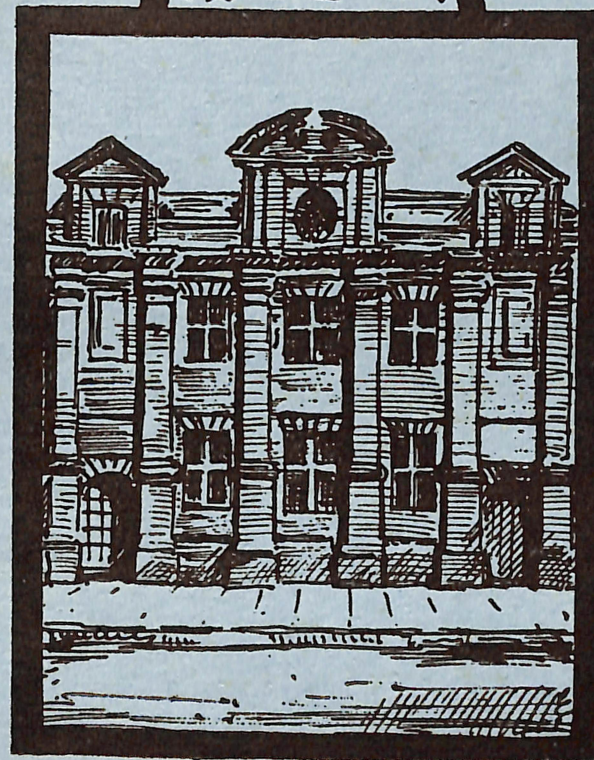


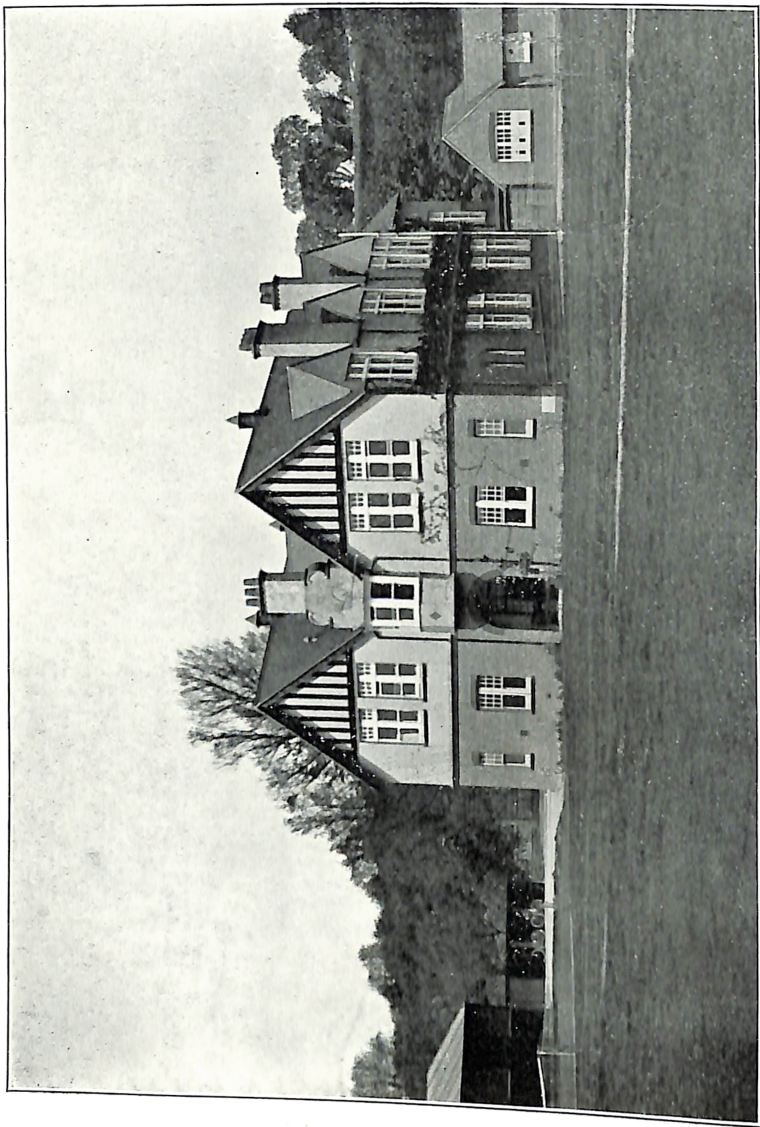
"RYA"

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MAGAZINE OF RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SPRING
1945



RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, New Building 1908.
(The original building is shown on the cover)

"RYA"

THE MAGAZINE OF RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

New Series

No. 1

Spring, 1945

Vol. 1

Editors :

Jean Pope

Rosalie Green

L. Allen

B. Dawson

P. Gutsell

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Foreword

I am very glad to write a foreword to this, the first number of "Rya," after a lapse of four and a half years. There have been twelve copies of "Nova Rya," and at this great moment in the history of the School, our thoughts naturally turn to the Editors, who have so loyally kept the School magazine going in these eventful times, and particularly to the first ones who, in the early Bedford days saw to it that the magazine survived.

The great day of restarting school at Rye is at hand. We shall, I believe, take up our life at home strengthened by our experiences and with a higher vision of the possibilities of the school. I felt very proud when Mr. Lane told us that we had not allowed Bedford to swamp our personality and that we had kept our identity. At the same time, I am conscious of the fact that we have collectively as a school, as well as individually, learnt a great deal during our exile. Being among so many other schools has been a stimulus and an inspiration.

It has been my duty recently to say many "thank yous," and here I want to say another very special one to all of you who have been with me in Bedford, from those who have been there the whole time to the latest arrivals. We have had our ups and downs together but the ups have been much more evident than the downs. As I said to the seniors at the last dance at Russell Park Hall, I do not think that any Headmaster has been more richly blessed with loyal devotion to the school than I have been. But for this loyalty of you boys and girls, supported by your parents, Rye Grammar School would not now be the power for good that it is. In the years to come, may our school find a higher purpose and a wider loyalty in our community. You, all of you who have been in Bedford, have played your part worthily in ensuring this.

A. R. JACOBS.

Rye—Bedford—Rye

L. Allen	Iris Leeds
Pauline Baker	B. Lupton
Kathleen Batehup	R. Marshall
P. Boyce	Mr. G. L. Morgan
Audrey Brakefield	Ruth Morris
Mr. J. J. Broome	Ruth Oylor
J. Bull	G. Paine
R. Catt	Mr. E. R. Pigrome
S. Chappell	Jean Pope
B. Cutting	C. Saunders
B. Dawson	Julia Smith
Mr. H. B. Douglas	Doreen Standen
R. Frehner	Julia Terry
L. Fuggle	Miss N. M. Tunstall
Rosalie Green	Miss E. A. Turner
P. Gutsell	Pamela Whiting
Sheila Houlston	P. Wood
R. Hulbert	S. Wood
Mr. A. R. Jacobs	

Betty Ford and Kathleen Waterman were with the school all the time in Bedford but did not rejoin us at Rye.

Editorial

It is a great thing to be able to say that we have been uprooted from our centuries old home and taken from our families to be planted in a strange place, many miles away from surroundings so familiar to us, where we have been received by new families and sheltered in strange buildings, but that we are the school we were at starting, a little changed perhaps, but changed for the better. Yet this is what Rye Grammar School can say without boasting or fearing contradiction.

Alas, it is a strange thing that although only eighteen pupils of this school have ever been inside the school at Rye as scholars, although many pupils do not even know their way to the school in Rye, although some members of our staff have never been to Rye, yet all those who have come as newcomers to our school while it has been in Bedford, have fitted into, enriched, and continued in our traditional way of life. We have been surrounded by other systems. We have taken from these some benefits and maybe imparted some of our own qualities to our hosts, while we have maintained our own school inviolate. It may readily be asked how this has happened.

The answer is three-fold. Firstly, our staff has striven to uphold the school by keeping up the standard of education, supervising, organizing, and starting societies, clubs, games and entertainments, taking a kindly interest in billets, and adapting themselves to the cramped conditions of Ixworth Court, while they never made the excuse of "being evacuated," to cover any pardonable weariness. The strength of the school has been largely interdependent, and Mr. Jacobs and Miss Turner, who have done so much extra work, such as arranging billets, must have served as guiding examples to the staff, just as much as they, with the other teachers, have to the pupils of Rye Grammar School.

Secondly, the pupils themselves have played no small part in maintaining the school. All, from those few who knew the school in Rye and kept in the same path at Bedford, who came as juniors and left the school, still in exile, as seniors, having marked the way for their successors, to those same newcomers who saw the track and followed it without hesitation, all have kept that part of the school which is really most important—the pupils—up to a high standard of efficiency.

Thirdly, the whole of this test of our evacuation would have collapsed but for the foster-parents, or billetors, to use the official, unfriendly word. They knew nothing of the strangers they offered to house and they suffered many inconveniences, did more work and altered their former home life to let the evacuees share

in it. By their efforts, we have been enabled to go on with our school work, untroubled by worries at home.

We have all come through a great test with flying colours. We have had for a watchword, "Let us go back better than we came away." Now is the time to show that we can be a good school not only in evacuation, but that leaving goodwill behind us, we can keep our motto faithfully, and replant our school in Rye fresh from this great experience, to grow toward a greater virtue.

History of the Evacuation.

This term has gone on much as usual but there has been a feeling of expectancy in the air which has developed into an outburst of hilarity since the definite news of our return. On 12th October our Commemoration Day was held. The Reverend W. Hilton Wright, Vicar of Icklesham, near Rye, who is also a School Governor, came to Bedford for the occasion. With Mr. Lane, the Rector of St. Cuthbert's, Bedford, where the services were held, he officiated at a special School Communion Service for confirmed members of the School which was held in the morning. During the day, Mr. and Mrs. Wright visited the school and talked to most of the pupils. We were pleased to see so many foster-parents and other visitors at the Commemoration Service held in the evening. The School Hymn and other fine old anthems were sung and the School Captains read the lessons. In his address, Mr. Hilton Wright stressed the need for us to keep our individuality as much as possible without harming to other people, and he pointed out that the home is the place where we learn to be good citizens first, while the school acts as a clearing house for sorting out our knowledge. He considered us lucky to have gained two homes as a result of the evacuation.

The usual Saturday evening entertainments have been held. On one occasion Dr. Metcalfe gave us a most interesting talk on bird watching. He also showed some photographs he had taken himself and some films of birds. A Field Day has been held during the term and for once the weather was fine. Lady Baden-Powell's visit to Bedford was enjoyed by the School Guides and Rangers who attended a rally held in her honour at the Girls' Modern School. We have had two form debates this term; and evidently some of the enthusiastic speakers in the two School Committee Meetings held, have profited from their experiences in discussing the fates of Germany and the House of Lords.

