

THE STOIC



Number Sixty-one

JULY 1943



Photo by]

[*M.R.S.*



Photo by]

TWO LAKE SCENES
(ELEVEN-ACRE)

[*R. H.*



By courtesy of]

MAJOR J. T. MCK. ANDERSON
V.C., D.S.O.

] The Daily Express

THE STOIC

VOL. X

JULY 1943

No. 6

DECORATIONS

VICTORIA CROSS

The King has approved the award of the Victoria Cross to :—

LIEUTENANT (TEMPORARY CAPTAIN) (ACTING MAJOR) JOHN THOMPSON MCKELLAR ANDERSON, D.S.O. (C, 1936), The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's),

“For conspicuous gallantry and outstanding devotion to duty during the attack on ‘Longstop’ Hill, Tunisia, on April 23rd, 1943.

“Over a period of five hours Major Anderson led the attack through intense enemy machine-gun and mortar fire. As leading company commander he led the assault on the battalion's first objective, in daylight, over a long expanse of open sloping hillside and most of the time without the effective cover of smoke. Enemy infantry opposition was most determined, and very heavy casualties were sustained, including all other rifle company commanders, before even the first objective was reached.

“On the first objective and still under continual enemy fire, Major Anderson re-organized the battalion and rallied men whose commanders, in most cases, had been either killed or wounded. The commanding officer having been killed, he took command of the battalion and led the assault on the second objective. During this assault he received a leg wound, but in spite of this he carried on and finally captured ‘Long-stop’ Hill with a total force of only four officers and less than forty other ranks. Fire had been so intense during this stage of the attack that the remainder of the battalion were pinned down and unable to advance until Major Anderson had successfully occupied the hill.

“During the assault he personally led attacks on at least three enemy machine-gun positions and in every case was the first man into the enemy pits ; he also led a successful attack on an enemy mortar position of four mortars, defended by over thirty of the enemy.

“Major Anderson's force on the hill captured about 200 prisoners and killed many more during the attack. It is largely due to this officer's bravery and daring that ‘Long-stop’ Hill was captured, and it was the inspiration of his example which encouraged leaderless men to continue the advance.”

Sixty-nine awards to Old Stoics have been recorded in previous numbers of *The Stoic*. Since the last issue, and in addition to the Victoria Cross recorded above, the following awards have been made:—

BAR TO D.S.O.

GROUP CAPTAIN G. L. CHESHIRE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (C, 1935), R.A.F.

"Since the award of the D.F.C. on March 7th, 1941, Group Captain Cheshire has completed further operational sorties. Throughout his long and exceptionally distinguished flying career most of the credit for his squadron's outstanding efficiency and success has been due to his example. His magnificent achievements have been amply proved by photographic evidence. Over every one of the most heavily defended European targets, Group Captain Cheshire has displayed superb courage, determination, and powers of leadership."

D.S.O.

MAJOR A. W. A. LLEWELLEN-PALMER, M.C. (C, 1930), K.D.G. (R.A.C.).

"On the 29th March, 1943, the regiment was directed on Gabes. Major Llewellyn Palmer was in command of 'A' Squadron on the left. The Squadron's leading troops encountered the enemy in strength on the high ground round Oglat Merteba in prepared positions. Major Llewellyn Palmer made a quick reconnaissance of the position and got his troops round the flanks and rear of the positions with great skill and dash in spite of heavy fire from anti-tank guns and small arms. His skilful handling of the situation led to the complete capitulation of the enemy within three hours. The enemy were in strength to the extent of 2 battalions including 32 officers and many pieces of artillery. Major Llewellyn Palmer's quickness of decision and boldness of plan has often enabled his Squadron to perform prodigies of valour."

CAPTAIN A. R. P. ELLIS (C, 1932), R.A.M.C.

"During the initial assault on the Mareth Line, where a crossing was being forced under heavy machine gun and shell fire, Capt. Ellis attended wounded on the spot, evacuating them on the twin stretchers of his scout car. During a tank battle he went forward and evacuated men who had been wounded in their tanks and were still under fire. When his scout car was knocked out by shell fire and he was wounded in the leg, Captain Ellis changed cars and carried on dealing with the wounded until he was ordered back by his Commanding Officer."

CAPTAIN J. T. MCK. ANDERSON (C, 1936), Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.

"In command of 'Y' Company on the 3rd March, 1943, at Hunts Gap, this officer led his company with great skill and determination and forced the Germans back to the reverse slope pressing them closely in the rocks and cliffs to within a hundred yards. The company was unable to dislodge the enemy who were above them but prevented them from threatening the flank of 'X' company on the lower feature. Captain Anderson led his men personally and appeared to them to bear a charmed life. He walked calmly along in enemy machine gun and mortar fire. One mortar bomb burst beside him and killed or wounded those immediately next to him. During the fighting he took command of a section and personally led it to out-flank the enemy position. He took over the Bren gun of this Section and effectively dealt with an enemy machine gun post in face of rifle and machine gun fire. He recovered a light machine gun dropped by the No. 1 who was wounded and restored it to the Section Commander."

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT R. A. P. ALLSEBROOK, D.F.C. (W, 1938), R.A.F.V.R.

BAR TO D.S.C.

LIEUTENANT F. B. RICHARDS, D.S.C. (T, 1936), R.N.V.R.

D.S.C.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER F. A. LOWE (G, 1927), R.N.

LIEUTENANT F. B. RICHARDS (T, 1936), R.N.V.R.

LIEUTENANT (A) R. A. L. BLACK (G, 1938), R.N.V.R.

M.C.

LIEUTENANT B. C. FAIRWEATHER (C, 1938), Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

"At Donbaik Village, Mayu Peninsula, on February 18th, in an attack on an enemy position in a chaung, Lieut. Fairweather and two sections of his platoon succeeded in reaching his objective at 5.0 a.m. He was joined there by one section, which was all that was left of the platoon on his right. The only other part of the Battalion to reach the objective was two sections of another platoon who were cut off from him by an enemy machine gun post, Lieut. Fairweather not knowing they were there.

"Lieut. Fairweather formed his small force into a perimeter and worked down the chaung to his left, clearing it of enemy as he went with grenades and bayonets until he was eventually held up. He inflicted very considerable casualties on the enemy destroying several machine guns and light machine gun posts. At dusk the enemy started infiltrating on his right and left, and through casualties he was forced to draw his men into a smaller and smaller perimeter. The next day owing to heavy enemy counter-attacks he withdrew the remains of his men, by then reduced to eight, having held his post for 20 hours.

"Lieut. Fairweather's conduct throughout the day showed courage and devotion to duty of the highest order."

LIEUT. P. F. GREENWELL (G, 1938), Durham Light Infantry.

BAR TO D.F.C.

SQUADRON-LEADER R. A. V. GASCOYNE CECIL, D.F.C. (C, 1935), R.A.F.V.R.

"This officer has taken part in numerous operational sorties since the award of the D.F.C. Many of these sorties have been against such strongly defended targets as Berlin, Essen, Lubeck and Spezia."

SQUADRON-LEADER D. A. BRAITHWAITE, D.F.C. (G, 1938), A.A.F.

D.F.C.

SQUADRON-LEADER D. SHAWE (G, 1933), R.A.F.V.R. (In January 1942.)

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT G. R. BROWN (W, 1937), R.A.F.V.R.

"Flight-Lieut. G. R. Brown flew on more than 50 sorties during the battle of Egypt and the fighting which resulted in the capture of Tripoli. His fine example and untiring efforts have contributed materially to the high standard of morale of the flight he commands."

SQUADRON-LEADER D. H. VILLIERS (B, 1939), R.A.F.V.R.

"The numerous operational sorties completed by this officer include attacks on Berlin, Turin, Milan and Essen. On all of these intense anti-aircraft and fighter opposition was encountered."

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT J. C. I. HOOPER (C, 1939), R.A.F.V.R.

"Flight-Lieut. Hooper has been engaged on operational flying since he joined the squadron in May 1941, and has destroyed two enemy bombers at night. During the latter engagement, this officer's aircraft sustained considerable damage by return fire from the enemy, and Flight-Lieut. Hooper was wounded in the leg. Displaying great courage and superb flying skill this officer flew his aircraft back to base and effected a masterly emergency landing."

A.F.C.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT A. J. BLAYNEY (C, 1927), A.A.F.

M.B.E.

MAJOR T. H. CLARKE (C, 1931), Intelligence Corps.

IN MEMORIAM

PILOT-OFFICER G. G. GILLING-LAX, R.A.F.V.R.

Mr. Gilling-Lax came to Stowe in 1932 from King's College, Cambridge, to which he had gone with a Major Classical Scholarship and from which he had come down with Firsts both in Classics and in History. On his arrival here he became Form Master of Lower Five B (the Form in which, at that time, the Entrance Scholars and those next below them spent a year) and helped with the teaching of Upper School Classics and History. When Mr. Skene left in 1937, Mr. Gilling-Lax, who had been Under-Housemaster of Chatham for three years, took over the Housemastership of Grenville. In 1941 he left to join the R.A.F. Although not one of those reserved on technical grounds he was offered reservation, but he felt that he could not accept it. He wrote "I have been privileged to enjoy the beauty and freedom of Stowe and it is incumbent on me to repay the debt and help to preserve these things for others." He volunteered for night-fighting and was killed while attacking enemy night raiders in July 1943 at the age of 34.

Throughout his nine years at Stowe, Mr. Gilling-Lax was one of the leaders of the School's intellectual life. As Form Master to the Entrance Scholars during their first year and friend to many of them throughout their time here, he had unusual opportunities for influencing the best minds in the School. He followed their careers as they moved up the School and rendered valuable service by running a Society for those who had lately reached the Upper School but were not yet of age for membership of Societies like the Twelve Club. To all with whom he came in contact he was able to communicate some of his own appreciation of beauty and love of learning. His power of clear thought and his balanced judgment were more easily admired than imitated, but they too were a constant inspiration.

In his work as Housemaster his idealistic outlook appeared in his habit of hoping and believing the best of everyone, while his steady good sense made him a realist when realism was required. He took infinite trouble on behalf both of the House and of the individuals in it, and was rewarded by the love and respect of the whole Grenville community. Nor did his generous activities end here, for he always had a sympathetic interest in those whose merits were not immediately apparent, whether they were boys, masters, or servants and dependants of the School.

His warm heart and gay spirit, his humour and his courage made of him a friend whom it was a delight to know and whom it will be impossible to forget. By all he did and all he was he made himself a part of Stowe, and his name will long be remembered here with admiration, gratitude and affection.

J.F.R.

CASUALTIES

KILLED

FLYING-OFFICER A. N. McCLINTOCK (G, 1930), R.A.F. (Previously reported Missing, now presumed Killed in Action.)

MAJOR D. J. WARD (G, 1934), R.A. (Killed in Action, North Africa.)

LIEUTENANT J. R. T. PRIESTMAN (C, 1934), Lincolnshire Regt. (Died in enemy hands of wounds received in action, North Africa.)

CAPTAIN J. D. H. O'RORKE (C, 1936), Life Guards. (Died of wounds, North Africa.)

CAPTAIN J. P. G. BENSON (G, 1936), R.A., 655 A.O.P. Squadron, R.A.F. (Killed in a flying accident.)

