

# THE STOIC



*Number Fifty-six*

DECEMBER 1941



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THE TEMPLE OF ANCIENT VIRTUE

J.F.R.

# THE STOIC

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## ARMISTICE DAY

ON November 11th, 1941, a short service was held in the chapel and the names of the Old Stoics known to have lost their lives in the war were read out. Before reading the names the Headmaster said:

The Armistice Day of 1940 was the first which touched this school as a school. For no Old Stoic fought in the old war and until the late autumn of 1939 no Old Stoic had fallen in the new war. But on that day—just a year ago—I had to tell you that twenty-two Stoics had then fallen in this new war. Today I have to tell you that the total is now forty-seven, and to those forty-seven of whose death there is no doubt, must be added three who are 'missing' and of whom hope has been almost given up.

These are the men whom we are commemorating today. In commemorating them we are both paying honour to them and expressing gratitude to them.

The honour is due to their courage. We know of their courage because we know their individual records. But even if they were strangers we should have little doubt as to their courage. To lose one's life in war is not certain evidence of courage, but it gives a strong presumption of it. For it is the bravest men who take the most risks. To choose a specially dangerous Service is in itself a brave act, and in any Service the amount of risk that a man takes is to some extent within his own control. It is the man with initiative, it is the man who leads, in fact it is the bravest man that is likely to be killed before the others.

Of such a man it is true to say that he has not only lost his life but given it.

It is true also that he has given it for his country. He has given his life for his country. The phrase is conventional but it is exact. He has given his life because he has willingly risked it, and it is for the country that he has given it because without him and men like him the country cannot be saved. As a great American has said, 'In the crises of a nation's life there is no substitute for heroism.' It is to the heroism of these men and of those like them that this nation will owe its survival.

It is right, therefore, that we should pay honour to them.

It is right too that we should express gratitude to them, because it is a plain fact that if they and many thousands like them had not given their lives, we should by this

time have lost ours, or at least lost everything that makes life good. When one man has received a benefit from another his gratitude may do his benefactor no good. The benefactor may not even be aware of it. But it is right that the gratitude should be expressed, and a decent man is not happy till he has expressed it. We are now expressing our gratitude to those men who have given their lives for their country. We are grateful to them because it is our country as well as theirs and because in giving their lives for it they have in effect given them for us too.

No present member of the school knew personally more than one or two of the men whose names I am going to read. Most of them were unknown to most of you. But there is a reason why among all the young Englishmen who have been killed in this war you should pay special tribute to these fifty. It is that they were Stoics as well as Englishmen. They were Stoics as you are. They were a part of Stowe as you are a part of it. They helped to make the place as you are helping to make it. Their death has impoverished the community to which you and they both belong. November 11th is not only a day of mourning for England. Since November 16th, 1939, when Anthony Vickers was killed, it has been a day of mourning for Stowe also.

And now I will read the names. As you listen remember that these men were only a few years ago ordinary Stoics like yourselves. They worked in your classrooms, lived in your houserooms and studies, played games on the grounds you play on, came to services in this chapel and were, like you, some distinguished and some not. They were ordinary Stoics. Remember too, as you listen, that each of them when he was here was planning a career for himself as most of you are doing now and looking forward to a future of effort and success and happiness. Now they will have no career; there is no future for them now. They have given up not only their lives but all that they might have made of their lives later on.

A poet once said, 'It is sweet and noble to die for one's country.' He was wrong. It is not sweet; it is bitter. But certainly it is noble.

ANTHONY ALBERT VICKERS (C), Royal Air Force.  
 MICHAEL GEORGE SILLS (C), Royal Engineers.  
 JOHN WESTLY BUSK (G), Royal Navy.  
 NIGEL STUART GRAEME (T), Royal Air Force.  
 OLIVER POWELL CROOM-JOHNSON (T), Royal Air Force.  
 MICHAEL GAMMIDGE (G), Royal Warwickshire Regt.  
 EDWARD PERCY REID JOURDAIN, M.C. (C), Royal Sussex Regt.  
 JOHN CUNLIFFE SHAWE (G), Royal Artillery.  
 PETER GAMMIDGE (T), Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.  
 ALEXANDER JOHN STUART BULLER (C), Royal Air Force.  
 PHILIP LISTER INGHAM (W), Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.  
 PETER GORDON KRABBÉ (B), Royal Berkshire Regt.  
 DEREK BARKER (G), Royal Tank Regt.

HAROLD LESLIE ATKIN-BERRY (C), Royal Air Force.  
 HUGH CHRISTOPHER CORBETT (B), Royal Air Force.  
 BRIAN WILLIAM JESSE D'ARCY-IRVINE (C), Royal Air Force.  
 MICHAEL JEBB (C), Royal Air Force.  
 MALCOLM ALEXANDER ROBERT SUTHERLAND (C), Royal Air Force.  
 ANTHONY DRAKE COPLESTONE (C), Royal Air Force.  
 JOHN STUART SIMPSON HUNTER (T), Royal Engineers.  
 PERCY CHAPMAN (C), Royal Air Force.  
 DAVID ALWYNE PEMBERTON, D.F.C. (G), Royal Air Force.  
 PATRICK ANTHONY CHAMIER (C), Royal Air Force.  
 HUGH JOHN MACLIESH (C), The King's Own Royal Regt.  
 JOHN CHARLES DUNDAS, D.F.C. and Bar (C), Royal Air Force.  
 RICHARD MOWBRAY SPENCER (W), Royal Air Force.  
 ANCHITEL FLEETWOOD ASHBURNHAM (C), Royal Army Service Corps.  
 LAWRENCE LEE PYMAN (G), Royal Air Force.  
 ROBERT JAMES MEAD (C), Fleet Air Arm.  
 DESMOND ERNEST CROSBIE TRENCH (C), Royal Air Force.  
 SIDNEY FREDERICK FARQUHAR JOHNSON (C), Royal Air Force.  
 LESLIE HARFORD ASHCROFT THOMPSON (G), Scottish Rifles.  
 JOHN MANSEL-LEWIS (G), Royal Air Force.  
 CHARLES EDWARD RICHARD SIDEBOTHAM (C), Royal Air Force.  
 RICHARD HUGH JAGGER (C), Royal Air Force.  
 DEREK HERBERT IREDALE SEARLE (T), Royal Army Service Corps.  
 JULIEN WALTER LOWNDES BRUXNER-RANDALL (G), Royal Air Force.  
 JOHN PERCY DEVAYNE GETHIN, D.F.C. (T), Royal Air Force.  
 IAN DONALD WILLIAM MCEWEN (T), Scots Guards.  
 JULIAN LLEWELLEN PALMER, M.C. (C), Coldstream Guards.  
 DAVID MALCOLM BOLTON (C), Royal Air Force.  
 JOHN MICHAEL HUGILL (C), Intelligence Corps.  
 ANTHONY WILLIAM GENTH (T), Royal Air Force.  
 RICHARD ALGERNON FREDERICK HANBURY-TRACY (The Lord SUDELEY) (C), Royal Horse Guards.  
 PETER WRIGHT (G), Royal Engineers.  
 JOHN WILLIAM VICTOR SHAND KYDD (C), Royal Air Force.  
 GEORGE ROBERT COLVIN ATWOOD (B), Royal Artillery.

*For purposes of record the short address given by the Headmaster on November 10th 1940 is here reprinted.*

Tomorrow is November 11th and in all Churches today there will be services appropriate to Armistice Day. The two principal ideas which we usually have in mind on Armistice Day are Remembrance and Dedication—remembrance of the dead and dedication of ourselves. This morning we shall think of Remembrance and this evening we shall think of Dedication.

Until recently the remembrance side of Armistice Day has had no significance for this school as a school. It has had significance for us as Englishmen but not as Stoics. No member of the school lost his life in the last war. Indeed it was to serve the post-war world that the School was founded five years after the war had ended.

But by last November there had come a change. The world we were founded to serve had gone for ever, the work done by the men of 1914-18 had been undone and the young men of the new generation were preparing to do it again. But still we as a school had not suffered loss. Stowe had no Stoics to commemorate. That is no longer so. This year there has been for us a greater change. Armistice Day has now, and after this will always have, a meaning for us as Stoics and not only as Englishmen. This year we are commemorating our own people. We are commemorating men who a year or two ago were boys in this school. A year or two ago they were singing in these chapel services of ours; they were going to Assembly in the mornings and working in the classrooms or the laboratories and playing games on the Bourbon and watching matches or playing in them and doing all the things that you do today. And now they are dead—we shall not see them again. Some on land, some at sea, some in the air, they have laid down their lives for this country and for us. The list so far contains twenty-two names (eight on land, three at sea, eleven in the air). It must soon contain many more.

So in our service this morning we shall as Englishmen commemorate all who have fallen since 1914, but as Stoics we shall remember especially the 22 men from Stowe who have fallen in these last few months. And year after year, if God spare the school, they will be remembered in this chapel—remembered with gratitude and with pride. I will ask you to think of them now, and as a mark of our thought of them we will stand for a moment in silence before the service begins.

*The Headmaster's address for 1939 appeared in "The Stoic" No. 50.*

## DECORATIONS

The following awards have been won by Old Stoics in addition to the thirty-one already listed.

### D.S.O.

CAPTAIN (temp. Major) T. A. G. PRITCHARD (T, 1929), Royal Welch Fusiliers, in November, 1941.

### BAR TO M.C.

LIEUTENANT C. T. LLEWELLEN PALMER, M.C. (C, 1935), 7th Hussars, R.A.C., in July 1941.

### M.C.

LIEUTENANT (temp. Capt.) D. H. A. KEMBLE (T, 1930), The Scots Guards, in October 1941.

LIEUTENANT (temp. Capt.) J. R. C. WHITE (C, 1935), R.A.

" Captain White was in command of a troop of anti-tank guns supporting two forward companies of Coldstream Guards, near Halfaya Pass, on May 26th.

" Defying heavy enemy fire, he continually crossed the two thousand yards of front to control his sections.

" Then, in the actual withdrawal, he held his position until the last moment to help infantry men back.

" He undoubtedly saved many Guardsmen from being captured or becoming casualties."

### D.F.C.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT R. G. WILBERFORCE (C, 1930), R.A.F.V.R., in November, 1941.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT A. C. GODFREY (G, 1932), R.A.F., in August 1941.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT H. S. L. DUNDAS (W, 1938), R.A.F., in July 1941.

### MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

P. M. G. LLEWELLEN PALMER (C, 1928), 10th Royal Hussars, in August 1941.

## CASUALTIES

## KILLED OR DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

- MAJOR THE LORD SUDELEY (C, 1927), The Royal Horse Guards, in August 1941. (Died at sea.)
- CAPTAIN D. S. CAMPKIN (C, 1931), Intelligence Corps, in August 1941. (Died suddenly.)
- PILOT-OFFICER A. W. GENTH (T, 1932), R.A.F.V.R., in August 1941.
- MAJOR M. S. BARKER, (C, 1932), 12th Royal Lancers, in November 1941. (Died.)
- SECOND LIEUTENANT M. LUXMOORE (B, 1935), R.A., in May 1940. (Previously reported Missing).
- SECOND LIEUTENANT P. WRIGHT (G, 1937), R.E., in August 1941. (Died in hospital.)
- MR. G. R. C. ATTWOOD (B, 1938), R.A., in October 1941.
- LIEUTENANT J. M. HUGILL (C, 1934), Intelligence Corps, in July 1941. (As the result of an accident.)
- SUB-LIEUTENANT P. R. CASSELS (C, 1938), Fleet Air Arm, in November 1941.
- LEADING AIRCRAFTMAN J. W. V. SHAND KYDD (C, 1940), R.A.F.V.R., in September 1941.

## PRISONERS OF WAR.

- LIEUTENANT J. J. HARTLAND-SWANN (B, 1925), R.A.S.C., in September 1941.
- PILOT-OFFICER J. W. BEST (G, 1930), R.A.F.V.R., in August 1941.
- WING-COMMANDER J. R. KAYLL, D.S.O., D.F.C. (G, 1931), R.A.F., in July 1941.
- CAPTAIN A. T. BARDWELL (C, 1933), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, in September 1941. (Previously reported Missing).
- SERGEANT J. G. WRIGHT (G, 1934), R.A.F.V.R., in October 1941.
- CAPTAIN G. A. DICK-LAUDER (C, 1935), The Black Watch, in September 1941.
- SECOND LIEUTENANT J. O. N. VICKERS (C, 1935), R.A.S.C., in September 1941.
- FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT C. C. CHESHIRE (C, 1937), R.A.F.V.R., in September 1941.
- SECOND LIEUTENANT K. J. S. RITCHIE (T, 1938), Durham Light Infantry, in July 1941. (Italy.)

## PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING, NOW KNOWN TO BE SAFE.

- ACTING FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT R. G. A. BARCLAY, D.F.C. (B, 1938), R.A.F.V.R. (November 1941.)

## CHARLES RICHARD SPENCER

The tragic death of C. R. Spencer will have come as a blow to very many Stoics of the 20's, as well as to most of those who were members of the staff in those experimental years. I suppose that nearly all of them would agree that he was the most vigorous and exciting of the masters then at the school. His violent and strenuous manner naturally did not endear him to all he came in contact with, but his frank enthusiasm and his warm-hearted sincerity won him countless staunch friends and admirers. He was interesting, approachable and sympathetic; he respected the individuality of the boys he taught; in fact, he had the first and most important qualities of the successful schoolmaster. That he had also certain defects he himself knew better than anyone; "I'm rebellious and far too casual," he once wrote; and again, "There's no doubt that I'm didactic to my finger-tips, a horrid quality." In one letter he put the case with devastating frankness, in words that in fact describe a great many school masters but scarcely himself: "I am fed up with myself because I teach without knowing anything, without knowing how to teach, without knowing anything about the minds of the boys I teach, without knowing anything about the world so as to know what ought to be taught." This was no doubt written in one of those moods of depression that in spite of his usual vitality and enthusiasm occasionally attacked him. But he had the courage of his convictions, for after some years of successful work at Stowe he did in fact go to spend two years at the London Day Training College "learning how to teach."

Actually, I suppose anyone who spent a year in Lower V (B) under him would class him as "a very superior teacher." Certainly he took endless trouble thinking out what to teach his form, and how best to present it. If he sometimes became overwhelmed by the accumulation of uncorrected exercises that lay on his table, it is still true to say that energy and thoroughness were the key-notes of his attitude towards teaching his form, as indeed to all his school work. I have a heap of letters dealing in detail with forthcoming General Papers that he was responsible for; others are concerned with courses of lectures to be given by people from outside, with a careful balancing of subjects and a discussion of the question whether the boys should take notes and if so of what kind. The same anxiety over both principle and detail marked conversations I had with him many years later when he talked of the teaching of his boys at Lawrenceville, New Jersey.

He was as stimulating a companion as he was a teacher. Time spent in his company was never dull. He had the widest interests; perhaps it would be a just criticism to say that they were too wide and that he tended to dissipate his energy in too many directions. He was a natural games player, outstanding at Rugger and Cricket; he was above the average at bridge, and he constantly lamented the hours he wasted at the billiard table. He was a keen painter, and he once surprised me by announcing in a letter, "I am in the middle of composing a sonata (that is to say one movement is finished) which sounds to me more intolerable every time I stumble through it." If he was primarily an English expert, he never lost his love for the Classics, and a Hellenic Tour made a deep impression on him; he wrote a characteristically laconic description:—"Glorious time in Greece. Went to bed each night at

2.0 a.m.—got up many mornings at 5.0 a.m. to see Stromboli or dawn at Constantinople—a week more of it and I should have had a breakdown—fell deeply in love (as always on a ship—remember?) but am heart-whole again, thank goodness—sailed across the Bosphorus in an 8-metre racing yacht and travelled extensively in Asia for 20 minutes—saw many delightful things—and altogether had a charming time. Discovered that they teach you an awful lot of rot about the Classics at school and university—very little sense of proportion in it.” At Lawrenceville he specialized in History. But his main love was the Philosophy of Education, and he was never tired of talking of the aims and methods of school-mastery. For years he worked on a scheme for a super-Public-School, and he once came within an ace of putting some of his ideas into practice, when he was offered the Headship of a new Public School in Iraq, though at the last minute the arrangements fell through and he went to the United States as a Commonwealth Fellow instead.

Throughout his life he was inspired by a divine discontent. He once pointed out to me that one of the best qualities of the average American was his dissatisfaction with things as they are and his determination to better them. This was one of the finest sides of his own character. But he carried it, perhaps, to excess. For he would never be content to work to an established routine, or to allow that what should be altered should not necessarily be altered at once and completely. Whether it was some point of organization at Stowe, or of method at Lawrenceville, or the policy of the B.B.C., or, in the last months, the red tape that hedged him around in the Army, he was all for a root and branch operation that would clear away the obstacles, regardless of the strength of tradition or the opposition of public opinion or private prejudice. He was himself, in his calmer moments, aware that he was too impatient of restraints and had too little sympathy with those who believed in gradualness; he saw what he thought right with too fierce and logical a clarity to allow himself to be convinced that what he wanted might be more effectively attained by a slower and more roundabout approach. This impatience, naturally, but unfortunately, had an adverse effect on his career. We were sorry, but not surprised, to hear from time to time that he had thrown up a job or expressed his views so indiscreetly that his services were dispensed with. There were few institutions tolerant enough to give him the rope he needed; it is to the credit of Stowe and of a wise Head Master that he stayed here far longer than in any subsequent job.

He was an engaging and entertaining correspondent, though a highly irregular one. Just as he would descend on us in person after a lapse of years and pick up the threads of intimacy in a few minutes, he would launch a letter describing some piquant scene that had taken his fancy or expounding some brilliant new panacea for the world's ills as if he had been talking to us the day before, though it might have been years since we had seen or heard from him. I saw him three times in America four years ago, and each time he took up the running on the old familiar footing, just as we might have continued a conversation in the Common Room at Stowe that had been begun a few minutes before at the dinner table. I recall a brilliant description he sent from America of an evening at a Chinese theatre in Los Angeles, another of his arrival by car at the North British Hotel in Edinburgh, and another of a Progressive School in Chicago. Doubtless others will recall similar jeux d'esprits. I find the following in a letter from Cardiff when his family had gone to Italy and left him alone in the house:—“It makes me laugh to think that two poor serving girls have for the next three weeks no other purpose than to attend to my wants, but I am obviously expected to behave lordlily and maintain the solemn social farce. They compel me to give

orders, treat my remarks as a condescension and so to some extent govern me.” Then, with a characteristic twist, “I wonder if Heckstall would solve the situation.”

