

"Nova Rya"

No. 11



"Aut Disce, Aut Discede"

Spring Term, 1944

NOVA RYA

(Founders: A. W. J. AMBROSE, R. G. BURNETT, G. G. SMITH, A. J. W. THIRD)

THE MAGAZINE OF RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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EDITORIAL

Whether the School will return to Sussex in the summer is a common topic of conversation and argument both among pupils and among parents. The Headmaster has had the question constantly put to him in the last three years, but this year he has been more optimistic than ever before. We do not wish to pass an opinion, but we would like to point out some interesting points about the return whenever it materialises.

There is little doubt that the pupils, staff and parents are tired of evacuation, just as the whole nation is tired of war. Every one is weary of the break-up of home life, which even twelve weeks' holiday a year does not wholly alleviate. However, if conditions are unfavourable for our return to Sussex this year, as they well might be if the Second Front is opened up from the South Coast, then the School will have to face another year in Bedford. There is no fear, however, if the School maintains its high standard of loyalty which it has set during the last three years, that any disaster will follow the statement that we must remain away from home for another year. However, only future events unknown to us can answer the question, so let us look forward to the time when once again we attend Rye Grammar School in Rye.

The joy with which every one will greet the news of the return is almost unimaginable. It will probably be given out at Assembly one morning. Every one will look at every one else, all trying to talk at once. Then a cheer will echo (or should we say "roar"?) through the hall. When this has died down the Headmaster will remind us that in our ecstasy we must not forget that we have the job in front of us of re-establishing ourselves at Rye. Just as England has her reconstruction problem after the war, so has Rye Grammar School its own reconstruction problem to solve. This settling down into the old buildings will not be a long process so long as every one is not so overwhelmed with joy at being home that he forgets everything else. Remember how quickly Ixworth Court was made ready for full-time school before October, 1940? And Ixworth Court had to be converted from an ordinary house into a co-educational school. It was a difficult task to do in three months at such a time when the country was on the verge of disaster. In Rye, the school building awaits its pupils, although it is true, not in a very welcome state. We are certain that it can be made ready in a shorter time than Ixworth Court.

We have had the experience of overcoming the difficulties of settling down in a strange environment. With such experience, how much easier will it be to re-establish ourselves at home! However, how easy the task is to be depends to a large extent on the pupils. The first year back in Rye will be almost as difficult for the Headmaster and Miss Turner as was the first year in Bedford. True, there will not be the worry of billeting problems, but there will be all the normal worries of school life, as well as the new troubles brought about by the return after four years away. It is to be hoped that in the ecstasy of being home the School will not forget that school life must go on and that Mr. Jacobs will have a difficult time. Yet the School ably stood up to evacuation, so likewise we are confident that it will stand up to the return home.

THE EDITORS.

HISTORY OF THE EVACUATION

The Spring Term is usually the most uninteresting of the year, although several House competitions are settled. As this term has been shortened by two weeks the Athletic Sports and the Scout Concert had to be postponed, but otherwise the usual winter activities have been continued.

Both the football and hockey teams have enjoyed a successful season. The standard of play has benefited by weekly matches, and the Headmaster has said that this year's First and Junior Elevens are the best since he has been at the School. The football First Eleven has not been defeated since November 6th, 1943, and the Junior Eleven has not lost for two seasons. Mr. Allnutt's great interest and successful organisation has played an important part in obtaining the high standard of play.

The hockey First Eleven has not such a record of success to prove its improvement, but nevertheless throughout the season team work has improved, so that next year should be a most victorious one. Miss Stevens has given much time and trouble to assist the team, and recent victories have rewarded her efforts.

The football shield was won by Sanders by one point over Meryon. The fight was an exciting one and was not settled until the last Junior match between Sanders and Meryon was played. Peacocke House won the hockey shield fairly easily, so, as Meryon

House won the Cross-Country Competition, the three Houses are one all on the winter sports.

The cross-country running took place as usual this term. The final event was run on February 28th, after several postponements due to the weather. The Junior competition was won easily by Meryon, while Sanders, with five runners in the first eight home, were first in the Senior event. So great was Meryon's lead over Sanders in the Junior race that the whole competition was won comfortably by Meryon.

Every Saturday evening some kind of entertainment has been given at Russell Park Hall. There have been three lectures: the first was by Mr. Kuhlicke, who gave us a very interesting history of Bedford, illustrated by references to maps, which he had drawn himself; the second was about America and a full account will be found elsewhere in the magazine; the last was given by Mr. Lewis, of Bedford Modern School. His subject was Polar Exploration, and he gave a clear picture of life and conditions in Polar regions as seen by Nansen and fellow adventurers. The other "non-fiction" item of week-end entertainment was a piano recital by Mrs. de Sausmarez, who played pieces by composers all through the ages. She included a great many popular pieces of classical music, such as Boccherini's "Minuet."

The Guides and Scouts have each provided an enjoyable evening. The account of the Guide Concert will be found elsewhere. The Scouts gave a Whist Drive and Dance. This, like all previous efforts by the Scout Troop, was a popular success.

The highlights of Senior entertainment have, however, been the half-term and end-of-term dances. For both of these the Bedford Rhythmics Dance Band was engaged and both evenings were thoroughly enjoyed by almost everybody. The Headmaster is to be thanked for providing refreshments at both dances.

Early in the term the Senior School heard an interesting talk by Brother Charles, of the Franciscan Community, who exhorted boys and girls to attend the Lent Services at St. Paul's Church, where Brother Charles himself gave the address. Unfortunately the time of the services was inconvenient and attendance by members of the Rye Grammar School was very small.

The School Committee is still training intending politicians in the ways of Parliament. Unfortunately the Chairman, Mr. Broome, has been absent for all three meetings, but the Headmaster has

filled the chair on these occasions and business has been got through with a large amount of discussion. Many members of the Committee can argue about nothing as successfully as most M.P.s.

Whenever we are awarded a Field Day the weather manages to be contrary. The last Field Day was no exception, but after an unpleasant morning the afternoon cleared up, so that by the time everyone had returned home the evening was beautiful.

The Sixth Form received a windfall, when it found that a prefects' holiday had been given them. The abdominal aches experienced by several Sixth Formers that evening showed that even such hardened veterans can eat too much on festive occasions.

The School went home leaving several pupils suffering from various complaints, to spend their holidays in the Isolation Hospital. Our sympathy was extended to those unfortunate boys and girls.

T.G.H.P.

OBITER DICTA

Doreen Smart, Ruth Oyler, J. Jury, A. Shearer, E. Fellows and R. Catt were confirmed on Sunday, March 19th.

We are pleased to see Mr. Broome at School again after his illness and hope that he will remain in good health.

Some members of the School have been attending the Lent Services for Schools, held at St. Paul's Church, by Brother Charles, who had previously visited the School.

We were sorry to hear of Mr. Douglas' recent bereavement and extend our deepest sympathy to him in his loss.

We have had two lectures on fire-fighting lately and several pupils have practised stirrup-pumping.

Several Rangers took the first Red Cross Home Nursing Examination, all of whom passed.

Miss Carter, a student from Reading University, has been teaching history in the School lately.

Five members of the Sixth Form took the Latin examination of the School Certificate Examination at Christmas and all obtained credits. They were Kathleen Batehup, Helen Metianu, Pamela Whiting, B. Dawson and L. Wood.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE NOTES

The School Committee has met three times this term. In the absence of Mr. Broome, the chair was taken by the Headmaster at the first two and by Fellows at the last meeting. At the first meeting Mr. Morgan brought forward a proposition that a system of House points be drawn up for events run off before Sports Day. The business was left to a sub-committee and later a report was given stating that the motion had been unanimously adopted. At this meeting also the subject of a Dramatic Society was raised and after some discussion a sub-committee was elected.

At the February meeting Mr. Jacobs said the question of fixing a bath at Ixworth Court, for the people who have not baths at their billets, had been investigated and that only a few people were concerned. Therefore the matter was left.

