

THE STOIC



Number Sixty-five

DECEMBER 1944



By courtesy of

WING-COMMANDER G. L. CHESHIRE, V.C., D.S.O.
AND TWO BARS, D.F.C.

[The Tatler

THE STOIC

VOL XI

DECEMBER 1944

No. 4

DECORATIONS

VICTORIA CROSS

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

WING COMMANDER GEOFFREY LEONARD CHESHIRE, D.S.O. and two bars, D.F.C. (C, 1935), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 617 Squadron.

“ This officer began his operational career in June, 1940. Against strongly defended targets he soon displayed the courage and determination of an exceptional leader. He was always ready to accept extra risks to ensure success. Defying the formidable Ruhr defences, he frequently released his bombs from below 2,000ft. Over Cologne in November, 1940, a shell burst inside his aircraft, blowing out one side and starting a fire. Undeterred, he went on to bomb his target.

“ At the end of his first tour of operational duty he immediately volunteered for a second. Again he pressed home his attacks with the utmost gallantry. Berlin, Bremen, Cologne, Duisberg, Essen and Kiel were among the heavily defended targets which he attacked. When he was posted for instructional duties in January, 1942, he undertook four more operational missions.

“ He started a third operational tour in August, 1942, when he was given command of a squadron. He led the squadron with outstanding skill before being appointed a station commander in March, 1943.

“ In October, 1943, he undertook a fourth operational tour, relinquishing the rank of group captain at his own request so that he could again take part in operations. He immediately set to work as the pioneer of a new method of marking enemy targets involving very low flying. In June, 1944, when marking a target in the harbour at Le Havre in broad daylight and without cloud cover, he dived well below the range of the light batteries before releasing his marker-bombs, and he came very near to being destroyed by the strong barrage.

“ During his fourth tour, which ended last July, Wing Commander Cheshire led his squadron personally on every occasion, always undertaking the most dangerous and difficult task of marking the target alone from a low level in the face of strong defences.

“ Wing Commander Cheshire's cold and calculated acceptance of risks is exemplified by his conduct in an attack on Munich in April. This was an experimental attack to test the new method of target-marking at low level against a heavily defended target situated deep in Reich territory. Munich was selected, at Wing Commander Cheshire's

request, because of the formidable nature of its light anti-aircraft and searchlight defences. He was obliged to follow, in bad weather, a direct route which took him over the defences of Augsburg and thereafter he was continuously under fire. As he reached the target, flares were being released by our high-flying aircraft. He was illuminated from above and below. All guns within range opened fire on him. Diving to 700ft. he dropped his markers with great precision and began to climb away. So blinding were the searchlights that he almost lost control. He then flew over the city at 1,000ft. to assess the accuracy of his work and direct other aircraft. His own was badly hit by shell fragments, but he continued to fly over the target area until he was satisfied that he had done all in his power to ensure success. Eventually, when he set course for base, the task of disengaging himself from the defences proved even more hazardous than the approach. For 12 minutes after leaving the target area he was under withering fire, but he came safely through.

“Wing Commander Cheshire has now completed 100 missions. In four years of fighting against the bitterest opposition he has maintained a record of outstanding personal achievement, placing himself invariably in the forefront of the battle. What he did in the Munich operation was typical of the careful planning, brilliant execution, and contempt for danger which has established for Wing Commander Cheshire a reputation second to none in Bomber Command.”

Apart from the Victoria Cross announced on the preceding page, and in addition to the one hundred and forty-six already recorded, the following awards have been made to Old Stoics.

D.S.O.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. B. DAVIS (B, 1929), I.A.M.C., in July.

MAJOR J. T. B. NOTLEY (B, 1933), Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, in October.

D.S.C.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER D. P. CROOM-JOHNSON (T, 1932), R.N.V.R., in November.

LIEUTENANT J. F. GIBSON (B, 1936), R.N.V.R., in October.

LIEUTENANT THE HON. J. V. FISHER (T, 1940), R.N.V.R., in September.

BAR TO M.C.

MAJOR R. G. ATKINSON, M.C. (G, 1932), Durham Light Infantry, in September.

CAPTAIN M. H. WEBB, M.C. (W, 1935), 1st Transvaal Scottish (att. No. 2 Commando), in October.

M.C.

MAJOR W. H. C. LUDDINGTON (G, 1926), 24th Lancers, in October.

LIEUTENANT H. BARRY (C, 1927), 24th Lancers, in September.

CAPTAIN T. J. FIRBANK (C, 1928), Coldstream Guards (att. Airborne Div.), in November.

MAJOR D. DE S. BARROW (C, 1929), The Queen's Royal Regiment (since Died of Wounds).

MAJOR J. J. BARCLAY (C, 1931), Royal Artillery (Norfolk Yeomanry), in September.

CAPTAIN C. D. G. PEARSON (C, 1931), South Lancashire Regiment, in September.

MAJOR J. R. C. KENYON (T, 1932), The Middlesex Regiment, in October.

CAPTAIN J. A. CROFT (C, 1932), Royal Deccan Horse, in November.

MAJOR A. C. G. HESKETH-PRICHARD (C, 1934), Royal Fusiliers, in September.

MAJOR H. D. C. SATOW (C, 1936), North Staffordshire Regiment, in September.

CAPTAIN R. A. A. R. WEST (G, 1938), Royal Sussex Regiment, in August.

MAJOR A. G. WAY (B, 1939), Grenadier Guards, in August.

CAPTAIN B. H. G. SPARROW (W, 1939), Coldstream Guards, in November.

LIEUTENANT M. I. ATKIN-BERRY (C, 1940), Rifle Brigade, in October.

D.F.C.

SQUADRON-LEADER R. C. LINDSELL (G, 1932), R.C.A.F., in September.

SQUADRON-LEADER W. B. HAY (B, 1936), R.C.A.F., in October.

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

M.B.E.

MAJOR C. G. LAKIN-SMITH (G, 1927), Royal Tank Regiment, in August.

MAJOR K. W. L. ROBERTS (C, 1933), Royal Artillery.

A.F.C.

FLYING-OFFICER D. V. STEYNOR (G, 1927), R.A.F.V.R., in September.

ARMISTICE DAY 1944

The Armistice Day Commemoration Service was held in Chapel on November 11th. The names of the first 127 casualties were posted on screens in the chancel. Those of the remainder are to be found in this and the last three issues of *The Stoic*. In the course of the Service the Headmaster said:—

I am going to read you the names of the Old Stoics who have lost their lives in the War during the last twelve months—that is since November 11th, 1943. When I have read them I shall ask you to stand for a few moments in silence before we go on to the rest of the Service.

This is the sixth Armistice Day of the present War. On the first we had no casualties to record. On the second—that is in 1940—we recorded 22. In 1941 the figure was 47; in 1942 it was 92; in 1943 it was 127. This year it is 197. There will be 70 names for me to read this morning.

No one now in the School knew personally more than one or two of these men, though there are four brothers of present Stoics in the list and though two names among the last to be read will be familiar to about half of you. Most of you did not know most of them; many of you knew none of them. Yet they were all Stoics and we think of them all as our own people. Once a year we honour them in this public way, expressing our admiration for their courage (known in detail in so many cases, known generally in them all), our gratitude for what they and others like them have done for our cause, and our sorrow for their deprivation of all the sweetness of life and all their hopes of achievement and happiness.

CASUALTIES

KILLED

CAPTAIN T. H. M. LAWSON (G, 1925), R.E.M.E., in November.

WING-COMMANDER Q. W. A. ROSS (C, 1927), R.A.F., in March.

MAJOR R. W. L. HOLMES (B, 1927), Royal Berkshire Regiment, in September.

CAPTAIN P. A. ROBINSON (T, 1928), R.A.M.C., in November. (Died of Wounds.)

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. A. C. BLAIR-IMRIE (C, 1930), The Black Watch, in September.

LIEUTENANT G. P. D. J. NUGENT (6th Baron Nugent) (C, 1931), Royal Sussex Regiment, in September.

SQUADRON-LEADER J. H. P. GAUVAIN, M.B., B.Ch. (G, 1933), R.A.F.V.R., in August.

CAPTAIN A. D. FISK (C, 1933), R.A.M.C., in July.

CAPTAIN T. G. B. BOLTON (C, 1933), Royal Artillery, in August.

MAJOR P. BOSANQUET (B, 1934), The Queen's Royal Regiment, in August.

LIEUTENANT G. E. T. BROWN (G, 1934), The Border Regiment (att. 1st Airborne Division), in September.

MAJOR J. D. A. SYRETT (C, 1934), Welsh Guards, in July.

CAPTAIN K. J. DUFF-DUNBAR (B, 1935), Seaforth Highlanders, in August.

CAPTAIN M. I. DRAKE (B, 1935), Royal Artillery, in September.

CAPTAIN P. R. SPENCER (G, 1936), Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, in August.

CAPTAIN P. SHAW (C, 1936), Devonshire Regiment, in August.

CAPTAIN R. H. STEVENS (C, 1936), R.A., Parachute Regiment, in September. (Died of Wounds.)

CAPTAIN B. G. DALZIEL (B, 1936), Gordon Highlanders, in June. (Previously reported Missing.)

CAPTAIN P. S. FOWLER (C, 1936), Royal Fusiliers, in August.

LIEUTENANT A. D. HERBERT (C, 1936), Royal Engineers, in August. (Died of Wounds.)

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT W. A. M. B. STEWART (T, 1937), R.A.F.V.R., in August.

LIEUTENANT D. J. O. PENROSE (W, 1937), 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, in November. (Died of wounds.)

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT M. I. MASSY (T, 1938), R.A.F.V.R., in August.

FLIGHT-SERGEANT J. F. STAFFORD (G, 1938), R.A.F.V.R., in October.

LIEUTENANT J. B. DUNLOP (C, 1939), 7th Queen's Own Hussars, in September.

LIEUTENANT G. L. PAGET (C, 1940), King's Royal Rifle Corps, in October.

SUB-LIEUTENANT J. G. STRUTHERS (C, 1940), R.N.V.R., in August.

FLYING-OFFICER P. M. SUTHERLAND (C, 1940), R.A.F.V.R., in July.

LIEUTENANT G. H. P. HOLT (B, 1940), 9th Lancers, in November.

CAPTAIN R. C. HURLEY, M.C. (C, 1941), The Rifle Brigade, in October.

LIEUTENANT D. N. COX (W, 1941), The Black Watch, in November.

LIEUTENANT A. P. DE PASS (C, 1941), Rifle Brigade, in June. (Previously reported Missing.)

FLYING-OFFICER W. L. S. KNOX-GORE (C, 1941), R.A.F.V.R., in September.

LIEUTENANT J. S. M. RAMSAY (T, 1942), Scots Guards, in November.

SECOND-LIEUTENANT K. H. IRGENS (C, 1942), Coldstream Guards, in September.

LIEUTENANT P. M. B. GREENALL (C, 1943), Grenadier Guards, in September.

PRISONER OF WAR

MAJOR R. N. BARCLAY (C, 1937), Royal Artillery (Norfolk Yeomanry), in October.

LIEUTENANT R. N. C. KNIGHT BRUCE (C, 1939), Royal Gloucestershire Hussars—no longer a Prisoner of War.

MISSING

MAJOR D. M. MAYFIELD (G, 1927), Parachute Regiment, in October.

MAJOR R. M. PEEL (C, 1930), Northants Yeomanry, in June.

FLYING-OFFICER H. P. LEE-WARNER, A.F.C. (G, 1931), R.A.F.V.R., in August.

MAJOR J. T. B. NOTLEY, D.S.O. (B, 1933), Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, in October.