His readiness to laugh at himself and his deep humility were among his most endearing qualities. He had the happy knack of pandering to our good opinion of ourselves by asking our advice and of making it seem while he talked to us as if we were the people above all whose judgment he wanted to have. Though he might seem on the surface almost ruthlessly self-confident, at heart he was, I think, never quite sure of himself and he really valued the opinion of the very ordinary people to whom he paid the compliment of asking their advice. At the same time, these interviews usually developed into a monologue, in which his alert brain played around with arguments and objections; nevertheless, they may perhaps have attained their object if the second party to them assumed the rôle of a patient and sympathetic listener. For it was sympathy and the opportunity of unfolding his mind to another person that he wanted more than advice, and that we were glad enough to be able to give him. His turbulent and restless spirit inspired affection and devotion that no passage of years had power to destroy. And so, though I had not heard a word from him for three years, the news of his death, and the consciousness that he will never again burst in on me like a whirlwind with a plan for being elected President of the United States or send me a letter asking my advice upon four different future careers between which he was undecided, has come as a deeper personal shock than I could have imagined.

The last time I heard of him was from a friend of mine whom we had visited together in Morocco fifteen years ago. He said casually that he had met him in Africa; that he was a very capable officer who gave infinite thought to the welfare of his men. In spite of a slightly military appearance he was anything but cut out for the military life by temperament. Yet it did not surprise me to hear that finding himself an officer he devoted himself to the job with all his might, and I can well believe that the men under his command feel his loss as a keen personal blow. He had courage and gaiety and humour, enthusiasm and determination, a fertile and active mind. He accomplished more than most in the short span of his life; he had no fears for the future and his eager spirit is at rest while we that are left lament his loss. At the risk of triteness I quote a passage that perfectly describes what I believe to have been his attitude to life, and death:—“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”

P.A.B.

Most Stoics of the years 1926-1932 will recognize how true a picture of Charles Spencer P.A.B. has drawn: even some of the present generation will find points of recognition too, for in a recent visit, one week-end last March, his characteristic energy brought him in contact with many members of the school, and such contacts always left a vivid impression. But P.A.B. himself left Stowe in 1928, four years before Spencer; and there remain some things to be added, events that were part of the very life-blood of Stowe's development. One is the production of 'Comus' in the Summer of 1931, which still surely remains the greatest of Stowe's many fine productions. None who saw that performance can forget it; the fine use of the terrain round the Worthies and the entry by water, the carefully studied detail of every phase and possibility, and what the *Stoic* account at the time called the 'astounding effects' of the lighting.

Another memory is the Literary Society, an effort perhaps never equalled in any school at any time. For, within little more than a year, papers were read by John Masfield, Edith Sitwell, Walter de la Mare, Ronald Knox and M. R. Ridley. And even Bernard Shaw vouchsafed a written refusal, as opposed to the usual printed one. And at the same time the Society itself was vitally active, for these star performances were punctuated by much internal production.

Once more, 'Spuggins,' with book in hand, stopping at the door of a strange classroom, going in and holding up his hand. "I'm not taking you, but wait a minute. Just listen to this." And he read the two verses of a poem he had just discovered. Slightly theatrical perhaps, but that is a petty criticism. Who, that heard it, will ever forget that poem? And who, that met him, will forget Charles Spencer?

P.G.H.

#### IN MEMORIAM: C. R. SPENCER

So on a winter day without a cloud—  
for the streamlined wind, leaping over the plain  
from the far hills, battered and broke  
the grey unwieldy skies, and drove  
the last wrack beyond the rim of the sea—  
on this November morning the cold printed word  
told me of your death, and I was sad  
to think how for you the thousand lights of living,  
that glittered like frosty stars in the northern night,  
were blotted out in the monotone of death.

For you entered our lives with the freshness  
of a clean wind that sets the leaves dancing  
and stipples the grey streams with passing  
beauty that never dies, and though the windows,  
where you looked in and smiled, may be closed  
against the business of life and the shadow of age,  
your laughter lingers in the worn pages of books,  
and the pictures on the classroom wall, your bright  
glance illumines the sudden recess of thought  
by the winter fire, when thought was a strange  
adventure into Elysian fields of truth.  
There across the midsummer river you threw  
the magic dust into our eyes, stronger  
than Comus' spells, but not for death.

So, at this moment of your death,  
I do not rebel at the event, but only pray  
that the daemon reminded you of our debt  
outstanding, that none can now repay.

R.A.A.

Ampleforth, November 1941.

## STOICA

*School Officials—Christmas Term, 1941.*

*Prefects*:—J. D. R. Hayward (G), Head of the School; J. S. B. Butler (G); J. E. Murray (B); I. R. Dunnett (G); J. S. M. Ramsay (T); B. N. L. Fletcher (C); H. D. Christie (Q); W. E. Duck (W); D. K. Bewley (T); P. D. Bennett (B); D. A. O. Davies (T); T. H. Barclay (C).

The following visitors have preached in Chapel this term:—

Sunday, November 23rd. The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Croydon.

Sunday, November 30th. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Heywood, Assistant Bishop of Coventry.

On Friday, November 28th, the Bishop of Buckingham confirmed seventy-four members of the School in the Chapel.

During the Summer Holidays a number of members of the School farmed from Stowe. In addition to this, a Forestry Camp, the third of its kind, was held in the neighbourhood of Lake Windermere; and a Farming Camp was held at Rendcomb, near Cirencester.

During this term also there has been some farming. The School's potato crop, on the Bourbon Field, was collected; and a good deal of similar work was done locally for Mr. Tredwell.

At the end of last term, the following masters left to join His Majesty's Forces: Mr. G. G. Gilling-Lax, Mr. A. A. Negus, Mr. E. H. Reynolds, Mr. J. C. Saunders. New members of the Staff are: Mr. J. L. A. B. Davenport, Mr. W. N. U. Dunlop, Mr. J. E. K. Esdaile, Mr. G. Wilson Knight, Miss M. J. Hicks and Miss J. Richardson.

On Thursday, November 20th, the Upper School heard a lecture by Mr. E. D. O'Brien (C, 1928), Director of the Press Department of the British Council.

THE BRUXNER-RANDALL MEMORIAL PRIZE.—This Prize has been founded in memory of Flying Officer Julian Walter Lowndes Bruxner-Randall, R.A.F., who was in Grenville House from September 1934 until December 1938, and who passed First into the R.A.F. College, Cranwell, being awarded the First Prize Cadetship. He was killed on Active Service in May 1941.

The Prize will be awarded each July to the best monitor of the year, the selection being made by a vote of all the monitors. Prefects will be neither eligible for the Prize nor entitled to vote.

The Prize will be of the annual value of £10, half of which the winner will be required to spend upon books in the School Prize binding. The other half he will be entitled to spend in any way approved by the Headmaster-for-the-time-being.

The first award will be made in July 1942.

Sir Henry White-Smith, C.B.E., has founded a Prize to record the school careers of his two sons Ian Kirkpatrick White-Smith (B, 1931-6) and Roger Henry White-Smith (B, 1938-41) and his own interest in the Aircraft Industry. It will be of the annual value of £8 and it will be awarded each Summer for activities in connection with aviation.

Two fine Dresden China Groups, which were originally at Stowe but were sold in 1921, have been returned to the School through the generosity of Mr. Kenneth Adams, Secretary to the Governing Body. They have been placed on the mantelpiece at the east end of the Library.

Aeroplane experts from Stowe are now helping with the work of the Buckingham Post of the Royal Observer Corps. They do, between them, about twenty hours duty each week.

Medical examination results since July have been as follows:—

Cambridge, 1st M.B. Part II: P. D. Bennett (B).

Oxford, Preliminary Examination in Natural Sciences. Biology: J. E. Hodgkin (C).

Football Colours have been awarded this term as follows:—

1st XV:—J. W. Cornforth (G), D. L. Vere Hodge (G), T. G. Hcron (B), W. M. Savery (W), D. A. S. Gordon (W), D. W. N. Calderwood (G), T. S. A. Lack (G), I. A. P. Rumsey (G), S. C. Lloyd (B), J. D. R. Hayward (G).

2nd XV:—J. D. R. Hayward (G), A. R. Barrowclough (G), D. W. N. Calderwood (G), D. A. O. Davies (T), D. L. Donne (G), R. Fleming (C), T. S. A. Lack (G), S. C. Lloyd (B), I. A. P. Rumsey (G), R. E. Wordley (C), J. M. Connell (G), N. W. Riley (B), M. H. A. Robinson (W), R. T. F. Larsen (G), R. E. Hodgkin (C).

3rd XV:—N. W. Riley (B), M. H. A. Robinson (W), R. T. F. Larsen (G), R. E. Hodgkin (C), H. J. H. Nelson (G), A. J. Manley (T), M. A. Marshall (C), H. B. G. Epps (T), G. D. Wauhope (C), J. M. Burt (C), B. N. L. Fletcher (C), P. R. A. H. Billinge (C), A. N. C. Bruce (B), H. E. McCready (G), C. E. Guinness (C), D. G. Champion (W), J. C. Farmer (W), R. A. Gilliland (W), R. D. R. Lycett-Green (T), C. M. Campbell (W).

Colts:—J. B. A. Kessler (B), F. I. Watson (G), N. C. S. Barling (G), R. H. M. Pease (G), M. S. Withers (G), G. W. Hawkings (C).

## CERTIFICATES

As a result of the July Examination this year, the following obtained Certificates.

### HIGHER CERTIFICATES.

#### *Oxford and Cambridge Board.*

C. R. P. Anstey (C), B. R. Armstrong (W), M. C. Ashworth (W), R. H. F. Barker (C), A. R. Barrowclough (G), P. D. Bennett (B), E. M. M. Besterman (W), D. K. Bewley (T), K. T. Boyd (C), J. M. Budden (W), J. P. Burman (G), J. S. B. Butler (G), J. D. S. Cable (C), P. Campbell-Cooke (C), H. D. Christie (C), J. E. Colbeck (T), J. W. Cornforth (G), C. F. Cullis (W), J. K. Daniel (G), D. A. O. Davies (T), R. F. C. Davis (T), W. E. Duck (W), D. A. S. Gordon (W), F. W. E. Groeninx van Zoelen (C), J. W. Harland (C), P. W. Harvey (G), J. D. R. Hayward (G), B. Henshaw (C), P. C. Holden (B), J. S. Hollings (T), R. C. Hurley (C), A. B. Hutchison (G), R. Q. H. Jaggard (G), A. A. N. Kurk (G), M. Lloyd (C), J. A. Lucey (C), J. D. Milne (C), J. E. Murray (B), A. C. R. Newbery (G), A. D. Page (C), J. P. Pettavel (W), J. L. Pring (B), J. D. Proctor (C), J. S. M. Ramsay (T), H. W. Sansom (B), J. C. Simopoulos (G), R. A. Soames (C), R. R. Thompson (W), P. R. Toovey (C), J. F. Tuohy (T), D. C. Wallace (C), J. A. Walters (C), P. M. Ward (T).

#### *Northern Universities Board.*

P. J. Davies (T), J. L. Griffith (G), G. H. Johnson (C), R. B. Lodge (W), T. M. Pragnell (G), D. L. Vere Hodge (G).

### SCHOOL CERTIFICATES.

#### *Oxford and Cambridge Board.*

P. A. G. Acke (C), G. A. Alder (C), M. C. Bagshawe (B), St. J. C. Bally (C), D. R. Blundell (G), R. P. Bourdon Smith (G), R. M. W. Busk (G), I. G. Butler (G), D. W. N. Calderwood (G), Lord Calthorpe (W), J. G. Cameron (C), C. M. Campbell (W), D. G. Champion (W), J. I. G. Capadose (T), J. G. B. Chester (B), P. C. Clay (G), J. G. A. S. Clendenin (B), J. F. Cullis (W), H. F. Deakin (W), D. L. Donne (G), R. W. J. Duff (C), D. B. Eaglesfield (T), I. R. Erhardt (C), J. C. Farmer (W), E. B. Farrar (G), D. G. Forsyth (G), J. O. Gibson (W), W. N. Gilchrist (B), P. M. B. Greenall (C), C. H. W. Griffith (T), R. A. Guinness (C), J. A. Hamilton (C), E. A. Harding (B), J. L. Harrington (G), J. S. Hillyer (G), R. M. Hippiusley-Cox (C), G. G. Imrie (G), J. E. M. Irvine (T), J. L. H. Keep (C), J. E. C. Kennon (G), J. B. A. Kessler (B), J. G. C. Knight (G), R. T. F. Larsen (G), A. C. L. Lewisohn (C), A. R. Lucas (B), R. I. Maitland (C), W. R. Mallory (C), A. J. Manley (T), A. B. Marsden-Smedley (W), I. R. McDonald (C), G. W. McKelvie (W), H. J. M. Molloy (C), B. K. Montgomery (G), A. W. Mosselmans (C), J. W. Myers (C), D. V. Palmer (C), D. L. Pike (G), J. B. Pollock (B), A. M. Quinton (T), P. W. I. Rees (T), R. D. C. Reynolds (B), M. H. A. Robinson (W), G. C. Rogers (W), I. A. P. Rumsey (G), R. J. Sanders (G), W. H. N. Saunders (W), R. M. Sayer (B), M. E. B. Scott (T), R. M. Sellers (W), J. A. Shepherd-Barron (W), P. H. Slater (C), J. O. Stanley (B), D. E. Steer (B), M. B. Stevenson (G), W. H. Struthers (C), W. M. W. Thomas (C), P. C. Wason (W), A. J. Wells (C), M. Wornum (W), J. G. O. W. Yerburgh (B), R. A. Yule (B).



## OLIM ALUMNI

## ACADEMIC

MR. M. L. GRAEME (T, 1938) has been awarded the Devitt Pendlebury Entrance Scholarship to St. George's Hospital.

MR. P. R. WESTALL (C, 1938) has been awarded the Combined Hospitals University Entrance Scholarship to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

## ATHLETIC

MR. R. H. MARTEN (G, 1939) is captain of the Oxford University Squash Rackets team this term.

In the match between a Guards' XV and Cambridge University, played on November 5th, MR. P. R. H. HASTINGS (T, 1939) scored a try for the Guards and MR. A. D. THOMSON (C, 1941) scored the only try for the University.

MR. E. P. HICKLING (C, 1941), playing for the South Public Schools on August 30th, made 27 runs in a sixth wicket partnership of 45 compiled in twenty minutes.

MR. P. C. HOLDEN (B, 1941) won the Three Miles in the Cambridge University Seniors and Freshmen's Sports. His time was 16 mins. 34.2 secs.

## MARRIAGES

MR. J. E. MARTENS (T, 1926) to Miss D. E. M. Shanks, on August 9th.

SIR NOEL DRYDEN, Bart. (C, 1929) to Miss R. Scrope, on August 22nd.

MR. R. E. BLANDFORD (C, 1930) to Miss D. K. King, on July 13th, 1940.

SQUADRON-LEADER G. A. L. CHEATLE (C, 1931), R.A.F., to Miss A. Murray, on January 13th.

CAPTAIN J. E. L. CORBYN, M.C. (T, 1931), Lancashire Fusiliers, to Miss C. Musgrave-Thomas, on August 5th. (At Nairobi.)

CAPTAIN J. N. EDDY (G, 1931), R.N., to Miss N. I. Craydon, on September 17th, 1938.

MR. P. G. H. GELL, M.B. (T, 1932) to Miss A. S. R. Gordon, on July 5th. (Correction).

MR. M. E. CHAPMAN (C, 1933) to Miss B. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, on September 13th.

CAPTAIN P. R. A. FORBES (G, 1933), Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, to Miss H. C. Mac-Glashan, on October 22nd.

SERGEANT-PILOT THE HON. G. C. A. VANNECK (B, 1933), R.A.F.V.R., to Miss J. L. Errington, on October 22nd.

CAPTAIN A. A. HAWKER (C, 1933), R.A., to Miss E. F. Houstoun-Boswall, on December 6th.

MR. P. G. E. DAVIES (B, 1934) to Miss J. Dorian-Evans, on August 6th, 1938.

LIEUTENANT K. FIRTH (C, 1934), R.N.V.R., to Miss C. D. Latimer, on October 18th.

CAPTAIN A. E. JAMES (G, 1934), The Worcestershire Regiment, to Miss S. M. Beddows, on September 20th.

SERGEANT J. G. WRIGHT (G, 1934), R.A.F., to Miss D. Bestall, on October 12th, 1940.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT G. L. CHESHIRE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (C, 1935), R.A.F., to Miss C. Binnie, on July 15th. (In New York.)

DR. A. E. DE LA T. MALLETT (B, 1935) to Miss E. Henderson, on August 16th.

SECOND LIEUTENANT K. G. RICE (C, 1936), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, to Miss R. B. Robinson, on November 23rd, 1940.

MR. F. J. DURIE (C, 1938), R.A., to Miss D. D. Cory, on August 27th.

## BIRTHS

To the wife of MR. B. C. H. MOWBRAY (T, 1926), The Scots Guards, a daughter, on July 12th.

To the wife of MR. R. C. R. CLARKE (G, 1929), a daughter, on August 28th.

To the wife of WING-COMMANDER G. L. S. GRIFFITH JONES (C, 1929), R.A.F., a son, on September 19th.

To the wife of MR. E. D. O'BRIEN (C, 1928), a daughter, on August 8th.

To the wife of MR. D. DE S. BARROW (C, 1929), a daughter, in November 1940.

To the wife of CAPTAIN R. H. CALVERT (G, 1929), Royal Corps of Signals, a daughter, on October 7th.

To the wife of CAPTAIN J. N. EDDY (G, 1931), R.N., a son, on July 3rd, 1939.

To the wife of MR. T. Q. ANNAN (T, 1931), a daughter, on November 28th.

To the wife of FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT P. G. AGNEW (C, 1932), R.A.F.V.R., a son, on August 19th.

To the wife of PILOT-OFFICER C. G. WALTON (G, 1932), R.A.F.V.R., a daughter, on September 5th.

To the wife of MR. P. C. HALL (G, 1933), a son, on September 13th.

To the wife of CAPTAIN P. L. SHERWOOD (B, 1933), Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, a son, on October 27th.

To the wife of CAPTAIN F. A. H. LING (B, 1933), Queen's Royal Regiment, a son, on September 18th.