The outing this term was to the theatre where the sixth and fifth forms enjoyed an excellent presentation by a C.E.M.A.

company of Shaw's "You Never Can Tell." This play afforded delight for all tastes. The scenery was well planned, the costumes were charming and the acting was fine. The dentistry gave an added piquancy to our enjoyment, as *other* people suffered.

On Friday, 1st December, the School went to the Bunyan Meeting to hear a lecture by the Minister, Rev. L. T. Towers on John Bunyan. This talk had been given to the School when it first arrived in Bedford, but as most of the pupils of that day have left it was decided to have it again. The end of term has been spent in packing, both in billets and at school, and among other blessings of our return to Rye, is the fact that examinations have been cancelled.

J.M.P.

Obiter Dicta.

We were pleased to welcome Miss Dann and Miss Hill as new members of the Staff this term. They replaced Miss Seed and Miss Letcher respectively.

.....
Only the Fifth Form girls do Domestic Science now. The rest help at school dinners with the laying of the tables and the washing up under the able direction of Mrs. Crossley.

.....
The Sixth and Fifth Forms are also doing all the cleaning at Russell Park Hall and the room at the "Fox and Hounds." This is done in the mornings before assembly and after afternoon school.

.....
The new system of lesson reading, whereby each sixth former reads every morning for a week extracts from the Bible chosen by himself, is still in force, having proved a great success.

.....
P. Gutsell and L. Allen have been made editors in place of T. Pollard and Helen Metianu.

.....
The three Houses have decided to postpone their "Christmas" Parties till the New Year when they can be held in Rye.

.....
The new School Captains for this year are B. Dawson and Jean Pope. Julia Terry, Marshall and Frehner have been made prefects.

.....
Jean Pope has been made Acting-Captain, and Rosalie Green and Pamela Whiting Acting-Lieutenants to the School Guides.

School Committee

The School Committee has met twice this term, each meeting of which has been well attended. The reports of the hockey, football, entertainments and editorial sub-committees were given at each meeting. Dawson was elected chairman for the next session.

Suggestions as to the election of vice-chairman and president were made. Further discussion on these points will be made at the next meeting.

K.M.B.

House Reports.

Peacocke.

House Master : MR. MORGAN.

House Mistress : MISS HILL.

Boys' Captain : L. FUGGLE.

Girls' Captain : KATHLEEN BATEHUP.

Prefects : KATHLEEN BATEHUP, JEAN POPE, L. FUGGLE,
L. S. WOOD, R. MARSHALL.

On the whole, this term has been successful, especially where games are concerned. The girls, both senior and junior, have won all their hockey matches and the senior boys all their football matches, and when the junior boys played Saunders, Peacocke won that match too. However, we have not come up to our usual standard in work and merit. The House must make a special effort next term if Peacocke is to win the Competition.

At the beginning of the term, we welcomed our new House Mistress, Miss Hill. We have had one letter from her predecessor, Miss Letcher. Unfortunately, we have to say good-bye to Betty Chapman, who has worked well and played hard. We wish her good fortune in the future.

Our collection, one of the largest we have ever raised, was sent to the Royal East Sussex Hospital this term.

B. M. FORD.

Our House Secretary, Betty Ford, is also leaving, after five years of hard work, faithful service and good play for the House. We wish her all happiness in the future.

J.M.P.

Sanders.

House Master : MR. DOUGLAS.

House Mistress : MISS DANN.

Boys' Captain : G. PAINE.

Girls' Captain : PAMELA WHITING.

Prefects : JULIA TERRY, PAMELA WHITING, ROSALIE GREEN.

This term, Sanders chief success has been in the Work and Merit Competition. In games, the senior boys have been defeated at football by both Meryon and Peacocke. The juniors were more successful, beating Meryon but being beaten by Peacocke. The senior hockey was unsuccessful as Sanders was defeated by both Peacocke and Meryon. The juniors lost to Peacocke but they won in the match against Meryon.

During the term Mr. Douglas was ill and was absent for several weeks, during which he was greatly missed. The House was very glad to welcome him back again. This term the House was pleased to welcome the new House Mistress, Miss Dann, who is filling Miss Seed's place very well.

The House collection this term has, on the whole, not been so well supported.

At the end of the term, the main business was the forming of a House Constitution, which, it is to be hoped will prove to be successful next term.

B. W. LUPTON.

Meryon.

House Master : MR. BROOME.

House Mistress : MISS TUNSTALL.

Boys' Captain : P. WOOD.

Girls' Captain : RUTH OYLER.

Prefects : J. O. BULL, R. C. FREHNER, B. DAWSON.

Meryon House has not enjoyed a very successful start in the school year in either work or games. In the Work and Merit Competition we hold second place, eight points behind Sanders with Peacocke only one point away third. With an increased effort in the lower forms, we should improve our position next term.

In the first leg of the Football Competition, we share second place with Sanders, both Houses being a good way behind Peacocke. We also hold second place with Sanders in the

hockey, the senior girls having won one of their two games, while the junior girls lost both of theirs.

The results of the Speech and Music Competition have yet to be announced but we look to an improvement on last year's results.

Our collections have been maintained during the term and a subscription was made to the County Hospital as a fitting tribute to the kindness and care shown to our treasurer, J. O. Bull, during his recent operation and to other members of the House who in the past have been patients in the hospital.

On our return to Rye, we say farewell to several members of the House who are returning to their respective parts of the South Coast, namely, Kathleen Waterman, Gillian Pratt, B. Apps and B. Miller. Kathleen Waterman, who came to us in 1940, has proved a very enthusiastic member of the House and a great asset to the house hockey team. Gillian Pratt has been with us for over a year and has been most useful on both the work and sports sides. Apps joined the school in 1941 and has proved to be a very energetic member of the house especially at House Meetings. Miller has only recently joined us, and as a swimmer, and for his part in the Work and Merit Competition, will be greatly missed. To them all we give our best wishes for the future.

B.D.

Hockey Report.

This season has not been a very good one for the First hockey team. We have played six matches, winning two and losing four. Our first match was with Parkside, when we were beaten 6-1. The following match, against Shire Hall, was also a defeat, although the score was more even, 4-2. The next week we played the Observer Corps and this time we were victorious, the score being 9-1. Our first match against the Girls Modern School First Eleven ended with a score of 3-0 in our opponents' favour. A second match against the Observer Corps resulted in a win for us, but a very narrow one, as several of the team were absent, the score being 1-0. A second match against Shire Hall was won by our opponents. The score of this match was 3-1.

Besides these six matches, there has been one between an "under 14" team and a similar side from the Girls Modern School which resulted in a defeat, 3-0. The First and Second Elevens had arranged to play the Convent, but these two matches have unfortunately been cancelled because of our earlier return.

A very unusual, but interesting game, was played by a mixed team against one from the Observer Corps. Each side had six males and five females. I cannot say boys and girls, as the Observer team consisted of men and women. The game was fast and not too rough. None of our team was injured. The final score was 3-2 in our favour after the most enjoyable game of the term.

Two matches have been played against the boys, both of which they won, the scores being 10-0 and 8-1. We were hoping for some mixed House matches, but these also were cancelled on account of our early return.

The House matches resulted as follows:—

Seniors—Meryon v. Sanders. 5-2 to Meryon.
Peacocke v. Meryon. 3-0 to Peacocke.
Peacocke v. Sanders. 8-5 to Peacocke.

Juniors—Meryon v. Sanders. to Sanders.
Peacocke v. Sanders. 3-1 to Peacocke.
Peacocke v. Meryon. 3-0 to Peacocke.

As the winners of each game get two points, Peacocke has eight points and Meryon and Sanders have two points each. There will be six more House matches next term.

The standard of play has been fairly high this term, and, with the exception of our first two matches, the scores have been fairly even. The forwards still need to combine more and not keep the ball to themselves. The shooting has improved slightly, but could still be better. The defence has played very well, especially the goalkeeper, Julia Smith.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Miss Stevens for her great interest and help in our hockey, and also all those clubs and schools which have afforded us so much pleasure during the past four years. I should also thank, on behalf of the school, the park keeper and all others who have taken care of the pitches.

PAMELA WHITING.

Football Reports.

First Eleven.

The School First XI started the season with six of last year's team and the term has proved itself to be a very successful one.

The opening game, played against Queen's Works Colts at the Meltis Ground, gave us a confident start for the season. Despite the small pitch we found the net ten times without reply.

Bedford Toc H Boys Club were our next opponents. Our superiority in weight proved a deciding factor in the result of 10-0 in our favour. In a return match a fortnight later, we were rather over-confident and the team lacked the combination shown in previous games. Our weight again played a considerable part in our victory by 9 goals to nil.

Our fourth match was against Owen's School 2nd XI at the Meltis Ground. Play again was not up to the standard of previous matches due to the fact that we were content to keep the ball in the centre of the pitch instead of using our wings. A sound game by Paine in goal and an outstanding display by P. Wood in the defence were largely responsible for our win by 4 goals to 1.

Although we defeated the Bedford Sea Cadets by 7 goals to 1 the game proved to be our keenest and was more even than the score suggests. Chances were seized, combination was good and the team was seen at its best.

In the return game with Queen's Works Colts in Bedford Park, conditions were hardly of the best, the teams playing amidst mud and incessant rain. With the ball almost entirely in our opponents half, we won by 12 goals without reply.

Bedford Sea Cadets were met in a second game in Bedford Park. The previous result rather flattered the team and we had to fight hard to share four goals, our equalising goal coming from a penalty only a few minutes from the end.

Our last match in Bedford was a return match against Owen's School 2nd XI at the Meltis Ground. A strong wind made the ball very difficult to control, but despite this we managed to find the net eight times without reply.

The result of all the matches played during this very successful term is:—played 8, won 7, drawn one and lost 0, with the astonishing goal total of 62 for us with only 3 against.

The team was:—Paine; Wood P., Shearer; Roberts, Dawson, Boyce P.; Gutsell, Bullen, Morris, Fuggle and Chappell.

Wood S., Frehner, Bull, Robbins and Sexton have also played occasionally.

We are looking forward to some keen games with opponents in our home area next term, and we shall take back with us to Sussex, many memories of good Saturday afternoon sport that we have enjoyed in our four years here in Bedford.

L. J. FUGGLE.

Junior Football.

During the term, three matches have been played, two of which have been won and one lost. The team, well captained by Sexton, has shown great keenness, but is lacking in weight.