SQUADRON-LEADER THE HON. B. D. GRIMSTON, D.F.C. (C, 1934), R.A.F.V.R., in August.

LIEUTENANT J. M. HENRY (C, 1939) Parachute Regiment, in September.

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

LIEUTENANT S. P. E. C. W. WORSTHORNE (C, 1940), King's Royal Rifle Corps, in October.

FLYING-OFFICER J. L. GRIFFITH (G, 1941), R.A.F.V.R., in June.

OLIM ALUMNI

MARRIAGES

CAPTAIN D. S. MITCHELL (C, 1937) to Miss C. John, on November 23rd, 1943; MR. P. M. BOYD-BOWMAN (S, 1940) to Miss M. Pearson, on June 20th; MAJOR D. F. CROSTHWAITE (C, 1928) to Miss V. D. Gordon, on August 9th; MAJOR H. N. STRAKER, M.C. (C, 1938) to Miss A. P. H. Edwards, on August 17th; MR. R. G. S. DODWELL (S, 1934) to Miss J. Edmunds, on September 9th; LIEUTENANT D. J. CATER, M.B.E. (G, 1933) to Miss Anne Davies, on September 20th; MR. E. M. M. BESTERMAN (W, 1941) to Miss A. Heald, on September 23rd; LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. P. J. PHILLIPS (C, 1926) to Miss G. Wernher, on October 10th; CAPTAIN A. G. DELGADO (C, 1927) to Miss M. Politzer, on October 20th; SUB-LIEUTENANT J. W. CORNFORTH (G, 1942), to Miss J. M. Penwill, on November 6th; SQUADRON-LEADER D. SHAWE, D.F.C. (G, 1933), to Miss M. Umfraville, on November 22nd, 1944; LIEUTENANT G. B. S. OSBORNE (G, 1940), to Miss Sheila Thomson, on December 2nd, 1944.

BIRTHS

To the wife of MAJOR E. G. W. T. WALSH (T, 1935), a daughter, on July 24th; to the wife of CAPTAIN C. S. MADDEN (C, 1933), a daughter, on August 2nd; to the wife of MAJOR P. F. I. REID (S, 1929), a son, on August 7th; to the wife of MAJOR P. T. ASHTON (C, 1935), a daughter, on August 17th; to the wife of MAJOR P. T. HAYMAN (S, 1933), a daughter, on September 5th; to the wife of MR. G. C. WYNDHAM (S, 1933), a daughter, on September 8th; to the wife of MAJOR M. B. SCHOLFIELD (T, 1939), a son, on September 14th; to the wife of FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT M. DE L. WILSON (W, 1936), a daughter, on September 26th; to the wife of CAPTAIN J. M. HENRY (C, 1939), a daughter, on September 30th; to the wife of CAPTAIN E. N. ROLFE (B, 1939), a daughter, on October 9th.

To the wife of CAPTAIN B. J. A. CECIL (C, 1931), a son, on October 1st; to the wife of GROUP CAPTAIN G. L. S. GRIFFITH-JONES (C, 1929), a son, on October 29th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT M. WILDING, R.N.V.R. (G, 1934), a daughter, on November 1st; to the wife of MAJOR M. E. FLETCHER (C, 1936), a daughter, on May 12th; to the wife of CAPTAIN A. C. L. WHISTLER (G, 1930), a daughter, on November 15th.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS
FROM OLD STOICS IN THE FORCES

AIRBORNE TO HOLLAND

It's an odd feeling being towed behind a bomber; no noise of engines—only the roar of wind against the stubby nose of the glider, while the rear turret of the bomber in front moves gracefully up and down. One minute you are looking down at the turret gunner; then a sharp drop and you are looking up at him, and the rope tightens to haul you up again.

Over the patchwork fields of England; over the coast—the white cliffs—and over the calm expanse of sea. To the right and left, in front and behind, are other gliders and tugs, seeming to be standing stationary in the air. I watch the two glider pilots in the cabin, strange figures crash-helmeted. It's an arduous job piloting a towed glider; not like a trailer to a motor car; if you relax for a minute the rope breaks.

We don't like the idea of the rope breaking over the sea. As we cross the coast we strap on our Mae Wests. Nothing like having a little support when you're weighed down like a Christmas tree with every conceivable form of equipment. They say it would take *twelve* Mae Wests to keep you up fully laden like this.

We pass a ship far below, burning fiercely. Good show: the R.A.F. have been doing their stuff on the flak ships. Nothing comes up at us, and a good thing. We are the ack-ack gunners' dream. Pleasant thought! Like the chalked inscription on one glider: "TOP SECRET—TO BE OPENED BY GOD ALMIGHTY ONLY." Tough humour!

A thin grey streak ahead, breaking the blue expanse of the water. HOLLAND! Already through my glasses I can pick out the houses along the sea front.

This is the big moment. Nearer and nearer we close in. Now we are over the coast. There is no need to ask the next man what he is thinking of, and why that expectant look. Each of us peers out of the perspex glass, expecting at any minute to see the little flashes below and the little blobs of coloured fire floating up from the ack-ack. Nothing yet. Another flak ship burning furiously. The R.A.F. certainly have done a good job.

We're over land now, and take our life-belts off. That's one thing passed anyway. We saw one glider in the "drink"—that's all.

On we go over the flat plains of Holland; it's easy to read a map in this country. Over an enemy-held town—again that hushed expectancy. It's an odd feeling. For days we had studied maps; knew every known ack-ack gun on the route.

Now we were really there. I can understand at last how the bomber pilot feels. "Now!" We cast off, and the glider seems to halt in mid air as it is freed from the tug. Down goes the nose, almost a vertical dive. Grim faces! We know what's down there. We've looked at air photos of the place until we were cross-eyed; know every wood and road, every Boche position. Now we are really going down among them. I caught a glimpse of a familiar-shaped wood. Well, we were in the right place anyway. Bump, bump. We braced ourselves for the shock. Strapped in, we could not see out of the windows. Stop. Hell, what a relief! We're really there—and in one piece! All the gloomy forebodings, the casualty estimates unfounded. We pile out of the glider, flop down on the ground in case the Boche are about. Not a sound. We unload our stuff. Dutch men, women and children surround the glider, help lift our equipment, lend us a horse and cart. The glider pilots bring in three Boche prisoners. There is smoke and the crackle of machine-guns not far away. . . . Well, from there on it's just the tale of another battle. . . . Apart from the battle, which I must not describe, there are stories of sabotage and spies that would read like a novel, and stories of Arnheim that would break your heart. But they can't be told yet.

. . . . I've seen some interesting things in the town—the Nazi Party headquarters; the H.Q. of the Hitler Youth: the "rest camp" for slave labour, where each N.C.O. was equipped with a cat o'nine tails.

The Hitler Youth place was terrifying; terrifying because of the evidence of the efficiency with which the minds of the children were influenced with Nazi ideology; rooms piled high with books, most expensively produced; magazines everywhere; foul anti-bolshevik propaganda, and alongside it pictures of "innocent Bavarian children in national costume picking flowers."

I came away feeling nauseated, and feeling too what an almost insuperable problem will be the re-education of the young Nazi. Can we ever hope to reverse the Nazi process? Apart from the inherent difficulty of the job, there will be its cost to reckon with. In all these Nazi places there is evidence of lavish expenditure.

JUGO-SLAVIA

After being the first British units into Messina and Salerno, we now claim to be the first to fight in Jugo-Slavia and in Albania. Neither of the last two countries are worth the rock they're built on, but they have proved very interesting.

The greatest surprise we had was at the intense fervour and enthusiasm of the Partisans. They are, of course, an exceedingly primitive people and the war has brought out all their primitive instincts—a childish delight in weapons of all sorts, a fine fighting aggressive spirit and a capacity for devotion that is almost canine. The women are amazingly strong, and besides carrying burdens they are perfectly ready to do any form of fighting, although they are normally kept as medical orderlies "attached for all purposes" to small units. The "Pistol Packing Mama" of the newspapers is tripe.

The trouble here is that everywhere you want to go is up a hill—and you don't go up by a path or on the springy heather of the Highlands or the turf of the South Downs. You just go up rock. Till now we have been the only unit presented to Marshal Tito. It was an amazing ceremony with all the swank and polish of the Barrack Square but with Tommy guns bristling everywhere. There was a salute of guns and the A.A. guns gave a barrage. The Marshal was, I thought, much older and fatter than the photographs give one to understand but he had very fine features and a bear-like hand-shake. He read out an oration in his own language and then received "three hearty British cheers"—all to the music of a stirring Pipe Band.

BURMA

We never get a headline because Burma is considered unimportant at present. But we are hitting the Jap hard all the time—far harder than he is hitting us. I was in the forward areas at the time of the Arakan battle and I was amazed at the adaptability of our English troops. They seem to be able to "take it" where the Indian finds his own climate intolerable.

FIRST INTO BRUSSELS

Our Battalion was the first infantry to enter Brussels. By the time we arrived there my half-truck had collected quite a cellar, and the guardsmen were turning up their noses at non-vintage wines. There were eggs, fruit and flowers in abundance

We entered Brussels late in the evening, and during the last 10 of that day's 150 miles we had moved between crowds of people who became more indistinct and more noisy the nearer we got to the centre of the city. This was lit by bonfires of German materials, which cast a crimson glow upon the sea of faces surging round, and occasionally upon our trucks. The Belgians have, I believe, a reputation for aloofness; they certainly belied it that night. Finally we harboured near the Royal Palace, and had the greatest difficulty in refusing the hundreds of invitations pressed upon us by the weeping, laughing, singing (and regrettably tight) Bruxellois. We left next morning; this is written from a Flemish farmhouse, and a very comfortable one too.

From the prisoners we have taken, I don't think that Germany will ever cease fire; it will have to be submerged. I had an S.S. man in yesterday. He was completely fanatical and demanded safe transport to German-occupied England. *Vive le Docteur Goebbels!*

IN A FRENCH ORCHARD

Just now I'm in an orchard about a quarter-mile from the Boche, but luckily out of observation—so no sniping. In fact today has been very quiet—hardly any mortars, unlike previous days. These are the worst trouble out here and I dig in about an extra foot every day! Our only other enemy is a whacking great gun which looks for us now and then, but has never got nearer than 20 yards. I never cease to wonder how everyone so quickly gets used to the appalling noise, and why more people aren't hurt. You'd laugh if you saw us all diving into slits and under our vehicles when the old whistle starts. One moment lots of men standing or sitting about and the next not a soul. After one rather big and close bang yesterday I yelled to my Sgt. Driver to see if he was still O.K., and his voice answered from underneath me! I'd had no idea that anyone could have moved quicker than I did. But the main things I shall remember will be: (1) the cider one finds everywhere in enormous barrels (a little Calvados too); (2) the dust both friendly and enemy (both bad); and (3) the vast numbers of dead cows which lie and stink in almost every field. They swell to elephantine proportions and turn gradually on their back with legs and udders in the air, looking like a sort of main and auxiliary anti-aircraft armament. Horrid.

THE LOWER DECK

My Class all have pronounced Socialistic leanings and a bitter hatred towards Winston Churchill. They condemn him firstly as a Conservative who is out to crush the poor, and secondly as a cold-hearted dictator who sends soldiers out to the front with nothing but his stirring oratory behind them. No amount of logical argument will convince them to the contrary.

THE LITTLE SHIPS

In a little ship like this it is absolutely essential that everyone should fit in. We live in such a small space that we are continually on top of each other, and one finds oneself watching one's neighbours (and being watched by them) much too closely for comfort. Sometimes you find that one man's minor habits get intolerably on your nerves—stock phrases and little mannerisms and so on. You have got to control yourself a bit then. Happily we get ashore pretty often and then we keep clear of the misfit for as many hours as possible—which relieves the strain a lot.