LIEUTENANT A. G. BUCHANAN (W, 1937), Grenadier Guards. (Killed in Action, North Africa.)

CAPTAIN R. A. COLVILLE (G, 1938), R.A. (Died when serving with the Indian Army.)

LIEUTENANT A. B. WILLIAMSON (G, 1939), Coldstream Guards. (Killed in Action, North Africa.)

MISSING

CAPTAIN M. GOWING (C, 1929), Royal Norfolk Regiment. (Singapore.)

PRISONER OF WAR

LIEUTENANT P. A. WILLES (B, 1929), 12th Royal Lancers. (Previously reported Missing; now known to be wounded and in hospital in Italy.)

PILOT OFFICER F. M. BENITZ, D.F.C. (C, 1933), R.C.A.F. (Italy.)

CORPORAL C. H. G. KINAHAN (T, 1934), R.E. (Bomb Disposal Unit). (Previously reported Missing; now known to be a prisoner in Thailand.)

LIEUTENANT A. R. JENNINGS (C, 1937), R.A.

LIEUTENANT J. W. PROCTOR (G, 1939), Coldstream Guards. (Previously reported Missing; now known to be wounded and in Italy.)

LIEUTENANT V. D. BURTON (G, 1940), 12th Royal Lancers.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM OLD
STOICS IN THE SERVICES

MORALE IS A CURIOUS THING

We ended up in the middle of the Cape Bon peninsula with thousands of prisoners milling round trying to give themselves up. My Division alone got 51,000. Morale is a curious thing. We were completely surrounded by these people and at the least they could have made things most unpleasant for us, sniping our harbours at night and ambushing us by day. But they just got onto their lorries and drove down in shoals to surrender. The Military Police waved them on to the nearest cage. At one moment I was held up by a column of 20 Hun Lorries and was very rude to them because they wouldn't clear the way for me. Yet they had at that moment not surrendered to anybody. They were fully armed and were quite at liberty to shoot me. The day before they certainly would have done so.

A WHIZZING WIZARD

I was watching my Company drilling the other day when a man, who should have been "properly at ease" like the rest, suddenly began to gyrate. First of all he gyrated on the spot, and then he began to gyrate in great curves all over the parade ground. Sometimes he knocked into other squads, and on one occasion he was only just headed off by an alert N.C.O. from a 200ft. drop over the mountain side. People shouted at him to stop, to fall in, to stand properly at ease, and to make sure his rifle wasn't loaded, but he just, like Felix, went on with his ballet. It took three strong men to stop him. Being the only British Officer present at the time I went over to investigate. He spoke quite coherently (he had to for me to understand him in Gurkhali). It appeared that whilst in Nepal he had been learning Wizardry but hadn't finished his studies. He could, he said, get into a "half-trance" but couldn't get out of it again. I asked the Company Subedar about him and he said that there was certainly something odd about the man since he and the Jenadar had recently had a queer experience with him. They had seen him sitting on a certain bed in the barrack room, and then, when they happened to turn round, they saw that he was sitting on a bed behind them at the same time! But to continue with the story—as soon as he was released he went whizzing away again, and I had to have him "whizzed" down to the Hospital to be treated as a mental patient. After a night's sleep tied to a bed he recovered, but remains in hospital for the time being.

I have been going round the Company asking if anyone knows enough wizardry to complete the man's course or to immunize him against these "half-trances."

TUNISIA

I expect you know this country, and will not need to be told how dull it is. But there are some pleasant points about it in winter. It is hard to tell from the gardens, which are full of flowers, what part of the year it is. Roses, arum lilies, chrysanthemums, mimosa and bougain-villaca are all flowering together. Every inch of the land is cultivated—mostly small patches enclosed by fences of bamboo, and a good many vineyards, which are just coming into bud.

The wine here is excellent—both red and white—but at the present rate of consumption the Allied forces will soon have drunk it all. Next year there will only be one-year-old wine to be had—and new wine in old soldiers is, of course, proverbially bad.

THE THREE-QUARTERS EAST

All the countries controlled by our force are singularly unpleasant. The poverty of the people has to be seen to be believed. I once thought of Baghdad as a glamorous and exotic city, just the right setting for Flecker's Hassan! I was wrong. It is just a native village only distinguished from the others by being rather larger and much more smelly.

BAGHDAD

When I was in Baghdad, the only things of interest I saw were in the main street where there was a dog dying of rabies and a horse dying of boredom. Judging by the smell of this mystic city of the Orient, most of the mystery must be in the sewers. Yet to see the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates, with their luxuriant palm groves, and to watch the river boats, whose lines remind one of the things the Vikings sailed in, being pressed effortlessly forward by their huge bulging sails, and to think of the life which the old river distributes over the country through its thousands of arteries, compensates for one's disillusionment about the city.

THE FARMING FRONT

I tried to get into the R.A.F. but had difficulty with my sight. I am afraid that I tried cooking my tests, but it did not come off. There was something of a scene and I was flung out on my ear. So, as I could not fly I decided to farm, and in June I bought 343 acres which I took over at Michaelmas.

Farming is very good fun provided that you make it a business and not a way of living. It is a pity that our generation has regarded it in the main as either a rich man's hobby or a poor man's night-mare. My innovations were not approved of at first by my neighbours, who, being of the "good old British yeoman stock," had always put sport before business. Farmers of that kind have many good qualities, but they are largely responsible for getting the countryside into the mess it was in before the war.

My new farm was "C3" when I bought it. Two years later it was classified as "A plus"—which means that it was no longer subject to Government interference. Knowing that petrol would be a difficulty, I put everything on to Diesel oil, and I have had easy and cheap power ever since. I started machine-milking in the cold winter of 1939-40. Every morning for three months I walked a mile up hill in gum boots at 4 a.m. to get the machines going. At first the cows and the milkmen were equally bewildered, but things soon settled down.

All that I had learned in the States I put into force on my farm. "Do not worry about output," they had told me. "Worry about throughput." Ask yourself, "How much can I get done in an hour by one man?" Well, the answer to that is, "The sky's the limit, if you have the machinery." So I set about getting the machinery. Then things began to hum. I never left the place for more than four days a year. My predecessors took £800 a year in milk with 23 cows and three yardmen. This year we shall take £4,000 with 35 cows and two yardmen, plus a land girl to make them happy! The old production of 9,000 gallons has increased to about 37,000. My predecessors never made a profit in ten years; this year I appear to have made about five thousand, which should buy a Spitfire.

You have not read of my marriage because as yet I have not found a girl who will play second string to a herd of pedigree Friesian cows!

A MOSQUITO

I have taken up Malariology as a speciality and as a result I have wandered over most of the M.E. doing malaria surveys. Last December I was sent to Socotra in the Indian Ocean to do a survey there. It was a fascinating adventure and I was lucky enough to discover a new species of anopheline mosquito. But I stupidly let the little brute bite me and got a dose of its special brand of malaria myself.

TRIPOLI

Well, we are now in Tripoli, having come in from outside. We are billeted in a lawyer's house, and I must say after the desert it is quite nice to sit down at a highly polished table, etc. But it is spoiling us, and we will not be here long, I hope. By day we work in the docks unloading ships and at night we go to bed, as Tripoli is a dead city, no people, no food, no shops, in fact there is nothing. However, things are getting back to normal and I hope some shops will be opened up soon. It is a city with terrific buildings built by Mussolini and quite impressive. The Italians were badly treated by the Bosch but are not giving us any trouble at the moment.

"TO ALEPPO GONE"

While reading on the spot an XVIII Century account of Aleppo, I came across this passage today.

"Inelegant as the Aleppo gardens may appear to the cultivated taste of an European, they afford a voluptuous noontide retreat to the languid traveller. Even he whose imagination can recall the enchanting scenery of Richmond or of Stowe, may perhaps experience new pleasure in viewing the glistening pomegranate thickets in full blossom."

It comes from *The Natural History of Aleppo* (2nd edition) 1794. I hope whoever writes the definitive work on Stowe will include it to prove the universal fame of the gardens. I am just off on leave to Palmyra.

A POSTERIORE

I had not advanced twenty yards when a human posterior met my startled gaze two yards to my front. For a moment I thought it was the seat of a dead German. I prodded the rounded form with the muzzle of my rifle and I thought I saw it stir a little. Then an excited guardsman came up and prodded it with his bayonet. That was much more effective. Up sprang a German officer, wearing an Iron Cross. It was the Platoon Commander. How he hoped to escape being seen by getting into that position, I cannot imagine.

NEARING THE END IN TUNISIA

We had just been pulled out of a position to go round a flank and cut off the Hermann Goering Division which was retreating on our front. There had been a heavy storm, and we had no time to do more than slip on battle-dress blouses over sopping drill shirts and shorts. In great discomfort we climbed into our trucks and set off, only to stop after going about two miles. We sat on the road all that night, shivering and wet, while firing went on in front and to our right. Somebody rode up on a motor bicycle and said that Bizerta had fallen. I told him I had heard that about a fortnight before—which I had—and added that the Hermann Goering Division were no doubt comfortably in Rome by now. But they were not. They were sulking about in the hills on our right, and never knew until too late of the long columns of undefended transport which had spent a night so close to them. Within the next two days they were all rounded up. And Bizerta had fallen.

There is a magnificent Roman aqueduct which at one time ran to Tunis from the hills south of Zaghuan. Much of it remains in good repair and parts are still in use. It was in an olive grove under the honey-coloured arches, on the day after our wretched night, that we came upon another abandoned camp. There were sausages still on the fire, letters and kit thrown down where men had been lying, rifles and automatics galore, and an officers' mess tent full of gilt sofas and armchairs covered in pink plush. Again we had no time to do more than grab what seemed most useful, two cars and some jam and lots of Danish butter, in seven-pound tins. We lived on it for three weeks, but now it only serves to remind us how nasty margarine tastes.

That afternoon we drove north towards Tunis, past the ruins of La Mohammedia, and then swung East to capture a ridge overlooking Hammam Lif and gain access to the road which cuts off the Cap Bon Peninsula. This was done during the night—a set attack, but very little opposition—and the next day we entered Hammam Lif. Word had come that the Bey of Tunis himself was in his palace there, and it fell to D . . . T . . . 's platoon to search the palace. The sacred person of the Bey got scant respect from two large guardsmen, and as the rest of the battalion passed through they saw his bodyguards being disarmed, woebegone creatures in blue frogged tunics and broad scarlet trousers, who looked like the chorus of a provincial opera company. It was after we had forced our way through Hamman Lif that the prisoners began to come in. There had been small parties before, but now there were thousands. In trucks and on foot they swarmed back along the main road, the Italians in whole formations, very often driving themselves and still carrying their weapons. We were pleased to see plenty of Germans as well, these mostly sullen and silent, though I saw one party, led by three officers, marching in step and singing at the top of their voices.

EXTRACT FROM "COMBINED OPERATIONS"

The following extract from the Government publication *Combined Operations 1940-42* describes the first parachute raid upon enemy territory. It was directed against an aqueduct in the ankle of Italy. The raiders were commanded by Major T. A. G. Pritchard, Royal Welch Fusiliers (T, 1929), and the demolition party was in the charge of Capt. G. F. K. Daly, Royal Engineers (C, 1934).

