

# THE STOIC



*Number Sixty-eight*

DECEMBER 1945



J. E. G. Gentilli (C, 1943)

SOUTH FRONT

Oil Painting by 1

# THE STOIC

VOL XII

DECEMBER 1945

No. 1

## OLD STOICS IN THE FORCES

THE publication of the third and last issue of "*Old Stoics in the Forces*" makes it possible to state in figures some of the achievements and losses of the War. The list does not claim to be complete, for further information continues to come in. But the compilers have decided to delay publication no longer, reserving for a possible supplement such additions as may later be made to their records.

It has been found impossible owing to lack of information to record either wounds or "mentions." But those who have been prisoners of war and those who are still "missing" are indicated by symbols, and there are separate lists of all the fatal casualties and all the decorations of which we at Stowe have knowledge.

The total number recorded as having served in the Forces is 1918. Of these we know that 264 have lost their lives—a proportion of one in just over seven.

The total number of decorations gained is 242—a proportion of one in just under eight of those who have served. The list includes 2 V.Cs., 111 M.Cs., 46 D.F.Cs., 28 D.S.Os., 21 D.S.Cs., and 34 other awards.

In considering these figures it is impossible not to feel pride in the distinguished services which men from this School have rendered in the War. But our chief feeling must be one of sorrow for the great gap which the casualty list has made in our little community. We cannot easily bear to lose 264 out of our small number. We cannot easily bear to lose (for it is a question of quality as well as quantity) so high a proportion of the gifted and the loved. Time makes good such losses in

the end, or at least wipes out their memory. But while those of us live who knew these men the void they have left will never be filled.

We shall mourn them not only as friends whom we loved but also as Stoics who helped to make Stowe and, had they lived, would have adorned it by their achievements as they have adorned it by their death.

## OF TIME PAST

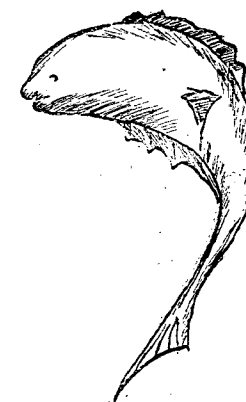
POPE called Stowe "Elysium." Present inhabitants of the place would hardly call it that. Its Elysian days, as the greatest of country houses, are done. No longer is it the statesman's playground of magnificent gardens and splendid apartments; outside hunting and rural sport; inside fine pictures and folios, brisk entertainment with the ladies, and impromptu themes and witticisms from a Pope or a Thomson. Chesterfield, Vanbrugh, Pitt, and Congreve came here to take their ease with the Grenvilles amongst all the pleasures that "Nature to advantage dress'd" could provide, and wrote its praises in language as extravagant and artificial as the fanc-adorned glades and temple-crowned vistas that called them forth. Hear, in the words of Horace Walpole, how they delighted their leisure.

"We all of us, giddy young creatures of near three score, supped in a grotto of the Elysian Fields, and were refreshed with rivers of dew which dropped from the trees and put us in mind of the heroic ages when kings and queens were shepherds and shepherdesses, and lived in caves and were wet to the skin two or three times a day." In such ways were Stowe's distinguished visitors amused, visitors soon to number royalty in the exiled Louis XVIII, who was given an uncommonly bad dinner, and whose cylindrical person was commemorated, not inappropriately, by the erection of the Bourbon Tower. And later still in Queen Victoria, who not only disposed of the Duke's money, but brought Albert with her to dispose of the Duke's game: in one morning he shot one hundred and fourteen hares, twenty-nine pheasants and a snipe.

But that was long ago. We who live at Stowe today cannot look on it, as did the worthies of the eighteenth century, as a pleasure ground.

For us the South Front will be remembered as the background to many a perspiring afternoon of martial exercise, the ruins of the Temple of Friendship as the setting for the dusty red tiers of tennis courts, "George" as a convenient grandstand on the touchline, the Corinthian Arch as the turning point of a familiar run. Pitt may have played cricket here, but he could hardly have looked on the Grecian Valley as the route to a non-professional's field of sport. Today one fills the dome of their Marble Saloon with cries on three mornings in the week, or makes the lesser vault of the Queen's Temple resound with orchestral clamour. Our predecessors dined with more elegance but less gusto than is exhibited today in the State Room, and where they moved to the stately measures of the minuet they would now have to do their preparation. Pope portrayed the temples in hexameters, but he never had to take one by platoon attack.

There can be no disputing that Stowe was built for their purposes rather than for ours. The surprising thing is that its atmosphere is not marred by all the inappropriate things we do here. Its beauty is more deeply appreciated by people who have spent in it, not a frivolous weekend, but a life that can be sometimes humdrum, sometimes strenuous. One of our predecessors from the eighteenth century returning today would be quite mystified by what he would find going on in and around his old haunts. For us too, points of contact with these Older Stoics are elusive. It is even doubtful if we can say we share with their Graces, the late Dukes of Buckingham, a familiar sensation when passing over the Oxford Bridge: they probably never went fast enough.



## DECORATIONS

The following awards have been made to Old Stoics in addition to those already recorded.

### BAR TO D.S.O.

WING COMMANDER P. B. LUCAS, D.S.O., (G, 1934), R.A.F.V.R.

### D.S.C.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER K. A. GOUDGE (C, 1928), R.N.V.R.

### BAR TO M.C.

MAJOR A. H. CAMPBELL, M.C. (C), Probyn's Horse.

MAJOR A. C. R. ALBERY, M.C. (G, 1935), Royal Engineers.

### M.C.

MAJOR G. V. SEYMOUR (C, 1929), Royal Scots Fusiliers.

MAJOR E. S. CORBETT (B, 1933), The Queen's Royal Regt.

MAJOR J. AUSTIN (B, 1933), Suffolk Regiment.

MAJOR D. S. L. DODSON (C, 1937), Royal Scots Fusiliers.

LIEUTENANT R. P. FARRER (B, 1940), Welsh Guards.

LIEUTENANT J. G. B. CHESTER (B, 1943), Coldstream Guards.

LIEUTENANT C. M. CAMPBELL (W, 1943), Scots Guards.

LIEUTENANT G. K. MCCONKEY (G, 1943), 12th Royal Lancers.

### D.F.C.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT G. C. S. PEARSON (C, 1940), R.A.F.V.R.

### O.B.E.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. P. CROOM-JOHNSON (T, 1929), King's Royal Rifle Corps.

WING COMMANDER H. K. DAWSON-SHEPHERD, R.A.F. (T, 1930).

### M.B.E.

MAJOR P. T. HAYMAN (G, 1933), Rifle Brigade.

### C. de G.

MAJOR J. F. CRAMPORN (B, 1928), The Parachute Regiment.

### LEGION OF MERIT—U.S.A.

GROUP CAPTAIN J. E. MCCOMB (C, 1927), D.F.C., A.A.F.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. F. KING (B, 1930).

## CASUALTIES

### KILLED

PRIVATE F. H. B. O'REILLY (C, 1927), Singapore V.D.F.

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

PILOT OFFICER K. S. TOMS (B, 1930), R.A.F.V.R.

MR. W. D. P. BEAUCHAMP (G, 1930), Ministry of Information, Singapore, previously reported missing, now officially presumed killed in H.M.S. "Giang Bee" in February, 1942.

SURGEON-LIEUTENANT J. M. WEDDERSPOON (C, 1930), R.N.V.R., Far East, June 1945.

MAJOR E. A. F. WIDDRINGTON, M.C. (G, 1932), 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, in 1944.

CAPTAIN C. F. G. ROGERS (C, 1932), Royal Sussex Regiment, previously reported missing.

MAJOR A. C. G. HESKETH-PRICHARD, M.C. (C, 1934).

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

SQUADRON-LEADER THE HON. B. D. GRIMSTON, D.F.C. (C, 1934), R.A.F.V.R., in July 1944, previously reported missing.

MAJOR A. H. CAMPBELL, M.C. and Bar (C, 1934), Probyn's Horse; wounded April 1945 in Burma, died August 1945.

SECOND-LIEUTENANT P. J. WILLINK (C, 1934), Border Regiment.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT S. J. D. ACLAND (G, 1934), R.A.F.V.R., previously reported missing.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT D. S. THOMSON (W, 1935), R.A.F.V.R.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT J. G. SETH-SMITH (B, 1935), R.A.F.V.R.

FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT G. R. BROWN, D.F.C. (W, 1937), R.A.F.V.R., in September 1945.

CAPTAIN C. D. EARLE (B, 1938), Royal Artillery, accidentally killed on November 15th, 1945.

CAPTAIN B. BYRNE (T, 1939), East Lancashire Regiment.

FLIGHT-SERGEANT C. WHITEHEAD (G, 1939), R.A.F.V.R., in October 1944.

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

LIEUTENANT R. A. HAMMICK (G, 1940), 12th Parachute Battalion.

SQUADRON-LEADER P. A. BATES, D.F.C. (C, 1940), R.A.F.V.R., previously reported missing.

CADET J. W. HOOPER (B, 1940), The Black Watch.

FLYING-OFFICER R. J. SASSOON (G, 1940), R.A.F.V.R., previously reported missing.

SUB-LIEUTENANT I. M. HORLEY (C, 1941), R.N.V.R.

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

SUB-LIEUTENANT (A) P. D. BENNETT (B, 1942), R.N.V.R.

FLYING-OFFICER LORD CALTHORPE (W, 1942), R.A.F.

## EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS FROM OLD STOICS IN THE FORCES

### GENERAL TAILORING

Did Stowe ever hold classes in tailoring?

The reason that I ask is that when I was a P.O.W. in Germany I came across an old Stowe friend of mine who had all the qualifications of a first-class tailor. His clientèle was most select—a small group of men who had had enough of German hospitality and wanted to go home. This was a common enough desire amongst us all, but this particular group turned up their noses at the usual modes of escape such as digging tunnels, cutting the wire, jumping trains, hiding in the empty tin cart and other such naïvetés; it was the front gate or nothing for them.

Their idea was simply to walk out of the front gate in a party consisting of a German general, an Hauptmann as the A.D.C., a Feldwebel (the German equivalent of a British N.C.O.), a civilian architect, and another civilian who might have passed as a sanitary inspector or a local builder, but who, in point of fact, was nothing more than a Christmas tree on which to hang all the etceteras! A British Lt.-Col. very gallantly volunteered to play the part of the German general; a remarkably brave gesture as he could not speak a word of German. This meant that he risked the severest penalties, resulting from his capture, with his appearance as his only safeguard. However, the party was blessed with a fluent German speaker, who took the role of the A.D.C. and bore the entire linguistic burden on his capable shoulders. The Feldwebel was a usual adjunct to these "General's visits," and in this scheme was merely dressed up in order to swell the party to a reasonable size, and to assist in carrying the extensive equipment necessary for an escape. The two civilians were to appear suitably revolting and hunnish, and were also used as beasts of much burden.

From now on the story belongs to my friend 'X', who was entirely responsible for the clothing—and it was truly amazing. The recipe was roughly this. Take a Polish overcoat, boil it for three or four hours adding soda to taste, dry carefully, shave with an old safety razor (to get the fluff off) and the result is ready for the tailoring department! This, believe it or not, under the skilful ministrations of 'X' became a natty German tunic or a chic pair of riding-breeches suitable for any General. Thereafter the business became a little more decentralised. Someone cast the metal buttons, the general's Eisen Kreuz, and the belt clips with 'Gott mit Uns' embossed on them; the embroidery department dealt with the oak leaves for the general's epaulettes, the eagles' wings, conduct stripes and cap badges; others organized the making of the hats (a very specialized job in itself), while the leather department set about making riding boots, a 'Leica' camera-case, belts and revolver holsters. Meanwhile "Thomas Cook & Son," our forgery staff, made out the necessary 'Ausweis' papers, letters of introduction (signed with a delightful reproduction of the Commandant's signature) and a thousand and one other things to help the party on their journey. When you consider that facsimiles of all documents had to be reproduced by hand with pen and ink, you will realize how some of us kept ourselves occupied.

I could go on enumerating the details for hours, but I believe there is a paper shortage. So I will leave you to imagine the difficulties of making "ersatz" things look

like the genuine articles. Suffice it to say that all the details were catered for, including the scarlet stripes on the General's trousers, for which someone had to sacrifice a very smart pair of red flannel shorts.

Let me say at this point that the idea was to use the German uniform for leaving the camp only. Therefore, civilian clothing for the General, the Hauptmann, and the Feldwebel had to be carried by the others. The civilians also had to carry most of the food for the three weeks journey once they had got out of the camp.

The success of the scheme depended entirely on the effect the General's rank had upon the sentry at the gate; it was a matter of sheer bluff, but it was thought that a mere private would think twice before questioning a man carrying such a senior rank. For this reason the party chose the secondary gate for their exit, as the main gate led directly into the Kommandantur where there was a risk of meeting the genuine German officers! On this secondary gate there was a sentry on permanent duty, and he was responsible for checking the passes of all incoming and outgoing personnel, including German officers. We had hoped to be able to bribe this man into letting the party go through the gate without showing any form of pass, but unfortunately this was not possible owing to the fact that our date of exodus had to be changed at the last moment, and the man we had in mind was not on duty. This change of date might well have proved fatal for the whole scheme. The original day had to be put forward about a fortnight, but luckily all the preparations had been completed well in advance, so that we were all set to go.

For the big occasion I was asked to be a dresser, and as such was responsible for all my man's impedimenta. I had to dress the "Christmas Tree," and you would have laughed to see the things we contrived to hang onto him. These included, from the skin outwards:—2 prs. long woolly pants; 2 prs. socks; 2 sweaters; 1 pr. overalls; 2 prs. civilian trousers; 2 prs. shoes (one of which, containing  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of bacon in each shoe, was strapped to the back of his legs!); 1 rubber hot-water bottle (for water to drink); 1 Army type waterbottle; 2 prs. gloves; 2 Balaclavas; 2 shirts with only 1 collar and tie; 1 civilian coat laden with cigarettes, matches, maps, aspirins and other medical and personal belongings; 1 mackintosh.

The whole of this formidable list was hidden beneath the folds of a German dustcoat. Needless to say the body that finally emerged from the dressing room was twice the size of the one that went in, but judicious placing of the articles mentioned produced a remarkable German potato-stomach effect which was most realistic. The only visible items were the bottoms of the outermost pair of civilian trousers (the top of which only reached his thighs), the collar and tie and, of course, the all-enveloping dustcoat. Oh yes—and a smart little German hat perched on top of the lot.

The General and his A.D.C. were dressed for appearance only and were not required to carry anything except their passes and a few odd papers in a despatch case. The Feldwebel was not quite so fortunate. He was inclined towards the thin side when he entered the dressing room, but with 50 lbs. of chocolate escape-ration strapped round his chest in cocoa-tins, he seemed to have filled out quite a lot. The weight must have been a tremendous handicap to his dignity, but he carried his burden in great style.

So it was. The party emerged onto the 'Lagerstrasse' in all its glory. Not even their best friends would have recognized them as they calmly set out towards the gate. Conscientious British officers saluted the General, who nodded his head in contented return. The Hauptmann dutifully pointed out the things of interest in the camp, in a constant flow of perfect German, until an English 'pig-dog' of a Sergeant-major failed to salute his General. The General stopped and stared. Horror spread purple

over his face as he swelled with true Prussian indignation. Something had to go . . . it did. "Halten-Sie den Mann," he roared.

Having thus expended, in one fell blast, the sum total of six months' concentrated studying, the General subsided like a pricked balloon, and the Hauptmann proceeded to deal summarily with the wretched Sergeant-major. The party moved on.