The last meeting was devoted to overhauling and amending the constitution of the Committee, which now stands as follows:

1. Members of the Committee shall be the School Captains, Prefects, Senior Games Captains, House Captains, one member from each House in Forms Lower IV, Upper IV and V, one from each House in the Junior School and members of Staff.
2. The Committee shall receive suggestions from the representatives on behalf of their electors.
3. There shall be sub-committees of particular activities, which shall normally consist of the appropriate School and House Captains and shall have power to co-opt and shall give regular reports to the School Committee.
4. The Committee shall meet at least twice a term.
5. The Chairman shall be elected at each session for the following session.
6. A quorum of one-third of the members of the Committee be present before any business of major importance is discussed.

7. Notice of proposed change in constitution must be given at the meeting previous to that at which the discussion is to take place. Any other motions for the meeting must be given to the Secretary and put on the Notice Board at least two weeks before the meeting.
8. No member shall speak till the Chairman gives his consent.
9. Members shall stand and address the chair.
10. If a motion is before the House any amendment must be disposed of, before a second amendment is proposed.
11. Before a vote is taken on a motion or amendment there shall be the opportunity for open discussion.

SPEECH DAY

The Speech Day for the year 1942-43 was held on February 22nd, at Russell Park Hall. The guest of honour was Professor Barnard, Professor of Education at the University of Reading. Other guests on the platform were the Headmistress of the King's Warren School, Mr. Liddle, Headmaster of the Boys' Modern School, and Mrs. Liddle, Mrs. Jacobs and Mr. Dibley, Chairman of the Parents' Association.

The proceedings began with the School hymn, after which the Headmaster gave his report. He stated that in all activities the School had kept up to its former high standard in spite of over three years of evacuation, and he gave us a watchword, "We will go back to Rye better than we came away."

Professor Barnard then presented the prizes and shields. After this, he delivered his interesting and often amusing speech. Many people, said the Professor, when speaking at speech days said that they had never won any prizes at school, thereby implying that they had got on very well in spite of this fact. He himself was proud of the prizes he had gained, because they represented some hard work.

Speaking of the importance of education in schools, he stated that some people thought that a school was merely a kind of shop, where goods labelled "geography" or "mathematics" were handed by teachers to pupils on the other side of the counter. This was a wrong idea, for although this was one of the important functions of a school, a school was also a community where staff and pupils should work together. He reminded us of the proverb which said

that men and not walls made a city. An evacuated school, such as our own, showed that this was indeed true.

Mr. Liddle proposed the vote of thanks to the Professor and spoke of the time when they had worked together as fellow school-masters. He was also pleased to know that we had a Parents' Association and said that this was an asset to any school.

Mr. Dibley then spoke and thanked all the billetors for their continued kindness to the School. We were pleased to see so many foster-parents present as well as parents and old scholars.

The School Captain proposed a vote of thanks to the Staff and the proceedings closed with the National Anthem. Tea was served to the visitors afterwards.

Prizes were awarded as follows :

FORM PRIZES.

- Form II*—Daphne Caister, G. Sexton, Rosemary Diive, R. Wigg.
Form IIIb—Barbara Catt, G. Roberts, Betty Chapman, Robbins.
Form IIIa—L. Allen, Pauline Baker, Doreen Standen, Sheila Houlston.
Form IV—Ruth Oyler, B. Lupton.
Form V—J. Jury, Julia Smith, Ruth Morris.

PRIZES AWARDED ON RESULTS OF THE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

- Form V*—B. Jones.
Form V Remove—Rosalie Green, Pamela Whiting, Wood.
Subject Prizes : English and History—Jean Pope.
French and Biology—Daphne Breeds.
French and General Science—B. Dawson.
Geography—G. Hargrove.
General Science and Architecture—P. Caister.
General Science and Art—J. Bull.
Art—R. Marshall.

PRIZES AWARDED ON RESULTS OF THE HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION.

- Geography*—T. Pollard. *Biology*—P. Mead.
Special Prizes : General Prizes—G. Alford.
Miss Prentice's Prize for Divinity—A. Shearer.
T. Phillips' Prize for Mathematics—Kathleen Batehup.
Molyneux Jenkins' Prize for Mathematics—C. J. Webb.

- Old Scholars' Prize*—Jean Pope, B. Dawson.
The Mayor's Prize for History—J. Pulford.
The Trollope Award—J. Pulford.

School Certificates : CERTIFICATES.

Kathleen Batehup, Daphne Breeds, Rosalie Green, Joan Hoad, Eileen Munday, Jean Pope, Maureen Samaden, Pamela Whiting, Bull, Caister, Dawson, Jones, Marshall, Webb, Wood. Helen Metianu, Supplementary Credit in Latin.

Higher School Certificates :

P. J. Mead, T. G. H. Pollard, J. S. L. Pulford.

CUPS AND SHIELDS.

- Apps' Cup for Boy Scouts' Annual Patrol Competition*—Raven Patrol.
Guide Cup—Kingfisher Patrol
Football Shield—Sanders House.
Hockey Shield—Sanders House.
Netball Shield—Peacocke House.
Cricket Shield—Meryon House.
Tennis Shield—Peacocke House.
Cross-Country Run Cup—Sanders House.
Athletics Shield—Sanders House.
Gymnastics (Boys)—Meryon House ; *(Girls)*, Sanders House.
Swimming Shield—Meryon House.
Speech and Music Shield—Sanders House.
Work and Merit Shield—Meryon House.
House Championship—Sanders House.

HOUSE NOTES

PEACOCKE HOUSE

- House Master* : MR. MORGAN.
House Mistress : MISS LETCHER.
Boys' Captain : L. S. WOOD.
Girls' Captain : JEAN POPE.
Prefects : HELEN METIANU, JEAN POPE, KATHLEEN BATEHUP, L. S. WOOD.

This term a greater interest in House affairs has been taken by the members and consequently better results have been obtained, although there is still much to be done.

At the beginning of the term the House made a good effort and obtained first place in the competition for the Speech and Music Shield. However, as Miss Letcher pointed out to the House, the fact that we gained it as we did, by a very narrow margin, was due to luck more than skill. So far we are leading in the Work and Merit Competition, but our lead is small and being closely rivalled by the second House and an effort will have to be made if we are to win the Shield.

In the sports field the boys have been unsuccessful. The Seniors have lost to both Meryon and Sanders, and the Juniors lost to Sanders, but won against Meryon. Fuggle and Gutsell have played well. We came last in the Cross-Country Run. The girls have done much better and as a result of their efforts we have carried off the Hockey Shield. The Senior girls have been undefeated and the Juniors won against Meryon and drew with Sanders.

The House collection has flourished and twenty-five shillings have been contributed to charity. This has been sent to the Royal East Sussex Hospital. The decrease is due to the shortness of the term.

L.S.W.

SANDERS HOUSE

House Master : MR. DOUGLAS.

House Mistress : MISS SEED.

Boys' Captain : T. G. H. POLLARD.

Girls' Captain : PAMELA WHITING.

Prefects : ROSALIE GREEN, PAMELA WHITING, E. A. FELLOWS, B. L. JONES, T. G. H. POLLARD.

Sanders has not been very successful in either work or merit this term. Because of the good play of the Junior football team, Sanders managed to gain the Football Shield. Unfortunately the girls were last in the Hockey Competition. Sanders came second in the Cross-Country Run Competition by a narrow margin. Pollard is to be congratulated on gaining first place for the second year in succession, and also Roberts, for doing very well in his first year in the Senior competition.

In the Work and Merit Competition, Sanders is still rather low, this is because a large number of black marks and few merit marks have been gained.

We have not contributed to the collections so well this term, but about thirty shillings were sent to the fund for prisoners of war in Japanese hands.