"The expedition was carefully planned and rehearsed in England and on the 7th February eight Whitleys bearing the parachute troops took off from an airfield in East Anglia on the first stage of their flight. Their destination was Malta, where they arrived on the next day, having been preceded by a Short Sunderland flying boat with maintenance staff and equipment. Photographs disclosed the existence of two aqueducts about 200 yards apart; that to the east, it was decided, was the one to be destroyed. Having done so, the parachutists were to make their way to a point on the west coast of Italy, and there be taken on board a submarine. Two days were spent in Malta making last-minute preparations, and on the 10th February the eight Whitleys took off in the evening light. Six of them carried the parachute troops and their equipment, and two were loaded with bombs with which to create a diversion. The rendezvous for the Whitleys was Monte Vulture and five of them reached it on time. The sixth, aircraft "J," was late in starting owing to a last-minute defect and did not reach the neighbourhood of the dropping area until 11.15, an hour and a quarter behind time. Unluckily this had on board Captain Daly.

"The parachutists dropped from the five aircraft in a good pattern round the target, the man farthest away falling on the pebble bank of the River Ofanto. Conditions were perfect: there was snow on the hillsides above the aqueduct, and bright moonlight. The first party landed at 9.42 p.m. with its officer only 50 yards from the objective. After collecting their weapons and forming up they were ordered to search the farm buildings near by. These were of the ordinary southern Italian type, low two-storeyed houses, the farmer and his family living in the top storey, while the ground floor was occupied by his beasts.

"By this time Major Pritchard and Lieutenant Patterson had come up, but there was no sign of Captain Daly. Patterson at once inspected the aqueduct and found that the three piers supporting the structure were not made of masonry as had been thought, but of reinforced concrete, more difficult to destroy by explosives. Taking a risk, he at once decided to concentrate on the westernmost pier. Though a number of containers had failed to leave the aircraft, he hoped that he would have with him explosives sufficient for the purpose, for in calculating the amount required a large margin had been left.

"While Patterson and his sappers were preparing the demolition the other officers and men were disposed as a covering party. A quarter of an hour after midnight the main charges were all laid. There was still some spare explosive and Lieutenant A. G. Deane-Drummond decided to blow up a small bridge near him which crossed the Ginestra, a tributary of the Tragino. The track running over this bridge had been used in the construction of the objective, and it occurred to him that to destroy it would hinder the work of repair.

"Major Pritchard decided to blow the charges at half-past twelve, and a minute before this a single slab of gun-cotton was fired as a warning to the covering party. At half-past twelve the main charge went off and half a minute later the small bridge blew up.

"Their task accomplished, the parachutists collected round Major Pritchard. For the journey to the coast he divided them into three independent groups, each under an officer. He and his party set off westwards, and when dawn came hid in a wood for the day. At dusk on the second night they moved out westwards and kept in the fields by a road, skirted a little town, and then made good going along the road for the next four miles. They then struck south-west over the flank of the mountain, but by now it was time to look for a place to lay up for the day. Their map marked a wood above them. They toiled up but only found snow as the dawn was breaking. They scrambled up into the snow and hid in a small cave and behind rocks.

"Their tracks in the mud and snow led up to their hiding-place. It was not long before a farmer came up, found them and gave the alarm. Then, from high up the mountain, they watched the comedy of the search parties approaching in the growing light. First came the village dogs, led by three pointers; then the village children, wondering where the dogs were going; then the women, racing after the children to bring them back, followed by the men who had gone out to protect their womenfolk. Behind these they saw the organized parties, armed troops and police, who had taken longer to arrive, slowly advancing in a semi-circle round them. Any attempt at resistance would have ended in hurt to the women and children. Major Pritchard had no choice but to surrender.

Their feat created a sensation in Italy. The whole area was at once barred to neutrals, and there is no doubt that considerable consternation was caused."

The above is an extract from *Combined Operations 1940-1942* and is reprinted by permission of The Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

OLIM ALUMNI

GROUP-CAPTAIN G. L. CHESHIRE, D.S.O. and Bar, D.F.C. (C, 1935), R.A.F., was, at the time of his promotion, the youngest man ever to have reached this rank. He is also the first Stoic to have attained a rank equivalent to that of a full Colonel.

LIEUTENANT P. R. H. HASTINGS (T, 1939), Welsh Guards, played Rugby Football for the England team in the match against Scotland in April.

MR. J. S. HOLLINGS (T, 1941) has gained a First Class in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos at Cambridge. He has been awarded a Scholarship for Mechanical Sciences, at St. John's College, and has also won the Wright Prize for Engineering.

MARRIAGES

SGT. BOMB-AIMER H. G. P. MOUNSEY (G, 1925) to Miss M. Gordon-Dean, on June 22nd; CAPTAIN R. W. D. SWORD, M.C. (C, 1927) to Miss I. A. E. D. Sword, on June 24th; FLYING-OFFICER D. V. STEYNOR (G, 1927) to Miss A. Creighton, on June 3rd; LIEUTENANT M. F. VILLIERS STUART (T, 1930), R. N. V. R., to Miss E. J. M. Fowler, on May 15th; CAPTAIN M. L. CLEMENT-JONES (C, 1931) to Miss J. A. Hudson; CAPTAIN S. J. H. SHERRARD (C, 1933) to Miss P. S. Saunderson, on July 3rd; MR. M. E. CHAPMAN (C, 1933) to Miss B. Bartholdy, in May 1941; CAPTAIN J. A. FIREBRACE (B, 1934) to Miss C. Walker, on March 27th; CAPTAIN J. R. C. WHITE, M.C. (C, 1935) to Miss R. Vincent, on March 24th (Johannesburg); MR. J. DE LAVIS TRAFFORD (G, 1936) to Miss P. Beddy, on April 10th.

LIEUTENANT M. I. ATKIN-BERRY (C, 1937) to Miss I. A. Ellis, on June 19th; MAJOR C. F. TRACY (W, 1937) to Miss G. G. Hann, on May 12th; SUB-LIEUTENANT R. A. L. BLACK (C, 1938) to Miss M. K. Howarth, on May 15th; LIEUTENANT J. S. FILLEUL (G, 1938) to Miss W. Taylor, on May 13th; SUB-LIEUTENANT T. P. AUMONIER (T, 1938) to Miss M. Leonard, on April 7th; SUB-LIEUTENANT D. A. YELLOWLEES (C, 1939) to Mrs. E. J. Pettigrew, on December 12th, 1942; THE HON. P. B. R. VANNECK (B, 1939), R.N., to Miss C. Errington, on April 8th; SUB-LIEUTENANT D. W. BARNES (C, 1940) to Third Officer N. B. Williamson, W.R.N.S., on March 15th; LIEUTENANT A. J. F. FERGUSSON (B, 1940), S.A.A.F., to Miss D. Bowmaker, on June 4th (South Africa).

BIRTHS

To the wife of MR. H. G. C. H. STISTED (B, 1925), a son, on July 2nd; to the wife of LIEUTENANT E. R. AVORY (T, 1927), R.N.V.R., a son, on February 14th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT-COLONEL THE HON. A. C. GEDDES, M.C. (T, 1928), a son, on June 10th; to the wife of MR. P. DE HAVILLAND (C, 1930), a son, on June 28th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT R. F. STOREY (C, 1931), a son, on June 10th; to the wife of MR. J. C. CATER (G, 1931), a daughter, on May 24th (Trinidad); to the wife of CAPTAIN A. R. BRETT (C, 1932), a son, on May 27th; to the wife of CAPTAIN T. S. LUCAS, M.C. (C, 1932), a son, on June 27th; to the wife of DR. P. G. H. GELL (T, 1932), a daughter, on June 10th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT THE VISCOUNT PARKER (G, 1932), a son, on May 31st.

To the wife of LIEUTENANT L. R. LLEWELLYN (B, 1933), a son, on June 3rd; to the wife of PILOT-OFFICER J. L. TWEEDIE (B, 1933), a son, on May 10th; to the wife of MAJOR P. G. E. DAVIES (B, 1934), a daughter, on May 30th; to the wife of MAJOR E. C. ASHTON (C, 1935), a daughter, on June 19th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT A. H. P. HOPE (G, 1936), a daughter, on May 8th; to the wife of FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT W. A. B. STEWART (T, 1937), a son, on May 30th; to the wife of CAPTAIN M. N. WILLIAMSON-NOBLE (T, 1937), a son, on May 18th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT G. F. GOMME (C, 1937), a son, on April 26th.

STOICA

School Officials—Summer Term, 1943.

Prefects:—R. M. Hippisley-Cox (C), Head of the School; P. K. Withinshaw (C), Second Prefect; A. J. Manley (T), Prefect of Chapel; A. N. C. Bruce (B); A. A. McAlister (C), Prefect of Gymnasium; R. T. F. Larsen (G); I. G. Butler (G), Prefect of Library; J. A. Shepherd-Barron (W); J. W. Myers (C); B. W. Guest (B); D. L. Donne (G); P. K. Harper (T); J. M. Gale (C); C. S. Wallis-King (G); R. H. M. Pease (G); C. E. N. Graham (C); R. D. C. Reynolds (B).

Cricket:—Captain, J. W. Myers (C); Secretary, N. C. S. Barling (G).

Lawn Tennis: Captain, J. A. Shepherd-Barron (W).

The following visitors have preached in Chapel this term:—May 16th, the Rev. T. W. Heale, Assistant Chaplain-General; May 30th, Mr. R. W. Moore, Headmaster of Harrow; June 20th, Bishop J. J. Willis, Assistant Bishop of Leicester; June 27th, The Ven. C. H. Ritchie, Archdeacon of Northumberland.

Collections in Chapel this term have included:—For The Pineapple, £21 6s. 9d.; for The Red Cross, £22; for The Commando Benevolent Fund, £25 9s. 6d.

BIRTH: "On May 10th, 1943, at Home Park, Stowe, Buckingham, to Elizabeth (née Tibbits), wife of B. E. N. Fawcett—a son." (From *The Times* of May 13th).

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Fawcett was christened Thomas Philip Noble by the Rev. P. P. Noble Fawcett in Stowe Chapel on Wednesday, June 23rd. The Godfathers were Mr. W. E. Capel Cure and Major R. M. Hamer, for whom J. G. B. Chester (B) stood proxy.

The Basil Williamson Memorial Prize has been founded in memory of Lieutenant A. B. Williamson, Coldstream Guards, who was in Grenville House from September 1934 to April 1939, and who lost his life in the Tunisian Campaign on May 4th, 1943.

The Prize will be awarded each July to the best Prefect of the year. The year will be reckoned as beginning in the previous September, and the Prize may be awarded to a Prefect who has left the School.

The Prize will be of the annual value of £10.

Monday, July 5th, was observed as a whole holiday to mark the award of a Victoria Cross to Major J. T. McK. Anderson, recorded on another page. He is the first Old Stoic to win the V.C.

In March, J. C. Farmer (W) was elected to an Open Exhibition in English at Selwyn College, Cambridge; and M. H. Toovey (C) to an Organ Scholarship at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

The Basil Williamson Memorial Prize has been awarded to J. S. Hillyer (G).