The first match, against Rushmoor School in Bedford Park, was played in heavy rain. After an even and goalless first half, we improved, and three goals by Simmons and one by Ashwin enabled us to win 4-0. Sexton and Beeching, at half-back, played very well under difficult conditions. In the return match on the Rushmoor ground, we gained a big win by 9-0. On a drier pitch the forwards combined well and Simmons finished off the attacks in good style, scoring seven times. The other scorers were D. Boyce and Ashwin. In the defence, Wigg and Bryant gave good displays.

Playing against London Bunyan School on a muddy pitch in Bedford Park, we were beaten 6-2, mainly owing to our opponents' stronger kicking and extremely accurate shooting. At half-time we were losing 2-1 but after we had equalized, London Bunyan gained the upper hand. Our goals were scored by M. Godden and Simmons. Bryant, at right back, showed good form and Barham did well in goal.

Team:—Barham; Bryant, Creasey; Wigg, Sexton, Beeching; N. Godden, D. Boyce, Simmons, C. Godden, Ashwin. Also played: Dunster II.

Junior House Match Results:—

Peacocke 2 (Ashwin, Wigg); Sanders 0.

Sanders 5 (N. Godden 2, C. Godden 2, Simmons). Meryon 1 (Streeter).

Peacocke 3 (Law 2, D. Boyce); Meryon 2 (Hickman, Dunster I).

Ranger Report

The Rangers have continued this term as a separate school company without the co-operation of the 1st Bedford Division. Meetings have been held once a week, and the work done has been in preparation for the Home Emergency Service test. Iris Leeds was welcomed as a senior guide, and it is hoped she will be enrolled when we get back to Rye. Miss Hewetson has visited us once or twice to advise us on our programme, but the actual work has been supervised by Miss Stevens.

The Rangers owe a great deal to Miss Hewetson, for since Miss Thomas left in 1943, she has taken us under her wing, and helped several of us to obtain our H.E.S. armlets and Home Nursing certificates. We have worked with the 1st Bedford Divisional Company. We would also like to express our appreciation to Miss Martin, the Lieutenant of the Bedford Company, who also has done so much for us. We wish them both the best of luck in the future, and to all the Rangers we have met in Bedford we say 'Good Rangering.'

K.M.B.

Guide Reports

4th Rye Company

This term has been a busy but uneventful one except for the visit of the Chief Guide. A few of the Guides attended a meeting at the Girls' Modern School at which Lady Baden-Powell spoke to us. A service followed at St. Paul's Church at which all the Guide Companies in Bedford were represented.

At the beginning of the term, the company welcomed Rosalie Green as the new acting Lieutenant, and ten new recruits. Dinah Hartill, June Whybourn, Muriel Gill and Beryl Davies have been enrolled. Anne Baker and Daphne Gill have passed their First Class thrift test.

We passed an enjoyable field day at Joyce's Farm. The Leaders attempted to pass their First Class hike but unfortunately none of them passed.

The company has to say good-bye to patrol leader Betty Chapman, who is leaving us this term. We are sorry to lose her and wish her every success in the future.

B.C.

2nd Rye Company

This term has been uneventful for the Guides, apart from the excitement caused by the visit of the Chief Guide, Lady Baden-Powell.

We have had one field-day this term which we spent at Woodfield Farm, by kind permission of Mr. Joyce. The Leaders took their First-Class hike, while the seconds were in charge of the patrols. The results of a cooking competition was that Kingfisher Patrol came first. Some of the Guides have taken their First Class thrift test all of whom passed. June Terry and

Alison Hilder have obtained their Second Class badge. Pamela Whiting was made Lieutenant for the "Birds"—a post which she has filled very efficiently.

C.R.

Scout Report

At the beginning of the term there were many recruits, but owing to the difficulty in obtaining uniforms, only ten were enrolled. Because of our large numbers, the troop was split into two parts and two extra patrols, the Falcons and Kestrels, were formed. The four original patrols have continued to work at the Riverside Club, while the new ones have made their headquarters at Ixworth Court.

Towards the end of the summer term, L. Allen obtained his First Class badge, the first to be obtained in the history of the Troop. During this term, three scouts have won their Second Class badges. Petherwick has gained his cyclist badge and the majority of the newcomers have passed their Tenderfoot.

Only one field day has been held. We went to Stagsden again where much useful scouting work was done. A Whist Drive and a Beetle Drive have been organized. The proceeds of the former was £1-15-0, and of the latter, £1-0-9.

R. B. WIGG.

A Summary of the Troop's History

The Rye Grammar School Scout Troop was founded by Victor Apps in 1940. He also presented a cup for an annual competition to be held among the patrols. Each patrol was awarded points for various activities and the one which received the greatest number during the year, won the cup. Another cup was given by Alderman Whitchurch as a termly prize.

Several field days have been held in Stagsden Wood each term, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Newman, the owner. Visits have also been paid to Renhold Wood and Kempston Wood.

In the summer of 1942, a scout rally was held in Mill Meadows. The troop took part in the programme and also built a large signalling tower from the top of which the Mayor of Bedford addressed the public. The Headmaster ascended after being assured of its safety.

In the first week of the summer holidays of 1943, the troop held a week's camp at Haversham, near Newport Pagnell. We were favoured by fine weather which greatly contributed to the

success of the holiday. During our stay in Bedford, several successful week-end camps have been held by the senior members of the troop.

Last term, a week-end exhibition camp, attended by all the Bedford and district scout troops, took place in Mill Meadows. Representatives of the school troop pitched their tents in a corner of the camping ground and took part in the proceedings which included a Church Parade. Various other Church Parades have been attended by the troop since its formation.

Four scouts have held the position of troop leader since 1940. They are B. Dawson, B. Jones, J. Jury and L. Allen.

Much of the success of the troop has been due to the hard work, patience and enthusiasm of our present scout master, Mr. Douglas. We should very much like to express our thanks to him.

R. B. WIGG.

A.T.C. Report

This term has been rather an uneventful one for the A.T.C., and there has been little deviation from the normal training programme. Only the very senior cadets have been allowed to attend all the classes on Friday mornings, the others having to return to school at the end of the first class. For this reason and our pending return to the South, no recruits were taken in. All the Rye cadets were included in section 1, and they continued training in morse, including a little work with the Aldis lamp, navigation and drill. The senior cadets experienced valuable training in the N.C.O.'s class and at the end of the term Leading cadets Bull and Wood were both promoted to the rank of Corporal. Corporal Dawson was promoted Sergeant.

There were no ceremonial occasions during the term, but all cadets were able to obtain another "flip" in a Domine aircraft from a local aerodrome.

During the first week in August, a number of cadets spent a most interesting time at an R.A.F. station in Norfolk. All cadets managed to get a flight in some sort of an aircraft while other interesting and profitable experiences were gained.

With our return to Rye, we are forced to leave our squadron formed by members of Owen's School and R.G.S. four years ago. Being too small to form our own unit, we have to thank all concerned at Owen's School for bringing about this amalgamation and I think both they and we have profited by it. Our heartfelt

thanks go out to F/O Hutchings for all his guidance, leadership, good faith and trouble, and above all his expert tuition. During four years he never failed us, always ready with sound advice and encouragement. We also extend our thanks to F/O Olphin and F/O Le Min for their valuable contribution to our training. Neither do we forget our own officer, F/O Pigrome, who has safeguarded all the Rye interests in the squadron, and has given expert instruction in principles of flight, meteorology and navigation. To all the officers and cadets who are carrying on in 691 Squadron, we say all the very best of luck and many successes!

Our own position is not clear as yet, but it is expected that we shall join the Rye Squadron and continue our training with them in the future.

B.D.

A Flying Day

It was a cold Friday morning when we heard about the flight. One or two cadets near the C.O. had heard him mention something concerned with flying and the rest of us began to wish that we had listened to orders on that particular day. A few tactful enquiries put to our Flight Sergeant elicited the "gen" that there would be a "flip" for us next Thursday. Subject to the headmaster's consent, we were to parade at 09.00 hours at Riverside Club to await the transport which was to take us to the aerodrome. Speculation ran high and for some reason known only to those concerned the necessary consent was given.

At 09.30 hours on Thursday morning, however, thirty-two disconsolate cadets were still at Riverside, anxiously scrutinizing each oncoming transport. Enquiries made by the C.O. over the telephone revealed that some humorous driver thought he was calling for us at 12.30 hours while further enquiries proved that the aerodrome was not expecting us and that no plane was yet at our disposal. The responsible officials proved to be of a very obliging nature and, lo, our transport arrived at 10.00 hours. Thirty-two amazed cadets clambered aboard the bus, expecting it to dematerialize at any moment and become a card of red silk tape. 10.30 hours saw us standing on the aerodrome itself awaiting the arrival of the aircraft which we learned was to be a "Domine." Faces went skywards as the unmistakable drone of a plane was heard and the aircraft recognition enthusiasts were able to inform their less-learned companions that it was unmistakably a Domine. The learned companions that it was unmistakably a Domine. The machine slowly floated to earth but we were not all impressed by the landing but the "old hands" assured us that it was not uncommon for some high spirited pilot to "pancake" upside down so we all looked on the bright side.

I was in the third group for flying and after watching two third-rate take-offs and landings, making it appear as though the pilot thought his undercarriage was on his starboard wing tip, we wondered if it would be for the good to go home without our "flip." However, seven of us, including a W.A.A.F. corporal, bravely stepped into the machine, the first tripping over a small bucket placed suggestively on the floor. Perhaps it is as well that the flight is not described here although one incident is worth recording. Some nervous cadet accidentally grabbed the rip cord of a parachute under his seat, mistaking it for a handle in his anxiety. The operation cost him half-a-crown.

To round off a pleasant day, rain began to fall from the dark clouds that had been looming up all the morning. This and the thought of school dinners considerably damped our spirits and despite the fact that we had been exploring the upper element, it was a collection of rather quiet A.T.C. cadets who filed out of the transport in Bedford at 12.45 hours.

P. WOOD.

My First Visit to a Ballet.

Previous to November, 1944, I had not had the good fortune to see the performance of a ballet, but I had experienced the bitter disappointment of being unable to see the Ballet Rambert when this celebrated company visited Bedford in 1943. I think it was mainly due to the enthusiastic welcome given to them at their first visit, that prompted the company to re-visit Bedford this year.

The artistes gave performances of "Swan Lake," "Les Sylphides," "Lady into Fox," "The Fugitive," "Czernyana," "Facade" and "Capriole Suite." These were changed on different days and I saw only "Swan Lake," "The Fugitive," "Czernyana" and "Capriole Suite."

