, "The Meistersingers of Nuremburg." First we had "The Shoemaker's

Song," next "The Dance of the Apprentices," and then "The March of the Masters." At the conclusion of this there was much hearty and well-earned applause.

The concert was greatly enjoyed by all in spite of the heat, although it must have been much more uncomfortable for the Orchestra than it was for us. T.P.

## SOLOMON.

On Wednesday, May 21st, a few members of the Upper School attended a performance by the famous pianist, Solomon, of some of the works of Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann and Brahms.

The concert took place at the Corn Exchange, and a very enjoyable two hours was spent listening to the renderings of the classics by the great musician.

It is to be hoped that such activities will be continued in the future.

## AIR TRAINING CORPS NEWS

Our A.T.C. activities this term have been fewer, but, nevertheless, very substantial progress has been made in both Flights. At the beginning of term we started a series of lectures, given by Mr. Olphin at the Modern School, on the classification and identification of aircraft. These few lectures dealt mainly with the elementary principles of aircraft identification and they must have provided good groundwork for those who were not acquainted with that particular branch of Air Force training. Unfortunately, Mr. Olphin was called away for an instructional course at the Initial Training Wing, so the lectures were discontinued. Our map-reading instructor, Mr. Hutchings, was also called away from time to time for a brief course of instruction; so to prevent irregularity of parades and for future convenience, Mr. Pigrome was authorised to take the R.G.S. section of the two Flights for morse and map-reading, which has since become a regular arrangement.

A few weeks after the beginning of term all members of "A" Flight were measured for uniforms, but these cannot be expected yet



as there are hundreds of Flights still on the "waiting list." A fortnight later, we were informed by means of our orders-for-the-week notice that there was to be an inspection by Air Commodore J. A. Chamier on the Thursday, at the Modern School. Both Flights turned up to hear a very interesting talk on the A.T.C. in other parts of England, illustrating the difficulties in making and distributing such things as signalling lamps, uniforms, etc., when such an enormous number of Flights had to be equipped. He mentioned, as an example, the fact that the Air Force had to ask for two tons of metal from the Ministry of Supply for the buttons alone, on the A.T.C. uniforms. The Air Commodore concluded by wishing us luck in our enterprise.

Since then our weekly parades have been regular. In morse we have learnt and applied the new punctuation signs, in map-reading much ground has been covered, while in our marching we have almost mastered the new movements.

In fact, a good result is expected in the proficiency examination which will take place next year. Towards the end of term notice was given concerning camping opportunities for all members of Flight "A" who might like to spend a week "under canvas." Dates were suggested, but owing to the unusual times for holidays there were not many volunteers.

To conclude, we all hope that there will be more new recruits next year for this new and highly successful scheme. R.G.B.

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#### PROMOTIONS.

We extend our congratulations to Davenport and Ford, who have been made Corporals.

## THE SCHOOL SCOUT TROOP

Mr. Morgan has now given up his position as Scout Master and we have Mr. Douglas in his place at the head of twenty-six boys.

During the term we have had three field days, all of which were held at Stagsden. Unfortunately it rained on two occasions, but the enthusiasm of the Scouts was not damped.

The Troop has shown much initiative in various affairs, and a waste-paper collection to assist in the war effort has met with a great deal of success.

Most of the boys were enrolled in May by the District Commissioner for Schools, and the remainder were enrolled in July, when ten Second Class badges were also presented. This ceremony concluded with a Camp Fire, when we sang many songs and Samaden gave us a solo, while Lupton entertained us with an exhibition of conjuring, in which he shows great talent.

A competition has been introduced during the term, and points have been awarded in various tests, in camping and in the weekly inspections. The winning Patrol is the Hawks under its leader, P. L. S. Wood. V.I.A.

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The Scouts sustain a great loss in Apps' leaving, but the enthusiasm that he has raised will last, we are sure, for years to come. THE EDITORS.

## GUIDE REPORT

The Guide Company of the Rye Grammar School is still very strong in numbers, and the Troop has had a very successful year. Work during the term culminated in a display called "A Day in Camp," which was held in the garden of Ixworth Court on Thursday, July 24th, and was attended by many people from outside the School.

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#### "A DAY IN CAMP."

The weather was ideal for the occasion and parents, foster-parents and other visitors arrived to watch what was to be a very interesting Guide display. Chairs were set out round the sides of the lawn, tents (for the use of the "campers"), were pitched at the bottom of the garden with camp fire and cooking utensils set out



near at hand. In the middle of the lawn was an improvised flag-staff with the furled colour all prepared for the opening ceremony.

Miss Thomas opened the proceedings by telling the audience that the display they were about to see was representative of a day in camp. She then gave a brief summary of the events that were to take place during the afternoon.

The Company fell in and took their positions round the colour ; the colour party stepped forward, the flag was unfurled and saluted.

The Commissioner, Miss Hewetson, now performed the ceremony of the enrolment of a member of the Company. When the ceremony was completed, the Commissioner presented all the badges that had been won during the term. After distributing the badges, Miss Hewetson made a short speech, in which, while welcoming the new Guide, she stressed the significance of the Guide movement, mentioning the large number of Guides which there is throughout the world, and she showed the international aspect of the movement.

The next item was a sketch which depicted a road-accident and culminated in a display of signalling and first-aid. A great deal was necessarily left to the imagination of the audience, including a steep hill (which was portrayed by an incorrect sign).

Next on the programme was an exhibition of country dancing, in which several dances were performed. This was probably the most successful event of the afternoon, and the dancing was of a very high standard. The proceedings were enlivened when a junior boy broke the flower-pot which had played a prominent part in the sketch and was instantly seized upon by a vexed Guider.

The last item was a "Camp Fire," during which several Guide songs were sung. We thought it rather peculiar that the choir should sit with its back to the main part of the audience, but no doubt there was some special reason which we missed.

After the finale, tea was served to the audience.

This was the first display that the Guide Company has presented since the evacuation of the School to Bedford, and we feel that the Guide Mistress, Miss Tunstall, the Assistant Guide Mistress, Miss Thomas, and the entire Company should be congratulated on the success of their enterprise.

I. WITNESS.

## THE ART SOCIETY FIELD DAY

On Monday, May 19th, we had our field day. As on most field days it rained—a drizzling sort of rain. We had decided to go to Felmersham, but as five people arrived without cycles, the plans had to be altered. We therefore decided to go to Ampthill, about seven miles distant from Bedford. Those who were without cycles were to 'bus there. Two, even, who *had* cycles decided to 'bus.