One other drawback is that after some years in a boat like this one gets too much of the party spirit. When one is tied up alongside another boat the only form of social life possible is to throw a party for its officers. Then they throw one for you, and quite a lot of alcohol—sometimes too much—gets consumed.

THE YANKS

I thought Algeria at that season about the most beautiful bit of country I had ever seen. I left it for the Anzio beachhead, from which, after the break-out, we pushed on fast through Rome and well to the north of it. We have been doing a lot of work with the Americans. Their army did a superb job and a very gruesome one, too, round the Alban Hills and in front of Rome. The Yanks are in wonderful fettle and excellently trained. At the moment they are right on the crest of the wave.

THE YANKS AGAIN

One of the biggest eye-openers we have had out here is the terrific go-ahead spirit of the Yanks. You may think I'm talking like an old Poona Warrior—but normally out here you get so little encouragement when you show a will to get something done, that in the end you tend to become part of the drift yourself. I was well on towards becoming a permanent piece of driftwood, when I met and got to know the Yanks. With them red tape, inertia and prejudice are swept away together and we are left looking stupid for not having done years ago what they are doing now.

ITALY

We came here from North Africa at very short notice, and after doing nothing for nine months we were pushed up a steep mountain, on the reverse slope of which were a large number of Germans. When the sun shone and the sky was clear for a moment or two, the view was the most magnificent I have ever seen, stretching over the Apennines almost to the Adriatic, south to Vesuvius and north nearly to Rome. But this did not entirely compensate for snow and sleet, our precarious position on the rocks and the close proximity of some very pugnacious Germans.

HIGH TIDE

I must tell you how I spent my first night ashore. Together with five others I dug a slit-trench quite close to a river, while Jerry was lobbing over mortar bombs with horrible regularity. Having dug down some six feet, we decided to call it a day and try to get some rest. However, at about 2.30 a.m. we all woke up more or less simultaneously to find the trench some eighteen inches deep in water and steadily filling, the reason being that in our ignorance we had failed to realize that the river was tidal!

ORPHEUS

He was a much bigger man than Orpheus, who after all only made trees sing. H. made five hundred Stoics sing, and sing the Messiah too, with real enjoyment.

LAST DAYS IN ENGLAND

This mild, unmartial existence suffered a violent interruption for a period of two days, during which I was given an escort and ordered to convey 500 Ruritania Prisoners of War across England. Not even the combined aromas of the Casbah in Algiers and the Stowe Labs after a Lower School Practical can approach in quality or magnificence the odour of this herd. However, they offered me no chance of target practice either in the train or on the six-mile march that followed, and most of my white hairs were gained in transporting my escort back by means of the glorious British Railway system as it operates after nightfall, struggling with the R.T.O. at numerous railway termini and attending to the vast mountains of impedimenta which accompanied us.

Now the sword has fallen and I have moved to our embarkation depot—slightly further north and, therefore, slightly more inhuman than the training depot. It is a typical northern industrial town, sprawling along the bottom of a once lovely valley, befouling its clear streams and disfiguring the surrounding hills. I am billeted in the local Temperance Hotel, which happily belies its name. All round are the "dark Satanic mills" and the opulent but hideous dwellings of the capitalists whom they support. Owing to the income tax these are now exhibiting marked symptoms of decay and seem to be inhabited only by senescent caretakers. I shall not be here long, for we are about to leave for a far country—one which, I gather from the becoming topees just issued to us, will be sunnier than this vale of tears.

NOISES OFF IN HOLLAND

I am now in Holland—not at all the right country for the time of year. It's all very damp and boring—except when it's damp and frightening . . . Yesterday I was "proceeding" (Army for going, driving, marching or running like hell) along a dirt track in my scout car when I was conscious of an explosion. It appears that we'd run straight into a mine field of rather large mines! My front L.H. wheel was found 50 yards away and one of the stowage bins about 30 yards away. Neither my driver nor myself was hurt, though I have had a bit of a headache ever since. . . . The field I'm in now contains about fifty guns, which have all started to fire. So on account of the noise and the more than probable Boche counter-battery stuff, I think I'll find a nice safe hole. Goodbye.

NORMANDY AND PARIS

The planning stages were of course absorbingly interesting and time passed quickly. Indeed, before I knew where I was, I was on board a very small ship in a very rough sea heading for the coast of Normandy and by that time it was far too late to get out of it! It was without question an interesting experience and one which I cannot regret—at any rate in retrospect, though I could have done very well without at the time and have no desire to repeat it.

All the same it was curiously inspiring to see that vast concourse of shipping slowly searing its way across the Channel. I don't think I have ever loved England so much as I did at that moment when I had to sail away and leave it.

I landed with the Commandos half an hour after the thing started. The Germans—foolish fellows—seemed to resent our presence and made determined efforts to prevent us landing. But I'm glad to say they had no success, though it was a good many weeks before we eventually persuaded them that perhaps, after all, Germany was where they belonged.

We were 83 days in the battle without a proper rest, and when we eventually reached the Seine we had had about enough, especially as we had had to walk most of the way. We had very little conscience about it when we were pulled out and returned to England.

But this didn't happen, I'm glad to say, before I had taken French Leave for a day and made a dash for Paris about a week after the liberation. Paris was looking superb in the autumn sunshine—as only Paris can. What a lovely city! It had hardly a window broken; the shops were full of lovely things such as Bond Street hasn't seen for years (nor will ever see again if Sir W.B. succeeds in making England safe for the work-shy). The people were as smart as only Parisiens can be, wearing wooden shoes as if they were only doing it because they were fashionable; and at the Ritz I got the best lunch I have had in years—though I don't doubt the thing was "Marché noir."

France as a whole—or such parts of it as I saw—looked very healthy. The people's attitude towards us varied according to how much damage had been done in the process of liberation. In many parts the natives had been doing pretty well under the Germans, and though they were happy enough to see a change of régime they were inclined to quibble about the cost of it. I can't altogether blame them, having seen the appalling mess we have had to make of some of their towns.

FROM A SUBMARINE

The last two years have been very interesting. We get around—and in and out—and see the world through the glass eye of our periscope. I have had a good look in this way at Norway, France, Italy, Greece, North Africa, Burma, Malay and Sumatra. In some ways it is more interesting out East because one can often run around the jungle coast on the surface by day, which means that we can look at the world directly instead of indirectly and, better still, can *smell* it. It is a funny thing how important outside smells become when you go from place to place in a ship like this. Of course, we are more than sightseers and we have done some pretty good business in our time. Delight in destruction seems to be pretty near the surface in all of us. I get a tremendous kick out of seeing a ship blow up and sink. It is a marvellous sensation. There is something so satisfying in the completeness with which it just disappears.

THE GILLING-LAX BEQUEST

George Grevile Gilling-Lax, who was a Master at Stowe from 1932 and Housemaster of Grenville from 1937, left to join the R.A.F.V.R. in 1941. He was awarded the D.F.C. in 1943 and killed in action in July of that year. In his will, which he made on leaving Stowe, he expressed the wish that a portion of his estate should be used for the benefit of the School. The amount available has proved to be £900, which, in accordance with his wishes, is being disposed of as follows:—

1. £500 to the Friends of Stowe Trust for the establishment of two Music Prizes (Senior and Junior) to be called the Gilling-Lax Music Prizes and to be awarded annually;
2. £400 to be put aside for the restoration of one of the Temples in the Grounds after the war.

STOICA

School Officials—Christmas Term, 1944.

Prefects:—G. P. Lloyd (B), Head of the School; F. E. Kitson (C), Second Prefect; J. V. Bartlett (T), Prefect of Chapel; D. L. Pike (G), Prefect of Library; R. C. B. Chancellor (C), Prefect of Gymnasium; E. M. Arnold (S); J. S. B. Gubbins (T); A. W. B. Hayward (G); C. G. Dealtry (B); S. Ruthven (C); C. B. S. Dawson (C); D. T. M. Service (W).

Rugby Football:—Captain, J. V. Bartlett (T); Secretary, A. W. B. Hayward (G).

The following visitors have preached in Chapel this term:—October 22nd, Mr. Edwin Barker, Educational Secretary to the National Council of Y.M.C.As.; November 5th, The Rev. T. W. L. Caspersz, Organizing Secretary to the Missions to Seamen; November 19th, The Rev. W. G. Peck, Industrial Christian Fellowship; December 3rd, The Archdeacon of Lincoln.

A Confirmation Service was held in the Chapel on Thursday, November 30th, when ninety-one members of the School were confirmed by the Bishop of Oxford.

Chapel Collections this term have included:—September 24th, for the Pineapple, £18 18s. 2d.; October 8th, for the Buckingham Hospital, £27 10s. 0d.; by Auction of the Harvest Produce for the Hospital, £64 6s. 2d.; November 12th, for The Earl Haig's Fund, £89 1s. 9d.

The Wedding took place on September 1st of James Maclean Todd to Miss Janet Gillespie Holmes; and on September 26th of Lieutenant David Ian Brown, Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, to Miss Sheila Rosalind Close.

The Victoria Cross awarded in September to Wing-Commander Cheshire is the second to be gained by an Old Stoic. The first was awarded to Major J. T. McK. Anderson in July 1943 and is recorded in *The Stoic* No. 61.

MILITARY CROSS.—An award of the Military Cross has been made to Major W. L. McElwee, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who was History Tutor at Stowe from 1934 until he left to join the Army in 1940. The citation is as follows:—

"On 28th June, 1944, Major McElwee was in command of a company. Next day the enemy attacked with tanks and infantry. Major McElwee was with his forward platoon. The enemy first attempted to rush this platoon. Major McElwee took charge, and by good siting of L.M.Gs. and anti-tank guns completely frustrated the attempt of the enemy to surround the platoon and destroy it.

"He then moved back under heavy M.G. and mortar fire to his Company H.Q., leaving the platoon commander in complete control. The enemy then attempted to penetrate in greater strength behind the right platoon. Again this attack was frustrated. In this operation Major McElwee personally found time to direct a Piat stalk, which resulted in the destruction of a Tiger tank.

"By this time casualties had occurred in the right platoon. Major McElwee arranged for the reinforcement of this platoon. Repeated attacks were made by the enemy, and each time Major McElwee, though holding a necessarily large area, ordered the move of guns and troops to the right spot to meet each situation as it occurred, the very thick woods making this most difficult. He inspired both officers and men by his calmness and his obvious control of the situation.

"A similar operation took place on the following day. On this occasion the wireless broke down between Battalion H.Q. and Major McElwee's company. Control from Battalion H.Q. was impossible except by runner. Major McElwee for the rest of the battle was in command of the left sector of the bridgehead. In the battalion's first major engagement he gave a splendid example to be followed by all and especially less experienced sub-unit commanders."

A Prize has been founded in memory of Lieutenant Bryan Henshaw (C, 1941), Grenadier Guards, killed in action in November, 1943. The Prize will be called "The Bryan Henshaw Prize for English Speech" and will be awarded each year in the Easter Term.

An annual Prize for Mathematics, to be known as the Stewart Prize, has been founded by Mr. A. B. Stewart, father of B. A. Stewart (B, 1944).

Prizes for Reading (Senior and Junior) and for Chemistry have been founded by the father of J. D. R. Hayward (G, 1942) and A. W. B. Hayward (G).

The following are recent Medical Examination results:—Cambridge 1st M.B., Part I: J. K. Money (G); Part II: J. K. Money (G), W. M. Browne (C), P. D. Rossdale (T), J. V. Nicholl (G).