At last the gate was reached. The N.C.O. on duty took one look at the General and sprang into action. The gates were flung open and the party sauntered through while the sentry gazed, rigidly at attention, into space. The General had certainly caused a stir. In fact, so much so, that another sentry, who had witnessed the scene, thought he saw his chance of promotion. He rang through to the guardroom. "The General has the Lager left," he said, "but here no car iss." "Ach so?" came the reply, and the guard commander went out to report the matter to the Commandant. The Commandant, of course, did not know anything about a General; so he sent out a man on a bicycle to see which one it was. The fat was properly in the fire, and when the inevitable search-party arrived a most astonishing sight met their eyes. A German General, his Hauptmann A.D.C., an enormous Feldwebel, together with two even more gigantic civilians were legging it down the road as fast as their respective burdens would let them. The road was strewn with odd bits of uniform, food and various impedimenta which had been hurriedly discarded as ballast. One part of the great Third Reich was most definitely in retreat. However, superiority in transport won the day, and the party was marched back more or less intact.

To do the Germans justice, there was no really unpleasant incident over this affair. I think they were so pleased to have made a quick capture that they condescended to treat the episode as a big joke. The culprits were all paraded for the benefit of the entire German staff, and much laughing and badinage went on outside the Kommandantur. They professed themselves amazed at the 'get-up,' which indeed they may well have been, more especially as many of the German Staff who had not heard about the capture sprang smartly to attention as the General and his cortège were conducted to the Commandant's office. At any rate there seemed to be no doubt that the bluff had been a complete success, and but for an incredible piece of bad luck the entire scheme might have been a stupendous example of British effrontery!

#### THE JAPS—ANOTHER ANGLE

The Japs here are helping us in the most amazing way. They are still allowed to carry arms and they do all the sentry work in the city, though of course under British and French surveillance. The Japanese naval ships that were here when the war ended refused to surrender to anyone except the Royal Navy. Since they surrendered they have been doing useful work for us and have been entirely loyal. They man all the harbour launches and supply all the dock workers and working parties both skilled and unskilled. The men work like slaves and seem perfectly happy.

On the whole the Jap Navy has undoubtedly behaved very correctly in occupied territory during the war. It is not the Navy who have dirty work to answer for. It was the Army and Air Force that did all the atrocities.

#### IN INDO-CHINA

I have come to the conclusion that the only French who are any good are the ambulance girls! We got fed up with the officers, who were excitable, rather scrubby and generally incompetent. The girls on the other hand had covered themselves with

glory in the European campaign. About half of them had the Croix de Guerre for bravery . . . The general idea out here is that the French are being incompetent and stupid about this Annamite rebellion and that the British and Japs are pulling their chestnuts out of the fire. The French openly admit that they collaborated with the Japs during the occupation and kow-towed to them completely. The Annamites are a dirty, very uncivilized race, and, much as one sympathizes with them in regard to French Colonial methods, they seem totally unfit to govern themselves.

#### ARISTOCRACY

The aristocratic Italian families of the north-east are unbelievably charming and distinguished. They are still largely feudal and they have kept the poise, chivalry and culture which we in our whirling lives have lost. When I first entered the circle I felt like a boar in a beautiful garden. Everything I did was clumsy; everything I said was oversaid. The conversation drifted about me like the scent of flowers. After a few days I adjusted myself to this new atmosphere, but I have never lost a vague feeling of clumsy inferiority.

#### WE RAN OUR OWN SHOW

It was a huge camp and at the beginning there must have been 50,000 P.O.W. in it. These numbers were, of course, far too large for the Jap to handle and so from the start we pretty well ran our own show. The barracks were not only British-built, but also about the most modern and best planned in the world. Consequently we did live in well constructed buildings, even if they were so terribly crowded that we had to sleep on the floor or on improvised beds of wire netting or on plain boards with rice sacks over them and so on. Of course, as the months went by, all buildings and kit got more and more riddled with bugs. But fortunately we kept clear of lice.

Then, too, we did have a good water supply, thanks to British engineering and our own staffs. We never lacked for water and as a rule one could rely on getting regularly two showers a day—morning and evening. Again we were, of course, dependent on the Nip for the maintenance of the supply from Singapore and this frequently broke down, but all in all we never had to worry unduly.

We were also fortunate enough to have electric light and power, again thanks to British engineers. This enabled us to read at night and produce plays, variety shows, etc. Needless to say, the light was a godsend in the hospital too. Then when in the last months rations got low and wood was scarce and when people began to sell their personal possessions to get money to spend in the canteen or the black market, electric heaters multiplied and private "douvering" became the order of the day.

We had our own well-sinkers who provided us with an emergency water supply and we had our own forestry team which got fuel wood (rubber) for the camp. This wood was hauled into the camp on trailers by officers and men who covered anything up to four miles a time.

Considering matters objectively, we had (entirely as a result of our own efforts and through no fault of the Nip) (a) water; (b) electricity; (c) a good hospital; (d) reasonable living conditions; (e) a daily news service; (f) gardens of our own; (g) excellent entertainments; (h) a camp-constructed theatre (though the Nips had it pulled down in April); (i) magnificent camp repair and factory services.

This last item was perhaps the most remarkable feature of the camp. The workshops turned out an amazing variety of things. Here are some of them:—(1) Arti-

ficial limbs for the limbless, with proper knee-joints made out of odd bits of metal; (2) Brooms and brushes, including tooth brushes, made from Palm fronds; (3) Paper for use either as stationery or otherwise, made by processing Lalang grass; (4) Washing soap made from wood ash collected from the cookhouses, and, as by-products of this, tooth powder and magnesia powder for stomach troubles; (5) Nails for all needs, made from Jap barbed wire; (6) Rubber, made from latex and latente, for the manufacture of rubber soles and for the repair of shoes; also rubber sandals made from sheet rubber which became almost the standard footwear of the camp in lieu of boots; (7) Bookbinding, by the use of latex and old canvas (old tentage etc.); (8) Pottery, including rubber cups and cups for collecting toddy which was used as a means of providing vitamin B for serious Beri-Beri cases—the same factory also produced clay pipes; (9) Green-leaf extract, the machinery for which was first made and then used for drying and crushing hibiscus leaf and lalang grass and tapioca root leaves, which were then made into an extract to be drunk by people suffering from Vit. B deficiency, such as Scrotal Dermatitis, Pellagra, eye trouble, etc.; (10) Innumerable cooking containers, ladles, mugs, mess-tins and practically every conceivable welded article you can think of, made from steel lockers which were part of the barrack equipment of Selarang and Roberts Barracks in peace-time; (11) Axe heads and chungels, forged in our own blacksmith shops, as well as wheelbarrows, etc.; (12) A thread machine which was first made and then used for unthreading old socks and other woollen and cotton u/s clothing and making fresh shorts out of old scraps.

#### SINGAPORE REVISITED; DEBTS REPAID

I have just paid a visit to Singapore—my first excursion as a free man. It is a wonderful sensation to be able to walk about just as one pleases, looking into shop windows and occasionally adjourning to a Café for an iced drink. One learns to value the simple pleasures of life after three and a half years as a P.O.W.

It does one's heart good to see life coming back to Singapore. The shops are selling English toilet necessities and rolls of silk and other cloths which for three and a half years have been concealed from the Japanese. Shops which two months ago were closed, because the only way their owners could get enough food to live on, and that was barely adequate, was to work as Coolies for the Nips, are now once again open and starting to do a brisk trade, chiefly with the Forces and the Navy in particular.

It is great to see the calm way in which the Navy take possession of the place, all so quiet and well managed and oh so British! You have only to think back to the Nip occupation and remember the fear that governed every action of the population, the scarcity of all that is good and the air of dirt and pettiness spread by the Nip; and now the difference, and all the Chinese so pleased to see us back. Yes, it makes one feel proud to be an Englishman. The Chinese have been through hell and yet all the time they did all they could for us, in captivity. In the Kampongs around the camp when working parties were working near them, the Chinese always did their best to give the men extra food, although, because the stomach became the ruling passion of our lives, there were a number of cases of our men taking tapioca root and other food stuffs without permission and, of course, unfairly; to their credit the debts have since been paid.

As soon as free movement started, most of those who had benefited went straight to our Supply Depot, and, collecting as much rice as they could carry, took it to the Kampongs and gave it to the people who in our days of adversity and theirs had done

what they could for us. Most individuals have repaid their debts. I only hope we as a Nation will repay what we owe to the many peoples of the East and above all the Chinese for all that they have done and endured for us during these past years.

It is amusing now to see on sale in the shops watches, pens, cigarette cases and other articles of value which during these past years have been sold by us in the Black Market in order to get the money for buying extra food and thereby keeping alive. The traders have indeed been far-seeing; these same goods are now being resold for good English money to many of those who sold them, perhaps two years ago. The Chinese put their valueless Nip money, which they had most probably printed themselves, into watches, pens, etc. sold by us and now of course they are reaping the dividends. We don't mind; we got what we wanted at the time and now that we are free, well, we have good money to get what we want again.

#### THE NIP

The atrocities the Nip has committed against both civilians and P.O.W. have certainly been appalling, but they are not a bit worse than the atrocities committed by the Hun, who after all claims to be a civilised westerner. What the Nip has done to us in this war he had been doing to his enemies for centuries. One must try at least to appreciate his background and to realize that the Nip is still a savage, and the standards of morals and everything else of a savage are not those of the Western Democracies. Inexcusable maybe, appalling without a doubt, but before one sits in judgment, one must get things in their right perspective. The Hun I can never forgive, forget or excuse; the Nip, well after all he is not yet civilised.

The Nip is petty, dirty and lecherous as well as having a streak of cruelty in him. He has no use for sick men and little regard for life, but he will be inordinately respectful to the dead. He will turn out for a funeral and salute the body at all times and in all places. He will do anything for a dead man but practically nothing for a sick one. He will do almost anything to save face but he can never give you a straight answer. He is described by our chaps as a "ten minute" man. In other words he will shift mountains for a short time but he cannot keep it up, whereas over a day our fellows by keeping up a steady pace always leave him behind. His treatment of his own troops is often as callous as his treatment of P.O.W. He has no compunction about bayonetting or killing his own wounded, just as he had no compunction about killing ours. He will drive his soldiers just as ruthlessly as us if there is a job that has to be done, and I have seen Nip officers "face slap" N.C.O.'s and Ptes. just as hard, if not harder, than those same N.C.O.'s and Ptes. have done to us. He hates the Chinese and will do anything to degrade and punish them. No torture is too bad, in the eyes of the Nip, for the Chink. Secretly he rather admires, or at least respects, the Englishman, but he hates the American because he considers him an upstart, and I think, too, because he feels that the Yank can be almost as ruthless as he. That may partly account, also, for his hatred of the Chinese.

He has no mechanical sense and the maintenance of most of his vehicles on the island was done by our fellows. He would drive a thing until it broke, regardless of maintenance, and would then leave it. I suppose all the heavy equipment on the island as well as all the permanent installations have been ruined as a result of his negligence, and to give but one example the water supply for Singapore will not be normal for at least two years owing to the failure of the Nip to look after the reservoirs and other equipment.

### SNAILS FETCHED HIGH PRICES

Throughout our whole period as P.O.W. the rations never stood above Beri-Beri level. We did what we could to improve things by forming a camp messing-fund, by means of which money deducted from officers' pay was used for buying vitamin-containing foods such as rice polishings, red palm oil, dried herring or whitebait, soya beans, towgay (a green dahl) and ragi (a sort of millet) and other types of bean. For the period August 1942 to January 1944 most of these foodstuffs were obtainable in the quantities we required, but from January 1944 onwards everything became increasingly scarce and for the last year purchases were limited almost entirely to palm oil and an inadequate amount of ragi, with some dried tapioca root chips thrown in to produce bulk. Hence the increase in the number of cases of Beri-Beri during the last year. We managed to maintain our weight fairly well at first, but everybody's condition was getting worse all the time owing to the shortage of proteins, etc. Fortunately tobacco could still be got (at a price) and that kept the sensation of hunger down.

From March 1945 until the Nip surrendered things were at their worst. Everyone's weight fell with a bump and it was really a period of slow starvation with all the attendant symptoms—weakness, lethargy, and blackouts, but strangely enough not undue hunger. The black market in native foods became rampant at this time. A pound of whitebait, which in August 1942 cost 20 cents, cost 80 dollars in 1945. Snails fetched high prices—from those who could eat them! It was an interesting period to live through, but if the Nip had not surrendered when he did the death rate would soon have gone up with a rush. A good many men had about reached their limit.

### REFLECTIONS AFTER RELEASE

As a P.O.W. I often thought that I should emerge into freedom with an inferiority complex, after hearing all about the Army's new weapons and all the propaganda concerning our own troops. But having seen the people in the Army of Occupation, I do not reckon that they have anything on us. They doubtless know all there is to know about Jungle Fighting and other soldiering matters, but I think that we have learnt more from our experience than they have from theirs. The main difference is that we got out of civilisation and in some cases down to primitive man, whereas they all the time remained part of a machine, and the conclusion I draw is that the experience goes deeper if you get outside the machine instead of remaining in it.

### A FURTHER REFLECTION

Having been insulated from propaganda for over three years and having had a lot of time in which there was nothing to do but think, I am shocked and disappointed to see how the press everywhere seems determined to spread hatred and distrust. I do not know how the world will ever find its way out of its desperate plight if everybody is to be blinded by self-seeking and the thirst for revenge.

### NAVAL SURGEON

Next day one of the ships in our Flotilla reported a Rating with severe abdominal pains. They did not carry a doctor and they wanted me to be sent over. But there was a colossal swell and a strong south-westerly gale, which made the sea so rough that there was no chance whatever of going over in a boat. So we just had to wait and hope. However, on the following day the man was worse and the sea was better—though

only very little better—and the Captain allowed me to go over in a boat. Oil fuel was spread on the water, and, as the boat was superbly handled by the Lieutenant in charge, I made the trip successfully and climbed aboard the other ship without mishap. But it had been quite an experience. I found that the Rating had got a very bad appendix, and so after giving him a serum and saline transfusion, we got ready to do him. I got everything prepared and then gave him some Pentothal. The Engineer-Lieutenant volunteered to give the anaesthetic and he gave it as well as I could possibly have wished. With the help of the sick-berth attendant (who had never been at an operation before, but was very good) I got the appendix out quite easily and sewed up. The whole thing had taken fifty-two minutes. The man is still very ill but I hope to get him ashore at our next port of call.

### A LITTLE SHOOTING

I had been given the job of destroying some blind mortar bombs left behind after one of our training schemes. The District Commissioner gave me a tribal policeman to guide me to where the bombs were. Unfortunately it turned out that he did not know where they were. After a trek of forty miles he admitted this but claimed that he knew someone who knew someone else who had seen the bombs. I left him to scout round the villages and find the man who knew the man who had seen the bombs and get him to find the man who had seen the bombs and get him to find the bombs. Meanwhile I went off to do a little shooting. I got two oryx and two buck, whose meat was much appreciated in the camp the next day. The oryx had splendid long straight horns—about the longest I have seen. They must be very cumbersome things to carry about. When we ultimately found the bombs, I did not fail to remember that the bloke who had preceded me in the job had died in hospital. However, all went well.