Those going by 'bus left St. Peter's at 10.40 a.m. and arrived at 11.15. Three of the cyclists had already arrived, and the other three were not far behind. We were then given half-an-hour to look round the town. Ampthill is a typical Georgian town, many of the houses having flat roofs. Several of us then looked inside St. Andrew's Church, which has some marvellous brasses in it and a gallery running nearly all the way round.

Next we walked up to the top of a hill and visited the Bishop's Palace, built by Inigo Jones. This building had some Italian designs in it.

We then had our lunch (most of us had to stand up as the ground was so wet), and after lunch we inspected a farm near the Bishop's Palace. From the Georgian farm buildings we entered what we were told was part of a hangar used during the last war.

A little later we began to go back to the town, and the cyclists set out for Bedford. The rest returned by 'bus, and, after what would have been an enjoyable day if it had not rained, we were all safely in Bedford by 2 p.m.

C. WEBB.

## SCHOOL CRICKET

This year's First XI has been one of the best teams that the School has produced for several years as we had many fine bowlers and batsmen, but owing to the fact that we have had less practice than we are accustomed to—on account of the difficulties of obtaining a ground—it has not done as well as other teams.

Our first match was against Mr. Blake's XI, a team of local boys who, although they played very well, did not prove themselves to be quite up to the standard of our XI. We batted first and declared



for 67, with five wickets still in hand. Mr. Blake's XI batted and the first few wickets fell to the good bowling of Breeze and Ashdown, but there was a last-wicket stand which was only broken when they had 63 runs. Ashdown had the best bowling average during this game, but our fielding showed that we had much to gain by practice.

Our second match was a return against Mr. Blake's XI, who fielded a rather stronger team against us than in the first match. Mr. Blake's XI had first innings, but they were soon in difficulties against the bowling of Breeze and Ashdown. The wickets fell swiftly, and they were dismissed for twenty-five. The School's opening pair, Shearer and Third, passed the Blake's XI total before they were separated, and put on 34 runs for the first wicket, scoring 12 and 22 respectively. Having won by ten wickets, our other batsmen were not over careful, and the School was all out for 52. This was certainly our most successful match.

Our next match was against our old foes, the Owens School, who turned out an eleven consisting of half-a-dozen First XI men and the rest from the Second XI. Our opponents won the toss and batted first. Two wickets fell quite easily, but a third wicket stand put on a considerable number of runs, and although Breeze and Renville bowled consistently good balls, the Owens School finally declared at 109 for five wickets. The School then batted, and despite a long innings by Third, who scored 15, wickets fell steadily until we were all out for 38 runs, thus losing by five wickets and 71 runs.

On June 21st we had a fixture with the Old Harpurians at the Bedford Park, and again the School lost the toss, with the result that we had to field. Breeze and Ashdown opened the bowling, but spin bowling was found to be more expensive than the faster style so Renville was put on. Breeze and Renville between them took six wickets and really "broke the back" of the batsmen's resistances, who were soon all out for 96. Shearer and Third opened for the School, but despite steady batting by Shearer, who scored 19 altogether, the first four wickets fell for only 11 runs. Boreham and Renville then distinguished themselves by putting on almost 50 between them. Boreham scored a very good 17 and Renville 27 not out, which saved the School from a bad defeat. Consequently we were all out for 82 runs—a very close game.

Harpur Sports C.C. were our next opponents, and again we played in Bedford Park. This time the School won the toss and batted first, the opening batsmen scoring very well until Shearer was caught off a rising ball. Breeze and Renville made quite a successful fifth wicket stand, Breeze scoring 23, and the School was finally dismissed for 64. Our opponents then batted and the second wicket fell at 30. Ashdown, one of our spin bowlers, was then put on and got two wickets off catches in one over. A third and fourth wicket fell to Renville, thus making our opponents score 54 for 5. When the next two wickets fell for only one run, everyone was on the *qui vive* to see that the next two fell as easily. Unfortunately a last wicket stand put on 12 runs so we were beaten by nine. This was one of our most successful matches, because the School fielding was very good indeed, six wickets falling through catches—Shearer and Kempster took two each. This success led us all to expect a good result from our next match, which was against the Pyghtle Works in the Park.

The School won the toss and batted first, Shearer and Third opening. Twenty-one runs were scored before the first wicket fell, but the scoring was slow. Breeze had distinguished himself by scoring 62 when the School team declared for 113. The same "leg-trap" which had been so successful in our previous match took toll of the Pyghtle Works' batsmen, and to Ashdown's bowling wickets fell very quickly until eight wickets had been taken for 21. A last wicket stand robbed us of a certain victory, and our opponents had scored 48 before the game had to finish, resulting in a draw.

Our last match was a return against the Old Harpurians, again at the Bedford Park. Our opponents batted first, the School having lost the toss, and the first wicket fell with only 20 runs scored, but a second-wicket stand put on over 100 runs. The Old Harpurians then declared with eight wickets in hand. The School batted rather unsuccessfully, in spite of a determined resistance by Third, one of our opening batsmen, who scored 11. The final score was 72 all out.

On the whole this year's School Cricket matches have been quite successful, but (as I said before) consistent practice would have much improved our batting. The good fielding was spasmodic, but in Ashdown the School has a good spin-bowler, while Breeze—the speed-bowler—has acquitted himself well on all occasions. Third,



Shearer and Boreham have shown themselves to be batsmen of high quality, while Renville, a Lewes County School boy, has bowled and batted with very good effect throughout the season. Marson, also of the Lewes County School, Bates, Kennard, Colvin and Vincett have proved themselves to be very keen and enthusiastic in all matches, successful or otherwise. It is a pity that, with a team like this, we have not met with more success. However, out of the six matches played, we won two, drew one, and lost three, which is not too disappointing.

R.G.B.

# FIRST XI MATCHES.

We regret that a full scoreboard is not available, as some of the records have been mislaid. For this reason we are unable to publish the list of averages. In these times we should be grateful that we were able even to play so many matches.

## FIRST XI v. MR. BLAKE'S XI, at Bedford Park.

### R.G.S. 1st XI.

R. G. Burnett, stumped, b Martin	11
A. J. W. Third, caught at wkt., b Pearce	11
F. Breeze, caught, b Wilson	5
G. Ashdown, not out	21
J. Bates, b Wilson	0
A. D. Renville, not out	11
Extras	8

Total (for 4 wkts. dec.) 67

Mr. Blake's XI: 63 (Martin 31).

Result: Won by four runs.

. . . . .

## FIRST XI v. MR. BLAKE'S XI (return), at Bedford Park.

Mr. Blake's XI: 25.