To the wife of LIEUTENANT J. M. REAY-SMITH (C, 1933), R.A., a son, on November 24th.

To the wife of LORD NEWTOWN-BUTLER (T, 1934), Leicestershire Yeomanry, a daughter, on August 15th.

To the wife of MR. P. G. E. DAVIES (B, 1934), a daughter, on July 30th, 1939.

To the wife of LIEUTENANT J. B. DA SILVA (T, 1935), Intelligence Corps, a daughter, on August 6th.

To the wife of FLYING-OFFICER R. A. V. GASCOYNE-CECIL (C, 1935), R.A.F.V.R., a son, on October 19th.

To the wife of SECOND LIEUTENANT J. T. McK. ANDERSON (C, 1936), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, a daughter, on July 22nd.

To the wife of SUB-LIEUTENANT T. L. CROOKSTON (C, 1936), R.N., a son, on June 18th.

To the wife of LIEUTENANT A. B. McG. HOUSTON (C, 1936), R.E., a daughter, on October 26th.

## EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM OLD STOICS IN THE SERVICES

### DESERT H.Q.

"Life at G.H.Q. is a near approach to civilian life. One is the complete civil servant—regular office hours, a house to live in and games in the evening.

"The work is remarkably informal, each department being on Christian-name terms with all the others. Even the most senior officers have a touch of youthful initiative about them, which I can only attribute to the wearing of shorts. One cannot be pompous in shorts.

"Most of the British women here are working for us. Wives of Generals take instructions from Subalterns during office hours, and then invite them home to dinner. My own typist is in peace-time the able Foreign Correspondent of a London daily paper. Needless to say I allow her to do my work for me! . . .

" . . . Besides being the world's greatest expert on desert fighting, my Chief is in my opinion a master of the English language. His Orders of the Day and his messages on special occasions will live with the speeches of Winston Churchill.

"One or two new points have become clear to me of late. First, only a fool destroys aeroplanes in the air. It is far more effective and far cheaper to machine-gun and bomb them on the ground. Secondly, no Army has yet learned how to withdraw a mechanized force as fast as a mechanized enemy relying on captured dumps can advance. The result is the more you advance the easier it becomes to do so . . .

" . . . In 'tank country' one fights naval battles, in which the ground covered or the number of men engaged is of no importance compared with the destruction of enemy 'units.' To destroy (or lose) a tank is like destroying (or losing) a ship."

### A LUCKY ESCAPE.

"We had been over to Holland doing the usual stunt, but on the return journey the Observer was continually being violently ill (for the first time in his flying experience) which rather messed things up—both our course and his cockpit! The main trouble was that we kept on seeing queer pieces of Coast all the wrong way round, which turned out later to be thick cloud at 100 ft., although we were flying in a clear sky. After six hours up, of which we had spent 2½ looking for land, we got the necessary D.F. bearings and got below the cloud. We were trying to get into another aerodrome but did not quite know where it was, when we hit the sea with the port wing on a turn. Any other aircraft would have sunk immediately, I think, but the Swordfish stayed on the surface just long enough for us to get into the dinghy, which the Observer managed to turn over while embarking. This made our rockets unobtainable as they were now underneath, where the wretched Observer had been some moments before! It was the altimeter which had wronged us, as the pressure on this side had changed enormously since we took off. It was somehow a natural instinct to look at it when we did 'hit the drink' and there it was calmly registering 400ft. above sea level. We drifted along for a while and were making a lovely course for the middle of the North Sea, thanks to the prevailing off-shore breezes at night in this country. We went to sleep for an hour, which is fatal as a general rule, but although it was raining hard and the rubber dinghy shipping water, natural impulses overcame wisdom. We luckily passed a drifter (which we discovered later was taking a night off from invasion patrol on its own accord) and after much shouting attracted attention and were picked up."

### CRETE.

"The real party started on May 20th at about two in the afternoon. The bombers came in waves of 100 to 200 at a time and kept it up for a couple of hours. They were terribly noisy about it all—screaming bombs and screaming planes and all the rest of the Nazi stuff. Thinking about it all afterwards I came to the conclusion that I wasn't frightened. I was quite pleased about this as I had had a horrible feeling that I might be. After the bombing, which stopped very suddenly indeed, the troop-carrying planes began to arrive. I then went to the H.Q. ob-



Photos by

POTATO-GATHERING ON THE BOURBON

J.F.R.



TOP AND LOP



Photos by]

DUST AND ASHES

[J.F.R.

ervation post, which was a place built up in the rocks and fairly well sand-bagged. The Huns dropped three main bodies of troops, one lot to capture the aerodrome, one the town and one the harbour. They made the very grave mistake of thinking that there was only one Battalion in the area. Prisoners later told us that the whole job was to be done in 40 minutes.

"After I had been in the O.P. for a bit and got my bearing I became simply thrilled with it all. They landed about three hundred men within a couple of hundred yards of the O.P. I should have told you before that the O.P. (observation post) was on a ridge about 100 feet high. Anyway, as the Boche came down we had a simply excellent shoot. I claim three of them to my own gun, and I may say have no regrets, after what they did later on. Very few of this lot lived to hit the deck. We shot down about 15 planes in flames and some of the swine got roasted. I saw one man hanging by his parachute from the tail of the plane as it crashed. Another got cut off from his chute by the following plane.

"After they finished landing their men we had a real good battle. Needless to say we killed quite a large number of them before they could get organized. Unfortunately they got some of us, including my best friend in the regiment. He was the carrier officer and had gone out to fetch in a wounded man, and so you will understand why I'm not sorry at having shot three of them. He was worth the whole lot of them put together.

"I think the most amazing thing I saw was a small field gun coming down on four parachutes. I may say the Boche never used it against us but we did against them. The battle went on until dusk and then all through the night there were bursts of machine gun fire and flares and things.

The next morning the Boche planes were over at dawn to see their chaps. I don't think they can have found things to be quite so satisfactory as they had hoped, because they bombed us all day. It was a complete bus service. The planes arrived in relays and kept it up from dawn till dusk. They had an awful habit of turning right over the top of the O.P. It began to be a bit annoying as we had to crouch down and then bob up all day long. There was a good deal of machine gunning from the air of course too.

"They dropped a lot of supplies to their troops too. We captured a lot of these, which included machine guns, food, medical equipment, etc. This went on for several days and then they played a typical German trick. They sent in an ultimatum under a white flag saying that unless the Greeks packed up they would bomb Heraklion flat. They gave them a taste of it that afternoon but really got to work next day. They bombed it from two till six, and then there was just nothing left. It was a town about the size of Godalming. I didn't see a whole building left in the place."

## GREECE.

"We have just come out of Greece after breezing about there for a few weeks.

"We arrived there in the middle of March after a fairly hectic crossing from Egypt in a Greek tub; it was pretty rough. 48 hours after landing we started a four-day drive up north, finally resting near a place called Skydra. There we started to prepare defensive positions, expecting Jerry to cross the frontier any day. When he did advance we moved into position with every confidence of doing our job well . . . that was to delay the enemy and then withdraw behind the main defensive line which would then have had time to be prepared fully. However, before we saw the enemy, we were whisked off to new positions fifty miles away, which we did by night over murderous mountain passes, arriving about 4 o'clock in the morning. Hasty positions on a steep rocky mountain-side, overlooking the Florina gap, were taken up, the enemy being expected at dawn. I, however, was sent 10 miles back with the vehicles. That day I spent straightening things out with the transport and rejoined the company the next day. Jerry had not come yet.

"We had been able to do some digging and had our first real experience of the discomforts of war, sleeping with one blanket in a hole in the hillside. However, everyone was in good spirits, if a little tense.

"The next day it began to get very cold indeed. In the evening a Bosche tank rumbled up and was blown to bits on one of our mines; another following was disabled. Things began flying about a bit and we had our first experience of the German mentality. One of the crew of a tank climbed out and advanced, shouting "Kamerad." He then fired on an officer and two men who were about to take him prisoner.

"Firing quietened down and stopped till dawn, when things opened out again. We found several enemy machine-gun posts dug in about 600 yards in front of us and they proceeded to expend thousands of rounds of ammunition on our positions with very, very little effect—except that it prevented us from walking about much in the open. In the afternoon snow began to fall. It melted in the trenches and in the holes. My boots were literally full of water from this

time on for three days. We had rather a lot of other things to think about at the time, but it seems amazing now that the whole regiment weren't incapacitated—though we knew that it was far worse in the last war.

"Early the next morning all Seconds-in-Command of companies were sent off to reconnoitre new positions to withdraw to. We were only meant to hold on for a little as a delaying action and we had already caused a great number of casualties amongst the enemy with almost none to ourselves. The actual withdrawal was pretty unpleasant, and one of the officers in the company was wounded and a few men, but we have to thank our gunners for a deuce of a lot: they were absolutely wonderful . . .

" . . . In the end we got back behind what was supposed to be the main defensive line, expecting a breather for two days. However, the next night we were moved to take up new positions, again to stop a break-through. Company Commanders went on ahead to reconnoitre. We arrived about midday after a pretty rough passage, having had to contend with the Greek Army retreating, fifth-columnists' blocks on the road and sniping, and above all persistent and methodical dive-bombing and machine-gunning . . .

" . . . Soon after this, the real withdrawal began. For a week we were an anti-parachutist unit. Then it was confirmed that Britain was to evacuate Greece. After various postponements, with the ports out of action, we were ordered to the beaches to be picked up by ships. This was at night, and the beach was like the front of Buckingham Palace on Coronation Day. There were many thousands on that beach, but with two thousand still to embark, we were told:—"No more time for the ships to get away before dawn." Faces fell in the darkness, but our Brigadier, a really first-rate man and soldier, ordered us to some woods nearby, as our only hope, for as soon as dawn would break, reconnaissance planes would be over, as indeed they were. We lay up in the woods all day, all so tired that we slept the whole time, thus making no movement, and by the grace of God were not spotted from the air. We were, however, not sure whether another boat was coming the next night. It did come though, and it was with a sigh of relief almost heavy enough to tip the boats over that we clambered aboard and were carted out to a destroyer, a well-known one which had done the same job at Dunkirk and in Norway."

#### HE GOT HOME.

*(Reprinted by kind permission of the Sunday Dispatch).*

"A Hun dived on me from behind. His first burst wrecked my radio, another blew the top panels off the starboard wing. He fired again, and wrecked my instruments, damaged the throttle control and splintered the front and side windscreens.

"Then the petrol tank caught fire. I thought I felt blood trickling down my leg, and I was miles inside France—an unpleasant situation, one way and another.

"The first thing I did after deciding not to bale out was to kick at the flames with my foot. That was not much good, but a steep side-slip set up a blast which blew the flames out.

"That trouble overcome, I was able then to take stock of my position. I was still several miles inside France, but the engine was going, though flames kept shooting from the port exhaust, and part of the cowling was nearly off.

"I had to use force to hold the damaged throttle forward to keep going.

"When I was about five miles from Dover I knew I couldn't make the coast, so I tried to jump out. I was at 2,500ft. at the time, but when I used my hands to take off my helmet the Spitfire fell away out of control, and I could not pull her up until I was only 800ft. from the sea.

"I unfastened my parachute, intending to pancake into the sea and then jump out. About two miles from the coast my engine seized and bits fell off through vibration.

"I levelled off at 50ft. above the water, but as soon as my speed dropped below 100 miles an hour the shattered wing stalled and I crashed sideways into the sea, turned upside down, and went down about 15ft. before I got out.

"It was very dark. I climbed out and swam to the surface.

"The shore was about a mile and a half away and I began to swim after kicking off my boots.

"After twenty minutes I was still about three-quarters of a mile out, but I saw soldiers waving from the beach. When I was just about "done," one of them swam out and began to drag me towards the shore.

"Later another soldier arrived and helped.

"We were pretty well worn out when we sighted the rescue boat, so we kept still and floated until it arrived."

#### PRISONER OF WAR—SYRIA.

"I should like just to say that the events leading up to our being 'put in the bag' were in no way dishonourable. In fact I have never been more proud of the men than when they fought their last battle against ridiculous odds.

"My attempt to escape was like twenty-four hours out of Peter Fleming and Dornford Yates, and I was only retaken within one mile of our own troops . . .

" . . . It was on our third day of captivity, and they were moving us from the capital, which was about to fall, to the next biggest town, on the sea. There were twenty officers and senior N.C.O's. in a charabanc with a soldier driver, and a gendarme sitting beside him. Behind were two lorry-loads of troops. After about ten miles I suddenly noticed, as we were going fairly slowly up a hill with winding corners, that our escort had dropped back a little. After a very quick appreciation, without giving myself time to change my mind, I slipped onto the knees of the chap sitting in the back seat. Just then a staff car with officers in it passed us, and there was a broken-down lorry on the road with troops in it. A second later, I opened the back door and jumped out. I landed on my feet and ran up the road a few yards, then over the bank. I lay at the bottom of the embankment, about ten feet high, while the escort passed and then a convoy of about twenty army lorries. There were several more places from which they could have seen me as they twisted and turned up the hill—but they did not. As soon as there was a pause in the traffic, I ran 150 yards up the hill to where there was a culvert, just large enough for me to crawl into side-ways, and lay on my side using my topee as a pillow. I lay there for nine hours till dark in great discomfort, but there was so much traffic on the road all day that it would have been quite unsafe to have chanced walking off in my British uniform, as it would take a quarter of an hour to be clear of the road.

"When it was really dark I started walking. I had a compass but no map and I knew the general direction to take. I had had no food or water since a French breakfast and I found walking on the terribly stony ground without any moon very tiring, especially when trying to avoid every possible human habitation. I went to sleep for a few hours in the lee of some ricks, but the cold wind woke me up—I was only wearing shorts and shirt-sleeves whereas the troops normally have great-coats and two blankets at night up there. I struggled on a bit, then went to sleep again and woke up this time as the moon was rising. I knew this gave me an hour till dawn, and I wanted to be by the first stream by then, so I started off in earnest. I nearly got mixed up with a lot of enemy lorries and then just as it was getting light I stumbled into the stream I knew must cross my path. I drank deeply, but decided not to eat my iron ration, which was all I had, until the evening. I lay in a bush by the stream for an hour with masses of enemy lorries two hundred yards away. They did not seem to be going to move in a hurry, so I thought it would be better to risk moving on in daylight than lie up there all day.

"I worked my way out into the fields, pretending to be an enemy soldier to the natives, and hoping, at a range of a mile, the troops would think me to be a peasant.

"I started walking high up on the hills; very hard work but beyond effective observation by the troops in the valley, and the weather was beautiful. At last, after another ten miles, I reached the end of the ridge and saw in front of me the cultivated plains where the fighting must be; with trees and villages where there must be water.

"On the top of the last hill I lay down on the smooth rock in the shade of a large boulder. There was a strong fresh breeze and the weather was marvellous. The plain below me looked like the vale of Kashmir, with the snow peaks on my right. It was only half-past nine, so I slept for half an hour. Throughout all this time, having no one to talk to, my mind was filled either with thoughts of how I was to get through the front lines or else, and for the most part, of the milliard things I was going to do when I got back.

"I got myself out of my dreams. Below on my right was the village of Q . . . Obviously a few troops there, as I could see four big lorries some way outside it. But it was almost a town, and I ought to be able to skirt it, drink out of a stream, and go on by the route I could see, and follow a stream I knew of between the two fronts where the battle was being fought, and in behind the British lines. It looked a very long way, but with guts I might do it before dark.

"On my left only three miles away was the village of A . . . big and green and tempting. I knew that we had started to attack it two days ago, but knew nothing of the results. I was tempted to take a chance and go down there, but I argued against that because if it was still held by the enemy it would be stiff with troops and they would be bound to get me. So I decided on the safer, but longer and more difficult course and went down to Q . . . I got my drink unobserved, rested in an orchard and then went on. There were some natives winnowing, and, I thought, some others digging near by. I avoided them and as I approached to cross a sunken

track I saw five men going down it with picks and shovels on their shoulders, wearing tin hats. They were Senegalese troops. I withdrew, but it was too late. A sentry had seen me and they got me.

"When I got to their H.Q. I discovered that this was the front line, as the front line had withdrawn sideways. If I had gone to A . . . , as I had been so tempted to do, I would have found it occupied completely by our own troops. Or, if I had taken a route a few yards left of the one I had, I would have been in "no man's land" and probably got away with it . . . .

" . . . . And now happily my captivity is due to end in half-an-hour . . . . "

#### WHAT IT FELT LIKE IN ERITREA.

"*Breakfast-time.* The first fly landed on the tip of the Adjutant's pointed nose. 'Time to get up,' it said, stamping around in sticky boots.

"The Adjutant rose—it was not difficult because he was fully dressed anyway, cold under his single blanket and bound with cramp. Being used to a feather bed since childhood he did not enjoy sleeping on the stony mountainside with his tin hat for a pillow, but there comes a time when sleep overcomes bodily discomfort.

"It had been an amazing night—ceaseless shelling and small arms fire. Apart from that, he had been woken up numerous times—the Brigade-Major on the telephone wanting to know where the shelling was coming down, patrol reporting back, a convoy of mules having lost their way determined to dump the next day's rations in the enemy lines, and so on.

"'All companies standing too, sir,' reported the signaller.

"Already the first tinge of dawn was showing in the east behind the sharply-pointed Eritrean hills.

"*Mid-Morning.* The sun rose higher, beating against the rocks and the tin hats, casting only shadow on the enemy side. As the sweat rolled off the men's brows and arms it made little channels through the solid coating of dirt until their beards were like mud swamps.

"*Lunch-time.* The Adjutant was sitting uncomfortably on a pointed rock, a furious look on his face. He was trying to get bully beef out of a badly opened tin with the end of a brittle biscuit and convey it into his mouth without any accompanying quota of flies."

## POETRY

### MUSIC

Moving in the brain, quiet hands ;  
Laughing fancies, flower-like dreams,  
Clutching, sliding, slipping sands  
Falling to intricate themes.

Endless waters in the sun,  
Shining stars on heaving seas,  
Smells of earth, spring half-begun,  
Summer with the song of bees.

Dark rooms and whispering caves,  
Roses dying, and their scent  
Breathing death among the graves ;  
And tired music gently spent.

J.C.F.

### LONDON.

Sadness of life and London dark and wet  
Where close-packed houses huddle closer still  
And muddy Thames with Whistler's bridges set  
Flows on and on past loaded wharves until  
It joins the sea . . . .