### MOUNT KENYA

Two of us went up Mount Kenya—or part of it. It was a fine experience. We took a jeep and after leaving the road crossed miles of sloping grassland, always travelling on one of the ridges. These ridges, with the overgrown valleys between them, rut the gradual slopes of Kenya until the greenery changes to black rock and white snow at the peak. After the grassland came the forest. The transition was quite abrupt and when we entered the forest it was like going into a tunnel. There were black, thick-trunked trees, straight and tall, on both sides of the track, and their branches formed a dark arch above us. The rains had washed the earth off the track, leaving roots and ruts to increase our difficulties. It was quite a job manipulating the jeep through the narrow space between the trees. The jeep's aerial mounting received three direct hits and ended up at 45 degrees to the horizontal. After some five miles of forest we got into an area of tall, brown, dense bushes. These had prickly flowers on them, white, yellow and pink, and they were so thick that they kept visibility down to a few yards. The open ground which leads to the peak consisted of gradual undulations covered with yellow tufted grass and occasional patches of white heather. Unfortunately we had to go back while we were still about fifteen miles from the top and five thousand feet below it. To climb to the top of Kenya involves a lot of problems. Even at the point we reached there were hailstones lying unmelted in the grass. A man who starts from Meru on the equator, as we did, and goes up Kenya for more than one day will need something very different from equatorial clothing by the end of his trip.



## STOICA

*School Officials—Christmas Term, 1945.*

*Prefects*:—R. K. Kurk (Ⓔ), Head of the School; A. J. O. Ritchie (T), Second Prefect; J. F. Chance (C), Prefect of Gymnasium; G. P. Lewis (B), Prefect of Library; D. B. Morgan-Grenville (W), Prefect of Chapel; E. D. R. Campbell (G); M. G. Falcon (Q); D. J. D. Richardson (Ⓒ); D. C. Bakirgian (Ⓒ); D. A. Illingworth (Ⓔ); R. P. Marshall (C); A. N. Griffith (B).

*Rugby Football*:—Captain, R. W. Shirley (T); Secretary, M. B. Le Poer Trench (Q).

The following visitors have preached in Chapel this term:—

September 30th, The Very Rev. Dr. Matthews, Dean of St. Paul's; November 25th, The Rev. Kenneth Riches, Principal of Cuddesdon College, Oxford; December 2nd, C. S. Lewis, Esq., M.A., Fellow of Magdalen Collège, Oxford.

A Confirmation Service was held in the Chapel on Thursday, November 29th, when one hundred and two members of the School were confirmed by the Bishop of Oxford.

Chapel Collections this term have included:—October 8th, for The Pineapple, £27 10s. 8d.; by auction of the Harvest Produce for The Pineapple, £51 9s. 9d.; November 11th, for The Earl Haig Fund, £83 16s. od.

At the beginning of this term, Dr. L. P. Huggins, Mr. A. A. Negus and Mr. E. H. Reynolds returned to Stowe after war service. Mr. E. Cawston, Mr. R. G. Gilbert, Mr. R. M. Hamer, Mr. M. M. Maynard, Mr. W. L. McElwee, Mr. B. R. Miles and Mr. J. M. Selby will be coming back in January; Mr. J. C. Saunders is expected in May.

This term has witnessed the first arrival at Stowe of the son of an Old Stoic, in the person of S. Coke (Q), son of Mr. A. R. T. Coke (Q, 1928).

J. V. Bartlett (T, 1945) was invited to play for the Northern v. the Southern Public Schools at Lord's during the Summer Holidays, but was unable to accept the invitation. M. E. J. FitzGerald (Ⓔ) played for the Middlesex Colts and was selected as Twelfth Man for the Northern Public Schools.

The Laurus Cup for 1944-45 was won by Walpole with a total of 74 points. The runners-up were Temple, with 25 points.

The Annual P.T. Competition, held on July 25th, was won by Temple.

Of thirty-nine candidates for the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board's Higher Certificate in July, thirty-one gained Certificates. Of 101 candidates for the School Certificate, no fewer than ninety-seven were successful. M. Birkett (T) gained a 'Very Good' in all nine subjects for which he was entered:

A Prize has been founded to commemorate the connection of the School with Mr. William Benjamin Hards who was a Governor of Stowe from its foundation until his death in 1944. The Prize will be awarded for Chemistry and will be known as the W. B. Hards Prize.

A note upon Mr. Hards appeared in *The Stoic* of December 1944.

The Hayward Prize for Chemistry was awarded to W. H. Atkinson (B); the James Mayne Prize for Economics was divided between G. L. E. Spier (C) (first) and D. C. Bakirgian (Ⓔ) (second); and the Junior White-Smith Prize (for the year ending July 1945) was awarded to C. S. Edwards (Q).

The total saved by the School during the local Thanksgiving Week was £725 12s. od. This included one or two exceptionally large contributions.

It is hoped to have an Old Stoics Hockey match on March 23rd. Will any Old Stoic who would like to play please send his name to Mr. J. A. R. Anson, Christ Church, Oxford.

The following are results for the Cambridge Medical Examination held in October. Parts 1 and 2 : J. D. Vernon (G), C. G. Hunter Dunn (T); Part 3 : A. N. Griffith (B).

Representative Colours were awarded at the end of last term to M. B. Le Poer Trench (C) and P. C. Murphy (G) for Smimming; and at the end of this term to J. F. Chance (C) for Squash.

School Football Colours have been awarded as follows :—

1st XV. :—D. C. Bakirgian (C), G. J. Chibbett (C), F. D. A. Binns (W), P. M. Young (C), I. Scott-Elliott (W), G. B. H. Carter (T), R. J. Broadley (W), M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), R. M. Bartlett (T), G. F. Armitage (W), R. H. S. Harris (C), M. D. K. Burns (B), P. V. Roberts (T).

2nd XV. :—C. M. Mosselmans (C), A. K. H. Bull (G), E. C. Skepper (T), J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W), R. P. Marshall (C), C. A. Hancox (G), J. J. Davis (T), M. D. T. Loup (T), J. H. W. Pooler (T), N. Turquand-Young (C), J. M. Lewis (T), D. B. Morgan-Grenville (W), A. T. B. Bik (C), R. K. Kurk (G).

3rd XV. :—D. J. D. Richardson (C), J. O. Arnold (G), W. C. O. Munks (C), D. R. North (W), M. R. S. J. Mackey (C), J. V. Owen (T), C. H. Corfield (T), M. T. Riddell (G), P. D. Haigh (C), A. P. Dewing (C), J. H. Bourdon Smith (G), A. B. S. Mackay (T), R. W. Spielman (G), C. J. S. Wood (G).

Colts Stockings have been awarded to :—S. B. Cunningham (T), D. A. McL. Connell (G), L. R. S. Marler (G), G. M. Booth (C), J. D. Lloyd (B), J. K. H. Torrens (C), R. A. Roxburgh (W), C. A. Wauhope (C), P. J. Norris-Hill (G), R. D. Osner (C), C. H. Bradly (B), B. A. Platt (C), J. M. Shinner (B).



M.O.I. Photograph ]

MR. CHURCHILL INSPECTS A GUARD OF HONOUR OF THE SCOTS GUARDS

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(Members of Walpole House between 1939 and 1943 will recognize a Stoic whose name appears in the list of new decorations in this number.)

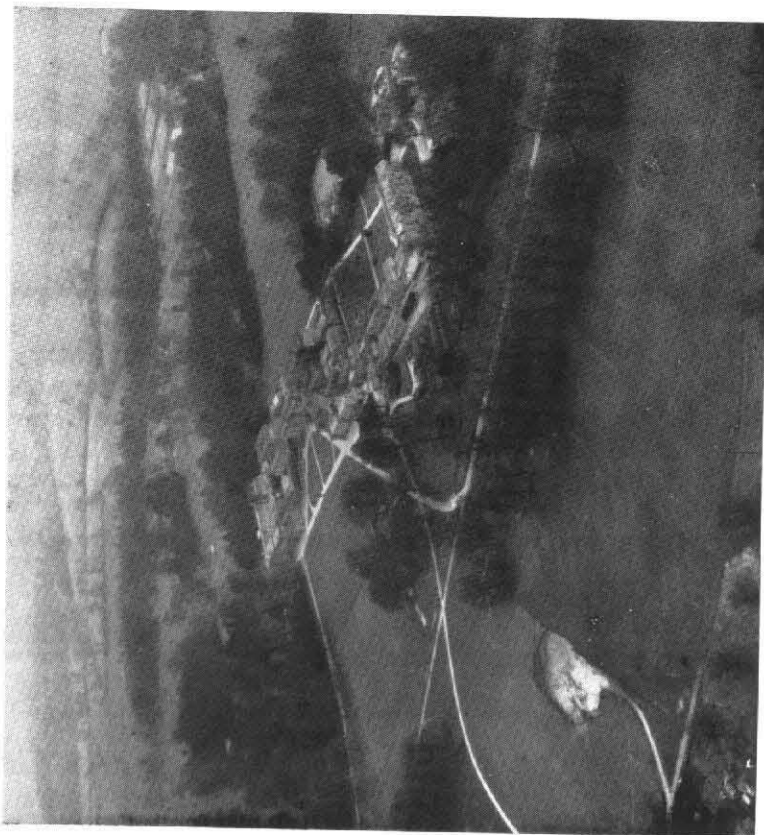
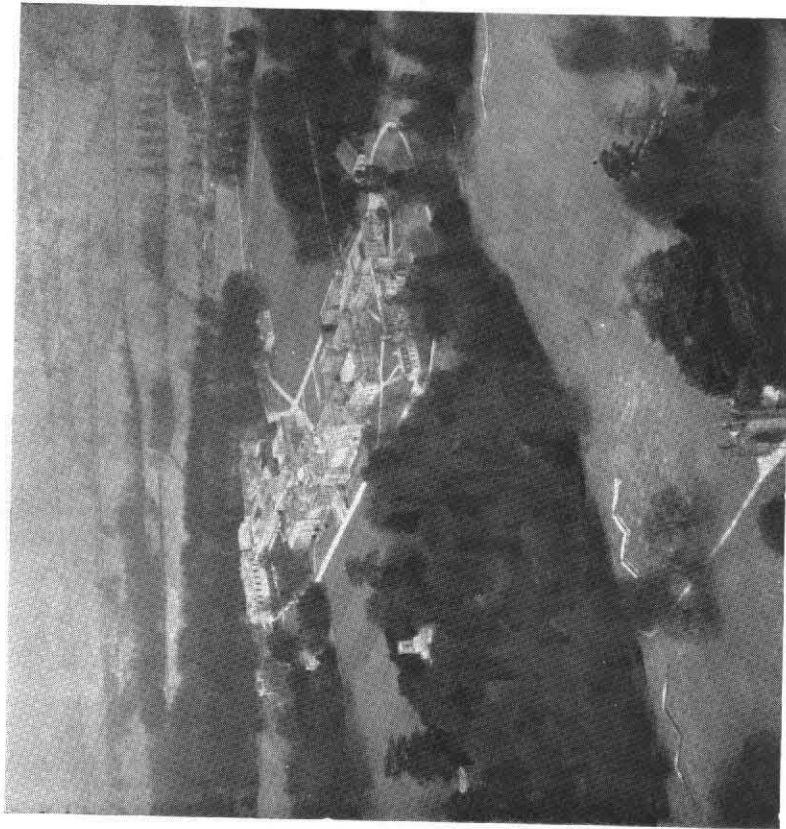


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VISIT TO 'DAILY EXPRESS' HEADQUARTERS,

[The Daily Express.

November 1945



[E

WEST AND EAST

17

## OLIM ALUMNI

The following Old Stoics were elected as Members of Parliament in the recent General Election :

MAJOR T. V. H. BEAMISH, M.C. (T, 1935), Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, for Lewes (Conservative) ;

MAJOR J. A. BOYD-CARPENTER (C, 1927), Scots Guards, for Kingston-on-Thames (Conservative) ;

CAPTAIN S. T. SWINGLER (G, 1930), R.A.C., for Stafford (Labour) ;

DOCTOR S. J. L. TAYLOR (C, 1927), for Barnet (Labour).

When at the end of September the newspapers published for the first time details of the new Vampire jet-propelled fighter and the new Hornet long-range fighter, said to be the world's fastest aeroplanes of their type, it was stated that the first man to fly these machines had been MR. GEOFFREY DE HAVILLAND (C, 1927), as test pilot to the de Havilland firm. Mr. de Havilland has some 5,000 hours of test flying to his credit. His two brothers MR. P. J. DE HAVILLAND (C, 1930) and MR. J. DE HAVILLAND (C, 1935) have both been test pilots in the firm. It will be remembered that Mr. J. de Havilland was killed in August 1943 when making a test flight in a Mosquito.

MR. J. M. CONNELL (G, 1942) has been elected Captain of Golf at Oxford University.

## MARRIAGES

MR. M. G. SATOW (C, 1932) to Miss P. A. Barrowcliff, on September 14th ; SQUADRON-LEADER R. E. A. MASON (C, 1935) to Miss J. M. W. Clements, on July 5th ; FLYING-OFFICER M. E. FAWCUS (W, 1942) to Miss P. H. Rich, on August 18th ; MR. R. H. WHITE-SMITH (B, 1941) to Miss J. M. Allis, on September 1st ; DR. P. B. S. COOPER (W, 1938) to Miss P. K. N. Hollowell, on October 3rd ; LIEUTENANT D. N. DAVIES (B, 1939) to Miss P. Trehearne, on July 21st ; MAJOR J. J. BARCLAY, M.C. (C, 1931) to Mrs. Andrews on August 28th ; MR. J. H. FERGUSON (C, 1938) to Miss B. Preger

MR. G. R. O. TAYLOR (G, 1937) to Miss M. H. Bird, on August 9th ; FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT C. C. CHESHIRE (C, 1937) to Miss Audrey Pike, on October 30th ; FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT J. C. BREESE, D.F.C. (C, 1935) to Miss Betty Davies, on November 7th ; MAJOR J. M. E. CLARKSON, M.C. (G, 1939) to Miss Marjorie Brown, on November 10th ; CAPTAIN R. A. A. R. WEST, M.C. (G, 1938) to Miss Ann Maria Demetriades, on September 17th ; FLIGHT-LIEUTENANT P. J. TAYLOR (T, 1935) to Miss M. Tetrault, on November 10th, in Montreal ; MAJOR R. A. PEARSON (B, 1937) to Miss Kathleen Joan

Ormerod, on November 27th; MAJOR G. A. DICK-LAUDER (C, 1935) to Miss H. M. Sorell-Cameron, on November 13th; CAPTAIN N. A. USSHER (C, 1937) to Miss Marguerite de Comminges, on November 3rd; MR. R. D. LEA (C, 1930) to Miss C. M. Bolton, on October 6th; SQUADRON-LEADER A. C. BARTLEY, D.F.C. and Bar (G, 1936) to Miss Deborah Kerr Trimmer, on November 28th; MR. P. F. WHITECOURT (B, 1934) to Miss E. B. Van Weel, on June 29th; MR. J. D. JOHNSTONE (C, 1939) to Miss J. R. Barnes, on October 31st.

### BIRTHS

To the wife of SQUADRON-LEADER D. SHAWE, D.F.C. (G, 1933), a daughter, on September 11th; to the wife of COMMANDER (E) F. A. LOWE, D.S.C. (G, 1927), a son, on September 9th; to the wife of MAJOR A. E. JAMES (G, 1934), a daughter, on August 1st; to the wife of MR. P. R. WESTALL (C, 1938), a daughter, on August 17th; to the wife of MR. E. CADOGAN (G, 1931), a daughter, on August 6th; to the wife of CAPTAIN C. A. W. DAWES, M.C. (B, 1938), a son, on August 20th; to the wife of LIEUTENANT (A) T. P. AUMONIER (T, 1938), a daughter, on July 21st; to the wife of MAJOR J. F. CRAMPHORN (B, 1928), a daughter, on July 20th; to the wife of MR. A. ALLAN (W, 1937), a son, on April 10th; to the wife of LIEUT.-COLONEL R. A. GARDINER (C, 1929), a daughter, on December 17th; to the wife of COMMANDER R. A. NEWBERY (C, 1930), a son, on September 19th; to the wife of CAPTAIN C. E. BELLAIRS THOMPSON (B, 1938), a daughter, on September 21st; to the wife of WING COMMANDER P. G. AGNEW (C, 1932), a daughter, on September 22nd; to the wife of LIEUTENANT F. E. HANNING-LEE (G, 1936), a son, on September 17th; to the wife of MR. M. F. WYVILL (C, 1928), a son, on September 4th; to the wife of MR. C. C. CAMERON (G, 1930), a son, on March 21st, 1941; to the wife of MAJOR M. E. FLETCHER, M.C. (C, 1936), a son, on October 2nd; to the wife of MAJOR P. C. E. RUSSELL (T, 1932), a daughter, on October 2nd; to the wife of MR. R. G. S. DODWELL (G, 1934), a daughter, on October 4th; to the wife of MR. R. H. L. FARMER (G, 1933), a daughter, on September 8th.