HOCKEY 1st XI



Photo by

J. C. Brown, Bedford

HELEN METTANU, STEPHANIE GAIN, JULIA SMITH, JULIA TERRY, MISS STEVENS,
JEAN POPE, KATHLEEN BATEHUP, RUTH MORRIS, PAMELA WHITING, RUTH OYLER, KATHLEEN WATERMAN, IRIS LEEDS

We hope that the members of Sanders House will work and train hard in order that we may do better in school activities in the Summer Term, as we still have a chance to obtain the Cock House Shield.

B.J.

MERYON HOUSE

House Master : MR. BROOME.

House Mistress : MISS TUNSTALL.

Boys' Captain : J. JURY.

Girls' Captain : D. BREEDS.

Prefects : J. BULL, B. DAWSON.

Meryon has had a fair amount of success this term and we have won the running cup by a good margin and obtained second place both in the football and the hockey. The football was very close and we were only one point behind Sanders. The Senior team won every match they played and put up a very good show.

However, in the question of work and merit we have not maintained our usual standards, and it is the job of everyone in the House to pull up the points needed to win the shield. The present points are : Meryon $131\frac{1}{2}$, Peacocke 139, Sanders $125\frac{1}{2}$.

House meetings were carried on as usual, under the guidance of Miss Tunstall, in the absence of Mr. Broome, whom the House has missed in many ways during his absence. Perhaps this accounts for the near misses we have had in the hockey and football inter-House competitions.

The collections have been maintained very well and all members have contributed liberally. Thus, in spite of the short term, we have been able to send a guinea to the Duke of Gloucester's Prisoners' of War Fund.

R.C.F.

HOCKEY REPORT

The first match after Christmas was against the Modern School Old Girls' Association, on January 15th. Against a more experienced team we failed to combine and were heavily defeated, 11—0.

The following Thursday we played Parkside Ladies' Club. The standard of play had not recovered from the previous week and we again suffered a loss of 7—1. S. Gain scored our only goal. On January 29th, our play having improved, we defeated Telephone House, 3—1. We maintained a high standard of play for the rest of the season.

On February 3rd we drew, 3—3, with an Observer Corps team, after a hard and fast game.

We defeated the Shire Hall on the following Saturday by an easy margin of 4—1. In this match the forwards combined well and pushed fiercely and were ably backed up by the defence.

A fortnight later we played the Modern School and after a hard and even game we won by the odd goal in the 11.

In our return match against Shire Hall the result was reversed, the score being 4—2 in our opponents' favour.

In the first game in March we played the Convent School. The standard of play was quite good, but we allowed our opponents to set the pace. However, we drew, 1—1.

A further match against Shire Hall resulted in a narrow win in our favour, 3—2.

On Saturday, March 18th, we played a match against the Parkside Saturday Team. The team played very well, but against a definitely better team, lost, 6—0. A. Brakefield and S. Mewett played very well as reserves.

Play has improved since the beginning of term. The forwards have combined better, but shooting is still their weak point. The defence has played steadily, but need to cover deeper. The goalkeeper, J. Smith, has played very well and brought off some fine saves. H. Metianu and R. Morris have been made two sound backs and have tackled and cleared well. The half-backs, I. Leeds, K. Waterman and K. Batehup, have supported both backs and forwards. The forwards, J. Pope, J. Terry, S. Gain, R. Oyler and P. Whiting, have learned to combine better, but are sometimes inclined to muddle.

On the whole the season has been a successful one and although we have not always won matches, we have gained valuable match experience. Thanks are due to Miss Stevens, who has patiently coached the players and refereed most of our matches.

P.I.M.W.

The under 14 team has played two matches this term, both against the Modern School. The first match resulted in a win for the Modern School, 2—1. The second resulted in a win for the School, 1—0.

The team is as follows: R. Dive, C. Rhind, M. Breeds, A. Fellows, B. Brakefield, R. Wells, Rita Oyler, D. Gill (captain), M. Hoad, R. Ray, D. Caister.

FOOTBALL REPORT

FIRST ELEVEN

This term has been a most successful one for the First Eleven, having won six of the seven games we have played and drawing the seventh, and adding these successes to those we enjoyed last term the whole season has been, without doubt, the best we have experienced during our three-and-a-half years in Bedford.

The first match of the term was played in Bedford Park, our opponents being 134 Squadron, A.T.C. The School team played very well and our quick, accurate combination and shooting were the main reasons for our victory of 9—0 over our rather slower opponents.

On February 5th we entertained Owen's Second Eleven in Bedford Park. The first half was very even, both sides attacking hard and scoring twice. In the second half our forwards were right on top, and by taking advantage of the good centreing by the wings, scored four goals without reply, to give us a well-earned victory of 6—2.

The following week we played a return match with Toc H Boys' Club. Although we weakened our team by omitting Pollard, Fellows and Hargrove, we were by far the stronger team and won a very one-sided match, 13—0.

Two weeks later we entertained Biggleswade Army Cadets and the match proved to be one of our keenest this season. Both sides attacked hard in the first half, but as our opponents' finishing was better than ours, we were two goals in arrears at half-time. In the second half we pressed hard and scored two quick goals. Both sides attacked hard to obtain the lead which we secured fifteen minutes from the end. Biggleswade made every effort to equalise, but our steady defence held them out and we thus won by the odd goal of five.

On March 4th we went to Cardington, where we were entertained by 134 Squadron, A.T.C. The game was on a larger pitch than usual and consequently the game was very fast. By half-time we had netted four goals, followed by four more in the second half, to which our opponents replied once. Good combination among the forwards and some well-placed centreing by Hargrove and Gutsell were the main reasons for this success. Following the match we were entertained to tea by the A.T.C. and the afternoon was enjoyed by all.

We went to Russell Park the following Saturday to play Goldington Road Army Cadets. The team was not up to its usual standard and we had to fight hard—to draw 3—3, thus breaking our long line of victories.

Our last match of the season was played against Shiners United. Owing to the absence of Wood and Roberts, we had to play two reserves. In a goal-less first half the defence played a hard game in keeping our opponents out. In the second half the School forwards combined well and after about twenty minutes Hargrove scored with a ground shot. Our steady defence withheld attempts by our opponents to equalise and about one minute from the end Fellows scored, to give us a victory of 2—0.

The results of the matches this season are : played 18, won 12, lost 5, drawn 1 ; goals—for, 93 ; against, 36.

The regular players were : Simpson, Wood, Shearer, Pollard, Jury, Roberts, Gutsell, Dawson, Fellows, Fuggle, Hargrove. Bullen, Pritchard and Paine also played on several occasions.

Colours were renewed to Fuggle, Fellows, Pollard and Dawson, and were awarded to Jury, Hargrove, Simpson, Gutsell and Wood, on the season's play.

B.D.

JUNIOR ELEVEN

For their opening match of the term the Junior team played Owen's School on the Meltis ground. By half-time we had gained a lead of 3—0, but in the early part of the second half Owen's scored twice and our defence had a difficult task in preventing an equaliser. However, we regained control of the game and eventually won 6—2.

The next match, an under 13½ game against Goldington Road School at Bedford Park, provided a very keen and interesting struggle, resulting in a draw, 3—3. In an even first half each side scored once. After the interval we brought our score to three, but our opponents fought back well and succeeded in equalising in the closing minutes of the game. Sexton gave an outstanding display at centre-half, and D. Boyce did well at back.

Our final game, against London Bunyan School at Bedford Park resulted in a win by three clear goals, all scored by Morris, two from accurate centres by Chappell.

The results for the whole season were : played 10, won 9, drawn 1, lost 0 ; goals : for, 43 ; against, 8.

SPRING POETRY

SIGNS OF SPRING

Have you seen the snowdrops
At the bottom of the garden
Where the apple-trees grow
In a neat, straight row ?
Spring is coming.

I saw the first ones yesterday
While wandering there a while.
White heads like snow
Told me, bending so low,
Spring is coming.

Have you seen the crocus,
Yellow, mauve and white,
And so small and tender ?
But what joy they render
For they tell of Spring.

A SPRING MORNING

The flowers are blooming in the woods,
The world looks bright and gay.
It is the gentle step of Spring,
That passes o'er the way.