R.G.S. 1st XI: 52 (Shearer 12, Third 22).

Result: Won by 10 wickets.

## FIRST XI v. OWENS SCHOOL FIRST XI, at Bedford Park.

### Owens School 1st XI.

Cowan, c Shearer, b Renville	33
Chapman, b Breeze	0
Wilkinson, c Burnett, b Breeze	6
Draper, not out	36
Hooley, b Breeze	5
Farbridge, lbw, b Breeze	6
Myall, not out	9
Extras	14

Total (for 5 wkts. dec.) 109

Bowling: Breeze, 4 for 24.

### R.G.S. 1st XI.

P. Shearer, c Wilkinson, b Pratt	0
A. J. W. Third, c Wilkinson, b Myall	15
R. G. Burnett, lbw, b Myall	7
A. D. Renville, b Myall	0
G. Ashdown, c Draper, b Chapman	7
F. Breeze, b Chapman	1
J. Bates, c Seasoln, b Hoyle	0
J. Boreham, not out	2
S. J. Vincett, b Chapman	0
W. Colvin, st Wilkinson, b Chapman	0
Extras	6

Total 38

Bowling: Chapman, 5 for 5; Myall, 3 for 10.

Result: Lost by 71 runs.

. . . . .

## FIRST XI v. OLD HARPURIANS XI, at Bedford Park.

### Old Harpurians XI.

Dixon, c Bates, b Ashdown	14
Valentine, J., c and b Ashdown	5
Green, b Breeze	16
Litchfield, b Breeze	2



Dickens, c Vincett, b Renville	12
Evans, c Bates, b Breeze	4
Woods, c Vincett, b Ashdown	4
Valentine, F., b Renville	24
Turvey, b Renville	5
Alder, b Shearer	3
Collins, not out	0
Extras	7

Total 96

Bowling : Renville, 3 for 3 ; Breeze, 3 for 31 ; Ashdown, 3 for 50.

#### R.G.S. 1st XI.

P. Shearer, caught at wkt., b Evans	19
A. J. W. Third, b Evans	0
R. G. Burnett, run out	1
F. Breeze, b Green	0
G. Ashdown, b Evans	1
J. Boreham, run out	17
J. Bates, b Turvey	5
A. D. Renville, not out	27
A. E. Marson, b Litchfield	2
M. Kempster, caught at wkt., b Green	1
S. J. Vincett, b Green	0
Extras	9

Total 82

Bowling : Green, 3 for 24 ; Evans, 3 for 13.

Result : Lost by 14 runs.

#### FIRST XI v. HARPUR SPORTS C.C., at Bedford Park.

##### R.G.S. 1st XI.

P. Shearer, caught at wkt., b Cornell	8
R. G. Burnett, c Martin, b Cornell	10
G. Ashdown, b Hullet	4
J. Bates, b Hullet	2
F. Breeze, b Newnham	23
J. Boreham, run out	0
A. D. Renville, b Newnham	6

M. Kempster, b Cornell	2
A. E. Marson, c Dixon, b Newnham	1
S. J. Vincett, c Dixon, b Newnham	2
W. Colvin, not out	0
Exrtas	6

Total 64

Bowling : Newnham, 4 for 8.

#### HARPUR SPORTS XI.

Berwick, c Renville, b Breeze	1
Webster, c Shearer, b Breeze	6
Martin, c Kempster, b Ashdown	31
Teasey, c Kempster, b Ashdown	1
Newnham, b Renville	2
Dixon, c Shearer, b Renville	2
Webster, c Kempster, b Ashdown	0
Hullet, st Vincett, b Ashdown	5
Cornell, b Renville	1
Baker, not out	10
Oakins, b Renville	0
Extras	14

Total 73

Bowling : Renville, 4 for 21 ; Ashdown, 3 for 15 ; Breeze, 2 for 23.

Result : Lost by 9 runs.

#### FIRST XI v. PYGHTLE WORKS FIRST XI.

##### R.G.S. 1st XI.

P. Shearer, st Fagg, b Gearey	9
A. J. W. Third, lbw, b Gearey	14
R. G. Burnett, lbw, b Parker	9
F. Breeze, not out	62
G. Ashdown, b Rudd	3
J. Boreham, not out	13
Extras	3

Total (for 4 wkts. dec.) 113



*Pyghle Works 1st XI.*

Sprague, c Cowper, b Shearer	2
Smith, lbw, b Ashdown	2
Parker, c Ashdown, b Shearer	2
Jeffries, c Burnett, b Shearer	0
Fagg, not out	12
Bacon, c and b Ashdown	0
Reid, c Shearer, b Ashdown	0
Shaw, c Burnett, b Ashdown	0
Mann, run out	6
Hartop, not out	14
Extras	8

Total (for 8 wks.) 46

*Bowling* : Ashdown, 4 for 15 ; Shearer, 4 for 17.

*Result* : Drawn.

. . . . .

FIRST XI v. OLD HARPURIANS XI (return), at Bedford Park.

*Old Harpurians XI.*

Dixon, c Colvin, b Kennard	36
Green, b Breeze	13
Markham, st Vincett, b Third	68
Martin, not out	5
Extras	17

Total (for 3 wks. dec.) 139

*R.G.S. 1st XI.*

P. Shearer, c Green, b Evans	4
A. J. W. Third, b Markham	11
R. G. Burnett, b Green	0
F. Breeze, b Evans	9
G. Ashdown, c Dickens, b Martin	3
J. Boreham, b Markham	4
H. Kennard, not out	7
A. D. Renville, b Martin	7
J. Bates, b Evans	11

W. Colvin, run out	2
S. J. Vincett, lbw, b Green	0
Extras	14
Total	72

*Bowling* : Markham, 2 for 6 ; Evans. 3 for 20.

*Result* : Lost by 67 runs.

## TENNIS REPORT

Notwithstanding our evacuation, the tennis team had a busy and successful season. The 1st VI has played eight matches, of which we won six. We were pleased to meet the Bexhill County School again, although far from our native soil. We also played The Cedars, Leighton Buzzard (particularly interesting because it is a fellow co-ed school), the Bedford Girls' Modern School, the Bedford Convent, and Woodford High School. We had an unexpected victory against the A.T.C. (R.G.S. section only).

The 2nd VI won two out of three matches, while an Under Sixteen VI played twice against St. Andrew's and won once.

These successes were largely due to our having full time use of four good courts—thanks to the Head Master. N.H.B.