The Bruxner-Randall Memorial Prize has been awarded to C. S. Wallis-King (G).

The following have been successful in the Cambridge 1st M.B. examination: Pts. I & II— I. H. Robinson (W), C. B. Walker (W); Pt. III—J. G. O. W. Yerburch (B).

Representative Colours have been awarded to A. N. C. Bruce (B) for Cross-Country and for Athletics; and to J. F. Cullis (W) for Squash.

Athletics Colours have been awarded to A. N. C. Bruce (B), J. B. A. Kessler (B), R. A. Yule (B) and P. N. Pearson (C); also to J. E. Murray (B) in 1942 (delayed announcement).

Cricket Colours have been awarded as follows:—

1st XI.:—J. M. Gale (C), C. Dansie (C), G. W. Hawkings (C), F. I. Watson (G), R. M. Verdon-Roe (B), R. D. C. Reynolds (B), A. C. L. Lewisohn (C), J. F. Cullis (W), J. A. R. Anson (G).

2nd XI.:—A. J. Manley (T), R. P. Bourdon Smith (G), S. G. Hammick (W), J. G. C. Knight (G), I. H. Robinson (W), M. D. Rutherford (C), E. M. Arnold (G), C. G. Dealtry (B), G. P. Wright (C), J. J. White (B), G. G. Imrie (G).

3rd XI.:—P. R. Boys-Stones (G), G. A. Bakewell (G), B. S. Dodwell (G), D. Carnegy-Arbuthnott (B).

Colts' Caps:—J. V. Bartlett (T), H. R. Marten (T), D. M. S. Baxter (W) (re-awarded); B. B. Croom-Johnson (T), J. R. Freeland (C), A. F. Cottier (C), G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey (C), P. N. Briggs (C), D. A. Illingworth (G), H. A. S. Murray (C), M. deB. Bate (W), D. R. Turquand-Young (C).

Lawn Tennis Colours have been awarded to G. F. Colvile (G) (re-awarded); B. K. Montgomery (G), E. D. Good (B), the Hon. P. W. S. G. Calthorpe (W).

SCHOLARSHIP AND EXHIBITION AWARDS 1943

SCHOLARSHIPS.

M. P. M. WARBURTON (L. P. Dealtry, Esq., The Leas School, Glenridding, Nr. Penrith, Cumberland); M. MORLAND (L. P. Dealtry, Esq., The Leas School, Glenridding, Nr. Penrith, Cumberland); M. BIRKETT (W. F. Hoyland, Esq., The Downs School, Colwall, Malvern, Worcs.); R. M. BROWN (C. H. T. Hayman, Esq., Winchester House School, Brackley, Northants); N. N. PRODDOW (B. Montagu Cushing, Esq., St. Piran's-on-the-Hill, Maidenhead); J. D. VERNON (W. H. Colton, Esq., Clifton House School, Harrogate); S. B. LLOYD (A. E. Lynam, Esq., The Dragon School, Oxford); H. T. BOWLES (C. E. Winter, Esq., Northaw, Loton Park, Nr. Shrewsbury).

EXHIBITIONS.

G. N. BEVERIDGE (R. R. Yates, Esq., Wootton Court School, at Astthrop Park, Banbury, Oxon); A. CAIGER-SMITH (M. de Wharton Burr, Esq., Belmont School, Stowe House, Lichfield, Staffs); D. C. WILLIAMSON (J. H. Appleton, Esq., Glengorse, Longnor Hall, Shrewsbury).

ANNUAL COMPETITION PRIZES 1943

READING PRIZES—Senior:

C. L. Brook (C)

Junior:

Not awarded

PETERS BONE PRIZE:

No entry

ROBERT BARBOUR PRIZE FOR SCRIPTURE:

No entry

BURROUGHS ESSAY PRIZE (Divinity):

J. G. B. Chester (B)

CHARLES LOUDON PRIZES FOR GREEK—Prose:

P. A. Mulgan (G)

Translation:

C. A. Cooper (G) and P. A. Mulgan (G)

QUENTIN BERTRAM PRIZES—Essay:

P. W. I. Rees (T)

Latin Prose:

A. C. L. Lewisohn (C)

PRIZE FOR LATIN ORATION:

A. C. L. Lewisohn (C)

J. G. RIESS PRIZES FOR MODERN LANGUAGES—Senior:

J. E. C. Kennon (G)

Junior:

M. G. Manton (C)

SYRETT HISTORY PRIZE:

G. P. Lloyd (B)

HUMPHREY FOSTER PRIZE FOR NATURAL SCIENCE:

O. G. Taylor (C)

H. M. EVANS PRIZE FOR BIOLOGY:

Not yet decided

PEARMAN SMITH PRIZE FOR MATHEMATICS:

J. G. Cameron (C)

BIRD COLLECTION

The Hart Collection of Birds, originally formed by Mr. Edward Hart, of Christ Church, Hampshire, and completed by Mr. John Hall, of Staffordshire, was recently presented to the School by Mrs. John Hall. Her sons, R.N. and P.C. Hall, were in Chatham and Grenville Houses and left in 1931 and 1933. The gift is one of the most valuable and delightful that the School has ever received.

Christ Church Estuary is on the line of birds returning to England, which is the reason for Mr. Hart taking up his work in that area. All the birds in the original collection were shot by Mr. Hart, with few exceptions, and those which were shot by others are mounted by him. The Museum at Christ Church was first opened to the Public in 1884.

The greater part of the collection is now set up in Sigma dormitory. A few copies of the annotated list of the Birds and Mammals in the Museum are available, but as the numbers of the birds in it do not coincide with the numbers on the cases, the list is of no great value to a visitor. In time it will be brought up to date, as soon as possible after the whole collection has been arranged and classified.

Some features of particular interest may be referred to here. A case in the north-west corner contains a pair of reed-warblers and their nest; a cuckoo placed her egg in this particular nest, but the owners refused to incubate it. Since the nest was too deep for the egg to be expelled a new lining was placed over it, and a fresh lot of eggs was laid and hatched successfully. The cuckoo's egg thus did not obtain sufficient heat for development and was never hatched.

A small case on the west wall contains a goldcrest which was tamed by Mr. Hart to the extent of perching on his arm. The bird was ringed and returned in the two following years, but in the second year it arrived badly wounded and died in Mr. Hart's hand.

Two cases near the centre contain relics of extinct birds. One is the egg of *Aepyornis maximus*, one of the biggest of living or extinct birds, formerly found in Madagascar; the measurements of this egg are 3½ inches on its longest circumference and 28 inches girth. The other is a reconstruction of the Dodo (*Didus ineptus*) which existed in Mauritius, probably until 1681.

The lighting arrangements in the dormitory are not all that could be desired, it being difficult to see the lower cases. This will be corrected as soon as possible.

ODE TO MY SWEET-RATION CARD

O fibrous card of salvaged rag,
How valuable thou art!
How sad to me it seems that we
Must weekly, partly part!

Although you own no sweetening power,
Yet you are very sweet;
For every inch of you is worth
An inch of candy treat.

I often wish that you were worth
A double ration more;
But sweet and pleasant thoughts as these
Hold little points in store.

I read the print (the print is red,
But soon it will be black)
And recognize, with mild surprise,
How many points I lack.

That cruel man! I shudder as
I watch his scissors trim,
To cut in two and torture you,
Another little limb.

Whereas I am the one who should
Your health and vigour prize,
Yet, I must say, each Saturday
I see I get my Fry's.

T.C.P.W.

CRICKET

Of the 10 matches played this year 3 were won, 5 lost and 2 drawn, but as the wins were scored at the expense of rather weak sides and all the School matches were lost, this record is less impressive than it might at first sight appear.

At the end of an unsuccessful season it is always tempting to try to find excuses. In the case of this year's Eleven it might be urged in their favour that the Corps and P.T. made inroads into time once available for cricket, that the average age of the side was lower than it used to be, that opportunities for match practice were fewer, or that professional coaching was not regularly available. All this is true, but it by no means explains away a thoroughly dismal record. The fact is that there was little real competition for places in the side, and that there were not enough genuine cricketers about—that is, people keen enough and humble enough to work hard at their cricket and accept the advice, technical and otherwise, given them.

A glance at the scorebook shows at once that the batting was weak. True, this year's wickets did not, on the whole, favour batsmen, but only once was a total of 200 achieved in matches, and that was against a side which could boast no serious bowler and few accomplished fielders. For most of the season our opponents' cover and extra-cover had astonishingly little to do. One or two batsmen could drive straight, but off-side strokes simply did not exist, and here was a technical fault—the result of an inability or unwillingness of batsmen to move their feet—which in no small measure explains the wearisome succession of small totals. But such faults as these, though they may explain away small totals, can be found in most young school sides, and in fact were visible in most of the sides Stowe played this year, and perhaps the most disquieting thing about the Eleven was this—that they frequently put themselves in a strong position early in the game and then threw away their advantage. This happened in all the three matches against other schools. The bowling and fielding were good so long as all was going well, but the bowlers could not take punishment, and the fielding (except against Bedford) became slack when two batsmen became set.

A few individuals distinguished themselves. Myers improved as a captain on the field, and even if he could not win the toss (a failing for which he can hardly be blamed) he made the most of the limited resources available to him. Usually he kept wicket well, sometimes brilliantly. His batting methods are his own; occasionally they are effective. Barling was an indefatigable secretary and the best batsman in the side. If he failed, the side failed, and the fact that he was fully aware of this probably explains why he did not make so many runs as he was expected to make. When he made runs he made them very well indeed, but it was his misfortune to fail against other schools. Gale looked full of cricket and came on well as a slow bowler, but success as a batsman eluded him. Lewisohn has plenty of strokes and is not afraid to use them, albeit he is in too much of a hurry, and various others, notably Anson, made useful contributions from time to time. Watson always fielded beautifully, and Dansie showed promise as a bowler. Hammick began the season well with his leg-breaks, but faded away, and the most successful bowler was Verdon-Roe, who came into the team late, did not mind hard work, and accomplished some good performances. Reynolds too, both as a batsman and bowler, met with some success, and Hawkings toiled away without much reward in his capacity of fast bowler.

The Second XI contained a few players who did well enough against some not very formidable opponents, but they were not, for the most part, serious candidates for higher honours this year; but the not inconsiderable amount of matches they played should be useful experience for those few of them who will be here for another season.

There are some good players among the Colts, even if their records are not particularly distinguished, and it looks as if the Eleven of 1944 might be a good one.

1ST XI.

v. R.A.F., BICESTER. Played at Stowe on May 15th. Drawn. R.A.F., 183 for 7 (dec.); Stowe, 128 for 9 (N. C. S. Barling (6) 63).

v. R.A.F., WING. Played at Stowe on May 26th. Lost by 88 runs. Stowe, 64. R.A.F., 152 (C. G. Dealtry (B) 4 for 19).

v. BEDFORD. Played at Stowe on May 29th. Lost by 168 runs.

This was the kind of day that cricketers dream about. There was a hot sun, a cool breeze, and an easy wicket, and there were drinks for thirsty fielders. Everything was right except the cricket, for Stowe batted so poorly in the afternoon that the game was all over before tea and there was nothing to do in the evening except watch the Colts struggling to avoid defeat on the South Front.

