

No. 2

"NOVA RYA"

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THE LATE J. J. SHEARER

JIM SHEARER, who died recently, was one of the ablest pupils of Rye Grammar School in recent years. He passed School Certificate brilliantly when a year below age, and then had a year in the Sixth Form, specialising in mathematics. His power of application and his modesty in the midst of all his triumphs was an inspiration to us all. No one had the good of the School more at heart, and recently he had been elected a member of the Committee of the Old Scholars' Association. He would have developed into the sort of young man that the world will need when the war is over.

Our sympathy goes out to his father and mother, and to Peter and Tom, in their great loss.

A. R. JACOBS, M.A.

EDITORIAL

The war has had the effect of bringing forth many slogans and "catch-phrases" from the leaders of our country, and we owe many to Mr. Herbert Morrison. His slogans really apply to the people who are engaged in war work these days, but there is no reason why we should not adopt them ourselves. Particularly applicable to a school in our present condition is the slogan "Keep at it." This will probably give rise to a certain amount of ironical laughter from those people who cannot forget that we were bound to go without our Easter holidays this year, and had to keep working instead. This, we must admit, *was* rather unfortunate, but there are other ways in which we can "Keep at it"—other ways, in fact, in which we have "kept at it."

Even without noticing it, the School has been following out Mr. Morrison's maxim. We refer to all the School activities which have been kept going since we left Rye. The School is out of its usual surroundings; the scholars are away from their homes. But these are no reasons why the School should be regarded as something dead; instead, we keep those things going which were always so well supported in the past. We continue to hold events which were always held in high regard by the people at home. There is no reason to suppose that because we are evacuated such things must be allowed to disappear.

Not long after our arrival in Bedford, the Swimming Sports were held. This was a fine start. Owing to the fact that all the scholars were in the same town, everyone was able to be present at the swimming baths, whereas there was usually a certain amount of difficulty about travelling to Hastings. Foster-parents also showed their interest in the School activities and were present to see the sports.

During the same term, Founders' Day was celebrated by a Service at St. Andrew's Church. Those of us who can remember the Founders' Day Services at Rye realised that their form had not been changed through being brought to a fresh place. Certainly the modern building of St. Andrew's did not give quite the same atmosphere as the venerable old building of St. Mary's, at Rye, but the School Commemoration Hymn sounded just as good in modern surroundings.

This term we have continued with our activities. The School took part in a special School Confirmation Service at St. Andrew's

Church. Here we had something really out of the ordinary. It is probably the first time that the Grammar School has ever attended a service of this type, and it was new to many of the younger members of the School.

Neither has the Running Final been forgotten. This event was one of the big occasions of the year when we were in Rye and even this time, despite the fact that the competitors did not have all the day in which to consider their chances, excitement ran high. Surely the School is carrying on its old traditions nobly.

Speech Day, rather belated it is true, was also held this term. Speech Day used to be one of our great occasions. Who can forget how we practised the song we were to sing at Speech Day, or the time we took over arranging where each person should sit? Can we forget the speeches themselves, spoken to us in the Hall by the Governors and Head Master? This term, instead of the parents being present, (although there were a few), we had foster-parents at Speech Day. It may be noted here that the prizes were for the School-year 1939-1940. Perhaps this occasion was not quite the same as usual, but we are still showing how we are able to carry on.

We ought to be proud and pleased to think that we have entered ourselves into competition with local and evacuated schools in Bedford, and the feeling should not be diminished even if we have not always left the football, hockey and netball pitches victorious.

And now we come to a point which we mentioned before. The School took the news of the cancellation of the Easter holidays in a very praiseworthy manner. Nearly everybody was prepared in some measure for the tidings, but even so, it was natural that a twinge of annoyance should be felt. However, it is the Englishman's privilege to grumble, and everyone felt better after the subject had been discussed at some length. The view then taken was that it was one of the misfortunes of war and the School settled down again to make the best of things.

A few lines from Lawrence Binyon's poem, "England," seem rather apt here:—

"Shall we but turn from braggart pride
Our race to cheapen and defame?
Before the world to wail, to chide,
And weakness as with vaunting claim?
Ere the hour strikes, to abdicate
The steadfast spirit that made us great,
And rail with scolding tongues at fate?"

THE EDITORS.

OBITER DICTA

Noreen H. Baker has obtained a Scholarship in English to Somerville College, Oxford.

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We regret to hear that J. J. Shearer, at this School 1934-39, died at Buchanan Hospital, Hastings, on Saturday, March 29th.

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Mr. Bagley left on March 21st for service with the Meteorological Department of the Air Ministry. In his place we welcome Mrs. Lyons, a new member of the Staff.

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Mr. Pigrome has consented to assume the command of the Rye Grammar School section of the A.T.C.

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Mr. Douglas has become Scoutmaster of the School Scout Troop.

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It has been announced that the School Orchestra is to be re-formed under the leadership of Mrs. Pigrome.

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A part of the Speech and Music Competition was held this term.

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Speech Day was held on April 8th, at the Russell Park Hall; the prizes were presented by Mrs. Simpson.

THE EDITORS REPLY

Enthusiastic member of Form V: "For a day after doing gym. I feel an entirely different being."

You can consider yourself lucky to think that the feeling only lasts for a day.

.

Exasperated member of the Staff: "What can be done with a boy who takes no interest in the magazines in the School Library?"

Sit him in a chair and give him a good "Punch."

We hear that a Senior Runner can now get round the course in half the time. We knew, of course, that Lord Woolton's restrictions would make a difference in this direction.

.....
Excerpt from a contribution to the magazine: "The snowy weather made me feel very miserable and homesick."

Yes, it was certainly apt to get one down.

.....
Complaint from contributor: "I got reprimanded twice for getting my shoes wet while the snow was on the ground."

You put your foot in it, as it were.

.....
We understand that the School needs some more chess-sets. It seems to be another case of "cheque"-mate.

.....
Suggestion from a Prefect: "I see no reason why every member of the Sixth Form shouldn't have a fag."

Except, perhaps, the unusually high price of tobacco.

.....
Would-be Dancer, Form IV: "Have there been any championships among the dancers yet?"

Well, we must admit that one or two records *have* been broken.

.....
Boatman, Form V: "During the Summer Holidays we used to go down to the river and spend much of our day rowing."

Very nice for you, no doubt, but what did the passers-by think of so much arguing?

.....
We regret that an article submitted, "Dregs" by "Mops," has definitely been thrown down the drain.

THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

1940-1941

Over the Christmas Holidays, although the majority of the School returned home, there were about forty die-hards who remained in residence at Bedford.

On Christmas Day, services were attended in the morning at St. Cuthbert's and Goldington Churches. On the Friday after Christmas a School Party for the entertainment of those who had remained in Bedford was held at the Russell Park Hall. The guests of honour were Mr. and Mrs. V. Dilly, and the Vicar of Goldington, the Rev. J. J. P. Gorton. A fine tea was provided by the caterers, and cakes and mince-pies which had been made by the School Domestic Science Classes were consumed with relish. Crackers had been provided, with their accompanying cargo of paper hats and other novelties. The Hall had been decorated previously by the Fifth and Sixth Forms, which gave such a festive appearance that the austere School Assembly Hall was hardly recognisable. After tea, there were party games and dancing for the senior members, and Mrs. Dilly presented everybody in the Junior School with a gift from the gaily decorated Christmas tree. Mrs. Pigrome was presented with some chocolate for her kindness in agreeing to play the piano during the evening.

On the Tuesday and Wednesday mornings of the next week, mixed hockey was played in Bedford Park, and on Wednesday evening a social was held in the Russell Park Hall, and Miss Tunstall presented the prizes on Thursday morning. It was on this day that the snow started to fall, and it was not possible to play hockey. Instead, Mr. Bagley and Miss Thomas conducted gym. classes in the afternoon.

