LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL

JOHN BROWN, M.B.E., M.C.
Education Officer

TELEPHONE WATERLOO 5000
EXTENSION 6885.

Replies to be sent to the Education Officer, quoting

EO/ H.2/2.

THE COUNTY HALL
WESTMINSTER BRIDGE
LONDON, S.E.1

4 JUN 1953

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir,

Accident to Arthur Simmonds on 17th February, 1953.

I attach a copy of a letter received from a firm of solicitors who are acting on behalf of the parent of the above-named pupil, in respect of an injury he is alleged to have sustained during a boxing match on 17th February, 1953. Would you be good enough to let me have, for the information of the Council's Solicitor, a report relating to this matter at your early convenience.

Yours faithfully,

John Brown.

Education Officer.

The Headmaster,
Wandsworth School (Building),
Garratt Lane,
Southfields,
S.W.18.

COPY.

H.C.L. HANNE & CO.

192, Lavender Hill,
Clapham Junction,
London, S.W.11.

DMO:MD.

19th May, 1953.

The Clerk to the Council,
London County Council,
County Hall,
Westminster Bridge, S.E.1.

Dear Sir,

We have been consulted by Mrs.V.L.Simmonds of 43, St.Philip Street, Battersea, S.W.8., as next friend to her son, Arthur Anthony John Simmonds, of the same address, who was injured on 17th February, 1953, whilst boxing.

We are instructed that on that day Arthur was obliged to enter into a boxing competition at the School he is attending, Wandsworth School of Building, Garratt Lane, S.W.18, despite the fact that he did not wish to enter this competition.

We understand that some weeks before hand he was ordered by his House Master, Mr.Clarke, that he had to box and indeed, this order was given to all the boys in Arthur's particular house apart from those who were exempt from boxing owing to medical reasons.

As a result of the contest, Arthur received a blow in the mouth which loosened some of his front teeth and our client has already incurred some £3.3s for the cost of this treatment.

We are, however, informed by the Dental Surgeon that it is more than possible that as a result of the blow the teeth have received, that the nerves in the teeth will die and badly discolour, necessitating further treatment in the future.

It is our client's intention to claim damages in respect of her son's injuries and we shall be pleased to hear from you in the matter at your early convenience.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) H.C.L.HANNE & CO.

17 Feb

~~Dear Sir,~~

Accident to Arthur Simmonds
on 17th Feb. 1953.

Arthur Simmonds took part in the annual House Boxing Competition held on a "knock-out" basis during the Spring Term, in the afternoons from 3.50 p.m. after normal lessons are finished.

The competition is voluntary but boys are encouraged to enter by House Masters and in this instance Arthur Simmonds entered after Mr. Clark had given his House a "pep-talk". There is no question of compulsary entry (41 boys out 80 boxed for the House.)

The staff who were on duty at the time of the accident were not aware that dental treatment was necessary; Simmonds complained of a cut lip and headache which were treated at school.

Subsequently a bill for £2-2-0 was sent to the School, with a request that we pay it. The matter was put before the Parents' Council. In their opinion Mrs Simmonds should have made use of the L.C.C Dental Services and not incurred expense through a private dentist. The Parents' Council therefore declined to meet the account.

Technical Branch,--
Garratt Lane,

10th June 1953

Ref: H.2/2.

The Education Officer,
The County Hall, S.E.1.

Dear Sir,

Accident to Arthur Simmonds,
on 17th February, 1953.

The above pupil took part in the annual House Boxing Competition that takes place in the Spring Term on a succession of days from 3.50 p.m. after normal lessons are finished.

The competition is voluntary but boys are encouraged to enter by their House Masters and in this instance Arthur Simmonds entered after Mr. Clarke had given his House a "pep talk" at which the other two assistant housemasters were present. In point of fact 41 boys out of the 80 belonging to the House took part in the competition. There was no question of compulsory entry or exemption only for medical cases.

The boxing took place under the usual rules and safeguards with a Referee, two judges, and other adults acting as officials - all being members of the staff of the School.