The following Representative Colours were awarded at the end of last term:—For Swimming, C. Dansie (C). For Lawn Tennis, E. D. Good (B), J. A. R. Anson (G), D. L. Pike (G). For Athletics, G. P. Lloyd (B).

School Football Colours have been awarded as follows:—

1st XV:—J. R. Freeland (C), R. C. B. Chancellor (C), J. A. R. Anson (G) (re-awarded); G. C. Robinson (W), S. Ruthven (C), J. Herron (G), P. H. Guest (B), E. D. Good (B) (re-awarded), H. A. S. Murray (C), R. W. Shirley (T), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C), D. L. Pike (G) (re-awarded), M. J. A. Davies (T), R. J. Havard (C).

2nd XV:—G. C. Robinson (W), J. Herron (G), G. J. Chibbett (C), M. R. G. Eyre (G), R. W. Shirley (T), G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey (C), R. J. Havard (C), M. J. A. Davies (T), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C).

3rd XV:—R. W. Shirley (T), P. N. Briggs (C), A. R. N. Field (C), A. S. Wright (C), C. D. Bakirgian (C), P. W. Stewart (G), W. M. Browne (C), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C), A. F. Cottier (C).

Colts' Stockings:—D. M. Berry (W), M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), P. V. Roberts (T), G. H. B. Carter (T), R. J. Broadley (W), N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W).

WILLIAM BENJAMIN HARDS

Mr. Hards died at the age of 83 on August 7th, 1944. For many years he was one of the H.M.Is. of Secondary Schools, later becoming assistant Secretary at the Board of Education. He retired in 1921, but his interest in education never flagged. He did valuable work on the Governing Bodies of various schools in the London area and when, after the battle of Jutland, Australia and New Zealand sent a quarter of a million pounds to the Navy League for the education of Naval orphans, Mr. Hards entered with enthusiasm into the work of selecting schools for the 3,000 children who benefited by the gift. Subsequently he became Educational Adviser to a Committee which administered the Educational Section of the National Police Fund. For this work he was awarded the O.B.E.

When, in 1922, a Governing Body was formed to bring about the establishment of Stowe, he became an active member of it and put his great experience at its disposal, interesting himself particularly in the selection of the headmaster. From that time until his death he maintained his interest in the School and, in face of all the difficulties of the early years, continued to work for its prosperity, endeavouring with all his power to keep it educationally free and efficient. When extensive changes were made in the personnel of the Governing Body in 1934 and 1935, Mr. Hards was one of those who retained membership, being, with the exception of the Bishop of Liverpool, the only one of the 1922-1923 Board to do so. He was, therefore, at the time of his death the only Governor who had served as such continually from the foundation of the School.

Mr. Hards' devotion to Stowe and its interests, his willingness to champion all good causes and the warmth of his lovable and enthusiastic temperament will long remain in the memory of those who were privileged to work with him for Stowe.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

At the beginning of the term it was probably fair to say that the prospects of this year's XV were as good as those of any Stowe team of the past, with the exception of P. R. H. Hastings' team of 1938. Five old colours amongst the forwards and three others with 1st XV experience, all big and reasonably fast, made the only serious anticipated trouble their arrangement, particularly in the front row. A scrum-half from the previous year was a welcome change, particularly one who, though his passing was not yet reliable, was a fighter and ready to take knocks from opposing forwards. The fly-half promised to be at least a good taker and giver of passes. In the three-quarters there was an experienced right wing, and a big strong and fast left centre and left wing. Right centre alone, apparently, had to be played for, and there was no serious shortage of candidates. And the full back was an old colour.

The results make all the more depressing reading. Of the five School matches (St. Edward's and Uppingham have still to be played), four have been lost, three of them by big margins, and one drawn. The reason is, I think, this: that this year's XV, plus those members of the 50 who were in the running for places, included too many players who were not prepared to make a serious effort to improve their football. Naturally this had some effect on others, and in consequence the team as a whole was unable to play football at the speed at which any normal School side should have played. In all the School matches, and most maddeningly against Rugby, who were not at all a better side, this slowness put Stowe at a disadvantage that could not be overcome.

Last year's faults, which could then be put down to youth and inexperience, were as frequent this year. Kicking too far in the rushes, failing to heel from loose scrums, half-hearted tackling, bad marking and jumping in the line-outs, watching the man instead of the ball in taking passes, lobbed passes—and so on. All these faults were there, and remained there in all but a few members of the side. Some did their best and undoubtedly improved their football; but there were too many gaps that could not be covered, and unfortunately the keenest members of the 2nd XV were not strong enough to replace the weak links. Worst of all, this lack of enthusiasm in some of the backs was accompanied by fear of tackling and falling on the ball.

Bartlett's position as captain was an unenviable one. He worked his hardest and his fine play and good forward leading were worthy of a better team. His injury towards the end of the term was most unfortunate. Hayward led the side well in Bartlett's absence, and always played hard in the close forward work. Guest and Trench improved their football more than anyone, Guest in the middle of the back row and Trench as a hooker. Herron and Shirley worked hard. Anson was a safe full-back except that his lack of speed sometimes allowed wings to run round him. Otherwise his tackling was good and his kicking steadily improved. The backs failed badly, the left wing pair being a particular disappointment. Ruthven was fast, with a good swerve, and made some good runs, but his handling was very weak. Murray played one or two good games at scrum-half, but was slow with his passes and gave his opposing half too much room. A fast and intelligent centre or fly-half was badly needed to get some life into a feeble back division.

THE SCHOOL v. BEDFORD

Played at Bedford on Saturday and lost by 36 points (3 goals, 2 penalty goals and 5 tries) to 6 points (2 tries).

The prospects of a victory over Bedford for the first time since 1938 were badly shaken by the news on the day before that Croom-Johnson would be unable to play. Chibbett, who had been shaping well at right centre, was moved in to fly-half, and Briggs came in to centre three-quarter. The re-arranged back division did not come off at all, and the strong-running Bedford three-quarters made rings round the defence in the second half.

Stowe kicked off down the hill and after some dangerous movements by the Bedford backs the Stowe forwards did some fine work in the loose. Stowe scored first, a break-through by Robinson putting Hancock over in the corner. Though this was against the run of the play, Robinson had shown that there was a way through, and if he could have been better served he would undoubtedly have made the Bedford defence look less imposing. Bedford scored an unconverted try soon afterwards and then a magnificent dropped goal from a penalty. Another break-through by Robinson should have given Hancock an easy try but he dropped the pass.

6—3 at half time did not sound too serious, but Chibbett had not settled down and Briggs was badly out of place in defence. Splendid tackling by Robinson and Anson and good covering by Chancellor and Bartlett had kept the score down, but there was the hill to come. Unfortunately we were not getting the ball in the scrums, either set or loose, though the forwards were playing very hard.

The second half was a procession, the gap in our centre being exploited to the utmost. Robinson and Anson defended magnificently, and the forwards kept at it, but we could not get our share of the ball. When we did get it, Robinson always looked dangerous, but he was not supported. Stowe's second try, by Hancock, came near the end, following a good kick by Anson and a strong run by Ruthven. Apart from this effort play was mostly in the Stowe half.

Of the forwards, Chancellor was outstanding in the rushes, and all worked hard in the scrums, but the binding in the loose scrums was weak.

Team:—J. A. R. Anson (G); J. L. W. Hancock (W), G. C. Robinson (W), P. N. Briggs (C), S. Ruthven (C); G. J. Chibbett (C), J. R. Freeland (C); E. D. Good (B), M. R. G. Eyre (S), R. W. Shirley (T), A. W. B. Hayward (G), J. Herron (S), J. V. Bartlett (T), D. L. Pike (G), R. C. B. Chancellor (C).

THE SCHOOL v. RUGBY

Played at Rugby on Saturday, October 21st, Rugby winning by 30 points to 8.

We went to Rugby with some hopes in spite of a heavy defeat by Bedford earlier in the season. The result was most disappointing and confirmed the weaknesses of the team which had been obvious at Bedford. The forwards played hard, but with little sense, and failed to make their weight felt in the tight scrums, and their heeling from the loose was slow. Thus the Rugby backs saw most of the ball and made full use of it. They carved a large hole in the centre of a weak Stowe defence and lack of covering by the forwards and feeble tackling by the backs enabled them to score far more than their ability suggested. Slow thinking and slow moving on the part of Stowe led to a heavy defeat.

For the first twenty minutes Stowe was never out of its own half. Rugby kicked off and scored in the first minute when a quick heel from the loose and quick passing saw the left wing clear and over in the corner. This try was not converted. Rugby then pressed continuously and only a desperate defence kept them out until, after ten minutes' play, a Rugby forward rush took the ball over. (6—0.) After another five minutes in the Stowe half the Rugby right wing got away (they always seemed to have a man over) and scored between the posts. (11—0.)

Stowe then moved into the Rugby half for the first time. A free kick, taken by Robinson, put Stowe into the Rugby '25' and Chibbett was nearly over. Half-time came with play at the half-way line.

The second half opened with Stowe much more aggressive, but a free kick sent Rugby back. This was followed by a quick heel from the tight and the enemy scrum half was round the blind side and over. (14—0.) Stowe kicked off and from a half-way scrum the Rugby captain ran straight through and scored. (17—0.) This was followed by another score by the Rugby threequarters. (22—0.) Stowe started a belated improvement and following another Rugby score (27—0), Ruthven went over in the corner to score. (27—3.) Rugby pressed and futile marking in the line-out enabled a forward to drop over to make the score 30—3. In the last few minutes Stowe rushed into the Rugby twenty-five and Bartlett, who had worked heroically, got his reward in scoring by a grand individual rush. This was converted and the game ended 30—8.

Team:—J. A. R. Anson (G); D. S. Howard (S), G. C. Robinson (W), G. J. Chibbett (C), S. Ruthven (C); B. B. Croom-Johnson (T), J. R. Freeland (C); E. D. Good (B), M. R. G. Eyre (S), P. H. Guest (B), A. W. B. Hayward (G), J. Herron (S), J. V. Bartlett (T), D. L. Pike (G), R. C. B. Chancellor (C).

THE SCHOOL v. OUNDLE

This game, played at Stowe on November 1st, resulted in a comfortable win for Oundle by 28 points to 3 (two goals, two penalty goals, and four tries to one penalty goal).

The conditions were ideal for a fast open game, but neither side was sufficiently accomplished to provide this type of football, and it seemed that the mistakes of the losers rather than any exceptional skill on the part of the winners was responsible for the result. For the greater part of the game the Stowe forwards were outplayed (especially in the tight scrums) and the Oundle backs had more than their fair share of opportunities in consequence. It cannot be said that

they made the best use of them, as their threequarters spoilt many of their movements by passing forward, but in a straightforward way they were effective—effective enough, anyhow, to defeat Stowe handsomely. When the Stowe outsiders did have a chance to develop an attack they were slow and hesitant, and even when—as did happen on two occasions—an attacking movement began promisingly it faded away in futility. Once Freeland cut through in the centre and drew the Oundle full-back, and, as he had an unmarked man on each side of him, a try seemed inevitable, but a careless and hurried pass was taken by an Oundle player and the chance had been thrown away. In defence, the Stowe side worked bravely and with tremendous energy, Ruthven (on the right wing officially, but often getting across to tackle on the left) being outstanding, but the Oundle backs were allowed far more space than they should have been in which to get their attacks moving, thanks to the slowness of the Stowe outsiders in getting up on their men. The Stowe forwards, though outplayed by a more cohesive pack, worked very hard indeed and did well in the loose, with Bartlett always prominent both as a player and leader.