The sun above is shining bright,
Lambs in the meadows play,
Their mothers watching anxiously
To see they do not stray.

E. FROSTICK, *IIa*.

THE COMING OF SPRING

In winter when the trees are bare
And snow lies on the ground,
The squirrel still sleeps in his drey.
There is no living sound.

Here comes the Spring, the glorious Spring,
And violets raise their heads.
The birds begin to find their mates,
The dormice leave their beds.

We hear the cuckoo in the morn
Pour forth his welcome note.
The primrose and the daffodil
Appear in yellow coat.

GILLIAN PRATT, *Ila*.

SPRING

The winter now is far away,
Gone are the winds and rain.
The sun, instead, has come to stay—
For Spring is here again.

The fairest season in the year,
As many people say,
When all the skies are blue and clear
And trees are dressed so gay.

The birds come back from o'er the sea,
For winter's far away;
The flowers bloom, and the busy bee
Is seen to work all day.

RUTH ARNOLD, *Ila*.

BLUEBELL

It grows 'neath hedges, under trees,
It smells so fragrant in the breeze;
Oh lovely flower, God made you well,
Oh fairest bloom, you sweet bluebell.

We'll see them soon when Spring comes nigh,
In woods, in fields and banks so high;
Oh, Mother Nature, send them soon
So we may pick them morn and noon.

JOAN HOBDEN, *Lower IV*.

RANGER REPORT

The Rangers have completed another term's work under the leadership of Miss Hewetson.

Before continuing the lectures on Home Nursing, begun last term, one or two meetings were held for the sole purpose of re-arranging the Company. Several of the recruits had decided to discontinue with Rangers, with the result that the Company remained with the small number of ten, six of which belong to the School. It was finally decided to divide the Company into two patrols, and to continue with this arrangement unless it proved unsatisfactory.

Mrs. Candy came to one meeting to give us a final lecture on Home Nursing. The remaining time before the examination was taken up with demonstrations and practices concerning the practical side of the test. Two Red Cross nurses gave us a demonstration of making a hospital bed in the correct manner and taught us some more bandaging. The test took place at half-term, when there were eleven candidates, only one of which did not belong to the School. Every one passed well, and Ruth Oyler is to be especially congratulated upon obtaining the highest mark of 95 per cent.

Since half-term all the work done at the meetings has been based on that needed for the H.E.S. armlet. Another test is going to take place in May, when we hope to have more candidates ready to take it.

In remembrance of Thinking Day, February 22nd, the birthday of the late Chief Scout, a church parade was held at St. Cuthbert's Church, on Sunday, February 20th. Most of the Rangers attended and altogether there was quite a large number of representatives of the Guide movement.

It has just been found out that the World Flag, which Miss Thomas sent to the School Ranger Company as a parting gift, was received by mistake by the Guides. We are hoping that this mistake will be rectified and that the flag will be passed over to the Rangers, who will make good use of it, and by it will remember Miss Thomas, the founder of the Rye Grammar School Ranger Company.

K.M.B.

GUIDE REPORT

The chief event of Guide importance this term has been the Guide Entertainment. This was held on March 4th, and in spite of many pessimistic prophecies it was, I think, enjoyed by all, especially those behind the scenes. The programme included a charade (by the Junior Guides); a quiz, in which members of the audience were called on to the platform; two dances, and a short play acted by the Guides of Upper IV. After this there was a short dance for the Seniors. By a collection at the door, £2 17s. od. was raised for the B.P. Memorial Fund. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Scouts who helped us with the curtains on the stage.

On half-term Sunday some of the Guides attended a church parade for Thinking Day. The service was held at St. Cuthbert's Church and was conducted by the Rev. W. E. Lane.

Because of the shortness of term and the time before half-term which we spent in preparing for the Guide Entertainment, we have not been able to do much other work. However, some badge work has been done and a number of recruits have been prepared for enrolment.

On March 14th we had a Field Day. This was spent at Bromham Park, where the spring weather, combining with high spirits, helped to make a very enjoyable day.

We hope, next term, to be able to settle down to some really hard badge work.
P.H.B.

SCOUT REPORT

This term the troop has been mainly concerned with the production of their fourth annual concert which, owing to the shortening of the term, cannot be held until after Easter. Since half-term the Riverside Club, where our meetings are held, has been re-echoing with the mixed sounds of discordant singing and the shoutings of irate producers. Nevertheless, much progress has been made in this line and the concert has every chance of being a success.

Only one Field Day was held this term and was, as usual, at Stagsden. It began with a hike and also included some test passing

and tracking. The remainder of the term was spent in patrol activities, during which many second class tests were passed by the younger Scouts and much time was spent on practical work in pioneering, first-aid and morse and semaphore signalling. An inter-patrol competition was held on these subjects, each patrol leader organising a test on one of them. Unfortunately this was not properly finished owing to the fact that rehearsing for the concert had to begin at the next meeting.

The troop seems to lack interest in the gaining of proficiency badges. The only ones passed this term have been Ambulanceman badges, which were gained by four Scouts. There is a badge for nearly every interesting subject and the tests are well within the scope of any Scout. So let us see if next term there can be an improvement in this direction and we can have a record number of badges won.

The building of a trek-cart by some of the Scouts in their woodwork lessons has saved much expenditure. Thanks are due to these Scouts and especially to Mr. Morgan, who has supplied much of the wood and allowed them to build the cart in their woodwork periods.

A. A. SHEARER.

LIBRARY NOTES

Since September, 1942, more than 250 volumes have been added to the School Library. These have included generous gifts from Old Scholars—Marjorie Jezzard, Joan Hoad, Colvin, Mead and Ambrose—and from Miss Thomas, both before and after she left the School.

Among the non-fiction additions, special mention should be made of those on the following subjects:

AMERICA—

Florence, *Only an Ocean Between.*

Nevins and Commager, *The Story of a Free People.*

Mowat, *The American Venture.*

THE EMPIRE—

Coupland, *The Empire in These Days.*

Ed. Turner, *The British Commonwealth and Empire.*

THE WORLD TO-DAY—

Ward, *Turkey.*

French, *South America.*

Brodrick, *North Africa.*

Ilin and Segal, *U.S.S.R. Speaks for Itself.*

THE WAR.