Bedford won the toss and batted. Hawkings and Dansie started the match with some eccentric fast bowling, and it seemed that Bedford must bat for ever. But perhaps the bowlers' eccentricities were too much for them, for straight full tosses had accounted for the opening pair when the score was only 22. Thereafter both bowlers improved and the atmosphere became more solemn. Hammick came on and bowled very well on an unresponsive wicket, but Knopp and Dawes played themselves in slowly and then proceeded to do what they liked with the change bowlers. The Stowe fielding was sound, if not sufficiently hostile, all through this long stand, and even if three chances were missed none of them was an easy one. At lunch-time the score was 172 and still only two batsmen were out—a pleasant enough position for the batting side.

After lunch things began to happen. Knopp was bowled by Dansie for an admirable 85, and Hammick accounted for Davies and Walsh with consecutive balls. Five wickets were down for 201 and it seemed that Bedford might collapse after all. Hammick was now bowling better than ever, and Dansie, though he did not look so dangerous, was bowling an admirable length and keeping the batsmen quiet. The fielding at this period was excellent. However Dawes was still there. True, he did give a very hard return catch to Hammick's right hand just before he reached his hundred, but he never really looked like being out and was still batting when his captain declared just before 3 o'clock. His was a very fine innings. Stowe made him work for his runs, but he rarely seemed in difficulties and, until he had made his century, gave only one chance.

Stowe had about 3½ hours in which to make 246—a by no means impossible task on that day and that wicket. But Stowe knew that the match was lost, and, with one honourable exception, batted as if they had no hope at all. Knight and Barling pottered about for half an hour at the start and scratched together 12 painful runs. Anson was out first ball and Gale soon followed him (34 for 4). Wickets continued to fall before Fowles, whose in-swingers were too much for the alternatively tentative and desperate methods of the Stowe batsmen. But there was still Lewisohn, whose courageous batting was a stern reproof to his colleagues. He broke a bat and borrowed another and went from strength to strength, excelling in straight and off drives which left the field standing. His not out 39 was, in its way, the best innings of the day, and in saying this one is not forgetting the excellent batting of Bedford's Nos. 3 and 4. Nobody could, and few of the later batsmen tried, to give him any help, and Auden, whose bowling had looked very ordinary when Lewisohn was playing him, finished off the innings before tea was ready—a sad and inexcusable state of affairs. Fowles, with 6 for 22, had enjoyed a remarkable triumph, but, well as he had bowled, he would probably have preferred to have met with more determined resistance, and he must have thought his triumph cheap.

If there was any comfort to be derived from this game it was that the Stowe fielding was better than that of Bedford, and that in Dansie and Hammick Stowe has two bowlers who, given better luck than they had on this occasion, might run through any school side. The fact remains, however, that this side will not win its matches until it gets used to the idea that 250 is an ordinary score on a fast wicket, and one which they might very well make themselves.

Bedford:—D. G. Parren, b Hawkings, 7; W. S. Gilbert, b Dansie, 4; D. N. L. Knopp, b Dansie, 85; M. P. Dawes, not out, 124; M. J. K. Davies, c and b Hammick, 9; G. H. Walsh, b Hammick, 0; J. M. King, not out, 12; J. A. L. Auden, J. R. Fowles, J. A. Bacon, A. B. McCallum did not bat. Extras, 4. Total, 245 for 5 dec.

Dansie 2 for 53; Hawkings 1 for 29; Hammick 2 for 72; Dealtry 0 for 12; Watson 0 for 13; Knight 0 for 23; Gale 0 for 39.

Stowe:—J. G. C. Knight (♠), c McCallum, b Fowles, 1; N. C. S. Barling (♠), c McCallum, b Fowles, 9; J. M. Gale (♠), lbw, b Fowles, 6; J. A. R. Anson (♠), b Fowles, 0; A. C. L. Lewisohn (♠), not out, 39; F. I. Watson (♠), c Knopp, b King, 5; J. W. Myers (♠), b Fowles, 1; C. G. Dealtry (♠), st McCallum, b King, 0; G. W. Hawkings (♠), c Davies, b Fowles, 2; C. Dansie (♠), st McCallum, b Auden, 5; S. G. Hammick (♠), c Walsh, b Auden, 4. Extras, 5. Total, 77. Fowles 6 for 22; King 2 for 20; Auden 2 for 27; Bacon 0 for 3.

v. CHRIST CHURCH and BRASENOSE COLLEGE. Played at Stowe on June 2nd. Won by 161 runs. Stowe, 214 (N. C. S. Barling (♠) 50, J. M. Gale (♠) 44). Christ Church and Brasenose College, 53 (G. W. Hawkings (♠) 3 for 6, C. Dansie (♠) 4 for 17).

v. PUBLIC SCHOOL WANDERERS. Played at Stowe on June 9th. Won by 11 runs. Stowe, 100. Public School Wanderers, 89 (R. D. C. Reynolds (♠) 4 for 13, S. G. Hammick (♠) 3 for 26).

v. M.C.C. Played at Stowe on June 12th. Lost by an innings and 3 runs. Stowe, 1st innings, 38. 2nd innings, 170 (R. D. C. Reynolds (♠) 55). M.C.C., 211 for 6 dec. (W. R. Mallory 74).

v. RADLEY. Played at Stowe on June 19th. Lost by 85 runs.

Myers lost the toss and Radley batted on an easy wicket. Their opening pair failed, both being out by the time the total had reached 24, but Stowe had to wait a very long time before any further success came to them. During a long partnership for the third wicket Sawtell batted very well indeed. He was particularly severe on anything short, and as his innings progressed the Stowe bowlers obliged him more and more in this respect. His partner, Cheshire, began shakily, but developed confidence and strokes, and the total was 133 before the stand was broken. By this time the Stowe bowling had become very ragged and purposeless, and the fielding was slack. This was the opportunity for Gunn, a left-hander who believes in hitting the ball high and often, to give Stowe some fielding practice. He made 63 in next to no time and Radley declared with the score standing at 237 for 8 wickets.

The sun had now come out and the wicket became more and more difficult as it dried, and Stowe had little chance of making the runs if Radley could produce a spin bowler. It turned out that they could, not a very good one, to be sure, but he bowled well enough to take 8 wickets with his very slow off breaks, which, in the opinion of one critic, should never have been allowed to bounce at all. The Stowe collapse did not happen all at once, for after Lewisohn was out early Cullis, Watson, and Barling all made runs without much difficulty. When the hundred went up with only three wickets down and plenty of time still available, it seemed that Stowe might win, but when Gale was fourth out at 107 the collapse began. De Roemer now came into his own and the seventh wicket fell at 111. It only remained for Reynolds to hit a couple of sixes in a last despairing effort before the innings closed for 152—a very disappointing score even on that wicket.

Radley:—R. G. A. Leigh, b Hawkings, 6; M. W. Giles, c Barling, b Dansie, 3; I. D. W. Sawtell, c Myers, b Gale, 90; C. S. Cheshire, b Dansie, 42; J. M. A. Gunn, b Hawkings, 63; T. A. Buckney, lbw, b Reynolds, 1; T. F. C. Oliver, not out, 19; R. L. Mobbs, c Cullis, b Reynolds, 4; B. N. De Roemer, c Gale, b Hawkings, 4; R. C. Wheeler-Bennett and D. E. Matthews did not bat. Extras, 5. Total, 237 for 8 dec.

Hawkings 3 for 48; Dansie 2 for 47; Reynolds 2 for 48; Gale 1 for 45; Hammick 0 for 44.

Stowe:—A. C. L. Lewisohn (♠), c Matthews, b Wheeler-Bennett, 2; J. F. Cullis (♠), b Wheeler-Bennett, 31; F. I. Watson (♠), c Giles, b De Roemer, 26; N. C. S. Barling (♠), st Giles, b De Roemer, 25; J. M. Gale (♠), c Leigh, b De Roemer, 16; R. D. C. Reynolds (♠), st Giles, b De Roemer, 31; G. W. Hawkings (♠), b De Roemer, 0; J. W. Myers (♠), c Leigh, b De Roemer, 0; J. G. C. Knight (♠), lbw, b De Roemer, 1; S. G. Hammick (♠), b De Roemer, 2; C. Dansie (♠), not out, 7. Extras, 11. Total, 152.

De Roemer 8 for 58; Wheeler-Bennett 2 for 11; Matthews 0 for 63; Oliver 0 for 9.

v. 1ST BN. MIDDLESEX REGT. Played at Stowe on June 23rd. Drawn. Stowe, 188 for 4 dec. (N. C. S. Barling (♠) 103 not out, J. A. R. Anson (♠) 48 not out). Middlesex Regt., 136 for 7 (R. M. Verdon-Roe 5 for 23).

v. ST. EDWARD'S. Played at St. Edward's on June 26th. Lost by 120 runs.

Once again Myers lost the toss and Stowe had to field throughout a very hot morning on an outfield which was exceedingly fast and rather rough. During that time Verdon-Roe took two quick wickets and Stevenson played a remarkably fine innings. He came in with the score at 11 for 2 and the Stowe bowlers thirsting for blood. Forty minutes later he was bowled by Gale for 53. By that time the Stowe fielding had gone to pieces and the bowling was completely demoralized. It was now comparatively easy for Stevenson's successors to make runs how and where they pleased, and though they had not Stevenson's strokes and did not take command of the game in quite the same authoritative fashion, they went steadily on and by the luncheon interval their side was in a very happy position.

Afterwards the Stowe fielding improved a little without ever becoming really good and Gale bowled his slow stuff very well indeed. Verdon-Roe caught two good catches and took some wickets with some eccentric fast bowling, and 9 wickets were down for 189. The last pair refused to be separated, however, and they took the total to 220 before the St. Edward's captain thought that this sort of thing could not be allowed to last for ever and declared.

If the runs were to be obtained Stowe would have to score very fast indeed, and Lewisohn started as though he meant to make them all himself. With able support from an unusually confident Cullis he made a terrific onslaught on the St. Edward's opening bowlers. At the end of three overs there were 23 runs on the board and for the moment it seemed that Stowe had a chance of winning. But it was now that the great disaster occurred. Lewisohn hit a ball really

hard in the direction of a mid-on who was remarkably tall and, as it proved, prehensile. Lewisohn was out and the rot began. Cullis went into his shell and paid the penalty, Watson was stumped almost as soon as he came in, and Gale was given out l.b.w. just before tea (27-4-0). There was now no chance for Stowe to win, but there was every chance of saving the game. The bowling, with the possible exception of Shrosbree's, did not look difficult, and there was only another 90 minutes to play. Barling and Anson, fresh from a long partnership on the previous Wednesday, batted well for a few minutes, and then Anson called Barling for a ridiculous, unnecessary, and fatal run. (32-5-6). Verdon-Roe, who had already bowled 18 overs and done the work of three men in the field, now joined Anson and proceeded to put an end to this nonsense. All went well for a time, neither batsman having the slightest difficulty. Then Verdon-Roe looked at the clock, thought mistakenly that time was up, and had a dip. That was the end of him and, virtually, of the innings. True, Hammick and Dansie added 17 in an entertaining last wicket stand, but the end came at 5.30 with Stowe dismissed for 100 on a perfect wicket by very ordinary bowling. Actually they never had much chance of winning this game after letting St. Edward's make 220 runs, but they certainly should not have lost it.