"Swan Lake" portrays a prince hunting for wild swans. As he is about to shoot one, he sees that she is wearing a tiny crown on her head and realizes that she is an enchanted princess. All his love for her is of no avail and she has to return to the magician under whose spell she is. This is one of the traditional ballets and is danced in traditional ballet dress. The women are in white ballet dresses and the men wear tights and doublets. The highlight of this performance was the waltz, danced by Sally Gilmour and Michael Bayston to the beautiful music of Tchaikovsky.

The "Capriole Suite," consisted of a number of very stately dances, in which the dancers were dressed in Dutch peasant costumes. I did not enjoy this ballet quite so much as the others, mainly because there was no character portrayal, and the performance had not the finish of the other ballets.

"Czernyana," was a collection of thirteen dances arranged by Frank Staff to the music of Czerny's familiar piano exercises. Some of the sketches were romantic in spirit, such as "Nuages" and "Belles Somnolentes," some were satirical as, "Visions," "Trop Symphonique" and "Presque Classique," and others were just straight-forward interpretations of the music as "Fugue," "Se Habla Espanol" and "Galop."

I enjoyed "The Fugitive," best of all. It had a very dramatic story, pleasing scenery, some of the most beautiful dresses I have ever seen, and above all, superb dancing. Joan McClelland and Walter Gore, as the elder sister and the Fugitive gave brilliant performances and could not have been better. But I thought that Sally Gilmour, who portrayed the younger sister, could have been a little more expressive in her actions.

I enjoyed the whole performance immensely, and gained a very good first impression of the ballet and I hope to see the more famous ballets, such as "Coppelia," "Giselle" and "The Three-Cornered Hat," at a not too future date.

R. E. MARSHALL.

Hangers' Wood, Stagsden

The clearing in Hangers' Wood rang with the shouts of many boyish voices. We scouts had arrived there during the morning to spend the day stalking, cooking, tracking and noticing the animal and bird life which was going on all around us.

The wood was a large one, consisting mainly of oak and elm trees and numerous birch saplings. It contained two large clearings, ideal for our activities, and in the larger of the two we made our camp. I arrived that morning with my patrol, and having assembled for parade, we were informed that each patrol was to collect specimens of animal or bird life to form a patrol museum.

This was to be a competition, and so naturally two members of our patrol were despatched to collect anything they could find, from a bird's feather to a live rabbit or from a tiny flower to a fallen oak tree.

About an hour later, I was sitting on a tree stump dictatorially ordering some junior members of the patrol to hurry up and collect some more wood to make up the fire, when I heard a piercing yell. I rushed into the wood and met Wigg (an ardent member of my patrol) who seemed in a desperate hurry to get away from something. "I've been chased by a badger," he burst out, and by the look on his face I readily believed him. We armed ourselves with thick cudgels and cautiously approached the badger's earth but although we could see new footprints in the clay, nothing stirred. Wigg said that he had been aimlessly wandering through the wood when he had suddenly heard a grunting noise, similar to that of a pig. Glancing round, he had just been in time to see a large badger bundle two cubs into a nearby earth. A second large badger, uttering a succession of snorts and grunts, had rushed at him, and he, like the true scout he is, turned and fled.

On returning to the camp we related this long rigmarole to Mr. Douglas, who was very impressed and asked me to inspect the earth with him after the Field Day was over. So much at present for the badgers.

In the next clearing a party of guides was spending the day in much the same way as we were, and so, solely for curiosity, I paid them a visit. Thereupon I was proudly shown a pheasant's nest with eighteen eggs. It had been discovered earlier that morning by the Guide Captain, and as I was afraid, by the number of people inspecting the nest, that the bird would desert it, I returned to my camp.

In the afternoon I was exploring a comparatively unknown part of the wood with another member of my patrol, when a screech and flutter of wings informed us suddenly that we had disturbed a wood pigeon. My partner spotted the nest in the top of a tall sapling and incidentally in a very precarious position. Knowing what a pest the wood pigeon is to the farmer, my companion promptly started to climb to the nest and, at the risk of a broken neck, he procured from it two pure white eggs which we took back for our museum.

At last the museums were displayed for judging. There was a marvellous assortment of natural objects, including a fox's skull, a variety of orchids (some exceedingly rare), many different types of moths and butterflies, various bones of decayed animals and many different wild flowers and fruits. Mr. Douglas was so impressed by these products of our efforts that he took many of the best specimens back to the lab. for demonstration purposes.

After the dismissal, I paid a second visit to the pheasant's nest to make sure that the bird had not deserted it, and although

I thought I knew the exact position, I could not find it for some time. Finally, on looking down at my feet, I saw within a yard of me the faithful old bird, carefully guarding her precious eggs. I stood stock still and looked at her; the camouflage was perfect, and she sat motionless, her eyes intently watching me. Fully satisfied, I started out of the wood, only to find Mr. Douglas's bicycle propped up against a bush. Of course I had to peep into the undergrowth, and there I saw Mr. Douglas on all fours examining the badger's earth. When I joined him, he showed me some very clear footprints in the clay. Later we took casts of these. We then tracked a badger's run to a partly dried up pond nearby. Here we found a very clear footprint and took a cast of it. I noticed that since the other scouts had gone and all had become quiet in the clearing, the birds were beginning to make their way back to it. First the noisy jays and then all the rest of the feathered tribe returned. They had shunned the clearing because of the human intrusion into their natural domain.

So ended one of the many enjoyable Field Days spent in Hangers' Wood, Stagdsen, and I should like to take this opportunity of expressing the Troop's appreciation of Mr. Newman's kindness in allowing us to use his wood.

A. SHEARER, Form V.

The Visit to Stewartby.

One afternoon in September the Craft Society cycled to Stewartby, with two aims. First, to view this Model Village, built just before the war, to house some of the employees engaged in the very extensive brickworks which adjoin it. Although the conditions of war have noticeably affected the neatness of this well-planned village, we were able to appreciate some of the fine features of the houses and the good lay-out of the community.

Our second purpose was to get inside the works too see for ourselves how the famous Phorpres Bricks are made. As this visit had been planned ahead, our arrival was expected, and we were soon introduced to our guide, who in a very friendly and agreeable manner took us, during the next two or three hours, over all departments of the industry. We were greatly surprised to learn that the making of bricks on so large a scale in this locality had risen mainly because the clay, so abundantly present, is very rich in a natural oil content, and is capable of self-combustion to a temperature of 900° C., coal fuel only being added to raise the heat another 200° C. to complete the firing.

We were unable to see this clay being excavated from the pits a mile or so away, but we saw it being brought in on a truck conveyor system which raised the great lumps of grey coloured clay into one of the buildings, where it was automatically dumped and then passed through a series of rollers and mills, which reduced the shapeless mass into small bead-like pellets, uniform in size and somewhat damp in consistency. These pellets are fed through batteries of automatic brick-making machines which squeeze them under immense pressure into steel moulds. The pellets are compressed into a compact brick-shaped mass and discharged, two or even four at a time, into the hands of the women operators, who place them on waiting trolleys which are quickly linked up when laden, and hauled by an electric loco to the kilns. As we walked through the yards our party was continually in danger of being run down by these fast moving trains.

Skilled men are engaged in stacking the freshly moulded bricks into the tunnel-like cavities of the kilns. This operation takes several days. When full, the opening into the oven is sealed and hot air is passed in from adjoining ovens which are already alight. The heat is little at first, just enough to slowly dry out all moisture; but when this has been done, the temperature is gradually raised until the bricks ignite, becoming red hot throughout, the poisonous fumes of combustion being discharged through the tall chimneys so typical of the Bedfordshire landscape.

The rate of combustion is controlled by men stationed on top of the kilns, who at frequent intervals, examine the condition of the bricks by looking through regularly spaced peep-holes, and at the right moment adding the correct quantities of coal through somewhat larger openings.

After the firing process is complete (this may extend over a number of weeks)—the oven is allowed to slowly cool, the bricks graded and either neatly stacked in the spacious yards, or put directly on to railway trucks, to be sent to all parts of the country, and often to remote parts of the world. At the present time there is a strict limitation on the number of bricks manufactured, but Stewartby is kept very busy making the drainage pipes so much in demand for the improvement of land cultivation; these we saw being made by the thousand.

We are grateful to the officials of The London Brick Company for their readiness to allow our party within their walls, to obtain before our return to Sussex, an insight into so important a Bedfordshire industry and one which will play so large a part in post-war building.

B. APPS, U. IV.

Memories of Bedford.

I walk along the streets of Rye,
While thinking of the days gone by,
And as I walk I heave a sigh,
My Bedford life has ended.

I think of all the billetors,
Who welcomed us inside their doors,
Although we numbered many scores,
When first we came to Bedford.

Our numbers later on increased,
And yet you did not dream to cease
Providing homes, for most at least,
And so you helped our country.

And so I think I ought to say,
That ev'rybody ought to pay
A tribute to you, far away,
The work you did was splendid.

J. E. FUNNELL, Upper IV.

A Visit to Cambridge.

During my four years in Bedford I have spent many pleasant hours visiting outlying places including Whipsnade Zoo. In my last term I went to Cambridge.

The town lies thirty miles east of Bedford but in spite of this there are very few points of interest on the journey. At Caxton Gibbet, the ancient gibbet where criminals and wrong-doers were hanged, can still be seen.

The most important feature of Cambridge is the Colleges, of which there are twenty-three. St. John's has a well-known gate with arms and decorations richly carved on it. Connected with the Colleges is the Senate House where all the Degrees are given out. King's College is of course well-known chiefly through its Chapel. When entering it, one notices immediately the beautiful fan-vaulting of the roof. The foundation of King's College was begun in 1440 by King Henry VI. Most of the beautiful stained glass windows have been removed for the duration. Along the sides of the Chapel are chantries, built under the projection of the flying buttresses. One of these contains a fifteenth century pulpit from which Latimer preached during the Reformation. The Rood Screen there is the finest piece of woodwork this side of the Alps. It is said that under it is one of the many tunnels

which run underneath Cambridge. This one is said to be that in which Oliver Cromwell hid with his horses.

Wandering along the river at the back of the Colleges, we saw the bridges. There is an interesting story attached to St. Clare's Bridge. There are eight stone balls on the bridge one of which is incomplete. The story is that some undergraduates once made a bet, and in order to win it, one of them carved out part of the eighth ball during the night. St. John's Bridge is rather strange, being closed in with metal bars. It is similar to the Bridge of Sighs at Venice. Along several parts of the river there are many weeping willows, with their boughs right in the water and branches hanging out over the pathways.

