

THE STOIC



Number Sixty-two

DECEMBER 1943



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NORTH FRONT COLONNADES

J.F.R.

THE STOIC

VOL. XI

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No. 1

DECORATIONS

The following awards have been made to Old Stoics in addition to the eighty-nine already recorded :—

D.S.O.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. C. A. D. LAWSON (C, 1929), 11th Hussars, in October.

D.S.C.

LIEUTENANT J. S. FILLEUL (G, 1938), R.N., in September.

M.C.

LIEUTENANT B. P. BROOKE (C, 1927), The Hampshire Regt., in September.

CAPTAIN J. P. L. HENDERSON (G, 1932), No. 2 Commando, in October.

MAJOR E. A. F. WIDDINGTON (G, 1932), 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, in August.

MAJOR D. J. WARD (G, 1934), R.A., in August.

LIEUTENANT G. T. B. FRANCE (C, 1934), R.A., in September.

CAPTAIN W. P. LUNN-ROCKLIFFE (C, 1936), R.A., in September.

LIEUTENANT E. B. S. HEWITT (B, 1938), Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, in October.

CAPTAIN J. H. DE BURGH (G, 1939), R.A., in September.

CAPTAIN E. B. FOSTER-MOORE (C, 1939), The Hampshire Regt., in September.

LIEUTENANT J. C. M. LEYLAND (B, 1940), R.B., in August.

D.F.C.

FLYING-OFFICER J. H. SHELMEKDINE (G, 1936), R.A.F.V.R., in August.

PILOT-OFFICER P. WILBY (T, 1939), R.C.A.F., in November.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT J. P. E. MAZE (C, 1940), R.A.F.V.R., in October.

O.B.E.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W. J. DAVIS (B, 1930), R.E.M.E., in September.

THE STOIC

M.B.E.

MAJOR LORD RODERIC GORDON (C, 1931), R.A., in September.

CAPTAIN C. K. SIMOND (T, 1937), R.B., in September.

S. S. (American)

LIEUTENANT H. E. JOSSELYN (T, 1931), R.A.N.V.R., in September.

CROIX DE GUERRE

BRIGADIER-CHEF P. O. WILLING (C, 1939); F.F.F.

A citation has now been received for the following award. It is not normally possible to print these citations except when they appear in the newspapers or are sent by relatives. When they can be sent they will always be welcome.

LIEUTENANT P. F. GREENWELL (G, 1938), Durham Light Infantry. Awarded the M.C. (*Stoic* No. 61.)

" Before charging strong positions at Donbaik, Burma, on March 18th last, Lieut. Greenwell told his platoon to wait for a special signal—a note blown by himself on a hunting horn. As he raised the horn to give the signal it was shot from his hand.

" He thereupon led his men forward in a bayonet charge under heavy automatic and grenade fire from the Japanese and personally reached the enemy post, which he engaged with grenades. During this charge he received multiple injuries and was seen to fall near the enemy positions.

" Throughout the action he inspired us all by his high qualities of leadership and courage."

CASUALTIES

KILLED

PILOT-OFFICER H. G. P. MOUNSEY (G, 1925), R.A.F.V.R., in September.

LIEUTENANT R. C. S. MANNERS (C, 1926), R.A.S.C., in October.

LIEUTENANT A. C. COWARD (G, 1929), K.O.S.B., in October.

CAPTAIN THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON (G, 1930), The Duke of Wellington's Regt., and No. 2 Commando, in September.

LIEUTENANT A. F. R. PORCHER (C, 1933), K.O.S.B.

CAPTAIN SIR HENRY ASTLEY-CORBETT, Bt., (C, 1933), Scots Guards, in September.

LIEUTENANT P. H. G. SMITH (C, 1934), East Surrey Regt., in November.

MR. JOHN DE HAVILLAND (C, 1935), Test Pilot, on August 23rd.

MAJOR J. T. McK. ANDERSON, V.C., D.S.O. (C, 1936), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, in October.

CAPTAIN J. M. MAYNE (C, 1936), R.A., in September.

LIEUTENANT A. R. McDUGALL (C, 1936), Coldstream Guards, in October.

SUB-LIEUTENANT (A) M. A. GRAHAM (G, 1936), R.N.V.R. (Reported Missing in January; now presumed killed.)

MAJOR C. P. J. O'FARRELL, M.C. (C, 1937), Royal Irish Fusiliers, in August.

CAPTAIN N. S. BROWN (G, 1937), R.A., in October.

THE STOIC

LIEUTENANT E. B. S. HEWITT, M.C. (B, 1938), Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, in November.

LIEUTENANT L. S. BUXTON (B, 1938), Coldstream Guards, in September.

SERGEANT-PILOT R. MORRIS (G, 1939), R.A.F.V.R., in August.

PILOT-OFFICER P. E. FALKNER (W, 1940), R.A.F.V.R., in August.

TROOPER J. T. WESTON (G, 1940), R.A.C., in August.

LIEUTENANT D. C. LLOYD (C, 1941), Royal Marine Commando, in September.

LIEUTENANT B. HENSHAW (C, 1941), Grenadier Guards, in November.

WOUNDED

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. N. M. BLAIR (C, 1929), The Black Watch.

LIEUTENANT D. K. W. BLAIR (C, 1931), Oxford and Bucks L.I.

MAJOR I. W. MACPHERSON (G, 1931), R.A.

LIEUTENANT G. G. RIDDICK (C, 1939), R.B.

CAPTAIN E. B. FOSTER-MOORE, M.C. (C, 1939), The Hampshire Regt.

BRIGADIER-CHEF P. O. WILLING (C, 1939).

LIEUTENANT J. C. M. LEYLAND (B, 1940), R.B.

SUB-LIEUTENANT J. R. B. WILLIAMS-ELLIS (T, 1941), R.N.V.R.

MISSING

SECOND-LIEUTENANT G. A. SAM (G, 1927), 8th Punjab Regt. (Singapore).

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT C. J. MACPHERSON (G, 1932), R.A.F.V.R., in November.

FLYING-OFFICER J. R. TRAILL (C, 1934), R.A.F.V.R., in August.

SUB-LIEUTENANT A. R. G. PEARCE (G, 1935), R.N.V.R., in November.

PILOT-OFFICER R. A. H. BOWRING (C, 1940), R.A.F.V.R., in July.

PILOT-OFFICER D. J. WEBSTER (W, 1940), R.A.F.V.R., in August.

PILOT-OFFICER J. D. S. CABLE (C, 1941), R.A.F.V.R., in August.

PRISONER OF WAR

FLYING-OFFICER B. G. N. KENNEDY (G, 1927), R.A.F.V.R., in September.

MAJOR C. ROCHFORD-BOYD (T, 1928), R.A. (Previously reported Missing, Singapore, in January 1942.)

GUNNER M. CAMPBELL (C, 1933), Perak Defence Force. (Previously reported Missing, in July 1942.)

CAPTAIN M. E. BARDWELL (C, 1936), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. (Previously reported Missing.)

REPATRIATED.

LIEUTENANT N. A. USSHER (C, 1937), 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, in November.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM OLD STOICS IN THE FORCES

FIGHTING IN NORTH AFRICA

I do not know how much you read in the papers, but our show consisted of a 4,500 yard advance in brilliant moonlight. I was not actually doing communications at the time. I was leading the Battalion with the I.O., and doing the pacing, which was very important as we were working on a time table with the R.A., and if we went too fast and did not count our paces we got either too far into our own barrage or too far behind. Eventually we reached our final objective, and as my party were pinned down by our barrage, I took them out to the right . . .

We spent several furious hours digging ourselves in, during which time we were shelled by the Hun and by our own people. In the morning we could see the whole of one armoured division formed up behind us like cars parked at a Race Meeting. They had been unable to get through the minefield into which we had actually dug ourselves and two Companies. The Armour stayed behind us for two or three days and the Gunners came up also and parked there, and both Tanks and Gunners started firing barrages right over our heads. We took a pretty poor view of our position because we got all that the Hun was throwing back at the Tanks and Gunners.

We stayed on that spot for 10 days and saw one or two really good tank battles, but all the time we were there we got shelled heavily

MORE FIGHTING IN NORTH AFRICA

I expect you have heard by now of Rommel's unsuccessful counter-attack against us.

As it is over, I think I can now tell you what happened. We had just taken over and formed a new line, and had been in for two days with the forward companies on a forward slope when we heard that he was going to attack. We withdrew our two forward companies, put them back for counter-attack roles and got ready to defend two prominent hills which he was bound to take as his objectives. Well, he attacked at dawn, with a preliminary bombardment, and got up to one of our forward companies, which together with the D.F. shot him off it. By seven, the forward companies' position was safe.

However, the battalion on our left was gradually being pushed back along the ridge and at dusk we were in danger of being cut off. One of our companies, together with our carriers, counter-attacked him, and drove him off that too; and at nine o'clock we were O.K. again. We waited all next day for him to attack with tanks as well, but he did not try us again, except for some shelling and mortaring.

Our position was regarded as the keystone of the whole defence, not only for the division, but for everybody else as well; and everybody was very pleased when we beat them off.

MUSSOLINI'S MOUNT

Every morning now I ride a grey Arab stallion which had been specially chosen for Mussolini to ride on when entering Alexandria in triumph. It is rather an indifferent mount, but its connection with the discomfited Duce affords me some amusement.

A REFLECTION FROM THE C.M.F.