St. Edward's:—C. H. Hossel, b Verdon-Roe, 4; J. H. J. Greenish, c Hammick, b Verdon-Roe, 0; A. M. Gabb, c Gale, b Verdon-Roe, 37; W. B. Stevenson, b Gale, 53; D. J. Mackenzie, b Gale, 38; D. Henderson, c and b Verdon-Roe, 33; R. D. Fox, c Verdon-Roe, b Gale, 6; I. Macdonald, b Verdon-Roe, 0; M. T. D. Womersley, st Myers, b Gale, 3; J. de B. Shrosbree, not out, 18; C. C. B. Nicoll, not out, 16; Extras, 12. Total, 220 for 9 dec.

Verdon-Roe 5 for 67; Gale 4 for 35; Dansie 0 for 33; Hawkings 0 for 25; Hammick 0 for 48.

Stowe:—A. C. L. Lewisohn (C), c Hossel, b Shrosbree, 14; J. F. Cullis (W), b Shrosbree, 9; F. I. Watson (S), st Macdonald, b Shrosbree, 3; N. C. S. Barling (S), run out, 6; J. M. Gale (C), lbw, b Shrosbree, 0; J. A. R. Anson (G), lbw, b Henderson, 17; R. M. Verdon-Roe (B), c Womersley, b Mackenzie, 27; G. W. Hawkings (C), b Henderson, 6; J. W. Myers (C), lbw, b Mackenzie, 0; S. G. Hammick (W), not out, 9; C. Dansie (C), b Womersley, 4. Extras, 5. Total, 100.

Shrosbree 4 for 29; Henderson 2 for 23; Mackenzie 2 for 24; Womersley 1 for 19.

v. R.A.F., WING. Played at Stowe on June 30th. Won by 3 wickets. R.A.F., 90 (R. D. C. Reynolds (B) 3 for 17). Stowe, 92 for 7.

2nd XI.

Quite a good season. I. H. Robinson (W) and M. D. Rutherford (C) both bowled very well, and E. M. Arnold (S) showed himself to be a promising wicket-keeper. J. J. White (B) has batted and fielded well. It was fortunate that there were so many fixtures, and even though the opposition was often weak the results were fairly good.

May 22nd. v. 173 Coy. PIONEER CORPS. Home. Won by 112 runs. Stowe, 154 for 6 dec. 173 Coy., 42 (R. M. Verdon-Roe (B) 5 for 12, F. I. Watson (S) 3 for 8).

May 26th. v. R.A.F., WING. Home. Won by 4 wickets. R.A.F., 107 (R. D. C. Reynolds (B) 3 for 17, M. D. Rutherford (C) 4 for 42). Stowe, 111 for 6 (J. A. R. Anson (G) 57 not out).

June 5th. v. R.A.F., FINMERE. Home. Lost by 6 runs. Stowe, 95. R.A.F., 101.

June 12th. v. R.A.F., CROUGHTON. Home. Won by 5 wickets. R.A.F., 68 (I. H. Robinson (W) 5 for 3, M. D. Rutherford (C) 4 for 16). Stowe, 70 for 5.

June 16th. v. MR. E. H. BOYD'S XI. Home. Lost by 47 runs. E. H. Boyd's XI, 152 for 8 dec. (A. B. E. Gibson 49; R. M. Verdon-Roe (B) 4 for 29). Stowe, 105 (P. K. Bourne 3 for 18).

June 23rd. v. R.A.F., FINMERE. Home. Drawn. R.A.F., 111 for 7 dec. Stowe, 81 for 8.

June 26th. v. STOWE COLTS. Home. Won by 9 runs. 2nd XI, 84 (A. F. Cottier (C) 6 for 21). Colts, 75 (M. D. Rutherford (C) 5 for 39).

June 30th. v. R.A.F., WING. Home. Won by 22 runs. Stowe, 124 for 6 dec. R.A.F., 102 (M. D. Rutherford (C) 3 for 12).

July 3rd. v. R.A.O.C., BUCKINGHAM. Home. Lost by 4 wickets. Stowe, 145 for 4 dec. (J. J. White (B) 56). R.A.O.C., 147 for 6.

Played, 9; Won, 5; Drawn, 1; Lost, 3.



Photo by]



F/O H.D.S. P/O R.K. F/L C.C.C. P/O E.E.O'F. W/C J.R.K. F/L J.C.B. F/L R.M.B.
D.S.O., D.F.C. D.F.C.

R.A.F. OLD STOICS IN A GERMAN PRISON CAMP

THE STOIC

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COLTS

On paper the Colts looked a very promising side, but they have not done well in their matches. The batting has been weak; the bowling steady, particularly A. F. Cottier's (C); the fielding generally excellent. A summary of the three matches played is given below.

May 19th. v. BEDFORD. At Stowe. Drawn. Bedford, 117 for 6 dec. Stowe, 57 for 8.

June 19th. v. RADLEY. At Stowe. Drawn. Stowe, 124 (D. M. S. Baxter (W) 31, G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey (C) 28). Radley 50 for 9 (A. F. Cottier (C) 4 for 16, B. B. Croom-Johnson (T) 3 for 10).

July 3rd. v. BEDFORD. At Bedford. Lost by 8 wickets. Stowe, 58. Bedford, 59 for 2.

LAWN TENNIS

We have had an interesting season and a remarkable number of matches for war-time. In fact, there have been almost too many with the result that staleness has shown signs of occurring. We are extremely grateful to the numerous Services sides who have so willingly filled up our fixture list. In addition a very good match was played against Wellingborough on their courts, which we lost by 4 games to 5.

J. A. Shepherd-Barron (W) has been a very good and keen captain; he and G. F. Colville (G), who has improved, have played several good matches as first pair. The second pair, B. K. Montgomery (B) and E. D. Good (B) have probably had the best results. Although neither had had any previous experience of match doubles play, they are both tremendous enthusiasts, eager to improve, and never give up trying. They should be most successful next year. So should the Hon. P. W. S. G. Calthorpe (W), whose volleying and serving will be good but who tends to play his ground strokes with an underhand style. He has played in the third pair, first with D. L. Pike (G) and then with A. N. C. Bruce (B), when he returned late in June. Bruce would probably have been the best of the new colours, if he had come back at the beginning of term.

Several players have performed for the second VI, but it has been a weak side and was taught a very good lesson in tennis by the girls of West Heath School; we had another enjoyable match there this year and were heavily defeated.

Chatham beat Grafton in the final of the leagues. After a very close match Grenville beat Walpole in the house match final. The Mornington singles is a very open affair this year and there is a chance that a tennis player and not a cricketer will win it this time.

We are of course very short of balls these days and it looks as if we shall have to use very old and worn out ones next year. However, we are lucky to have any at all and will have to manage with the ones left over from this season.

1st VI results: Played 11, won 5, lost 6.

THE RELAYS

The Inter-House Relays were run on Monday, March 29th, in fairly good weather conditions. After being second for the last two years, on this occasion Bruce won by a considerable margin. They were a well-balanced team, as is shown by the fact that out of a total of six events they won three and were second in the other three. Special mention should be made of A. N. C. Bruce's half-mile in the Composite, in which he made up a considerable amount of ground on some of the best runners in the School and ended by beating them comfortably.

The results were:—		Bru.	Tem.	Gren.	Chan.	Cob.	Chat.	Graf.	Wal.
100 Yards	49.3 secs.	6	4	5	1	3	2	7	0
Hurdles	59 secs.	6	1	7	4	2	0	5	3
220 Yards	1 min. 48.8 secs.	7	6	1	3	2	0	4	5
440 Yards	4 mins. 5.4 secs.	7	1	4	0	2	3	5	6
880 Yards	9 mins. 36.6 secs.	6	1	3	0	4	7	2	5
Composite Mile	4 mins. 9.8 secs.	7	0	6	5	4	3	1	2
Points		39	13	26	13	17	15	24	21
Place		1	=7	2	=7	5	6	3	4



By permission] LIEUT. A.B.W. [of M.O.I.
 (Coldstream Guards)
 WITH AXIS PRISONERS (Tunisia)



Photo by] LABUNTUR ANNI [D.F.C.

This snapshot represents (l. to r.) a Lt.-Col. (Reg.) in a Highland Regt.; a Major (Temp.) in a Rifle Regt., who is a film actor in private life; an A.D.C. to an Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, as they were in 1927.

SPORTS

Sports Day was on Saturday, March 27th. For most of March the weather had been unusually warm and dry, but three days before the end rain came. It was, however, not relentless; there was little on the Saturday and the track was not unduly heavy. The outstanding performance was that of A. N. C. Bruce, who ran excellently both in the Mile and the Half Mile. The former was a well judged race, for there was no rival remotely near to challenge or spur him on; he is to be congratulated on setting up a new record. Yule and Pearson did quite well; and of the younger people G. P. Lloyd was outstanding and should be seen to considerable advantage next year. But, apart from these, the general standard was poor, a fact that may be largely put down to the considerable reduction in the average age of competitors and to the difficulties of getting much practice in a crowded war-time term.

In the Under-Sixteen events, R. C. B. Chancellor and C. A. Vandervell both looked very promising runners, the former at middle-distance in particular and the latter as a sprinter. G. C. Robinson also had a good meeting and shows versatility. He was the only competitor to reach standard in the Open Pole Vault, and with practice he may in time come to rival our pre-war band of ten-foot vaulters.

P. N. Briggs was placed in all the Under-Fifteen events and should develop well in one direction or another; and J. J. Asbury-Bailey looked a promising middle-distance runner.

The points were as follows:—Bruce, 150½; Chandos, 61½; Grenville, 53; Cobham, 39½; Grafton, 38; Walpole, 32½; Temple, 30; Chatham, 15½.

OPEN EVENTS

100 Yards.—1, R. A. Yule (B); 2, P. N. Pearson (C); 3, B. K. T. Barton (G). Time, 11.2 secs.
220 Yards.—1, R. A. Yule (B); 2, P. N. Pearson (C); 3, B. K. T. Barton (G). Time, 24.5 secs.
Quarter Mile.—1, P. N. Pearson (C); 2, R. A. Yule (B); 3, R. P. Bourdon Smith (G). Time, 55.8 secs.
Half Mile.—1, A. N. C. Bruce (B); 2, D. L. Donne (G); 3, G. P. Lloyd (B). Time, 2 mins. 7.6 secs.
One Mile.—1, A. N. C. Bruce (B); 2, D. L. Donne (G); 3, P. M. B. Greenall (C). Time, 4 mins. 43.1 secs. Record.
120 Yards Hurdles.—1, D. W. N. Calderwood (G); 2, R. H. M. Pease (G); 3, G. P. Lloyd (B). Time, 18.8 secs.
High Jump.—1, J. B. A. Kessler (B); 2, B. S. Dodwell (G); 3, D. W. N. Calderwood (G). Height, 5 ft. 2½ ins.
Long Jump.—1, M. E. B. Scott (T); 2, G. P. Lloyd (B); 3, R. H. M. Pease (G). Distance, 18 ft. 1 in.
Pole Vault.—1, G. C. Robinson (W). Height, 8 ft. 2½ ins.
Putting the Weight.—1, J. B. A. Kessler (B); 2, A. J. Manley (T); 3, R. A. Yule (B). Distance, 31 ft. 6 ins.
Throwing the Discus.—1, P. H. Guest (B); 2, M. R. Shaw (W); 3, B. W. Guest (B). Distance, 85 ft. 10 ins.
Throwing the Javelin.—1, J. S. Perry (C); 2, C. Dansie (C); 3, F. I. Watson (G). Distance, 133 ft.