We saw numerous churches at the week-end, among them was Great St. Mary's with a tower which we were unable to ascend, much to our disappointment, owing to the absence of the verger. We found the Round Church very interesting. It was built by the crusaders on their return from the wars in the twelfth century in the style of the Eastern churches. It is, as it sounds, a round church, with an extension added at a later period. The Roman Catholic Church is very richly decorated. A christening was in progress while we were there, and it varied from ours very much. Abbey Church and a building behind it were once an old monastery (Barnwell Priory), built by Norman monks. One of the loveliest was the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene or the Leper Chapel. It was built in 1200 and shows excellent examples of the Norman style of architecture, as hardly any of it has been altered. A tunnel is supposed to run from here to one of the colleges, probably King's.

Near the Botanical Gardens there is a river. An old lady is supposed to have left an annuity to have water continually running from here down the gutters to keep them clean.

The Zoological and Anatomical Museums contain too many interesting things to make a detailed description. One notable feature in the Zoological was the whale's skeleton, which, suspended from the ceiling measures the whole length of the room. As is usual in museums we saw many pre-historic animal's skeletons.

Fitz-William unfortunately proved to be uninteresting as all the valuable articles have been packed away for the duration.

Though I spent a very interesting week-end I did not see all that I would have liked by any means. Cambridge is too interesting to tour in one week-end.

DOREEN STANDEN, Form V.

The Merchant Navy

Who has carried ammunitions,
For our men in great positions?
Why! The Merchant Navy.

Who has fetched our food across,
Paid for it with many a loss?
Why! The Merchant Navy.

Brave and gallant have they been,
We have dreamt, but have not seen,
Through what the Merchant Navy's been.

Planes and U-boats do not stop them,
Enemy ships have tried to block them,
But on they go right through the foe,
The gallant Merchant Navy.

M.R.H.

The Embankment at Bedford

The Embankment is a garden walk laid out by the River Ouse. As we walk along it from the town, we leave on our left the Swan Hotel and a cinema, while on our right is part of the River Ouse, spanned by the fine white town bridge.

In summer, the embankment looks extremely pretty as the gardens are well planned with different coloured flowers in beds, and the trees are covered in various greens, shading the soft lawns. On the river is a raft, on which the band plays and many punts, containing people in gaily-coloured clothes, are on the water, while along the bank, people are sitting on the seats, or the walls, enjoying the sun and watching the other people walk by.

Half-way along the embankment is the suspension bridge, a steel structure built in 1888 high up over the river. At the end of the walk is the Newnham swimming bath, from which the water runs and joins the Ouse itself. In between the two arms of the river is a pleasant walk. In one place there is a bridge, under which the water rushes in a place like a miniature canal. Also on this island, as it may be called, is another stretch of water, the children's boating pool, which is crowded with all sorts of different shaped boats.

In the winter, the embankment is a different place. Many people still go there for walks, but everything is dull. The trees are without leaves. The river is no longer glassy smooth, but covered with ripples and little waves. People no longer sit along the banks and there is no band and no people in gay clothes in punts; but instead, all is as though a black cloud hangs over it and will not disappear until the sun shines again in summer.

MARIE HOAD, Form L.IV.

An Interrupted Hockey Game

Often have we played in Bedford Park,
During our pleasant four years' sojourn here,
At strenuous hockey and all games so dear
To boys and girls, and dogs who love to bark
And rush to seize the whirling hockey ball,
And scamper off pursued by maidens dire,
Who feign to wield their hockey sticks, and fire
With angry words the playful dog, and call
With angry tones for him the ball to yield.
This being done, the maidens turn again
To play, but now alas it starts to rain.
They must now stop their game, their fate is sealed.
But now to you who tend this park so fair,
A thousand thanks for all your work and care.

PAMELA WHITING.

The River

I am a river flowing to God's sea
Through devious ways He mapped my course for me,
I cannot change it; mine alone the toil
To keep the waters free from grime and soil.
The winding river ends where it began,
And when my life has compassed its brief span
I must return to that mysterious source.
So let me gather daily on my course
The perfume from the blossoms as I pass,
Balm from the pines and healing from the grass
And carry down my current as I flow
Not common stones but precious gems to show;
So I return to that mysterious source.

R. SHEPPARD.

Sailing

It must be wonderful to go sliding over the glassy surface of
a Northern lake and to hear the gurgling, laughing waters flying
from beneath the sharp prow of a slim, neat racing craft. One
can feel the sleek hull answering to a touch of the tiller, as if it
were alive and enjoying the adventure as much as the crew. I
have often watched those tall, white sails, like gigantic gulls,
sweeping the water, catching the bright sun-rays on bleached
canvas, then swinging on to a fresh tack, with a creak of the

mast under the strain of the billowing sails, and a rattle of block
and tackle as the heavy boom swings to take up its new position.
She skims across the wide expanse of glistening water, with every
nerve of her crew tense with excitement, expecting any minute to
be plunged into the blue lake. Every time I see a fleet of trim,
racing craft, I think of the happy days I could spend on the three
lakes near my home and long for the time when I may possess a
little white painted and varnished yacht of my own.

R. B. WIGG.

To Bedford

I came a stranger to your town
On a sunny day in July,
And very soon I settled down,
The days have seemed to fly.
After a long and tiring day
I had the luck to find
A cosy home in every way,
A billet so sweet and kind.
What jolly days at Ixworth Court!
And some at the Bedford School,
Of such happy times I never thought,
And my heart is very full.
For now I've had to say good-bye
To many a Bedford friend;
And now I'm at the school in Rye,
Greetings to you I send.

R. PEACOCK, Form 2A.

The Shepherd

I know a man who's old and wise,
He reads the wind, he reads the skies,
He knows what rain will fall each day,
He knows when a storm will blow his way.
All night and day he tends the sheep,
He hears them bleating in his sleep;
There's not a lamb upon the farm,
He hasn't carried in his arm.
I wish I knew the things he knows,
The night-time skies, the wind that blows,
The singing birds, the bleating cries,
I wish I were a shepherd wise.

G. DUNSTER, Form 3B.

In Gratitude

There is a town near to the sea,
Where every one of us was free
To go just where he wished to go,
Till o'er the waters came the foe.

The Government's policy was plain,
It sent us up here in a train,
And asked the people here if they
Would kindly let us with them stay.

They took us in their homes and tried
To fill each parent's place and sighed
To think that now at their fireside,
Were those to whom home was denied.

At times we felt sad and downcast,
And foster-parents saw it fast
And cheered us up as best they could
And to us all were very good.

And now we're going back to Rye,
We will their patience no more try,
But thank them all with all our heart,
Who have so nobly done their part.

Without them we'd have had no homes,
In peace and safety from the drones
Of Heinkels heading for each town,
On which they wished to throw bombs down.

To those who did not close their door
And thus are helping win the war,
Although our praise be very poor
We'll thank you for it evermore.

J. ASHWIN, Form L.IV.

Going Home!

Lots of luggage and lots of noise,
Laughing girls and grinning boys,
Girls with rackets, boys with bats,
Throwing up their caps and hats.

Mistresses worried, masters too,
What a terrific hullabaloo;
What's the reason for all this row?
I'll try to find the cause, but how?

I scratch my head, rub my ear,
Then I thought, well it's clear,
Rye Grammar School is going home,
To dear old Sussex by the foam.

RITA OYLER, Form I.IV.

Woodfield Farm

To Renhold we've paid many a visit,
At Mr. Joyce's farm.
We've singled beet and picked potatoes,
Never doing any harm.

At times its been extremely muddy,
And often rather cold.
But all the times that we have been,
Our work has been three-fold.

Mr. Joyce has been most pleased,
And always paid us well.
Our final tribute here must be,
A most sincere farewell.

A Day at Woodfield Farm

One bitterly cold November morning, a party of cyclists set off for Woodfield Farm at Renhold. Soon we were at Goldington and pedalling along the Great Barford Road.

When we arrived at the farm we parked our bikes and helped to start the tractor. Then we walked through several fields to the one where the potatoes were.

We were soon working in pairs, putting the potatoes in sacks. Sometimes the tractor would come chugging along before we had quite finished our row. Our hands became very cold and every so often we stopped to get them warm again. About the middle of the morning the tractor stopped, much to our relief. A few minutes later, when we had finished our row, we found a fire burning at the end of the field. So we all left our work and ran down the field to get warm. We piled some straw on the fire and were soon very hot. Some of us put potatoes in the fire to roast but most of them were not recovered because of the heat. After we were thoroughly warmed we set to work again. We knocked off at one o'clock for dinner, which we had

brought with us. Another fire was lit and wood was collected for it from the hedges near by. During dinner, two boys were sent for a hot drink which the farmer, Mr. Joyce, had kindly promised us. It turned out to be coffee so we queued up for it.

After dinner we went back to work. The rows were then at the side of the field and so were shorter. At about four o'clock we stopped picking up potatoes and started gleaning. Each boy had three rows to glean. At half past four everybody stopped work and trudged back to the farm. From here we took our bicycles and returned home. It had been a most enjoyable day at Woodfield Farm in spite of the cold.

G. SEXTON, Form L. IV.

Thanks

to

Bedford

Bedford School

We have not come into contact with the local schools in Bedford as much as other evacuated schools, due to the conversion of that well-known house, Ixworth Court, into a temporary school for our use. For the more specialized training, however, we have had to appeal to other schools to share their buildings with us. This appeal was readily answered and owing to its proximity to our temporary school, we used the facilities that the Bedford School offered us for training of a practical nature. A laboratory in their Science Block was handed over for our exclusive use, and here the General Science, Biology and Physics classes carried on their work. The workshops were put at our disposal on certain periods a week, and the standard of the boys' handicraft proves that good use was made of them. Although we had fewer gymnasium periods than we had enjoyed at Rye, always a sore point with the seniors, we were able to make very good use of the really excellent gymnasium, and for one term, a Bedford School gym instructor was in charge of a boxing class attended by a goodly number of senior boys. During the summer terms, the senior boys were able to improve their cricket in the nets which were placed at our disposal. We have then to thank most sincerely, Mr. Grose-Hodge, Headmaster of the Bedford School, for all the willing co-operation he has shown, in order that our science, handicraft, gymnasium and cricket might not deteriorate through lack of the necessary equipment and facilities during our evacuation.

B.D.

Bedford High School

We have received much help from the High School during our stay in Bedford. When we first arrived we had all our lessons in the school buildings, while the High School was on holiday. After we had settled in Ixworth Court the High School still extended its hospitality towards us. For over a year, all the girls used the splendid gymnasium for their physical training until we were offered the use of St. Andrew's School gymnasium which is much nearer to Ixworth Court. We also used the High School's tennis courts and one of their laboratories during the first months of our evacuation. Until this term nearly all the girls have used the well-fitted domestic science room at the School, and the fifth form girls still use it. All this kindness has been shown to us although an evacuated London School is sharing the High School buildings. We should like to thank Miss Westaway and all the High School for their long-enduring hospitality.