## FILMS

### THE SCREEN PLAY.

The term "screen-play" covers rather a wide range. It really includes films of all types that have any plot to them (that is to say, all films apart from news-reels, documentary films, etc., etc.) Thus pictures of the "wild west," detective films, horror films and any others that are usually classed as feature-films can be regarded as screen-plays. But what I really intend to discuss is the film which gives us a character study of a man or a woman (whether they ever lived or are merely the fictitious creations of an author) and shows us the whole or part of their lives.



A film of this type calls forth the very highest performance from an actor or an actress, and to-day we have many stars living who are experts in such parts. To name only a few we can suggest Bette Davis, Greta Garbo, Norma Shearer, Robert Donat, Charles Laughton, Ronald Colman, Charles Boyer, Robert Morley and Emlyn Williams ; there are, of course, many others.

Difficulties in film-acting are, if anything, greater than acting a play on the stage. In the first place, the actors are surrounded by a whole crowd of technical advisers, such as producers, directors, assistant-directors, electricians and camera-men, and many others, all of whom are necessary for the successful completion of the film. Again, an actor or an actress is very carefully instructed in the movements that he or she has to make. The lighting system is so intricate that a false move would spoil a whole shot ; even each pace is worked out beforehand, and the movement of the head is restricted lest it should upset the lighting arrangements. Besides this, the film actor has not the advantage of acting his play right through from the beginning to end like the stage actor does. The sets (*i.e.*, scenery, etc.), are very often so expensive that full use has to be made of them before they are dismantled, and room in a film studio is so valuable that every inch of space is in full use all the time. Moreover, the producers cannot afford to keep the men who are responsible for the upkeep of the sets waiting about with nothing to do. Such men are often paid by the hour, and their combined wages would soon rise to an enormous amount, while they are actually doing nothing to earn it. On account of these things, sequences (*i.e.*, series of shots) that take place on the same set all have to be acted while the set is still standing. Thus, a scene which really comes at the beginning of the film, perhaps even the opening scene, may be shot only a few minutes before the final scene, for the simple reason that it takes place in the same room in the heroine's house, or, for that matter, the interior of the same cave occupied by the smugglers. This apparent disregard for the natural unfolding of the story makes the acting of a film much more difficult than one would think, because the actor has to suit his emotions to each individual scene instead of allowing them to develop with the flow of the story. The fact that the film-actor is usually only acting for a few minutes at a stretch, however, rather eases these other difficulties, as also does his knowledge that if he plays his part wrongly at first he

can do it correctly the next time. The stage actor is without this rather reassuring thought.

The screen-play, as it is called to-day, may be fairly compared to the tragedy which used to be, and still is, acted upon the stage. In my last article dealing with the films I discussed comedy. It will easily be seen that the tragedy is the exact opposite of comedy, and although (as we have noticed) comedy and tragedy are often, if not always, inter-mingled, the chief work of the tragedy is to tell the story of a tragic life or a series of tragic events in the life of one particular person. How these events may be bound up with others of a more humorous nature does not concern us for the moment.

It is to be noticed that the screen-play is usually adapted from some well-known novel by a famous author, as apart from writing the story specially for a film, which is so often the case in a comedy. Look at some of these novels which have been made into films : "The Scarlet Pimpernel," "The Last of the Mohicans," "The Prisoner of Zenda," "The Thirty-Nine Steps," "Little Women," "Knight Without Armour," "Lost Horizon," "Wuthering Heights," "Good-bye, Mr. Chips," "The Light that Failed," "Pride and Prejudice" and "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." There are dozens of others too numerous to name. A book that is already famous makes a film that is certain to be a great attraction because many people go to see it purely for the pleasure of seeing on the screen the characters that they know so well from the book. It does not follow, of course, that they are always well satisfied with the finished film, and it is not uncommon for people to compare a film with the original novel to the advantage of the novel. I experienced a certain disappointment in the film-version of "Wuthering Heights."

"Wuthering Heights" was classed as a great film, as far as the film itself went, but in relation to the novel by Emily Brontë it did not compare very favourably. The story was so much altered and shortened that much of its real tragedy was missed, and somehow the film was not able to convey the gloom and unhappiness that the book does. The acting, however, was splendid. Nobody could have bettered Laurence Olivier's portrayal of Heathcliff, or Merle Oberon's study of Catherine Earnshaw ; Flora Robson as Mrs. Dean was fine, as was David Niven's acting the part of Edgar Linton. But something was missing in the film adaptation.



"Pride and Prejudice" was altogether different. One felt that one had really seen the novel put on the screen. Except for one or two very small alterations and omissions, Jane Austen's famous book was left in its original form, much to the credit of the Hollywood producers. The chief parts were played by Greer Garson as Elizabeth Bennet, Laurence Olivier as Darcy (he was not quite my idea of Darcy) and Maureen O'Sullivan as Jane Bennet. Although these stars are all British born (the Misses Garson and O'Sullivan are Irish, as a matter of fact), they must certainly be given credit for losing their American accents in such a typically English story. In this respect, Mary Boland as Mrs. Bennet also deserves a word of praise, for she is of American nationality. I always feel that Americans acting in an English play must find it rather difficult to retain an English accent.

"The Hunchback of Notre Dame," from the novel by Victor Hugo, was played for us by Charles Laughton. Too much cannot be said about the fine talents of this film-actor, and his films include such widely differing types as "Mutiny on the Bounty," "Jamaica Inn," "The Private Life of Henry the Eighth," and his latest, "They Knew What They Wanted."

The leading English film-star of the day is probably Robert Donat, who has appeared in many great films and also had much experience upon the stage. He made his debut on the films in "The Private Life of Henry the Eighth." Since then we have seen him in "The Thirty-Nine Steps," from the novel by John Buchan; "Knight Without Armour," from the novel by James Hilton; "The Ghost Goes West"; "The Citadel," a really fine film adapted from the great novel by A. J. Cronin; and, probably what is his greatest film of all, and his latest to date, "Good-bye, Mr. Chips," from another of James Hilton's novels.

"Good-bye, Mr. Chips" was certainly a triumph of British film productions. The small, but famous, book was brought to the screen with a sincerity which makes it seem impossible that it never "really happened." Robert Donat as Mr. Chippendale, the grand old schoolmaster who lived to see three generations of boys attend Brookfield School, acted magnificently. Greer Garson, as his wife, was also a tremendous success, and Terry Kilburn, as each of the successive generations of the Colley family, could not have been bettered. The school-boys, the settings, the dialogue and indeed,

the entire film was English through and through. Robert Donat has established himself as a magnificent actor—probably one of the greatest of the day.