Russell, *Ark Royal and Front Line, 1940-1941*

Hichens, *We fought them in Gunboats.*

PRESENT AND POST-WAR PROBLEMS—

Huxley, *T.V.A., Adventure in Planning.*

Harris, *The Daily Press.*

Abercrombie, *Town and Country Planning.*

Dent, *A New Order in English Education.*

ARCHITECTURE—

Lloyd, *A History of the English House.*

Richardson, *The Bombed Buildings of Britain*

COUNTRY LIFE—

Darling, *The Seasons of the Farmer.*

Fitzgerald, *Hedgerow and Field.*

Street, *Hitler's Whistle.*

Gardiner, *Your Village and Mine.*

BRITAIN IN PICTURES—

Barker, *British Statesmen.*

Gregory, *British Scientists.*

Hennell, *British Craftsmen.*

BIOGRAPHY—

Buchan, *Memory, Hold-the-Door.*

Krennan, *General Smuts.*

FOOTBALL 1st XI

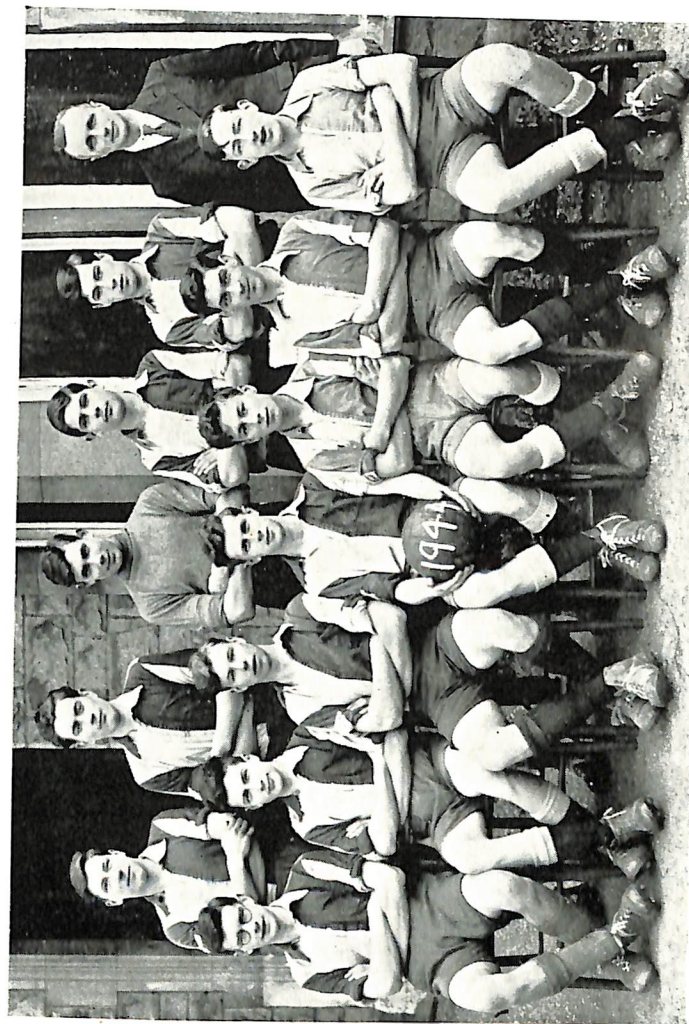


Photo by]

[J. C. Brown, Bedford

P. WOOD, K. BULLEN, L. SIMPSON, A. SHEARER, J. JURY, MR. ALLENT
T. POLLARD, P. GUTSELL, E. FELLOWS, B. DAWSON, L. FUGGLE, G. HARGROVE, G. ROBERTS

A.T.C. REPORT

On Friday, January 21st, the A.T.C. had its first parade at Riverside. Work began immediately, Section I concentrating on Navigation, Meteorology and Law and Administration, while Section II began working for their proficiency examination, and Section III carried on with their ground work. P.T. parades began on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Work went on steadily during the term and towards the end a number of examinations were held. During the first three days of March, Section I took advanced examinations in Aircraft Recognition, Navigation, Meteorology and Law and Administration. Proficiency tests for Section IIa were held on March 4th (morse), March 11th (drill), March 10th (aircraft recognition) and March 15th (P.T.). Very few results are now available and we hope that all the Cadets were successful.

All N.C.O.s and Leading Cadets of Section I visited an air station on Friday, March 10th. On setting out the weather looked quite hopeful for flying, but before we had reached the drome the weather had broken. On being told that flying was impossible the Cadets visited various parts of the station. The machine shop was first visited and keen interest was shown in all the instruments. Then followed a look in the armoury, where Cadets busied themselves packing cannon shells into the belts for the guns. The party finally visited the control tower and were shown its use.

During the term, Riverside rooms were open on Mondays and Thursdays during the evening. Many Cadets made use of the time to gain extra knowledge of their own particular subject, especially Aircraft Recognition.

Sunday, March 19th, marked the only public parade of the unit during the term. On this day the units of the town paraded at Bedford School for the inspection by the Chief Commandant, Air-Marshall Sir Ernest Leslie Gossage, K.C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C., accompanied by Air-Marshall Playfair, K.B.E., C.B., C.V.O., M.C. After the inspection a service was held in the Great Hall, in which the lessons were read by Air-Marshals Gossage and Playfair, while an inspiring address was given by the Head Master of Bedford School. This was followed by a parade down the High Street and dismissal in the Market Square. E.A.F.

MORE POEMS

THE CHIMNEY SWEEP

The chimney-sweep goes on his round
With brushes, sticks and brooms.
He comes and has a cup of tea,
Then goes into the rooms.

When he reaches the living-room
We hear a rumbling sound,
And down the chimney falls the soot,
Into a great black mound.

When this has finished falling down,
The sweep his brushes takes,
As soon as he has said "good-day,"
Then for the door he makes.

G. PRATT and M. METIANU, *Ila*.

THOUGHTS ON A CRICKET FIELD IN JULY

I long to seek that shady nook
'Mid slender willows cool and still,
Where through the trees there runs a brook
Which springs from some cleft-featured hill.

And there to lie on grass so soft,
Where sleep probes at the drowsy brain,
And watch the birds that soar aloft
And wheel and dip and wheel again.

And through the trees I'd watch the sun,
Set in a cloudless, rosy sky.

And see the timid rabbits run,
And watch the kestrel hang on high.

So on such summer days as these
I long to be there once again,
To sit there, lazing at my ease,
To stay till light is on the wane.

Many's the time I've stayed there till
The sky has turned quite dark.
And I'd be there now if I had my will—
Whew! That ball just missed its mark.

P. WOOD, *Upper IV*.

INFORMATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE UNINITIATED

What is this deaf'ning, subterranean murmur,
This rumble made by Cyclops in their cave,
This noise of Odin, Thor and Vulcan,
This roaring as if lions therein did rage?

Dear pupil, calm your childish temblings,
Take courage, enter, there is nought to fear:
Although this sound inspires your breast with horror,
'Tis no supernatural noise you hear.

What is it but the Sixth Form at their study,
The Sixth Form, learning maths with groans.
Bending themselves with diligence to their labours,
And making inroads on great dusty tomes.

H. METIANU, *VI*.

THE CRASH

The fiery sun had long been set,
The night was rough and dark,
The clouds that rolled were black as jet;
And dogs were heard to bark.

On such a night one well might cry,
"No man will venture out,
A fearsome gale is surely nigh,
Of that there is no doubt."

And yet this night the sirens shrieked,
Most people rose from bed;
Outside across the sky there streaked
An aeroplane bright red.

'Twas certain that the plane in sight
Was German through and through,
And as it dived headlong through the night
Flames glowed a brighter hue.

It crashed at last with deafening roar,
The nose sank in the sand.
That aeroplane will fly no more
To bomb our native land.

I. SMITH, *Lower IV*.

A DEDICATION TO THE GALLANT ALLIED TROOPS

The gallant troops of England,
And other countries too,
Have earned the thanks and praises
Which they've received from you.

They fought for England bravely
When things were looking black.
But now they're fighting harder,
And driving Hitler back.

The famous "Eighth" are fighting
To help to win the war,
And they are fighting better
Than any time before.

But Monty's now in England
To help the Second Front,
And when he lands in Europe
It's Hitler who he'll hunt.

And when this war is over
And victory is won,
We'll thank those gallant soldiers—
We'll thank them, every one.

J. E. FUNNELL, *Lower IV.*

TO THE SLACKER

Disreputable schoolboy, can't you see
That when the master's eye is turned from thee
It's not a time for you to play about.
It is your job to make that sum work out
Or do your Latin Grammar, or your French,
For when the master turns his gaze on you,
His dreams of your abilities comes true ;
And all your writing is by far too neat.
For you, not one blot on a sheet
Of paper. But when work is done at home,
You'd rather listen in to "Happidrome."
And when your homework should be finished quite
The page you started on is still quite white.
Or you play in the park till darkness falls,

And leave the Architecture of St. Paul's ;
Your Science lies awaiting to be done,
While you are at the pictures having fun.
But comes the hour when books are given in
And the master findeth out your sin.
So to detention you your way must make,
To find what vitamins are found in cake.
Or else to learn that Isaac Newton found
That apples always fall toward the ground.
(Although they may land somewhere else before)
So, look out pupil, or it will be war !