On Friday the School visited the Granada Cinema in the afternoon and saw "The Return of Frank James," a Western-film in technicolor, and "La Conga Nights," a musical film. Lloyd Thomas, who gave a programme of music on the organ, played a selection of pantomime memories.

That was the last exciting event during the holidays, and they closed quietly, with gym. classes and games at the Russell Park Hall.

On the following Wednesday, which was the second day of the new term, a School Dance was held at the Russell Park Hall.

The attendance by the senior forms was good, as by now they had nearly all returned from their holidays. Early in the evening the radiogram provided a minor crisis by refusing to function properly, and the necessary volume could not be obtained. Fortunately some piano arrangements of dance music had been kindly loaned to us at short notice by Sergeant George Thompsett (Royal Sussex Regt.), and Joy Hulett and Miss Letcher provided on the piano the music for dancing. Towards the end of the evening the radiogram was again tried, and this time it responded with fine effect.

Mr. Bagley, who, as M.C. had been responsible for keeping the party going, was most successful in providing the evening's entertainment, and the dance came to an end at 8 o'clock.

This was the end of all holiday activities, and by the beginning of the next week, School work was well under way, and the holidays were only a pleasant memory.

I. WITNESS.

A HISTORY OF THE EVACUATION

During last term it was suggested that an official account of the School while in "exile" should be included in the re-formed School Magazine. It had previously been decided that an account should be kept somewhere. Having decided upon the form the Magazine should take, the Editors, towards the end of last term, began to prepare the first number, and the History was settled as a termly contribution.

Last term I described the departure from Rye, the arrival in Bedford, and the immediate activities of the School. Now it is necessary that the history be continued.

Many of the events which this will deal with are incidents which took place normally in Rye, so this article will become an article on the way the School has adapted itself "in a strange land." In fact, the title is now misleading.

It was officially announced at the beginning of term, that ninety people had returned to Rye for the Christmas holidays. Many of the more pessimistic billeting officials in Bedford, who were unacquainted with the honour of the School and the respect felt for

it by the members of so old an establishment, had estimated that at least 30 per cent. of them would remain in the danger zone. This had been at once repudiated by the Head Master, and all returned, with one exception, to another term of work; for they knew that remaining in Bedford is a part of the war effort.

For those who remained in Bedford, entertainments were devised; these included several dances and socials arranged by members of the School. The usual Christmas Party was held on the Friday following Christmas Day, the Granada was also visited, but, unfortunately, there was only a poor programme being shown, and not many of the juniors could appreciate the organist's efforts.

Work was resumed little by little. The first few days began at 10 o'clock, the next week at 9.30, and the week after, normal work began at 9 o'clock.

During the week beginning January 27th, "The Great Dictator" was being shown in Bedford. Commencing on Tuesday, small parties went to the Plaza during the next few days to see the film which had been praised so much. I am sure that the majority, even though a few remarks to the contrary were heard, enjoyed their visit.

Not long after the new term began, the whole world, with perhaps the exception of the countries under the domination of the Dictators, was grieved by the death of Lord Baden-Powell. Many of the School Scouts and Guides attended the Memorial Service at St. Paul's. A little later the School heard an account of his life by our Guide Captain, Miss N. M. Tunstall.

A few weeks later, the news of the death of Sir Frederick Banting shook the scientific world. Mr. Douglas, after an assembly, read an Obituary which dealt with Sir Frederick's work in connection with Insulin and Diabetes.

Many of the pupils attended during Lent short services on Tuesdays at St. Andrew's Church, where a special service for the School took place.

Most of the eligible members of the School joined the A.T.C. when the opportunity came. A few have withdrawn their applications, but most have remained. The School section has joined with that of the Owen's School to form Flight 691. Mr. Pigrome is in charge of the Rye section, and much work has already been done. Cardington has been visited by the section and there have been several lectures.

The Speech and Music Competition has been begun, and the judges were Miss Turner and Miss Thomas. Only the play and music remain to be judged.

The Running Competition has been held and other football, hockey and netball matches have been played.

Mr. Bagley left the School on Friday, March 21st, to take up his duties with the Air Ministry.

On March 27th many members of the School were inoculated (under the Government plan) against diphtheria.

Everyone was sorrowful at the news that holidays were cancelled but has now settled down to the inevitable.

Speech Day was held on April 8th, and many parents, foster-parents and friends were present.

A.W.J.A.

THE SCHOOL CONFIRMATION SERVICE

On Wednesday, March 12th, 1941, the entire School attended a Confirmation Service which was held specially for the Rye Grammar School. It was the first time that the Grammar School had ever attended such a service, the ceremony being performed by the Bishop of St. Albans (Dr. F. B. Furse).

The service was opened by the singing of the hymn, "Our Blest Redeemer," after which the Bishop gave his first address. He spoke about the Christian life being led to help other people and to think of others first. Then came the hymn, "Come, Gracious Spirit." The ceremony of the laying-on of hands now took place, all the congregation standing. After John Bunyan's hymn, "He who would valiant be," the Bishop gave his second address.

Dr. Furse compared the Christian life to the taking of a journey. Make sure, he said, that your car or horse is in good condition for the journey. Always be certain that you are going in the right direction to begin with—constantly refer to the map, and never be afraid to ask another person the way. The Bishop illustrated his address by numerous incidents in his life in Africa.

The service concluded with the singing of the hymn, "Oh, Jesus, I have promised," during which a collection was taken in aid of the hospital at Pretoria founded by Dr. Furse.

Those confirmed were:—

P. Abbott	M. Kempster	O. Schofield
Jean Austen	R. Marshall	P. Shearer
J. Bates	J. Martin	A. J. W. Third
Joan Beasley	G. Paine	D. Walker
W. Colvin	Jean Pope	I. Walker
G. Green	C. Saunders	

It has now been arranged that those confirmed attend Holy Communion with other confirmed members of the School on the last Sunday of every month at St. Andrew's Church.

During Lent the School has also attended services held at St. Andrew's Church every Tuesday morning at a quarter-past twelve. These services, conducted by the Rev. A. Thornton Down, have been held specially for St. Andrew's and the Rye Grammar Schools.

Each week, one phase of the Christian life was dealt with and discussed.

SCHOOL HOCKEY

The evacuation deprived the School of many of its best hockey players, but the keenness of the new players has brought our team up to, at least, the usual standard.

Last term we played Woodford High School and were beaten 2—1. This term we lost 4—2 to the Bedford Convent School, and 6—0 to the Physical Training College 2nd XI. All three teams were much more experienced than ours, but there was a notable improvement in our team work in the last two matches.

We have a number of very promising players in Form IIIa, and the introduction of hockey into the curriculum of the two lowest forms should serve to raise the standard in future years.

W. ALLEN.

SCHOOL NETBALL

On the 20th March the Senior Netball team played against the Bedford Girls' Modern School. Although the School team played very well, the score was not even and was in favour of the opposing team; thus, through our lack of practice, the score was 22—8.

On March 27th the Under Fifteen Team played against the Bedford Girls' Modern School. This was a more even match, and our team played very well indeed, but once again we lost, with a final score of 15—10.
J. BULL.

THE SPEECH AND MUSIC COMPETITION

The recitation of poetry and reading of prose was carried out this term by the Juniors on March 6th and by the Seniors on March 14th at the Russell Park Hall.

The standard was very high and on many occasions it must have been a singularly difficult task for the judges—Miss Turner and Miss Thomas—to select the best of the performers. From the Second Form up to the Sixth Form everyone did his or her part very well and is to be heartily congratulated on it.

We had some surprises in the junior part of the competition in the shape of one or two unusual items from Form IIIb. First, it seemed rather strange to see all the members of each individual House reciting some of their poems *en masse*. They did very well, and this must have been one of the occasions which puzzled the judge to a certain extent. After this the same Form performed a ballad and again there was very little to choose between as regards the three performances. Opportunity was given here for the juniors to show their talents in acting, for last year only the Seniors took part in the acting of the scenes from Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice."