The old tired moon will rise  
To shine on greasy pavements far and wide ;  
A silver God in heavy English skies  
Which lights the edges of the cloud-banked tide.  
Low fog, shop windows and their yellow light  
And men who hurry home to blazing coals,  
The cry of river-tugs blown on the night  
And pink-eyed mice who gaze from little holes.  
But now the organ-grinder stops his songs  
And workmen travel home in tired throngs.

J.C.F.

### THE CAT GRUMBOSKIN'S SYMPHONY.

(An essay in the modern manner)

Thoughtless, Time turns electric wheels.  
Idyll-sodden spring hardly feels  
the warmth of winter's waking fall.  
Bathed in music's minstrel call,  
the rose of sunlight heats  
silent Earth's cold heart-beats.  
Yet dreams Grumboskin on  
of empty visions gone.  
The hollow call of scoffing rooks,  
the armed ghosts of cloth-bound books,  
the creaking canticle of carts,  
all race in flight like misaimed darts  
past the unheeding boards.  
They strike no living chord,  
but rise like unplayed notes,  
ringing from muted throats  
to fall unheard on deafened ears.  
Forgetting all life's pendant cares,  
mysteriously Grumboskin sleeps ;  
with nymphlike form he slowly creeps  
through nothingness in thought.  
Feline magic has caught  
the ritual of void.  
Like crescent moons enjoyed  
by leathern bats long-eared and cold,  
their trellis-worked wings unrolled,  
which fly through opaque dusk to sleep :  
or dreamless in the weed-green deep,  
a sea-dragon slumbers,  
careless of the wonders  
of coral majesty  
and ocean tapestry,  
so sleeps the cat Grumboskin now,  
and hidden wisdom on his brow  
weeps a nonchalant tear—  
apparently not there.

J.E.M.I.

## THE STOIC

## CENSORED

A green larch dripped ; beyond, a whiter glow  
 Spread through the brooding mist ; humpbacked, black-veiled  
 And clustered a mass emerged, submerged, broke surface  
 With still more sudden clarity, black rocks  
 Out-cropping like a school of porpoises,  
 Fixed on the instant, gleaming black and wet,  
 Basalt sea-rooted. Suddenly a well  
 Of water caught a shaft of the hidden sun,  
 A well of rippling glass ; then silently  
 Day drew her curtains with a breathless sweep  
 Back to the isles beyond \*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*.

Across the \*\*\*\*\*'s majestic estuary  
 And fading to the \*\*\*\*\*'s bent barrier,  
 Distant \*\*\*\*\* miles, in easy broken lines,  
 Uneven wisps and plumes of smoke upcurled  
 To the salt haze, from funnels squat, lank, grey  
 And mottled, \*\*\*\*\*ty ships lay anchored ; small  
 Against the \*\*\*\*\*ic's outer magnitude ;  
 At first glance sleepy, idle, casual hulks.  
 Then, as in slow film motion of a start  
 Lethargic horses weave narcotic legs,  
 And riders jockey dreamily for place  
 With little stir, so moving, as unmoved,  
 The convoy shapes itself. A winch down-stream  
 Grinds out a clatter through an aery gap,  
 And bobbing gulls take wing to promulgate  
 Impending change. A slender gliding form,  
 \*\*\* funnelled, sprung from a deep hidden l\*\*h,  
 Elides with a close company of hulls,  
 And where a huddle was, a stationed space  
 Slowly expands. A speck, like a slow beetle,  
 Crawls towards a lighter's dark periphery.  
 Each hour some eye along the further shore,  
 Where quays, yards, derricks, chimneys, forges, shops  
 Blacken the busy air, notes incidents  
 Changing the pattern on the double tide.

The green larch drips. Another dawn,  
 Wet from the night, breathes bubbles to the sun.  
 Across the \*\*\*\*\*'s majestic estuary  
 A sheet of empty waters, solitude  
 Of buoys and gulls, an empty gleaming space.  
 Beyond the misty slopes of \*\*\*\*\*,  
 Whose foot is washed by the incessant bulk  
 Of rollers, slow the convoy musters pace.  
 Action is joined, slow, perilous, unremitting,  
 To the pitiless sea added the ingenious mind  
 Of \*\*\* as pitiless ; relentless action  
 Devotedly engaged for distant ends.  
 No longer now as in old trawling days  
 Can wheels be \*\*\*\*\* , \*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*  
 \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \* \*\*\*\*\*

## THE STOIC

A Marathon of poker.  
 Sometimes, perchance, out of the watch an eye  
 Sees awkwardly a familiar souvenir  
 Of home life left, or closes slyly down  
 On \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* in a farewell \*\*\*\*\*.  
 Rare brackets to a \*\*\* weeks' tension  
 Sans respite, and with full knowledge, hour by hour,  
 Of circumambient conspiracies,  
 Torpedoes, bombs, mines, instruments intent  
 On abrupt devastation, ships and men,  
 Men drowned heroically hopeful, ships  
 With stubborn slowness, like a felled ox, sinking.  
 Agonies, extremes, new perils of the deep,  
 Monstrous, abnormal stand at the mast head,  
 Pale menacing fires of presence known, not seen,  
 To eyes alert on each immediate speck  
 In air and water, each sharp second's watch.

Meanwhile at \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* , whose ample lawns  
 Pine-sheltered, slope to \*\*\*\*\* side, two maids  
 Draw back the double curtains. Presently  
 \*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* yawns, shaves, baths, makes shift  
 With cold roast grouse ; then, appetite assuaged,  
 Muses with nimble realistic mind  
 On the day's deal and lucrative returns.  
 Each to his proper effort, is the law  
 Of economic virtue, \*\*\*\*\*.  
 \*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*  
 \* \* \* \* \* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## DOUBT.

*(After the French of Sully-Prudhomme)*

Down a dark pit, deep hid from mortal sight,  
 Sleeps Truth, long shunned by every passer-by ;  
 Drawn by consuming love I fain would try  
 To woo her, plunging down from Earth's warm light.

I tug the cable down with frenzied might :  
 But now 'twill reach no farther : helplessly  
 I spin with outstretched arm and staring eye,  
 Seeking some hold amid this stygian night.

And yet she's close ; I hear her breathe below,  
 As gropingly I hover to and fro,  
 Trapped in the circle of her magnet spell.

Ah ! can I no way stretch this dangling rope,  
 Nor climb again to daylight's cheerful hope ?  
 But must I here revolve in endless hell ?

## THE STOIC

## WHY

. . . Some day perhaps . . .

Tensely crossing awkward feet  
flapping broken bootlace  
But he said  
running slender hand thro ruffled hair  
Where does it all lead to

Seven green eyes the red of conscience  
An old man climbing a gate  
Potted knowledge last night's Evening News  
arose (you might say parenthetically)

Lead to I said empty souled  
slowly twisting stalk of half dead grass  
in well chewed nails

The guilty screeching of a distant owl . . .

Wiping a hand across his brow he laughed  
Don't be a fool I said embarrassed  
only we are real  
and rose  
and turned the wireless on.

J.S.B.B.

## ODE.

(In the style of Horace)

Come, light the fire, pile high the logs,  
Bring forth the cask of Alban wine.  
Forget the winter snows and fogs,  
Forget the war; come in and dine!

Outside it freezes, and the snow  
Drifts deep across the lonely moor;  
The solid rivers cease to flow;  
The milk stands frozen at the door.

What if the furious Prussian beast  
Tramples beneath his conquering heel  
The lives of peasant, workman, priest,  
And bathes in blood his battered steel?

What though I needs must dress in sacks  
Until my Ration Book is found?  
What though I'm poor, and Income Tax  
Is now ten shillings in the pound?

Still, Lalage, life has its joys,  
Still we may dance, with love impassioned,  
The war has left our harmless toys,  
And song and laughter are not rationed.

C.R.P.A.

## THE STOIC

## THE FIRST FIRE OF THE YEAR.

Summer had broken like a pitcher  
And the perfect bowl of blue  
was smashed in pieces;

The ageing year wept for her youth  
and Earth's fire was put out  
by the sorrowful waters;

The trees in the forest were shining  
and black, like savage bodies  
of black women

Silhouetted secretly at night,  
sharp breasts against the stars  
and the blue heaven;

In this forest of black yew-trees  
All splashed with summer's tears,  
They were working

With sharp axes hewing branches  
and toothy saws cutting them  
in small pieces,

Cut for the first fire of the closing year  
to draw heat from crackling wood,  
not from the Sun.

For nature's brief life was a-dying,  
And the birds flew away  
to the Sun,

And only the fire reminds us  
of the power and heat of the Sun  
lest we forget him.

K.H.I.

## BOSWORTH FIELD

An account of how the Bosworth Field carving came to Stowe appeared in a previous number of *The Stoic*. The following letter tells how it reached Gosfield.

SANDERSON MILLER TO LORD DACRE

Radway. 22nd February 1768.

My dear Lord,

Our good Friend, y<sup>e</sup> Bp. of Carlisle, tells me Yr. L<sup>'</sup>ship wants to know where I found y<sup>e</sup> Curious Chimney Piece wch. Mrs. Nugent put up in y<sup>e</sup> Library at Gosfield. I believe it was about y<sup>e</sup> year 1736 y<sup>'</sup> I went with Mrs. Nugent to Halsted & while she paid some Visits there, as I took a Walk not far from y<sup>e</sup> Town, I saw an old House wch. I thought looked like y<sup>e</sup> Remains of an old Seat & asked to see y<sup>e</sup> Inside of it; to my great Surprize in a Room where y<sup>e</sup> Farmer laid his Corn I saw this Chimney Piece, & upon Enquiry found y<sup>e</sup> House was Lord Tylncey's. I gave such a Description of it to Mrs. Nugent y<sup>'</sup> she wrote to Ld. Tylney immediately & desired if his L<sup>'</sup>ship had no particular value for it y<sup>'</sup> he would give her leave to take it, & put up a Marble one wch. wd. please y<sup>e</sup> Farmer's wife much better. His L<sup>'</sup>dship very politely answered, it was entirely at her Service, & she sent for an Herald Painter who restor'd y<sup>e</sup> Arms & Gilding, but added nothing wch. was not justified by y<sup>e</sup> Remains of y<sup>e</sup> old Painting. It is Alabaster, y<sup>e</sup> Relievo very deep, & as I remember tollerably well done for y<sup>e</sup> Time. There are several Arms on y<sup>e</sup> Shields of both Parties, Vere, Earl of Oxford among y<sup>e</sup> Rest. He owned y<sup>e</sup> Manor of Sible Heningham wch. is y<sup>e</sup> next Town to Halsted, & for aught I know this old House might be in that Parish. As Vere was one of y<sup>e</sup> Duke of Richmond's Generals at y<sup>e</sup> Battel of Bosworth, y<sup>e</sup> Chimney probably was made by some of that Family. I can hardly think so fine a Thing was originally intended for y<sup>e</sup> Room in that wch. I found it, if there never was a finer Room in that House, it is possible it might have been brought from Heningham Castle when so much of that was destroyed. It was intended as a Compliment to Henry VII because there are y<sup>e</sup> Figures of Him and his Queen at full length on each side of y<sup>e</sup> Chimney. It is well worth while to have a Plate of it engraved. I have an account of all y<sup>e</sup> Arms somewhere, but have not Time to look for it now. I remember Vere, Blount, Howards, Stanleys, Brackenbridge particularly.

## REGINALD ON RUGBY FOOTBALL

(With apologies to H. H. Munro)

It so happened (said Reginald) that my House one day found itself able to raise only fourteen people for a match, excluding me. They evidently thought I would do less damage on the field than on the touch-line, which was foolish of them, because I was a terrific help at the last match; I stood on the edge of the field and shouted alternately "Grenpole" and "Walville" and I'm sure it made a lot of difference, even if in my enthusiasm I did sometimes wander onto the wrong side of the touch-line and get in the way a bit. Anyhow I found myself on the Bourbon in a slight drizzle, shivering and very inadequately clothed, at half-past two that afternoon.

Right from the first I rather distinguished myself. I was vaguely conscious of a whistle blowing, somebody shouting "Now follow this up, forwards!" and a confused babel of voices from the edge of the field. But the wretched ball was practically on top of me before I realized what was happening. Well, there were only two things to do; to catch it and run, or just run, and I didn't think the second would be frightfully impressive. (They told me afterwards I should have kicked, but I thought you probably weren't allowed to use your feet). Presently some offensive person made a dive for my legs and brought me down to the ground. It was his own fault, and I don't see how he can accuse me of fouling, just because his head happened to collide with my boot. Altogether there was rather more mud than grass about the field and my trousers acquired a large smear all down the side. That was my baptism of mire. I felt rather like stout Cortez, silent upon a peak in Darien. Of course there wasn't a peak for miles—if there had been I should certainly have been on it—but what I mean is, the rest of the side were looking at each other with a mild surprise and there was a perfect galaxy swimming into my ken. That's the Pioneering Spirit for you. Still, I thought that was about enough enterprise for one afternoon, and by half-time I had really got rather good at being further than anyone else from the ball the whole time. The captain of the side was rather rude to me afterwards. I wonder why.

C.R.P.A.

## LATIN UNPREPARED TRANSLATION

SUBSIDIARY.

Which things since they were thus Caesar without having been about to burn his boots in a sarcophagus made by Jupiter (or some say it was made by Ozymandias during the campaign against Tetanus) when he saw (literally) the with the spears having been defeated enemy who were growing antlers. Having ascertained that the enemy were, he said "Eheu, it is irksome, it is not irksome (cross out which applies). It shames, it moves to pity, it is befitting, it is allowed, it behoves, it disgusts, it pleases and it is snowing." Caesar when he had marched to the top of a hill in Caesarea grew a beard and joined the Foreign Legion orchestra where he played the Eternal Triangle (harmony parts). O Caesar what crimes are committed in thy name.

A.C.R.N.

(This version narrowly missed being sent up to the examiners in July).

## JUNIOR TRAINING CORPS NOTES

The following promotions have been made this term:—

To *Senior Under-Officers*: Under-Officers J. D. R. Hayward (G), N. W. Riley (B).

To *Under-Officer*: Sergeants R. F. C. Davis (T), B. N. L. Fletcher (C), J. W. Cornforth (G).

To *Sergeant*: Corporals H. D. Christie (C), T. G. Heron (B), D. A. S. Gordon (W), I. A. P. Rumsey (G), R. E. Hodgkin (C), A. B. Oliveira (C), M. H. A. Robinson (W), R. E. Wordley (C), A. J. Gray (T), J. E. Colbeck (T), N. E. Seely (T).

To *Corporal*: Lance-Corporals D. C. Lunn-Rockcliffe (C), J. W. Young (G), P. M. B. Greenall (C), S. C. V. Dodgson (W), H. F. Deakin (W), J. A. Lucey (C), S. C. Lloyd (B), J. S. Dawes (B), R. Fleming (C), A. P. de Pass (C), M. B. Stevenson (G).

Appointed *Lance-Corporals*: Cadets T. H. Barclay (C), P. W. Harvey (G), P. R. Toovey (C), A. D. Maclean (T), P. S. Sutcliffe (C), J. C. R. Welch (G), W. H. Inglis (G), A. M. Quinton (T), R. M. Hippisley-Cox (C), A. A. McAlister (C), J. M. Connell (G), J. D. Milne (C), R. O. H. Crewdson (C), M. A. Marshall (C), S. J. L. Spicer (B), M. E. F. Law (C), H. B. G. Epps (T), G. M. Kennedy (C), T. H. Lawrence (G), R. T. F. Larsen (G), A. G. Henderson (B), P. K. Withinshaw (C).

The Contingent strength now stands at 297 cadets; this includes the 28 Recruits who joined in September, virtually the last to do so at the age of 15.

There were 53 candidates for War Certificate "A" in November, and 45 passed, thus bringing our total number of Certificate holders up to 127, a very satisfactory result for the early part of the training year.

### PRIZES.

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (November 1941):—J. E. M. Irvine (T).

Best Old-style Recruits (Summer term 1941):—J. W. Stopford (C) and G. P. Wright (C).

Best New-style Recruits (Summer term 1941):—C. Dansie (C), and (equal) C. G. Dealtry (B) and D. V. Palmer (C).

### TRAINING.

To take full advantage of good weather a Whole-Day's Training was held not later than mid-October, though this did not give much time for the Contingent to prepare for anything ambitious after the Summer holidays. The idea was to concentrate on Section work. Actually, rain fell steadily after breakfast and forced a late start. It was, fortunately, only the preliminary Company Drill which suffered. The four subsequent exercises in Fire Control, Reconnaissance patrolling, Attack against isolated resistance, and Cover from view were carried out with appreciably more success than conditions might seem to allow. And some March Discipline at the end of the day brought Platoons along in fine fettle. The Signallers were employed on maintaining efficient lines of communication between areas. The Survey Section returned on their bicycles from a distance having done a very good day's work. It says much for both these branches of specialisation that cadets almost invariably find a particular source of interest and pride in them.

The programme of the Senior Platoon has catered for those more recently through the Certificate "A" course. It has introduced them to some fresh subjects and added to their knowledge of others. A new feature for all concerned has been their forming a Company with the N.C.O's. for drill of a high standard of precision on Thursday mornings. It is felt that an extension of training with this grouping to special tactical exercises might profitably be made. Another term may see experiments carried out on these lines.

The new War Certificate "A" examination, consisting of two "practical" parts, is now imminent and will have a stimulating effect on the junior Platoons. The first stage, a test of individual qualities, will come early in a cadet's career; he will then concentrate on preparing for the test in leadership.



It is gratifying to note how effectively the Under-Officers and other seniors are handling their classes and commands. At this period of the training year, when many of them are without very much experience, it is all the more creditable to their keenness and personality.

A certain number of cadets have volunteered to join with the local Home Guard in Night Operations on a limited scale and have been employed in rotation. Such exercises have brought home to them valuable lessons and nearly always provided some humour.

By Christmas the new-style Recruits will have completed their initial training. They look smart in their plain uniform and bear themselves well. An apparently unconventional syllabus has never failed to hold their interest and stir their imagination. It will be surprising if such an introduction to military training does not stand them in excellent stead.

It is something to be recorded that the last batch of old-style Recruits has produced results definitely above standard.

#### NULLI SECUNDUS CUP.

Points are awarded for membership of the J.T. Corps or A.T.C. and for Certificates "A." House totals for last year were as follows:—

1. Walpole	81	5. Temple	70
2. Chandos	75	6. Cobham	70
3. Bruce	74	7. Grafton	70
4. Chatham	74	8. Grenville	67

## A.T.C. NOTES

A number of cadets left at the end of the Summer Term, many of them joining their University Air Squadrons. Including recruits from the J.T.C., we started this term with 54 cadets; a further intake, following the recent Certificate A examination, should bring the numbers to between 60 and 70.