When there is a pause in this war and one is allowed time to think forward and back, I am reminded of my days at Stowe, and of all that I learned to think and do there. I realize what an advantage I have over so many others. Most people out here seem to take an absolutely individualistic point of view. To them their homes and their family are what they fight for. But when it comes to dying for something, then another and greater impulse is required. I think myself that it is the spirit one acquires at a public school, together with the Christianity one

became imbued with from childhood, that provides that impulse. So much in war depends on a sense of honour and a sense of duty, that unless all the officers and many of the men possess these things to a high degree we cannot hope to win our battles. The German gets his strength from his intense patriotism (stiffened, of course, by first-rate discipline); he is genuinely willing to die for the "Fatherland." The Jap is a fanatic. Our troops depend on the leadership of their officers. Without that, they lack the driving power necessary to break the spirit of the Bosche.

I have heard much nonsense talked about the public schools—but it has been mostly inspired by mere jealousy. I have been in the Middle East and the Central Mediterranean for three and a half years now, and I am quite convinced that without the officers provided by Stowe and the other public schools we should never have found the leaders who are so indispensable for victory.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON

You will have heard about poor Morny. He has left a large gap in our ranks, for he was such a great favourite. He always struck me as being a remarkably different person from his illustrious ancestor, and it was not until we were in the thick of it that he really showed himself. Then indeed a fire burned in his kind, friendly soul which I for one had never seen before. The orders he gave for the final assault with the bayonet on a terrifically strong German position were the coolest and calmest possible, but he led the charge like one inspired. This was the first action that — and I had seen, and it is sad that it broke the partnership of The Three (Stoic) Musketeers.

The most innocent tribute paid to him I think was the notice that men of his Troop put over their hut door—nothing flowery or sensational—just "The Dook's Boys."

LOOT

I have had the thrill of capturing my first German prisoners. Unfortunately, however, they were not festooned, as all good Germans are reputed to be, with Zeiss binoculars and Leica cameras. All that they had was a pair of British field glasses (Army issue type). I felt myself entitled to recover these and hold them in trust for the Army. But I wish they had been Zeiss.

2 COWS = 1 CAMEL

Lately I have been functioning chiefly in a political capacity, roaming around with small bands of soldiers or police, keeping the Italians and the natives in order. I spent some time in a small insanitary Somali village near the border of French Somaliland, where I did the job of "Blockade Officer." Any smugglers who attempted to take food or stock into French Somaliland were arrested for me by men from the neighbouring battalion (in which one of the most efficient N.C.O.'s was Sergeant C. . . . of Grenville). It was my job to try the cases and I could give up to two years imprisonment. But I generally imposed a fine—to be paid in stock. It's an arid country up there and the only way of keeping stock alive is to keep it moving continuously. So I had to cash in on my fines pretty rapidly. We used a basic rate of 3s. for a good sheep and 30s. for a good cow. One could reckon ten sheep = one cow, and two cows = one camel. The concern ran itself. I sold the stock to the military or let the owners buy them back, paying my police out of the proceeds.

The smugglers were armed and financed by the French. They usually tried to slip through the prohibited zone at night and it was our job to stop them. About seventy of them got killed and we had some losses too, though of course far fewer. The Somali walks at five miles an hour, unless he is in a hurry, and I used to amuse myself by setting a pace which caused him to hurry. With four or five police I would set off in the dark at 5 a.m. and would have done twenty miles or so before the sun got too hot.

My frontage was one hundred and twenty miles and I was responsible among other things for all traffic on the road from Dire Dawa once it had passed the turning into British Somaliland. All goods and passenger-traffic on the once-a-week train were also my concern and since I had no one on my Staff who could read and write I always had to be back in the village when the train was due.

TAKING AN ISLAND

Being bombed en route was terrifying, but it was the last time that we met any real activity by the Italians. One of our companies made the first landing. There were five thousand Italians fully armed in possession, but our four officers and eighty men occupied the island without difficulty. The rest of us arrived next day. We found that the Italians had been building immense fortifications and underground shelters. After the surrender, as no orders had been given to the contrary, they went on building them. They had enormous quantities of material, of certain kinds at least, and I had to take charge of a huge warehouse which contained enough explosives to blow the island out of the water. We used some of the explosives for a purpose which we should have regarded as disgraceful at home. We used to go out in some of the small and dilapidated boats which we found in the harbour and kill fish with sticks of gelignite. It would have taken more than gelignite to kill the fleas on the island. The place was black with them.

THE OTHER SIDES OF LIFE

Before settling down to business, I wanted to see something of the other sides of life. I must say that I have had my wish. I have hunted, skied, mountaineered, killed grouse, shot stags, cruised and raced my own yacht, travelled twice round the world and shot thirty miles of rapids in the Philippines in a dug-out.

(The writer has since been killed in action.)

ASSEMBLY PRAYERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

In five minutes time we shall be having Prayers. I have supplied the Captain with Stowe Assembly Prayer No. 2 ("Stretch forth, O Lord . . ."). I expect it has been stretched round the world anyway, by now. It is funny the way one keeps such things in one's mind for years.

A BUREAUCRAT

I am now a uniformed bureaucrat. I make out demands for more ink, put them into two envelopes (the inner one marked "Most Secret" and both sealed three times) and send them to the room across the passage. Every third day I walk once up and down Whitehall, carrying an important-looking black bag, which contains a morning paper and a bill from the tailor.

IN SICILY

My present work is a mixture of things connected with the defence of a certain port coupled with the job of interpreting for a large Naval Party. This latter task is a bit irksome and comprises haggling for hundredweights of onions, tomatoes, oranges, etc. in the local market, scrounging wine throughout the countryside, shooing pestilential children off the premises and settling the locals' problems of food, finance and tobacco.

This morning I was woken up by a loud bellow in my ear, "Meester Antonio" (they try to get that homelike atmosphere whenever they need anything!), and opened my eyes on the mouthings of a toothless old gnome with short white stubble, a matted chest, tattered shorts and skinny legs, who wore on his right hand a heavy gold coronetted signet ring and carried in his left a large billy can which he peremptorily required to be filled with stew!

My pitch at the moment is an olive yard; not too shady, but (except for flies, ants, hornets' wasps and mosquitoes) quite pleasant even in this heat—which, the soldiers are saying, is worse than in Africa. I am sitting on a Camp bed and being regarded with some interest by a Praying Mantis which is engaged on its devotions beside me (it is Sunday). Down below the clank of buckets is just perceptible from the well, where an old mule circulates, drawing a bar and raising the water by Archimedes' old machine. There is a fine large cistern for our baths and laundry and the water finally goes to irrigate a small orchard of citrus fruits. In fact it probably sounds quite pleasant. But I find there is something rather inhuman about the country and something subhuman about the people. They are bores. The land is almost birdless, and cicadas make a poor substitute, though the swarms of swallowtail butterflies do brighten the scene a bit.

OLIM ALUMNI

MR. J. B. DWIGHT (G, 1940) has been awarded a Foundation Scholarship for Mechanical Sciences at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

MARRIAGES

MR. J. C. C. BOWLING (C, 1927), R.A., to Miss M. Horsburgh Brown, on April 14th; LIEUTENANT N. C. IRVINE (G, 1932), R.N.V.R., to Miss C. Banister, on December 15th; SURGEON-LIEUTENANT L. A. MCAFEE (B, 1934), R.N.V.R., to Miss J. V. Wall, on July 7th; CAPTAIN R. B. BOULTER (G, 1934), A.I.F., to Miss R. Percy, in July (in Australia); MAJOR E. G. W. T. WALSH (T, 1935), P.A.V.O. Cavalry (11th F.F.), to Miss M. Stewart, on October 30th; MR. A. I. O. DAVIES (T, 1935) to Miss G. H. Madeley, on October 23rd; LIEUTENANT J. J. RIDDICK (C, 1937), R.A., to Miss C. M. Ruggles-Brise, on September 28th; SECOND-LIEUTENANT H. A. MITCHELL (C, 1937), R.A., to Miss Terblanche, on August 29th; MR. J. B. ANDREWS (G, 1938) to Miss P. Hardy, on January 2nd, 1943; CAPTAIN C. D. EARLE (B, 1938), R.A., to Miss E. A. Sainsbury, on November 30th; MR. C. B. BLACQUE (C, 1942) to Miss S. Etienne-Jervis, on July 20th.

BIRTHS

To the wife of MR. G. A. EVANS (T, 1927), twin sons, on October 27th, 1942; to the wife of MR. J. A. ROBINSON (T, 1927), a son, on July 7th (at Port of Spain, Trinidad); to the wife of CAPTAIN T. J. FIRBANK (C, 1928), Coldstream Guards, att. Airborne Division, a daughter, on November 16th; to the wife of MAJOR F. E. M. EASTWOOD (B, 1928), R.A.S.C., a daughter, on August 26th; to the wife of FLYING-OFFICER J. FRASER-JAMES (C, 1928), a daughter, on August 25th; to the wife of MAJOR H. A. L. MONTGOMERY-CAMPBELL (C, 1928), R.T.R. (B.N.A.F.), a son, on August 23rd; to the wife of FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT H. G. MORISON (G, 1929), R.A.F.V.R., a son, on October 27th; to the wife of MAJOR R. H. CALVERT (G, 1929), Royal Corps of Signals, a daughter; to the wife of SIR NOEL DRYDEN, Bt. (C, 1929), a son, on September 26th; to the wife of MAJOR THE HON. P. T. OGLIVIE-GRANT OF GRANT (T, 1929), a son, on September 9th.