To the wife of GROUP CAPTAIN J. E. MCCOMB, D.F.C., L.M., (C, 1927), a daughter, on September 1st; to the wife of MR. J. E. DAWSON (C, 1935), a daughter, on October 26th; to the wife of Major P. A. J. GORE GRAHAM (C, 1930), a son, on November 14th; to the wife of MR. DAVID NIVEN (C, 1927), a son, on November 6th; to the wife of MR. B. C. H. MOWBRAY (T, 1926), a son, on September 30th.

### OLD STOIC DINNER 1945

The first Old Stoic Dinner since 1938 was held at Grosvenor House on November 24th. It was not possible to provide dinner for more than two hundred and as a result a very large number of applicants had to be disappointed.

The gathering included four Old Stoics who had joined the School at its opening in May 1923 and four who left the School in July 1945. Speeches were made by Group Captain G. L. Cheshire, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C., and Major J. A. Boyd-Carpenter, M.P. Visitors from Stowe included the Headmaster, Major Haworth, Mr. Capel Cure and Mr. Playford.

### A MASONIC LODGE

It has been suggested that the time has now come for the School to start an "Old Stoic" Masonic Lodge.

Any Old Stoic who is interested and would like to be a founder, should communicate with Mr. A. G. A. Cook, Glen Island, Taplow, Maidenhead, giving his name and address, his Masonic rank, and the Lodge to which he belongs.

Anyone who is not a freemason, but feels that he would like to become one, should write, and his name will be placed on a list to be dealt with after the foundation of the Lodge.

## STOWE CLUB FOR BOYS

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

December, 1945.

To the Editor of *The Stoic*.

Sir,

You will remember that in my last letter I mentioned in a general way that at last new premises had been obtained for the Club. I am happy to say that work has been begun on repairing and adapting the premises, and it is hoped to have them ready for occupation in mid-February.

The premises are large, and besides a membership of 400 of our own boys, many other social activities are contemplated.

I do ask, therefore, that any Old Stoic who can spare time for the Club regularly for any evening of the week should communicate with me.

One Old Stoic helper is, I feel, worth two ordinary helpers with no "family" interest.

I would like with your permission to send a special report on this matter for inclusion in your next issue.

The Club at the moment has just recovered from the gas-strike and is now reasonably warm again.

Major J. W. T. Lilley (G, 1930), Secretary of the London Committee, has recently visited us, and I wish that more Old Stoics would call and see us.

All three football teams are doing well, the two table-tennis teams win more than they lose, the dancing class is flourishing, the drama group is not too strong at the moment but will develop in due time.

Every member of the Club is looking forward to a "Stowe visit," when they may challenge the School to a football match.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

C. F. JUPP (*Warden*).

## TOCCATA AND FUGUE 1945

"I love you, I love you, I love you," screeches the gramophone. "Sweetheart, sweetheart, sweetheart," roars back the radio. "I'm a little on the lonely side," bellow the crowded changing rooms. The great god Pan is jitterbugging up and down heaven. Pablo is a dreamer because he hasn't got his sweetheart, but what do I care? My dreams are getting better all the time. Keep the production lines rolling, ye gods of Silver and Brass! Churn out your synthetic syncopated love!

Packed, sweat-soaked, smoke-clouded dance-halls. "Shall we dance?" and into the jostling whirlpool we rush, swaying hither and thither, giving way to forces beyond our control. I kick someone on the shin. "I'm so sorry." Am I? Still, what does it matter? We're enjoying ourselves.

"Are you enjoying yourself?"

"What?"

"I said are you enjoying yourself?"

"Oh yes, rather; aren't you?"

Sweat-soaked shirt, hot clammy palms. (Why don't they open a window?) Backwards and forwards, in and out, round and round, now stopped, now moving, always swaying to the tune, flowing with the tide, prancing to the sophisticated rhythm until two o'clock in the morning. Eternal embrace, everlasting din. Noisy, glorious, uproarious futility.

A.M.W.P.

## THE LAMPSHADE

The lampshade was made from an old will. There were five signatures on it.

She switched on the light and examined the shade. Then she drew the curtains. Outside it was very dark and very quiet. She brushed her hair and put on her shoes, then she turned, walked across the room and turned the key in the door. Then she got down on her hands and knees and picked up the knife from behind the dressing table. The handle was made of mother-of-pearl and she could see her reflection in the shining blade.

Suddenly the lock clicked. He must have taken the other key. She sat down in the chair and began to tremble. The door opened quietly and he came quickly across the room to her. He looked at her for a few seconds without speaking, then turned slowly to the window. He ripped the curtain aside, and, with a violent tug, the cord was in his hand.

She stood up and slowly began to move backwards. He followed her with the cord stretched in his hands. Suddenly there was a flash as the silver streaked through the air, a shrill cry and a crash as the lamp fell to the floor. The taut cord slowly went slack, then dropped from his hands. She felt very sick now, and she couldn't see her face in the blade any more.

The lampshade was made from an old will. A thin line of crimson trickled down it and on it there were six signatures . . .

H.H.

## FRUSTRATION

"Is *The Stoic* as good as it should be," screamed the placard (placards always scream). "Why don't you do something about it?" Yes; we could; or so we thought at the time. Two geniuses equal one super-genius, we said, and we can supply the geniuses. We then forgot about it, as all geniuses do.

A fortnight later a notice went up—thereon was writ "Closing date November 21st." We must get down to work; we said. But then arose the awful problem of what to write. We're no poets; we know no funny stories; prose does not flow glibly from our quills as maths books from Durell. We despaired.

Then one day at lunch X started up, "My uncle, you know, my uncle . . ." (X has innumerable uncles, aunts, cousins, parents and other relations). Ah, a skit on X, thought we. However, X might not like that, and everyone must like our skit. Again we gave it up. But, as monitors late for school weeks will agree, time flies. On November 21st the subject gripped us again, this time in Assembly, but the bell rang and we went into supper to hear the melancholy tale of X's aunt. At 3.30 on the 22nd the flame of our endeavour was rekindled. Too late, alas, too late! Our plans will be frustrated. Quelle horreur! But why not write our Jeremiah's Journal, our Lamentation for Frustration? So here we are, trying to *out-club* *The Stoic* at its own game: to wit, wit.

G.H.R.  
M.W.

## PUZZLE

INSTRUCTIONS.—There are the names of 15 composers in this puzzle; they are to be obtained by taking adjacent letters in horizontal or vertical lines, but not diagonal. The solution is to be found on Page 51.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	N	S	P	O	H	C	A	B
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
V	L	U	I	L	I	H	A	R
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
I	L	I	N	K	S	M	E	T
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
S	I	L	G	A	Z	O	B	A
37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
H	B	E	N	R	T	E	E	N
46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
A	N	D	V	O	H	O	V	A

## POETRY

## LIFE ONCE WAS HERE.

Life once was here, upon this mellowed ground.  
 Now nothing is save stubble, root and clay.  
 All life that was has rotted in decay,  
 Or withers, dying, where the earth has frowned  
 At war. Entranced I gaze, but not a sound  
 I hear, no movement see, of life. No ray  
 Of sun. No breath of wind. And though 'tis day,  
 A mournful darkness reigns. Here have I found  
 War-trammelled earth, which with Man's blood is warm.  
 Mars scorched you, Nature! But you rest secure.  
 He thrust his fiery sword, yet did no harm,  
 For what is not, will be again once more,  
 And all your verdure and your rural charm  
 Will flourish onward o'er that scar of war.

D.R.N.

## MEMORY

It has been said how measureless  
 The beauty is of yesterday,  
 Having not there the bitterness  
 It has today.

"Turn to Remembrance," say the wise.  
 "Remembrance cannot but be fair  
 To those whose paths are paved with sighs  
 And tears and care."

Tired with th' oppressive load of age  
 And myriad thoughts that troubled me,  
 I fled from life, turned back the page  
 Of Memory.

Now must I meditate there still,  
 For faces, voices, smiles I know,  
 Actions remembered, cling, and will  
 Not let me go.

M.B.

## PREFACE FOR A FRENCH FILM

The age-old gestures and the look of anger,  
 The exaggerated emotions of the hands  
 And the noiseless sliding of arms in ancient embrace,  
 These things are too old for expression in tone-scales,  
 These things need only  
 The clamour of inanimate creatures,  
 The modern voices of machinery,  
 And the insistent silence of steel chairs.  
 The street lamps in strange perspective  
 Squint at the fighters  
 Rolling in noiseless struggle,  
 And the cheap clock  
 Comments on the lovers'  
 Soundless ecstasy.

G.M.J.



Drawing by ]

TEMPLE OF FRIENDSHIP

[ A.A.M.

## JUNIOR TRAINING CORPS NOTES

The following promotions have been made this term :—

To *Under-Officer* : Sergeants A. J. O. Ritchie (T), J. M. Lewis (T).

To *Sergeant* : Corporals M. G. Falcon (C), R. W. Shirley (T), R. K. Kurk (G), E. C. Skepper (T), J. E. D. Fottrell (T), D. B. Morgan-Grenville (W), R. M. Macnaughton (C), R. H. S. Harris (C).

To *Corporal* : Lance-Corporals A. K. H. Bull (G), D. S. Howard (G), A. P. Dewing (C), D. C. Bakirgian (C), D. R. S. Kingan (T), G. J. Chibbett (C), C. J. S. Wood (G), H. L. Fletcher (C), J. H. Bourdon Smith (G), J. O. Arnold (G), G. M. Morris (W), P. D. Haigh (C), R. H. Prestwich (G), R. P. Marshall (C), H. A. Chapple (C), G. L. E. Spier (G), T. F. Lloyd (C), G. P. Tobin (G).

Appointed *Lance-Corporal* : Cadets J. F. Chance (C), G. P. Lewis (B), P. W. Stewart (G), J. S. Taylor (T), D. T. James (C), A. M. Murdoch (T), O. G. Champion (W), M. D. K. Burns (B), H. D. W. Rhodes (C), D. C. Mackenzie (C), T. R. Winsor (T), C. M. Mosselmans (C), J. R. Plincke (T), M. D. T. Loup (T), J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W).

The strength of the Contingent this term is 362 cadets. In the War Certificate "A" examinations held last July, 37 out of 48 candidates passed the "Individual" and 25 out of 37 the "Section Leader's" tests. Successes this November were respectively 44 out of 55, and 36 out of 52.

### PRIZES

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Individual), July 1945 :—N. J. R. J. Mitchell (W), and in November 1945 :—I. M. Morton (B).

Best candidate for War Certificate "A" (Section Leader's), July 1945 :—R. W. Spielman (G), and in November 1945 :—P. G. Waddilove (G).

Best Recruits (January-July 1945) :—1st, J. M. Shinner (B); equal 2nd, R. A. Hird (C), M. W. L. Pease (G), F. A. Ruhemann (C).

### COLDSTREAM CUP

The Inter-House Drill Competition, on July 27th, was judged by an Officer and a Drill Sergt. of the Coldstream Training Battalion. Results were :—

1. Chandos	91 %	5. Walpole	72 %
2. Temple	89 %	6. Chatham	66½ %
3. Grafton	88 %	7. Grenville	65 %
4. Cobham	72½ %	8. Bruce	56½ %

## TRAINING

### NAVAL SECTION

Strength, 39. Examinations passed : Cadet Petty Officer, 15 ; Cadet Leading Seaman, 7 ; Cadet Able Seaman, 14.

Ratings :—*Cadet Petty Officer* : Sergt. R. M. Macnaughton (C), Cpls. J. H. Bourdon Smith (G), H. L. Fletcher (C), C. J. S. Wood (G).

*Cadet Leading Seaman* : L/Cpls. G. P. Lewis (B), J. S. Taylor (T), P. W. Stewart (G), D. T. James (C), H. D. W. Rhodes (C).

Early in October, through the kindness of the Director of Naval Training, we were able to send all the N.C.Os. of the Section to Portsmouth. They spent the night in H.M.S. Ramillies and on the following day were shown various activities of the ship life, had a sail in a whaler, inspected a midget submarine and went over H.M.S. Victory. As this was the first visit of its kind by members of a School Naval Section the party came under somewhat close scrutiny. The subsequent report was of an entirely satisfactory nature.

Much interest has been added to training by the arrival this term of a 27 ft. service whaler, thereby enabling practice to be had, within the limits of the Eleven Acre, in pulling and under sail.

### GENERAL

Tuesday parade has now been shortened to one hour, and plain clothes are worn for it.

During the Whole Day's Training on October 5th "B" Travelling Wing laid on instruction for the N.C.Os. and more senior cadets after lunch. Some Ceremonial Drill and exercises by platoons formed the morning's programme, and the Contingent went marching after tea. The Travelling Wing returned the following week to give the Part I candidates an afternoon of their own. All this help was much appreciated.

Then on October 19th the Demonstration Platoon of the Coldstream Training Battalion with Lt. R. H. M. Pease (G, 1944) as commentator, drilled and manoeuvred to the very great profit of the whole Contingent, the finale, a most realistic platoon attack, evoking the keenest interest.

Major-General C. W. Norman, C.B.E., G.O.C. East Central District, visited Stowe on October 26th and watched the work going on that afternoon.

Help with Certificate "A" was also available from the Coldstreams, who included three Old Stoics in a team of four examiners ; Capt. S. J. Whitwell, M.C. (C, 1939) and Lt. G. D. Wauhope (C, 1942) came for the first time in this role. We again welcomed Major L. S. Marler, R.A., as President of the Board ; on so many occasions he has been our great standby in conducting such examinations.

Three short films are to be shown at the end of term. If they are as good as they sound, they will vary the training very satisfactorily.

## RUGBY FOOTBALL

At the end of last season I thought that Stowe football had reached its lowest ebb. I was wrong, so wrong, however, that even after the end of this most depressing season I hesitate to say that the football cannot be worse still.

There were only two old colours left, Shirley and Trench, both forwards, so that the side was bound to be somewhat raw in the early part of the term. Nevertheless, the experience of the previous year, when seven old colours and several well-trying players were available, made the prospect of dealing with a fresh and possibly keen side a welcome one. Despite two hidings from Halton and a bad first half against Bedford, the outlook was promising. But there had been a recovery against Bedford two years before, that had been followed by three terrible beatings. For ten minutes against Rugby hopes still ran high, but then came one of those exhibitions of feebleness that have been all too frequent in Stowe rugger. A late recovery was of no avail. The play against a poor enough Radley side was futile, and against Oundle the well-known bad start was not allowed to turn into the semblance of a recovery. The forwards fought well in the St. Edward's match, but the backs were very bad, and then against Merchant Taylors the whole team played well. Uppingham, however, brought out the old habits once more.

Coaching football at Stowe, just at present, is indeed a thankless job. Inertia and stupidity make it quite impossible to study the finer points of the game and even make elementary principles into a serious problem. The occasional appearance of vigour and speed in a match make the more familiar feebleness all the more depressing.