Had the organisers a preview of coming events or was it just chance that Form IIIA should say Hilaire Belloc's "The South Country" for their recitation? It was very fitting, of course, and it could hardly have failed to awaken memories in the minds of the entire audience:—

"I never get between the pines
But I smell the Sussex air;
Nor I never come on a belt of sand
But my home is there.
And along the sky the line of Downs
So noble and so bare."

Sussex is truly the paradise of poets and artists, and, I believe, for many people who are neither.

The Junior competition resulted in Peacocke leading, with Meryon and Sanders holding second and third positions respectively.

Eight days later the Seniors went through their share of the competition. These hardened veterans, many of whom took part in last year's competition, continued with the high standard that the Juniors had set. The audience showed their appreciation of the performers' efforts by their applause. Owing to a slight misunderstanding the Sixth Form had to read their poetry instead of saying it from memory.

It was rather noticeable that although the Fourth and Fifth Forms were represented by both boys and girls, there was only one boy performer in the Sixth. Are we to infer that the boys bribe the girls to do the work or the girls bribe the boys to be allowed to do it?

I. WITNESS.

SPEECH DAY

Speech Day was held on Tuesday, April 8th, at the Russell Park Hall.

The Head Master, in introducing Mrs. Simpson, a foster-parent, who distributed the prizes, said that owing to the evacuation Speech Day this year was rather late. He mentioned that only a month before the evacuation, Rye itself was a reception Area, and Rye Grammar School had given hospitality to the Roan School of Greenwich, as well as absorbing some fifty new members itself. It was thus possible for him to appreciate all the more the sacrifices which householders and schools have made for us.

The Head Master went on to say that the large number of foster-parents present showed how full a measure of co-operation between Rye Grammar School and the foster-parents had been effected, and that no evacuated school could exist for a day without the willing help of foster-parents. The Head Master said that he took this opportunity of thanking the Billeting Officer of Bedford and his staff for their valuable assistance and sympathy, and said that the School owed a great deal to them.

He also thanked the Head Mistress of the High School and the Head Master of Bedford School for putting certain specialist accommodation at our disposal.

Finally, the Head Master welcomed the parents who were in Bedford for the prizegiving, and hoped that they would take back to Rye the message that all was well on the Bedford front.

The ceremony had commenced with the singing of the School Commemoration Hymn, and after the Head Master's speech the prizes, certificates and trophies were presented by Mrs. Simpson, who, after receiving a bouquet, made a short and very interesting speech.

Mrs. Simpson declared that Bedford was pleased to entertain Rye Grammar School, which had proved to be worthy of its name during its sojourn in Bedford, and expressed on behalf of the foster-parents her appreciation of the behaviour of the pupils of the School in their billets. We fear that Mrs. Simpson rather flattered us, but hope that we shall be able to maintain the standard of which she spoke. Mrs. Simpson stressed the value of the comprehensive nature of the training received at school, comparing it to the growth of the Irish shamrock, in which all three leaves, representing the mind, the spirit and the body, must all grow in equal proportion, or else the effect would be "lop-sided."

Winnie Allen, the girls' captain, proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Simpson for presenting the prizes and for her encouraging speech.

After this, some of the winning items in the Speech Competition were presented, as well as a group recitation by some of Form IIIB, and a dramatised ballad by Lupton, Paine, Stephanie Orford, Hulbert and Adams, also from Form IIIB.

I was horrified to observe the bad taste in presenting a poem, recited with great gusto, which insulted the Midlands whilst it lauded Sussex to the skies. It must be remembered that although a large part of the hospitality depends on the hosts, the guest too is expected to be well behaved. I noticed with embarrassment the indignation clearly marked on the faces of many of the foster-parents. I take, therefore, the opportunity of apologising to them on behalf of the School for this, what must have been a most ghastly oversight on the part of the authorities.

After the National Anthem had been sung, the pupils went home, and the foster-parents were entertained to tea by the Head Master and Staff.

I. WITNESS.

PRIZES AND TROPHIES

Prizes were presented as follows :—

FORM II (1940-41) : L. Allen, Pauline Baker, Irene Farrant.

FORM II (1939-40) : R. E. Hulbert, B. Lupton.

FORM IIIB : Kathleen Batchup, Pamela Whiting, B. Dawson, Rosalie Green, Daphne Breeds.

FORM IIIA : F. Foster, Beryl Elmes, Eileen Munday, Joyce Dunster.

FORM IV : Irene Hatter, Dorothy Elliott, T. Cowper, M. Lansky.

SPECIAL PRIZES :

Miss Prentice's Prize for Divinity : Irene Hatter.

English Language : Pamela Dale.

English Literature : G. G. Smith.

History : A. J. W. Third.

French : G. G. Smith.

Mathematics : A. W. J. Ambrose.

Biology : R. G. Burnett.

Science : Paulina Metianu.

Art : Margery Smith.

Architecture : Olive Paine.

Old Scholars' Prize : A. W. J. Ambrose.

Latin : A. W. J. Ambrose.

T. Phillips' Prize for Mathematics : J. Ford and V. Apps.

Sixth Form Prize : Winnie Allen.

English Literature : Noreen Baker.

History : J. Mewse.

Trollope Medall : A. Smith.

Trophies for the House Competitions were presented as follows :

WORK AND MERIT (*Hanby-White Shield*) : Sanders.

FOOTBALL (*Dunlop Shield*) : Meryon.

HOCKEY (*Old Scholars' Shield*) : Sanders.

NETBALL (*Hepworth Shield*) : Peacocke.

GYMNASIUM, BOYS (*Schofield Shield*) : Meryon.

GYMNASIUM, GIRLS (*Howlett Cup*) : Peacocke.

ATHLETICS (*Bishop Shield*) : Peacocke.

CRICKET (*Heron-Wilson Shield*) : Sanders.

TENNIS (*Lady Maud Warrender Shield*) : Sanders.

SWIMMING (*Gasson Shield*) : Sanders.

SPEECH AND MUSIC (*Gwynne Shield*) : Meryon.

HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIP SHIELD : Sanders.

Trophies not presented were :

CROSS-COUNTRY RUN, SENIOR CUP : Sanders.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUN, JUNIOR CUP : Sanders.

The Guide Trophy was presented to the Shamrock Patrol.

HOUSE NOTES

PEACOCKE HOUSE

Boys' Captain : O. SCHOFIELD.

Girls' Captain : PAULINA METIANU.

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

We extend our best wishes to Mr. Bagley, whom we were very sorry to lose, but we hope that he will be able to return after he has finished his service with the Air Ministry.

The Spring Term has been a heartening one for Peacocke House and we seem to have improved ourselves considerably.

In sport, the boys came first in the cross-country running, where the good results obtained by the Seniors were well backed up by the Juniors. The football results show that the House was placed third, in spite of an improved standard of play. The girls' hockey team has played well, and was placed second to Sanders only on a goal average. This result is not final, as return matches will probably be played in the first fortnight of the next term. The netball is not quite finished yet, but so far we are tying for first place with Meryon, and the final results depend upon a Junior match.

The results in the Speech and Music Competition are also good, and we are leading by a few points ; it still remains to be seen whether we can lead in the music section of the contest.

We are doing well as regards the Work and Merit Competition, and it is to be hoped that our standard can be maintained and even improved.

Some of the girls are knitting for the Royal Air Force, and the Juniors in particular are very enthusiastic over the work. P.M.

SANDERS HOUSE

Boys' Captain : R. G. Burnet.

Girls' Captain : Deslys Jones.

Prefects : Noreen Baker, Joy Hulett, Kathleen King, Olive Paine, J. Green.

Sanders has had a fairly successful term, but the football results were rather disappointing. The Seniors lost to Meryon and Peacocke, while the Juniors were unable to raise a team to play any matches, but it is hoped that the Summer Term competitions will bring more encouraging results.