To the wife of CAPTAIN P. L. C. BRODIE (C, 1931), Intelligence Corps, a daughter, on September 15th; to the wife of WING-COMMANDER L. G. LEVIS (T, 1931), a daughter, on October 31st; to the wife of MR. T. Q. ANNAN (T, 1931), a son, on November 8th; to the wife of MR. T. F. S. HETHERINGTON (G, 1933), a son, on August 28th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT D. G. LEA (C, 1933), Intelligence Corps, a son, on August 10th; to the wife of CAPTAIN R. P. BLOW (C, 1933), 7th Hussars, a son, on July 23rd; to the wife of SQUADRON-LEADER J. H. P. GAUVAIN (G, 1933), R.A.F.V.R., a daughter, on July 31st; to the wife of SURGEON-LIEUTENANT E. J. WOOD (T, 1933), R.N.V.R., a son, on October 1st; to the wife of MAJOR A. W. TORRANCE (C, 1933), Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, a son, on July 26th; to the wife of CAPTAIN C. W. N. MILES (C, 1933), a daughter, on August 19th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT W. E. WALROND (C, 1933), The East Surrey Regt., a daughter, on September 8th.

To the wife of SURGEON-LIEUTENANT A. E. de la T. MALLETT, D.S.C. (B, 1935), R.N.V.R., a son, on August 24th; to the wife of CAPTAIN K. P. P. GOLDSCHMIDT (C, 1935), Leicestershire Regt., a son, on October 25th; to the wife of SECOND-LIEUTENANT A. W. HORNSBY (W, 1935), The Royal Sussex Regt., a daughter, on July 13th; to the wife of MR. N. MACMANUS (C, 1935), a son, on July 24th; to the wife of CAPTAIN A. B. M. HOUSTON (C, 1936), R.E., a son, on October 25th; to the wife of SUB-LIEUTENANT J. F. GIBSON (T, 1936), R.N.V.R., a son, on November 4th; to the wife of MR. L. T. PARSONS (G, 1937), a son, on August 3rd; to the wife of LIEUTENANT B. A. STEWART (C, 1938), Royal Scots Fusiliers, a son, on September 28th; to the wife of FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT R. E. W. HARLAND (C, 1938), R.A.F.V.R., a daughter, on July 29th.

STOICA

School Officials—Christmas Term, 1943.

Prefects :—C. S. Wallis-King (G), Head of the School; R. H. M. Pease (G), Second Prefect; R. D. C. Reynolds (B), Prefect of Library; P. J. S. Mackay (T), Prefect of Gymnasium; J. F. Cullis (W), Prefect of Chapel; J. A. Wood (C); W. M. W. Thomas (C); G. W. Hawkings (C); N. C. S. Barling (G); R. F. Wright (G); G. P. Lloyd (B); F. E. Kitson (C).

Rugby Football :—Captain, N. C. S. Barling (G); Secretary, F. I. Watson (G).

The following visitors have preached in Chapel this term :—October 3rd, the Rev. T. W. L. Caspersz, Missions to Seamen; November 14th, The Venerable C. W. Weekes, Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight; November 21st, The Venerable R. McKew, D.D., late Chaplain of the Fleet.

At the Commemoration Service held in the Chapel on Armistice Day the Headmaster read the names of 127 Stoics who have lost their lives in the War. The complete list of Casualties will be found in the new List of Old Stoics Serving in the Forces which will be published after the end of the year.

At a Confirmation Service conducted by the Bishop of Oxford in Chapel on Thursday, November 25th, sixty-five members of the School were confirmed. Several others were prevented from receiving Confirmation owing to illness.

Collections in Chapel this term have included :—For the Pineapple, £18 9s. od.; for the Missions to Seamen, £17 9s. od.; for Earl Haig's (British Legion) Fund, £53 12s. od.

On Tuesday, October 5th, Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. Hunter, M.C. (G, 1932), K.R.R.C., lectured to members of the school on "The Tunisian Campaign"; and on Thursday, October 14th, Frau Littern (M.O.I.) lectured to the Upper School on "German Youth Movements."

In July, Pilot-Officer G. G. Gilling-Lax (since deceased) was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hards have kindly presented a number of books (chiefly standard works) to the Library. Mr. Hards has been a Governor of the School since its foundation.

Football Colours have been awarded as follows :—

1st XV :—G. W. Hawkings (C), R. H. M. Pease (G) (re-awarded); C. S. Wallis-King (G), J. V. Bartlett (T), A. W. B. Hayward (G), R. C. B. Chancellor (C), E. D. Good (B), J. R. Freeland (C), R. F. Wright (G), W. M. W. Thomas (C), D. L. Pike (G).

2nd XV :—J. V. Bartlett (T), A. W. B. Hayward (G), D. L. Pike (G), R. C. B. Chancellor (C), E. D. Good (B), W. M. W. Thomas (C), P. H. Guest (B), C. Dansie (C), S. Ruthven (C), J. R. Freeland (C), J. J. White (B), M. S. Withers (G), P. J. S. Mackay (T), B. B. Croom-Johnson (T), J. L. W. Hancock (W), I. H. Robinson (W), H. A. S. Murray (C), J. A. R. Anson (G), D. C. Low (G).

3rd XV :—E. D. Good (B), C. Dansie (C), S. Ruthven (C), P. H. Guest (B), M. S. Withers (G), J. R. Freeland (C), J. J. White (B), J. L. W. Hancock (W), P. J. S. Mackay (T), D. C. Low (G), M. R. G. Eyre (G), F. B. Maxwell (C), A. T. Clarke (C), R. D. C. Reynolds (B), G. A. Bakewell (G), J. A. Wood (C), A. M. Cathcart (T), J. M. S. Mansfield (W), P. D. Rosedale (T), M. J. A. Davies (T), A. W. Mosselmans (C), C. J. Rhodes (C), R. J. Havard (C), T. D. O. Codner (G), D. M. S. Baxter (W), G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey (C), N. C. Davison (G), B. K. Montgomery (G), M. R. Worsley (B).

Colts' Stockings :—R. W. Shirley (T), J. Herron (G), A. R. N. Field (C), P. N. Briggs (C), A. S. Wright (C), P. W. Stewart (G), J. L. W. Hancock (W), R. K. Kurk (G), P. M. Young (C), R. M. Bartlett (T), J. F. Chance (C), R. H. Pemberton (T).

STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

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

December 1943.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

Dear Sir,

The winter session is in full swing, and the Club programme provides a wide and interesting variety of activities.

A series of talks have been given each Tuesday evening this autumn by speakers from many countries, including Poland, Austria, America, Russia and Australia, who also show films which help to build up the social and political backgrounds of the countries concerned. Apart from these films, we are making good use of the sound-projector, placed at our disposal by the Marylebone Youth Committee, by giving the boys programmes of artistic merit or particular interest.

The re-election of the Boys' Committee this year coincided with that of the House officials, and four of the six committee members have been appointed House Captains :—D. Addison (Bru.), A. Cottrell (Chan.), S. Allen (Gren.), and L. Shillingford (Tem.); the two remaining members are R. Baker (Gren.), who represents the Club on the Senate of the London Federation, and F. Evans (Gren.), who is our representative on the Marylebone Youth Council and is largely responsible for the happiness of the Junior Section.

The Football team, captained by W. Jones (Chan.), has so far played 6 matches in the League and won 5 of them. Croxon, the new instructor in Boxing and P.T., has done much to improve the general fitness of the team and many others in the Club. He comes every Wednesday and Friday. The Table-Tennis team (Captain, S. Allen), although defeated by a fine team in the first Round of the Federation (all London) Cup by 5 games to 4, has won 4 of its 5 matches played in the Western Indoor Games League. Friendlies are also played against clubs and pre-service units, and the local A.T.C. Squadron (which included two of our own members!) suffered a heavy defeat by the Pineapple.

Our Canteen is now staffed each evening by a roster of voluntary helpers, which ensures a much wider variety of attractive home-cooked food for growing boys.

Increasing numbers of our lads pass on to the various pre-service units, but most of them continue to keep their association with us by attending the Club at least once a week.

Some 60 boys will celebrate the New Year at a London Theatre, all contributing towards this annual outing, made possible by an extra sum from Stowe, for which all are most grateful. I should like to include my gratitude to all at Stowe, and to Mr. A. Seymour French, my Vice-Warden, whose energy creatively has done much to build better citizens—no easy job in these days of apathy among the younger boys, whose evacuation has not always produced the results desired.

Very close contact with the authorities is maintained by my Vice-Chairmanship of the Marylebone Youth Committee. The Club continues to fulfil its function as a social unit, despite changes in policy made necessary by the boys' living under the stress of war-time conditions.

We have received the usual happy correspondence from many of our Old Boys in the Services and had visits from them when they were on leave. A good number are now well advanced in rank after considerable service.

With best wishes.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

ALBERT E. CREWDSON (Warden).

FOOTBALL

The season has been a disappointing one, with only one victory in School matches against five defeats. Four old colours were left from last year, and of the new members of the side nine were Colts last year and are almost certain to be back next season. With so many young and inexperienced members it would have been too much to expect victories over the older sides which represented other schools. Three of the forwards and one of the backs will not be sixteen and a half until the holidays.

This youthfulness was clearly shown by the lack of quick thinking, compared with other schools, and a slow response to orders. Several examples of these failings come quickly to mind. Forward rushes—and there were plenty of magnificent ones in all the matches—should be finished off, when they have been brought to a stop, by a quick heel; far more often than not, however, the opponents made the quick heel to their backs. Every member of the pack must know where to go on the break up of a scrum; the Stowe forwards knew, but at least some of them always lost precious seconds in remembering. Obedience to the orders of the captain or the leader of the forwards should be instinctive; yet the voice of the leader could be heard without any response by the team. Mistakes by the opponents should be jumped on at once, but the Stowe backs were far too slow in jumping onto the dropped passes of the opposing backs. The first duty of a back is to run hard, but the Stowe backs were too anxious to look for someone to pass to.

All this, and more could be added, may sound as if the XV were no good at all; far from it. With rare exceptions the team played as hard as could be desired, and with one other player might have had a very different record. The point is that too many of them had all the failings of inexperience, and the old colours had too much to carry. If these faults can be corrected next year the results should be very different.