R. E. HULBERT, *V.*

AN HISTORICAL ALPHABET

A stands for Agincourt, 1415,
B's Boadicea, a most warlike queen ;
C is for Charles, alas for his head !
D is for Drake, from whom Spaniards fled.
E is for Edwards, from one up to eight,
F is a Prussian, Frederick the Great.
G is for George, God save him now !
H Henry Eighth, with all ladies a wow.
I's Isabella, rather a tartar,
J is for John, don't forget Magna Charta.
K is for Kings, I've just mentioned a few,
L is for Louis, he lost his head too.
M is for Mary, she suffered a lot.
N for Napoleon, with "a whiff of grape-shot."
O Oliver Cromwell, who seized much power,
P is the Princes, killed in the Tower.
Q is for Queens, with dozens of maids,
R is for Richard, who went on Crusades.
S is for Simon, de Montfort he's named.
T's for Trafalgar, a battle most famed.
U is for Utrecht, a peace was made there,
V is Victoria, such queens are rare.
W's for William, the Conqueror bold,
X is for Xerxes, a warrior of old.
Y's Arthur Young, to farming no stranger.
Z is for Zeppelins, no longer a danger.

PAMELA WHITING, *VI.*

AN EARLIER HEADMASTER

When Mr. Vidler wrote his history of Rye Grammar School he discovered that his predecessor, Hollaway, was wrong in naming Richard Hartshorne to be our first Headmaster, for he found that Thomas Watson was Headmaster in 1649. Mr. Vidler surmised that Watson was the first Headmaster, but now still another earlier one has turned up. A year ago when Mr. Vidler and Mr. Hewett were arranging the church registers for micro-photographing, they came upon the following record of a wedding: "Richard Smith, Master of the Free Schoole of this Towne, and Sarah Spye, were married, 11th day of March, 1646."

"This," writes Mr. Vidler, "is no doubt an earlier Headmaster than Thomas Watson." It may be that he is the long-sought-for first master of the Grammar School, appointed when the School opened in 1638. For some years before 1646, one Thomas Spye lived in a house in the Longer Street (High Street), a few doors from Peacocke's School. It is tempting to assume that Richard Smith, after a weary day in school, would pass this house and (Rye Grammar School not then being co-educational) was cheered on his way by the fair daughter, Sarah, of his household.

It remains to identify Richard Smith, his university and degree, and to establish definitely the date of his arrival in Rye. Evidently after his marriage, he did not remain long at Rye Grammar School.

A. R. JACOBS. Esq., M.A.

HUMAN CASEBOOK

"STUDIOUS"—No, it is not compulsory to learn Latin in school, although it is wise to have one who can read the School Motto. A literal translation is *not* "Out, out damned spot . . . !"

"RELIGIOUS"—Yes, Amos is *rather* an important biblical figure.

"ENCHANTED"—No, the "fascinating young lady" who asked for a half day's holiday at Speech Day did not have fair hair. Neither do we know her telephone number, nor her Christian name.

"POLITICIAN"—Yes, other people besides W—d and P—l—rd are allowed to speak at School Committee meetings.

"HYGIENIC"—Yes, there is enough water to have a bath at Ixworth Court. We call your attention to the two vessels outside the Staff Room door.

"CATO"—We sympathise with you, but it is difficult to obtain peroxide now. We advise you to remain cool.

"VICTORIA"—Yes, all articles published in this magazine are strictly censored.

"INTERESTED"—I recommend these for your book list: *Revised Mrs. Beaton* by Cook and Baker, *School Dinners and After* by Paine, *High Voltage* by Watts, *Fishy Stories* by Whiting and Gill, *A Chip off the Old Block* by Wood, *Bald Heads* by Wigg, *The Old Bailey* by Law and Jury, *Cross Country Running* by Walker, *How Green Was My Churchyard* by Sexton, *The English Farmer* by John Bull, *Modern Cars* by Ford and Morris, *Short Grass* by Shearer and Cutting, *Black Smoke* by Funnell, *Religious Teaching* by Chappell and Pope, *Camouflage* by Green and Brown.

GUIDE FIELD DAY

After Assembly we started off for Bromham in very high spirits. We stopped at a bakery in Bromham Road and added to our supply of food. Nearly all the gardens that we passed were filled with spring flowers: daffodils, violets and early primroses. At Bromham bridge we could see the smoke of the camp fires and we were soon there lighting our own fire. Then we cooked dinner, which consisted of stew, bacon dumplings, pancakes, buns and coffee.

After the billy-cans and plates had been washed up we went for a walk by the river. We all gathered armfuls of rushes and discovered a fallen tree-trunk lying across the river. We managed to cross this without falling in.

Back at camp again, we had to fetch the water. We got it from a pretty little house called "The Lodge," which we admired very much. Someone found a tennis ball so we had a game of rounders. Miss Letcher and Miss Stevens lead the teams. Miss Stevens' side won.

Then it was time to start off for Bedford again. When we got to the bridge the bus passed us, filled with Guides carrying big bunches of rushes and pussy-willows. Arriving home we all agreed that it had been a very happy and successful Field Day.

ANN TEASDALE.

THE GUIDE CONCERT

The Guides gave a concert to the School and a few visitors on Saturday, March 4th. They began with an introduction in song given by a chorus of Patrol Leaders and Senior Guides, accompanied by Miss Letcher at the piano.

The programme started with a charade in three scenes, performed by the Junior Guides. The first scene represented a bus-stop, with several people passing by, holding conversations with each other and passing remarks about an old lady who was taking her dog for a walk; the next scene took place in the sitting-room of a house, where the family, including three children, were knitting, reading or attempting to do homework. "Father" arrives, the children are sent to bed and the housemaid is reprimanded for her persistence in breaking crockery; in the last scene, three children are picking wild flowers in a wood. They are interrupted by a farmer who tells them that they are trespassing. A yokel enters, reporting, in an extremely familiar accent, that some boys have let a bull out of a nearby field. Several people in the audience guessed the word which was "primrose." Kitty Dibley, Mary Frostick, Alison Hilder and Ethel Eldridge, are to be complimented on their good acting.

An Irish jig followed, which was danced by Rosemary Ray and Barbara Catt. They kept perfect rhythm throughout the dance and, considering the smallness of the stage, managed to vary the movements very well.

Next came the Brains Trust. Iris Leeds acted as Question Master and Irene Farrant struck the gong when required. Three girls and three boys from the audience went up on the platform to be questioned. The questions were varied and included spelling, meanings of words, general knowledge questions and requests for recitations and songs in certain accents and dialects. A Sixth Form girl made a very gallant attempt to sing "I've got sixpence" while eating a bun. Shrieks of laughter were caused by one boy in Lower IV who, when asked "Who said 'we are not amused'?" replied, after apparent thought, "Miss Turner, I should think!" The final score resulted in a win, by one point, for the girls.

This was followed by a tap dance by Daphne Weeks. She danced well and the applause from the audience was proof of their enjoyment.