Mr. Todd received his commission during the holidays and has been instructing in Mathematics, Navigation and Morse this term.

On October 14th, a Whole Day Exercise was held. This took the form of Navigation exercises carried out on bicycles over some 30 miles of road around Stowe, Brackley and Silverstone. Problems on time and distance, use of the P<sub>4</sub> compass, skeleton map work, reconnaissance and aircraft recognition were included. Cadets D. L. Vere Hodge (G), H. J. Verney (G) and I. R. Dunnett (G), working as a "crew," obtained 100% of the possible marks.

This term three Old Stoics have given talks to the Flight, F/O P. A. Harding (C) dealing with "Fighter Command and the Defence of Britain," P/O C. M. Barlow (T) with "Elementary Flying Training," and P/O R. H. P. Allsebrook (W) with "Night Flying." Such lectures are always welcome, affording a most valuable addition to ordinary instruction.

The R.A.F. Station to which we are affiliated was visited on November 11th by recruits and other cadets who had not previously been there. The programme included inspection of aircraft and engines, cockpit drill, Link Trainer, aircraft recognition and the Operations Room. Arrangements have also been made for cadets to fly in training planes and get practical experience of air navigation: it is hoped that all will have had at least one flight before the end of next term.

Nine cadets who entered for the Proficiency Test in November were all successful, with averages of 86% in Mathematics and 89% in Navigation. J. E. Murray (B) was top with 96% and 98% respectively.

#### PROMOTIONS.

*Sergeants*: D. A. O. Davies (T), J. E. Murray (B).

*Corporals*: J. P. Becker (C), P. D. Bennett (B), D. K. Bewley (T), P. K. Collier (B), W. E. Duck (W), H. E. McCready (G), J. D. Proctor (C).

We have to acknowledge the gift of a two-valve short-wave wireless receiver, presented by A. Lumsden Collis, Esq., Chief Engineer, New Scotland Yard.

W.LI.

## STOWE FORESTRY CAMP

Last August, for the third time, a contingent from Stowe travelled North to do Forestry work. The working site, as at Easter, was on Claife Heights in N. Lancashire, but this time the actual work lay on the West side of the hills overlooking Hawkshead. We were again fortunate enough to be allowed the use of the outbuildings of Mr. Illingworth's house, "Brycrswood," at Far Sawrey, and in view of the wet season it proved at times a great boon to have a roof under which to eat. Tents were pitched in the adjoining meadow, and with the exception of a few less hardy campaigners who retreated for a few nights to the shelter of a real roof, members slept in them, defying the sometimes torrential rain which only too often found a way through the canvas.

Once "on top" the work consisted at first mainly and then entirely of stacking and burning "lop and top." Earlier a certain amount of peeling was done: a somewhat arduous job owing to the enormous size of some of the logs. Even when these were safely on the trestles, the peeling was comparatively slow work, for much of the wood was Douglas fir and all had been summer-felled, so that even the larch did not strip with the ease that we had experienced in our Easter peeling. Burning was apt to be a slow job too, for in the prevailing wet weather it was not an easy matter to set fire to the stacks, though it was noticeable that some experts were always able to get several fires going quickly, while others, owing to less methodical ways in stacking or to less adaptability in learning where to look for suitable kindling material, or to disregard of such essentials as noticing the direction of the prevailing wind, sometimes wasted some of their own time (and incidentally governmental money) in unfruitful efforts to create a blaze, or smoked out those working on neighbouring stacks.

On the whole, we had a useful and certainly a cheerful party in spite of the earlier depressing conditions, and those who stayed the full month were rewarded by a really fine week at the beginning of September.

As a camping experience too it should have had a value, as the unfavourable conditions demanded greater adaptability, foresight and self-discipline than were called for last year at Whitbarrow. The experienced camper contrives to make himself comfortable under almost any conditions, and what is more, he does it in a way that will not cause discomfort or extra work to others. It is perhaps kindest to put down to lack of experience the fact that one or two of our campers caused hours of extra work, after they had left, through their untidiness and lack of method.

Special thanks are again due to Horace White who carried on the family tradition by providing us with a succession of noble meals to which we hope and believe we did full justice.

## THE RENDCOMB FARMING CAMP

This camp was held under the auspices of the Gloucester War Agricultural Executive Committee at the little village of Rendcomb on the road between Cirencester and Cheltenham. We had the use of the village hut for feeding, cooking, recreation, and sleeping accommodation for the camp organizers. The boys slept in a large marquee and a bell tent on palliasses or straw.

The weather was not suitable for harvesting, particularly in the first fortnight of the camp, but some farmers were good enough to employ us on other jobs such as wood cutting, white-washing of cowsheds, compost heap making, and fencing. We arranged ourselves into small parties and visited various farms within a radius of three miles; work started at 10 a.m. and finished, except when the harvest was in full swing, at 6.30 p.m. On the whole, with approximately twenty-four in camp, we did an average of five hours per day including Saturdays: this was fairly high considering the comparatively poor weather.

The organization of the camp was in the hands of Mr. Brown and Mr. Hunter, the latter busying himself with the financial side and the former with the food, equipment and general organization. We were extremely fortunate in having a French chef, Jean Pierre Lander, to cook for us and generally arrange home comforts and entertainments. Breakfast was held at 8 a.m. after a rude awakening with a shout of "Ahoy, down there!" Lunch, except on Saturdays, when roast beef was the order of the day, consisted of sandwiches. Supper was held at 7 or 7.30 p.m., after which all were free to enjoy their evenings however they desired.

As mentioned before, "Jean Pierre" acted as entertainments officer and many were the rollicking evenings spent in his presence. He is an expert pianist and could play for hours on end, sing, tell stories, play the piano accordion; most of these things he could do at the same time. He was a portable laundry, cleaner, tailor and doctor all in one; in fact we just could not have done without him. Two dances were held for the village and with a 6d. entrance fee £6 was collected for the Red Cross. A cricket match was played against North Cerney, which we lost by five wickets.

Just one little story. One of the local boys was helping Jean Pierre with the cooking and was asked to fetch some flour from the store cupboard to thicken the curry: the curry would not thicken even on adding large quantities of 'flour': the rissoles in the morning turned out hard on top and bottom. Two days later it was found that the boy had gone to a bag on which the letters 'OUR' were visible—actually the bag contained 'Gospo' SCOUR. Our insides were probably all the better for this treatment—at least so Dr. Lander hoped. This story was very aptly given the title of "Gospo Truth."

In camp with us were four Merchant Taylor boys and one young Etonian.

There is nothing left to say except to put down in writing our appreciation of all the help given us by the Headmaster and assistant masters of Rendcomb College, and the inhabitants of Rendcomb; and also to Captain Swanwick, the organizer of eight local School Camps, without whom the camp would not have materialized.

## STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

95, FRAMPTON STREET,  
LONDON, N.W. 8.  
November 1941.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

Dear Sir,

I must go back to the end of last winter to pick up the threads of my news. The Football season came to a close with our Seniors having reached the Semi-final of the London Federation Cup. Redecoration of the Club interior was extended by the boys from the Gymnasium to the Canteen and rooms on the second floor, and the woodwork of the large room at the top of the building was given a good coat of paint. The result is admirable. Work, principally on the floor and ceiling of this top room, is now going to be taken in hand by professionals, so that the fullest use can shortly be made of the whole premises. Then, on February 12th, the Mildred FitzGerald Girls' Club (Leader, Mrs. Crewdson) was formally opened and by May was affiliated to the London Union of Girls' Clubs. Its search for premises of its own continues. Meantime, instead of meeting in two rooms upstairs on certain nights a week, it now occupies the Gymnasium when not in use by us. Westonbirt has adopted the Girls' Club and gives it keen support.

Two Cricket teams were run during the summer, the Seniors being defeated once only and that at Lords by the Rugby Club, for which match the Captain and Secretary of Cricket at Stowe acted as umpires. We now have two teams playing Football regularly; one in the London Youth

Regional League (under 20s), where it has won 5 of the 8 matches played so far; and the Juniors who, although they have lost some games heavily, have shown an excellent spirit of recovery.

It is these Juniors who are, perhaps, our chief concern, and our present aim is to develop their organization and activities, in view of their considerable promise, to the full. Ken Johnson is giving them a first-class lead, working with a committee of 5 "Monitors," the boys being divided into 4 groups which take their names from the Foundation Houses at Stowe. When not boxing, doing P.T. or playing table-tennis, they have devoted themselves to hobbies like fretwork and lino-cutting. Poster-work is being added and the Juniors will have a very suitable place to themselves when they take over the properly repaired, heated and equipped top room.

Apart from the usual physical activities of the Club as a whole there are three features which deserve mention. "Wednesday night at eight" is a mystery from week to week. Sometimes it takes the form of a talk by a visitor who has experiences worth relating, sometimes a discussion on a topical or provocative subject is held, and another possibility is to show one of the many good instructional films now available. Concert parties are the second feature, and their object is to give shows during the winter in the local A.R.P. shelters. Moreover, 9 senior members of the Club form our own Fire Party. They volunteered for the work and were trained in their duties at an eight weeks' course in the neighbourhood. They have not been without practical experience since.

Our A.R.P. shelter in the basement, constructed by the government in August, had tubular electrical heating installed during the autumn and was equipped with palliasses, pillows, blankets, mats and indoor games by the British War Relief Society of the U.S.A. Everything about it, including the paintwork, has been very efficiently done.

On Empire Day the old Pineapple building was set ablaze by incendiary bombs, and what had been wrecked by blast previously is no more than a pile of rubble and charred wood in the basement. It is a saddening sight, but we can be glad that we moved the Club away some months before and, perhaps, that it has been completely demolished rather than left derelict.

There is now a room in the Club named after Bob Mead (C); it is used for photography, his mother having presented us with a camera and developing equipment in memory of him. On Whit-Tuesday followed the loss of Dick Jagger (C). To both these men we owe so much; both were held in great affection.

During the year, eight of the oldest Club members have been to Senior Leaders' Training Centres. Albert Harris was elected chairman of the conference at one of these and was later awarded a bursary to train as a Club Leader. Four such men were chosen to give 10-minute broadcasts at the B.B.C. He was the only Londoner among them.

Since January the Club has been able to place in suitable work 26 members leaving school.

Holidays this summer were staggered, so that as many boys as possible could get to camps shared with other Clubs in various parts of the country, particularly the one held at Winters Hill, Durley, the home of the late Mrs. Sebag-Montefiore.

I should like to conclude my news with an extract from a letter of an Old Boy (one of four brothers, all members of the Club) who is on active service as a gunner in the Merchant Fleet.

"A few days after we sailed under convoy for a neutral port with Government and Red Cross cargo. I took to the sea, just as a duck takes to water, and thoroughly enjoyed the trip, until on what was the last day of the voyage the "Sub" Warning went up from the Convoy Master's ship and with more than a little blood trickling in my veins we raced to action stations, and there I waited in an agony of suspense, yet at the same time enjoying the sensation that I got thinking that at last we had come face to face with Jerry. I took a look around at the crew, who were mainly British, and the way the cabin boys, trimmers, deck hands and cooks were going about their jobs normally and with calm; the only difference was that they had their neck-lace of "corks" around their necks. Looking at these men I felt a little ashamed of myself. At any rate, about ten minutes after the signal went a heavy explosion was heard from Starboard and a small vessel on the opposite side of the convoy was already fast sinking into the water. It was a terrific sight watching the crew, through my telescopic sights, jumping into the water and swimming away. Then from out of nowhere came the Navy. Fast destroyers were

already dropping depth charges while other cutters and smaller craft were racing towards survivors of the torpedoed vessel. Of the 41 members of the crew only 6 were unaccounted for and they were believed to be victims of the explosion. What I liked about the whole affair was the fact that the destroyers took full revenge because that "sub" is now probably lying on the bottom of the deep—a twisted and battered hulk. Even 12 hours after the attack oil was floating about all over the surface of the sea."

Any Stoics or Old Stoics who can manage to visit us in the near future are sure of a very real welcome.

Our best wishes and thanks to you all,

I am, Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
ALBERT E. CREWDSON,  
(Warden.)

#### A FEW IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

##### FINANCE.

The Stowe Club is not endowed and depends entirely on past and present members of the School, the Staff and friends of Stowe for its income. A membership of 150 is meagrely provided for. In spite of every sound economy its slender capital has to be drawn on at times to meet current expenses. More donations and annual subscriptions would make the task of those who bear the brunt of its organization and management less exacting. The Club has little remuneration of any kind to offer its officials. The Stowe Committee of masters and the London Committee of Old Stoics are purely honorary. The Club boys themselves contribute something towards the cost of every single activity.

In the year ending June 30th, 1940, the Old Stoics subscribed £364 (£307 by banker's orders) and the Stowe boys contributed £118 direct and another £88 through Chapel collections toward Club funds.

Particulars of the subscriptions list are entirely private to me. Any sum of money, no matter how small it may seem, and especially if it can be sent regularly, will be most gratefully received and acknowledged. Banker's orders may be obtained from me at any time, but cheques, postal orders and cash are exceedingly welcome too. All serviceable gifts in kind (e.g. billiard and ping pong tables, cast-off clothing, both men's and women's, and kit for games) should be sent direct to the Warden at 95, Frampton Street, London, N.W.3. What cannot actually be used by the boys can be sold for their benefit.

##### VISITORS.

Anyone interested in Social Service is very welcome to visit the premises on any late afternoon or evening. Old Stoics in particular can do much good by looking in for an hour or so to see what is being done and what it is hoped to do. Visitors are never asked to give money or make gifts or run any activity. Their general interest is valued for its own sake. The Club has an excellent name in the London Federation and is happily conscious of every connection with Stowe.

A. B. CLIFFORD, *Hon. Treasurer.*

## RUGBY FOOTBALL

### 1ST XV.

FROM the results point of view this has been one of the worst seasons the 1st XV have suffered for a long time. This has been due to various reasons: the side is a very young one, with only two old colours in Murray and Gray; it has not been found possible to get a satisfactory pair of halves; a few of the more promising players in last year's 2nd XV have not come up to expectations.

Except for the matches against Oundle and Uppingham, when Stowe were beaten by 35—0 and 44—5 respectively, the season has not been as disastrous as it has appeared. In the other matches Stowe has scored 50 points against 37. What was the trouble against Oundle? It was due to the fact that Oundle, who had been soundly beaten by Bedford, were out to avenge this defeat: Stowe, on the other hand, had just beaten Cheltenham and were quite content to rest on their laurels. When the game started, very poor tackling by Stowe gave Oundle just the encouragement they required and they never looked back, while Stowe found it impossible to recover even a semblance of the form shown against Cheltenham. The match against Uppingham was a disaster. At the last moment Savery could not play owing to a finger injury (and has not played since): this left Nelson, an inexperienced player, to take his place. Further injuries at the beginning of the game led to Calderwood and Connell being carried off the field, leaving only thirteen men to deal with a very fast opposition. Murray decided to play without a full-back: this enabled Stowe's seven forwards to pin Uppingham in their own half, but when the ball got out to their wings, who were exceptionally fast, a try was inevitable. This occurred five times in the second half from beyond the half-way line. Against Cheltenham the team played really well, with Murray in very fine fettle. The Bedford match has not been played yet, but prospects do not look very bright: owing to injuries and scholarship examinations only half of the XV will be able to turn out, while Bedford have the strongest team for very many years, having beaten Oundle by 43—0. The Radley match was cancelled owing to their having chicken pox. It has been proved by results that Rugby have a better side than was shown by their score against us, although our defence was steadfast and the forwards played really well.

As an attacking force the backs never got going: this was due, as is usually the case, to ineffective half-backs. The ball rarely came out to Murray or Lack in such a way as to give them even half a chance of a cut-through, with the result that only 55 points were scored in ten matches—the lowest average for many a year. Murray ought to have been very good and would have been with reasonable opportunities. Cornforth played well on the wing, but not so well at stand-off. Lack is improving his defence and ought to be good next year when he develops more dash on making his breakthrough and more determination near the line. Calderwood has shown much promise on the wing as a competent complete player—his kicking, handling and tackling have been equally good. Savery used his pace on the wing when given the opportunity and place-kicked well on occasions. Dunnett at scrum-half has been useful on his own, but is very slow in getting the ball out. Barrowclough at full back promised well,

but, although always very sound in his tackling and falling, has only at the end of the season learnt to catch the ball and still is bad at picking it up, kicking and making his angle.

The forwards have played better than the backs on most occasions, and did particularly well in the second half against Rugby, against Cheltenham and Uppingham. The outstanding players have been Gray, Heron, Vere Hodge, and Gordon. Davies has used his colossal height in the line-outs, but has not developed his game much in other departments. Rumsey has found his right position in the front row, where he shoves really well.

Murray has been a most popular captain and has set a very fine example in hard, low tackling and covering defence, but his knowledge of the game is scanty and therefore he has found it difficult to give the correct advice to those under him. The pack has been led either by Gray or Heron and both have played better rigger when leading than when not. Heron was most inspiring against Cheltenham, while Gray played his best game when leading the forwards against the 228th Medium Battery (R.A.).

Prospects do not look good for next year as most of this young side appear to be leaving before then. This is worrying, but it is certain that Mr. Barr will make the most of the material available.

#### THE SCHOOL v. ROSSLYN PARK.

Played at Stowe on Saturday, October 4th, Rossllyn Park winning by two tries (6 points) to a goal (5 points).

A shower of rain just before the game started caused the ball to become very slippery. Due to this, bad handling and attempts to pick up instead of falling or dribbling made the game scrappy at times. However, on the whole the game was a very good one with occasional very encouraging moments.

Before the ball became too sodden, Murray slipped his man and passed inside to Vere Hodge, who on reaching the full back passed back to Savery who ran behind the posts to score; this he converted. This was one of the best tries seen at Stowe and deservedly got loud cheers from the large crowd present. Later Murray broke through again, but the movement did not produce a score. At this stage of the game Stowe were the better side, but towards the end of the first half the Stowe forwards, after playing a grand game, began to tire and Rossllyn Park began to attack. One of these attacks caught the centre three-quarter out of position and a try resulted far out. The kick was not successful.