N. C. S. Barling (♣), the captain, and F. I. Watson (♣), the secretary, were the outstanding members of the side. Barling's play was quite outstanding, and as a front row forward he must rank high in Stowe football. An effort in the last minute of the Uppingham match, when the team was exhausted, was a very fine example of his spirit. At first he led the pack, but then the leadership was transferred to Hayward, and Barling was left free to play his best. Watson was the only member of the back division with an instinct for the game. He would probably have been a better scrum-half than fly-half, but the absence of any other fly-half made it necessary for him to play there. When three matches had been played it looked as if scrum-half would be a difficult place to fill, but then J. R. Freeland (♣) was discovered, and although influenza kept him out of the last two school matches he showed considerable promise and may be really good next year. Behind Watson there was little striking power, either in attack or defence; consequently Watson had far too much responsibility on his shoulders. When Freeland was absent, and the service from the scrum was slow, he had to kick, which he certainly did very well, particularly against Oundle, Uppingham and Radley. If there had been one big strong-running centre who could have been depended on to take his chances, without necessarily being brilliant, Watson's experience would have been used to better advantage. This was the one great need of the side. C. S. Wallis-King (♣) had to be brought up from full-back, but took some time to adapt himself to the unaccustomed position, and then got influenza. R. F. Wright (G) had not enough experience, and R. H. M. Pease (G), though at times he ran hard, could not make his own openings. Wallis-King was the first full-back, then J. A. R. Anson (G), then J. J. White (B), and finally Anson again. Anson's play against Radley was outstanding and promises well for next year.

The forwards were a very hard-working pack, and were at their liveliest when they were "up against it," as at Oundle; but, as already stated, they had not enough experience. G. W. Hawkings (♣) looked like being a first-class hooker, but an injury kept him out of several matches, and on his return he failed to regain his previous form. W. M. W. Thomas (♣) made a fair substitute hooker, and J. V. Bartlett (T), A. W. B. Hayward (G), R. C. B. Chancellor (C), E. D. Good (B) and D. L. Pike (G) all played well at times, particularly in the loose rushes; but there was not enough solidity and team-work in the scrums. If these six forwards, all of whom will be at Stowe next season, have learnt that something more than liveliness and individuality is necessary, they should make a very fine pack. There is good material ready for the remaining two places.

For the first time a second Fifty, called the Hundred, was formed and thoroughly justified itself. Members of it played with great keenness and should provide some serious rivals to present Colts next year. The fact that Freeland was discovered in it proved its worth. The under-fifteen Colts club was revived and may be supported by an under-fourteen club next year.

THE SCHOOL v. BEDFORD

Played at Stowe on Saturday, October 16th, and lost 11—20.

This was a good game, with Bedford very much on top for the first half and Stowe making all the running in the last twenty minutes. Bedford had superiority outside the scrum and the quick and accurate passing of the threequarters contrasted with the rather fumbling efforts of the Stowe backs. The scrums were well matched, Stowe having the better of the loose play whilst their opponents packed better in the tight and thus got more of the ball.

The game opened with a Bedford attack, and after five minutes' play their right wing scored in the corner showing what could be done to brush aside opposition by a determined runner. The kick failed. 3—0. Bedford continued to attack and after twelve minutes' play their scrum half dashed over to score far out. 6—0. Stowe, stung by this, attacked hard for a while—the forwards showing a little more dash whilst clever kicking by Watson kept them in their opponents' half. They could not penetrate the Bedford defence and before half-time the enemy had scored again to have a lead of 9—0 at the interval.

The second half started as the first had begun. Bedford by use of clever back play built up a lead of twenty points and all seemed over. Then the Stowe team came to life. Half-hearted tackling became crash tackling. The forwards decided to take charge of the game and a concerted hammering of their opponents' line began. Rush after rush was made and from two of them Barling went over to make the score 20—6. From the last Watson secured the ball and scored. The School had not won the game or deserved to, but they had shown what was possible given determination and courage. Ten minutes more of such play might have won the game for Stowe.

Team:—J. A. R. Anson (G); C. Dansie (♣), C. S. Wallis-King (♣), R. H. M. Pease (G), S. Ruthven (♣); F. I. Watson (♣), R. F. Wright (G); E. D. Good (B), P. H. Guest (B), N. C. S. Barling (♣), D. L. Pike (G); A. W. B. Hayward (G), I. E. C. Danvers (B), W. M. W. Thomas (♣), R. C. B. Chancellor (C).

THE SCHOOL v. RUGBY

Played at Stowe on Saturday, October 23rd, and lost 0—33.

Stowe kicked off towards the Pavilion end into a bright sun and nearly scored in the first minute. The forwards, following up fast, made Rugby fumble, but unfortunately they kicked ahead a little too far and Rugby just managed to race Good for the touch-down. From the first scrum, Rugby heeled and weak tackling enabled their centre, J. Williams, to break through to the full back with a man over. The full back went for neither man and Williams scored a try near the posts which was converted. From the kick-off, Stowe again pressed and for about the first ten minutes the only time that Rugby crossed the half-way line was when they scored. Watson narrowly missed a drop-goal. But it was already clear which was the better side, for Rugby were getting quick clean heels from the scrums and their scrum-half was an expert at flinging out quick and long passes which their backs caught extremely well. Their left wing three-quarter, N. Williams, was large and fast and, although well-tackled early on by Dansie, he was to score several times during the game. Two Stowe players muddled each other trying to catch a kick ahead by Rugby; both missed the ball but the Rugby stand-off half caught it and scored under the posts. The same player was missed shortly after by Watson and made an easy opening for his three-quarters. Then their scrum-half went off diagonally on his own and scored near the corner flag a try which N. Williams converted with a beautiful kick. Half-time, 20—nil.

In the second half, the Stowe forwards got the ball more often, but the enterprising Rugby backs scored three more tries, mostly by N. Williams.

The result was disappointing for Stowe after the improvement shown in the latter stages of the Bedford match. This time they were outplayed all through and, although they never gave up trying, in fact improved towards the end, the fact remains that there were too many missed tackles and dummies accepted. The Rugby side were most attractive to watch and gave a lesson in enterprise, clean heeling, handling and backing up.

Team:—J. A. R. Anson (G); S. Ruthven (♣), R. H. M. Pease (G), C. S. Wallis-King (♣), C. Dansie (♣); F. I. Watson (♣), R. F. Wright (G); E. D. Good (B), P. H. Guest (B), N. C. S. Barling (♣), D. L. Pike (G), A. W. B. Hayward (G), I. E. C. Danvers (B), R. C. B. Chancellor (C), J. V. Bartlett (T).

THE SCHOOL v. ST. EDWARD'S

Played at Stowe on Wednesday, November 3rd and won 15—11.

This was a hard and rather crude game. Neither school could boast a good team. Stowe had the rather usual superiority in loose forward play and inferiority in the tight. The backs were evenly matched, with St. Edward's superior in speed and penetration in the centre.

The first half was fought at a hard pace. St. Edward's scored first when their right centre cut through some rather half-hearted tackling by Stowe who were slow to get going and realize that a match was being played. It looked like Bedford again when the process was repeated after quarter of an hour, when a poor kick from the Stowe full-back let the St. Edward's right wing in. Then Stowe had to touch down hurriedly to avoid a third try. Stowe, however, had decided to give their opponents no more rope and went over to the attack, showing life and energy for the first time, and before half-time had levelled the score with two tries by Freeland. 6—6.

The second half was fast and furious: both sides attacked in turn—neither really knew enough to take advantage of the many opportunities that went begging. St. Edward's started with a try by their left wing which was converted 11—6. Stowe replied with an unconverted try by Wallis-King. The last ten minutes were all Stowe, and tries by Pease and Freeland brought Stowe victory by 15—11. It was not good football, but it was good fun.

Team:—J. J. White (B); S. Ruthven (C), R. F. Wright (G), C. S. Wallis-King (C), C. Dansie (C); F. I. Watson (C), J. R. Freeland (C); N. C. S. Barling (C), P. H. Guest (B), E. D. Good (B), A. W. B. Hayward (G), C. H. Blamey (C), J. V. Bartlett (T), I. E. C. Danvers (B), R. C. B. Chancellor (C).

THE SCHOOL v. OUNDLE

Played at Oundle on Thursday, November 11th, and lost 3—33.

For the third year in succession Oundle proved much too strong for Stowe, winning this time by three goals and six tries, 33 points, to one penalty goal, 3 points. Despite the score, however, the younger and lighter Stowe side put up an excellent fight, and there were few members of the team who were not played out at the end of the game. War-time travelling conditions made it necessary for the team to stay the night at Oundle, and seldom can a visiting side have been made so comfortable. The intention had been to stay the night after the match, and travel back to Stowe the next morning, but a delay of an hour and a half at Banbury, followed by a missed connection at Northampton, turned a four-and-a-half-hour journey into an eleven-hour one. This was not a suitable preparation for an inter-school match, and to make matters worse, Good fell on the Oundle platform and got slight concussion. Fortunately Hawkings travelled as a touch judge, and though far from fit, was able to take his place. The Headmaster of Oundle kindly allowed the match to be played the next morning.

Stowe kicked off, after the two minutes' silence had been observed by spectators and teams. In the first few minutes the Stowe forwards pressed hard, but after two or three scrums it was clear that the Oundle forwards would be able to give their backs plenty of the ball, and that the backs were fast enough to make good use of it. As soon as the play moved into the Stowe half, bad marking by the backs let the Oundle left centre through for a converted try. The Oundle left centre and wing were both strong and fast runners, and between them, assisted by the bunching of our centres, gained three of the four tries scored in the first half, the score being 14—0 at half-time. Territorially Stowe had had a fair share of the game. The forwards were the equal of the Oundle forwards in the loose and made some very fine rushes, and Watson kicked with accuracy, but the rushes too often ended with a quick pick-up and pass to the Oundle threequarters. Towards the end of the half, Stowe began to get the ball in the tight scrums, but were not so successful in heeling from the loose.

