Vol. XXVII. AUTUMN TERM, 1943.

THE LINK

The Magazine of Wandsworth School

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

Editors ... ... D. R. LIGHT, J. H. BECK

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Old Wandsworthians' Representative ... MR. S. H. FAIREY

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WANDSWORTH SCHOOL.

VOL. XXVII. AUTUMN TERM, 1943

Editorial.

This magazine came into being during the last war to supply the need that its title suggests. And now again there has come a resurgence of the same desire for communion between the old School and its sons scattered among burning sands and raging tide.

We ask all those who can to send this present number to some Wandsworthian serving with the Forces. This unpretentious little print, when you have read it and it is without further interest for you, yet bears the power to satisfy a hunger for news in the breast of someone known to you. Please hand it to the parents of an Old Wandsworthian.

We shall be happy to send a copy to anyone who desires it.

The next issue of "The Link" will be autumn 1944, price one shilling. Subscriptions are now due, and we urge you to post yours without delay lest you forget it. Will you please bring this to the notice of Old Wandsworthians? You will earn the gratitude of the School.

The Treasurer of "The Link,"
Wandsworth School,
"Little Firs,"
Shaftesbury Road, Woking.

Headmaster's Notes.

We are now in our fifth and, it is devoutly to be hoped, our last year of evacuation. Five years is the normal length of a secondary school "generation." Only those seniors who have completed the School Certificate course remember life in the School at Sutherland Grove, and theirs are the memories of very junior boys there. The evacuated generation has missed much, but, in view of the hazards and stresses through which the nation has passed, they might have fared much worse. We are still a school in being, and the masters who have solidly stood by the ship provide that element of continuity that will firmly link the pre-war School with the Wandsworth of to-morrow.

For the last three years our numbers at Woking have been maintained at a steady two hundred. This year we are a hundred and seventy-five. But as against that expected drop, we have begun to build up elsewhere. We have over a hundred juniors in the War-time Classes in our old building in Southfields. This development was timely, and things in London have turned out better than I had dared to expect. Our school building has now been completely vacated by the Fire Service and is available for us—apart from unforeseen accident!—as soon as we are ready to return.

The launching of the classes at Southfields was enormously helped by the welcome return of Mr. Powell from his short retirement to take charge. I am glad to think he has the assistance of Dr. Jory: for with these two invaluable

and experienced members of the old staff we can be sure that what is built up will be guided by the best in our tradition. The other full-time member of the staff at Southfields is Mr. Keyte, a newcomer whose qualities are greatly appreciated. These three masters manage the three classes we have so far, with the help of Messrs. Chart-Leigh, Hodgkinson, and Maycock, who visit them on certain days from this end. In the case of Mr. Maycock, we have bartered most of what share we had in his services for the assistance of two Language Mistresses from the Mayfield classes, who temporarily share our premises.

With the inauguration of the classes in our school building, the Governors have resumed their meetings after an intermission of over four years. The Rev. H. C. Green continues as Chairman, and Mrs. Blizard as Vice-Chairman. Both have visited us here during the last year. Mrs. Blizard afterwards paid an official visit to our Firlands Hostel in her capacity of Visitor, along with the local Visitors, Mrs. Wood and Miss Cowen. She performed the little ceremony of handing their badges of service to the Warden (Mr. Phillimore), Matron and Staff, and expressed all our appreciation to them for helping the School with the housing of 34 boys.

The resumption of Governors' Meetings suggests the possibility of reviving the activities of another institution particularly characteristic of school life as we knew it before the war at Southfields. Mr. Beck, the Honorary Secretary of the Parents' Association, writes in the present issue a full and informative account of its history and working for the benefit of the present generation of parents, most of whom have had no knowledge of it. He considers the time opportune for its revival and proposes to be guided by a referendum in which every parent is urged to fill in and send to the school an appropriate slip. I believe myself that parents as partners to the educational process are going to play a more organised and effective part than hitherto in a reorganised system of national education.

Governors, Parents—and now Old Boys. It is not easy to envisage any organised working of the Old Wandsworthians Association during the war, with its members scattered over the whole face of the globe. In the years before the war, the use of the School one evening each week as a Club House stimulated the fellowship. That facility cannot, of course, at present be afforded, but I should like all old boys to know that the building is again in our occupation and there are those who will welcome them there. If choice is possible, Tuesdays are, on the whole, most convenient.

Mr. Terry has helped me to collate information about Old Boys for this issue. We are aware that it is piecemeal and incomplete: that is how it comes to hand. We are only too painfully aware of lack of detail about casualties among Old Boys, and even of a distressing uncertainty of their incidence. We have preferred to omit mention of reports that have come to us insufficiently authenticated.