After Stowe had won the toss, Oundle made a lot of ground from the kick-off and after five minutes' play their left wing scored a try in the corner. The kick failed. Now it was Stowe's turn and a minute or so later the scores were equal, Robinson being successful with a penalty kick from in front of the posts. Until half-time, when the score was 17—3 to Oundle, the Oundle forwards heeled the ball with monotonous regularity and their backs, except once when Croom-Johnson sold a clever dummy and cut through, were attacking the whole time.

The second half was more even. The Stowe forwards managed to heel the ball more often, albeit too slowly, and the backs had more chances to show what they could do in attack. This proved to be very little, as the Oundle threequarters were quickly up in defence and by these tactics completely flummoxed the Stowe outsiders. In consequence Stowe never looked like scoring, but Oundle managed to add eleven points to their score before a disappointing game came to an end.

Team:—J. A. R. Anson (G); R. J. Havard (C), G. C. Robinson (W), J. R. Freeland (C), S. Ruthven (C); B. B. Croom-Johnson (T), H. A. S. Murray (C); E. D. Good (B), M. R. G. Eyre (S), P. H. Guest (B), A. W. B. Hayward (G), J. Herron (S), J. V. Bartlett (T), G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey (C), R. C. B. Chancellor (C).

THE SCHOOL v. MERCHANT TAYLORS

Played at Merchant Taylors on Wednesday, November 8th.

This was the first match against Merchant Taylors and was a very welcome addition to the fixture list. The XV, however, has seldom played in a more futile manner and instead of winning, as they most certainly should have, they drew, the score being one try to a penalty goal.

To begin with, Merchant Taylors obtained the ball regularly in the scrums, but fortunately their backs were neither constructive nor fast and gave no appearance of being dangerous. For the first time the covering by the back row forwards approached accuracy, so that our defence looked secure. For a quarter of an hour the ball remained in the Stowe half. The forwards were pushing their opponents in the scrum, but the hooking was weak, and when the ball did get out to the backs they were too slow to make use of it, and most of them thought of a kick in attack.

Eventually Stowe began to take more control of the game, and when a good though not very fast threequarter movement ended in a try by Havard, it looked as if Stowe had definitely got the upper hand. The rest of the half, however, was spent by the backs in dropping passes and slithering. The forwards, too, were playing in a maddening fashion. They were clearly the better pack and with a little more determination and cohesion could have established a firm superiority and won the game on their own. Despite Bartlett's example and encouragement, the extra effort was not forthcoming.

In the second half the ground cut up more and more, play was mainly in the Merchant Taylors' half of the ground, and at times it seemed as if we must score. But the forwards were unable to finish off their rushes, and the backs continued to try passing movements and also to drop the ball. Perhaps we may be thankful to have drawn.

Team:—J. A. R. Anson (G); R. J. Havard (C), G. C. Robinson (W), J. R. Freeland (C), S. Ruthven (C); B. B. Croom-Johnson (T), H. A. S. Murray (C); E. D. Good (B), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C), R. W. Shirley (T), A. W. B. Hayward (G), J. Herron (S), J. V. Bartlett (T), P. H. Guest (B), R. C. B. Chancellor (C).

THE SCHOOL v. RADLEY

This game, played at Stowe on Wednesday, November 22nd, resulted in a win for Radley by 6 points (two tries) to nothing. The weather conditions were most unfavourable; it had rained hard during the previous night, and though the rain held off while the game was being played it had rendered the ground very muddy, and the ball, after the first few minutes, was a difficult thing to handle. In the circumstances this was bound to be a forwards' game, and so proved.

Radley kicked off at 2.40 and were soon pressing. In the tight scrums at this stage Stowe were getting the ball regularly, but the heeling was slow and Murray, at scrum-half, slower, with the result that the Stowe backs never got going, and the superiority of the Radley forwards in the loose enabled them to keep the ball in the Stowe half of the ground for some time. During this time the two full-backs had an opportunity to show their prowess in kicking, and the Radley back, who was to prove the outstanding player in the game, put in several long and accurate kicks to touch which made Anson's efforts look puerile. The first score came about ten minutes from the start. There was a scrum near the touch-line on the Stowe twenty-five, Radley heeled, and the ball came out to the stand-off half, who cut through and scored a try near the posts while a few Stowe players prostrated themselves at a respectful distance in their unworthy attempts to stop him. This try should never have been scored, and only the feeblest defence made it possible. The kick was charged down—a feat which evoked from the spectators the loudest applause of the afternoon. After this little happened before half-time. Stowe pressed for a while, but never looked likely to score, and only once more did Radley look dangerous, and that was when Anson was caught in possession of the ball in front of his own goal. The situation was saved, however, and there was no further scoring until the second half of the game.

One of the Radley players had to leave the game during the interval, but his injury was not sufficient to prevent his proving a most enthusiastic spectator, and the fact that Radley now had only seven forwards turned out, as it so often does, to be an advantage in the tight scrums. At the start Radley attacked and their backs had a number of chances which some improved Stowe tackling (especially by Davies) and the condition of the ground prevented them from turning to profitable account. Eventually, thanks almost entirely to Chancellor, the game moved to the Radley end of the field for a time, and there was a good deal of forward passing and knocking-on by both sides. From the resulting scrums Radley got most of the ball and were soon pressing again. When they heeled from a scrum on the Stowe goal line their scrum-half slipped over to score a try which, like the first one, was the consequence of an unwatchful defence. The kick failed. This occurred only twelve minutes from the end of the match, which duly faded out without any more notable events.

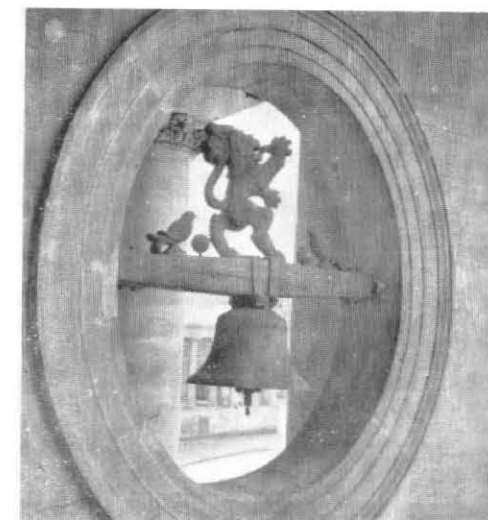
The Stowe side had displayed its usual faults and its usual virtues. Its members had played with plenty of vigour, but with little dash and less imagination. Chancellor (about whom it has been said that he would be a fine player if he ceased to regard the ball as something which he himself, and nobody else, must possess throughout the game) was outstanding among the forwards, Davies made a fairly promising first appearance at fly-half and tackled well, and Murray's ceaseless and strident advice to his forwards was a prominent feature all through the match. On the whole it may be said that the result fairly represented the difference in quality of the two sides on this day's showing.

Team:—J. A. R. Anson (G); R. J. Havard (C), G. C. Robinson (W), J. R. Freeland (C), S. Ruthven (C); M. J. A. Davies (T), H. A. S. Murray (C); E. D. Good (B), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C), R. W. Shirley (T), A. W. B. Hayward (G), J. Herron (C), D. L. Pike (G), P. H. Guest (B), R. C. B. Chancellor (C).

THE SCHOOL v. UPPINGHAM

Played at Stowe on Wednesday, November 29th, Uppingham winning by 16 points to 3.

From the kick-off, it was immediately apparent that the Stowe Fifteen had at last started to play Rugby football—there had been faint signs of this advent in the Radley match a week before. Both sides attacked hard, Stowe with their forwards, Uppingham with their backs, and play was seldom outside one or other of the twenty-five lines; but neither side scored, at one end because of the safe tackling and magnificent "sense of crisis" of the whole Stowe team, and at the other end, because of slow heeling by the pack and lack of initiative and scoring power in the Stowe backs. After very few minutes, it was evident that, while Stowe was supreme in defence (forward rushes, tackling and defensive kicking), their weakness lay in attack (poor heeling and passing out, dull threequarter play).



Photos by

TWO DETAILS OF STOWE

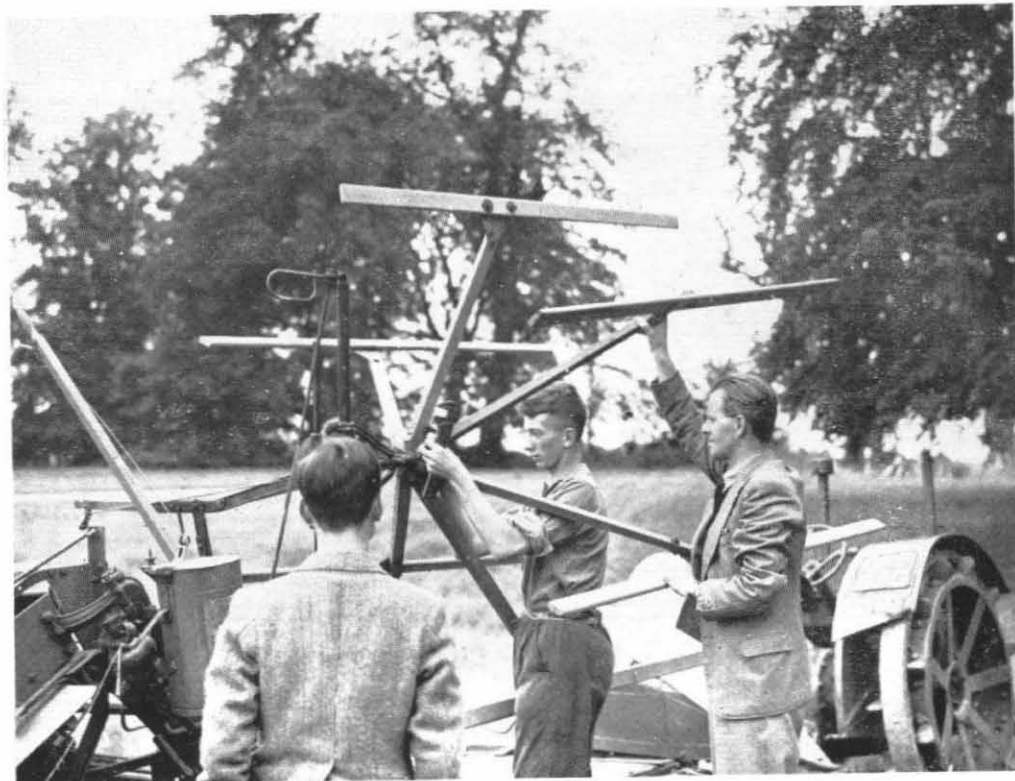
D.L.P.



Photo by

THE PUPPET CLUB, SUMMER 1944

R. & H. Chapman



By permission of]

TRACTOR COURSE, MARCH 1944

Sport & General

After twenty-five minutes play, Uppingham, following up an attack, got a quick heel by one of our corner-flags, and by a rapid threequarter movement across the field, avoided our badly positioned defence, and scored by the other corner-flag. Despite a long solo rush by Pike, who played throughout the game as never before, there was no further score at half-time.

To be three points down against what has been called the best school side in the country is no disgrace.

Just after half-time, two of the Uppingham forwards (who were, as a whole, playing much better now) dribbled the ball half the length of the field to score a try. The battle raged for a quarter of an hour with no score, and then Uppingham took advantage of the only fault made by Anson, the Stowe full-back, throughout the game, by picking up a loose kick before our goal and drop-kicking it over, to make the score 10-0. They attacked persistently, and scored twice more, once by a break-through in the centre, and again by that quick movement across the field, throwing the defence out of position. Neither try was converted.