Next year it is likely that seven or eight of this year's team will be back. Does this mean that 1944 will be repeated, or will shame, if nothing else, call forth a desperate effort to be worthy successors of the teams of the past? As a reminder of what has to be wiped out, here are the total points in matches against our four strongest opponents for the past five years (all matches lost):—

Bedford	123 to 28
Oundle	183 to 6
Rugby	97 to 14
Uppingham	171 to 26

Do these figures mean anything to the School? Is there any spirit on which one can draw, consistently and right from the start of the season, so that time will not have to be wasted reasoning, begging, blaming, cursing, doing anything and everything to get the team just to try? Or is the present day Stoic incapable of making a sustained effort, on the rugger field, for the School?

Of individuals I will mention R. W. Shirley (T), for doing his best to rouse the pack; I. Scott-Elliott (W), whose steady improvement in passing from the scrum gave me the only real pleasure of the term; P. M. Young (C), whose line-out work in the later matches was good; M. E. J. FitzGerald (S), for his tackling and good hands; R. H. S. Harris (C), for his hooking; and D. C. Bakirgian (C), for his spirit.

Looking back on the accounts of past matches, I think I cannot do better than quote from that of the Oundle match of 1941:—"The Stowe side . . . can learn some all-important lessons from the Oundle match, lessons its great predecessors had

no need to learn. The first is that a team's strength is utterly dependent on the strength of its component parts, and that the diminution of individual effort throughout a team, for any reason whatever, reduces the power of that team to insignificance. The second is that a severe loss of initiative is extraordinarily difficult to regain, and that everything, thereafter, seems to go right for the attack and wrong for the defence. And the third and last is the most important of all, and is, that no first-class team takes the field with the conscious, or subconscious, idea that they will need to expend just so much of their energy to achieve their object of defeating their opponents. They give everything they have got, and if that is not enough, they find a little more, like the Stowe Fifteens of 1938, 1939 and 1940."

One bright spot remains. All under fifteen, as last year, are being coached thoroughly and well. This should give results, some day.

B.A.B.

### THE SCHOOL v. BEDFORD

Played at Stowe on October 13th, and lost by a goal and two tries (11 points) to a goal and a try (8 points).

Bedford kicked off and for the first few minutes Stowe pressed. Bedford got the ball from the scrums, however, and only some dropped passes prevented promising three-quarter movements becoming dangerous. The Stowe threes, on the other hand, were crowding into the centre both in attack and defence, and tackling was too high. As might have been expected, the Bedford threes did eventually finish off a passing movement, and the wing was easily able to race round his opposing number and the full-back, to score in the corner. FitzGerald and Howard both made good runs, neither of which was supported, and FitzGerald was conspicuous for taking bad passes and for picking up stray kicks by the Bedford forwards. The Stowe forwards were not getting across the field in defence, and this, combined with slowness on the part of Bartlett and Howard, allowed the same wing in again for another try in the corner. Six points down at half-time was not too much to make victory impossible. Bedford were certainly not as good as usual, but the Stowe side had not yet realised this, and had not begun to play at their full speed.

In the second half the football was very different. Stowe went off with a rush, covered in defence, tackled well, and played as a team determined to win. For ten minutes they pressed, and Chibbett and Scott-Elliott were both nearly over. Unfortunately a break-away by Bedford gave them a converted try, against the run of the game in this half so far. (0—11). Would Stowe face up to this crisis and redouble their efforts, or would they now collapse? For a few dreadful minutes Bedford pressed again, but the tackling was still good and the defence held out. FitzGerald put Stowe into a better position with a nice kick ahead, and after some fierce rushes by the forwards Bakirgian scored in the corner (3—11). Stowe now pressed hard, and after an easy penalty had been missed Scott-Elliott went over from a scrum on the line, for Binns to kick a fine goal. Unfortunately it was too late for a winning score.

As so often in the past, whilst one can look back with pleasure on the play in the second half, that pleasure is marred by the feeling that an equally good first half would have given the side a victory. However, hopes were raised. Shirley worked splendidly in the tight scrums, and was well backed up by the rest of the pack, of whom Bakirgian was outstanding. Scott-Elliott gave a slow service, but marked his opposite number well and scored a very good try. FitzGerald took some awkward passes in his



safe hands, but was handicapped by the slowness with which they came to him, his three-quarters suffering in consequence. Binns was steady and kicked a good length.

*Team*:—F. D. A. Binns (W); D. S. Howard (G), R. M. Bartlett (T), G. J. Chibbett (C), R. J. Broadley (W); M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), I. Scott-Elliott (W); G. H. B. Carter (T), J. J. Davis (T), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C), G. F. Armitage (W), R. W. Shirley (T), R. P. Marshall (C), P. M. Young (C), D. C. Bakirgian (C).

#### THE SCHOOL v. RUGBY

Played at Stowe on October 20th, Rugby winning by 2 goals, 1 penalty goal and three tries (22 points) to nil.

Stowe kicked off into a cross-wind and some brisk work at the beginning gave promise of good offensive tactics by the Stowe team. An unfortunate off-side, however, after some minutes play gave Rugby an opportunity of opening the scoring by a goal from a penalty kick, and this was soon followed by a converted try. (0—8.) Some weak tackling by the Stowe three-quarters after the kick-off let the opposing line through to score again, this time not near enough to the posts to make a conversion practicable. (0—11.) After these initial set-backs Stowe put up a stiffer opposition and for some time little advantage was gained by either side. Rugby continued to press hard and some good tackling by Binns several times frustrated a threatening movement. There was plenty of forward play at this period of the game, and it was clear that though the Stowe pack was holding its own in the set scrums Rugby were far quicker in the loose, and their skill in falling gave them an advantage which only a much heavier opposing scrum could have nullified. In the line-outs too, the ball went far more frequently to the Rugby forwards. After some indecisive play in the centre, Rugby again started a quick passing movement which the Stowe three-quarters failed to check and another try was scored but not converted. (0—14.) Soon after the kick-off the Rugby forwards dribbled hard down the field; the Stowe defence again failed to hold them and this time the try was converted. (0—19.)

The second half was marked by the greater determination and improved play of the Stowe side, and it is significant that only three points were scored after half-time. Soon after the kick-off a penalty kick against Rugby was wasted, the ball being kicked over the goal-line and touched down. Some good movements were started by Scott-Elliott, FitzGerald and Bartlett, but partly through lack of speed and partly through monotony of tactics they were checked every time. The rest of the game was fairly even; the forwards on both sides worked hard and good kicking saved the situation several times. An unconverted try by Rugby was the only further score. (0—22.)

One could not help feeling that the score did not represent the relative merits of the two sides. The Rugby half-backs and two of their three-quarters had, perhaps, a slight superiority in speed; Scott-Elliott, though he did some good individual work, lacked the little extra speed which would have given his three-quarters time to get clear. Apart from this, however, the two sides were by no means uneven, as the second half showed; and it is not unreasonable to suppose that an equally resolute effort by the Stowe side in the first half would have secured a more representative score, if not a victory.

*Team*:—F. D. A. Binns (W); D. S. Howard (G), R. M. Bartlett (T), G. J. Chibbett (C), R. J. Broadley (W); M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), I. Scott-Elliott (W); G. H. B. Carter (T), J. J. Davis (T), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C), J. H. W. Pooler (T), R. P. Marshall (C), P. M. Young (C), D. C. Bakirgian (C).

#### THE SCHOOL v. RADLEY

Played at Radley on Saturday, October 27th, Radley winning by two tries (6 points) to nil.

A most depressing game between two thoroughly poor sides. Radley had heavy forwards who were both slow and unenterprising. Their backs were big and occasionally broke through by weight alone. Stowe could have won the match easily and after ten minutes it was difficult to see how they could lose, but after fifty minutes it was equally difficult to see how they could win. The causes are old and well-known, slow thinking and slow running, combined with tackling which was so bad as to be almost unbelievable. Both forwards and backs were equally to blame in most respects. Radley won because twice, and twice only, their backs took advantage of the many opportunities presented to them on plates.

*Team*:—F. D. A. Binns (W); J. J. Asbury-Bailey (W), R. M. Bartlett (T), C. A. Hancox (G), R. J. Broadley (W); M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), I. Scott-Elliott (W); G. H. B. Carter (T), J. J. Davis (T), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C), R. W. Shirley (T), G. F. Armitage (W), R. P. Marshall (C), P. M. Young (C), D. C. Bakirgian (C).

#### THE SCHOOL v. OUNDLE

The visit to Oundle proved to be one of the most disastrous episodes in the history of Stowe rucker. Oundle had drawn with Bedford, and although they were certain to be at least a tough and workmanlike side, and although Stowe had given a deplorable exhibition against Radley the previous Saturday, there was a faint hope that the side would rise to the occasion and play at the top of their form. As it happened, however, Oundle were a very good side, big, fast, tough and extremely efficient.

The score at half-time was 34, and at no-side was 56, made up of seven goals, one penalty goal, and six tries, to nil. Oundle kicked off, and the ball was allowed to bounce in the middle of the Stowe forwards. To coaches who knew the minds of Stowe footballers, the course of the first half at least was obvious; Stowe would wait and see what Oundle proposed to do. They soon found out, and of course, as was bound to happen against a side well above the average, they were not allowed to make any sort of a recovery. The spectators were then treated to a spectacle which, to anyone but a Stowe supporter, was well worth seeing. Speed and determination swept the opposition aside, and made mincemeat of the few counter-attacks.

A description of the match would necessarily be, to us, a rather dull chronicle of many tries, and can be found, by those interested, in the Oundle School magazine. Shirley never gave up, and to the end his voice could be heard in a vain attempt to rally the team to better efforts. Young and Carter worked hard, and FitzGerald and Binns brought off some good tackles. It is possible that a lesson, so clearly delivered, has been learnt.

*Team*:—F. D. A. Binns (W); D. S. Howard (G), R. M. Bartlett (T), G. J. Chibbett (C), R. J. Broadley (W); M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), I. Scott-Elliott (W); G. H. B. Carter (T), R. H. S. Harris (C), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C), R. W. Shirley (T), G. F. Armitage (W), C. M. Mosselmans (C), P. M. Young (C), D. C. Bakirgian (C).

## THE SCHOOL v. ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD

Played at Stowe on November 14th, and lost by a goal and three tries (14 points) to one try (3 points).

For the first time for some years the Stowe fifteen started a School match as if they meant to win it, and the forwards continued to play their hardest throughout. In the tight scrums the ball was heeled three times out of four, in the loose scrums the pack at least held its own, the jumping in the line-outs was much improved, covering in defence was better, and some of the rushes were worth seeing. The backs, however, made little use of the many chances that came to them.

In the first half bad passing ruined many three-quarter movements, by both sides. Stowe were the first to look dangerous. Chibbett broke through twice, once from an interception, but on both occasions his passes were wild; then Broadley followed a good run with a well-placed cross-kick, but no one was there to carry on the movement. St. Edward's then started a threequarter movement which, thanks to Hancox's habit of hanging back in defence, nearly resulted in a try in the corner. Another movement soon afterwards again found Hancox out of place, and the wing got over for an unconverted try. Now came the best bit of back play seen at Stowe for a long time. From a scrum in the Stowe 25 the ball was passed along a really fast moving line, and Broadley, with a fine burst of speed, rounded the full-back to score in the corner. From the kick-off another good run by the backs suggested that they were going to get on top of the opposition, but instead it was the last time that they showed their paces. For the ten minutes of the half that remained the St. Edward's forwards got on top, and a loose scrum was followed by another try by the wing.

In the second half the forwards got into form again, and Shirley, Young, Trench, and Carter were conspicuous in a pack that was playing well together. The ball was still being heeled more often by Stowe, and Scott-Elliott gave a good and fast service, but FitzGerald ambled along, Chibbett either ran back into the forwards or muffed his passes, and Hancox, like FitzGerald, ran at half-speed. Burns on the left wing got no chances, and was not strong enough to make openings for himself, and Broadley alone ran hard. The defence in the centre was again weak, Hancox being constantly out of place, and Chibbett often failing to hold his man. Binns saved tries with some good tackles and played soundly throughout.

St. Edward's scored a converted try by a break-through in the centre, and another try after a forward rush. Their backs, although their passing was often wild, ran hard and straight, and made good use of the weak tackling against them.

*Team* :—F. D. A. Binns (W); M. D. K. Burns (B), C. A. Hancox (G), G. J. Chibbett (C), R. J. Broadley (W); M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), I. Scott-Elliott (W); G. H. B. Carter (T), R. H. S. Harris (C), R. W. Shirley (T), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C), G. F. Armitage (W), D. C. Bakirgian (C), P. M. Young (C), C. M. Mosselmans (C).

## THE SCHOOL v. MERCHANT TAYLORS

Played at Stowe on Saturday, November 17th, Stowe winning by 12 points to 5 (four tries to one goal).

Shirley was unfortunately unable to play and some rearrangement of the scrum had been necessary. Mosselmans was brought up to front row and Roberts took his place as wing forward. This double change was fully justified as both players were versatile and proved very active.

In spite of a slight shower before the game the ball was dry and gave ample scope to both three-quarters and forwards. Merchant Taylors kicked off and after five minutes brisk play (on their part) one of their men followed up his kick well, gathered the ball from our full-back, Binns, and scored. The try was converted.

Stowe now dusted itself, and determined not to be discouraged took the ball up to the other end after a neat break-through by Bartlett. The scrum by now was settling down and a speedy three-quarter movement brought Chibbett to within two yards of the line, where he was tackled. However, he managed to slip a neat pass to Broadley who touched down. The kick, taken by Binns, was a close failure. (3—5).

The play now swept to the Stowe half but their backs were slower than ours and timely and determined tackling by our three-quarters, notably FitzGerald and Bartlett, spoilt attack after attack. Their fly-half began to kick, a sure sign that we had shaken them. He made far and accurate touch but our heeling was improving and our backs playing well in unison. After several attempts by Broadley and Bakirgian in heated loose play on their line, Young managed to prostrate himself over the line. The try was not converted. A fast run after the kick-off took us up the other end again and when the half-time whistle blew we were attacking fiercely.

Both sides pressed hard in the second half and Trench, Carter, Armitage and Roberts were prominent in loose forward rushes. Our marking in the line-out was poor on the whole and the lack of backing up was obvious when forward passing movements were attempted. Also covering in defence was not strong and would have shown up against a faster and more combined pack. Nevertheless the backs were getting the ball and fully redeeming themselves after their misuse of it against St. Edward's. The passing out from the scrum was well flung and consistently picked up by FitzGerald whilst the inter-passing was swift and well-timed. The centres were running with thrust and the wings to good advantage when they remembered to take their passes at speed. After a good run by Broadley and a skirmish in the corner Young plunged over again. No conversion. Score 9—5.

But we were hampered by the good kicking of their fly-half, especially as Binns was slow in getting across into position to save the ball from going into touch.

A penalty kick in front of our goal was luckily missed and a spirited following-up of the ensuing twenty-five kick took us well over the half-way line.

We were attacking now and the backs were confident, tried tricks and generally succeeded. FitzGerald cut in, skipped daintily through their defence and scored between the posts. The kick bounced off one of the posts. But our opponents were giving us far from an easy time. We had to fight hard and situations were often very close. Twice an energetic attempt on our line was reduced by forward rushes, Bakirgian being prominent. Mention must be made of Broadley's long pass, over the heads of the scrum and into the hands of Chibbett, half-way across the field. The long run which followed was nearly successful, but the no-side whistle cut short the attack, the score being 12—5 to Stowe.

This match showed the team, this time both the forwards and the backs, working at its highest level so far. Granted they had little opportunity to practise defence, but for this they must thank the hard and forceful tackles in the earlier part of the game.