In the second half Rossllyn Park proved themselves slightly the better side. They got the ball in the majority of the set scrums and were more dangerous-looking in their attacking movements. However, Stowe had a deep defensive system, which was penetrated only once, when a particularly powerful right-wing forced his way over in the corner for an unconverted try. Stowe besides being resolute in defence made one or two penetrating attacks. On one occasion Lack made fifty yards, evading numerous opponents until eventually surrounded; on others Murray or Dunnnett would burst through the opposition with the ball at his feet, but on no occasion did a score result.

On the whole the team played well, particularly the forwards, who showed greater determination than the backs. The halves were slow, but their movements were undoubtedly hampered by quick-breaking forwards. In the backs Murray was outstanding, and of a good pack of forwards the best were Gray, Gordon, Heron, Rumsey and Vere Hodge.

*Team* :—A. R. Barrowclough (⊕); W. M. Savery (W), J. E. Murray (B), T. S. A. Lack (G), J. W. Cornforth (G); M. H. A. Robinson (W), I. R. Dunnnett (G); A. J. Gray (T), J. D. R. Hayward (G), T. G. Heron (B), D. A. S. Gordon (W), I. A. P. Rumsey (G), D. L. Vere Hodge (G), D. A. O. Davies (T), A. A. N. Kurk (⊕).

#### THE SCHOOL v. R.A.F., UPPER HEYFORD.

Played at Stowe on Wednesday, October 8th, the School winning by one goal, two penalty goals and a try (14 points) to a try (3 points).

This turned out to be a scrappy game with only occasional good bits of play.

The R.A.F. pack was large and outweighed the Stowe forwards to such an extent that they took scrums for line-outs most of the game. The Stowe backs, with Murray outstanding, were superior to those of the opposition both in attack and defence. As is usual, good backs triumphed over good forwards.

Stowe's first try came from an inside cut through by Murray and a quick pass out to Savery. The latter feinted to pass back inside to Vere Hodge and beat the full back to score between the posts. Savery made no mistake with the kick. Later Murray evaded or broke many tackles to emerge clear with only the full back to beat: this he did by passing inside to Vere Hodge, who scored. Lack missed the kick. Savery kicked two penalty goals.

*Team* :—A. R. Barrowclough (⊕); W. M. Savery (W), J. E. Murray (B), T. S. A. Lack (G), J. W. Cornforth (G); M. H. A. Robinson (W), I. R. Dunnnett (G); A. J. Gray (T), J. D. R. Hayward (G), T. G. Heron (B), D. A. S. Gordon (W), I. A. P. Rumsey (G), D. L. Vere Hodge (G), D. A. O. Davies (T), A. A. N. Kurk (⊕).

#### THE SCHOOL v. MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL

Played at Aylesbury on Saturday, October 11th, the School winning by one try (3 points) to nil.

This was the first match away from home and the team played like a scratch side. The work of the forwards was ragged in the loose scrums and line-outs, from which they rarely got the ball. The backs were better than the forwards, but the line did not get going properly. The outstanding players on the Stowe side were Murray, Gray, Vere Hodge and Cornforth, and it appeared as if the rest of the team were expecting them to do all the work. There were only about three good moves in the game. Murray cut through and when tackled passed to Vere Hodge who scored by the posts, but Ward failed with the kick. Cornforth had one strong run on the right wing, but was tackled into touch on the '25' line. On a third occasion Wordley broke away from the scrum and passed to Savery, who carried on the movement.

*Team* :—A. R. Barrowclough (⊕); W. M. Savery (W), J. E. Murray (B), T. S. A. Lack (G), J. W. Cornforth (G); P. M. Ward (T), R. E. Wordley (C); A. J. Gray (T), J. D. R. Hayward (G), D. L. Donne (G), I. A. P. Rumsey (G), D. A. S. Gordon (W), R. T. F. Larsen (G), T. G. Heron (B), D. L. Vere Hodge (G).

#### THE SCHOOL v. SANDHURST.

Played at Stowe on Wednesday, October 15th, Sandhurst winning by two goals and a try (13 points) to a try (3 points).

There were supposed to be two rigger, one squash and one fencing team arriving at 2.30 p.m., but one bus got lost and only one rigger and half a squash team arrived at 3.45 p.m. However, the game began at 4 p.m. with neither team in good fettle.

The Stowe pack got more of the ball than in previous matches, but Ward was lying too close to the scrum to give his three-quarters a chance to get a break-through. The only try scored in the first half was a big surprise to all concerned. Gray attempted a mark from a twenty-five kick: it was faulty in that he made his mark too late. The opposition were deceived and Gray bored his way through them until, when finally stopped near the line, he handed on to Davies, who dropped over far out. The kick by Savery was unsuccessful.

In the second half the Stowe pack got tired shoving against a heavier eight and caved in to a large extent, thus giving them the chance to score two tries; the latter could have been stopped by Ward, but his attempt at a tackle was very weak. Both of these tries were converted and Stowe lost by 3—13, but they were not as bad as the score made out.

*Team* :—A. R. Barrowclough (⊕); W. M. Savery (W), J. E. Murray (B), T. S. A. Lack (⊕), J. W. Cornforth (G); P. M. Ward (T), I. R. Dunnnett (G); D. L. Donne (G), J. D. R. Hayward (G), T. G. Heron (B), I. A. P. Rumsey (G), A. J. Gray (T), D. L. Vere Hodge (G), D. A. O. Davies (T), R. Fleming (⊕).

## THE SCHOOL v. RUGBY.

Played at Stowe on Saturday, October 18th, Rugby winning by a try (3 points) to nil.

The most memorable feature of this match was the extraordinary violence of the N.W. wind. Although there had been heavy rain just before the start, the ground soon dried up and the ball did not appear wet and greasy. It looked as if the side winning the toss would have to pile up a big score in the first half and then concentrate on keeping the others out.

Stowe won the toss and after some aimless fumbling by both sides due to the conditions the play was soon in the Rugby '25.' The ball passed right down the Stowe three-quarter line but they did not look like penetrating the defence. After a quarter of an hour it was evident that Stowe were not going to get much advantage out of the wind, and spectators were prophesying a fairly big win for Rugby when they would have the wind behind them. The forwards were fairly even, but Rugby had more of the ball, especially from the loose scrums, and their stand-off half, J. A. Boyes, looked the most dangerous man on the field. He and the full-back, whose fielding of the ball was very good, even contrived to do some effective kicking to touch against the wind. Under the conditions, Stowe would have done better with long kicks and quick following-up. At last, from a weak defensive kick by Rugby, Lack caught the ball out on the left and a score looked almost certain when the whistle blew and Stowe were awarded a penalty for offside. Savery missed the kick badly and Ward did no better with another shortly after. So half-time came with no score and things looked black for Stowe.

As it turned out, Stowe started off the second half with an attack and showed more life. But it was not long before the wind was bound to bring Rugby back and soon they scored. Boyes was rightly the scorer. He shook off the wing forward's tackle and then ran fast through several players, but the kick was no better than those by Stowe in the first half. Soon after, the same player made another longer run and only just failed to score again. However, although Rugby looked much the more dangerous side now, there was no further score, largely due to dropped passes at the critical moment.

It was not a great game, but Rugby deserved to win. Besides Boyes, their full-back B. C. F. Bramwell and left wing three-quarter J. Mcgeen played well, and their captain M. J. Hussey did a vast amount of work in the scrum.

For Stowe, Vere Hodge played a good game and Cornforth was the best of the backs. Dunnett was slow getting the ball out, being often caught by fast-breaking Rugby wing forwards, and late in the game, when he was injured, Murray showed how much faster it could be done. There was a lack of dash about the side, and in contrast to that of Rugby some of the tackling was the worst seen from a Stowe side for many seasons.

*Team*:—A. R. Barrowclough (⊕); W. M. Savery (W), J. E. Murray (B), T. S. A. Lack (G), J. W. Cornforth (G); P. M. Ward (T), I. R. Dunnett (G); A. J. Gray (T), J. D. R. Hayward (G), T. C. Heron (B), D. A. S. Gordon (W), I. A. P. Rumsey (G), R. Fleming (C), D. A. O. Davies (T), D. L. Vere Hodge (G).

## THE SCHOOL v. R.A.F., HALTON.

Played at Stowe on Saturday, October 25th, the game being drawn; each side scored 6 points.

This turned out to be another scrappy game with many penalties awarded against Halton, most of whom were ignorant of the correct rules. They played hard however and eventually levelled up the score not long before the final whistle.

With Cornforth playing at fly-half, Stowe three-quarters looked more like an attacking machine than in any of the previous matches, but it was only on very rare occasions that they got the ball from the forwards, who played a very poor game as a pack, although individually Gray and Heron were good.

Once in the first half when the ball did come back the best passing movement of the year was seen. Cornforth drew two men, and when Murray had drawn the wing he passed out to Savery, who ran over in the corner. Savery missed with this kick but later got a penalty over with his second effort, which was granted because the other side failed to comply with the rules during the first attempt. Halton scored two unconverted tries in the second half to bring the score level.

*Team*:—A. R. Barrowclough (⊕); P. M. Ward (T), T. S. A. Lack (G), J. E. Murray (B), W. M. Savery (W); J. W. Cornforth (G), R. E. Wordley (C); A. J. Gray (T), J. D. R. Hayward (G), T. C. Heron (B), I. A. P. Rumsey (G), D. A. S. Gordon (W), D. L. Vere Hodge (G), D. A. O. Davies (T), R. Fleming (C).

## THE SCHOOL v. CHELTENHAM.

Played at Cheltenham on Saturday, November 1st, the School winning by a goal and a try (8 points) to a try (3 points).

This match should really have been played at Stowe, but owing to transport difficulties at the other end it was decided to go there. Stowe had a weakened side, having four probable players crooked. One of these was J. D. R. Hayward, who had been hooking for the side: this was a great loss and a hooker had to be trained up in a couple of days for the match.

After lunch it looked as if it would be a perfect afternoon for a game of rugger: the ground was dry and the sky was cloudless. However, by the time of the kick-off a very black menacing cloud appeared from nowhere and rain fell soon after the start. The spectators thought that the chances of a good game had gone, but it was rather the reverse. Both sides adapted themselves to the conditions: the giving and taking of passes was above standard and there were some good forward rushes.

Cheltenham had a huge pack of forwards, who ought to have dominated the game throughout, but this was not the case at all. They penned Stowe in their own half for three-quarters of the time but they could not drive home their attacks. The smaller Stowe forwards played, for the first time of the season, like a pack and were led exceptionally well by Heron. Their heeling from the tight and loose scrums was the best for two seasons and there was some real fight in the line-outs. They executed a perfect wheel from the goal line, which brought sounds of amazement from the armchair critics, who had not seen the like since 1890. Their close tackling was much improved and rarely did a man make more than five yards with the ball in his arms.

With their fair share of the ball the Stowe backs were good in patches, with Murray much in evidence, while Cornforth and Savery did good work in attack and defence. Wordley got the ball out to his partner quite well, but did little else. Lack and Calderwood played well together and should make a very good wing next year.

Although territorially Cheltenham had three-quarters of the play owing to their large forwards, their backs were not able to drive home their attacks. The only try scored by Cheltenham came as the result of a trick, when the ball was thrown to a man coming in between the end of the line-out and the touch-line. The Stowe tries were more spectacular, particularly the second. On the first occasion a very quick heel by Rumsey left Murray an opening, which he was not slow to accept, and when confronted by the opposition he passed out to Savery, who had no difficulty in scoring, but he failed with the kick. On the other occasion, Murray began a dribble on his own twenty-five, picked up, outdistanced two would-be tacklers, kicked over the full back's head and touched down: a truly magnificent try. Savery kicked the goal. Cheltenham set up some terrific attacks, but stubborn defence held the onslaught and Stowe eventually drove Cheltenham back to their own line.

*Team*:—A. R. Barrowclough (⊕); D. W. N. Calderwood (G), T. S. A. Lack (G), J. E. Murray (B), W. M. Savery (W); J. W. Cornforth (G), R. E. Wordley (C); T. C. Heron (B), D. L. Donne (G), I. A. P. Rumsey (G), S. C. Lloyd (B), A. J. Gray (T), D. L. Vere Hodge (G), D. A. O. Davies (T), R. Fleming (C).

## THE SCHOOL v. OUNDLE.

Played at Oundle on Saturday, November 8th, Oundle winning by four goals, one penalty goal and four tries (35 points) to nil.

It has been the present writer's privilege to describe the last four matches against Oundle; the great game of 1938, when Stowe beat Oundle for the first time in a struggle of which the thrilling memory makes light of the years between, as it always will when November brings these contests round again; the 1939 match, when Stowe had to prove that she could also defeat Oundle on her own ground, and did so in the game which will always be associated with Farnell-Watson; the grim struggle of 1940, when a generation of lesser men than the great ones of the past rose to supreme heights, and by superlative courage transmuted almost certain defeat into a memorable drawn game. And now in 1941, the writer must turn regretfully away from these ghosts and glories of yesterday and settle down to tell the story of how Stowe lost to Oundle by 35—0. Such a narrative must, of course, differ radically from its predecessors, and the writer feels that if, on the one hand, he must follow Othello's advice and not 'set down aught in malice,' he yet owes it to Stowe rugger to complete the process and 'nothing extenuate.' If this account can do anything to explain, as well as to describe, this catastrophic defeat, it will have achieved its object.

We always seem to be blessed with good weather for the Oundle match, and Saturday, November 8th, was no exception to this pleasant rule: the day was quite perfect when Lack kicked off amid the cheers of a very modest sprinkling of Stowe supporters, a body on whom the more stringent petrol-rationing had taken a heavy toll. From the opening scrums it was clear that Oundle had an advantage, both of weight and skill, in the tight, and that Stowe would have to offset this by securing the ball in the loose if her backs were to get moving at all. That the Stowe forwards never succeeded in doing this was one of the main reasons for the defeat. The ball, then, came back steadily and cleanly from the Oundle scrums, and their backs ran hard and straight. Almost at once tackling weaknesses began to show themselves in the Stowe defence: opposing three-quarters would be half-tackled and would go on: at first they would be caught by the forwards, but later there was less and less defence-covering, and this absence of co-operation between backs and forwards was another contributory factor in Stowe's downfall. The first try resulted from a strong break-through by the Oundle fly-half, Dawbarn, who beat Cornforth and evaded the wing-forward. (3—0.) Stowe made great efforts to improve on this reverse, but on the rare occasions when the forwards did heel the ball they held it up in the second-row, so that by the time it did come out all chances of penetration had disappeared. Oundle, with plenty of rope, began to experiment: they kicked ahead, and Barrowclough missed the ball badly on two of these attempts, yet redeemed himself somewhat by tackling, in quick succession and with great severity, first the Oundle left-wing and then the right-wing, the latter having the corner-flag taken with him as a kind of make-weight. During this period Oundle were attacking steadily while Stowe were becoming more and more unsettled, with a consequent continued weakening of the defence. Eventually two Oundle tries came in quick succession, the first by Glog, their left-wing, after that paradox of rugby, a stationary movement, where Lack was badly out of position, and the second by Malet, a centre, who was hopelessly missed, again by Lack. One of these tries was converted. (11—0.) Shortly before half-time Cornforth was penalized for handling the ball after a tackle and the kick succeeded. (14—0.)

The second half began scrappily with Oundle always quicker on the ball than Stowe. Murray at last gained some ground with a characteristic dribble, but Oundle came back with a fine run by their right-wing, and eventually scored again through their full-back Williams who made an odd-man in their line. (19—0.) Again Stowe raided the enemy '25,' but it was no more than a raid, and Oundle were back again almost immediately to cross the Stowe line twice. Walker went through the centre unstoppped, and did exactly the same thing a little later, and a little faster, this time leaving about four prostrate Stoics in his wake. (27—0.) By this time Oundle were, rather naturally, playing better and better football, while Stowe degenerated steadily. The next Oundle try came after a movement of really beautifully timed passes, which enabled Glog on the left-wing for once in a way to run round Calderwood, whose tackling had been most impressive and indeed continued to be so throughout the game. (30—0.) The last few minutes saw the first and only really concerted movement by the Stowe backs end in a reasonable attempt at a drop-goal by Lack, and the final Oundle try which, as though to add insult to injury, Rhodes scored from a very ragged movement by the Stowe three-quarters. (35—0.)

So much for the game itself. The purely technical reasons for the Stowe defeat have been already suggested: the tackling was uniformly weak throughout the team, with the honourable exception of Calderwood, and one rarely saw the tackler's shoulder really strike his opponent: the forwards made no real attempt to gain a superiority in the loose which was beyond their reach in the tight: there was far too much hesitation in all departments of the team, too great a tendency to leave a job to someone else who had just decided to leave it to you. But these are, after all, only technical reasons, and we must look further if we are to explain the complete absence of the fire and dash which raised the three previous fifteens to the place they will always occupy in the annals of Stowe football.

A week before this match Stowe and Oundle had both played away matches. Stowe had beaten Cheltenham by 8—3, while Oundle had been defeated by Bedford by 43—0. Stowe went on to the field against an Oundle side which was burning to wipe out, in just anybody's blood, the heaviest defeat that great rugby school has suffered for many years, and Stowe went on with the secret thought that they could not help winning against a side that had been beaten by more than forty points.

The Stowe side this year is a young and fairly inexperienced side, but it can learn some all-important lessons from the Oundle match, lessons its great predecessors had no need to learn. The first is that a team's strength is utterly dependent on the strength of its component parts, and that the diminution of individual effort throughout a team, for any reason whatever, reduces the power of that team to insignificance. Oundle, incidentally, proved that the converse of this statement is equally true. The second is that a severe loss of initiative is extraordinarily

difficult to regain, and that everything, thereafter, seems to go right for the attack and wrong for the defence. And the third and last is the most important of all, and is, that no first-class team takes the field with the conscious, or subconscious, idea that they will need to expend just so much of their energy to achieve their object of defeating their opponents. They give everything they have got, and, if that is not enough, they find a little more, like the Stowe fifteens of 1938, 1939, and 1940.

*Team*:—A. R. Barrowclough (♠); W. M. Savery (W), J. E. Murray (B), T. S. A. Lack (G), D. W. N. Calderwood (G); J. W. Cornforth (G), R. E. Wordley (T); I. A. P. Rumsey (G), D. L. Donne (G), T. G. Heron (B), A. J. Gray (T), D. A. S. Gordon (W), S. C. Lloyd (B), D. A. O. Davies (T), D. L. Vere Hodge (G).