The Senior girls' hockey matches were successful, Sanders beating Meryon by 7—0, and drawing with Peacocke 2—2. The Junior girls' netball matches have unfortunately resulted in our coming last, and this must certainly be improved next season.

The big event of the season was the Cross-country Running Final, but again Sanders was not successful, although the three Lewes boys—Renville, Marson and Pollard—ran very well ; Marson and Renville obtaining the second and sixth positions respectively.

As only half of the Speech and Music Competition has been held, it is not possible to give the final results yet. We are lying third, but the positions are so close that a little more effort will bring us higher up.

Sanders came second in the Work and Merit Competition.

R.G.B.

MERYON HOUSE

Boys' Captain : G. G. SMITH.

Girls' Captain : WINNIE ALLEN.

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

This term our efforts have met with varying success in different fields.

In sport we managed to obtain the first position in the House Football Competition. The hockey team came third, but this (as last term) was owing to the fact that we have such a few Senior girls that Junior girls have to complete the team. At present the House ties with Peacocke for first place in netball, but a Junior match will decide the final positions. The Senior running team did fairly well, but the Juniors actually got all their men home in the first nine.

This is a good indication for future sporting events. Altogether the House was placed second in the running final.

The work and merit continue to be very unsatisfactory, and to those who can remember how Meryon used to carry off the shield year after year, it is very disappointing. However, a greater effort from all parts of the House would, perhaps, bring us success again.

At present we hold second position in the Music and Speech Competition, and here the margin is so slight that if we are successful in the Music and Play sections we shall obtain first position again.

House collections for charity have been continued during the term, and although not very much has been collected, one guinea was sent to John Groom's Crippleage.

G.G.S.

THE SCOUT CONCERT

An evening concert was given by the Scouts on Saturday, April 5th. The performance commenced with the singing of some national songs by a Scout choir, which included a duet by Martin and Cutting. An amusing sketch was acted with great energy by Lupton and Paine, and a Stanley Holloway monologue was well delivered by Dawson.

The best act of the evening was Mr. Cox, a local Scoutmaster, who proved to be a conjurer of no mean ability. Aspiring "magicians" should notice how easily he covered his actions with "patter," taking the eyes from his hands to his face.

An amusing shadow-show was given by some of the Scouts, in which a "gruesome operation" was performed, to the obvious delight of the audience.

The show concluded as it began, with some camp-fire songs from the Scout choir.

We admire the initiative of the Scouts in promoting this Concert when the organisation is still in its infancy, and we congratulate them on a show which far surpassed in quality anything for which we had dared to hope. We feel that the small and contemptible group of people who look upon the Scout Troop as an object of mirth have been disappointed at its success, and for that we are heartily thankful.

We look forward to more and even better Scout Concerts in the future.

I. WITNESS.

GUIDE REPORT

At the beginning of the year the Guides and Scouts of the world went into mourning for their beloved Chief Scout. A two-inch black band on the left arm just above the elbow was the only kind of mourning worn.

A memorial service was held in St. Paul's Church, Bedford, on January 18th. The majority of our Company attended, in spite of the bad weather.

Soon after this loss an Enrolment was held. This took place on February 4th; several recruits were enrolled by Miss Hewetson, who read a letter to the Company from Lord Baden-Powell. It was found amongst his papers after his death, addressed to all Guides. She also announced that the Badge tests would take place at the end of March; and that the Bedford Guide movement was glad to welcome us here.

During the next few weeks all the Guides were training and rubbing up their work for the Second Class and Country Dancers' badges. One afternoon, as the weather turned out to be so fine, the suggestion of having a "track" was agreed to. As there were too many Guides to follow one trail, three were laid. Everyone enjoyed this, but some younger members complained of aching feet.

On February 22nd, "Thinking Day" was held; this was a special meeting as the School Scouts joined the Guides in the Russell Park Hall. This was the day during which the two organisations thought of their fellow Guides and Scouts throughout the world, especially those in the countries over-run by the Nazis. A short ceremony was held when candles were lit, pennies laid down, and a national sing-song took place. At the end Miss Thomas gave a talk.

An out-door meeting was conducted in the Bedford Park on March 18th by Miss Seaman, a trainer from Foxlease, and leaders' training was also taken by her in the Girls' Modern School.

Our termly field-day was held on the following Monday. Everyone started off in the best of spirits, hoping that the weather would keep fine. Milton Ernest, Old Warden, Thurleigh and Kimbolton were some of the places visited by different parties. The latter part of the afternoon turned out to be wet; owing to this some parties returned early, but others defied the weather and carried out their plans. Had it not been for the weather everyone would have had a most enjoyable day.

The Company has carried on this term successfully, although under difficulties. Now the Guides are all preparing for the Badge tests at the end of this month; and some are busy knitting for the troops.
E.M.

Thinking Day was held at the Russell Park Hall on Friday, February 21st. The ceremony was in honour of Guides and Scouts in countries conquered by the Germans. Each patrol wore its uniform in honour of a certain country's Guides or Scouts. All the Guides and Scouts were present, and the Head Master was one of the guests.

A trefoil had been drawn on the floor, with candles placed in it. Each candle was lit by a Patrol Leader, who said a Guide or Scout Law at the same time. Then the Seconds came forward and saluted, saying why they wore their uniforms. They then laid down a penny, and all the rest of the Patrols did the same, till there was a circle right round the trefoil. The money is to be used to help to build up Scouting and Guiding in conquered countries after the war.

Then rounds and songs, including "Lu La," "Frère Jacques," and "Jean Baptiste" were sung, which caused much laughter. Finally the chorus of the Guide Song and the National Anthem were sung at the end of a very enjoyable afternoon.
J.P.

THE ART SOCIETY

Ever since settling down in Bedford the Art Society has continued in its purpose of encouraging the interests of its members in the various branches of Art. Mr. Morgan has given us many suggestions and much help. Each week a talk has been given on some aspect of the subject. These have been much appreciated by the members and well explained by books from the School Library and the Bedford Public Library. An examination of "fresco" work gave some light on this means of mural decoration—the work of Michelangelo was compared with the work of modern fresco painters.

Another talk dealt with the development of the wood-cut and the wood engraving. A wood-cut is made on the end grain of a block of wood, and is similar to lino-cutting, though much more difficult as wood is a more delicate medium than lino. Etching was the topic

on another occasion, and the work of some French and modern abstract painters at other dates.

A visit to the Museum at the Modern School was, perhaps, the most enjoyable event. The curator made our party very welcome, and, by unlocking some of the showcases, gave us the privilege of handling and examining at close quarters the collection of African carved figures and heads. We were impressed by the skill and success of these native craftsmen in spite of their limited equipment.

During the winter months our sketching efforts have been mainly indoors. Figure-drawing, illustrations, and some attempts at abstract designing were probably the most popular of our activities. Next term we plan to make the best of outdoor opportunities.

Since the formation of the A.T.C., two of our senior members—Ashdown and Mead—have left to join the ranks of this Corps.

G.T.A.

THE LIBRARY

As the Roan School for Boys, evacuated from London, shared the building with us during the School year 1939-40, conditions became rather cramped, and the Library was more greatly used than ever before. Form VI vacated their own room in order that a Roan School Form might use it, and took over the library as their form room. Moreover, lessons were taken in the library as though it were an ordinary class-room. The Roan School had the library to themselves on every Monday afternoon, and was allowed full use of all the books on any other day. The library was also open during the dinner hour.

The year was marked by generous gifts of books from various donors, including Miss Bellhouse, Miss Stenning, Mr. Tayleur, Mr. Proctor and Mr. Perugini, some of which gifts were received just before the evacuation of the School. The labelling and classification of these books kept members of the Library Guild busy on Friday afternoons.

Useful work in cataloguing was done by Pamela Dale and Helen Metianu, while McQue and Knapp were occupied in numbering books. Form librarians worked well during library periods, while Sixth Form librarians superintended the issue of books in the dinner-hour and after School, as usual.