*Team* :—F. D. A. Binns (W); M. D. K. Burns (B), R. M. Bartlett (T), G. J. Chibbett (C), R. J. Broadley (W); M. E. J. FitzGerald (G), I. Scott-Elliott (W); G. H. B. Carter (T), R. H. S. Harris (C), C. M. Mosselmans (C), G. F. Armitage (W), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C), D. C. Bakirgian (C), P. M. Young (C), P. V. Roberts (T).

## THE SCHOOL v. UPPINGHAM

Played at Uppingham on Saturday, November 24th, Uppingham winning by eight goals and seven tries (61 points) to a try and a penalty goal (6 points).

To give credit where it is due, the forwards held their own in the close play, Scott-Elliott and FitzGerald combined well and did some good work both in attack and defence, and Young stuck it to the end. But the tackling of the remainder of the team was so appalling, and the Uppingham backs established such a superiority, that every time they got the ball a try was at least probable. Territorially, as long as the ball was being kept close, the forwards had as much of the game as the opposing pack; but as soon as the ball went loose Uppingham made ground almost as they wished. Thirteen of the tries were scored by three-quarters, and all of them following long runs in which dummies, side-steps and swerves, as well as sheer speed of passing and backing up, made the defence look negligible. Gaps appeared to open up in front of the man with the ball. What was all the more irritating was that this Uppingham side was not nearly as well-balanced as the Oundle team, and indeed showed defence weaknesses that good passing and determination would soon have exploited. FitzGerald found the gap once or twice but no one was there to carry on. Young was able to make ground round the edge of the forwards, and Scott-Elliott scored a good try from a scrum near the line. The melancholy fact remains, however, that the majority of the Stowe side packed up, and indeed may have done so before the game started.

Team:—F. D. A. Binns (W); M. D. K. Burns (B), R. J. Broadley (W), G. J. Chibbett (C), D. S. Howard (S); M. E. J. FitzGerald (S), I. Scott-Elliott (W); G. H. B. Carter (T), R. H. S. Harris (C), R. W. Shirley (T), G. F. Armitage (W), M. B. Le Poer Trench (C), P. V. Roberts (T), P. M. Young (C), C. M. Mosselmans (C).

Other 1st XV results were:—

Sat., Oct. 6th.	v. R.A.F., HALTON (Home).	Lost, 0—32.
Wed., Oct. 10th.	v. R.A.F., HALTON (Away).	Lost, 3—54.
Sat., Nov. 3rd.	v. ROSSLYN PARK (Home).	Won, 6—0.
Wed., Nov. 28th.	v. OLD STOICS (Home).	Lost, 6—42.

## 'A' TEAM

Sat., Nov. 17th.	v. NORTHAMPTON G.S. (Away).	Lost, 5—14.
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## SECOND FIFTEEN

Sat., Oct. 6th.	v. BLOXHAM (Home).	Lost, 11—12.
Wed., Oct. 17th.	v. BEDFORD (Away).	Lost, 0—69.
Wed., Oct. 24th.	v. ROYAL G.S., HIGH WYCOMBE (Away).	Won, 21—19.
Sat., Oct. 27th.	v. RADLEY (Home).	Won, 12—3.
Sat., Nov. 3rd.	v. INDIAN ARMY CADETS (Home).	Lost, 0—35.
Wed., Nov. 7th.	v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, BRACKLEY (Away).	Lost, 0—25.
Wed., Nov. 14th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD (Home).	Lost, 8—14.
Sat., Nov. 24th.	v. ROYAL G.S., HIGH WYCOMBE (Home).	Won, 16—4.

## THIRD FIFTEEN

Wed., Oct. 24th.	v. ROYAL G.S., HIGH WYCOMBE (Away).	Won, 58—0.
Wed., Nov. 7th.	v. BLOXHAM (Home).	Won, 27—3.
Wed., Nov. 14th.	v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, OXFORD (Home).	Won, 8—5.
Wed., Nov. 21st.	v. ST. LAWRENCE (Home).	Won, 6—3.
Sat., Nov. 24th.	v. ROYAL G.S., HIGH WYCOMBE (Home).	Won, 32—0.

## THE COLTS' FIFTEEN

One can safely say that it has been a much better season than last and that there is hope for the future. This has been due to the fact that the team has had much more match play than last year and, on the whole, has shown greater keenness.

Though only two of the seven matches played were won, the others, with the exception of the Oundle match, were all good hard fights and might have been anybody's game. In the Oundle match the side was unfortunate in having the scrum-half, Sayer, so disabled that he was of no real use after the first twenty minutes, though he pluckily stayed the course, doing what he could on the wing. The best game of the term was the return match against Rugby which we won; this was a really excellent game of good hard rucker, cleanly played. The outstanding feature of this game was the splendid way in which the forwards came up to the aid of the three-quarters in defence. Connell also converted a very fine free kick from near the touch line and a good thirty yards from the goal line. This made the score equal, Rugby having already scored one try which they had failed to convert. The game was won by an excellent try scored by Marler. He nearly did the same thing again in the second half but unfortunately fell into the corner flag.

The best feature of the team has undoubtedly been the forward play, due to the fine lead given by the captain, Mitchell. The pack worked well together and always hard; early in the term the hooking and heeling were weak, but this has improved, though it still leaves much to be desired.

The chief weakness of the side—and it is the worst one possible—has been the lack of tackling. Very few boys ever tackle low and hard and, until this technique is thoroughly mastered, there can never be any sense of security at any time. It is not really an art difficult to master; pluck, of course, is required, and yet there is nothing so truly satisfactory in the whole game as when you have well and truly grassed an opponent. If tackling goes, everything goes and no amount of good kicking, falling on the ball, backing up, or going hard makes up for it. The opposite side will always have the initiative and will exploit it; bad tackling inevitably produces a superiority complex in the opposing side.

One thing was very obvious about this year's fifteen; it was that in six or seven weeks—after an interval of nine months—it was possible to produce a good pack of forwards; it was not possible to produce good backs. The halves and three-quarters have improved greatly but they need a great deal more polish and this can be achieved only by constant play against sides slightly stronger.

Results :—

Sat., Oct. 13th.	v. BEDFORD (Home).	Lost, 0—5.
Sat., Oct. 20th.	v. RUGBY (Home).	Lost, 6—15.
Sat., Oct. 27th.	v. RADLEY (Away).	Won, 6—3.
Thur., Nov. 1st.	v. OUNDLE (Away).	Lost, 0—18.
Sat., Nov. 3rd.	v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, BRACKLEY (Away).	Draw, 3—3.
Sat., Nov. 10th.	v. RUGBY (Away).	Won, 6—3.
Wed., Nov. 14th.	v. ST. EDWARD'S, OXFORD (Away).	Lost, 8—12.

THE JUNIOR COLTS' FIFTEEN

Sat., Oct. 13th.	v. BEDFORD (Away).	Lost, 0—42.
Wed., Oct. 17th.	v. MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL, OXFORD (Away).	Lost, 3—23.
Wed., Oct. 31st.	v. BLOXHAM (Home).	Won, 8—6.
Sat., Nov. 10th.	v. RUGBY (Away).	Lost, 0—23.
Wed., Nov. 21st.	v. RADLEY (Home).	Lost, 3—34.

FIVES

Both the Senior and Junior House matches were held this term, and with some difficulty, owing to other activities, they were completed before the Rugger House matches began.

In the Seniors, there were two houses only who could produce really strong teams, Chandos and Temple, and when these two met in the first round it was in reality the final. At the other end of the draw Grafton had little opposition in getting through to the final.

In the Juniors, Chandos and Temple were, on paper, the strongest teams, but a new Bruce team defeated Chandos, reached the final against Temple, and won.

The result, in the Seniors, was as follows :—

Chandos	}	Chandos	}	Chandos	}	Chandos
Temple		Chatham				
Chatham	}	Cobham	}	Grafton		
Walpole		Grafton				
Cobham	}	Grafton	}	A.J.O.R.		
Bruce		Grenville				
Grafton	}		}			
Grenville						

FENCING

After a period of some inactivity as regards matches, we considered ourselves rather bold in arranging a fixture with Cambridge University. However, the results proved to be most heartening, for against an older and more experienced team 6—10 did not seem an inordinate defeat. H. W. Henry (G), though at rather a loss when fencing the Cambridge captain, was able to cope with the remainder of his opponents in foil and sabre. E. P. F. de P. Hunter (W) fought well at sabre but was inclined to be too wild at foil. J. D. R. Whitley (W) gained much experience and should prove a useful member of future teams.

It is hoped to have a match against Guy's Hospital before the end of term, besides other fixtures next term including one against Oxford University.

RIDING

Riding at Stowe, while comparatively little advertised, has been pursued throughout the war with enthusiasm, and there are at present the makings of a strong and capable team of riders. This team certainly ought to materialise by means of keen practice, for it would be disturbing to feel that Stowe is no longer capable of producing a first-class equestrian display such as that performed on the occasion of the visit of the Duke of Gloucester. Next term, it is proposed to revive gymkhanas, paper-chases, the competition for the Haig Cup, and indeed hunting, which have all lapsed during the war. This should raise the standard of all-round performance considerably. And it is hoped that saddling, bridling, grooming and horse-management will not be neglected by those who would consider themselves horsemen. Peace-time riding is on the verge of returning. And all who have ridden during the war must be very grateful to the instructor, Mr. Connor, who has done a good job under adverse conditions.

CRICKET

Omitted in error from the July *Stoic*.

STOWE v. CHRIST CHURCH AND BRASENOSE COLLEGE. Played at Stowe on May 23rd. Won by 101 runs. Stowe, 184 for 5 declared (D. A. Illingworth (♠) 58, M. E. J. FitzGerald (♠) 43); Christ Church and B.N.C., 83 (J. F. Chance (♠) 5 for 18, M. D. T. Loup (T) 5 for 32).

STOWE v. R.A.F., HALTON. Played at Stowe on July 14th. Lost by 3 wickets. Stowe, 163 (M. D. T. Loup (T) 28, A. F. Cottier (♠) 28); R.A.F., 165 for 7 (W. L. N. Brinson (♠) 3 for 26, J. J. Crossley (G) 3 for 29).

## LAWN TENNIS

At the beginning of last term, Stowe accepted an invitation to enter for the "Glanvill Cup" Inter-School Competition, organized by the L.T.A. In the first round, we played Wellingborough School and won by an easy margin. Our team then went on to Queen's Club, London, where we met and beat Bryanston in the quarter-final. Our next match was against Radley and although for sometime the outcome lay in the balance we eventually won. Both these matches took place in the morning, and as the final had been arranged for 3 o'clock of the same day, our team tried to make the very best of the short interval, knowing that their next opponents, K.C.S., Wimbledon, were absolutely fresh as they had played off their matches a few days earlier. So it was with signs of weariness that Stowe entered into the final round of the "Glanvill Cup" competition. Our first pair, consisting of K. W. Milligan (C) and J. A. R. Anson (G) fell quite easy victims, losing 2-6, 2-6. H. R. Marten (T) and M. J. A. Davies (T), our second pair, had proved themselves quite excellent in other school matches, but unfortunately they were not in their usual form on that day; otherwise they might not have lost. On the other hand, G. J. Chibbett (C) and J. J. Crossley (G), who formed Stowe's third pair, had a most successful day and after playing a magnificent game won 6-2, 6-4.

This match was noteworthy for two reasons. Firstly, because it illustrated Stowe's success at tennis and secondly, because it was the first match of the season which our team had lost. At the moment the omens are favourable and next Summer we should again be quite a formidable team.

## SWIMMING

Stowe Swimming teams always have to overcome a great handicap, for they are liable at any time to have their team drawn upon by Cricket, and in many other respects they represent a minor sport of the Summer Term.

It was thus hardly to be expected that the School Team would be able to defeat other teams which take Swimming really seriously, or have really good baths, or those who encourage specialization in Swimming. However, the record of two wins and two defeats was a decided improvement on last year and was due largely to the enthusiasm of those who did take an interest, amongst whom must of course be mentioned Mr. Davis.

With M. B. Le Poer Trench (C) Captain and a longer fixture list than usual, it seemed that the team would at least not lack opportunities. However, by the time that two-thirds of the arranged matches had been cancelled, those that were left were just enough to prove the people who swam in them.

The two away matches at Harrow and Bedford were an enjoyable experience, and the terrible defeat that the team suffered from the latter was due to a large extent to their very high standard and exceptional talent, and the fact that their indoor bath enables them to swim all the year round.

The Swimming Sports were cancelled just as the finals were at hand and the last round of the Water Polo, about which more interest had been aroused than for some time, between Chatham and Grafton, met the same fate, owing to the colds and sore throats picked up while swimming. This was a great blow to those who had practised so consistently throughout the term, notably P. C. Murphy (C) who did, however, break and re-break the 100 Yards free style record, which Larsen had set up, three times.

But it is comforting to think that the interest taken last term in Swimming and the keenness especially at Water Polo may be kept up next year, and Stowe Swimmers really set out to achieve the victories of which they are capable.

The teams included:—M. B. Le Poer Trench (C), D. S. Howard (C), P. C. Murphy (C), D. R. Grossmark (C), C. S. Edwards (C), I. B. Church (W), J. E. T. Grieves (T), J. C. Harper (C), P. V. Roberts (T).

The matches were:—

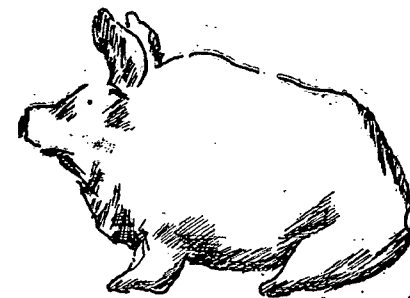
- v. OWEN'S SCHOOL. Won, 33-18.
- v. HARROW. Won, 24-19.
- v. BEDFORD MODERN. Lost, 15-43.
- v. R.A.F., HALTON. Lost, 33-35.

School Colours were awarded to:—I. B. Church (W), D. R. Grossmark (C), J. C. Harper (C), C. S. Edwards (C).

D.S.H.

## SQUASH

The School has played four matches so far this term. They beat the R.A.F., Silverstone, 5-0; and lost to the Masters, 2-3, the Imperial College Union 2-3 and Radley 1-4. J. F. Chance (C), the captain, who is in a class by himself, did well to win against Radley. The following have played in the School team:—K. W. Milligan (C), R. A. W. Pointing (B), M. D. T. Loup (T), J. H. Bourdon Smith (C), R. M. Ransford (C), M. E. J. FitzGerald (C), D. A. Illingworth (C) and D. M. Singer (B). It is hoped that a match against Harrow will be played before the end of the term.



## MUSIC

Before the main musical activities of the term are outlined, we first must extend a hearty welcome to our former Director of Music, Dr. L. P. Huggins, who served in the Army from the outbreak of War until the beginning of this term. The same welcome is also to be extended to Mr. A. A. Negus who has also just returned, having joined up in 1941. At the same time, however, we must bid a regretful farewell to Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Snowdon, whom we shall see no more after this term.

The high standard of music which has been maintained throughout the war is sufficient testimony to Mr. Snowdon's ability and perseverance, for faced with a depleted staff and with the steady encroachment of activities of a sterner kind upon the small amount of time allotted to music, he never allowed his own or anyone else's enthusiasm to be damped.

And so, at the end of his fifteen years' stay, Stowe wishes him the best of luck at Haileybury, bidding farewell to a familiar figure and a faithful friend.