FOOTBALL JUNIOR XI

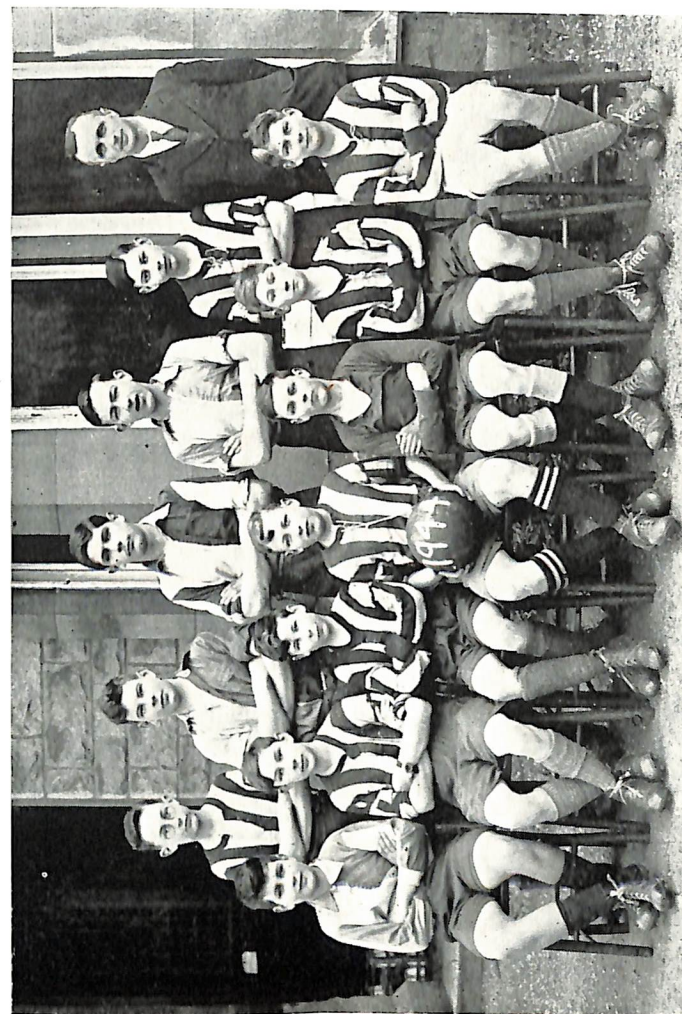


Photo by

[J. C. Brown, Bedford

G. BURT, S. CHAPPELL, A. SHEARER, G. ROBERTS, H. FRANKLIN, MR. ALLNUTT
P. BRYANT, B. BEECHING, L. PARKS, D. MORRIS, R. SINDEN, G. SEXTON, G. SIMMONS

The final item was a play, "The Bloaters," performed by the Senior Guides. Renee, the heroine, lived in a flat in London, but at school had boasted of a big house and servants. She is expecting her friend, Daphne, to tea. This young lady belongs to real high society and preparations are made accordingly. Brothers Georgie and Bill are forced to wash their hands, mother gets out the best crockery, a friend poses as maid and Renee and her sister are in their best clothes. Mrs. Muggins, who lives in the flat below, bestows some bloaters (from her brother Joe, who owns a fish shop) upon them just before Daphne arrives. When she appears, tea is served (drawing-room style, much to Georgie's disgust) by the "maid." Georgie is prevented from making several blunders in the conversation by Renee, who impatiently stamps her foot. All goes comparatively well until Daphne proposes to entertain them and thereupon finds the bloaters which have been hastily deposited in the piano. At this point Mrs. Muggins appears, as Renee has unconsciously given her the signal to ascend from the flat below. To the surprise of all she recognises Daphne as the daughter of her brother (Joe). The result is that both girls confess that they have invented their rich relations and everything promises that they will all live happily ever after. The acting was exceptionally good, but special mention must be made of Iris Leeds, who took the part of Mrs. Muggins.

A Dance for the Seniors completed the evening. The Guides are to be congratulated on arranging a very enjoyable evening and for catering for different tastes. Miss Seed, who assisted with the make-up, and the Scouts, who made themselves useful behind the scenes, were thanked for their help. A collection taken, in aid of the Baden-Powell Memorial Fund, amounted to £2 1s. 5d.

R.E.L.G.



FELINE HEAD—*designed and cut by Barbara Brett, Ila.*

THE LECTURE ON AMERICA

On the evening of Saturday, February 26th, the School was delighted to welcome Mrs. Brinser, an officer in the American Red Cross, who gave a lecture on the United States.

The lecture consisted of a description of two tours that Mrs. Brinser had made just before the war. The first journey, arranged by a New York travel agency, started with a trip by sea from New York to New Orleans. Mrs. Brinser said that she stopped at New Orleans for a day or two, where she found the climate very warm. She then embarked on the rest of the tour by train to Idaho, Chicago, and back to New York.

She told us that at school she had learned of Idaho as the gold state and had not fully realised what this meant. When changing trains at a station in Idaho she had to wait a few hours, so she wrote a letter and went to buy a stamp. She was surprised to find that all her change from a five dollar bill was given in half dollars. When she inquired, she was told that notes were scarce in Idaho and that was the reason why it was called the gold state.

Chicago, Mrs. Brinser said (much to the disappointment of the Junior boys), was like any other big city and not a place where gangsters roamed the streets with tommy-guns, as so many people imagine. After going to Chicago Mrs. Brinser returned to New York by rail. She said that the American railways were much more comfortable than the British ones, but were often very crowded.

On the next trip, Mrs. Brinser went to Los Angeles to stay with friends. She visited Hollywood, then went to stay for a few days on Catalina Island, which is just off the west coast. Many of the tropical films are made here. It is interesting to hear that the cabin in which she stayed was "Fletcher Christian's" cabin in "Mutiny on the Bounty." She also visited a fair on one of the islands and described many of its attractions.

Mrs. Brinser then asked if there were any questions and when asked if it was true that every American had a car, answered yes, every family, but a lot were bought on the instalment scheme. Other questions about schools, religion and other topics were asked and all received interesting answers.

The School Captain then thanked Mrs. Brinser for her very interesting lecture and proposed a vote of thanks, which was heartily seconded by all members of the School.

After the lecture, as it was not very late, a short dance was held, which we all enjoyed very much.

B.J.

A SCOUT HIKE

It was difficult to hear the S.M.'s instructions on the morning of our hike owing to the appearance of a large rat which, although visible only for roughly five seconds, caused great commotion in the ranks. Finally, however, we managed to understand that we were to be given maps (drawn by the S.M.), which we were to follow to the bitter end, making observations on the way.

It was 10.40 a.m. before we got started and began to wind our way down a long-looking lane, which formed the first lap of our journey. Obstacle number one was a small stream into which all the patrol walked to get specimens for the camp museum. Having stopped an argument which looked like developing into a water fight, we proceeded on our way, plus some frog spawn conveniently placed in the billy-can in which we were to cook our stew!

Having gone along the lane for what seemed miles we turned into a footpath which would, we hoped, form lap number two. After a while the patrol, tired of throwing bottles at one another, looked round for other pursuits, and in their looking caught sight of the P.L.'s face. They had seen that look before and they recognised it. To cut a long story short, they were temporarily lost. They had taken the wrong footpath, and although it was not far out of their way the P.L. was annoyed, and as a safety-valve for his annoyance tried to throw a member of the Patrol (who has a laugh like a hyena) into a pond. He might have succeeded in doing this if it had not been for the billy-can (now "bung-full" with an assortment of specimens), which got mixed up in the *melée*. Suddenly the Patrol stopped dead, a look of horror on their faces, for there, rolling down the bank of the pond, defying all bumps and other obstacles, obedient only to the law of gravity, was the billy-can containing their masterpieces. It seemed hours after the last bubble marking the exit of the can had disappeared after the Patrol moved, but they did at last, and after much trouble the billy and its lid were recovered, but, alas, it was empty.

The P.L. managed to find the right path again and nothing eventful happened until after having passed through a field of animals (which the Second swears were all cows) we were informed by a labourer that "there be a bull in that field." We left him, on our part without believing a word he said, while he, on his side, regarded us as one regards monkeys in a zoo! The billy-cans were

rinsed out and filled from a tap on the main road and we, winding in a single file up a narrow lane towards our destination, began to dream of stew (which, unfortunately, fell out on to the ground during the making thereof).

The only other incident worthy of recording was that a garden containing two Austins was taken by the members of Lover IV, who had just read *Les Voleurs D'auto*, to be a car-thieves' *depôt*, and it was only with difficulty that they were stopped from investigating further. Having arrived at the wood we changed the billy-can which had contained the specimens with that of another patrol and then settled down to cook our stew. "WOODPECKER"

WORK AT THE BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

During the Christmas holidays I worked at an interesting job at the Bedford Public Library. My work commenced on December 16th and lasted for three weeks.

At the beginning of the day, for half an hour before the Library is opened, the fiction books are put in alphabetical order and placed on well-spaced shelves. At a quarter-past eleven those on counter-duty are relieved for a break in the staff room for tea and buns.

Then the books that have just been brought in have to be re-arranged and placed on the shelves again. Counter duty is hard work as there is always a queue on the "in" side most days of the week. The same two people are not on duty at the counter both in the morning and the afternoon.