Now that we are evacuated, the library has only a limited space, but good use is made of it. Without including the bookshelves, more than half of the library furniture is at "Ixworth Court." About two hundred and fifty fiction books were brought up from Rye, including selections from the works of most of the famous authors, and although there are the Public and County Libraries in Bedford, the fiction shelves are still well-patronised by members of the School. About five hundred and fifty non-fiction books were brought too, and they represent the excellent non-fiction library that we had at Rye. Included in the books brought from Rye were many additions bought with the grant for 1940, and were mainly fiction, English, history, geography, science and divinity, and more are to come in the near future as well as a hundred others. Each pupil brought with him a library book from Rye, so that more books could be sent with the school furniture. There are also about a hundred other books lent to us by the Public and County Libraries, which have proved a welcome addition to the School Library. Owing to the fine reference rooms at the two Bedford Libraries only a few reference books were brought from Rye.

The magazine-rack attracts most people, for it contains a variety of interesting papers. Last term, when eight weeklies, ten monthlies and one quarterly were taken, members of the School were allowed to borrow a magazine for one evening. This procedure became so popular that this term the list of magazines has been expanded so as to include seven more weeklies and six more monthlies. *The Times* is taken regularly, as is also the *Sussex Express*. The latter provides a link with home for most of the pupils, and gives them a chance to read about the news from Sussex.

Last term facilities were provided for scholars to work in the library in the evenings if they wished, and as this scheme proved successful, it has been continued. During school-time the library is used most frequently by Form VI for private study, for there is hardly room for other Forms to have library periods as at Rye.

Before the School was evacuated, the "Library Guild" had a good membership and plenty of work to do. Now it has only two or three members, but although the present library is not so large as the one at Rye, there is still plenty to be done. New members are needed, and it is to be hoped that the new Form of the School Year 1941-1942 will furnish a few, for the catalogue is not yet complete, though work on it is still steadily progressing. It is also to be hoped

that there will be a library grant in 1941, so that evacuation will be cheered with the arrival of new books. This will provide new reading matter for the School in general, besides work in classification for the "Library Guild."
J.S.L.P.

RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL AIR TRAINING CORPS

When first this scheme was adopted, the Head Master asked how many of the senior boys were interested in it, and there was a ninety per cent. response. Nothing more was done for a week or two because it was realised that a whole squadron could not be formed in the School alone, as there were only twenty-eight of us altogether. It was at length decided that we should amalgamate with the Owen's School (an evacuated London School), and form a flight consisting of about ninety boys, all between the ages of fifteen and eighteen. We were then given forms to sign on Monday, February 17th, and on Saturday there was a parade at the Russell Park Hall, so no time was lost.

This first parade was not a parade in the true sense of the word, as it consisted only of a lecture given by Mr. Hutchings, an Owen's School Master, on the obligations concerning the joining and leaving of the A.T.C. We were also given papers that told us our sections and work syllabus. The members of the Rye Grammar School group formed Section No. 3, while the Owen's School formed the other two Sections which constitute a Flight.

Section 3 started work on Monday at the Bedford Modern School, where Mr. Hutchings gave a very interesting introduction to our map-reading work. On Tuesday we again went to the Bedford Modern School, and started our course on signalling, the instructor being an Owen's School Master, Mr. Olphin. Many of the boys seemed very interested in this particular branch of our work, and it was evident that they had spent a lot of their spare time in learning the Morse code and practising sending and receiving.

On the following Saturday there was another indoor parade as the weather prevented any outside activities, and we were divided into our different drill-squads. This was followed by a practice in elementary drill, but no marching because of the lack of space. On Monday, the 10th March, the syllabus was the same except for a

slight change in parade times for Morse and map-reading. On Tuesday we had a Morse lesson, which was followed by a lecture on aircraft of the fighting powers by one of the Owen's School members. The lectures were always attended by the whole Flight, but we took signalling and map-reading in separate sections.

The next week was perhaps the best for the A.T.C., as the Head Master proclaimed Monday to be an A.T.C. field-day, and an excursion to Cardington Aerodrome was arranged for our Section. We arrived at Cardington at 3 o'clock and were shown round the Station by Squadron-Leader Rayner, who explained in a very interesting fashion the work done there. The tour of the Station took about two hours, and at about 5 o'clock a very hungry group of Cadets arrived at the Corporal's Mess, where we had an excellent tea. At 5.30 an R.A.F. policeman came to show us the cinema, and we enjoyed an entertainment by an R.A.F. Dance Band. Except for one or two sarcastic remarks about one of the trumpeters playing too softly, everybody thoroughly enjoyed it.

Next came the film show, consisting of "Pinocchio," and the Gaumont-British News. It was very fortunate for us that "Pinocchio" was being shown, as when that film came to Bedford before we were advised not to go to the cinema because of the measles epidemic, so nearly everyone thought that they had missed a good film. After "Pinocchio" came the news (which everyone did not see as black-out time was near), but it consisted of an account of the Lofoten Raid. After the film show we all managed to get back before 9.30 p.m., despite the fact that there was a shortage of bicycle-lamps.

On the Saturday following the field day, we had our first open-air parade, and practised marching, halting and turning.

A Morse lesson was again taken on Monday evening, but on Tuesday morning we were told that a speaker from Cranfield was coming in the afternoon. The speaker was Squadron-Leader Hudson, who spoke on the history and development of the R.A.F. He also gave a very informative talk on the various commands into which the different types of 'planes were allocated, and when he was questioned at the end he showed himself to be an authority on all subjects pertaining to the R.A.F.

It is hoped that during the period which would normally have been the Easter holidays, as many parades as possible will be held in conjunction with the Owen's School.

R.G.B.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENT

[As many members of this School have, or have had, relations serving with this regiment, it seems, especially in these times, a reasonable excuse for inserting this rather unconventional item in a school magazine.]

The Royal Sussex Regiment at the outbreak of war consisted of two Regular Army, one Militia, and two Territorial Army Battalions, five in all. It is with the Regular Battalions with which we shall be mainly concerned.

The 1st Battalion, the old 35th Foot, was raised in 1702 as Lord Donegal's Regiment, and a year later was entered on the British establishment as a Regiment for service at sea. It has therefore the honour, along with fifteen other regiments, of having served with the Royal Navy, as Marines. As a result of this service, the Officers of the 1st Battalion have the privilege of drinking the King's health seated.

The badge borne on the colours of the Regiment is the White (Roussillon) Plume surmounted by the Star of the Order of the Garter. The badge of the Roussillon Plume was awarded after the taking of Quebec, where the 35th served under Wolfe's command. During the battle the Regiment captured the Standard of the French Regiment, the Roussillon Grenadiers, which bore the golden fleur-de-lys. To commemorate this, William V of the Netherlands, Prince of Orange, granted the Regiment the wearing of orange facings, and it became known as the "Prince of Orange's Own." It is on account of this that the 35th derived their nickname, "The Orange Lilies."

When Malta was taken from the French in 1801, after the failure of Napoleon's Egyptian Campaign, the King's Colour of the 35th was the first English flag to be raised.

In 1804 it became the Sussex Regiment, and in 1832 received the designation "Royal," together with the coveted blue facings.

In 1760 a corps called "The Queen's Own Royal British Volunteers" was raised in India to fight the French, and eventually became the "2nd Bengal European Infantry" of the East India Company. In 1854 it became the "107th Bengal Infantry Regiment," and, as such, served in the Indian Mutiny. Afterwards it came to England, and was known as the 107th Foot. In 1881, in

accordance with the Cardwell System, it was grouped with the Royal Sussex, to become its 2nd Battalion.

In the first Battle of Ypres, during the World War, 1914-1918, the Royal Sussex men were known to the Germans as the Iron Regiment, on account of their steadiness in action. During the war twenty-three battalions of the Royal Sussex served.

In this war, the Royal Sussex served in France before the collapse of that country, and took part in the retreat to Dunkirk.