#### THE SCHOOL v. UPPINGHAM.

Played at Uppingham on Saturday, November 15th, Uppingham winning by seven goals and three tries (44 points) to one goal (5 points).

This match was much more even than the score shows. Stowe suffered two cruel pieces of misfortune in the loss of Calderwood and Connell in the first half, and were forced to play with seven forwards and no full back in the second half. Uppingham had a strong pack and a line of fast moving three-quarters with two really fast wings, and these wings had a field day in the second half owing to the absence of the Stowe full-back.

Stowe fought hard. The forwards were every bit a match for the Uppingham pack, though the backs did not seem to make the ball move as swiftly or smoothly as their opponents. They lacked combination and appeared to play as individuals, though this might be accounted for by their receiving the ball slowly from the base of the scrum. Stowe tackling as a whole was good, and the team deserve the greatest credit for continuing to fight back even when the score was mounting steadily against them.

The game opened with Uppingham in the Stowe half; and their forwards heeling steadily from the first few scrums gave their three-quarters plenty of chances to show how dangerous they were. Stowe backs were tackling shakily and the situation was dangerous. After five minutes Uppingham pressure was rewarded by a try in the corner by the right wing. This was not converted. Stowe quickly came on the offensive, and a forward rush took them into the Uppingham half. Calderwood charged down a kick by the Uppingham full-back and after dribbling the ball for forty yards just got the touch-down to score. This was converted by Lack, and Stowe led 5—3.

Uppingham gained ground from the kick and pressed hard. After a few minutes a forward rush took their forwards over near the posts and the try was converted for Uppingham to lead by 8 points to 5.

Stowe again came to the attack, giving Uppingham some anxious moments, especially when Lack missed a drop-kick from a penalty given in front of the post. Uppingham relieved the pressure with a good run by their left wing, and in checking this, Calderwood was injured and took no more part in the game. Stowe pulled Lloyd from the pack to play right wing three-quarter. Uppingham kept on the attack and, in checking a forward rush, Connell was knocked out. Whilst he was on the ground Uppingham scored a try which was converted, to lead 13—5. This left Stowe with 13 men and no full back, but the team immediately went on the attack, and Murray cut through with a grand run. Stowe missed again with a free kick, the game swung back towards the Stowe half and the Uppingham right centre cut through for a try. The kick failed and half-time came with Uppingham leading by 18 points to 5.

The second half was a tale of Stowe being generally in the Uppingham half, but being unable to penetrate the defence, whilst every time the Uppingham wings got the ball they slipped their opposite numbers and, failing to find a full back, their exceptional speed did the rest. Six tries were scored in this way, of which four were converted. Stowe tackled stubbornly but could not deal with the blows of this clever and speedy attack, and the game ended with the score 44—5.

*Team*:—J. M. Connell (G); H. J. H. Nelson (♠), J. E. Murray (B), T. S. A. Lack (G), D. W. N. Calderwood (G); J. W. Cornforth (G), R. E. Wordley (T); I. A. P. Rumsey (G), D. L. Donne (G), T. G. Heron (B), A. J. Gray (T), D. A. S. Gordon (W), S. C. Lloyd (B), D. A. O. Davies (T), D. L. Vere Hodge (G).

## THE SCHOOL v. 228th MEDIUM BATTERY (R.A.).

Played at Stowe on Saturday, November 29th, the School winning by one goal, one penalty goal and a try (11 points) to a try (3 points).

This team had a good record, having had only eight points scored against them and having amassed themselves some 150 in four matches. Luckily for Stowe the forwards played a magnificent game, well led by Gray. They got the ball from most of the tight and practically all the loose scrums: the backs did very little with it. Dunnett at scrum half was trying to pick up a wet ball with the tips of his fingers: when he did get it out the opposition was usually out of position, but disgraceful passing and taking of passes led to six tries at least being lost.

In the first half the only score came from a penalty goal by Lack. In the second half two tries were scored, by Cornforth and Gordon; one of these was converted by Lack. The opposition scored once but failed to convert.

*Team*:—A. R. Barrowclough (♣); W. R. Mallory (♣), T. S. A. Lack (♣), J. E. Murray (♣), J. W. Cornforth (♣); M. H. A. Robinson (♣), I. R. Dunnett (♣); A. J. Gray (♣), J. D. R. Hayward (♣), I. A. P. Rumsey (♣), S. C. Lloyd (♣), D. A. S. Gordon (♣), D. L. Vere Hodge (♣), D. A. O. Davies (♣), R. Fleming (♣).

## THE SECOND FIFTEEN.

Transport difficulties and casualties made this a very disappointing season for the Second Fifteen. They were only able to play one School match, against Bloxham, and they won it by 14—0 after a good game. The team began by playing indifferently, but after some hard games against heavier Army sides they developed into a promising side, who might have done well in school matches. P. M. Ward (♣) captained the team well and, of the backs, J. M. Connell (♣) played some good games at full-back, while H. B. G. Epps (♣) and H. J. H. Nelson (♣) defended well on the wings. M. H. A. Robinson (♣), at fly-half, was the most penetrating attacking player. Of the forwards, N. W. Riley (♣) proved himself a good leader, J. D. R. Hayward (♣) hooked well, R. E. Hodgkin (♣) did good work in the line-outs, while A. J. Manley (♣) and R. T. F. Larsen (♣) were often prominent. Altogether this was a team and a season which might have been better used had circumstances permitted it.

Results:—

Saturday, October 25th.	v. R.A.F., Halton (home).	Lost, 0—22
Saturday, November 1st.	v. Old Northamptonians (home).	Lost, 0—11
Wednesday, November 12th.	v. Bloxham 1st XV (away).	Won, 14—0
Wednesday, November 19th.	v. 136th Field Regiment (home).	Lost, 0—11
Saturday, November 22nd.	v. East Riding Yeomanry (home).	Lost, 3—17

## THE THIRD FIFTEEN.

Matches were played against St. Lawrence, Ramsgate (won, 16—11), Bloxham School 2nd XV (won, 23—0), and two against the East Riding Yeomanry, one of which was won (15—3) and the other lost (0—15). Matches were also played against the Colts and the 4th XV.

The team was never a strong one and a noticeable weakness in tackling was always apparent. The forwards generally played hard, but never mastered the art of tight scrummaging. The backs never let the ball run smoothly, with the result that ground was rarely made from a passing movement, and the wings were too often neglected.

B. N. L. Fletcher (♣) led the side with much enthusiasm until he was injured, and P. R. A. H. Billinge (♣) proved a very capable deputy for him.

M. A. Marshall (♣), D. G. Champion (♣) and R. A. Gilliland (♣) were the pick of the backs; whilst Billinge, Fletcher, C. E. Guinness (♣), A. N. C. Bruce (♣), C. W. Campbell (♣) and J. C. Farmer (♣) were hard-working forwards.

## COLTS.

The Club has been unfortunate in having so few matches this term. The results have been:—

Wednesday, October 15th.	v. St. Edward's School, Oxford.	Lost by 0—8.
Saturday, November 29th.	An under 16½ team v. Rugby.	Lost by 0—6.

Several games have been played against the 3rd XV, with varying results.

J. B. A. Kessler (♣) is a capable captain and leads the forwards well, but even his enthusiasm has been insufficient to rid the team of that lethargic start to a game which is so characteristic of Stowe Colts. Both St. Edward's and Rugby scored in the first few minutes, after which Stowe began to play proper football and, despite being heavily outweighed by both teams, had nearly as much of the games as their opponents. Appearances suggest that most members of Colts' sides are self-conscious when they go on the field, and only become aggressive when they have been knocked about.

The forwards are a light but quite active pack, Kessler and N. C. S. Barling (♣) being outstanding and M. S. Withers (♣) good in the scrums. G. W. Hawkings (♣) hooks well and does his share in the loose. The weakest point, apart from the slow start, is the poor tackling, of which all the wing forwards who have been tried are particularly guilty.

The backs, with the exception of D. E. Watson (♣) are disappointing. H. J. M. Molloy (♣), the scrum half, is slow but plays harder than any other possible choices. J. S. Perry (♣) and R. H. M. Pease (♣) have football in them but seem unable to learn not to rush into opposing forwards. J. M. Ashcroft (♣) is a strong runner on the wing, but, like Perry and Pease, wastes his opportunities by turning in to the forwards. The other wing has not been chosen. N. A. Tolkien (♣) is the present full-back but lacks experience.

## JUNIOR COLTS

The results of this term's matches have been as follows.

Wednesday, October 15th.	v. St. Edward's (away).	Won, 11—3
Saturday, October 18th.	v. Bedford (away).	Lost, 0—33
Wednesday, November 12th.	v. Bloxham (home).	Lost, 8—11

## RESULT OF THE KICKING COMPETITION.

1, Bruce, 131; equal 2, Cobham and Grenville, 124; 4, Grafton, 106; 5, Chandos, 103; 6, Walpole, 92; 7, Temple, 89; 8, Chatham, 65.

## CRICKET HOUSE MATCHES 1941

## First Round.

WALPOLE v. COBHAM. Walpole won by 1 wicket.

Cobham, 134 (T. M. J. Shervington 73; W. M. Savery 6 for 36).  
Walpole 136 for 9 (M. H. A. Robinson 60; G. H. Johnson 3 for 8).

BRUCE v. CHATHAM. Chatham won by 6 wickets.

Bruce, 111 (A. G. Jessiman 39; W. R. Mallory 4 for 43, J. M. Gale, 3 for 43, C. Dansie 2 for 29).  
Chatham, 112 for 4 (J. E. Hodgkin 45, J. M. Gale 33, W. R. Mallory 22; G. T. G. Conant 3 for 52).

CHANDOS v. GRAFTON. Chandos won by 57 runs.

Chandos, 240 (E. P. Hickling 125, R. A. Soames 42, R. G. Hurley 31; P. S. Armstrong 5 for 48).  
Grafton, 183 (A. R. Barrowclough 115, N. C. S. Barling 39; E. P. Hickling 5 for 43, R. H. Hawkins 3 for 39).

TEMPLE v. GRENVILLE. Temple won by 131 runs.

Temple, 236 (R. B. Higham 76, J. E. Colbeck 45; I. R. Dunnett 4 for 43, T. S. A. Lack 4 for 76).  
Grenville, 105 (I. R. Dunnett 30; J. E. Colbeck 4 for 4, H. B. G. Epps 3 for 16).

## Second Round.

WALPOLE v. CHATHAM. Walpole won by 1 wicket.

Chatham, 81 (A. D. Thomson 27, J. M. Gale 14; W. M. Savery 6 for 30).

Walpole, 85 for 9 (C. F. Cullis 27, M. H. A. Robinson 18; W. R. Mallory 7 for 38, C. Dansie 2 for 36).

CHANDOS v. TEMPLE. Chandos won by 3 wickets.

Temple, 196 (B. W. B. Sparrow 41, P. M. Ward 38, R. D. R. Lycett-Green 37, R. A. W. Rossdale 29; R. C. Clayton 5 for 26, R. H. Hawkins 3 for 56).

Chandos, 197 for 7 (R. A. Soames 43, J. A. Lucey 42; J. E. Colbeck 3 for 63, R. D. R. Lycett-Green 2 for 36).

## Final House Match.

CHANDOS v. WALPOLE. Walpole won by 6 wickets.

CHANDOS.			
1st innings.		2nd innings.	
E. P. Hickling, c Champion, b Savery ...	155	c and b Beaumont.....	19
J. A. Lucey, b Savery.....	4	b Savery.....	1
R. C. Hurley, lbw, b Beaumont.....	14	b Savery.....	7
R. A. Soames, lbw, b Beaumont.....	0	c Calthorpe, b Savery.....	5
R. H. Hawkins, c Lightfoot, b Beaumont	18	c Champion, b Beaumont.....	7
R. E. Wordley, b Beaumont.....	15	run out .....	4
G. D. Wauhope, b Lightfoot.....	20	b Beaumont.....	0
T. H. Barclay, b Beaumont.....	3	b Beaumont.....	0
G. A. Callender, c Robinson, b Beaumont	2	b Beaumont.....	2
P. H. Slater, b Lightfoot.....	0	not out .....	0
R. C. Clayton, not out.....	8	b Savery.....	6
Extras .....	6	Extras .....	5
Total .....	245	Total .....	56

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Savery .....	22	2	78	2
Beaumont .....	25	3	94	6
Calthorpe .....	10	1	60	0
Lightfoot .....	2.3	1	7	2

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Savery .....	10.5	2	17	4
Beaumont .....	10	1	34	6

WALPOLE.			
1st innings.		2nd innings.	
H. F. Deakin, c Wauhope, b Barclay...	6	b Barclay .....	2
G. H. F. Beaumont, c Soames, b Barclay	62	c Slater, b Hawkins.....	13
M. H. A. Robinson, lbw, b Clayton.....	20	c and b Hawkins.....	35
W. M. Savery, b Hickling.....	3	c Barclay, b Hawkins.....	30
R. A. S. G. Calthorpe, b Barclay.....	3	not out .....	9
R. A. Gilliland, b Hickling.....	1	not out .....	20
J. F. Cullis, b Hickling.....	51	Extras .....	7
I. H. Robinson, not out.....	14	Total (for 4 wks.)...	116
R. D. Lightfoot, b Hickling.....	4		
C. M. Campbell, b Barclay.....	2		
D. G. Champion, c Clayton, b Hawkins...	7		
Extras .....	13		
Total .....	186		

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Hickling .....	28	6	44	4
Barclay .....	29	6	53	4
Hawkins.....	17	8	25	1
Clayton .....	15	2	51	1

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Hickling .....	10	2	30	0
Barclay .....	13	4	38	1
Hawkins.....	10	1	30	3
Clayton .....	2	0	11	0

## SQUASH

Most of this term's events will have taken place after this account has been written. Two or three more matches, the house matches, and the last rounds of the Senior and Junior competitions are yet to be played.

The standard in the School team is higher this year than recently. There are so many players of about the same ability to fill the last two or three places that it was decided to run a ladder competition among the first twelve players to determine places in the team. Unfortunately the call of other activities makes it impossible to play regularly enough for the scheme to be a success. Sir F. Beaumont (W) has played very well and his position is not seriously challenged. J. F. Cullis (W) and W. R. Mallory (C) would also be above the average if there were more match practice for them. After these three come several players all capable of beating each other, including B. N. L. Fletcher (C), D. B. Eaglesfield (T), J. E. Colbeck (T), N. C. S. Barling (C), J. A. Lucey (C), and H. W. Sansom (B).

We are very grateful to those who can give us matches these days, as it is only lack of match practice that prevents the side from being distinctly useful. The results of the matches to date are :—

October 15th.	v. Sandhurst O.C.T.U.	Lost, 1—2.
October 29th.	v. R.A.F., Bicester.	Lost, 1—3.
November 29th.	v. South Riding Yeomanry.	Won, 5—0.

## FENCING

Owing to the possibility of arranging matches this term, fencing has been revived and a great deal of enthusiasm has been shown by the junior members of the club.

The first match, which was to take place at Stowe against Sandhurst, was not fought on account of the opposing team's failure to arrive.

The next match took place at Cheltenham, when the team accompanied the Rugby XV, and was badly beaten on account of its lack of experience in matches.

The School met the Imperial College Fencing Club at Stowe in a match consisting of four foils and three épées. This was altogether more successful, owing to the experience gained in the preceding match, and although Stowe lost, the fight was more even.

Another match was arranged with the Czech Army Fencing Club, but this suffered the same fate as the first.

H. B. G. Epps (T), who was awarded his club Chevron after the match against the Imperial College Fencing Club, fenced well throughout the term, especially when he added a little science to a strong attack. J. G. A. S. Clendenin (B) and J. S. M. Ramsay (T), who also fenced in all the matches, show promise but both have tendencies to become wild. W. T. D. Dixon (G), fourth foil against the Imperial College, fenced very well in view of his lack of practice in matches.

It is hoped that the standard will improve considerably next term and that interest will remain at its present level.

The results of the matches were as follows :—

Against Cheltenham,	lost 7—20.
Against the Imperial College Fencing Club,	lost 11—14.



## GOLF

Unfortunately, owing to more important agricultural employment, the groundsmen were unable to cut the hay on the golf course till several weeks after the beginning of the term. The more ardent enthusiasts, however, endeavoured to overcome this difficulty, with regrettably little success.

In the latter half of the term there has been a Red Cross Golf Competition, handicap singles. Each house has organized a sub-competition and the two finalists from each house have gone into the school "final."

This has produced the satisfactory total of four pounds and ten shillings for the Duke of Gloucester's fund.

B.N.L.F.

## CHAPEL COLLECTIONS

The collections since July 20th have been as follows:—

		£	s.	d.
July 20th.	For Prisoners of War	11	10	10
Sept. 21st.	Pineapple	11	17	5
Oct. 26th.	Buckingham Hospital	17	0	4
Nov. 9th.	Earl Haig's British Legion Fund	33	9	2
Early Services (July 20th—Nov. 30th) (for Pineapple)		14	0	8

For the Committee.

J. M. TODD (*Hon. Treasurer*).

4/12/41.

## THE LIBRARY

We have been glad to welcome Mr. Davenport as Librarian this term. His arrival has ensured the maintenance of Mr. Saunders' good work.

During the term the Library has acquired a large number of new books. In particular the *Philosophy*, *Classics* and *Modern Verse* sections have been strengthened.

The works of the Restoration Dramatists in the Nonesuch Edition have been presented to the Library as a commemorative gift in the name of the late H. D. Barbour (C, 1933). These beautiful volumes, which have all the Nonesuch quality, are welcome for their own sakes as well as for their association with an old Stoic.

A complete set of the *Times*' History of the 1914-1918 War in twenty-two volumes has been presented by Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Foord. This is a fine set, every volume being fresh and perfect, and it will be a valuable addition to the reference section of the Library.

During this term there has been more untidiness in the Library than ever before, and much wholly unnecessary labour has been given to the Assistant Librarians. These Officials are volunteers and they take on their job because they believe it to be worth doing. But lately their faith has been severely strained. Any creative work on behalf of the Library is made impossible by the ever-present need for tidying up. This is most deplorable. The Library is a School institution (the importance of which will be recognized by anyone who glances through the register) and every member of the School should take pride and interest in it.