UNDER SIXTEEN EVENTS

100 Yards.—1, C. A. Vandervell (B); 2, R. C. B. Chancellor (C). Time, 12 secs.
220 Yards.—1, C. A. Vandervell (B); 2, C. S. O'D Scott (B). Time, 25.1 secs.
Quarter Mile.—1, A. R. N. Field (C); 2, P. D. Lloyd (T).
Half Mile.—1, R. C. B. Chancellor (C); 2, C. A. Vandervell (B). Time, 2 mins. 15.5 secs.
Three-Quarter Mile.—1, R. C. B. Chancellor (C); 2, G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey (C). Time, 3 mins. 49.9 secs.
120 Yards Hurdles.—1, J. M. Bryan (T); 2, H. A. S. Murray (C). Time, 19.7 secs.
High Jump.—1, G. C. Robinson (W); 2, A. S. Wright (C). Height, 4ft. 10½ ins.
Long Jump.—1, C. S. O'D Scott (B); 2, D. C. Bakirgian (C). Distance, 17 ft. 9½ ins.
Putting the Weight.—1, D. L. Pike (G); 2, I. C. Robertson (G). Distance, 35 ft. 7 ins.

UNDER FIFTEEN EVENTS

100 Yards.—1, J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W); 2, P. N. Briggs (C). Time, 12.1 secs.
Half-Mile.—1, J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W); 2, P. N. Briggs (C). Time, 2 mins. 26.7 secs.
75 Yards Hurdles.—1, G. J. Chibbett (C); 2, P. N. Briggs (C). Time, 11.7 secs.
High Jump.—1, P. N. Briggs (C); 2, H. L. P. Hingston (T). Height, 4 ft. 5 ins.
Long Jump.—1, R. W. Shirley (T); 2, P. N. Briggs (C). Distance, 16 ft. 9½ ins.

JUNIOR TRAINING CORPS NOTES

The following promotions have been made this term:—

To *Under-Officer*: Sergeants R. M. Hippisley-Cox (C), A. N. C. Bruce (B), J. W. Myers (C).
To *Sergeants*: Corporals C. E. N. Graham (C), J. C. B. Bremner (C), J. A. Shepherd-Barron (W), C. S. Wallis-King (G), P. K. Harper (T), J. O. Gibson (W), P. J. Wadsworth (W), D. Carnegie-Arbuthnott (B).

To *Corporal*: Lance-Corporals P. C. Clay (G), R. P. Bourdon Smith (G), E. B. Farrar (G), R. H. M. Pease (G), I. G. Butler (G), J. A. Wood (C), A. C. L. Lewisohn (C), B. W. Guest (B), J. G. B. Chester (B), N. C. S. Barling (G), J. W. Stopford (C), G. G. Imrie (G), B. K. Montgomery (G), C. H. Blamey (C).

Appointed *Lance-Corporal*: Cadets A. R. A. Holden (B), I. F. Wallace (C), F. I. Watson (G), P. R. Boys-Stones (G), J. S. Perry (C), P. M. Wright (W), H. E. G. Chenevix-Trench (C), D. V. Palmer (C), M. G. Manton (C), A. B. Marsden-Smedley (W), G. A. Bakewell (G), C. Dansie (C), S. Ruthven (C), P. J. Foord (G), A. J. Macmillan (C), P.-J. S. Mackay (T), G. P. Lloyd (B), G. C. Rogers (W).

The May intake of Recruits was 47, raising the Contingent's strength to 334 cadets. In the War Certificate "A" examinations held last March, 35 out of 49 candidates passed the "Individual" and 15 out of 21 the "Section Leader's" tests.

PRIZES

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Individual), March 1943:—H. A. S. Murray (C).
Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Section Leader's), March 1943:—D. V. Palmer (C).

SERGEANT-MAJOR T. W. SHERWOOD

Mr. Sherwood died suddenly on April 10th at the age of 60, while still serving the Contingent as its first Sergeant-Major. He had since 1924 instructed generations of Stoics in Weapon Training. Especially in pre-war days, he played a very considerable part in coaching the Bisley VIII, and throughout the year he patiently and methodically conducted practices at the Miniature Range. On the "Q" side his work and experience were invaluable both at the Armoury and in camp, for he always added to them a personal pride in the well-being of the Stowe Contingent. A familiar voice and figure are strangely absent from many activities, and his loss, particularly in war-time, is a heavy one.

TRAINING

It has been found possible and advantageous to conduct Physical Efficiency Standards during parade-time, but the system can work only when cadets train for the tests beforehand and do not rely on passing them in their stride.

A course of instruction on the Internal Combustion Engine, run by the A.T.C. this term for a dozen J.T.C. cadets, has been highly appreciated and will become, it is hoped, a permanent feature of post-Certificate work.

Two whole-day trainings were held during June in particularly fine weather. The first brought out points in individual and section work by a series of small exercises. The second, arranged on similar lines, included platoon schemes for the seniors. Such days have value for cadets at all levels, for Certificate candidates above all, and, working independently, the Survey Section and the Recruits develop their activities over a most useful period of time.

Arrangements are being made for sending a Demonstration Platoon of senior cadets to give assistance for a week at the Buckinghamshire Army Cadet Force camp. This contact between the two cadet bodies is a War Office experiment, but the approach to it is practical and promises desirable results.

For a week last Easter 35 A.C.F. Officers and Under-Officers attended a Certificate "A" Course at Stowe, an Eastern County Regiment providing an excellent Demonstration Officer and Section. Major-General The Viscount Bridgeman, D.S.O., M.C., spent an afternoon here, and other new visitors included a party of C.Os. from Suffolk A.C.F.

Our Home Guard Platoon duly took part in the Anniversary parade, marching to Buckingham and back for the purpose. It also carried out two whole-night exercises under unexpectedly dry conditions, learned its lessons, enjoyed rations at dawn and came home each time with a swing.

A.T.C. NOTES

From April 3rd to April 10th the C.O. and twenty-two cadets attended an A.T.C. Camp at Upper Heyford. As we were the only Unit present during this week each cadet had two flights and all received plenty of individual attention at lectures, which covered Navigation, Wireless Direction Finding, Bombing Trainer, Air Gunnery, Air-Sea Rescue work, Station Defence and Intelligence. Drill and P.T. formed a regular part of the day's work. An offer to take on the Station Soccer team was countered by a suggestion of seven-a-side Rigger which was not accepted. On Sunday, April 4th, we found ourselves detailed for Church Parade. The salute at the March Past was taken by the A.O.C. who was inspecting the Station. Everyone took a great deal of trouble to make the week a success, instruction was interesting and it all proved to be an invaluable introduction to life under Service conditions.

Five out of six of last term's Proficiency Part II candidates were successful and eleven out of thirteen passed Proficiency Part I. Sergt. Kessler attended an N.C.O.'s course at Cranwell in April and he, Flight-Sgt. Donne and Sgt. Hamilton have been taking instructional classes this term.

On May 11th the Flight was inspected by Air Chief Marshal Sir C. S. Burnett, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Commandant Central Region, A.T.C.

The Flight represented Stowe in the Buckingham Wings For Victory Parade on Saturday, May 29th.

During the latter part of the term arrangements for flying have been very satisfactory; most cadets of the rank of First Class and upwards should have had at least one flight before the end of the term. Promotions:—

To *Flight-Sergeant*: D. L. Donne (G).

To *Acting Flight-Sergeant*: J. A. Hamilton (C).

To *Sergeant*: J. B. A. Kessler (B).

To *Acting Sergeant*: R. D. C. Reynolds (B).

To *Corporals*: N. C. S. Davison (G), A. W. Mosselmanns (C), R. F. Wright (G), D. R. Blundell (G), M. R. Shaw (W).

Strength: 65.

STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

95, FRAMPTON STREET,
LONDON, N.W.8.
July 1943.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.
Dear Sir,

I returned to the Club early in April, after an absence of three months due to illness. During this period the Vice-Warden and my wife were jointly responsible for the successful running of the Club. It was fortunate indeed, during this very difficult time, that two such capable people were able to fill my place.

However, Mr. Holloway had earlier stated his inability to carry on indefinitely, and my return coincided with the advent of a new Vice-Warden, Mr. A. Seymour French, late of Aldenham Boys' Club, whose able assistance increases my opportunities of making personal contacts with parents and of finding the right jobs for school-leavers.

Soon after my return plans were made to ensure that Stowe Club's contribution to St. Marylebone Youth Week would be a worthy one. Results were excellent. J. McGinty won the Boxing Cup for the eight-stone weight, R. Paine and S. Allen were awarded first and second places for Diving, and P. Shaw won the 25 yds. Open Swimming Championship. In the Table Tennis tournament we defeated Christ Church in the semi-final, nine games to three, but later lost the final to the Rosary by one game after a tie at eight games all.

The stand at the Exhibition, decorated with photographs and posters from the Art class, was in the true spirit of the show and demonstrated the Boot-repairing, Lino-cutting and Printing classes in action. D. Addison, L. Shillingford and P. Murphy did excellent shoe repairs throughout the week, and among the most active lino-cutters were R. Whiteaker and R. Baker.

The visit and talk given by J. I. G. Capadose (T), drawing a comparison between the influence of a good public school on the life of a boy and the influence of an adequate and well-equipped club on a differently circumstanced boy, did much to focus attention on the work of Stowe Club as a social unit. Our stand and achievements during Youth Week excited much interest and we received many applications for membership.

The Vice-Warden and I are in complete agreement that the proper function of the Club is to train its members in service and responsibility to the community. During the past month we have enrolled some twenty boys still attending school, created a Junior Clubroom for them at the top of the house and made their welfare the responsibility of the more senior boys. D. Addison and F. Evans have shown themselves especially capable and willing in this direction.

The Cricket season opened well with a match against the combined Harrow-Rugby Club on their own ground, which Stowe won by 9 runs. The courtesy of the Polytechnic in granting us swimming facilities at their bath is much appreciated by members.

Many boys are spending their annual holiday working at Forestry and Fruit-picking Camps organized by Youth Service Volunteers. Three boys are leaving for a camp in Sussex soon, and next month four others are going to spend three weeks picking fruit in Gloucestershire.

In addition, our own plans for week-end camping at Hurley-on-Thames and at Mrs. Jagger's house at Beaconsfield are going forward. They have been possible only because of kindness in granting us sites and the presentation to the Club of six tents by the Rotary Club of St. Marylebone and Paddington through S. F. Rous, Esq., C.B.E., at one time a Public School master.

During this difficult period in the war it is most encouraging to receive letters from members of the Club, now serving overseas with the Forces. Of the 1942 Soccer team seven are serving in the Royal Navy and two in the Army, and, in all, there is a record of 123 members with whom I keep in touch. They write testifying to the value of club training in their new lives and look forward to the time when they can again visit Stowe and renew a valued friendship.