The Royal Sussex Militia forms the 3rd Battalion, and the 4th and 5th are Territorial Army units, the latter being known as the Cinque Ports Battalion and having a distinctive badge, the Maltese Cross.

The Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment of Canada, and the 11th Battalion of Australian Infantry are affiliated to the Royal Sussex.

The Regimental Tune is known as "The Royal Sussex," and the battle honours borne on the colours are "Gibraltar, 1704-5"; "Louisburg"; "Quebec, 1759"; "Martinique, 1762"; "Havannah"; "St. Lucia, 1778"; "Maida"; "Egypt, 1882"; "Abu Klean"; "Nile, 1884-5"; "South Africa, 1900-02"; "Afghanistan 1919"; "Retreat from Mons"; "Marne, 1914-18"; "Ypres, 1914-17, '18"; "Somme, 1916, '18"; "Pilckem"; "Hindenburg Line"; "Italy, 1917, '18"; "Gallipoli, 1915"; "Palestine, 1917-18"; "N.W. Frontier, India, 1915, 1916-17."

The Regimental Motto is that of the Garter, "Honi soit qui mal y pense."

A.J.W.T.

FILMS

COMEDY AND COMEDIANS

Tragedy and comedy have come down to us through the ages ever since the beginning of the dramatic art. The most definite information we have concerning drama in the early days is that of the Ancient Greeks. The Greeks liked their tragedies to be tragic, and their comedies to be comical. By this I mean that they did not allow humour to appear in their tragedies, neither did they allow tragedy to appear in their comedies. Conditions have changed quite considerably, but we still have these two basic forms of drama. To-day humour is in great demand. We are living in times when it

is necessary to keep the people cheerful and help them to forget, for a while, at least, the tragedies of life. The radio does a great job of work in this respect, of course, but it can hardly be expected to present comedy and comedians to us all the time. The other medium which can be of great use in giving us humour is undoubtedly the cinema. There is a cinema in all but the smallest of towns, so here is a chance for them to do a national duty—keeping the country cheerful.

Ever since the invention of the ciné-film there have been comedians and comedy. From the very first time that a custard-pie was thrown comedy has been recognised as a part of films. Without going back very many years we can recall such people as Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Harold Lloyd, and many others, all pioneers of the cinema screen.

Charlie Chaplin is probably the greatest comedian that the films have ever produced. Since earliest times he has appeared in films and his popularity was at its height about the time of the World War of 1914-1918. He was at his best in silent films because he has always held that it is much cleverer to be able to amuse audiences by actions rather than by speech. His great films were those of the calibre of "Shoulder Arms" and later "The Circus" and "The Gold Rush," and he has made numerous short films, all excellent pieces of clowning. With the advent of the "talkies," however, he gradually dropped out of the picture industry. Even so, he still made an occasional film. "City Lights" was an entirely silent film as regards speech, though it started off by a burlesque on the sound film. Later came "Modern Times," a superb piece of mockery dealing with the fast life of these days. In this film the humdrum life of the factory so played on Chaplin's nerves that he was driven frantic and ran amok amongst all the machinery, allowing his foreman to become half-mangled in a machine. In "City Lights" and "Modern Times" he deviated from his usual rule by allowing sounds but still no speech; but his make-up and dress were still the same, the little, down-at-heel tramp with the Derby and the cane.

It was always held that if Chaplin made a "talkie" he would ruin his career. Nevertheless, his latest film was a "talkie," and was well received by enthusiastic audiences in the U.S.A. and England. "The Great Dictator," made specially as an appeal for democracy and also a lampoon of the dictators, lasted approximately two hours, and finished up with an appeal to the senses of all free people to

defend democracy with all their might and main. "The Great Dictator" is the counterpart of "Shoulder Arms" which was produced during the last war. Chaplin considers it as the peak of his career; he speaks—but he is still the same little tramp who amused audiences twenty odd years ago.

Harold Lloyd weathered the change-over from silent films to sound films quite successfully, although he seldom makes a film these days. He was the first comedian to make use of the comedy of danger. His films include "Welcome Danger," "Grandma's Boy," and more recently "The Cat's Paw," "The Milky Way" and "Professor, Beware."

Generally speaking, sound films have given rise to an entirely new class of comedians. To-day Hollywood offers us Laurel and Hardy, the Marx Brothers, the Ritz Brothers, the Three Stooges, and Joe E. Brown, to name only a few.

Laurel and Hardy have sadly deteriorated since the days when they used to make really first-rate short films, but to-day their feature films have reached a very low ebb. "Blockheads" was one of their best of recent times, while "A Chump at Oxford" and "Saps at Sea" have been very poor attempts at slap-stick comedy.

The Marx Brothers, Ritz Brothers and Three Stooges are all upholders of crazy comedy, and usually give a good performance.

At present the British screen has more comedians than ever before. Our leading comedian is probably George Formby, who, after several mediocre films gave us "Let George Do It," which was a really good film. His latest picture is "Spare a Copper." Other people acclaim the Crazy Gang as the foremost British comedians. Their latest film, "Gasbags," has met with a certain amount of success. But, if I may give my own opinion, I think that the Will Hay, Moore Marriott, Graham Moffatt team is better than either George Formby or the Crazy Gang; their "Where's that Fire?" contained some of the best fooling I have ever seen.

Moore Marriott himself is an "old" comedian, and an expert in the art of "picture-stealing," for he runs off with whatever scene he happens to play in. It may be said that his age and experience allow this, but actually Moore Marriott dons a clever make-up in all his films and is not nearly so old as he appears to be.

Another new British comedian enters the limelight in the form of Tommy Trinder, who has found fame over the radio. Trinder is acclaimed by some to be the most original and spontaneous

comedian Britain has produced for some time. Arthur Askey and Richard Murdoch also gained fame over the radio. But it seems doubtful whether their screen popularity will equal their radio "Band Waggon" success. It seems a pity that the British screen cannot have some original comedians instead of those who have made a name with the B.B.C. already.

Besides these new arrivals on the screen we have the old hands, such as Jack and Claude Hulbert, Cicely Courtneidge, Sydney Howard, Stanley Lupino, Lupino Lane and a host of others. We shall miss our greatest comedienne, of course, Gracie Fields, whose film career—ending with the masterpiece "Shipyard Sally," has, temporarily at any rate, finished.

So much for the comedians who appear in comedy. Now we must turn for a moment to the other side and look at the comedians who appear in thrillers, tragedies and musicals. Owing to the strange make-up of the Anglo-Saxon race we (unlike the Ancient Greeks) like to have our tragedies and thrillers seasoned with comedy, also our comedies seasoned with thrills and dramatic scenes. On account of this, there are many actors and actresses who take humorous parts in straight-forward plays. Amongst the better known are such people as Edward Everett Horton, Edna May Oliver, Bob Hope, Hugh Herbert, Mary Boland, and such people, who can introduce comedy into a thriller or tragedy without detracting from the value of the film. British films are rather lacking in this type of player, but perhaps Guy Middleton, Basil Radford, Naunton Wayne, Edmund Gwen and Alistair Sim can be said to occupy such positions.

Mention must also be made of those versatile stars who are able to act in either tragedy or comedy. Greta Garbo and Ronald Colman are excellent examples of this type of talented player.

Last of all we come to the cartoon film for comedy. The glorious antics of Donald Duck must not be overlooked. And who can forget Dopey, Gabby, Jiminy Cricket and the host of other comedians who have never existed but have just been the creations of a few men?

Comedy will live on. Among the cavalcade of film comedians who are past or present there are surely a few whose names will go down in the annals of film history.

G.G.S.

MODERN LAND WARFARE

In modern warfare, with its rapidly shifting battlefields, there has appeared a need for co-operation among the three Services which is greater than it has ever been before.

The day of stalemate trench warfare has gone, and in its place is the engagement of fast-moving armoured vehicles. Paramount among these is the tank. The tank is used to make a breach in the enemy's defensive line, through which infantry, artillery and stores may pass. Once such a breach has been made, it is impossible to hold the remainder of the line. Whole armies must fall back because one sector has been broken through.