For twenty minutes of the second half the side played splendidly; the forwards were livelier than ever, and the tackling of the backs had much improved. A converted try to a penalty goal was a fair representation of the play. A sudden series of three-quarter movements by Oundle, however, exhausted a highly taxed defence, and in the last quarter of an hour four more tries were added. The Stowe XV had every reason to be proud of their performance. Barling played his usual fine game, and was well backed up by the rest of the pack. Watson kept very cool and nursed his forwards with some good touch finding. The spirit shown by both teams made this an excellent match to watch.

Team:—J. J. White (B); J. L. W. Hancock (W), R. F. Wright (G), C. S. Wallis-King (C), R. H. M. Pease (G); F. I. Watson (C), J. R. Freeland (C); G. W. Hawkings (C), P. H. Guest (B), N. C. S. Barling (C), C. H. Blamey (C), A. W. B. Hayward (G), J. V. Bartlett (T), W. M. W. Thomas (C), R. C. B. Chancellor (C).

THE SCHOOL v. UPPINGHAM

Played at Uppingham on Saturday, November 20th, and lost 3—39.

Prospects against Uppingham were not good owing to the influenza, which had reduced the team to eight regular members of the first XV, five of the second XV, and two Colts. Even had we had a full team, Uppingham's record of a win over Bedford and two very narrow defeats by Rugby and Oundle was not encouraging.

The kick-off was at once followed by one of the few combined passing movements by the Stowe three-quarters. Throughout the game they lined up straight for defence, and Watson kicked for touch; a confession of weakness, no doubt, but necessary if the bigger and faster Uppingham threequarters were to be kept from scoring as they pleased. In the first half Stowe were as successful as could be expected. Despite some weak tackling in the centre, only a goal and a try were scored. Admittedly Stowe were helped by some unbelievably bad handling by the Uppingham backs, but in such a match as this it was the score that mattered, and if the handling did not improve, the final result might be reasonable. The forwards, though out-weighted in the tight scrums, played well in the loose, and made some fine rushes in which Barling and Pike were usually prominent.

Unfortunately the handling of the Uppingham threequarters did improve in the second half. For a short time the fierce play of the forwards gave Stowe their fair share of the game territorially, and on two occasions they were near to scoring, but the back play soon developed into a procession, in which five goals and two tries were scored, against a penalty goal kicked by Barling. After a drop-out in the last minute of the game Barling made a magnificent effort, ran half the length of the field and nearly put Danvers over in the corner. The team played hard to the end, but the continuous tackling was too exhausting and broke down under the strain. Barling was in his usual form, and Shirley made a most creditable first appearance as a Colt.

Team:—J. A. R. Anson (G); S. Ruthven (C), C. Dansie (C), R. F. Wright (G), R. H. M. Pease (G); F. I. Watson (C), H. A. S. Murray (C); R. W. Shirley (T), G. W. Hawkings (C), P. H. Guest (B), A. W. B. Hayward (G), I. E. C. Danvers (B), D. R. Turquand-Young (C), D. L. Pike (G), N. C. S. Barling (C).

THE SCHOOL v. RADLEY

Played at Radley on Saturday, November 27th, and lost 0—8.

Lost by one goal and one penalty goal, 8 points, to nil. This defeat, in the last inter-School match of the year, was disappointing but perhaps inevitable. Three heavy defeats by Oundle, Rugby and Uppingham had a depressing effect on the morale of the XV and now, when there was a good chance of winning again, the team was unable to rise to the occasion, and played far below its proper form. Chancellor had recovered from influenza, and the forwards were nearly at full strength, but the absence of Wallis-King and Freeland from the backs was a serious matter.

Radley kicked off and Stowe promised well by heeling quickly from the first scrum. Unfortunately the forwards started packing 3—4—1, a defeatist measure, and probably a legacy from the Uppingham match, in which it was necessary. Consequently they seldom got the ball in the first half, but instead the wing forwards were breaking far too soon and repeatedly getting offside, and the scrum was regularly pushed off the ball. The ball was wet and whenever it got to the backs on either side the movement was broken down by a dropped pass. The game was mostly confined to the forwards. The packs were well matched in the loose, but Radley were better in the tight scrums and kept the play in the Stowe half. The Radley try came after a quarter of an hour and followed a cut-through by the fly-half; he was well tackled just in front of the posts, but Radley swept over from the ensuing scrum and converted the try.

The second half was a repetition of the first. Rather scrambling forward play, in which Radley maintained a slight but consistent superiority, took place in the Stowe half for most of the time. Several rushes took play to the Radley line but it never remained there for any length of time. Stowe looked like scoring on only one occasion, following a good kick ahead by Watson. Watson's kicking, both in attack and defence was, indeed, one of the features of the game; without it the Stowe forwards would have been hard put to it to keep Radley out in the second half. The

penalty goal came about a quarter of an hour from the end; this was, incidentally, the eleventh penalty given against Stowe, most of them for offside by Murray or the wing forwards. Murray was very slow at getting the ball away from the scrum and gave Watson little chance to get his threequarters going. The threequarters had few chances in attack and spent most of the game tackling and stopping forward rushes. Anson was in very good form at full-back, fielding, kicking and tackling with coolness and accuracy. The forwards were slow and lacked their usual vigour, even Barling being below his form.

Team:—J. A. R. Anson (G); S. Ruthven (C), C. Dansie (C), R. F. Wright (G), R. H. M. Pease (G); F. I. Watson (G), H. A. S. Murray (C); P. H. Guest (B), G. W. Hawkings (C), W. M. W. Thomas (C), A. W. B. Hayward (G), J. Herron (G), R. C. B. Chancellor (C), I. E. C. Danvers (B), N. C. S. Barling (G).

LAURUS CUP 1942-1943

Football.	Open House ...	24	Bruce.
	Junior House ...	3	Temple.
	Leagues ...	9	Cobham.
Cricket.	Open House ...	24	Grafton.
	Junior House ...	3	Temple
	Leagues ...	9	Chatham.
Hockey.	Open House ...	12	Grafton.
	Junior House ...	2	Cobham.
Athletics.	Sports ...	14	Bruce.
	Cross Country ...	12	Cobham.
	Relays ...	10	Bruce.
Swimming.	Open House ...	3	Cobham.
	Relays ...	3	Cobham.
	Water Polo ...	1	Grenville.
Tennis.	Open House ...	7	Grenville.
	Leagues ...	3	Chatham.
Fencing	...	6	Bruce.
Fives	...	4	Grafton.
Squash	...	4	Grafton.
P.T.	...	15	Grafton.
Golf	...	4	Cobham.

<i>Results</i> —Grafton	59
Bruce	54
Cobham	33
Chatham	12
Grenville	8
Temple	6
Chandos	0
Walpole	0

SQUASH

Only one match has so far taken place this term and for that we were without our first two players, J. F. Cullis (W) and N. C. S. Barling (G), and also C. A. Vandervell (B) who is probably third or fourth. We lost 2—3 to R.A.F., Wing. The team was:—E. M. Arnold (G), P. R. Boys-Stones (G), D. V. Palmer (C), J. F. Chance (C) and A. J. Rowntree (T).

House matches have been postponed owing to influenza and the open and junior competitions are still in the early stages.

The full school team, which is much the same as that of last year, would probably in practice be rather better than any we have had of late.

FENCING

At the beginning of the term, C. Lyle (B) was elected Captain, and W. T. D. Dixon (G) Secretary. A record number of new boys joined the Club, some of whom are very promising and in a year's time there ought to be a good junior team.

Two matches were arranged for this term, but the first one against Radley had to be cancelled since the whole team got influenza. On December 4th there is a match against the Imperial College Union, who, we hope, will not be too good for us.

FIVES

The House Matches are being played this term instead of next, but so far only the first round has been played.

There have been no school matches owing to transport difficulties, but the standard of play is lower this term than it has been for some time.

N.C.S.B.

JUNIOR TRAINING CORPS NOTES

The following promotions have been made this term:—

To *Under-Officer*: Sergeants C. E. N. Graham (C), C. S. Wallis-King (G).

To *Sergeant*: Corporals R. H. M. Pease (G), J. A. Wood (C), N. C. S. Barling (G), B. G. Henry (G), B. K. Montgomery (G).

To *Corporal*: Lance-Corporals F. I. Watson (G), P. J. Foord (G), I. F. Wallace (C), D. V. Palmer (C), G. A. Bakewell (G), M. G. Manton (C), K. E. G. Chenevix-Trench (C), R. M. Sayer (B), G. C. Rogers (W), D. H. Clough (G), C. Dansie (C), S. Ruthven (C), H. J. F. Marriott (C), F. E. Kitson (C), A. J. Macmillan (C).

Appointed *Lance-Corporal*: Cadets I. R. McDonald (C), D. C. Low (G), D. E. Watson (G), A. J. R. Dixon-Green (B), C. E. W. Ferrand (C), S. G. Hammick (W), A. G. R. Atkins (G), P. R. Perceval (T), C. G. Dealtry (B), W. T. D. Dixon (G), I. H. Robinson (W), P. D. F. Kelly (C), N. E. F. Colman (C), R. J. B. Gentry (C), J. E. H. Russell (B).

The strength of the Contingent is 276 cadets. In the War Certificate "A" examinations held last July, 36 out of 45 candidates passed the "Individual" and 22 out of 31 the "Section Leader's" tests.

PRIZES

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Individual), July 1943 :—R. P. Marshall (C).