Ronald Colman has shown himself to be a very versatile actor. He has played in a variation of parts from Bulldog Drummond to Robert Clive. I cannot help thinking that he gave us his best performances in films such as "Clive of India," "A Tale of Two Cities," "If I were King," "Lost Horizon," and "The Light that Failed."

And what of the screen actresses to-day? Greta Garbo and Bette Davis probably hold the top positions.

Greta Garbo has taken the leading parts in many fine films. Look back for a moment at "Queen Christina," "Anna Karenina," "Camille," "As You Desire Me," "Marie Walewska." Her latest film, "Ninotchka," was actually a comedy, and this sudden change from the tragic to the humorous proves that a great actress can safely alter her usual type of part without fearing any loss of popularity.

Bette Davis, who has been acting in films for many years, has been given awards on more than one occasion for the best performances of the year. Her films include "Jezebel," "The Sisters," "Dark Victory," "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex," "The Old Maid" (a masterpiece of character study), "The Letter," and "Juarez."

Before I finish I should like to mention the film which is based on the biography of some great person. I can do no better than to start with the life story of Queen Victoria which was given us in "Victoria the Great," and "Sixty Glorious Years." The difficult part of the queen herself was played splendidly by Anna Neagle. Other notable screen successes in the form of biographies have been given by Anna Neagle as Nurse Edith Cavell, Paul Muni as Louis Pasteur and also as Emile Zola, Charles Laughton as Rembrandt, John Gielgud as Benjamin Disraeli, Henry Fonda as Abraham Lincoln, Spencer Tracy as Thomas Edison, Sir Cedric Hardwicke as Dr. Thomas Arnold ("Tom Brown's Schooldays"), Norma Shearer as Marie Antoinette, and many others, far too numerous to mention. In giving the actors and actresses throughout this article I have only given the most prominent—pressure of space forbids a longer list.



Full appreciation of these films cannot be obtained without understanding a little of the hard work which the actors and actresses of the chief parts put into their performances. They study the character which they are to portray and read as much about him or her as they are able. They study the character in every light, until they feel they know the person whose part they are to play so well that by the time the film is in production they are almost living the life of that character over again.

Such work is hard, but the film-world has no room for people who are not capable of hard work.  
G.G.S.

## POETS' CORNER

### RYE CHURCH BELLS

Hark ! Church bells ringing,  
Out across the Sussex town.  
Even birds have ceased their singing  
And listen to the joyful sound.

Yes, Church bells ringing,  
Months have passed since last they rang.  
Overhead the gulls were winging  
As the joyful people sang.

Once again the bells are pealing,  
Not to warn the folks to-day  
That Germans up our coasts are stealing,  
But that Peace has come to stay.

STEPHANIE ORFORD.

### THE MOON AND THE SEA

She slowly and silently glides through the sky,  
A soft, silvery light she gives,  
A light that rests on the shimmering sea,  
The sea where the King Merman lives.

The waves, they ripple and twinkle and dance  
Under this gleaming light ;  
The moon, she is at peace with all,  
Her pale face is veiled by the night.

And when all mortals are asleep,  
Then brightly shineth she ;  
The mermaids play in her silvery rays  
With merriment and glee.

And when at last the dawn doth break,  
The moonbeams fade away,  
The light is no more silver and soft—  
There comes another day.

BETTY FORD.

### TO RUSSIA

We hail thee, Russia, as a friend  
Who will not break and will not bend.  
We know against the Nazi might  
That you are fighting for the right.

Towards the Communistic Code  
Our sympathies have never flowed ;  
But now, to shatter Hitler's power,  
We call you "Ally" from this hour.

J. O. BOREHAM.

### THE RIVER

The sun is shining on the flowing river,  
As lazily its ceaseless course it runs,  
Forever winding on through town and meadow,  
'Til to the rolling sea at last it comes.



And lying on the banks that of same river,  
Just lazily basking in the sun  
Are crowds of people, happy in their freedom,  
Forgetful of the war that's to be won.

And children who increasingly are pining  
For rolling, open seas and golden sands,  
Forget awhile their craving for sea breezes,  
As they sit fishing with a skilful hand.

But soon the sun descends in all its glory ;  
The banks are now deserted : all is still.  
A gentle wind is rustling through the tree-tops,  
A silver moon peeps out behind the hill.

JOYCE HULBERT and OLIVE CLOTHIER.

### A SUMMER STORM

All is still : one hears no sounds  
Save the faint humming of the distant bees  
Which in the heavy, perfumed air resounds  
Like whispering of wind in autumn trees.

Almost unwillingly the somnolence is broken,  
A dull insistent murmur grows to be a roar ;  
The wind lashes the proud corn in fury,  
And drives across the sky dark clouds that know no other law.

The rain approaches, falling heavily and slowly  
In large and ponderous drops, increasing in their number  
Until the distant horizon is darkly blurred  
And lightning flashes, followed quick by thunder.

Then suddenly there is a hush, a lull ; and silence  
Is complete save for heavy drops which fall  
From hedgerows, trees and plants. The sky brightens,  
And the storm-god lifts his heavy pall.

HELEN METIANU.

### THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

The war may be fought in the East,  
The war may be fought in the West,  
But wherever the Germans extend their grey troops,  
The Royal Navy has no time to rest.

Far out on the grim, grey ocean,  
Away from the sheltering land,  
Ships of all nations are plying their trade,  
But mostly by Britons they're manned.

The help of the U.S. is vital,  
They supply ships for our gallant sons,  
Then the war of the just will be won once again  
With the aid of America's guns.

U-boats may sink ships by the dozen ;  
They may attack crews by the score,  
But as long as the Navy's still doing its task,  
The supply ships will soon come to shore.

So let us think just for a moment  
Of our friends now at rest in the sea.  
They have died for the causes of justice and truth,  
They have died so that we may be free.

A. D. RENVILLE.

### A SCHOOL ALPHABET

A is for Algebra,  $a$ ,  $y$ , and  $x$ ,  
B's for the Bell which is rung by prefects.  
C is for Cookery, taught by Miss Biggs,  
D is for Dates, which I can't learn for figs.  
E is for English in which we read prose,  
F is for French which nobody knows.  
G's the Gymnasium where we climb ropes,  
H is for Hockey at which some have hopes.