Therefore, if we deal first with attack, we can see that the keynote is the one word "infiltration." An attack would be delivered in the following manner. The area of the enemy's line, on which the weight of the attack is to fall, consists, let us assume, of three sectors—A, B and C.

Early in the morning, after an artillery barrage on all three sectors, holding forces, consisting of infantry, supported by light tanks, would attack sectors A and C, whilst heavy tanks, followed by armoured divisions of medium tanks, armoured cars, mechanised light artillery and infantry would burst through sector B, and deploy on to enemy communications and reserves. The adjoining sectors A and C would also be pressed back, as the flow of divisions through the gap increased. The fate of the rest of the line has only to be imagined.

Until very recently, there was a school of thought which favoured the strong defensive position—I was one of them. It was contended that tanks would never be able to penetrate minefields, and that the new anti-tank guns had seriously reduced the importance of the tank. So they had, but we had reckoned without the dive-bomber, under the cover of which the Germans advanced. The dive-bomber may be reckoned as a portable heavy artillery barrage, which can be diverted at a moment's notice from one position to another.

When the advancing tanks met with opposition from artillery, they wirelessed for dive-bombers, which came up and proceeded to wipe out the guns. They did not always succeed completely, but any attack which was repulsed after the attack of the dive-bombers was due to luck in the guns still being in action, and to the gallant men who had stood by them, and was not in any way the result of successful staff work.

The menace of the dive-bomber is not very serious, however, as this machine is very vulnerable to attack by fighter aircraft. If we could have mustered a hundred fighter squadrons in France, it would never have fallen.

Even if his dive-bombers are mastered by fighters and his tanks by anti-tank guns, the attacker still has another weapon left—the bomber.

Fighter aircraft have to operate from aerodromes. If his bombers, escorted by his own fighters can make those aerodromes untenable, the fighters will not be able to take off against his dive-bombers, the anti-tank guns will not be able to destroy his tanks, and everything in the battlefield will be lovely.

From this example, it is obvious that to be a successful defender a vast superiority in fighter machines is necessary. The latest canon-firing fighters are also very useful for combating the tank if it dives on it firing its cannon at close range, a veritable flying anti-tank gun in fact. One can almost visualise the discontinuance of artillery, but I don't think it is likely to come just yet.

Having now proved the defensive line useless to a large extent, the general staffs have had to find another plan. The system which was adopted was the "defence in depth" scheme, which is in reality, instantaneous counter-attack. This is the system. The front line consists of small posts linked together by wireless, with a handful of mechanised infantry in each. These are strong enough to withstand the attacks of raiding parties. A mile or two back is stationed a small tank force, perhaps about thirty tanks, supported by a battalion of mechanised infantry, which can rush to the assistance of any post which was genuinely attacked, but only by light forces. There would be one of these battalions to perhaps three advanced posts. Behind these battalions there would be stronger concentrations, perhaps armoured divisions with a division of mechanised infantry, one of these divisions to every three battalions; these would be brought up in the case of serious attack. Finally, far back there would be about three major concentrations for the whole line. These would correspond to the Army Corps, each with about two thousand tanks and four divisions of mechanised infantry. These would only be used to repulse a major offensive if it was launched. All these various forces would have their supporting artillery and aircraft in proportion to their size.

Finally, the co-operation of the Fleet with land forces is necessary. It serves two, perhaps three, main functions. They are (a) bombarding the enemy from the sea, if possible, (b) preventing his landing reinforcements (if transported over water), maintaining supplies, and helping to ease traffic by removing prisoners to the back areas by sea, thus clearing the roads for army transports.

A.J.W.T.

PRO PATRIA

A drowsy afternoon—on the horizon was faintly visible a small thread of smoke, which gradually grew larger. Then the deep boom of the siren echoed across the blue waste of water, and the *Paris* drew near—a large, black packet-boat with yellow-banded funnels. Quickly she swung round the breakwater lighthouse and crossed the bar. Men wearing blue jerseys could be seen on the fo'c'sle preparing to moor. The trippers were on the boat deck waving papers and handkerchiefs, while stewards bustled among them. A hail came across the water from the opposite shore as the boat drew alongside, and the engine-room telegraph rang full speed astern. Slowly she hove to, and hawsers were made fast. Gangways crashed into place and the passengers disembarked. Electric cranes quickly unloaded the freight from the holds and deposited it on the quay. When all the passengers had left, the ship was swung and again moored. The next morning the ship was flying the "Blue Peter" and had left by 11 o'clock. This, with very little variation, had been her normal procedure for over twenty years.

Then came the war. For a week or so she continued, at more irregular intervals, to cross the channel, conveying English people who, on either business or pleasure, had been caught unawares on the Continent. That phase passed, and suddenly, the *Paris* and ships of her line disappeared, whither no one seemed to know. Rumour had it (but this was very "hush-hush") that transformed, her spruce appearance hidden beneath a garb of battleship grey, she was assisting in the transport of an army "from Somewhere to Somewhere."

The appearance of her home-port was also changed; the rails on the quay which once carried the boat-train and such traffic, now had long lines of trains with the Geneva Cross prominently displayed on

their sides and roofs. The births daily occupied by the *Paris* and others were now filled by vessels conspicuously arrayed in pure white, bearing a broad green band from stem to stern, and again marked in several places with the Cross. The Continental packet-station was now a link between the battlefields-to-be and the havens of rest in the home country.

There followed a period of more rumour and then, about the change of the year, some of the larger hospital ships in the port went away, to be replaced by the *Paris* and her sister ships—no longer in drab grey but in the garb of a hospital carrier. A time of waiting ensued, broken by an occasional trip to bring home cases of sickness and accident from our army in France. Then, as the spring of the year approached, the *Paris* became more busy. It was said that they were evacuating all possible cases from clearing stations and hospital bases in France, in anticipation of the expected offensive.

Then it broke. The world now knows of those anxious days when first Holland fell, then Belgium, and eventually the Panzer Divisions broke through into Northern France, sweeping all before them, and cutting off in the north-east a gallant British Army. There followed one of the most masterly retreats to the coast in history, with its heavy toll of wounded and killed. Now the *Paris* was more than busy; she worked overtime. Long before she reached Newhaven, volunteers were called from the town to assist the military in discharging the wounded straight from the battlefield with all possible speed. Then round she swung for another cargo. Time after time this happened with monotonous regularity. Often she returned to port with more than three times her usual complement of wounded passengers. Came her last but one trip. Arriving off Dunkirk, she was hailed by another vessel, from which the captain was told that it was no use—it was impossible to enter the port any more. Then the Nelson touch appeared. Her skipper, a medium-sized, most unassuming man, who in civil life would not have been suspected of having any of the hero in his make-up, turned the ship and went into the harbour stern first, in order to get away as soon as possible. She had hardly berthed, in fact was not made fast, when every man on board was on the quay assisting walking cases and bearing stretchers until the boat was more than full. Then, not a minute before it was necessary, she drew off from Dunkirk and once more reached Newhaven, successfully evading minefields, "E" boats, and such dangers.

But the *Paris* had not finished yet. Once more she left Newhaven—this time, as it happened, on her final trip, for approaching the shores of France, where so much was being done by the gallant "Armada of the little ships," she met the fate which in those few glorious hours was the lot of many other vessels. Her brave crew took to the boats, but even there they were not safe. They were dive-bombed and machine-gunned. One of the lifeboats was sunk, its occupants being rescued by other craft.

So passed the R.M.S. *Paris*, having survived the last war to play her final role in this.

A.E.M.

DANCING LESSONS

I have been asked by the Editors to write a report on the dancing lessons which we have been taking, and to enquire into the opinions of my fellow dancers. In doing so I have found that the lessons are very popular amongst them, in fact, I asked a member of my own Form who had been a bit dubious about going at first, and he said that now he would not miss one for anything.