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Section Leader's), July 1943 :—A. W. B. Hayward (G).

Best Recruits (January—July 1943) :—1st R. A. Brown (C) ; 2nd, P. D. Haigh (C).

COLDSTREAM CUP

The Inter-House Drill Competition was judged by the Adjutant and the Senior Drill Sergt. Coldstream Training Battalion. The Battalion Commander also was present. Results were :—

1. Grafton	78	5. Chatham	66
2. Temple	76	6. Chandos	65
3. Grenville	74	7. Walpole	62
4. Bruce	69	8. Cobham	61

PERMANENT STAFF INSTRUCTORS

Staff-Sergt. M. Lee, late The Royal Welch Fusiliers, has been appointed R.S.M., and C.S.M. A. Reynolds is now released from The Rifle Brigade for service as Q.M.S.I. with the Contingent. A great deal depends on the work and efficiency of both Instructors, to whom we look with confidence.

CAMP

During the summer term arrangements had been made for two Officers and a Demonstration Platoon of cadet-instructors from Stowe to attend the Buckinghamshire Army Cadet Force Camp. But unfortunately not more than 14 cadets were available as a result of the mumps epidemic. They did an excellent week's work at Liscombe Park, however, and provided the Guard of Honour for the Lord Lieutenant's visit.

ANNUAL INSPECTION

The Contingent is now used to War Office inspections at short notice and at any time of year. In November, the Assistant Inspector of the Training Corps again visited Stowe and gave a very satisfactory report of progress being made. On this occasion the weather allowed a full outdoor programme.

TRAINING

A whole-day's training was carried out on October 12th, when the Battle of Hatch Hill Wood was re-fought with different plans from those of last year. Tactics and command at higher levels, as expected, lacked finish, but the point of the exercise was to provide a framework for section leading. In this respect the day was a success, for with keenness in the ranks and enterprise among the N.C.Os. the attack developed convincing shape up to the end.

Steps are being taken to improve the standard of shooting in the Contingent. The P.S.Is. give the N.C.Os. some special instruction in Weapon Training, Range practice has been re-organized on improved lines, and promotion will take shooting classification into account.

During the war the Signallers have patiently been doing good work with obsolete equipment. They have recently been issued with up-to-date wireless sets of more than one type.

After many losses through transfers during the holidays the strength of the Home Guard platoon is less than for some time, but it will build up again during the year. In October, apart from routine training, one whole Sunday was spent on tactics and marching, and in December the platoon will be put through its Battle Inoculation.



Photo by

WALPOLE COURT

[A.A.B.]



Photo by

THE SOUTH FRONT

[J.K.M.]

A.T.C. NOTES

There was an unusually large number of leavers in July, most of them going up to the Universities for six-month R.A.F. Courses. It is hoped that intake from the J.T.C. will bring the Flight up to its normal strength by the end of the next term. In this connection it may perhaps be mentioned that the A.T.C. offers training not only for the R.A.F. and F.A.A., but also for other branches of the Royal Navy and for those who wish to become Army Glider Pilots.

An Advanced Training Examination (which takes the place of the former Proficiency Part II) was held in October when six cadets took the papers in all subjects. The results have not yet been published. Thirteen out of sixteen cadets were successful in the Proficiency Part I Examinations held in July and November and these have commenced Advanced Training with courses on Navigation and Engines.

Several visits have been paid to the parent R.A.F. Station for lectures in Navigation, Armament, Airmanship and Security and, in spite of bad weather and illness, several cadets have had flying. During the Summer holiday Leading Cadet P. Morris-Johnson (G) spent a week in training at a Glider School.

Promotions :—

To *Flight Sergeant* : R. F. Wright (G).

To *Sergeant* : N. C. Davison (G), A. W. Mosselmann (C), R. D. C. Reynolds (B).

To *Corporal* : G. W. Hawkings (C), F. B. Maxwell (C), B. A. Stewart (B), W. M. W. Thomas (C), A. J. Wells (C), M. S. Withers (G).

MUSIC

A full and difficult programme has been attacked by the Orchestra, which has a full complement of players this term. The chief work, and one of exceptional difficulty, is Dvorak's "New World" Symphony, of which the first movement will be performed at the concert. This will be the first time the Orchestra has succeeded in bringing it to concert standard, for it is exceptionally hard for all parts. "Marche Hongroise," by Berlioz, is another item on the programme which makes considerable demands on the players, particularly the trombones. In any case a heavily-scored work, in the hands of the Orchestra, especially the brass, it becomes heavy to the degree of stodginess, and, in fact, is not particularly popular among the players. In contrast is the delightful, light-textured "Passepied," from Delibes' ballet suite "Le Roi s'amuse." This, with Dvorak's Slavonic Dance, No. 1, makes up the programme. The latter piece is fairly successful, apart from the orchestra's curious inability to play a chord of C in tune, at the beginning.

The Choral Society has been working at Constant Lambert's "Rio Grande," though attendances at practices have been rather disappointing. If, as is hoped, Haydn's "Creation" is to be attempted before term ends, it is certain more voices will be needed. The "Rio Grande," which is but rarely performed, is a curious work, original and vivid, showing a marked jazz influence. The Orchestra is combining with the Choral Society, the work being for chorus, piano and orchestra; Angus Morrison will be the soloist. All parts are very difficult and an unusually large battery is employed, consisting of 5 players with numerous percussion instruments, varying from a xylophone to a gong. These come into their own in the piano cadenzas, and form one of the many curious features of this striking work.

There has been one recital this term by Arthur Sykes (tenor), who sang arias from oratorios, lieder by Brahms and Wolf, and operatic items, including the Flower Song from "Carmen," by Bizet. The concert was held in the Library and was well received. A violin recital by Bernard Shore earlier in the term had, unfortunately, to be postponed indefinitely. The Sunday popular concerts have been suspended owing to the heavy demands they make on the time of players and organizers in addition to the prior claims of more important musical organizations.

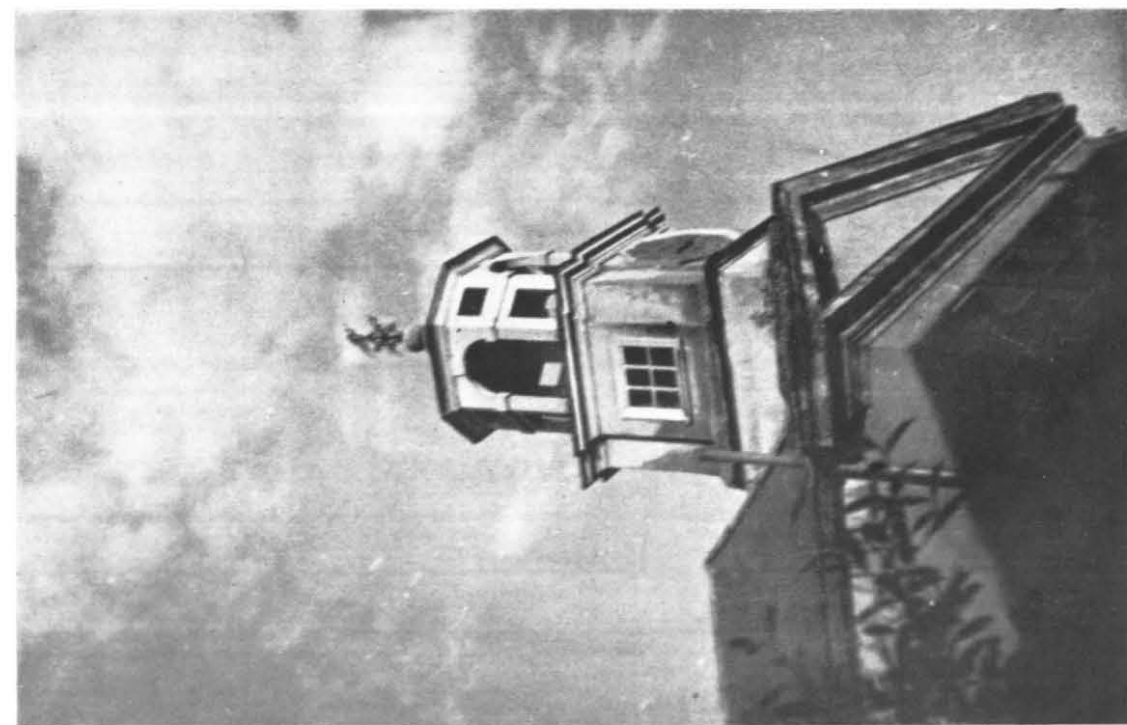
The J.T.C. and A.T.C. Band gave one of its best performances at very short notice, at the General Inspection, and made a valuable contribution to the parade. It will in addition give its termly concert. Its numbers have grown considerably, but there is always room for new recruits.



A.A.B.

THE PALLADIAN BRIDGE

Photo by



J.K.M.

CORNHAM CUPOLA

Photo by

THE LIBRARY

The school this term has continued to increase its consumption of literature; more books have been borrowed than ever before. Reference books are now being reviewed and even read, in the "Books of the Week," which are a continued success. A great number of new books, including many modern French novels, have been bought this term. Of particular interest to Modern Linguists will be Petit de Julleville's monumental *Histoire de la Langue et de la Littérature Française*. But it remains a problem to induce the school itself to suggest new books; many will criticise, but few constructively.

Efforts that are made to maintain a sufficient degree of tidiness in the Library, and to prevent the loss of books, are often rendered unavailing by the carelessness of the average Stoic.

The Library is particularly indebted to the generosity of the late Mr. Gilling-Lax, who left to it his very fine collection of books. These are being classified, but are unfortunately not yet available to be read.

G.P.L.