J.M.P.

The Modern School Baths

During our sojourn in Bedford, we have been very fortunate in having facilities for swimming. The Headmaster of the Modern School has placed the School swimming baths at our disposal. Thus during gym periods and on Saturday mornings, pupils of our school have been seen making their way to the baths.

Before we came to Bedford, only a few of us knew how to swim, but now the majority can swim and this fact has contributed very largely to the successful Swimming Sports which have been held at the baths. Besides letting us use the building for our sports, Mr. Liddell has allowed Modern School boys to give us demonstrations of swimming and diving.

Many people have learnt to swim under the expert tuition of Miss Wills who is a prominent member of the Royal Life-Saving Society. Miss Wills has also instructed two large classes in life-saving and the success of her efforts can be judged by the number of Bronze Medallions and Certificates obtained.

We are deeply indebted to the Modern School and Miss Wills, who have tremendously improved the standard of School swimming and who have made it possible for sports and other events to take place.

J. O. BULL.

The British Restaurant

It was two and a half years ago when the first School dinner was unloaded from the W.V.S. van and carried up the stairs of Russell Hall by members of the School. Since then, they have come every day in the week from Monday to Friday, usually well on time, and we have carried dinners up the same stairs although perhaps a little less willingly than on the first day, and food has been consumed by the unappreciative pupils.

The people who have cooked these meals have indeed had a thankless task. Besides the fact that School dinners have always been considered as a joke, they have had to work under wartime conditions and consequently, the dinners, especially as they were so cheap, could only have had a limited variety. Added to this, the dinners have had to be carried to the School in containers, and a container dinner cannot be of so high a quality as a dinner straight from the oven. I think that, on the whole, the pupils who have had school dinners have realized this and, although grumbling has been present, it has not been persistent.

Our thanks are due to Miss Rogers and her staff who cooked the dinners and made them so well-balanced. We also say thank you, to the van drivers, the latest herself an evacuee from Folkestone, who have been so patient when the "washer-ups" have been a bit slow in bringing the tins down.

L.A.

The Buffer Hostel

Many pupils of Rye Grammar School owe much to Miss Wright and Mrs. Baxter, who have spent so much of their time and energy on our behalf, as well as that of other schools. The times when our billetors were ill, on holiday, or for various other reasons were unable to keep us, the Buffer Hostel provided a roof, a bed and good food when we had nowhere else to go. At times, it is to be admitted, some of the members of the School have not behaved as well as they might, but Miss Wright has always treated them fairly but firmly, showing the utmost understanding and consideration and has filled the responsible position of foster-mother to so many of us with great efficiency. She has not laid down unreasonable rules and does not insist on the younger pupils keeping quiet which illustrates her understanding of the character of children.

In spite of grumbles I feel sure that we all agree that Miss Wright and Mrs. Baxter have done exceedingly well, and join with me in thanking them heartily for what they have done for us.

R. E. HULBERT.

The Sick Bay

The Sick Bay is a place where we evacuees can go if we are ill and it is inconvenient for our billetors to look after us at home. When you enter the gates, you see a large, pleasant looking house, with a lawn and flower beds to the left of it. You can catch a glimpse of a kitchen garden at the back. The grounds are kept in order by the gardener who visits the Sick Bay daily. Inside, the house itself is kept as tidy as possible considering that it is full of babies and noisy children who have to be looked after.

The staff consists of two sisters, one acting as matron, a cook and a night nurse. The children are awakened at 5.30 a.m. to wash or have a bath. In the meantime beds are made by the nurses. After that the children creep back into bed to snatch some more sleep before breakfast which is at 7 a.m. Having eaten this, you stay in bed and wait for the time to go by until you can get up and dress if you are well enough to do so. A snack is served between breakfast and luncheon which is at one. A high tea comes at 5 p.m. and after an hour or two it is time for bed, which is certainly a rest after the long day just passed.

At the Sick Bay days are not as boring as one may think. Books are plentiful, there are other children to speak to and letters to write.

I should like to thank the sisters who look after the children by day, the cook who provides delicious meals, and the night nurse who stays awake at night while the children are getting their sleep. These people do their work, not just as a duty but with that extra care, talking to and keeping the children cheerful. I am sure all the children who have been there will join with me in my thanks and gratitude to the Sick Bay.

ROSEMARY DIVE, Form L.IV.

To the Isolation and the County Hospitals

Even the very optimistic could hardly dare to expect that we should emerge from our sojourn without having experienced illnesses of one kind or another. We had been planted in a town whose population had been doubled, so great was the number of its wartime guests; epidemics were to be expected and experience has shown that they have not disappointed us! Whenever they have arrived, however, any infected person, whose billetor, through various reasons, has been unable to take care of them and restore them to health, has always found a bed

with a team of competent nurses at the Isolation Hospital. Who could possibly forget the measles epidemic of October 1940, when the measles ward could almost be called an R.G.S. form room! Later, during a chicken-pox epidemic on almost the same scale, the wards again contained a large proportion of patients from the South. To-day, a considerable number of initials of ex-R.G.S. patients are to be found on the wall there, literally smothered with the carvings of the "passing out" patients.

Others amongst us, whose number is fortunately comparatively small, have had occasion to call upon the skill and patience of the doctors and nurses of the County Hospital. Sometimes, it was due to tonsillitis, more rarely appendicitis was the trouble, and occasionally some unfortunate accident was the cause of sending one of our friends away to the Hospital for a brief period. All who have experienced the skill, kindness and patience of the staff speak highly of it, and those of us who went to visit them were always welcome, even though it was occasionally at a rather unorthodox time.

To both the Isolation and the County Hospitals, we say a simple thank you! We shall never forget your kindness.

B.D.

The Doctors

A doctor's life is not to be envied in wartime. To add to the difficulties of blitzes, epidemics, short-handedness and the black-out, their practices have been swelled by the influx of evacuees. In spite of this last trouble, the doctors of Bedford have always been very ready to assist us when we have visited them and we are grateful for their help during the time we have spent in Bedford.

J.M.P.

The County Library

We have been supplied with many interesting books, both fiction and non-fiction during our stay in Bedford, by the County Library. They were particularly welcome, as not all the School Library books were up in Bedford.

During the Summer holidays some Senior girls were supplied with work at the Library, and they found this very interesting. We should like to say thank you for the work done for us by this department.

J.M.P.

Hockliffe's

While the School has been in Bedford, the Library has been supplied with magazines and periodicals by F. R. Hockliffe, Ltd. Daily and monthly magazines have been enjoyed by Second Formers and Seniors alike. About one dozen were delivered each Saturday morning in time for those who wished to take them home for the week-end. Our thanks are due to the members of the staff of the Book Department who rarely failed to send us all the magazines required.

We held four Speech Days in Bedford and on each occasion the prizes, which always took the form of books, were obtained from the large and varied selection at Hockliffe's. Also, at times, text books were supplied as well as new books for the Library. Thus, Hockliffe's has played no small a part in the life of the School during evacuation and we should like to say thank you, to those of the staff who helped us.

R.E.L.G.

Diemer & Reynolds

In 1940, several sixth form pupils conceived the idea of reviving the School Magazine, and Diemer & Reynolds were asked to print it. Thus this firm became the School printers. Since that time they have printed everything for the School with great efficiency. Mr. Diemer has remained patient with impatient and not always expert editors. At different times he has conducted parties round the printing works, and explained the processes of printing with great clarity.

We extend to Diemer & Reynolds Ltd. our gratitude for their patient and efficient co-operation with the School during our sojourn in Bedford.

L.S.W.

St. Andrew's Gymnasium.

For the last three and a half years of our stay in Bedford, the girls have had cause to be grateful to St. Andrew's School for the use of their gymnasium. We have thus been able to continue with P.T. in spite of being away from the School at Rye. The annual House competitions have also been held there besides the usual gym lessons.

Therefore, on behalf of the girls, I should like to say, "thank you very much," to St. Andrew's School.

K.M.B.



"THE GIRL WITH THE FRINGE"

Lino cut by B. BEECHING (Form I. IV)
From a design by JOAN FARRANT (Form III B)

Devon Road Tennis Club

During our four years' stay in Bedford, the School has been allowed to use the Devon Road Tennis Courts each summer. We all appreciate this concession very much, and would like to convey our thanks to all who have helped to make our tennis a success. I am sure that without these courts, the standard of tennis in the School would have greatly deteriorated.

K.M.B.

Administrators

In the midst of saying so many "thank yous" I would like to add my tribute to the administrators. Probably it is not always realized how much work for a school is necessary behind the scenes and this work is very much increased by evacuation. All matters of accommodation, playing fields, etc., for an evacuated school are the responsibility of the Board of Education who depute the task to the Education Authority in the reception areas. Our first great helper and constant friend while in Bedford was the Board's Inspector for the District, H. F. Collins, Esq., M.A., who perhaps was induced to do more for us than he need have done because he was once Headmaster of a Sussex school. Any call for help to Mr. Collins was always readily answered and he made many decisions which improved our amenities and comfort. We hope that some day he will visit us in our own home.

The Director of Education for Bedfordshire when we arrived was Mr. W. H. Baines and latterly Mr. Lucking. Both of them and their staff had a good deal of extra work through our being in Bedford. Most of the detail was done by the head of the secondary section, Mr. Frank Roberts, who has recently retired. The Headmaster will always remember his courtesy, patience and good humour, and the whole school wishes him well in his retirement. We musn't forget Mr. Tebbs in the Finance Department who looked after our Petty Cash and paid the British Restaurant for our school dinners (after a suitable cheque from us!), nor Mr. Marriott of the Medical Department who arranged visits to the dentist and Dr. Armstrong, and who also managed to secure for us vast quantities of cod liver oil and malt which prevented the Bedford climate from having too bad an effect on us.

Dr. Walker, Director of Education for Bedford, had no direct responsibility for us, but both he and his staff, Mr. Keir (the first to welcome the school to Bedford) and Mr. Valentine found various ways of helping us. And Dr. Bowes and his staff kept diphtheria at bay for us.

Mr. Jury, the County Architect and his assistant Mr. Murwood looked after our buildings for us, and were responsible for the impressive parallel bars installed at Ixworth Court!

The school is grateful for all that administrators have done for it in Bedford and the Headmaster will long remember pleasant contacts and willing co-operation. A.R.J.