This term we have had a varied programme of activities. The Sunday evening Concerts, which were dropped about a year ago, have been restarted under the able management of Dr. Huggins, and a large selection of instrumental and piano music has been played both by members of the School and of the Music Staff, in which the standard of performance has been consistently high. Some of the highlights have been the Bach Concerto for Three Pianos in C Major (Pianos: Dr. Huggins, Mr. Snowdon and Mr. Walker), and the epic performance of "Ebenezer Prout," by Mr. Snowdon in his farewell Organ Recital.

The Choral Society have worked well at the Christmas Music of the Messiah, which they performed in Buckingham with the Buckingham Choral Society as well as to the School in Chapel on Sunday, December 9th.

The Orchestra have already given one external concert on October 27th, when they co-starred with the local Socialist Member at the opening of a Thanksgiving Week at the local village of Botolph Claydon.

The main concert of the term, however, was for the School, and the programme was as follows:—

Occasional Overture ... ..	<i>Handel</i>
Maestoso—Allegro	
Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 ... ..	<i>Bach</i>
Andante—Allegro	
<i>Flute</i> —G. L. E. Spier (G). <i>Violin</i> —Mrs. Siller.	
<i>Piano</i> —Mr. W. L. Snowdon.	
Holberg Suite for Strings ... ..	<i>Grieg</i>
Prelude—Gavotte—Rigaudon	
Symphony No. 104 in D (London) ... ..	<i>Haydn</i>
Adagio—Allegro	

"O little town" ... ..	<i>Walford Davies</i>
In dulci júbilo ... ..	<i>arr. Pearsall</i>
The Madrigal Society	
Fantasia on Greensleeves ... ..	<i>Vaughan-Williams</i>
Sonata in F for 2 Flutes and Bassoon ... ..	<i>Pepusch</i>
<i>Flute I</i> —G. L. E. Spier (G). <i>Flute II</i> —R. G. P. Lloyd (G).	
<i>Bassoon</i> —E. D. R. Campbell (G).	
Ballade in G minor ... ..	<i>Brahms</i>
<i>Solo Piano</i> —M. E. Harding (T).	
Toy Symphony ... ..	<i>Haydn</i>
Allegro—Minuet and Trio—Allegro	
<i>Players</i> —Cuckoo and Quail, Rev. C. Windsor-Richards; Rattle, Mr. A. A. Dams; Nightingale, Dr. L. P. Huggins; Trumpet, Mr. W. L. Snowdon; Triangle, Mr. B. E. N. Fawcett; Drum, A. J. O. Ritchie (T); Piano, Mr. R. Walker; Conductor, Mr. W. E. Capel Cure.	
Country Gardens ... ..	<i>Percy Grainger</i>

The standard of string playing has risen considerably and there now seems to be a comparatively well-stocked reservoir to draw upon, thus making the string department an extremely able organization. It should be noted in passing that the attendance is not yet as complete as it should be, largely owing to the main practice having to be on a half-holiday afternoon.

Another institution which has been resurrected from a wartime demise is the Gramophone Evening which now takes place on Thursdays. The programmes of these meetings are carefully compiled to suit a comprehensive taste, and there is always a comfortable attendance.

Of concerts by external artists we have been fortunate in obtaining the Aeolian Wind Quintet (Flute, Oboe, Horn, Clarinet and Bassoon), and Miss Kathleen Long who gave us a most stimulating piano recital.

The Wind Quintet gave a most versatile and instructive programme which included Mozart's Divertimento for Wind Quintet, two movements from Beethoven's Wind Quintet, and two from Paul Juon's Divertimento, and which was supplemented by solos on each instrument.

On November 28th Miss Kathleen Long gave an extremely polished and a very brilliant piano recital, which included Bach's Partita in B flat, Chopin's Sonata in B minor, and L'Isle Joyeuse by Debussy. Her reading of the Chopin was received with a deservedly enthusiastic applause, and she had to play three encores before the School would allow her to leave. This performance will certainly have been one of the finest the School has ever heard.

Thus we come to the end of an era, and it is to be hoped that with the advent of Peace, the Polite Arts will once more be allowed to have their full scope and to claim the attention and time which is their due.

E.D.R.C.

## POETRY READING

At the invitation of Mr. C. S. D. Moore, Mr. Robert Speaight paid a most welcome visit to Stowe for a recital of poetry and chamber music held in the Aurelian Room on the evening of Sunday, November 25th.

The programme was as follows:—

At a Solemn Musick	...	...	...	...	Milton
La Belle Dame Sans Merci	...	...	...	...	Keats
Piano	...	...	...	...	D. H. Lawrence
Etude in A Flat	...	...	...	...	Chopin
Played by Dr. L. P. Huggins.					
Cornet Solo	...	...	...	...	Cecil Day Lewis
Beethoven's Death Mask	...	...	...	...	Stephen Spender
Sonata Pathétique (slow movement)	...	...	...	...	Beethoven
Played by J. D. Nightingale (C).					
Preludes	...	...	...	...	T. S. Eliot
Rhapsody on a Windy Night	...	...	...	...	T. S. Eliot
Portrait of a Lady	...	...	...	...	T. S. Eliot
Sonata	...	...	...	...	Telemann
Played by G. L. E. Spier (G) (flute), J. O. Arnold (S) (cello), and Dr. L. P. Huggins (piano).					

I Think Continually of Those Who Were Truly Great *Stephen Spender*

This was a very well-chosen and harmonious programme. The poems were modern in tendency but this did not deter a crowded and eager audience, and Mr. Speaight's clear rendering and introductory explanations to the poems of Eliot banished all objections there might have been about their obscurity.

The first poems were mainly about music and its effect on humans in which "Beethoven's Death Mask" took the palm, apart from the exquisite ballad of the Knight-at-arms, "alone and palely loitering." It was a fascinating selection from Eliot, who first created beauty from the squalor of back-street modern life—the smell of steaks in passage-ways, short square fingers stuffing pipes, hands raising dingy shades in a thousand furnished rooms. Time and again the miraculously accurate maze comes to hammer home a conception of life as cruel, hopeless and sordid.

"Wipe your hand across your mouth, and laugh;  
The worlds revolve like ancient women  
Gathering fuel in vacant lots."

In "Portrait of a Lady" was found all the bitterness of frustration, the cruel mocking of sham culture; the more profound "Rhapsody on a Windy Night" was the best-read poem of the evening; but like penetrating gouache cameos of the fog-and-chimney pots aspect of the modern city, the preludes were in their way perfect. The poems were from Eliot's earliest work and made one wonder once again whether he has ever equalled it since in his more famous and lengthy works.

Probably the greatest, and also the most difficult, poem of the evening was the epilogue, "I Think Continually . . ." by Eliot's chief rival, Spender, who has this

advantage, that he writes about the great and hopeful things of life, while the former concentrates on its blindness and squalor. Popular as the modern items were, it was thoughtful to begin the programme with two classics so that one started from charted territory. Keats and Milton emerged the stronger for the contrast with a strikingly different poetic outlook.

The recital proved that there is a market for poetry at Stowe, especially when read so clearly, musically, and with no nonsense, and it would be a shame if it were not followed by many another.

G.P.L.

## THE ART SCHOOL

The Art School was never busier. The number of "Extra Drawing" forms that reach it signed by well-intentioned parents at the beginning of the term is much the same, but there is a greater equality than usual between that and the number of Stoics corresponding to those forms, who have been working there during the term.

After rather a long lapse, portrait painting has been taken up again enthusiastically. It is an elusive art which long defies success to the beginner, and most easily of all branches of painting slips into the reiteration of slick mannerisms. But until present would-be portrait painters become more acquainted with the tricks there is little danger of that.

A Caiger-Smith (T) has probably been the most successful of the portraitists, particularly in the painting combining himself and a living cineraria. O. G. Campion (W) makes colour and a charming crumbly texture his strong points. He is at his best at still life and flower pieces, but his landscapes have a gay, warm, Cézannish quality. J. V. Owen (T) has a power of translating innumerable boats in foaming seas into something exciting and visionary, but it is noticeable how great an improvement he shows when he does vary his subject. J. L. Hargrave (S) is probably the most capable artist in the Art School at present; it is therefore especially regrettable that his recent output has been almost nil. J. R. Plincke (T) and C. S. Churcher (C) have designed effective and tasteful scenery for the Congreve Club's production of *St. Joan*.

Mr. J. G. Drew (C, 1936) has recently been painting generals in Italy as a semi-official war artist. A number of these have been reproduced in the booklet prepared by the Royal Armoured Corps to commemorate their Italian campaign. Mr. J. E. G. Gentili (C, 1943) recently exhibited at the Royal Institute of Oil Painters and the Royal Society of Portrait Painters.

At the Summer Exhibition held last term, the Headmaster's Prize was won by O. G. Campion (W); the First Arts prize by J. V. Owen (T); the Second Arts prize by J. R. Plincke (T); the Third Arts prize by J. L. Hargrave (S); and the Drawing prize by A. A. Macdonald (G). The exhibition was judged by Mr. F. E. Courtney. It was large and popular, though somewhat below standard in the oils section. It has been decided to revive the peacetime practice of holding the main exhibition of the year on Sports Day and other smaller exhibitions in the other terms.

An exhibition is scheduled for the Summer of works by past and present Stoics for its retrospective interest. It is hoped that Old Stoics who worked in the Art School will co-operate by sending contributions when requested.

G.P.L.

## THE LIBRARY

With the departure of Miss Radice we have suffered a great loss. Only now that she is gone do we begin to realize the amount and variety of her work and how unobtrusively she carried it out. Her energy, her ingenuity and her vision are no longer with us, but her reforms and achievements in the Library will endure to the benefit of many generations of Stoics.

When Miss Radice left us a fortnight from the beginning of term it seemed that the ship must henceforth toss at the mercy of the waves; but Mrs. Watt, who had hitherto been slumbering in the captain's cabin, now sprang to the helm, and under her guidance the good work has continued. Most of our activity this term has been directed to making the Library easier to use. When some thousands of books are collected together in a small space, and each has its special position, a certain amount of complication is inevitable; and it is feared that no more than a small proportion of the School really know how to use the Library. This term we have introduced a number of small innovations designed to remedy this. In particular, a catalogue has been placed in each case, so that people can find out easily what books are available on any subject, and what books ought to be in each case. An attempt has been made to enforce silence, with the object of introducing a "library atmosphere," but unfortunately the people who come to play board-games and exchange gossip outnumber those who come to read and work; so that we are fighting a losing battle. The flow of new books has continued: Nowadays, of course, we order books by the score and receive them by twos and threes, but whatever the appearances we have added over fifty this term, most of them good, solid standard works. We are trying to buy copies of the Lonsdale Library. Many of the volumes have arrived, and we may expect to complete the set before long.

As a result of the continued cataloguing and sorting of books in the Gallery, we have been able to hold another 'Grand Sale.' Nearly all the books were by classical authors, but that did not seem to deter the Lower School, who turned up in hordes to pay a few pence for some volumes of Cicero or Pliny; attracted, we fear, rather by the important-looking binding than by the contents. One musician, however, thought he had made a great find when he saw a book entitled "Opera" in several volumes. Unfortunately the complete title was "Opera Suetonii."

The following books have been presented:—by Professor I. M. Heilbron, D.S.O., F.R.S., nine illustrated monographs on artists; by Mr. W. Courtenay Page, a catalogue of the Stowe Sale (1921); and by Mrs. E. Goodson, some books belonging to her son, W. R. I. Turner (B, 1937).

During the Summer holidays the Biological Library of Lt.-Col. R. H. Pott, one-time Biology Master at Stowe, was purchased, and has resulted in the addition of about forty books to the Stowe Biological Library. This Library, which has been steadily increasing for a number of years, is now probably as good as could be found in any Public School. In particular Evolution and Heredity are well represented, authors ranging from Darwin, most of whose works are to be found, to Gaylord Simpon, whose "Tempo and Mode in Evolution" has only recently been published by the Columbia University Press.

## DEBATING SOCIETY

The Officers of the Society this term are:—President, Mr. J. M. Todd; Secretary, J. J. Davis (T); Ex-Secretary, G. P. Lewis (B); Treasurer, H. A. Chapple (C); Librarian, J. M. Kahn (W).

The 168th Meeting of the Society was held in the Library on July 24th. The Motion was "That this House disapproves of the existence of the School Certificate examination."

G. S. O'D. SCOTT (B), proposing the motion, felt in a mood for touching stories. The hardships suffered in the insect world were laid open before the sympathising ears of the Society. Point there was but little; effect, however, was great.

J. J. DAVIS (T), opposing, took away the sting from the proposer's bee by adding a happy ending, happy for both bee and opposition. But he soon descended from the clouds of fiction to the safety of earth, becoming, in the passage, both hackneyed and commonplace.

MR. R. E. J. DAVIS showed that many famous people including the speaker had never taken a School Certificate and were manifestly none the worse for it. He was both witty and sensible, skilfully disposing of the Opposer's more shaky arguments.

MR. H. J. M. MOLLOY (O.S.) attempted to build up an ambitious mathematical edifice of reasoning, but in spite of all his efforts it was not long before it collapsed in a heap and he was reduced to rummaging mistily about in the remnants.

The debate was then opened to a House which was neither very large nor very exciting.

The Motion was carried in the Upper House by 16 votes to 7 and in the Lower House by 27 votes to 21.

The 169th Meeting of the Society was held in the Library on October 17th. The Motion was "That in the opinion of this House, the atom had been better unsplit."

G. P. LEWIS (B) proposed the motion in a manner worthy both of the traditions of the Society and of the momentous subject under discussion. But throughout his entire speech could be sensed the supreme contempt he felt for those who were so perverted as to dabble in Science.

R. G. A. PEARCE (B), leading for the atom bomb, set up a high standard of close reasoning for his side to uphold. Step followed on step with mathematical precision and those of the Society who had not fallen by the wayside must have felt an urge to add Q.E.D.

MR. A. B. E. GIBSON broke like a breeze of good clean air into the gloomy atmosphere of the debate. The atom ceased to be some great sword of Damocles hanging over our heads and became a friendly little fellow who was being mercilessly chivied by the other side.

MR. W. LLOWARCH stated that the atom as such did not exist. He then proceeded, in the manner of a coroner, to debate all the possible methods by which the hypothetical atom might have met its death. The verdict turned out to be suicide while balance of mind was disturbed.



The debate was then opened to a house which believed in making up in quantity what it lacked in quality. Although there were notable exceptions, the standard of speaking was as low as Stowe has grown to expect.

There voted in the Upper House for the Motion 12, against 7; in the Lower House for the Motion 93, against 39.

The 170th Meeting of the Society was held on November 21st. The Motion was "That this House sees no justification for the trial of anyone as a War Criminal."

J. M. KAHN (W), opening the debate, with flowing eloquence denounced the Nuremberg trials as bereft of any moral or legal justification. If Goering was on trial for causing the obliteration of Rotterdam and Warsaw, then Air Marshal Harris and General Spaatz should keep him company for the similar devastation of Hamburg and Nagasaki. A fearful precedent was being set up for future generations to follow.

H. A. CHAPPLE (C), defending war trials, went back into the dim mists of the past to look for the origins of justice. Law was a matter of human convenience and yet, paradoxically, there are certain fundamental principles which are recognized throughout the world. The War criminals are to be tried for their offences against these.

C. S. EDWARDS (C) denied that human courts were competent to deal with crimes so vast and decreed that their punishment was in the hands of God. The quibbling and refining of which his speech largely consisted was covered by the vehemence of his manner.

G. L. E. SPIER (G) ceased to try and prove Nuremberg legal and stated that the trial was under the right of conquest. After thus stepping delicately over the quicksand, he pranced happily and irrelevantly upon the firm ground of Belsen horrors.

Although the following debate was not conspicuous for any startling speech, the general standard was a little higher than usual.

There voted in the Upper House for the Motion 7, against 11; in the Lower House for the Motion 18, against the Motion 51.