After this last try, there were very few minutes of play left, and it was decided to try "the wrong 'un" at the kick-off. Robinson dropped it left instead of right as apparently intended, but it rolled along close to the ground and bounced up off the opposing wing's feet, into Havard's hands. He reached the try line with no opposition and scored the last points in the game, making the score 16-3.

The game, however, had far from finished. The Uppingham backs, who had shown throughout the game by their handling of the ball that they were "rattled" by the defence, now began to drop the ball more even than the Stowe backs, leaving several openings for the Stowe forwards, who finished the game with a series of spirited rushes, without, however, altering the score.

This game was without doubt a fine way to finish a disappointing season; but one feels bound to say that had the Stowe team played like this in previous matches the season most certainly would not have been disappointing.

Team:—J. A. R. Anson (G); R. J. Havard (C), G. C. Robinson (W), J. R. Freeland (C), S. Ruthven (C); M. J. A. Davies (T), H. A. S. Murray (C); E. D. Good (B), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C), R. W. Shirley (T), A. W. B. Hayward (G), J. Herron (S), D. L. Pike (G), P. H. Guest (B), R. C. B. Chancellor (C).

Results of other matches were as follows:—

v. R. A. F., HALTON (Home).	Won, 13-3.
v. AN R. A. F. XV. (Home).	Lost, 3-14.
v. R. A. F., BICESTER (Home).	Won, 15-3.
v. AN R. A. F. XV. (Home).	Won, 34-0.
v. AN R. A. F. XV. (Home).	Lost, 3-8.
v. AN R. A. O. C. XV. (Home).	Won, 12-0.
v. AN OLD STOIC XV. (Home).	Won 24-7.

SECOND FIFTEEN MATCHES.

v. BLOXHAM (Away).	Lost, 0-6.
v. BEDFORD (Home).	Lost, 0-9.
v. RADLEY (Home).	Won, 8-6.
v. HIGH WYCOMBE (Away).	Lost, 11-30.
v. HIGH WYCOMBE (Home).	Won, 21-12.

THIRD FIFTEEN MATCHES

v. BLOXHAM (Away).	Won, 3-0.
--------------------	-----------

THE COLTS' FIFTEEN

On the whole it has been a disappointing season owing to the small number of matches played—only three in all. The first match against Bedford Colts showed how very ragged we were; at half-time the score was 24-0 against. After that, we pulled ourselves together and played as a team and not as a collection of individuals; Bedford never scored another try and

we succeeded in getting one. The match against Rugby Colts was rather grim. All seemed to be going very well up to half-time, when the score was fairly even; indeed, we seemed to have a very good chance of winning; but, for some unknown reason, the side just seemed to pack up and do no more; if it had not been for some very plucky tackling by Greig and Hancox we would have suffered a very heavy defeat. In the next and last match against Magdalen College School, Brackley, we won fairly comfortably against a side which was a good deal heavier and older than ourselves.

R. M. Bartlett (T) has proved a good captain, always working very hard and not given to irritating his side by constant chivvying. When he learns to give better passes to his fly-half, he should prove to be a very useful scrum-half. M. E. J. FitzGerald (G) has developed into quite a promising fly-half. He has a good pair of hands, tackles really hard (how one wishes they all did) and is learning to find touch and drop goals when the need arises. He must learn one thing, however, which is of paramount importance—his first duty is to feed his threequarters.

The forwards have worked well together and have been excellently led by D. M. Berry (W). As hooker J. J. Davis (T) has been quite effective, though his methods are somewhat unorthodox and would be useless against a good pack. G. H. B. Carter (T) and N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W) have been good front-row men and P. M. Young (C) and P. V. Roberts (T) have been effective as wing forwards; Roberts, however, must remember that a forward is supposed to use his feet rather than his hands. The main fault of the scrum has been its inability to heel the ball quickly.

It has been encouraging to note a distinct improvement in the tackling, though it still leaves much to be desired. It would be still more encouraging to see as much 'go' and 'feeling' as is displayed in the inter-House matches.

Results :—

v. BEDFORD (Away).	Lost, 3—24.
v. RUGBY (Away).	Lost, 6—35.
v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL (Home).	Won, 27—8.

JUNIOR COLTS' FIFTEEN MATCHES

v. BLOXHAM (Away).	Drawn, 3—3.
v. BLOXHAM (Home).	Lost, 3—8.

UNDER 14 MATCHES

v. BLOXHAM (Home).	Won, 3—0.
v. WINCHESTER HOUSE (Away).	Won, 9—5.

SQUASH

So far this term seven matches have been played, including one school match. This was played at Harrow, and although the School lost 0—5, the teams were equal and we should have done better. It is hoped that Harrow will be able to come here for a return match next term. Two matches have been played against an R.A.F. team, one of which was won and one lost. We beat another R.A.F. team 5—0, and lost to Bicester 2—3. Four people came from Trinity College, Oxford, for a game which was drawn 2—2. A match was also played against the Masters and won 3—2.

The Captain, E. M. Arnold (G), and C. A. Vandervell (B) were the best players. The following also played in the team:—J. A. R. Anson (G), A. J. Rowntree (T), J. F. Chance (C), H. R. Marten (T), C. G. Dealtry (B).

The House matches were played earlier than usual and produced some very close matches, in particular the final in which Chatham beat Temple 3—2. The individual competitions have not yet been finished. Next term there will be Junior House matches.

E.M.A.

FENCING

We have been unable to arrange any fixtures this term, owing to most of the older and more experienced fencers having left. But, on the whole, what the School has lacked in experience it has made up in enthusiasm. There was a large influx of new members at the beginning of term and the performances of several of them promise the attainment of a high standard in the future. It is hoped that the House matches and individual competitions will take place in the latter half of next term.

H.W.H.

FIVES

The Senior and Junior House matches were played off earlier than usual. In the seniors, Temple have at last beaten Grafton after a series of Grafton v. Temple finals which Grafton won. Grafton have held the cup for five years. The final match was close and exciting, Temple winning the last game in the second pair by three points, having won the first pair and lost the third. Chatham were next best.

There was no opposition to Temple in the juniors and they beat Chandos in the final with little difficulty.

E.M.A.

JUNIOR TRAINING CORPS NOTES

The following promotions have been made this term :—

To *Under-Officer*: Sergeants C. G. Dealtry (B), M. G. Manton (C), S. Ruthven (C).

To *Sergeant*: Corporals F. E. Kitson (C), J. S. B. Gubbins (T), G. P. Lloyd (B), A. G. R. Atkins (G), J. V. Bartlett (B), H. A. S. Murray (C), E. M. Arnold (G).

To *Corporal*: Lance-Corporals D. L. Pike (G), D. T. M. Service (W), C. E. W. Ferrand (C), P. A. Mulgan (G), A. W. B. Hayward (G), P. D. P. Duncombe (C), B. B. Croom-Johnson (T), A. T. Clarke (C), A. M. Western (C), J. V. Nicholl (G), R. J. Havard (C), W. E. Lord (C), C. B. H. Gill (G), A. G. Maclean (T), P. D. Lloyd (T), K. L. Farrar (G).

Appointed *Lance-Corporal*: Cadets J. Herron (G), A. N. E. Watt (G), J. F. Elliott (C), J. H. W. Pooler (T), H. R. Marten (T), P. D. Rossdale (T), A. J. O. Ritchie (T), C. J. S. Woolf (C), G. R. Kingston (G), M. G. Falcon (C), R. E. S. McKibbin (C), C. A. Vandervell (B), A. A. Macdonald (G), J. E. D. Fottrell (T), T. F. Lloyd (C).

The strength of the Contingent is 328 cadets, 50 more than a year ago. In the War Certificate "A" examinations held last July, 24 out of 54 candidates passed the "Individual" and 11 out of 22 the "Section Leader's" tests. These results were obviously not satisfactory, but the candidates were not good, and the Contingent Officers, who were examining, maintained the required standard.

PRIZES

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Individual), July 1944 :—C. G. Hunter Dunn (T).

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Section Leader's), July 1944 :—A. J. O. Ritchie (T).

Best Recruits (January—July 1944) :—Equal 1st, A. D. Cathcart-Jones (W) and D. S. Withers (G).

COLDSTREAM CUP

The Inter-House Drill Competition on July 22nd was judged by an Officer and a Drill Sergt. of the Coldstream Training Battalion. Results were :—

1. Grafton	80%	5. Cobham	69%
2. Chatham	75%	6. Bruce	67%
3. Temple	74%	7. { Grenville	66%
4. Chandos	71%	{ Walpole	66%

TRAINING

NAVAL SECTION

The strength of the Section this term is 39. 27 Cadets passed the examination for advancement to Cadet A.B. last term. 20 Cadets are taking the examination for advancement to Cadet Leading Seaman this term.

The Section was inspected on October 27th by the Officer-in-Charge, Naval Centre, Oxford, Vice-Admiral A. E. F. Bedford, C.B., C.S.I. His report was entirely satisfactory.

GENERAL

Major-General The Viscount Bridgeman, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., has undertaken to carry out the Annual Inspection next June.

Colonel A. A. E. Chitty, D.S.O., Inspector of the Training Corps and Army Cadet Force, paid an official visit to the Contingent on November 14th.

Two Colonels on the H.Q. Staff of East Central District came unofficially to watch an afternoon's training on October 27th.

A whole-day's exercise was carried out beyond the school grounds on October 13th. The inter-Company scheme was in the nature of things rather above the level of prescribed training, and the weather turned to heavy rain during the afternoon. But great keenness was shown by all ranks, and in spite of inexperience and difficulties there was considerable profit gained from the work. The Signallers welcomed an operational role and did well in it. The Recruits, who had an independent programme, made a particularly successful day of it. The Survey Section, at the mercy of the rain, was rather unlucky but produced commendable results.

On October 20th the 150 O.C.T.U., R. Signals, visited Stowe to give a demonstration. After an introductory lecture the technical equipment was shown working, and a certain number of cadets operated the W/T sets.

All instructors have been working hard to prepare the large number of candidates taking Certificate "A," and, in a term when the ground has usually been very muddy, a supply of part-worn denims for the Recruits has proved invaluable.

Members of the Home Guard have sent representatives to a Battalion Rifle Meeting and to a final Sector Conference, attended in strength the farewell Battalion Parade, and joined the rest of the local Company socially for the evening of the Stand Down.

The Stowe Platoon has served faithfully and cheerfully, three of its members from the day the appeal for them came, and all the Dadford men for long periods. The boys have steadily passed on, together with some of the younger men, to the Services, their fighting efficiency not unaided by earlier Home Guard soldiering.

A.T.C. NOTES

In the examinations held last June six cadets obtained Proficiency Part I, seven completed successfully their Advanced Training and seven others took half the Advanced Training Examination papers and passed. Results of further examinations held in November are not yet available. This term Proficiency Training has been made less intensive and confined to one parade each week, the other parade being devoted to outdoor exercises and interest lectures.

Whole Day Training was held on Friday, October 13th. Senior cadets and recruits visited the parent station, the former for practical work on Engines and Wireless, the latter for interest lectures and flying. The remainder of the unit visited the satellite station for flying and Link Trainer. Altogether some twenty-five cadets were flown on this occasion.

On Friday, November 17th, the Flight joined the Naval Section who were being shown some instructional films. Many of these dealt with Fleet Air Arm work and were of particular interest to us.

N.C.Os.—*Flight Sergeant* :—P. G. Shepherd (C).

Sergeants :—M. R. G. Eyre (G), D. B. Morgan-Grenville (W), C. A. Cooper (G).

Corporals :—I. B. Church (W), J. K. Money (G), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C).