Mr. Dilley

The conditions of evacuation brought us necessarily into close contact with the Billeting Officer, Mr. V. Dilley, and his assistants. Scarcely a day passed without some contact as the similarity of telephone numbers led to the school being rung frequently by folk who wanted the Billeting Office! From my 4½ years experience of Mr. Dilley I have no hesitation in saying that he was the ideal man for the job. Sympathetic and patient, never flurried and always determined to get over a difficulty, he was never beaten by any problem which we set him. Mr. Dilley always put the interests of the children first, though he was always ready, and rightly so, to guard his beloved and long suffering householders. No man ever struck a fairer balance and not only Rye Grammar School, but also, may I say, Bedford has reason to bless him. He inspired his staff of assistants with the same qualities of sympathy and fairness. We shall long remember Miss Smith and all the staff of No. 12 Kimbolton Road. One of them, Mrs. Wainwright, kept up the good work to the last minute as she travelled down to Rye with us. Next morning it was a great pleasure to me to welcome her at the school. May you all at No. 12 be able to visit us at Rye before long! A.R.J.

Bedford Park.

Bedford Park is a large open space near Ixworth Court. A wide tree-bordered road, Park Avenue, runs round most of the park. In the park there is a lake, the haunt of several swans and ducks, and an occasional moorhen can be seen paddling round the islands. From the entrance near the lake, a broad avenue sweeps round to the main entrance which boasts of a fine pair of iron gates. Although one end of the park is given over to air-raid shelters, there is still room for two football pitches and three hockey pitches. Here we have played nearly all our matches, and not one of the football matches has been missed by one of the foster-parents, Mr. Mead, who used to play football on the same pitches before the ground was enclosed and made into a park. The park is well-planned with many shrubberies and flower beds as well as large stretches of grass on which children and dogs play.

Besides the two neat little lodges at the gates there is a cafe which is very well patronized by the School. Other features of the park are the bowling green and the twisting shady walk, known as "lover's lane."

Several expeditions, for the purpose of collecting specimens of wild flowers, have been made in the park by biology classes. Also enthusiastic cross-country runners have practised there, while the more leisurely members of the school have often enjoyed walks in the peaceful surroundings.

We should like to thank all the park-keepers for keeping the pitches in order, which has enabled us to have many enjoyable games of hockey, as well as practices which have led to a great improvement in our play. J.M.P.

Woodfield Farm, 1940-44

Pupils of the School started to go farming soon after the evacuation to Bedford and have continued to do so during all the busy periods for the four years away from home. Most of the work done by the School was carried out at Woodfield Farm, Renhold, owned by Mr. Joyce. It is situated about two miles out of the town so that when we went there, we were able to shake off the feeling of being a town dweller, which was so strange to most of us. However, the farm was not far enough away to be inaccessible for an odd day's work. As regards the farmer, no one could have been more generous, helpful and patient than Mr. Joyce.

Pupils from the School tackled most jobs on the farm during the four years. A few of the senior boys did routine work regularly while large parties helped with the rush jobs at busy times. The routine work usually consisted of carting hay, straw and roots for the animals and various other jobs with the horse and cart. This was done mostly on Sundays when other help was unobtainable. Often during the week groups of six or eight senior boys went to the farm to help with threshing, muck carting, bush burning, beet lifting and tapping and haymaking. For the lighter jobs, such as hoeing, pea-picking, potato planting and lifting and root singling, large parties were released from School. Sometimes as many as forty boys and girls from the Middle School went at the same time.

When school children are working on a farm, as we were in Bedford, there is naturally some danger involved, so the Headmaster took out an Insurance Policy to cover the risks. To help pay for this, one penny in the shilling was deducted from all wages earned in school-time. This caused complaints from

pupils who said that they did not want to be insured, at least not at the cost of one twelfth of their earnings. A little more may be said about this all-important subject of "pay." It is safe to say that no one ever returned from Woodfield Farm genuinely dissatisfied with the proceeds of their labours. Sometimes wages were paid on a time basis, and at others, on a piece-work basis, depending on the circumstances, but it was always generously and promptly paid. The pay for routine work varied from eightpence to one shilling per hour, depending on the weather, amount of work done and age and capabilities of the employee. Hoeing and potato work were sometimes calculated hourly and sometimes by piece-work. Pea-pickers were usually paid at the rate of two shillings to two shillings and sixpence for a sack of forty pounds in addition to the value of the peas consumed on the farm.

Woodfield Farm soon became part of the life of the School and provided a limitless store of subjects for conversation and speculation. One popular topic of conversation was Bill. He was the cart horse, noted for his temperamental behaviour. Bill did not like work and often he chased his would-be captors from the field, thus making them realize that the penny in the shilling might not always be useless.

Mr. Joyce has been employing Italian prisoners for some time and a privileged few were lucky enough to witness Douglas' amazing conversations with them. These included many and varied antics by Douglas, accompanied by grunts and groans from the recipients of his converse. The astonishing thing was that they always seemed to know what he was talking about!

These are two of the many memories of the farm that we shall carry with us from Bedford. We shall not soon forget the long days spent in the open air we would otherwise have been sitting in dull classrooms, listening to (or not listening to), the guiding remarks of the members of staff. We shall long remember Peter Joyce's blunt but truthful remarks concerning those of the staff, who so kindly accompanied us during some of our work, and Philip's obvious contempt of all our efforts.

Mr. Joyce has expressed his appreciation of the School's work in a letter to the Headmaster. We were glad to hear that it was of some value to him.

J. H. JURY.

St. Cuthbert's Church

During our stay in Bedford, many of the pupils and staff of the School have regularly attended St. Cuthbert's Church on Sunday mornings. The Rev. Lane has taken a great interest in

the School and has acted as our chaplain. He has been present at morning Assembly several times and given us some interesting talks.

The Rev. Lane officiated at three Commemoration services and several corporate Communion services which the Confirmed members of the School attended. He has also prepared many of us for Confirmation and in 1942 a Confirmation Service was held at the Church when several members of the School were Confirmed.

Many of us have enjoyed the socials and discussions arranged by the Youth Movement connected with the Church.

Owing to the fact that the date of our return to Rye had been brought forward, we were unable to have our Farewell Service. This was arranged for Tuesday, December 12th.

We shall all miss St. Cuthbert's Church when we return to Rye. We have derived great benefit from the services and new faith from the sermons of the Rev. Lane and other preachers. The Rev. Lane always welcomed us to his Church and would often greet us with a friendly "Good-morning," before the services on Sundays. In saying good-bye to St. Cuthbert's we should also like to thank the Rev. Lane for his help which is appreciated very much by us all.

R.E.L.G.

Christ Church

Many members of Rye Grammar School have regularly attended Christ Church during their sojourn in Bedford. A few of the junior boys have added to the numbers in the choir. Other senior boys and girls have been prepared for Confirmation by the Vicar, the Rev. McKay.

On leaving, we wish the Church every success in its future undertakings, and hope that it will not be long before it is installed in its new building.

K.M.B.

St. Peter de Merton

The church that I have attended for the latter part of my stay in Bedford is St. Peter de Merton. Here I was Confirmed by the assistant Bishop of St. Albans.

When I first went to this Church I observed that the right hand side of it was occupied by small children who readily (perhaps at times too readily), sang the responses and followed the services with a will. On inquiring why these children were

so ready to join in the service, I was told that the Sunday School rooms had been taken over by the A.R.P. and so the Sunday School had to be closed down, and a new arrangement took place—Prayer Book Worship. By this arrangement, children attend Sunday morning service and under the guidance of the Sunday School teachers they learn to follow the service and to join in the responses. In this way the future congregation are trained to become active members of the church. The results of this new adventure will not be known for several years. I hope they get their well-deserved results—a united, active congregation.

Farewell! adopted church, good luck in your new adventure!
And thank you for your inspiring services. RUTH OYLER.

St. Andrew's Church

Our first Commemoration Service was held at St. Andrew's Church, when the Rev. Thornton-Down preached the sermon. At the second Commemoration Service, the Rev. Wilson, the then Vicar of Rye, visited Bedford in order to preach the sermon. During Lent of 1941, the majority of the members of the School attended short services on Thursday mornings. The Rev. Thornton-Down gave us several interesting talks. He also prepared some of the senior pupils for Confirmation and two special services were held for the School.

Throughout our stay in Bedford, several pupils living in the parish of St. Andrew's, have attended the Sunday services. During Lent of last year, the junior members of the School attended services in which the Rev. Thornton-Down gave the addresses. We should like to thank him for his kind interest in the School.

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We should also like to thank the Rev. Gorton of Goldington Church who helped us so much in the early days of our evacuation. He kindly lent us the Church Hall as a meeting place and allowed the girls to use the tennis court at the Rectory. Several pupils living in the Goldington area attended the services on Sundays.

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Many of the pupils of Rye Grammar School attended the Howard Congregational Chapel while in Bedford. They wish to express their thanks to the Rev. Douglas Smith.

Others have attended services at the Methodist Chapel in Newnam Avenue. The friendly gatherings there gave much encouragement to them. Several pupils joined the Youth Club and gained a great deal of enjoyment from the meetings and socials. They also say "thank you," to the Preachers who have visited the Chapel.

R.E.L.G.

The Farewell Party

Owing to the fact that the date for the return of the School was suddenly changed to a week earlier than was expected, the day arranged for the Farewell Party also had to be altered. It was held on Wednesday, December 6th, at Russell Park Hall.

In spite of the short notice of the change in date, about 150 foster-parents and friends of the School were present. At 6.30, the evening began with a game. Well-known advertisements had been pinned up round the walls and the players had to guess the names of the things advertised. By seven o'clock most of our guests had arrived. A chorus of Fifth and Sixth Form girls sang three songs, "One Bright Summer Morning," "Greensleeves" and "The Mermaid." Miss Hill accompanied them on the piano. A piano recital followed, given by Marshall who played *Beethoven's* "Moonlight Sonata." Mrs. Pigrome then played several violin pieces which everyone enjoyed. After this, Lupton did some conjuring tricks which caused loud applause from the audience. The next item of the Concert was the performance of "Old Moore's Almanac," by Jean Pope (Lady Dullas-Ditchwater), B. Dawson (Sir John Dullas-Ditchwater), Iris Leeds (Daisy Dimple), L. Allen (Algernon Ditchwater) and Pamela Whiting (Evelyn Tent). This proved to be a great success in spite of the abundance of shaving cream everywhere in the last part of the play.

At 8 p.m., the Headmaster gave a speech of thanks to all our friends in Bedford who had helped us throughout evacuation. The formal lines of chairs were then broken up, everyone sitting in friendly groups and refreshments were served. These included tea, coffee, lemonade, buns, tarts and cakes which were made by the girls of Form Five who also served them. They are to be congratulated on the way in which this was carried out. Even their counterparts in Form Five made surprisingly few sarcastic remarks about their undertaking.