I stands for Ink—look out for a blot,  
 J is the Juniors—my word, what a lot.  
 K's for the Kitchen at Ixworth Court,  
 L is for Lessons at which we are taught.  
 M is for Meryon, their House Colour's green,  
 N's *Nova Rya*, our School Magazine.  
 O is for Oral, which makes us all grouse,  
 P is for Peacocke, the Senior House.  
 Q is for Questions with which we are plied,  
 R is for Running—get into your stride!  
 S is for Sanders and also for Sports,  
 T is for Tennis, on hard or grass courts.  
 U's for United, in play and in work,  
 V's a Vacation, when lessons we shirk.  
 W's for Work, and it's known to each member,  
 X is for Xmas—the "hols." in December.  
 Y is for Yearning, which we are for home,  
 Z's where it is—in a dangerous Zone.

JEAN POPE.

## BOY SCOUTS IN WARTIME

Amongst many of the hitherto unknown heroes of this war can be found members of the Boy Scouts' Association. Both in Europe and at home youth has borne itself splendidly under the most terrifying ordeals. Amongst many of the jobs that Boy Scouts and Rovers are doing are A.R.P. messenger and warden duties, fire-fighting, telephone operating at control centres, collecting salvage, collecting herbs, coast watching, many are members of the Observer Corps and thousands are in H.M. Forces.

Some time ago the Scouts of the West Indies, hearing that an appeal had been made for binoculars and telescopes, set to work to make a collection. They succeeded in getting together a shipment to the value of £1,000, the largest consignment so far received by the Ministry of Supply.

Many awards have been won by Scouts for bravery during air-raids. Silver Crosses, for example, have been presented to the seventeen year old messengers, Norman Blears and Kenneth

Blakemore, of Manchester. These two Scouts accompanied their Fire Chief to the scene of a fierce fire, and although the furious blaze caused severe burns to many of the men, often catching their clothes alight, the Scouts dashed up to the rescue of the men and rendered efficient first-aid, regardless of the risk. They summoned the ambulance and went with the fire-fighters to hospital, where they assisted the nursing staff, then returned to the fire. On another occasion these two Scouts volunteered to take messages through an area so dangerous that the fire-brigade chief would not allow anyone to try to get through.

Scouts of the 2nd Saltash Troop formed a fire-fighting unit on their own and were recognised as an official A.F.S. unit. One night, during a severe blitz, there were three boys and the S.M. managing the pump, when the boy holding a hose was killed by a bomb, having just refused to be relieved by his S.M. Two other boys were badly wounded on different occasions. Now the fire-fighting unit has been re-formed in readiness for any future blitz.

A messenger in London volunteered to take a message through a particularly dangerous area, and although mortally wounded he got through, dying just after he delivered his message. Before he died he said, "Reporting for duty, sir . . ."

Many such tales of bravery have poured into I.H.Q., many of which will never be told, but behind it all, Scouting still carries on. Troop meetings are held, and this summer camping is in very great demand. Real Scouts are always masters of the situation!

V.I.A.

## THE STORY OF LOHENGRIN, THE SWAN KNIGHT

The story of Lohengrin is based on that of the Holy Grail, with which we are familiar in the Tales of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Wagner has mixed this with an old Germanic legend of a knight who arrives in a boat drawn by a swan. The characters of Lohengrin and Sir Galahad might well be identical, except that Galahad is, until the end of his life, in quest of the Grail, whereas Lohengrin is one of the Knights of Mount Salvat, in Northern Spain, who guard the Grail and obey its commands.



Lohengrin is the son of Parsifal, King of the Grail, whose story we see in Wagner's last opera of that name. The opera, "Lohengrin," actually only deals with one of his adventures.

The Prelude to Act I depicts the descent of the Holy Grail. The beautiful harmonies which accompany its descent increase in power until the sacred cup is revealed to the human eye, and then diminish and fade away as the angels bearing the holy vessel return to their celestial abode.

The action of the opera is as follows :—

In the First Act, Henry I, King of Germany, known as the "Fowler," arrives at Antwerp for the purpose of raising a force to help him expel the Hungarians who are threatening his dominions. He finds Brabant in a condition of anarchy. Gottfried, the young son of the late Duke, has mysteriously disappeared, and Frederick, Count Telramund, the husband of Ortrud, daughter of the Prince of Friesland, claims the dukedom. Frederick openly charges Elsa, Gottfried's sister, with having murdered her brother in order to obtain the sovereignty, and she is summoned before the king to submit her cause to the ordeal of battle between Frederick and any knight whom she may name. In her song, "Einsam in trüben tagen," commonly known as "Elsa's Dream," she describes a champion whom she has seen in a vision, and prays for him to appear on her behalf. After a triple summons by a herald, a boat shaped like a shell, and drawn by a swan, is seen approaching on the Scheld. In it is Lohengrin in gleaming silver armour, helmeted, with his shield on his back, a golden horn hanging at his side, and leaning on his long sword. He dismisses his swan with the charming song, "Nun sei bedankt mein lieber Schwan."

Before the combat Lohengrin betroths himself to Elsa, naming only the condition that she shall never question him as to his name and race. She assents, and the combat results in Frederick's defeat and public disgrace.

In the Second Act occur the bridal ceremonies, prior to which, moved by Ortrud's entreaties, Elsa promises to obtain a reprieve for Frederick from the sentence which has been pronounced against him. At the same time Ortrud takes advantage of his success to instil doubts into Elsa's mind as to her future happiness and the faithfulness of Lohengrin. As the bridal cortège is about to enter the minster, Ortrud claims the right of precedence, by virtue of her

rank, and Frederick publicly accuses Lohengrin of sorcery. The faith of Elsa, however, is not shaken, the two are ordered to stand aside, the cortège enters the church, and Elsa and Lohengrin are married.

The Prelude to Act III, which depicts the coming of dawn, is probably the best-known piece in the opera.

The Third Act opens in the bridal chamber when the equally famous Bridal Chorus, "Treulich geführt" is heard. The seeds of curiosity and distrust which Ortrud has sown in Elsa's mind have ripened, and in spite of her conviction that it will end her happiness, she questions Lohengrin with increasing vehemence, and at last openly demands to be told. At this moment, Frederick and four other nobles enter the room intending to murder Lohengrin. Elsa with great presence of mind, thrusts Lohengrin's sword into his hand, and, hardly rising from the couch, Lohengrin strikes Frederick, who is aiming a blow at him, dead to the ground. The four nobles fall terrified to their knees, and plead for mercy.

Lohengrin then places Elsa in charge of her ladies-in-waiting and orders them to take her to the king, whither he goes himself.