Strength at end of term : 47.

DEBATING SOCIETY

There have been two open Debates this term, and one closed to all but members of the Society; in each one of these eagerness was shown, and many promising new speakers were heard.

The Officers for this term were :—President, Mr. J. M. Todd ; Secretary, G. P. Lloyd (B) ; Treasurer, D. L. Pike (G) ; Librarian, G. P. Lewis (B) ; C. S. O'D. Scott (B), a co-opted member of the Committee.

On October 11th, the 160th Meeting of the Society was held in the Library, the Motion being : "That this House disapproves of Education."

D. L. PIKE (G) put forward a sincere plea for the reform of education rather than for its utter abolition.

J. V. BARTLETT (T) proved, though not entirely to the House's satisfaction, that if we believed in the motion we should have to court savagery.

H. A. CHAPPLE (C) made a clear, amusing speech. Though his arguments sometimes perverted logic, he certainly converted many to his side.

MAJOR E. A. BELCHER delighted the House by his wit, if his wisdom occasionally failed to make itself apparent to some members.

The ensuing debate, though suffering from a lack of definition, was certainly enthusiastic. The Motion was carried in the Upper House by 10 votes to 8, and lost in the Lower House by 28 votes to 59.

The 161st Meeting of the Society, when a large number of members was present, was held in the Library on November 1st. On this occasion the meeting took the form of a Closed Debate, at which the following Motions were before the house :—

"That this House would rather meet Hedy Lamarr than President Roosevelt." Lost, 6—16.

"That in the opinion of this House P.T. should be abolished." Won, 14—10.

"That this House believes all people over 60 should be exterminated." Lost, 2—20.

"That this House believes in Bad Taste." Lost, 11—12.

"That this House disapproves of Monarchy." Lost, 8—16.

This meeting was lively throughout.

The 162nd Meeting of the Society was held on November 22nd, the Motion being : "That in the opinion of this House Films should not try to be profound."

G. P. LLOYD (B), if often irrelevant, delighted the House with his descriptions of Stowe films. His argument was practical if not profound.

C. S. O'D. SCOTT (B) opposed the motion with two speeches, one of which he read for G. P. LEWIS (B) ; his own was witty and pertinent, the other less amusing though more intellectual.

P. H. GUEST (B) parodied himself by giving to the House a series of reasons for attendance at films.

H. M. EVE (G) was serious throughout. Drawing on the writings of film producers he told the House what was the mission of the moving picture.

The debate that followed, though it flagged for a time, enlivened towards its close. The Motion was lost in the Upper House 4—13, and in the Lower 16—41.

The following have been elected members of the Society during the term :—J. V. Bartlett (T), M. C. J. Whitby (G), M. Morland (B), R. G. A. Pearce (B), A. N. Griffith (B), E. M. L. Latham (C), H. M. Eve (G), M. D. K. Burns (B), S. D. M. Robertson (B) and R. A. Roxburgh (W). Major E. A. Belcher was elected an honorary member of the society.

G.P.L.

THE JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

The J.D.S. has continued to meet on Tuesday evenings during this term and Motions on "Blood Sports," "An International Language," "The League of Nations," "Sunday Cinemas," etc. have been debated. The best speeches have been made by M. Mott (C) and J. P. Tweedie-Smith (B).

The new Officers of the Society are :—Vice-President, J. P. Tweedie-Smith (B) ; Secretary, C. J. Guise (T) ; Committee-man, J. K. Simson (C).

The Society attended the first School Debate of the term on Tuesday, Oct. 11th, 1944.

C.J.G.

THE LIBRARY

This term has seen the introduction into the Library of a large number of books bequeathed by the late Mr. G. G. Gilling-Lax, former Housemaster of Grenville, since killed in action. In addition considerable purchases of new books have been undertaken, the fiction section in particular being in the first stage of its long awaited and much needed augmentation.

On November 23rd Mr. Rosenthal, a distinguished bibliophile, came from Oxford and examined the assemblage of old books in the upper library, advising as to their disposal and value.

The Library acknowledges with gratitude the following gifts:—Johnson and Steevens' edition of Shakespeare (10 vols., 1785), given in memory of R. B. P. Brigstocke (C, 1929); an old map of Buckingham, given by Mr. Downer, of Buckingham; Seeley's Guide to Stowe (1817 edition), given by Sir Reginald Croom-Johnson; and "The Art of the Book" (Newdigate) and "Affiches Révolutionnaires," given by Mrs. A. H. Radice.

P.A.M.

MUSIC

There have been two concerts this term. Pauline Juler and Eric Gritton gave a clarinet and piano recital which included the Brahms F minor clarinet and piano sonata; and Edith Churton gave a 'cello recital which included the Brahms E minor and the Beethoven G minor sonatas for 'cello and piano. Dr. Leslie Russell has given a talk on music. Gramophone recitals have been resumed, on Sunday evenings instead of Friday as before.

The orchestra is playing Haydn's 10th Symphony in D major (without the slow movement), Beethoven's Overture to Prometheus, and Sibelius' "Valse Triste."

The Choral Society is doing the Cantata "Sleepers Wake" and the Motet "Blessing, Glory" (for double chorus, unaccompanied), both by J. S. Bach.

It is expected that there will be a combined choral and orchestral concert on Wednesday, December 6th.

The J.T.C. Band is continuing its good work and high standard of performance, and gave an excellent concert.

THE ART SCHOOL

It is a pity that people do not risk painting much bigger pictures. The tendency to paint on a small piece of paper, rather than a large one, too often affects the painter's style, inevitably making it cramped and ungenerous. This term's results, however, have been good. J. L. Hargrave (G) has produced some water colours of considerable atmosphere and individuality. He has great feeling for trees. J. V. Owen (T) has continued his gouache seascapes on a larger scale, while J. R. Plincke (T) is beginning to combine his technical skill with an artistic sense of subject. I. P. Guinness (C) makes the amusingly enigmatic his speciality. It is unfortunate that so few people are painting in oils. This is partly due to the young age of most members.

Last term's exhibition was quite successful, indeed some thought it the best we have ever given. Among the oils the work of T.C.P. Whidborne (T) was outstanding for his unusual style of delicate shapes and faded colours. The Sketch Club has been a very lively institution this term and has produced many exciting and amusing pictures.

G.P.L.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

THE FILM SOCIETY

The Film Society was lucky enough this term to see "Un Carnet de Bal," one of the best productions of that excellent tradition; the French Cinema. Episodic in form, the film tells of a recently widowed woman who revisits her old lovers, whose names and addresses she has found on an old dance programme of twenty years before, from her first ball.

As the woman who is the connecting link between the episodes, Marie Bell gave, perhaps, the least satisfying portrayal. Of the rest, Françoise Rosay as the mother half-mad after her son's suicide following the marriage of the heroine; Louis Jouvét as the laconic and cynical night-clubbing; Harry Baur as the old monk, in a scene that made striking use of visual pattern; the carefree mountain guide; Fernandel, as the loquacious and bourgeois barber; and, finally and best, the decadent and epileptic doctor in the most telling scene of the film, where a very macabre atmosphere was introduced by slanting camera shots and the continual crashing and grinding of the quayside cranes outside: all these make one wonder why English and American actors cannot rise to these heights, and why English and American direction so seldom seems to attain Duvivier's lightness of touch, and his final freedom from the traditions of stage and novel.

The second film shown was a period piece, whose title, "La Marseillaise," is self-explanatory. Featuring Louis Jouvét, it tells the story of the Marseillais volunteers who came to Paris with their now world-famous song. Somewhat awkwardly constructed, it could be understood best by one with a knowledge of history rather than of French. However, the welkin rang merrily and almost continually with Provençal accents, the clash of steel, the thunder of muskets, and, of course, La Marseillaise in almost endless repetition.

Later in the term the Society will see "Le Joueur d'Echecs," a costume drama of the time of Catherine II of Russia, originally produced as a silent film in 1926.

M.G.M.

THE PUPPET CLUB

At the summer Show of the Club the play performed was a dramatic adaptation of "Alice through the Looking Glass." The story being too long to be produced in full, some scenes were cut, but the script was kept exactly as in the original.

At the end of the first scene, which was of Alice's drawing-room, the lights were faded out while the scene was quickly changed to Looking-Glass House, where everything was the opposite way round.

The first scene of Act II showed the strange insects—beautifully made—flitting among the trees, followed by the well-known scene of Tweedledum and Tweedledee with the rattle and the Carrion Crow. This part was difficult, as in the Tweedles' fierce battle their strings were liable to become entangled.

The next difficulty was that of manipulating the White Knight's horse, but it was overcome by the ingenious substitution of a hobby-horse.

The climax of the last act was Queen Alice's banquet, after which the lights faded, to rise again on Alice waking up in her drawing-room with the kitten.

The marionettes were all excellently made, being accurately copied from Teniel's illustrations, and the whole performance, in manipulation, scenery and general production, amply justified the time and enthusiasm devoted to preparation and rehearsal.

Between the scenes records were played, and like the lighting they were faded on and off. The main one was "Variations on a Nursery Theme," by Dohnyani, which recurred throughout the play. The others were "The Wasps Overture," by Vaughan Williams, introducing the insects' scene, and "Le Carnaval Romain," by Berlioz, which introduced the White Knight.

The proceeds of the show were sent to the Red Cross, and the Club received a personal letter from the Secretary thanking them.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

One meeting has been held so far this term, when A. G. R. Atkins (G) gave a comprehensive lecture on the work and significance of the "Tennessee Valley Authority."

It is intended to hold two further meetings; firstly a lecture from R. K. Kurk (G) on "Exploration in West Africa," and secondly, a meeting for the discussion of a series of subjects.

J.V.B.

THE SCIENCE SOCIETIES

The Science Society has only met once so far this term. During private business, the vacancy caused by the resignation of the previous secretary was filled by the election of W. H. Atkinson (B). Major R. Rossiter then gave one of the most interesting lectures the Society has heard during the last few years. Although his subject, "The Biochemistry of Muscular Contraction," was very wide, Major Rossiter, during the short time at his disposal, gave the Society a most clear account of the salient reactions which occur when a muscle contracts.

The 89th Meeting of the Society will be held on December 2nd, when Mr. J. W. Cornforth (G, 1942) will read a paper on "Raw Materials." There have not yet been any meetings of the Junior Science Society; but it is hoped that R. M. Macnaughton (C) will read a paper on "Liquid Air" before the end of the term.

W.H.A.

THE SYMPOSIUM

Since, at the beginning of the term, the Society was left with only two surviving members, ten new members had to be elected. They were: R. M. Macnaughton (C), R. W. Shirley (T), G. L. E. Spier (G), A. P. Clarke (G), H. L. P. Hingston (T), J. B. More (C), N. N. Proddow (T), C. A. Wauhope (C), M. F. Triefus (W) and M. P. M. Warburton (C). Later in the term, on the resignation of I. B. Church (W), M. Morland (B) was also added to the Society.

On October 3rd, R. M. Macnaughton (C) read an exceedingly amusing paper on that new and rare species of butterfly, "The Family Ghost."

Three weeks later G. L. E. Spier (G) gave an extremely learned account of Ancient Gods, which provoked one of the most interesting discussions in the history of the Society.

Then shortly afterwards R. W. Shirley (T) read his paper on "Hormones," pointing out their great, indeed vital, importance in the human body.

A joint meeting with the XII Club was also held at which Mr. C. H. Lloyd gave a lecture with great detail and yet great simplicity, on "The Manufacture of Paper."

Later in the term H. L. P. Hingston (T) is to deliver a paper on "The Influence of Films on the Modern Generation."

J.J.D.

THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

This note includes many observations made last term and this by various people. A fairly uncommon bird, the Grasshopper Warbler, is suspected to have been seen by several observers. The high-pitched reeling song was heard, but owing to the bird's habit of retiring quickly to the undergrowth by the lake-side, a good view was never obtained. A Hobby was seen chasing a Swift on the South Front. Its slate-blue back and rapid flight were characteristic. Towards the end of last term, it once more became the time for flocks of young birds, and this is when one hopes to see a Rose-coloured Pastor or Starling; once again this hope was fulfilled, for one lucky observer saw one of these birds in a large conglomeration of Starlings in a field near Dadford. Other points of interest are that a Corn-Bunting was seen in a plantation on the Bourbon, though its metallic clinking song was not heard. This bird is common only in certain districts, and as it has not been reported before for some time, it may be possible that it is spreading from another area. Several pairs of Mallard brought off young on the lakes, and an interesting nest of a Moorhen was found in a tree 15ft. from the ground, where it safely brought off its brood.

This term is the real season of flocks, and now the songs of our absent summer residents are replaced by the "seek" of the Redwing and the chatter of the Fieldfare. The former bird was first seen here round about October 12th. Here are some more migration dates. The first Flycatcher of this year was seen near the Sanatorium on May 9th, three days before this bird appeared at its usual breeding haunt at a place known to one of the writers in Yorkshire. The main body of House Martins was gone by the end of the 1st week in October, though a single late straggler was seen on the 19th, and a Sand Martin as late as the 14th; 335 nesting burrows

of the latter species were counted in Dadford sand-pit, as opposed to about 100 in 1943, indicating a considerable increase. Flycatchers were as numerous as ever, and some interesting behaviour was seen by Mr. Aldrich Blake; for he saw one of these birds make four "dive-bombing" attacks on a grey squirrel on the ground, sheering off when within one foot of the intruder, which it evidently recognized as a nest-robber. This term we were visited for three days by a Great-crested Grebe, and four Shoveler Ducks were seen on the Octagon Lake, for one day, including one adult male, two females and one immature bird. It is to be hoped that the hard winter which we are told to expect will bring in some more interesting visitors.

The cases of birds stored in the Temple of Concord have been rearranged by M. F. Wilson (C) so as to avoid the warping caused by the proximity of radiators, which eventually leads to cracks and the inroads of moths.

D.A.I.

R.H.P.

THE VITRUVIANS

There have been two meetings of the Vitruvians so far this term. The Society is most grateful to Mr. J. M. Todd for an interesting and impromptu lecture on "Bridges," on November 4th. D. H. W. Vey (B) read an instructive paper on "The Modern English House" on Saturday, November 18th, which displayed much industry and ingenuity.

The Vitruvians have recently shown more individual enterprise than ever before, and it is significant that only within the past year have papers been read by members of the Society.

The Committee this term has been as follows:—Secretary, A. J. Perceval-Maxwell (B); Treasurer, D. L. Pike (G); Librarian, A. G. R. Atkins (G); co-opted member, P. A. Mulgan (G).

A.J.P.M.

THE XII CLUB

At the first meeting of the term A. W. B. Hayward (G) read a paper on "Voltaire." This was a full and clear account of that author's life and works and included an interesting comparison with his contemporary, Rousseau.

At the next meeting (to which the Symposium was invited) the Club heard a talk by Mr. Lloyd on "Paper." Mr. Lloyd's knowledge was voluminous and he imparted it in a vivid manner. He brought a large number of exhibits to illustrate his talk and actually made a piece of paper before the Club's eyes.

It is hoped that later in the term C. S. O'D Scott (B) will read a paper.

D.L.P.

THE CONGREVE CLUB

Play-readings were held fortnightly. This term we had the opportunity of hearing two great English comedies, "Pygmalion" and "The Importance of Being Earnest." The other plays were: "Caesar and Cleopatra" (Shaw), "The Admirable Crichton" (Barrie), "Hobson's Choice" (Brighouse) and "Laburnum Grove" (Priestley).

By a coincidence "Hobson's Choice" was broadcast the day before our reading; which helped us to get the right Lancashire accent. But the play is not perhaps a successful reading play because it depends so much on gesture and effects. The humour of the trap-door in the shop, for instance, was lost in the reading—and also in the broadcast.

It is assumed that the few who attended these play-readings regularly enjoyed them, or most of them. If the readings also helped in widening their appreciation of dramatic literature, then these meetings were well worth while.

We were grateful to Mr. L. H. Reid for so kindly lending us his room.

Galsworthy's "The Silver Box" is now in rehearsal and a full account of the production will appear in next term's issue.

C.S.D.M.

POETRY

SATAN FINDS THE WORLD

(With apologies to Milton)

Onward he wings his way thro' darkest light.
 Above, below and all around him hang
 The mystic symbols. This was God's new world
 Made by the new-made 'man.' That was the place
 Where he himself, one time, in various form
 Had tempted Adam. What a change there was!
 Above him, in the laden atmosphere,
 Green neon lamps asked him continually
 If he drank beer, or if in winter-time
 Used Smokeless Coal—instead of 'burning marl.'
 Onward he flew, looking for man himself.
 He crossed the sea, and found one bloated corpse
 Drifting amid weird wreckage and crude oil.
 He came to land again, but still no man;
 Until he saw in subterranean vaults
 Gigantic steel and concrete dungeon cells,
 The crouching creatures, cloistered in the earth,
 Against the infernal bombs. He did not know
 That watchers stationed on the warring coasts,
 With eagle eyes that saw both day and night
 And swept the sky continually, had seen
 Himself, with monstrous flight, and profile foul.
 The Royal Observer Corps on Hartland Point
 Had seen at 1500 Hours, due West,
 A form mysterious, with queer-shaped wings.
 The undercarriage hung below. The wings
 Had slight dihedral, while the tail-plane showed
 A lot of tail, but very little plane.
 The method of propulsion also was
 An innovation. Rocket, jet or screw;
 Nothing of these it was. The monster flew
 By gently liting those mysterious wings,
 And moved with lightning speed. The armament
 Was not identified. But evil oozed
 From every line and curve of this strange craft.
 The Royal Observer Corps was mystified.
 It had the lines of no existing plane:
 Than Secret Weapon, what else could it be?
 So Satan was reported as V.3.

J.V.B.

SOME TREE MEASUREMENTS

In April, 1928, *The Stoic* recorded the measurements of six of our big trees. These trees have been examined again this term, and the following facts may be of interest.

1. The Cedar of Lebanon near the Temple of Concord has increased a foot in girth in the last 16 years, and now measures 24 feet; in height it has increased 5 feet, and is now just 100 feet high.

2. The large spreading yew by the Worthy river is a very difficult one to measure, and it is by no means certain that the present measurements present a real comparison with those taken in 1928. For reasons that are obvious if the tree is examined, it is impossible to measure the girth at breast height; a mean of its girth at 3 feet and 5 feet gives a present girth of 14 feet 9 inches—the same as in 1928; its horizontal diametric spread in a north-south direction is 112 feet—an increase of 12 feet. As far as can be ascertained, no attempt has hitherto been made to measure the circumference of the spread of the branches; but it would appear to be in the neighbourhood of the enormous figure of 125 yards.

3. The tall Spruce by the Temple of Ancient Virtue has grown very little lately. Its girth has increased by one inch to 10 feet 9 inches, and its height by 2 feet to 116 feet.

4. The tall Yew between No. 2 and No. 3 has increased 7 inches in girth to 12 feet 7 inches, and 3 feet in height to 76 feet (a very great height for a yew).

5. The Cedar with the magnificent bole near the Doric Arch has increased 9 inches in girth to 15 feet 3 inches, but its height is the same as formerly recorded, 108 feet.

6. The Tulip Tree on the left of the path leading from the Main Building to Chatham has become stag-headed and has not been re-measured.

BUCKINGHAM RED CROSS HORTICULTURAL SHOW

The above Show was held in the Town Hall, Buckingham, on September 12th and 13th, 1944. A sum of £113 1s. 6d. was handed to the Red Cross Agricultural Fund, maintained by the proceeds from Victory Garden Weeks and Fetes. The Judges and the I.C.I. representative were unanimous in saying that the exhibits in Buckingham were the finest that they had seen anywhere during the year. A well-known figure in the Bursar's office, Mr. H. A. Garrett, was secretary, and rightly felt proud of the results of his hard work.

In view of the comments of the judges and, incidentally, of all other frequenters of Horticultural Shows, it is worth noticing the successes of several members of the Stowe Staff, all of whom are well-known to past and present Stoics.

Syd. Jones: 23 firsts; 7 seconds; 3 thirds; and the Duke of Gloucester's signed Certificate of Merit. Such a record is astonishing, but Stoics who are familiar with Syd's work as head groundsman at Stowe will realize how well-deserved such successes must have been.

Louis Whitehead: 5 firsts; 4 seconds; 4 thirds.

H. A. Garrett: 3 firsts; 4 seconds; 5 thirds.

Frank Jones: 1 first; 5 seconds; 2 thirds.

Perce Johnson: 2 seconds; 3 thirds.

E. G. Gillett: 1 third.

THE FALL OF MAN TWENTIETH CENTURY .

Once upon a time there was a Great Artist who lived in a garret. In the morning he would paint, in the afternoon he would think, and in the evening he would say his prayers; and his pictures were great pictures, and his thoughts were great thoughts, and his prayers were great prayers, for he was a Great Artist. But great as he was, he was unhappy, because his pictures wouldn't sell and he had no money, so that he was always hungry, and only yesterday his girl friend had refused him because he was so poor.

Now one afternoon while the Great Artist was thinking great thoughts he looked up and saw before him a beautiful fairy dressed all in white. Her hair was golden, her feet were brown and bare, and her voice was of silver. And she said: "The first necessity of any civilized and ordered community is that there should be food, work and homes for all. As you have no food, no work worth the name, and far too small a home, I have thought out a Plan for you. It would be idle to pretend that this Plan provides the perfect answer to all the many problems that face us at this stage, but at least it constitutes a valuable first step towards the attainment of that most important of all freedoms, the freedom from want, without which there can be no happiness and no security in the new world order—now long overdue—which it must be the first ambition of every socially conscious citizen to inaugurate with as little delay as possible. This Plan, to state the case briefly, is that I should make use of my magic wand and convert you into a pig. Should you agree to this suggestion you will find that you will never be hungry (for people will never run out of bad apples and potato peel to provide you with food), you will find no difficulty in obtaining a wife (the number of sows to each male is at least 1.7 and is rising rapidly to 1.75), and as for a home—well what could be better than a nice comfortable pigstye with plenty of straw and a really muddy floor? So you see, if you accept the Plan all your troubles will at once disappear and you will be absolutely and unquestionably Secure."

Now when the Great Artist heard what the fairy had to say he was very troubled, for his stomach said in a loud voice: "I'm hungry, I want food at any price," and his heart said very persistently: "I'm starved of love, give me a wife at any price," but his soul chanted in a low intense voice: "Better be a man in sorrow than a contented pig."

But the voice of his soul was too deep to be heard above the voice of his stomach and the voice of his heart, and so, after a long pause, the Great Artist said: "I submit: show me the forms."

So now there is a Poor Pig. In the morning he eats rotten apples, in the afternoon he woos his favourite sow, and in the evening he sleeps; and the apples are poor apples, and the sow is a poor sow, and the sleep is a poor sleep, for he is a Poor Pig. But, poor as he is, he is always happy now.

And of course there are no longer great pictures, no longer great thoughts, and no longer great prayers—for he is a Great Artist no longer.

C.S.O'D.S.