ART SCHOOL

The exhibition held towards the end of last term was judged by Professor Schwabe, the head of the Slade School of Art. J. E. G. Gentilli (C) gained the Headmaster's prize with his palette-knife picture of the South Front from between the lakes, while the first, second and third Art Prizes were given to A. G. H. Melly (C), J. V. Owen (T) and G. C. Neale (C) respectively.

This term has produced somewhat less work than usual owing to A. G. H. Melly's and G. C. Neale's preoccupation with scenery for the play, but the latter has executed one exceptionally fine work, a large picture of a man painted with great purity of colour and distinguished vision.

J. A. Harris-Reed (G) has begun a new series of gouaches, brown in colour scheme, and with a strange lyrical quality running through them, while J. V. Owen has continued to paint those pictures of ships whose fine quality and individual approach won for him the second Art Prize last term.

A.G.H.M.

DEBATING SOCIETY

The two debates so far held this term have been popular, if not high in quality: their object has been the resuscitation of the Society, and in this they have succeeded.

Officers of the Society were:—President, Mr. J. M. Todd; Secretary, G. C. Neale (C); Treasurer, P. W. I. Rees (T); Librarian, A. G. H. Melly (C).

The following have been elected members:—M. G. Manton (C); J. M. Kahn (W); G. W. Hawkings (C); C. H. Blamey (C); P. H. Guest (B); D. H. Clough (G); J. L. W. Hancock (W); A. J. Macmillan (C); A. W. Mosselmans (C); R. P. Broadley (W); G. A. Bakewell (G); C. L. Brook (C); J. G. Macnee (C); P. D. F. Kelly (C); R. J. B. Gentry (C).

The 153rd Meeting was held on June 16th. Motion: "That, in the opinion of this House, a war is not worth winning unless one deserves to win it."

A. G. H. MELLY (C) was rhetorical, insistent upon ideals, and shallow, in proposing the motion.

The Temporary Secretary (J. O. STANLEY (B)) was cynical about the Proposer's idealism.

B. W. GUEST (B) brought sincerity to bear, and spoke forcefully, if inaccurately.

P. W. I. REES (T) refuted historical eyewash by citing some more, but was logical and persuasive.

The Motion was carried in both Houses.

The 154th Meeting was held on October 20th. Motion: "That this House disapproves of House Spirit."

The Librarian (A. G. H. MELLY (C)) spoke in the Henshaw manner, and rejected particularism.

D. V. PALMER (C) was lucid if obvious and rather ordinary.

C. H. BLAMEY (C) was funny in a parody of himself.

G. W. HAWKINGS (C) laid bare the egotism of his opponents, their hypocrisy, and the state of the Librarian's study.

The Motion was lost in both Houses.

The 155th Meeting was held on November 17th. Motion: "That, in the opinion of this House, common citizenship with the United States of America would be desirable."

R. D. C. REYNOLDS (B) was pessimistic, brief, but plausible.

MR. L. H. REID was long and impressive in his speech, which was a list of impracticabilities.

MR. E. S. DEWING was also long, but idealistic and persuasive.

P. W. I. REES (T) was snappy in pointing out the failings of the U.S.A.

The Motion was lost in the Upper House and carried in the Lower.

G.C.N.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE XII CLUB

The beginning of the term found the Club with one surviving member, P. W. I. Rees (T) who therefore became Secretary. A nucleus was, however, quickly formed and slowly added to during the term. At present the membership consists of G. C. Neale (C), J. F. Cullis (W), R. M. Sayer (B), A. R. Lucas (B), G. P. Lloyd (B), D. L. Pike (G), C. S. Wallis-King (G), C. S. O'D Scott (B).

On October 29th the Secretary read a colourful paper on the rich and varied life of Mediaeval Georgia with its curious blend of Oriental luxury and European Feudalism. On November 19th Dr. Eisler, Fellow of the Austrian Institute of Historical Research, read a paper on "The Pattern of History," which for sheer erudition has seldom, if ever, been equalled. He traced the age-long attempt to create a world of order, a Kosmos out of the irrational chaos confronting us at all times. With this object he passed from the Babylonians to the Nazis, embracing the intermediate Empires also.

P.W.I.R.

THE SYMPOSIUM

There have been three papers read so far this term, all of which were interesting and one exceptionally so. M. G. Manton (C) read a paper on "Journalism" early in the term, and A. G. H. Melly (C) read an excellent one on "Surrealism," which was extremely provocative. Of late, G. P. Lewis (B) has read a masterly paper on "Jazz is doomed," which was exceptionally interesting for the discussion which it produced. Some members also took advantage of the kind invitation of the XII Club to listen to Dr. Eisler's lecture on "The Pattern of History," for which we are most grateful. It is hoped that J. V. Bartlett (T) will read a paper later on in the term.

A.W.B.H.

THE CLASSICAL SOCIETY

At the end of last term the Society heard an admirable paper on "Lyric Poetry" by P. A. Mulgan (G) in which he illustrated the remarkable similarity between the lyric poetries of Ancient Greece and Elizabethan and Jacobean England. On December 8th C. A. Cooper (G) read a paper on "Greek and Roman Vases and Coins."

J.R.F.

THE SPOTTERS' CLUB

At the end of last term D. R. Blundell (S) (Hon. Secretary) and R. M. W. Busk (S) (Hon. Treasurer) left, and the Committee this term is as follows:—Mr. W. Llowarch, N. C. Davison (S) (Hon. Secretary), A. J. Wells (Q) (Hon. Competition Officer) and A. W. Mosselmans (C) (Hon. Treasurer.) There are 38 members of the Club.

So far this term there have been five meetings, one of which was for full members only. Several tests, including 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class and two competitions, have been held, although attendance has not been particularly large, chiefly because of illness.

One talk, on "Neutral Air Forces," has been given, by the Secretary, and another on "Bi-plane Fighters" will be given shortly.

N.C.D.

THE VITRUVIANS

Owing to the large number of leavers last term, we have found our numbers somewhat depleted. However, new boys and members of the Lower School have not been slow to join the Society. So far, we have had a business meeting at which the programme for the term was discussed and an expedition to the churches of Croughton and Hinton-in-the-Hedges. We are awaiting a visit from Major E. J. T. Lutyens who will lecture on the Post-War Reconstruction of London. A programme of architectural films is also to be shown during the last week in November. Professor A. E. Richardson, who has lectured at Stowe before, has consented to speak to us on 19th Century Church Architecture early next term. It is hoped that the attendance at the meetings of the Society, especially by members of the Upper School, will improve.

B.G.H.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The results of the second season's work with potatoes on organic manures are now completed. The first set of 25 microplots on the South Front were dug in the winter of 1941-42 and since then have been used for experiments with organic manures, under the direction of Rothamsted Experimental Station. The manures used have been:—Dung, Savital, Middlesex sludge and Birmingham sludge each on five of the microplots, with the remaining five microplots untreated so as to provide a control. The arrangement of the manures was such as to give maximum uniformity of conditions despite the slight differences in the positions, and so environments, of the microplots.

In both years Arran Pilots were planted at the end of the Easter term and were lifted near the end of July. The results have been as follows:—

Manure.	Tons per acre.	
	1942	1943
Nil	3.39	4.81
Dung	4.57	5.97
Savital	4.31	6.04
Middlesex sludge	4.01	4.31
Birmingham sludge	3.80	4.74

In both years Dung and Savital show definite superiority, the sludges being little different to no manure. The effects of the manures are more marked in 1943. The plots were treated in March in both years, and all plots received a dressing of balanced inorganic fertilizers.

A second set of 25 microplots was dug during last Winter, and owing to an unusual distribution of phosphate found in the sampling of the soil, was used for an experiment on inorganic phosphates. The results have not yet been received.

The Bird Collection has been somewhat rearranged. Sigma now contains those birds which are likely to be seen at Stowe, and the remainder are housed in Concord.

B.A.B.

LA SOCIÉTÉ DES LANGUES MODERNES

Ce trimestre la société s'est réunie jusqu'au présent trois fois. On élu trois pièces françaises. On a élu comme nouveaux membres de la société M. G. Manton (C), C. L. Brook (C), W. T. D. Dixon (G) et J. M. Fimister (W). Malheureusement à l'heure actuelle des exemplaires ne sont point disponibles; il faut s'en servir des anciennes pièces.

R.M.S.

FROM "THE TIMES" OF 1843

Thursday, August 10, 1843. Price 5d.

His Majesty the King of Hanover and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester closed their visit to the Duke and Duchess of Buckingham at Stowe on Tuesday. The Royal visitors arrived on Saturday evening [when] the banquet was served in the tapestry dining-room and the princely collection of antique plate, unrivalled for its value by any private personage, ornamented the sideboards In the evening [of Monday] there was a large dinner, when the circle exceeded 40.

. . . . SPREAD DISEASES

"How curious it is," said M. Tantinnet, delicately sipping his Moselle, "that you other English, who are so well versed in the arts and so skilled in their practice, yet know nothing apparently of that valuable and refined art—the art of sneezing. We in France look upon the person who knows neither where, when, nor how to sneeze as a poor, uneducated, unsocial simpleton. Yet here in England I have not met one single person who is familiar with even the rudiments of the art."

"There exist," continued M. Tantinnet, settling himself more comfortably into his chair, "two means of classifying the sneeze: one by its intention, and one by its mode of execution. Permit me to begin by dealing with the former."

"Under the classification according to purpose we find two types of sneeze: the sneeze 'défensif,' and the sneeze 'informatif.' Forgive me for saying again that it is difficult for me to imagine how you English can lead a cultured life and at the same time be ignorant of these so vital forms of expression. You are, it seems, quite prepared to allow any brigand who wishes it to come to sit at this table, without any opposition from yourself; whereas me, if I saw that we were about to be disturbed, I would perform the sneeze défensif, and our seclusion would be assured. How simple! Yet how effective! Such again is the case of the sneeze informatif. You, when you go into a shop, and when you might find that one is not there to serve you, you would perhaps be so crude as to raise a forced cough; and if that should fail to summon the assistant you might knock with a coin until he should hear you. How impolite! How unnecessarily crude! But what could be more artistic, more delicate, more certain of success than a well executed sneeze informatif?"