Compelled by his wife's lack of faith, he discloses himself to be Lohengrin, son of Parsifal, King of the Grail, in the well-known Narration, "In fernem land." He announces that he must now return to the guardianship of the Grail. His swan appears again, drawing the boat, and Lohengrin prepares to depart. At this moment Ortrud appears and declares the swan is Gottfried, Elsa's brother, whom she has bewitched, and who, owing to Elsa's curiosity, will never be released. Lohengrin, who has heard all this, sinks down on the river bank in silent prayer; the dove of the Grail hovers down over the boat, and as Lohengrin perceives it, he springs up with a look of gratitude on his face and unfastens the golden chain round the swan's neck. Whereupon the swan sinks, and in its place Lohengrin raises to the bank a beautiful youth in silver garments, Gottfried. On seeing him, Ortrud falls with a shriek, and Elsa greets him with rapture. Lohengrin springs quickly into the boat, and is drawn off by the dove. He reappears in the distance standing in the boat with drooping head and leaning sadly on his shield. At the sight of him all burst into a cry of anguish, and Elsa sinks lifeless into Gottfried's arms. As Lohengrin recedes into the distance, the curtain falls.

A.J.W.T.



## R.A.F. REVIEW

In this short article I intend to try to summarise the work done and the part played by the Junior Service—the Royal Air Force—up to the present day.

Before the war very little was heard about British or German war 'planes. Everyone living at Rye could see the giant of the Imperial Airways, the old "Hannibal," go to and from France, and even more regularly the De Havilland "Dragons." But there was nothing exciting about seeing passenger 'planes go over. When war was declared and the real might of Germany's "Luftwaffe" was seen and felt, then the people became more interested in this apparently under-estimated power.

The scarcity of adequate war 'planes in Britain convinced the authorities that if we were to build a strong air fleet, people would have to become interested enough to fly them.

While interest was being stirred up by leaflets, and similar literature, proclaiming the advantages of joining the Royal Air Force, everybody in England was being thrilled daily by the audacious deeds of this "great little Air Force." When Germany had begun her attack on Poland in earnest, vivid accounts were published of the great part played by aeroplanes in the dive-bombing of Warsaw and other cities.

Then Denmark and Norway fell and there came the mighty Battle of France and in this battle our fighter 'planes first distinguished themselves. Previously, in air-raids on English towns, small numbers of eight-gun Spitfires and Hurricanes had routed superior forces of Nazi bombers time and again, while in France even smaller numbers of fighters had to cope with even larger numbers of enemy bombers and fighters. It is now known that Britain sent only a few squadrons to France, and some say that the Government foresaw the fall of that nation, but that will never be disclosed.

However, the retreat which concluded at Dunkirk was a miracle of deliverance. The R.A.F. assumed control of the air over Dunkirk and there were three types of fighter 'planes which made their names for good and all, namely, the "Hurricane," "Spitfire" and "Defiant." The first two were already famous for their fire-power and manoeuvrability, but the Boulton and Paul "Defiant," a

'plane of revolutionary design, in its first appearance was highly successful. In fact one squadron shot down thirty-seven raiders without loss to themselves. Such was the result of the new power-operated turret, which, placed at the rear of the pilot, could swivel through a large angle and use its four guns with disastrous effect.

Meanwhile, our bombers had been earning themselves fame by their precision bombing of vital enemy factories. Having decided that leaflets were not heavy enough to do any substantial damage, they dropped bombs with a far better effect. Hamburg, Bremen, and especially Kiel, felt the striking power of our small but highly efficient Bomber Command. After the amazing flight made by the three, long-range, single-engine Vickers' "Wellesley" 'planes, I am sure that people expected great things from them; but another even more powerful machine appeared, the "Wellington," which carried an unpleasantly large load of bombs a very long way, as the Germans discovered in the Kiel raid. The "Blenheim" also became famous as a multi-gun, long-range fighter or a medium bomber.

So much for the R.A.F. as far as Dunkirk, but the real endurance test came a few weeks later. Germany saw our apparent weakness on land and in the air, and Goering decided to strike—and strike heavily. Intense air-raids on important coastal towns and on London ensued. Then came the great day, September 15th, when a huge force of Nazi dive-bombers, heavy-bombers, medium-bombers, fighter-bombers and fighters swept across the Channel with the intention of carrying all before them. The R.A.F. fighters took off and smashed the great armada, shooting down 185 raiders in one hectic day, not, however, without the loss of 40 of our own machines, though fortunately several of our pilots were safe. This defeat was a crushing blow to the Nazi prestige, and although they had suffered heavy losses before, they had never received such a thrashing as this. High tribute must also be paid to the R.A.F. ground staff, who kept the aerodromes in a fit condition for the fighters to land, re-arm and re-fuel. In fact, Mr. Churchill admirably expressed the sentiment of the nation in a few simple words: "Never was so much owed by so many to so few."

After that mighty effort came a much-needed lull. There were raids, but not of such violence; there were "dog-fights," but not of such ferocity as there had been on that day. The next few months



were brighter for Britain, as encouraging news about aircraft production and help from America was received. Our factories and our designers got into their stride to help turn out 'planes to fight—the Battle of the Atlantic. Help from America increased, the Lease and Lend Act was passed, arms of all kinds were mass-produced. The Coastal Command, with its "Sunderlands" and "Ansons" did work of inestimable value in spotting U-boats and surface raiders.

The Coastal Command's work is somewhat alleviated by the Fleet Air Arm, who are receiving some very fine new 'planes for their use—the "Albacore," a biplane of no mean capabilities, which so successfully deterred some well-meaning Italians from shadowing the Mediterranean Fleet. "Fulmars" are new eight-gun, low-wing fighters, and an immense improvement upon the usual biplanes. There are, no doubt, one or two American 'planes, such as the stubby Grumman "Martlett" with its conveniently low landing speed, swelling its ranks. Despite these new 'planes it was the old Fairey "Swordfish" which crippled the Italian battleship force at Taranto.

There were great advances made in the design of our "home" aircraft too. New bombers appeared, such as the "Stirling," "Halifax" and "Manchester," all of which are still on the secret list. The greatest of all air problems still remains though—how to counteract the night-bomber. By observing the figures of destroyed enemy aircraft it can be seen that some very much improved method of dealing with the night-bomber had been found, and one of the new 'planes acting as a night-fighter is the "Beaufighter," about which no particulars are available. No doubt the Germans have the same problems, as our "Stirlings," "Wellingtons," etc., have inflicted severe damage on the important industrial centres, such as Hamburg, Mannheim, and Brest where the *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisnau* were effectively "immobilised."

Our fighter designers replied with the Westland "Whirlwind" which has already made its debut in air-fighting. The U.S.A. have sent us some very fine fighters too, the Brewster "Buffalo," the Bell "Aircobra," the Douglas "Boston" (renamed the "Havoc") and several "Maryland" bombers as well. It was a force of these "Maryland" bombers that blew up a supply ship in the Mediterranean so successfully that the explosion brought one of them down!