## MUSIC

The orchestra is tackling a large programme this term, to which it is proving equal, despite the ever decreasing number of lower strings and the timidity of brass and percussion. The programme includes the first and third movements of yet another Beethoven symphony—the Pastoral, the overture to the Barber of Seville by Rossini, the Piano Concerto in A minor by Schumann (soloist J. M. Budden (W)), the Gavotte from Prokofiev's Classical Symphony, and the Magic Circle and Ritual Fire Dance by de Falla. The strings are to play the Paschal from Rossini's Overture to William Tell, the solo parts of which are performed by J. S. Ramsay (T) (flute) and J. E. Murray (B) (oboe), at present the most finished wind-players in the orchestra. In the Beethoven symphony the standard of performance is good and the massive delicacy of the work itself realized. The Barber of Seville is executed with spirit and the wind is successful at steering the orchestra through occasional minor crises. The flexible tempo of the Schumann concerto makes it difficult for the orchestra to keep together; so far, however, they have improved consistently in that respect. Of the smaller works the Paschal is played the best. The Ritual Fire Dance needs more abandon.

The Choral Society are performing various choruses from the Messiah. Although the choral writing of Handel is less searching than that of Bach in that it is vocal rather than instrumental, his works require a much greater volume of tone if a jejune effect is to be avoided. The fact that most altos are trebles and most tenors and basses really baritones means a constant sag in volume wherever the pitch is lowered. The singing was at its best about the middle of the term.

The Music Society has held three concerts this term. In the first, Mr. Sykes sang a number of well-known tenor songs including "In Native Worth," from the Creation, "Onaway, awake," from Hiawatha, and the Flower song from Carmen. Both this concert and the next, in which Miss Penny played with Mr. Snowdon Sonatas by Bach and Brahms, were poorly attended. The third featured Mr. Angus Morrison, a pianist of considerable merit; his programme consisted of a Beethoven Sonata op. 109, some 18th and 17th Century harpsichord pieces, and a group of works by composers of the 19th Century. Every piece was full of vitality. Mr. Morrison displayed a remarkable command of tone varying from the martellato of the harpsichord technique to the rich luxuriant chords of the romantics. Perhaps the most striking feature of the programme was his rendering of Liszt's Concert Study in D flat. Mr. Morrison is one of the few executants of this generation who can do justice to the much over-looked works of this virtuoso composer and who can convey to the audience the touches of genius concealed amid the abundance of technical display. After an unconvincing start, the Beethoven was played most sympathetically. Only the beautiful theme which opens and closes the finale was too loud and without any real breadth of tone.

The Sunday evening Popular Concerts have been taking place regularly each week. If the audience has decreased in numbers now that reading is forbidden, it has gained in appreciation. Of the staff, Mr. Cooper gave a piano recital of modern works, Mr. Cross sang us some of the old favourites, and Mr. Geoghegan played some arrangements for clarinet solo among which were two of his own compositions. Chamber music by members of the School included the Mendelssohn Piano Trio in D minor (A. S. Hubbard (T), P. A. Mulgan (G), Mr. Snowdon) and various arrangements for small combinations of wind instruments. Among the latter were two wind quintets with piano continuo, and Haydn's song "My Mother bids me bind my Hair," for flute, horn and cello. Of these, the last was the most successful. The most important individual achievement of the term was J. P. Becker's (C) creditable performance of the Brahms-Handel variations in their entirety.

The O.T.C. Band plays vigorously and generally with precision, though the batterie and brass do not always co-ordinate as they should, mostly owing to the over-elaborate rhythmical figures of the former. Perhaps the technique of the band as a whole is not ideally suited to Sullivan or Heykin, but with their "Waltz Medley" they are a good out-of-doors weapon.

J.M.B.



Despite the wit and charm of these four speeches, they did little to further the main argument, and the more serious-minded of the subsequent speakers had nothing to go upon. The tone of the subsequent debate was consequently rather flat.

There also spoke : *For the Motion* : J. M. Connell (G), J. D. R. Hayward (G), J. S. B. Butler (G), the President, Mr. G. W. Knight, F. E. Schuster (G), D. Rutherston (C), R. H. Pemberton (T), C. M. Campbell (W), G. P. Lloyd (B), R. A. Yule (B) and I. F. Wallace (C).

*Against the Motion* : R. M. Sellers (W), M. D. Rutherston (C), G. C. Neale (C), J. C. Farmer (W), N. F. C. Coleman (C), A. P. de Pass (C), G. G. Imrie (G), R. D. C. Reynolds (B), W. H. N. Saunders (W) and the Treasurer (T).

On a division being taken there voted :

In the Upper House : For the Motion	15
Against	11
In the Lower House : For the Motion	32
Against	40

The Motion was therefore carried in the Upper House by four votes and lost in the Lower House by eight votes.

The 141st Meeting of the Society was held in the Library at 8.15 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19th. Before the public business began, the Librarian, probably stung by the doubts cast upon his utility as an officer of the Society at the previous debate, announced that there had been several acquisitions to the Society's Library ; these included a stone group of the committee, the Chatham Community Song Book, in addition to various books with fanciful titles such as "Sweet Mystery of Life" by Iona Caravan. When the House had recovered from its amusement, there were some motions of varying degrees of fatuity on the subject of the notes placed before later speakers at the previous debate. The President and Secretary successfully defended themselves against a charge, brought by Miss I. H. Radice, of giving the paper speakers insufficient notice.

When at last the House was ready to debate the motion "That the Public School tradition should be trusted to play its part in post-war education," the President rose to deliver a short homily on the exact significance of the motion, to exhort the House to consider carefully its real opinions, and to outline the main arguments for each side.

J. D. R. HAYWARD (G) made a profound and interesting speech. The motion, he said, concerned everyone vitally, because general decrease in wealth made it imperative for the Public Schools to justify their existence. We were the last generation to be sent to a Public School because our parents could afford it. After the war, not the 25,000 richest, but the 25,000 best people in the country should receive a Public School education. The speaker emphasized the *esprit de corps* of the Public School and contrasted it with that of the Day School. He commended Dr. Arnold's ideal of the "Christian gentleman" (a dictum much discussed later in the debate) and concluded by saying that as long as England wanted leaders she would want the Public Schools.

B. R. ARMSTRONG (W) read a brilliant essay on contemporary sociological and educational developments. The Public School, he said, was an anachronism. It had served its purpose admirably but was now effete. He appeared to take a somewhat cynical view of the post-war world, and cited Neville Chamberlain as an example of the failure of the "Christian gentleman." Chivalry and Christianity were, he maintained, things of the past.

THE SECRETARY'S (C) speech consisted almost entirely of a long and altogether ineffectual attempt to define tradition. He began by quoting from Gilbert and soundly denouncing the other side as traitors. With heavy-handed pedantry he produced examples from Greek, Roman and French history to show that the "mos maiorum" was the vital force in any great institution. After the war, he said, the new generation must be brought up in the old tradition, so that they would be able to maintain the good in it, and rectify the bad.

S. C. V. DODGSON (W) based his attack against the Public School tradition on the necessity for social equality and the abolition of capitalism. Stowe, he said, used to contain one degenerate family of snobs ; now it contained four hundred. After this vigorous opening, the speaker digressed enthusiastically on the subject of worms, cricket pitches and washing behind the ears and quoted with fiendish glee the passage in "Infantry Section Leading" which enumerates the diseases lack of washing can spread.

These were stimulating speeches, and the level reached by subsequent speakers was fairly high. K. H. IRGENS (C) adopted a Metternich pose, and advocated the education of a privileged class to crush the masses. A. P. DE PASS (C) said that the Public School tradition trained a nation of shopkeepers rather than gentlemen. Mr. J. L. A. B. DAVENPORT suggested that the present system was a "whited sepulchre" and commented on the distressing fear of unpleasantness prevalent in the arguments of both sides. J. C. R. WELCH (G) delivered a tirade against privilege. J. S. B. BUTLER (G) pointed out that the Public School tradition concerned itself with the means of education rather than the end. J. F. TUOHY (T) referred to the Prime Minister as an "uncouth lisper of banalities."

There also spoke : *For the Motion* : C. M. Campbell (W), D. W. N. Calderwood (G), M. D. Rutherston (C), A. D. Page (C), D. R. Turquand-Young (C), the Treasurer (T), P. R. A. H. Billinge (C) and G. A. Eve (G).

*Against the Motion* : J. E. M. Irvine (T), A. G. H. Melly (C) and J. C. Farmer (W).

On a division being taken there voted :—

In the Upper House : For the Motion	10
Against	11
In the Lower House : For the Motion	46
Against	11

The Motion was therefore lost in the Upper House by one vote and carried in the Lower House by thirty-five votes.

C.R.P.A.

## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

### THE VITRUVIAN SOCIETY.

With the advent of Mr. Esdaile, the Vitruvian Society has taken on a fresh lease of life. Through his kindly and persevering work the Vitruvians have been affiliated to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings with the purpose of assisting in the completion of a record of buildings of interest in England. The Headmaster accepted the post of Honorary President, and Mr. Esdaile that of Vice-President and Chairman. J. E. M. Irvine (T) was appointed Secretary, and Mr. Esdaile Treasurer, J. S. M. Ramsay (T) Librarian, and C. R. P. Anstey (C), C. M. Campbell (W) and N. E. Seely (T) members of the Committee. On October 25th and November 8th respectively two purely business meetings of the Society were held, and on December 6th the Headmaster gave a lecture with lantern slides on "Skyscrapers."

J.E.M.I.

### THE SPOTTERS' CLUB.

The Club has now received affiliation to the National Association of Spotters' Clubs. Membership cards have been obtained, and Proficiency Certificates are expected shortly.

Meetings were held throughout the term on Saturdays at 5.15 p.m. The standard 2nd and 3rd class tests have been held, in addition to two grand tests for which prizes were given. Talks have been given by H. W. Sansom (B), D. E. Steer (B) and D. R. Blundell (G). The club's first guest speaker, Mr. J. M. Maxwell, of the Royal Observer Corps, came down on November 29th.

The Committee for the term was as follows :—Chairman, Mr. W. Llowarch ; Vice-Chairman, A. D. Page (C) ; Hon. Secretary, H. W. Sansom (B) ; Hon. Competitions Officer, D. R. Blundell (G) ; Hon. Treasurer, J. B. Pollock (B) ; and D. G. Campion (W) and D. E. Steer (B).

H.W.S.

## THE MODERN LANGUAGE SOCIETY.

At the beginning of the term, F. W. E. Groeninx van Zoelen (C) was elected Secretary and J. S. M. Ramsay (T) Committee-man. J. P. Pettavel (W), D. A. S. Gordon (W), W. E. Duck (W), and A. D. Maclean (T) were elected members.

The Society met five times in the President's room and read a delightful comedy "Topaze," by Fagnol. It is a skit on the corruption prevalent in the French municipal government, and contains some highly amusing passages.

The story is that of Monsieur Topaze, who starts as a righteous schoolmaster and is enticed into a fraudulent business whose influence he gradually shakes off, and emerges as a hard-headed but honest business man.

F.G.v.Z.

## MUSIC CLUB.

The fourteenth meeting of the Club was held in the President's rooms on Friday, July 18th, when J. O. Outwater (C) read his paper on "Acoustics." The paper was brief and it was perhaps a pity that the lecturer did not take a lower view of the Club's intelligence and descend to explain some of the scientific terms he used. But the chief attraction was the impressive array of instruments with which he made demonstrations from time to time, and which varied from tuning forks to cathode ray oscilloscopes.

We are hoping to hear papers from Mr. Cooper and Mr. Llowarch later this term.

C.R.P.A.

## THE SYMPOSIUM.

There have been four meetings this term, all of which have been in the Aurelian Room. The first was held on October 5th, when the arrangements for the term were discussed with the new members. It was agreed that there should be a meeting every fortnight on the average.

The second meeting took place on October 19th, when C. M. Campbell (W) read a paper on "Allenby." He gave us an excellent picture of the life and career of Allenby and pointed out that he was undoubtedly one of the outstanding tacticians of the Great War.

The third meeting was on October 30th, when J. P. Becker (C) read a most interesting and amusing paper on "Plastics." He described the various stages the development of these materials had undergone, their universal use and their great future. He even suggested we might soon be walking down Piccadilly in plastic hats.

The fourth meeting was held on November 20th, when the Secretary (C) read a paper on "Vermeer." He began by a violent attack on modern artists and then outlined the career and achievements of this contemporary of all great Dutch and Flemish painters. He concluded by showing that Vermeer was another great exponent of those light effects which have so distinguished Dutch painting.

It is hoped that there will be two more meetings, at which J. F. Tuohy (T) will read a paper on "Modern Poetry" and "Macbeth" will be read.

The new members this term were:—C. E. Guinness (C), A. J. Gray (T), C. M. Campbell (W), P. W. I. Rees (T) and J. C. Farmer (W).

F.G.v.Z.

## THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

There have been no lectures or expeditions this term; instead, some members of the Society have turned their attention to the keeping of livestock. The new Natural History room is in use and houses several families of mice. It is hoped that the breeding of these can be continued for many generations so that, as experience is gained, inheritance can be studied. Rabbits are also being kept, and cages are being prepared for other animals. Gammarus, a small Crustacean, is also to be bred for observation of inheritance.

B.A.B.

## THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY.

In addition to three formal meetings this term, the Society held a debate on Saturday, November 29th. The procedure adopted was as far as possible that of the Roman Senate, and each speaker assumed a definite character. C. R. P. Anstey (C), as Cicero, panegyricized his own performance in regard to the Catilinarian Conspiracy; J. M. Budden (W) made an erudite speech with something of the pedantry of the Emperor Claudius; A. R. Barrowclough (C) deplored the moral degeneration of the day in the style of Cato the Censor; J. D. R. Hayward (G), as Sulla, concentrated on birth and breeding in a way that could hardly have been less Sulla-like. Other speakers were Marius, Appius Claudius, Pompey and Tiberius Gracchus. Unfortunately everyone was so keen on being true to type that the subject of the debate was not seriously tackled.

On October 7th, Dr. Eisler spoke to the Society about Virgil's Fourth Eclogue. His views on this much-vexed poem were original and interesting. Virgil had, he said, once supported Antony and the Eclogue was dedicated to his legate Pollio; the child referred to was the son to be born to Antony and Cleopatra, and the poem was intended as something of a joke, a skit on the then prevalent expectations of a world monarch.

On October 28th, J. D. R. Hayward (G) read his paper on "Alexander." He described his history in some detail and went on to draw his conclusions. Alexander was a great soldier besides being a man of unusual restraint. It was, however, perhaps fortunate that he died. The East was not to be reconciled with the West, and Alexander's attempt to hellenize the lands which he conquered was foredoomed. His work, however, paved the way for the ideal of the Brotherhood of Man.

On December 2nd, Mr. P. S. Anstey (C, 1940) came down from Oxford to read his paper on "Horace and Modern Appreciation." He divided his consideration of the poet into three parts, the literary, the philosophic and the personal. He described the place of Horace in the development of Latin poetry, and commented on his achievement in reconciling originality with adaptation. His philosophy, he said, was no more to him than a pastime, and his serious work was nearly always written with his tongue in his cheek. He deduced from Horace's relations with his patrons, his friends, and finally himself, that his poetry was always entirely spontaneous.

C.R.P.A.

## THE FILM SOCIETY.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining foreign films this term, it was decided to show films that had been seen at Stowe before, though some time ago of course.

The following films have been shown:—*Kribbebijter* (Dutch) and *Der Kaiser von Kalifornien* (German). It is hoped that *Hohe Schühle* (German) will also be shown.

J.D.R.H.

## THE DRAMATIC CLUB.

A Dramatic Club has been founded under the Presidency of the Headmaster and the Vice-Presidency of Mr. Dams. The Club is open to all members of the Upper and Middle Schools and intends to cater for those interested in any and all angles of Drama.

Miss Radice has therefore very kindly consented to run make-up classes for those interested, and Mr. Bisson with the help of some enthusiasts is reforming the stage-lighting in the gym, which at the moment is lamentable.

The Club has affiliated itself to the British Drama League in order to obtain copies of plays with greater ease. The main activity of the Club is to be play-reading, and, though this term we have only read Galsworthy's "Escape" we hope to read a play practically every week next term. This should give all members a chance of taking a part during the course of the term.

The Club will stage an annual production in which it is hoped that as many members as possible will be able to take part.

J.D.R.H.

## THE XII CLUB.

Besides the fact that over half the members of last term's XII Club have left, the Society has undergone a change in personnel. Its original purpose was to promote discussion and with this in view those who possessed the most general information were selected. This term the main body of the Society consists of specialists and emphasis is laid on the paper rather than on the succeeding discussion. K. H. Irgens (C) read us a paper on the French Tradition in Art which was admirably suited to his audience. He did not make the mistake of starving it of illustrations. Later, we heard most of J. S. B. Butler's (S) treatise entitled "The Supernormal"—a most profound, if vaguely pessimistic, work. Now that philosophy is shunned by the average person, it made a great impression on the Society to hear a paper on the subject whose range was comprehensive and whose conclusions were logical. Lastly, S. C. V. Dodgson (W) contrived to give us a glimpse of the character of Russian literature.

J.M.B.

## LATE NEWS

## THE SCHOOL v. BEDFORD.

Played at Stowe on Saturday, December 6th, Bedford winning by 39 points to nil.

Prospects were gloomy before the match began for these reasons: Bedford had one of the most powerful teams for some years back and Stowe were seven possible players short. In view of the fact that Bedford had beaten Oundle by 43—0 and the latter had beaten us by 35—0, the score might have been enormous. 39—0 may seem a big score, but had it not been for the prodigy Oakley, of Bedford, the score might only have been in the region of ten points. Oakley scored eight tries and made the opening for the only other try. Admittedly he did not make all his own tries, but with his amazing side-step and speed, it seemed as good as a certain try when he had the ball in his hands: only on two occasions in the game was he tackled.

The Stowe pack gave a good account of themselves and were just as good in every department of the game as Bedford, but Bedford's superiority in the half-backs gave Oakley the chances he was asking for. Robinson was the best of the Stowe backs and at times brought off some devastating tackles. Of the forwards, the best were Gray, Heron and Rumsey, while Hayward hooked well.

*Team*:—R. Fleming (C); W. R. Mallory (C), J. W. Cornforth (G), D. W. N. Calderwood (G), H. B. G. Epps (T); M. H. A. Robinson (W), I. R. Dunnett (G); I. A. P. Rumsey (G), J. D. R. Hayward (G), A. J. Gray (T), R. T. F. Larsen (G), S. C. Lloyd (B), T. G. Heron (B), D. A. O. Davies (T), D. L. Vere Hodge (G).