The second part of the evening began with a "Quiz." There were three teams, one of foster-parents, one of the School staff and one of Sixth Formers. Jean Pope was Question Mistress and had found some tricky questions, some of which even the Staff could not answer, although they proved to be the winners. Next came a Musical Story. Just how "musical" it was is a matter of opinion. Kathleen Bateup, who was M.C. for the evening, read a story called, "The Evacuees," which was a short account of the Evacuation and was illustrated at intervals by the songs, hummed by a mixed chorus behind the curtain. The audience did their best to guess the tunes which were not always easy to recognize. This was followed by carol singing by the

girls' chorus who were grouped round a lantern in the appropriate way. They sang "The Wassail Song," "The Holly and the Ivy," "Holy Night," "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "We Three Kings" and "The First Noel." Audrey Brakefield sang two solos and Miss Hill was again at the piano. The final item was not on the programme and thus came as a surprise to all. The members of Forms Five and Six crowded on to the stage and sang "Sussex by the Sea." This was rendered with great gusto which made up for the lack of harmony. Then came "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem. The prizes for the advertisement game and the Musical Story were presented by Miss Turner, and the party broke up. A few of the faithful remained behind, despite the lateness of the hour, to do the washing up and other things.

We all feel that many of our good-byes to friends in Bedford were somewhat rushed as a result of the sudden change in the date of our return to Rye. But we hope that the Farewell Party made up for this in part and that it showed our appreciation of the many kindnesses received from the people whose homes we have shared.

R.E.L.G.

The Return to Rye

The exact date of the return to Rye was not made known to the School until Monday, December 4th. To everyone's surprise we were to travel on Friday, December 8th, a date which will surely be remembered by all of us for many a long year.

The great day came at last after much hurried packing at School and in billets. We all met at Russell Park Hall for the last time at 9.45 a.m. At 10.15 we boarded three double-decker buses which took us to the L.M.S. Station. As we went on to the platform, each one of us was given a bag, containing food for the journey by members of the W.V.S.

Several old friends were on the platform to see us off. Among them were Betty Ford, Kathleen Waterman and Claire Rhind who were not returning to Rye with us. Jean Pope was also there with Mr. and Mrs. Pope. She is rejoining us at the beginning of next term.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Bedford, Alderman and Mrs. Canvin, came on to the train to wish us all good-bye. With them were Mrs. E. L. Martin (Chairman of the Evacuation Committee), Dr. Walker (Director of Education), Mr. Dilley (Chief Billeting Officer), Miss Smith and other Billeting Officers. The Mayor spoke to many of us and had a special word with those who had been in Bedford for all the four and a half years

of evacuation. Before he left the train, we gave three hearty cheers for the people of Bedford.

We left fifty minutes late which caused several delays later on as we travelled, not any too rapidly, towards Sussex. One energetic boy in Lower Four made a log of the journey with the aid of a map and compass. I noticed that we passed through Luton, St. Albans, Clapham Junction and Redhill. At Brighton we stopped for about half-an-hour and were allowed to leave the train to get tea and biscuits from a W.V.S. van. It was then that the Headmaster discovered that E. S. Apps, an Old Scholar, was also on our train and was travelling in charge of some evacuees from Hastings.

At Lewes, the Newhaven and Seaford pupils detrained and at Hastings, those living in Westfield, Fairlight and Guestling left us. Bruce Simpson boarded the train here and came the rest of the way with us. We drew in at Rye at 9.40 p.m., exactly three hours after the scheduled time. On leaving the train, we gave three cheers for Rye, just as hearty, if not more so, than those at Bedford, despite our nine hours' journey.

Parents and friends who had waited all the evening, greeted us at the station and we all went to the East Kent Bus Company Hall for tea and sandwiches prepared by the Rye W.V.S. The village pupils were then grouped together for their respective villages which, much to the dismay of the drivers, reached their destinations at a very late hour. I understand that the pupils who lived at Ewhurst reached home not many minutes short of midnight.

Perhaps the least said about the journey, in some respects, the better. One harrassed member of the staff came into the Fifth and Sixth carriage from one of a Lower Form and said, amidst singing, talking and laughing, "Oh, it's much quieter in here!" We wondered what it was like where he came from. However, despite the hilarious behaviour of all the pupils, no accidents occurred and, surprisingly enough, no caps were lost as on the first journey to Bedford.

The food provided by the Bedford W.V.S. was most welcome and tea and milk were distributed twice during the journey by two members of the Derby W.V.S. and Mrs. Wainwright. The latter, to whom many thanks are due for her help among us at Bedford as Welfare Officer, came all the way to Rye. Also with us was Mr. Procter, an old friend of the Headmaster's, who acted as train marshall. When Mr. Jacobs first came to Rye, Mr. Procter was the first inhabitant of the town to welcome him and so proved to be the first Ryer to do so on his return from Bedford.

The journey to Rye will be long remembered by all who were on the train. It will, perhaps, be recalled at many an Old Scholars' Reunion in the future. We each have our own individual memories of it, but to us all it was a very happy one. Now that we are at home, we must, of course, put all our efforts into making the School as good in work and play as it ever was and, if possible, better. But we shall not forget Bedford and the days spent there and perhaps some of us will return one day to renew the acquaintance of our friends in the town of our exile.

AN EYE WITNESS.

Old Scholars

We have received news about the following Old Scholars during the term.

Joyce Hulbert, still in Huddersfield finds the Yorkshire scenery, "so different from Sussex," beginning to grow on her. Congratulations to her on being appointed College Librarian which carries with it membership of the College Committee of five.

Trevor Pollard is in the Royal Artillery. After spending a few weeks in Scotland, he joins in the general disapproval of the headmaster's county, not having been there as long as Joyce. He is very critical of Army Education, finding it very poor stuff after Sixth Form General Studies! He has written many times and is anxious that "Rya" should maintain the standard of "Nova Rya."

Basil Jones, in the Navy, is training in seamanship in Wales. He expects to undergo Radar training shortly, and unlike Pollard, he finds the general educational classes stimulating. He says that Colin has been home on leave again.

Paulina Metianu is now at the Institute in London taking her year's training. She finds it all very exciting and has let the Headmaster in for correspondence with one of her lecturers on modern methods in schools. Her sister, Helen, last year's Girls' Captain has settled down in Reading and judging by the books she has sent for, she is in for a strenuous time. She has taken up rowing.

Wally Colvin, we hear, has been on bomb damage work in London, so much time has the R.A.F. on its hands!

We have since heard that he has at last commenced air-crew training in Canada.

Congratulations to Victor Apps on his captaincy. He is still in Burma.

Margery Smith is now with her battery on the Sussex coast. Her brother, Morton, has written recently and is still looking after secret R.A.F. equipment.

John Pulford writes regularly and is very anxious to keep up his studies. He gives news of Olive Paine, Pollard, Graham Smith and others of his many correspondents.

Bob Burnett is still quite near the school and often pops in. He has resumed his studies having joined a correspondence college.

J. P. Finch, R.A.F., looked in the other day. He arrived just as we were going to the Bunyan Meeting and went with us, having missed the 1940 visit by a few days. After the war he hopes to take up Electrical Engineering. He had met Rex Cowper at Brighton Technical College.

Ivor Walker writes to tell us how he is keeping his brain from stagnating now he has left the stimulating atmosphere of R.G.S. He gives us news of his brother Derek who is now a qualified Despatch Rider having recently smashed up his cycle.

Peter Swaine writes again from Burma optimistically antedating our return to Rye. He confesses that the retirement of Miss Seed "shook him." His Africans have been much in the news lately and we have thought a lot about him. He never has a lot to say but he is probably our most regular correspondent.

Sylvia Mewett has started her children's nursing at Tunbridge Wells. She tells us that Doreen Smart is also there—at least her mother did—neither Sylvia nor Doreen have yet written to us.

Maureen Samaden writes a long letter about her life at the Charing Cross Hospital. She visited us recently on the completion of her preliminary training when she passed out 6th out of 60. Well done, Maureen! Her brother, Luigi, who has passed into the Fleet Air Arm as an artificer, is now at Rosyth in the early stages of his training. He writes about the metal work he is doing and is grateful for the mathematics Mr. Pigrome taught him, finding it very useful.

Graham Smith has recently gone to France. He visited us here in Bedford on his embarkation leave and was delighted to be in the old haunts again although anxious to visit us soon at home. His last billet in England reminded him of the bio. lab. at Rye, the only thing lacking being the smell of dogfish!

In Memoriam

At a morning service, at which were remembered the former members of the school who have given their lives in the war, the Headmaster spoke of Alan Smith, 1933-1940. He said:—

"Those of you who were in the original school party when we arrived in Bedford will remember Alan, elder brother of Graham and Ivan Smith. He was School Captain for two years, 1938-1940, and was leaving the school in July 1940 to go to Reading University, but he came away with us to Bedford to help the school through the very difficult early days of evacuation.

Alan was a splendid all-rounder. He did well in everything he undertook. He was a grand centre half and a more than useful bowler. His outlook was scholarly and his school life fittingly ended with a Higher Schools Certificate and a County Senior Scholarship.

I find it difficult to speak adequately of Alan's character and promise. He had quite unusual qualities of character and a highly developed sense of values, which together with the quiet determination which he showed on all occasions marked him out for very real achievement in later years. He was the true leader, always, without fuss, influencing the school for good. When there was something to do he never questioned it but put his whole energies into it. That is the way he met his army service and that was the way he met his death leading his men on an Italian battlefield on September 17th.

We all feel very proud of Alan but we grieve at the loss of a young life of such promise and our hearts go out to his family in their bereavement."

Applied Quotations

"A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!"

Shakespeare.

Another puncture?

"Oh lift me from the grass!

I die, I faint, I fail!"

Shelley.

End of the cross-country run.

"And calm'st the weary strife of frail humanity."

Wordsworth.

The bell at 11.35 a.m.

"'Tis some poor fellows skull, said he,

Who fell in the great victory."

Southey.

After the mixed hockey match.

"I have been laughing, I have been carousing,

Drinking late, sitting late, with my bosom cronies."

Lamb.

Homework class.

"Though wit may flash from fluent lips, and mirth distract the breast."

Byron.

Form debates.

"Who treads alone

Some banquet hall deserted."

Moore.

Clearing up after school dinners.

"Near a whole city full,

Home she had none."

Hood.

Another case for the Hostel.

"A thing wherein we feel there is some hidden want."

Shelley.

A schoolboy's head.

"Here, where men sit and hear each other groan."

Keats.

Detention class.

"Or start, ye demons of the midnight air,

At shrieks and thunders louder than your own."

Campbell.

Room 7a at dinner time.