As regards pilots for these new machines, the Empire Air Training Scheme is just beginning to show its worth and pilots are arriving in a steady stream from the Dominions. Then there is the A.T.C. which greatly assists in turning out R.A.F. men ready trained for their work.

I think by this summary that you can gather some idea of the way in which the Royal Air Force has trebled its size and capacity for work so that the Nazi Swastika may never fly in England.

R.G.B.

## A VISIT TO HYDE PARK

Despite the opinions of many pessimistic cyclists in the Sixth and other Forms of the Grammar School, we started at 7.35 on Sunday morning, June 22nd, to visit Hyde Park. The main object of starting at this hour was to get a good start on the sun, however, as we had good cause to notice, he soon caught up on us. We started off in high spirits and felt fine as we panted over the Town Bridge. We passed Elstow before we realised it—due no doubt to its size—and we were soon in unfamiliar country. We relied on our sense of direction (and a road-map) to help us reach our objective when the last landmark was passed.

After having the usual ups and downs, wishing all the time that the country were flat, we reached Luton. Here, the problem arose, as to which road we should take to lead us to St. Albans, but thanks to the kindness of an A.F.S. man, we once more found ourselves in open country. When we reached St. Albans a certain amount of trouble arose for we took the wrong road out of the city. A few miles further on we saw a grand dive-bombing display by three "Tiger-Moths," and, after seeing that the pilots were not learners and that there would be no crash, we moved on.

We were directed wrongly at the next roundabout and after an uneventful journey, to our dismay, we found ourselves in a part of London miles from where we had wished to be.

After making a few remarks about the man at the roundabout, we eventually found our way to Edgware Road. The ride through London in the terrific heat, which we later found out to be 91 deg.



in the shade, was awful. At length we reached the Marble Arch, and then, because of the traffic, were forced two hundred yards down Oxford Street before we could turn. We then cautiously crossed by the Marble Arch and entered Hyde Park, which was fairly crowded; we rode right through, and with the help of a policeman found a drinking fountain, where we were kept waiting by a small queue. We then found a seat and had lunch. At once a crowd of sparrows flew up and had a good meal, all for nothing and no coupons. Having finished lunch, we started back at a quarter-to-two. It made our hearts ache to think that we had to go more than fifty miles, but we plucked up courage and started.

We retraced our steps during the hottest part of the day (as it was noon by the sun), to Edgware Road, and the reflected heat of London receded behind us till we came to the fatal roundabout. Here an argument took place, but luckily we took the right road and after climbing almost vertically into a little village, we had a glorious "free-wheel" for two miles down hill after hill till we reached the plain beneath. On this journey across the plain and up the next hill, we saw a "Halifax" swooping low near an aerodrome. By this time, we were feeling the effects of the sun very much, but we reached St. Albans sooner than we expected. In fact we asked a policeman which road we should take to reach the town, and he replied "You're in it."

We had quite a comfortable ride to Luton and knew our way through the town this time, so there was no difficulty in that respect. We now had the wind behind us and sailed along a flat piece of road on top of the Downs. The countryside was sprinkled with gorse bushes and everything looked peaceful under the afternoon sun. We reached the edge of the hills and had a fine half-mile ride without any effort. On our left was a deep valley with steep, wooded hills which looked very much like the South Downs. The next piece of interesting countryside was on the other side of the hills that can be seen by looking south from Bedford. The road wound up between sand-rock cliffs and banks, and they looked particularly lovely because of the pine woods on top. We now came down a hill into the plain which has Bedford in its centre. The balloons at Cardington grew larger and larger until we reached Elstow. Then, after much exertion, we finally reached our billets, where we settled down for a well-earned rest.

H.E.G.K. and B.D.S.

## OVERHEARD IN THE EDITORIAL OFFICE

Miss Fotheringay, will you take this letter down on the typewriter, please?

Oh, it's jammed, is it?

Perkins! Here a minute! I forbid you to bring jam for your lunch again!

Now then, Miss Fotheringay—borrow my pen.

Yes, the nib—well, here's a pencil then—er, you'll find a sharpener in the drawer.

What do you say?

Oh, then we'll have lunch. I'm afraid I had to bring my lunch as my usual restaurant has been damaged. Will you pass my case please, Perkins?

Miss Fotheringay, my ration of cheese was in here. I don't like to accuse you, but—Oh, I'm sorry, here it is, hidden in a hole in the bread.

Make some tea, Perkins! Here's some milk, but throw the cat out first.

Miss Fotheringay! Please don't sneeze so near me!

There, now you've blown my cheese on to the floor. It's gone under my desk. Heavens! There's a mouse under here. Quick, Perkins, the cat, the cat!

That's right, throw it under the desk. Save my cheese if you can! Oh, it's gone, has it? Well, has the cat caught the mouse?

Where is it then?

Quick, the milk, the milk! That's right.

Well, we've lost the mouse, the cheese, and the milk. Miss Fotheringay seems to have lost her head—please sit still!

No, of course the mouse isn't under your chair—it's on your shoulder as a matter of fact; much better.

Don't scream so. Don't be ridiculous.

Perkins, hit the mouse and I'll lash out at it with this ruler.

Don't throw the bottle of ink, boy!

Good gracious, you have made a mess of Miss Fotheringay's frock. I think I must have rather hurt her with this ruler too. Look! Quick, she's fainted. Dash some water on her face, or ink will do just as well.



Hullo, someone's coming in. Good gracious, it's the Chairman !

Good-morning, sir !

Yes, sir.

Parlour games ? No, not exactly, sir. We were just having lunch as a matter of fact.

## OLD SCHOLARS

This term we have been pleased to see Helen Rook, when she paid a visit to the School during a brief stay in Bedford.

We have received letters from the following Old Scholars :—  
Joan Ashby, Jean Blackman, Beryl Bumsted, Dorothy Elliott,  
Beryl Elmes, Laura Wratten, W. Dunlop, D. W. McQue, J. Mewse,  
A. F. Smith, H. R. Spedding.

## TO FRIENDS AND OLD SCHOLARS

You may like to have a copy of this Magazine, and if you would we will be pleased to arrange it. Any suggestions and helpful criticisms will be gratefully received.

Write to :—THE EDITORS,

Ixworth Court,

Kimbolton Road,

Bedford, Beds.

We regret that we have no further copies of NOVA RYA, No. 1, but there are still several copies available of NOVA RYA, No. 2.