The following new members have been elected to the Society during the term:—  
R. M. M. Wills (B), A. Caiger-Smith (T), N. I. H. Wolfe (B), O. B. Sayer (T), M. G. Falcon (C), J. E. D. Fottrell (T), J. D. Lloyd (B), T. M. Irvine (T), R. J. Maxwell-Hyslop (C), J. I. Tweedie-Smith (B).

J.J.D.

#### THE JUNIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

The Junior Debating Society has continued its activities this term with a smaller but keen membership. Officers were elected as follows:—Vice-President, R. N. Langley (G); Secretary, F. R. G. Lowe (G); Committee-man, P. C. Paisley (W). Some interesting subjects have been debated, including "Ghosts," "That the Age of Chivalry is dead," "That the Jews be admitted to Palestine," and the Nationalisation issue. Speakers have been somewhat brief, with the exception of the Secretary, C. B. Baxter (G) and R. R. Thornton (W), who are among the ablest debaters that the Society has produced. It is hoped that the Society will hold a Mock Trial before the end of the term.

A.J.C.

## NATURAL HISTORY

During the year 1945 there have been some interesting records of birds and mammals in the Stowe grounds; and these notes are compiled from observations made by R. H. Prestwich (C), M. D. Cobham (G), and a number of other bird enthusiasts.

The Garganey seen on the Octagon on March 10th was the most surprising visitor. It may be that this had escaped from a collection, for it is an early record for this summer resident, the Summer Teal, as many call it. But there are records of its early arrival, and even of occasional residence here throughout winter; so we need not dismiss the possibility of having harboured a truly wild bird. Two unidentified grey Geese flew south over the grounds on October 12th. Single Widgeon have been seen on the lakes on several occasions, and once a Pochard Drake; but only Tufted Ducks and Mallard have stayed with us more than a night or two. Let us hope the time is now near when hand-reared Pinioned Ducks can be established on the lakes: for these would decoy the visitors and keep them with us longer.

Bramblings, unrecorded in the winter of 1943-44, were seen in some numbers in the cold February spell, as many as thirty on the 11th of that month in company with a large Chaffinch flock. Fifty Tree Sparrows were seen near the Roman road in March. Chiffchaffs arrived on March 18th. The hard winter reduced the number of Long-Tailed Tits, but Marsh Tits have been as numerous as ever.

The breeding season was marked by a reduction in the Sand Martin colony in the Dadford pit to 109 occupied holes, one third of the peak number reached in 1944; but it is not known whether this was due to some collapse of the most favourable sites or to the return of fewer birds in spring. Erythristic eggs of the Garden Warbler were found, and also spotless ones of the Wren.

Mr. Eric Hosking's lecture on Broadland Birds on November 13th was well attended and enjoyed. His patience in the hide has given pleasure to thousands who have seen his books and slides. The removal of big game heads from the Temple of Concord has given room for rearrangement of the cases of birds so that these can be seen to better advantage.

Two Water Shrews, mammals of distinctly local occurrence, have been seen feeding in the outlet from the Octagon lake. Their dark grey coat appears silvery when they dive, so perfect is the retention of air between their hairs. Rising to the surface dry they ride high, and assist their paddling efforts by a fish-like sinuous movement of the whole body. Their quarrels make one realize how this genus of the Insectivora has given a noun, an adjective, and the title of a play to enrich our English tongue.

## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

## THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

We were fortunate in again having Mr. E. Conrad-Baker, of Cambridge, to lecture to us this term. His subject was "China," but naturally his talk could not embrace every aspect, and he therefore gave us an admirable account of China's history and of the present political situation. There are two definite parties, the North Chinese, who are Communists, and favour a union with the U.S.S.R., and the Southern Chinese who are decidedly anti-communist.

All his talk was excellently delivered and he answered innumerable questions. The Society was pleased to admit other members of the School and many took advantage of this.

About half-term, Mr. J. G. Le Breton kindly gave us an informal talk on "A Settler's Life in Kenya." He had been there living in three capacities, as farmer, army officer, and Commissioner, and was thoroughly well versed in the habits and culture of the natives and the natural vegetation and relief of the country. This paper was welcome, since we have had few talks or papers on parts of the continent of Africa.

Towards the end of the term, it is hoped that an Old Stoic will give us a lecture, and the Secretary is making a similar contemplation.

R.K.K.

## THE MODERN LANGUAGES SOCIETY

The members of the Modern Languages Society this term were:—E. C. Skepper (T), D. A. Illingworth (G), G. S. Chadwick (C), G. M. Jones (W), D. C. Bakirgian (C), G. J. Chibbett (C) and N. N. Proddow (C). G. S. Chadwick and D. A. Illingworth were elected to the posts of Secretary and Committee-man respectively.

The following plays were read during the term:—Le Misanthrope, by Molière, and Les Boulinards, by Ordonneau. The former provided rather a severe test, but on the whole the standard of reading was high.

G.S.C.

## THE XII CLUB

A. J. O. Ritchie (T) read the only paper the Club has heard to date, on "The Rise and Fall of Opera," in which he traced with exhaustive thoroughness and the help of gramophone records the long pedigree of the art, ending with a mighty apotheosis of Wagner, who, as he is wont, soon became the subject of controversy. The Club emerged from a good ninety minutes of solid but palatable history able to approach this "exotic and irrational entertainment" with an understanding of its purposes and possibilities such as few of its members can have possessed before; though even so there remained yet a few who were not disposed to disagree with Dr. Johnson's description.

G.P.L.

## THE CONGREVE CLUB

This term the Club has devoted all its energies towards a production of "Saint Joan," by Shaw, which will be performed on December 17th and 18th. The play is being directed by Mr. A. A. Dams: the other producers are Mr. B. S. Stephan, J. B. More (C) and S. D. M. Robertson (B). For the first time, the performances will be open, not only to members of the School, but also to people from Buckingham.

On Wednesday, October 24th, the Club went on its first post-war expedition, which was to see Mr. Lewis Casson's production of "Saint Joan," at Stratford, with Miss Ann Casson playing the title-role. The whole expedition, organized by Mr. Dams, to whom the Club is much indebted, was a great success, and we arrived back, during the early hours of Thursday morning, tired, but contented at having seen so excellent a performance.

Mr. C. S. D. Moore has continued organizing play-reading this term, but so far there have been only two meetings as most people have been engaged in rehearsing. The two plays read have been "Socrates" by Clifford Bax and Shaw's "Doctor's Dilemma."

S.D.M.R.

## THE SYMPOSIUM

There have been four meetings this term. Except for the President (Mr. G. W. Knight) and M. Morland (B), the Secretary, all the members were new to the Society: M. Birkett (T), A. Caiger-Smith (T), S. D. M. Robertson (B), A. W. Murdoch (T), J. C. Harper (C), J. D. R. Whitley (W), P. M. Gibbs (C) and J. K. Hill (C).

The meetings of this year's Symposium have been of a high standard. As usual they have taken place in the Aurelian Room at 8.15 p.m. on Tuesdays, soothingly refreshed with sweet coffee. On October 9th, M. Birkett (T) read a paper on "George Moore, the novelist," giving an interesting appreciation of "The Brook Kerith." A lively discussion on language and literature ensued. On October 23rd, S. D. M. Robertson (B) gave an instructive and highly documented paper on "Cardinal Richelieu." The arguments which followed could not, although they tried, centre around the Great Cardinal, but changed to King-worship and Court patronage.

On November 6th, A. Caiger-Smith (T) read a learned and philosophic paper on the "Search for Knowledge." The discussion afterwards concentrated on religion, the favourite topic in the Symposium, free-will, the Trinity, and sun-worship. On November 27th, A. W. Murdoch (T) will read a paper on that insoluble problem, "Predestination."

M.M.

## THE 46 CLUB

So far, the Society has held two meetings this term. At the first of these, Mr. W. Llowarch read an absorbing paper on "The Quantum Theory," which provoked a most interesting discussion. At the second, D. I. Hird (C) read a paper on "Cellulose Plastics." The ensuing discussion proved to be of very high quality indeed.

It is hoped to hold another meeting this term, when A. P. Clark (G) will read a paper on "The Special Theory of Relativity."

R.M.M.

## THE SCIENCE SOCIETY

After remaining inactive for the first half of the term, the Society held its 94th meeting on Nov. 14th when the Secretary read a paper on "Ions in gases." Before the paper was started, however, two members of the Society rose and demanded to hear what had become of the Treasurer and the treasury. The President replied that the treasury was a few pence and that there was no Treasurer. Further discussion on the constitution of the Society was then postponed until the next meeting. It is hoped, however, that with the ending of the war and the improvement of transport facilities the Society will be able to return to its former practice of visiting scientific establishments outside Stowe.

One more meeting will be held this term, when R. M. Macnaughton (C) will read a paper on "Stars and Planets."

F.C.

## THE VITRUVIANS

At the end of last term, Mr. Richard Sheppard, F.R.I.B.A., A.A.Hons. Dipl., came down to give a lantern lecture on "Post-War Reconstruction," and on July 29th the Society combined with the Poetry Society for an expedition to Tyringham and Olney. Tyringham is a late 18th Century house, designed by Sir John Soane; and at Olney, where William Cowper lived for 19 years, we visited the Cowper Museum.

The second bus expedition since the revival of the Society in 1941 was to Compton Wynyates and Wroxton Abbey and took place on October 14th. Although our anxiety for Varney's bus was twice roused on our way there, we arrived to see the most delightful of Tudor country houses. We also visited Compton Wynyates Church and, on our return, went over Wroxton Abbey, a Jacobean House, which showed clearly how domestic architecture had altered in the century which had elapsed since Compton Wynyates was built.

On October 27th, Mr. W. C. Graper, A.M.T.P.I., of the North Bucks Joint Planning Committee, came here to lecture on "Town and Country Planning," and a fortnight later we welcomed Mr. Esdaile who gave a talk on "The Builder." He outlined the history of the builder and maintained that the invasion of mass-production and industry into building was the cause of the decline of present-day architecture.

At a meeting held on November 25th, four sound films were shown. They were enjoyed by everyone, although very similar, each stressing the importance of utility in modern architecture.

The Committee this term has been the same as last term, except that the post of Librarian has been held by N. I. H. Wolfe (B). The membership for the term was 65.

D.H.W.V.

## THE PUPPET CLUB

Last term the Puppet Club produced a show called "Evening Primrose," being neither about evening nor a primrose. It was, in fact, as it was called when broadcast by the B.B.C., a Horrible Phantasy, of the life of certain rather nasty subhumans hidden in a London store. The play gave great scope for face-modelling. The characters were various, but all horrible; including a Colonel from Safari; an unrelenting judge;

Mrs. Bilbo and Mrs. Tromp, two twittering females; the cynical half-human, Mrs. Roscoe; an emaciated harridan, Mrs. Vanderpant; and the Night Watchman, whose lantern was ingeniously made to light spasmodically by the electrician. The show realized £9 10s. for the Red Cross.

The Club is at present busy and enthusiastic. On November 14th a visit was paid to Oxford. The puppets seen there were exceedingly well made and finished, and this is an example which the Club might well imitate, though there is not usually time enough here to be very careful over details. This term the Club is preparing several short plays, splitting up into small groups to do so.

We were sad to lose a very valuable member in Miss Radice, who has been a constant supporter of the Club for many years. The Club has been invited to give a show during a pantomime at the Albert Hall, with a stage and lighting specially made to our requirements, but as it is to take place in the Christmas Holidays when members are scattered far and wide we have reluctantly to decline.

M.D.M.

J.F.P.

## LECTURES

There were two Upper School lectures this term. Mr. Beverley Baxter, M.P., came to talk on "The New Parliament." He gave a most lively and at times frightening picture of the country's newly elected representatives. He made no attempt to be unbiased, but showed to the School a picture as seen through the eyes of one of the best known Tories. Ft./Lt. Aidan Crawley, the new Labour M.P. for Buckingham, was to have replied to Mr. Baxter's grave charges against the Labour Party—in order to give both sides of the picture—but he had to postpone his visit to next term.

The other speaker was The Hon. Harold Nicolson, C.M.G., who spoke on "An Approach to Foreign Affairs." He did not try so much to analyse the present political situation—though he discussed the various present-day problems too—as to lay down some simple rules of how to study so vast a subject, what to do and what not to do. His talk was followed by a lively discussion which must have proved to the speaker how much he had succeeded in stimulating his audience.

## ENTERTAINMENTS

The Saturday films this term have been somewhat tawdry owing to the impossibility of procuring any films other than those the distributors see fit to send. But four at least have been memorable for one reason or another.

*Stage Door Canteen* presented stars and dance bands with tasteless confusion in New York's famed Service Men's Club. The story was so sugary as to revolt a child of three. The kind of circus in which Hollywood rejoices;

Although *Madame Curie* was altogether too worthy for the school's taste, it was so polished and the acting so exquisite that its success is easily understood. The outstanding picture of the term.

Thornton Wilder's rather over-rated little story *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* is transferred to the screen in a spirit of gaiety and modernized luxury, ill-befitted to 18th Century Peru. But the acting was competent and the fall of the bridge effectively carried out.

*They Got Me Covered* was a very appropriate film for the end of the term. This is the kind of crazy comedy at which Hollywood excels and which exactly suits the talents of Bob Hope and Dottie Lamour.

H.P.S.

H.L.P.H.

## 'DAILY EXPRESS' VISIT

A party of ten from the "Modern Studies Side" (8a) went to London on November 11th to see the production of *The Daily Express*. The visit had been made possible through the kindness and generosity of Lord Beaverbrook and Mr. E. V. Robertson, General Manager of The Express Newspapers. It would be too long to describe in detail the various stages of the production, but the party saw every single process from the minute the news came in to the reporters' room up to the completed newspaper coming out of the machines by the thousand. In addition to this the visitors were given their own names in print, were photographed and had each a copy of the photo within less than two minutes, and had an enormous midnight meal in the rooms of one of the directors. In short it was an exciting and memorable excursion.



## TO A SPITFIRE PILOT SHOT DOWN OVER THE CHANNEL IN AUGUST 1941

You knew exhilaration free from fear,  
Alone in the cold clean emptiness of space,  
The frosty clearness of the upper air.  
Joy lay in the intentness of the chase.  
Happy you were, alive, the war a game  
Played in the boundless limits of the sky.  
Your foe a thing inanimate, to maim  
Or kill which scarcely cost your heart a sigh.  
Beauty lay in the kill, and that alone  
Caused your unfeeling joyful heart to melt.  
Death came—and by a foe unseen, unknown;  
The stuttering messengers of death scarce felt.  
A sudden darkness, spin—then dive—and gone.  
The unchanging ocean silently rolled on.

A.M.W.P.

### KEY TO PUZZLE ON PAGE 21.

1, Arne, 32, 41, 40, 39; 2, Bach, 9, 8, 7, 16; 3, Beethoven, 35, 44, 43, 42, 51, 52, 53, 44, 45; 4, Brahms, 9, 18, 17, 16, 25, 24; 5, Chopin, 7, 6, 5, 4, 13, 22; 6, Delius, 48, 39, 30, 21, 12, 3; 7, Dvorak, 48, 49, 50, 41, 32, 23; 8, Elgar, 39, 30, 31, 32, 41; 9, Glinka, 31, 30, 21, 22, 23, 32; 10, Handel, 37, 46, 47, 48, 39, 30; 11, Liszt, 14, 15, 24, 33, 42; 12, Mozart, 25, 34, 33, 32, 41, 42; 13, Sibelius, 28, 29, 38, 39, 30, 21, 12, 3; 14, Smetana, 24, 25, 26, 27, 36, 45, 54; 15, Sullivan, 3, 12, 11, 20, 19, 10, 1, 2.