There is a great deal to do besides giving out tickets. Books have to be mended once a week: if they have pages missing or torn then the staff themselves do the mending. Among other tasks there is the tidying of non-fiction books. This is done regularly, but not every day, because the fiction books are used more frequently than the non-fiction.

All new books have to be labelled and catalogued and the Junior Library has to be looked after. Magazines and newspapers have to be accounted for, changed and kept up to date. When books are reserved, their titles and particulars have to be put down in the reserve book; quite a lot of work is needed to ensure that these books are obtained by the people who want them. When

books are long overdue, post-cards are sent to the people who are keeping them.

Each morning tickets have to be made out for new members and their membership cards filed into drawers. Queries of all kinds are dealt with. Each evening the "fine" money is counted and checked with the number of fine tickets.

We worked an eight-hour day, including an hour for dinner. In the evening all tickets of the books taken out during the day have to be sorted and counted, there are usually about six hundred to be done.

Library work is instructive and it is surprising how soon one learns to recognise different types of books by their authors. I enjoyed the work very much and am convinced that it always is pleasant, although I only did it for a short time.

BETTY FORD, *Form V.*

APPLIED QUOTATIONS

"There's no such thing in nature and you'll draw
A faultless monster which the world ne'er saw."

Has this any reference to the decorations in Russell Park Hall.

"O friend, I know not which way I must look."
What, lost the place again?

"They mock the air with idle state."
The Sixth Form at private study.

"Go forth under the open sky and list
To nature's teaching."
Orders for Field Day.

"I'm further off from heaven
Than when I was a boy."
The lament of the schoolmaster.

"My life is one dem'd horrid grind."
The lament of the schoolboy.

"I know it is a sin
For me to sit and grin."

Then you ought to know better by now.

"Her angel's face,
As the great eye of heaven, shyned bright
And made a sunshine in the shady place."
She hasn't used powder this morning.

BIDDENHAM

The picturesque little village of Biddenham is a very pleasant walk about two miles from St. Paul's Church in Bedford.

There are houses both old and modern in this village. The old cottages are very small, with lattice windows and thatched roofs. These little cottages have very attractive gardens in summer and there are usually roses and creepers on the walls. There is one village shop, which is the post office as well. It has a thatched roof and a pretty garden. At the back of the War Memorial is Lavendar Lodge, which is a very old house. Next to the Lodge are two cottages, which are painted by many artists.

As we walk along the village street we notice that all the walls on one side of the road are made of grey stones and so are some of the old farm buildings. Crossing a stretch of green we pass the ancient "Dove Cot" (built in 1706). Many people would take this for an old oast house, as the exterior resembles the familiar building we so often see in the Sussex countryside.

Continuing across the green we come to the old Norman Church, outside of which are old iron steps leading up to the tower. The Church has one large stained-glass window, which is a most beautiful thing to look at.

From this quaint, old village there is a most pleasant walk through cornfields, down to the river, which terminates at Kempston Mill.

There is a very old inn at Biddenham called "The Three Tuns," which has a thatched roof. Just beyond this, on the green, under the trees, is the blacksmith's forge.

One notices, while walking through the village, that the modern houses are built to tone in with the atmosphere, which greatly adds to the beauty of Biddenham.

M. R. HOAD,

OLD SCHOLARS

OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

The Old Scholars' Association is a very British institution in that it has a constitution and rules, of which almost none of its members know anything. Like other similar institutions it works and the subscription-paying membership reached the record of 125 last year.

The Association is run by a committee of twelve members, together with the hon. secretary, the hon. treasurer and, in normal times, the Headmaster, who is president of the O.S.A. An Annual General Meeting is held in conjunction with the Annual Reunion, which usually takes place on the Saturday nearest to New Year's Day. At this meeting, officials are elected and vacancies on the committee, caused either by resignations or rotational retirement, are filled; committee members retire by rotation after three years, but are eligible for re-election.

In war-time the activities of the O.S.A. are limited to the holding of two reunions each year, to the circulation of three hundred copies of 1,200-word *News Bulletins* three times a year, to the giving of a School prize and to presenting each subscription-paying member with one free copy of *Nova Rya*. The social, dramatic, tennis and London sections are all temporarily suspended.

The annual subscription is only one shilling and sixpence and any one leaving the School during a calendar year is free until December 31st of that year.

On the whole the majority of the subscription payers are fairly recently-left Old Scholars and the committee is a young one: two members were at Bedford.

W.R.D.

[EDITORS' NOTE: As every pupil, when he or she leaves School, will be pounced upon by Will Dunlop to join the O.S.A., the Editors thought that forewarned might be forearmed.

However, despite the aspersions cast on the activities of the O.S.A., it is nevertheless a fine and important institution and Dunlop does great work in organising it successfully.]

OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS

Walter Stocks, one of the older generation of Old Scholars, died recently. He was at the old school in the High Street in the 'eighties and had many vivid recollections of his schooldays there.

His long life had been devoted to Rye and its people. He owned a furnishing business in Cinque Ports Street and for many years had been a Town Councillor. During the last war and again during this one he was Food Officer of the Borough. But he would like best to be remembered for his life-long active membership of the Congregational Church, where he was Deacon and Sunday School Superintendent. Mr. Stocks will be missed by a great many people, and not least by his old School in which he maintained a kindly and loyal interest, being a member of the Old Scholars' Association. We extend our sympathy to Mrs. Stocks in her bereavement.

It is with great regret that we heard of the deaths in action of Terence Montague and Ken Williams, who had both been reported "missing."

Terence was a glider pilot and was engaged in the airborne operations near Catania at the beginning of the Sicily campaign. His glider was loaded with war material and unfortunately came down among the Germans. Terence will be long remembered by his contemporaries at School. He was a hard worker and a keen footballer and was in great demand at concerts with his accordion. Our hearts go out to Joan, his widow, in her sad loss and we send our respectful sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Montague.

It seems only the other day that Ken was at School, eagerly preparing for his chosen career of handicraft teacher. He took real pride in his work as a craftsman and came through his City and Guilds Examination with flying colours. Of a quiet and modest nature, Ken was well liked by all. For over a year he was a prefect and on leaving School went to King Alfred's Training College. From there he joined the R.A.F. and was trained in Canada as a bomber pilot. He had been over Germany several times and was lost over Hanover towards the end of last year. His parents have now heard that he is buried with his crew at Lippe. The Headmaster was privileged to see the fine tribute paid to Ken's skill and courage by his Commanding Officer. It is difficult to express adequately our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Williams, who have been called upon to bear the grievous burden of the loss of their two R.A.F. sons.

Alan Smith, now Lieut. A. F. Smith, was at Brigade Headquarters on the Anzio beachhead. He has seen much dreadful destitution in Italy.

Margaret Bidauld has just finished her training at Salisbury.

Paulina Metianu, reading in Biology at London, and P. S. Mead, studying Agriculture at Leeds, are both worried about chemistry.

C. J. Webb, in the R.A.F., is at a Radio School in London.

Jean Blackman is working in a munitions factory.

Olive Paine is nearing the end of her training at Bishop Otter College.

Joan Hoad is in Rye Food Office.

A. W. J. Ambrose has presented a generous gift to the School library.

Peter Caister in the Royal Air Force Establishment is working for his F.R.Ae.S.

Mary Isaac has passed through the first stage of training at Bexhill Hospital and is shortly going to the Royal Berkshire Hospital at Reading.

Joyce Ballard, in the Borough Sanatorium, Hastings, hopes to take her final examination very shortly.

Jack Carey, D.F.M., a prisoner of war, is safe.

Marjorie Smith, still in Manchester, is longing for the south. She wrote of a few hurried visits to the lakes.

Airgraphs have been received from Mewse, Swaine, R. J. Hunster, who is flying a Halifax in the Mediterranean theatre of operations.

TO FRIENDS AND OLD SCHOLARS

We are always glad to receive news from Old Scholars and if any of you could contribute an article, letter or even some criticism we should be very grateful.

Our address is :—

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