The staff on duty at the time of the occurrence that is the subject of the present enquiry were not aware that dental treatment was necessary. Simmonds complained of a cut lip and headache which were treated at school. Such minor contingencies as this appeared to be are frequent in games and are not regarded as accidents to be reported.

The next morning the attached note was received from the parent indicating that the parent had arranged to take the boy to a dentist.

Subsequently a bill for £2.2s was sent to the School with a request that the School should pay it. This bill is also attached.

The matter was put before the Parents Council who have a small fund from which they are sometimes prepared to help, but in their view Mrs. Simmonds should have made use of the L.C.C. Dental Services and not incurred expense through a private dentist. They therefore did not feel called upon to help.

Mr. Makin, Master-in-Charge of the Technical Branch, is away on a School Journey until Friday, 12th June, and may be able to supplement this report on his return.

Yours faithfully,

Headmaster.

Technical Branch,--
Garratt Lane,

10th June 1953

Ref: H.2/2.

The Education Officer,
The County Hall, S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

Accident to Arthur Simmonds,
on 17th February, 1953.

The above pupil took part in the annual House Boxing Competition that takes place in the Spring Term on a succession of days from 3.50 p.m. after normal lessons are finished.

The competition is voluntary but boys are encouraged to enter by their House Masters and in this instance Arthur Simmonds entered after Mr. Clarke had given his House a "pep talk" at which the other two assistant housemasters were present. In point of fact 41 boys out of the 80 belonging to the House took part in the competition. There was no question of compulsory entry or exemption only for medical cases.

The boxing took place under the usual rules and safeguards with a Referee, two judges, and other adults acting as officials - all being members of the staff of the School.

The staff on duty at the time of the occurrence that is the subject of the present enquiry were not aware that dental treatment was necessary. Simmonds complained of a cut lip and headache which were treated at school. Such minor contingencies as this appeared to be are frequent in games and are not regarded as accidents to be reported.

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Subsequently a bill for £2.2s was sent to the School with a request that the School should pay it. This bill is also attached.

The matter was put before the Parents Council who have a small fund from which they are sometimes prepared to help, but in their view Mrs. Simmonds should have made use of the L.C.C. Dental Services and not incurred expense through a private dentist. They therefore did not feel called upon to help.

Mr. Makin, Master-in-Charge of the Technical Branch, is away on a School Journey until Friday, 12th June, and may be able to supplement this report on his return.

Yours faithfully,

Headmaster.

2 copies

Do not write on either margin

Question.....
Write on both sides of the paper

Wandsworth School
Medical Branch,
Garratt Lane SW 18

Accident to Arthur Simmonds
on 14 Feb. 1953

Dear Sir,

The above pupil took part in the annual House Boxing Competition that takes place in the Spring Term on a succession of days from 3.50 pm after normal lessons are finished.

The competition is voluntary but boys are encouraged to enter by their House Masters and on this occasion Arthur Simmonds entered after Mr Clark had given his House a "pep talk" at which the other two assistant House-masters were present. In point of fact 41 boys out of the 80 belonging to the House took part in the under competition. There was no question of compulsory entry ~~with~~ of competition only for medical ones.

The boxing took place under the usual rules, & safeguards both a Referee, two judges, and other adults acting as officials — all being members of the staff of the school.

The staff on duty at the time of the occurrence that is the subject of the present enquiry were not aware that dental treatment was necessary. Simmonds complained of a ~~cut~~ lip and headache ~~and this~~ which were treated at school. Such minor ending-ones as this appeared to be are frequent in games & are not regarded as accidents to be reported.

TCM

Question.....
Write on both sides of the paper

Do not write on either margin

Rejects

The next morning the attached note was received from the parent indicating that the parent had ~~arranged~~ taken the boy to a dentist.

Subsequently a bill for £2-2-0 was sent to the School with a request that the School should pay it. This bill is also attached.

The matter was put before the Parents' Council who have a small fund from which they are sometimes prepared to help, but in their view the treatment should have been one of the LCC Dental Services and not incurred expense through a private dentist. They therefore did not feel called upon to help.

Mr Martin Beadle in charge of the Tech. Branch is away on a School Journey until Friday 12 June & may be able to supplement this report in his return.