I thank all at Stowe for their support, particularly those who visited us at Christmas and during Youth Week. More contacts would be greatly welcomed, if time for them can be made. Our usual programme is:—Monday: Boot-repairing; Tuesday: Boxing; Wednesday: P.T., Swimming, Discussion Groups; Thursday: Art, Hobbies, Drama; Friday: Dance and Social; Saturday: Sports and Tournaments.

With kind wishes to all at Stowe,

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ALBERT E. CREWDSON (Warden).

MUSIC

A collaboration between the full orchestra and Choral Society has been made this term. The work that is being practised by them is Borodin's dances from *Prince Igor*. The two departments have done some hard work independently, though the Summer Term is always a bad one from the point of view of attendance. The Choral Society has suffered rather worse than the orchestra in this respect—some of us are rather apt to forget about indoor activities when the sun is shining. The first practice at which both departments were present was held recently. The results were interesting. The Choral Society was inclined to be inaudible; this being partly because they were weak in numbers—painfully weak amongst the basses. Combined Orchestra and Choral Society practices, however, will be taking place regularly once a week until the concert at the end of term, so the question of balance ought to be mastered by then, and there is no reason why a very creditable performance should not be given.

In addition to this work, the Choral Society has attempted some part-songs, one of which is a set of short variations on the well-known sea-shanty: "Johnny comes down to Hilo." Some skilful singing is needed here, and, if possible, these songs will be performed unaccompanied at the concert.

The orchestra has worked at the first movements of two well-known symphonies, namely Schubert's Unfinished and Mozart's Thirty-ninth in E flat. The second movement of the former has been played through several times and will probably be included at the concert; the third movement of the latter has been played twice, the last movement once. The Unfinished is played very well indeed; there is good playing from all sections of the orchestra, but special mention should be made of the great improvement in the trombone department, which has

played a difficult part very effectively in this Symphony and in the *Prince Igor* dances. The Mozart Symphony does not seem to have been quite so successful, as the orchestra usually finds difficulty in interpreting the lightness and delicacy of Mozart's music without making it become trivial. The introduction to the first movement is apt to be played rather stodgily, whilst the first movement proper lacks the dignity, gracefulness, and at the same time daintiness, which are the essential features of the music. A part of the orchestra played the incidental music for the Midsummer Night's Festival and succeeded in creating a suitable atmosphere for the occasion.

There has been one concert this term from outside sources. On June 30th a chamber concert was given at 8.15 p.m. in the library by the Entente Quartet. The programme consisted of a Theme and Variations by Mendelssohn, Schubert's Satz Quartet and Beethoven's Quartet in F minor (opus 90). The second of these seemed to be the most popular of the evening. The Beethoven Quartet, as with most of the later works of this composer, was rather introspective and difficult to understand after one hearing, although it was most excellently performed.

The gramophone concerts have been a popular feature of Friday evenings this term, and there are several enthusiastic listeners to be seen poring over miniature scores with great enthusiasm. Miss Radice has started a library of miniature scores, which will be kept in the Aurelian Room. If used properly, a score is always an aid to concentration, and will always give a further insight into the work; if, therefore, this collection is continued, a universally more thorough knowledge of well-known music should certainly result.

The J.T.C. and A.T.C. band has had a successful term and will produce the usual concert.

M.H.T.

DEBATING SOCIETY

The Society has done little this term, having suffered a severe blow by the absence of the Secretary. Meanwhile J. O. Stanley (B) agreed to act as temporary Secretary. Only one debate has been held so far, but it may be possible to hold a second before the end of term.

Officers of the Society were:—President, Mr. J. M. Todd; Secretary, R. A. Guinness (C); Temporary Secretary, J. O. Stanley (B); Treasurer, P. W. I. Rees (T); Librarian, G. C. Neale (C); co-opted as member of Committee, I. F. Wallace (C).

The following have been elected members of the Society:—D. Carnegie-Arbuthnott (B), M. G. Manton (C) and J. M. Kahn (W).

The 153rd Meeting of the Society was held in the Library at 8.15 on Wednesday, June 16th. It opened with lively private business on sartorial matters. Letters were read from far and wide, including an airgraph from India. The Society was lulled for some while into believing itself a focus of world interest, but the ensuing debate soon dispelled this opinion. The debate was lacking in its usual vigour, perhaps because of the small attendance and an exacting motion.

The Motion before the House was:—"That in the opinion of this House a War is not worth winning unless one deserves to win it."

A. G. H. MELLY (C) led off well, deploring the mere winning of wars. He appealed to the house to keep its sense of proportion, yet was insistent that ideals were of the utmost importance. He concluded by walking hand in hand with the Society into a brave new world.

The Temporary Secretary, J. O. STANLEY (B), opposed the motion with a blurred mass of cynicism. He refused even to consider the proposer's "ideal" wars, and was for being honest about it and making a good job of a war.

B. W. GUEST (B) made a long and forceful speech, contorting history to suit his purpose. His golden heroes tired the House, but his specialized ending provided an amusing climax to his speech.

P. W. I. REES (T) made a good and logical speech. He refuted the historical eyewash on the other side with dexterous rapidity. Then he went on to show the criminal intention of all wars and the mass of hypocrisy on the other side. His amusing speech affected the house, swaying many of its members to his side.

There voted: In the Upper House: For the Motion, 5; Against, 5.

In the Lower House: For the Motion, 9; Against, 3.

The Motion was therefore drawn in the Upper House and carried in the Lower.

J.O.S.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

This term we have been fortunate in having had the opportunity of hearing the views of Mr. J. M. Todd on Aeschylus, when he read a paper to the Classical Society on June 23rd. He spent only a limited time on Aeschylus' life and style, etc., but dealt mainly with his most impressive play, the *Agamemnon*. To illustrate, he read out his own translation of a considerable quantity of this tragedy. The audience was carried away by the brilliance both of his treatment and of his translation and are most grateful to him for an enthralling and instructive evening.

It is hoped that P. A. Mulgan (G) will also read a paper on a subject as yet undisclosed.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The breeding of rabbits has been given up, at any rate for the time being, owing to the difficulties of looking after them during the holidays.

The experimental microplots on the South Front have been used for the investigation of the effects of manures and fertilizers. One set of 25 microplots was treated with organic manures at the end of last term and was sown with early potatoes. These potatoes will have been dug up and weighed by the end of the term. Likewise the second set of 25 microplots, which were opened up for the first time last term, was sown with early potatoes, which also will have been weighed by the end of the term. This second set showed a curious distribution of phosphates when the soil was analysed. The microplots have not been treated with organic manures but instead have been used to test the effects of different phosphate fertilizers.

The microplots in front of the Biological Laboratories are to be used as a miniature garden showing rotation of crops. During the summer most of them were carrying carrots, previously intended for the rabbits. As these carrots are removed the plots are being planted with winter greens or are being prepared for next year's vegetables. So far autumn cabbages and cauliflowers, winter greens, winter turnips and spinach and a row of early peas have been planted; next term spring cabbage and cauliflowers and a row of spring onions will be put in, also a few fruit bushes on a permanent bed. Owing to the stony nature of the ground the whole of the soil is being sieved before any of it is planted.

T. R. K. Bally (C) and J. E. B. Brooks (C) have been using the incubator. Ducklings were hatched last term and chicks this term, with fair success. Thursday extras have been concerned mainly with bird-watching; any additions to the bird list will be published next term.

A. V. Kaye (C) and D. Elliot (C) claim to have seen a Clouded Yellow (*Colias croceus*) on 17th June on the South Front. It was first observed in the Headmaster's garden but before it could be caught it flew off and disappeared over the roof of the School. Further information about this or any other specimens of Clouded Yellow Butterflies will be welcome.

THE SPOTTERS' CLUB

Meetings have been held twice in every three weeks throughout the term. 2nd and 3rd Class Tests have already been held, and it is hoped to have another 1st Class Test before the close of term. The result of the previous test held towards the end of last term was that five members passed; they are now entitled to be called "First-class Spotters."

On June 12th the Secretary gave a talk on "The Development of French Aircraft, 1939 and onwards," from which it was evident that many interesting types are being produced in France, even to-day.

Members have been given access to the Inter-Services Journal "Aircraft Recognition," a binder containing all copies to date being on hire for one penny a day. The photographs therein have probably helped to improve members' practical spotting, for which there is plenty of scope at Stowe these days.

THE DRAMATIC CLUB

So far this term there has been only one general meeting of the club, but it is hoped that another will be held nearer the end of term.

The Club had intended producing "The Admirable Crichton," but the Summer is a bad term for dramatics and the production had to be cancelled.

THE STOIC

A midsummer night's music and verse reading was produced on the steps of the Queen's Temple in conjunction with the Orchestra, which proved most successful.

THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

There have been, to date, two lecturers to the Society this term. J. B. A. Kessler (B) read a very interesting paper on "Oil," and Mr. R. Lodge, of Exeter College, Oxford, very kindly came down to give us, under the title of "Bugs and Drugs," a survey of the progress of Chemotherapy.

THE SYMPOSIUM

The Society has held three meetings this term, all of which have been lively and interesting. At the 25th meeting, J. R. Freeland (C) read his paper on "Hypnotism," which was followed by a rather unsuccessful attempt at a demonstration on the President. At the 26th meeting, O. G. Taylor (C) read his somewhat over-technical paper on "Dunne's Theory of Time." A. W. B. Hayward (G) at the 27th meeting read a masterly paper on "Ancient Philosophies." It is hoped that M. G. Manton (C) and C. L. Brook (C) will read papers later in the term.

The Society is deeply indebted to Miss Radice for the loan of her room for the 26th meeting.

THE XII CLUB

There have been two papers so far this term. W. H. Struthers (C) kept the flag flying with his paper on "British Imperialism and its importance to the post-war World" and J. A. Hamilton (C) advocated mass-sterilization and a country of Port Sunlights in his paper on "Practical Reconstruction." It is hoped that B. W. Guest (B) will read a paper before the end of the term. The club's discussions this term have centred round the cosmopolis rather than its more usual dithyrambs.

THE VITRUVIANS

At the 15th meeting of the Society Mr. L. H. Reid was elected Vice-president, J. G. B. Chester (B) Secretary, and J. E. C. Kennon (G) Treasurer. During the term we have had two interesting lectures and have also visited various nearby churches.

On Sunday, June 6th, there was an expedition to Hillesden. Gawcott Church was visited on the way, but was not so interesting as Hillesden Church. We were fortunate in having Mr. Fernihough, the Vicar of Stowe Church, as our guide at Hillesden, since his knowledge of the church is extensive. Radclive Church was visited on the way back, and its Norman door examined.

There was an expedition on Sunday, July 11th, to the churches at Little and Great Horwood, Twyford and Stewkley.

EVENING

The flower is dark
Where the blackbirds sing
A melody of water.
Hark!
The bats are piping high on the wing.
Hark to Summer's daughter,
The poet's loved one on the bough,
Enchanting the night
With her loud notes of sadness.
Now!
Now chuckles the nightjar, crouching out of sight,
Deep in the bracken, at the moon's madness.

C.A.C.