It all began one Saturday evening after a so-called dance had been arranged. The girls, it seemed, had asked for this dance, and (as girls always manage to get what they ask for) they got it. The boys turned up in force, knowing full well that there would be no "dancing" where they were concerned. They secretly hoped that the other boys would take the initiative and dance properly in order to cover their own amateurishness.

"Out on the dance floor nothing stirred." That describes the scene for the first two or three dances. One or two girls decided to dance together, but that was all. At length, two or three boys—I will mention no names—decided to try their luck; and soon, inspired and assured by their comrades, the rest followed suit. No proper dancing was seen that evening except from several girls who danced together. Afterwards, the boys decided that something ought to be done about it, and approached Mr. Bagley with a view to his giving dancing lessons.

With the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. Bagley the boys proceeded to intrigue themselves in the arts of dancing. Various steps were demonstrated by the tutors and practised by the boys. Here I must say a word for the partners. Most of them could dance, but

from the beginning they took on the task assigned to them with never a murmur of protest, putting on a cheerful face instead. Treading on toes was rather frequent, and some of the partners must have returned to billets with sore feet.

The Palais Glide was a simple dance, but an old-fashioned waltz was rather difficult. The waltz, fox-trot and quick-step were the chief dances learnt. One week one dance was learnt, and the next week the steps were taken through again to refresh memories and another dance learnt.

That was the practical side of the dancing lessons, but what about the financial side? Mr. Bagley suggested that each week everyone should pay a small sum as means permitted. This idea was readily accepted by all, and the proceeds went to buy new dance records, of which the School had very few at the time. The dancers elected two people, O. Schofield and Daphne Finch, who were to buy the records.

To finish, I should like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Bagley, who have been most patient in making the arrangements and teaching the steps. I am sure also, that my fellow dancers would like to thank O. Schofield, who looked after the records and operated the radiogram for us.

F.F.

POETS' CORNER

ENGLAND

England is our native land,
Famed for the true and free,
Its valiant forces guard its shores,
Our Navy rules the sea.

The enemy with cunning greed
Looks on with envious eyes;
This land would just supply his need,
For he is "rather" wise.

England! England, for ever free,
Greater and mightier may she be,
Till from all lips of men be heard
The words of Peace proclaimed abroad.

P. GUTSELL.

HOME.

Home of all dear places,
In good old Winchelsea,
Where I shall see the faces
Of those so dear to me.

Winchelsea's an ancient town,
Close to the foaming sea,
Where once the ships of King and Crown
In harbour used to be.

Home near the healthy Sussex Downs,
Where we wander far and free.
How I long to return from the noisy towns
To my home by the rolling sea!

DOREEN STANDEN.

THE AIRCRAFTMAN'S LAMENT.

O, Muvver, this camp is a wonderful site,
With the W.O.'s a-workin' all day and all night.
The Corp'ral, we luv him, the Sergeant is sweet,
And they always escort us along the rough street.
But for all these nice fellows, I'd much rather be
Where the South Downs of Sussex sweep down to the sea.

I'm fed up wiv life here, it's all much too soft,
There's nothing to do when the lads are aloft.
I joined the Royal Air Force to help in defence,
But I daren't grumble now, or they might take offence.
So I'll ask for a discharge—if they don't set me free,
I'll jump off the South Downs and into the sea.

M. KEMPSTER.

SPRING.

Underfoot the buds are peeping through,
Overhead, the birds are telling you
That spring, at last, has really come,
And has brought with it the sun.

Lambs are playing in the field,
The ploughman's busy on the weald,
For the spring has really come,
And it's brought with it the sun.

Gaily are the children singing,
Primroses and violets bringing,
For the spring has really come
And it's brought with it the sun.

PAULINE BAKER.

THE COUNTRYSIDE IN SPRINGTIME.

When the spring comes round once more,
In the country we'll explore
Woods and dells and spinneys green;
Crowds of bluebells will be seen.

Blackbirds in the trees will sing,
Telling all that it is spring.
Lambs about the fields will frisk,
Rabbits to their burrows whisk.

Trees and flowers bud once again,
Freshened by a shower of rain;
And ev'rything has signs to show,
That winter's gone with all its snow.

IRIS LEEDS-GEORGE.

OVERHEARD IN THE EDITORIAL OFFICE

Good-morning everyone. How are you feeling after a night in the shelters?

Miss Fotheringay, roll the blinds up, will you, please?

My word! It's foggy this morning, isn't it? Sorry—my mistake, we must certainly get these windows cleaned.

Perkins, throw the cat out, and let's have some tea. Where's the milk?

Oh! The cat has, has it? Well, throw it out immediately then. That means missing my morning tea again.

Hullo! There's a wasp in here—can you hear it? No! It's the sirens again!

Come along, we must continue work in the cellars.

Miss Fotheringay, carry these books, this typewriter, and these files down into the cellars. Oh—and you'd better carry this chair, the ink and the wastepaper basket while you're about it. Can you manage?

Perkins, carry Miss Fotheringay down into the cellars.

Have you thrown the cat out?

No! Of course I don't mean Miss Fotheringay.

Please don't take offence, Miss Fotheringay. Down into the shelters?

No, I said—all right, never mind, you go downstairs.

Ah! There goes the all-clear, or is— Perkins, get off the cat's tail. There, let me stroke it a minute. Poor little thing—ouch, little beast! Throw it out at once!

Listen! That was a bomb, wasn't it?

Good gracious! Miss Fotheringay's fallen downstairs? Don't stand there gaping, Perkins, go and pick up the typewriter—it's the only one we've got.

Oh! Unconscious is she? Here you are then, here's some brandy—no, better than that, here's a glass, get her some water. Hand me a glass for the brandy, will you? Thank you!

Now then, let's start again. Some of the things are already down the stairs.

Hullo, 'planes overhead. No, it's that cat purring—it's at the milk again. Throw it out *at once*, Perkins!

Ah! the telephone! Hullo, hullo! Yes, this is the Editorial Office here. No, I haven't decided on your article yet. Don't waste my time, I'm busy. Good-bye!

Ah! The all-clear!

OLD SCHOLARS

We note that the following Old Scholars are now serving in H.M. Forces, but unfortunately greater detail is not known: P. W. Baron, L. Butler, Jessie Coley, A. Dunlop, B. Gillman, R. Gall, A. E. Swaine, Beryl Winter, Joan Worsley.

G. S. Braine and P. W. Baron visited us in our new surroundings this term.

We regret that the School Magazine gave that venerable and intellectual organ, "The Old Scholars' News Bulletin," a slight shock, but after seeing the views printed in its own columns we have no doubt that it will recover.

The reason for the change was that in past years editors had allowed the magazine to become so common-place that it was decided that the composition of the Magazine should be revised and radically altered.

Letters have been gratefully received from the following Old Scholars: Kathleen Breeze, Mary Crisford, Anne Eastwood, Veronica Edmiston, Joan Gutsell, Nancy Wyborn, Joan Ashby, W. Dunlop, G. H. Hodson, R. Huxstep, G. Knapp, J. Mewse, A. E. Swaine, Doreen Winter and Myrtle Dabson.

THE EDITORS.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to convey our thanks to those who have so kindly written to us expressing their appreciation of the magazine. These include Miss I. Stenning, L. Perugini, Esq., and G. Tayleur, Esq.

On behalf of the School we should like to thank Mrs. Hacking and Miss Sells who have also written to us during the term.

Old Scholars of Miss Sells will be interested to hear that although she has retired she still marks English Papers for the East Sussex County Council.

THE EDITORS.

TO FRIENDS AND OLD SCHOLARS

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

Write to :—THE EDITORS,

Ixworth Court,

Kimbolton Road,

Bedford, Beds.

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There are still some copies of the *History of Rye Grammar School*, by L. A. Vidler, Esq., for sale. They can be obtained from the Head Master at the above address, and cost 1s. 6d. each.