"I have already mentioned," said M. Tantinnet, putting down his glass of Moselle, "the classification of sneezes according to the procedure adopted during their production. Let me explain more fully. This classification contains three types of sneeze: the sneeze 'au nez,' the sneeze 'à la bouche,' and, inclusive of these two, the sneeze 'au mouchoir.' Physiologically, of course, 'au nez' is always to be preferred to 'à la bouche.' But socially—and remind yourself that I take the greater interest in the social aspect—socially, the same is not always true. The method depends on the circumstances. To make a generalization for the benefit of the beginner, I will say that the sneeze informatif should be performed 'au nez,' and the sneeze défensif 'à la bouche.' But remember if you please that there exist exceptions. Finally, the sneeze 'au mouchoir.'"

"I come, said Mr. Tantinay, draining his ginger beer to the dregs, "from the Ministry of Health. Please remember that coughs and sneezes spread diseases. Trap the germs by using your handkerchief."

POETRY

POEM

The distant bird dips behind distant trees
into the stillness of those landscapes,
the brain's opalescent hinterland
beneath a familiar sky we did not know before,

yet beautiful. Remoteness, limpid, without the moon,
vibrates, like the horizon's dimmer images,
upon the skyline.
Await the soft, the lunar clarinet

discoursing vague honey, meticulous uneasiness
at waving visions in the cloudy seas,
till the pale-ochre dawn ;
whose parting thread forgets the aching, lost

penumbra of our consciousness. An afternoon,
fell with the sun and shivered into darkness ;
the voices linger, joyless,
slide deathwards in their dissonant atmosphere

to silence ; or delirium, that haunts
the faltering serenity of dreams ;
our only interruption
the distant tapping of the bird.

SONNET

Where far the dusty crags their shadows cast
On haunted plain and desiccated slope,
Where long-forgotten stony titans grope
Among the relics of a distant past,
Where savage herdsmen care not, do not know,
How shone their race when this dark earth was young
That now lies tired and barren—how among
Green smiling lands they dwelt once, long ago ;
There does a rocky height itself uprear
Above the glinting levels of the sand,
And on its blistered summit, hot and drear,
The shattered ruins of a city stand ;
And on the massive gate, now long cast down,
Is faintly writ : " The Everlasting Town."

SPIDERS

In the grey cellar, in the smaller corners,
The spiders wait silently,
Waiting with a cruel anticipation, waiting
For the fly who buzzes self-importantly,
In a ray of dusty sunlight
From the rusty grating.

In the garden in the soft-still morning
The spiders form, silently,
Their webs that sparkle at a thousand points of light
Like an abstract pattern hung within a dream
Remembered for a moment on awaking.

G.C.N.

C.A.C.

A.G.H.M.

IN MEMORIAM

JULIA MILDRED SLATER 1897—1943

When Miss Slater died on December 9th, 1943, she had been connected with Stowe for seventeen years. She came here first in September 1926 as an Assistant in the Sanatorium, but went in 1928 to South Africa, whence she returned in 1930, to become House Matron in Cobham. At the end of 1938 she again went to South Africa, but when war broke out she immediately set about returning. She reached home in time to take over her work in Cobham again in May 1940. She remained there until her death.

During her eleven years in Cobham Miss Slater won in a quite particular degree the affection of everyone who knew her. Her devotion to the House and everyone in it brought all her natural gifts of kindness and patience into play, and the freshness of her outlook, her knowledge of the world and her quick, clear mind, made her a delightful hostess and a charming companion. Her death leaves a gap which for many of us can never be filled.

FURTHER CITATIONS

M.C.

LIEUTENANT B. P. BROOKE (C, 1927), The Hampshire Regiment.

" During the period 26th February—6th March 1943, when the Brigade was engaged in repulsing heavy attacks by enemy tanks and infantry, Lieutenant Brooke displayed great courage and devotion to duty in carrying out his duties as Brigade Liaison Officer. During this period he proceeded on many hazardous missions under enemy fire and showed the utmost determination in conveying orders to forward units.

" On the night of 26/27th February 1943 he went forward twelve miles in front of our forward position, carrying important orders to a Battalion which had been completely cut off, and succeeded in reaching his objective.

" Lieutenant Brooke's conduct and coolness under fire have been most praiseworthy."

LIEUTENANT G. T. B. FRANCE (C, 1934), Royal Regiment of Artillery.

" On the night of the 20th/21st April 1943, at Banana Ridge, Lieutenant France's Regiment was attacked and surrounded. He organized the defence of the guns and led off a fighting patrol in which, by using grenades, he rescued two of his men who had been captured. The next morning he brought out most of his men.

" On the 22nd April, Lieutenant France went forward with his Infantry as Forward Observation Officer, under heavy fire, manning his own communications with great coolness and courage, giving very close support to his Infantry when it was needed."

LIEUTENANT (temporary Captain) W. P. LUNN-ROCKLIFFE (C, 1936), Royal Regiment of Artillery.

" On the 26th February 1943, Captain Lunn-Rockcliffe was at an Observation Post on the front of a parachute battalion when an enemy attack was put in at about 0600 hours. His Observation Post was overrun and his Armoured Observation Post fell into enemy hands. He immediately occupied another Observation Post and tied in a telephone line into his original line. As soon as it was light he brought fire down on the enemy and, assisted by counter attacks by the parachute battalion, re-occupied his Observation Post and recovered the whole of his equipment.

" Captain Lunn-Rockcliffe showed exceptional courage, efficiency and determination in bringing down accurate fire on the enemy under exceptionally difficult circumstances. Later patrols discovered considerable havoc caused by the accuracy of his shelling. He behaved with coolness and efficiency under fire on more than one occasion since his Regiment went into action, notably on Grandstand Hill on the morning of the 18th January, and on the Djebel Mansour, where he was a Forward Observation Officer on the 5th and 6th February 1943."

LIEUTENANT (acting Captain) E. B. FOSTER-MORE, (C, 1939), The Hampshire Regiment.

"During the fighting in Tunisia since the 26th February, 1943, Captain Foster-More led his Company with great determination and grit. His general behaviour inspired his men, and his coolness and calculating judgment were undoubtedly great attributes to the splendid results that his company obtained.

"Captain Foster-More was an outstanding example in the Battalion."

CAPTAIN J. H. DE BURGH (G, 1939), Royal Regiment of Artillery.

"In January 1943, Captain de Burgh accompanied a Regiment of Yeomanry as Observation Post Officer in a tank operation in the vicinity of Goubellat. Owing to the nature of the ground all the tanks which left the road got bogged or hit. Captain de Burgh controlled the fire of his Battery with great effect and undoubtedly saved the damage to our tanks from being a great deal worse. In addition to the support of the armour, he also in conjunction with another Observation Post Officer of the Battery who was on foot, relayed a complicated smoke screen to assist the withdrawal of a Company of a Rifle Regiment. Owing to his resource and efficiency this smoke screen was successful.

"In the German counter-attack against the Rifle Regiment on the 20th January 1943, Captain de Burgh found himself cut off with a Sergeant, and together they went to try and man an anti-tank gun. Captain de Burgh was, however, wounded in the head and rendered temporarily unconscious. When he came to he found himself surrounded by Germans, but managed to make his way back in the dark and insisted on passing on a valuable report, although suffering considerably from the effects of the wound, before being taken to the Advanced Dressing Station.

"In support of a Battalion of a Guards' Regiment in an attack on Djebel Rhorab on the 9th April 1943, Captain de Burgh was one of the Observation Post Officers and controlled the fire of a battery of Yeomanry. Later in the day he went forward to establish an Observation Post and consolidate a position taken by the infantry.

"Throughout the day Captain de Burgh's fire control was of a very high order and undoubtedly contributed largely to the success of the operation. During the advance to the new positions he came under heavy mortar fire due to which he had both Wireless Aerials shot away, but despite this he re-established communication without delay."

O.B.E.

MAJOR (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) W. J. DAVIS (B, 1930), Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

"Major Davis has held the appointment of A.D.M.E. from the commencement of the North African campaign. He did extremely good work in the early stages of planning and at all times has shown outstanding initiative, clear headedness and devotion to duty.

"For a period of six weeks Major Davis acted as D.D.M.E., First Army and the smooth staff work of R.E.M.E. in this Army is largely due to his efforts."

M.B.E.

CAPTAIN (temporary Major) THE LORD RODERIC ARMYNE GORDON (C, 1931), Royal Regiment of Artillery.

"Major Gordon commanded the first Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery which moved forward from Bougie. His guns and equipment arrived in Bougie harbour on the 14th November 1942, the fourth day of heavy air raids. The dock harbour was spasmodic and almost non-existent, so he took his own officers and men on to the ship, and through his fine example they unloaded their own equipment and many tons of food, petrol and ammunition, carrying on through all air raid warnings and spasmodic raids, until their own guns were ready to move. During these days Major Gordon was constantly on the ship, encouraging his men and assisting them.

"On the 17th November 1942, the battery marched 220 miles to Bone in 22½ hours. They immediately prepared for action and were firing regularly until December 4th when they moved to Youks Les Bains.

"During the defence of Bone, Major Gordon assisted in the co-ordination of the air defences. On one occasion his Battalion Headquarters was hit by high explosive and incendiary bombs. The battery destroyed nine certain planes during this time. Major Gordon's fine leadership and co-operation contributed to a great extent to the success of the Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries."