It is gratifying to know the eagerness and appreciation with which the Old Boys' notes in the last issue of "The Link" were read both far and near.

The School's social organisation by Houses and Tutor-Sets was so totally broken up by the indiscriminate scattering of our boys from the evacuation dispersal point over the whole countryside, and in the case of one large group as far afield as Maidenhead, that we had to reorganise ourselves by "localities": Byfleet, Horsell, Knaphill, and Westfield. This organisation is still necessary for many purposes, but during this last year the beginnings of a revived House system have been made. This gave a zest to the School Athletic Sports that we have not seen since pre-war days. For inter-House team games, in view of reduced numbers, the Houses are paired: Cromwell and Pitt (The "Crumpets") against Morley and Gibbon. ("Morons" has been suggested—generally from a safe distance.)

We repeated last year's agricultural camp arrangements for six weeks in the summer: from mid-August to near the end of September. Some thirty boys with two masters was the strength we maintained, partly by a relay system. As before, we were housed in Princess Elizabeth's Hospital, Banstead Wood, and worked on the L.C.C. Hospital farms at Sutton and Banstead.

During the last two years we have thrown open the Nathan Essay Prize Competition to the other three local secondary schools, with the idea of extending the field and increasing the number of entries, which has always been disappointingly small. We have decided to do this for a third year, the subject this time being: "How should Germany be dealt with after the war?"

Last year's first prize winner was D. R. Light, our Head Boy, and the subject: "Winning the Peace." I must congratulate Light upon an outstanding piece of work, though I gather the essay was sent in as an "afterthought," following his preoccupation with the Higher School Certificate Examination. The following is an extract from a letter I had from Lord Nathan, the schools he refers to as taking part in the essay competitions being Rugby, Stowe, Bec, and Wandsworth, and "Tiresias" being Light's nom de plume:

"I agree with you that the Tiresias is quite an outstanding piece of work, most remarkable both for the maturity of the ideas and the expression of them. It was largely with a view to making the young people think that I initiated the prizes at all. During the period that these prizes have been running, I have seen from various schools a great number of essays, differing, of course, a great deal in quality. Taking the series as a whole I should say that from all the schools over the whole period, this essay of Tiresias is the second best. The best was written by a boy at Stowe a couple of years ago."

Lord Nathan also stated his intention to send the essay on to "higher authority" as an "indication of the altogether admirable work which, with the right material, a secondary school can do."

While Lord Nathan, by his prizes, generously stimulates young people to think, and equally generously appraises the results, Mr. Fenn, with his plans and guidance, assists at the actual process. The "Four Schools Club" has successfully continued its activities throughout the year, and within its varied programme has included a leading part in locally arranged international youth conferences, notably one on the Atlantic Charter.

I should like in these notes to record appreciation of the school's response to two appeals in particular: The Empire Children's Gift of cigarettes and tobacco to the Forces, and the British fund for rebuilding Stalingrad Hospital.

A special word of congratulation to the Cadet Corps for its runaway success in the Inter-Platoon Athletic Sports that secured it a handsome and much-coveted trophy.

Owing to pressure on space we do not set out the School and Higher Certificate results, but it is highly satisfactory to record that all six of our Higher School Certificate candidates passed last June and twenty-one of twenty-three School Certificate candidates, ten with Matriculation.

Special congratulations to Peter Jewell upon gaining a major open scholarship in Agriculture to Reading University, a very fine achievement indeed.

The following Prefects hold office this year:—

Head Prefect: Light, D. R.

Full Prefects: Baker, G. E.; King, D. M. R. (Left); Beck, J. H.; Gardner, F.; Lawrence, A. G.

Sub-Prefects: Pettitt, H. W.; Gowers, R. C. (Left); Ramell, A. H.; Woodbridge, P. (Left); Taylor, J. C.; Ascher, M.; Pauncefort, B. E.; Coulthard, J. R.; Thomas, P. E.; Medcalf, P. F.

As "The Link" goes to press we have just heard of the brilliant success of D. R. Light in gaining the first of the two Modern Language Open Scholarships

awarded by Christ Church, Oxford. This is a triumph of ability and character of which the School may be justly proud: for conditions of studying and of teaching at scholarship standard have not been easy under evacuation. The Staff, principally Mr. Hatfield and Mr. Fenn, share our congratulations with Light.

Avete atque Valete.

The following boys have been admitted since the last issue of "The Link":

Berry, R. A.; Boucher, R. A.; Brand, G. A.; Bruce, G. A.; Bryant, T.; Clark, G. W.; Coggins, H. H. J.; Cole, E. G.; Cullum, A. B.; Dockley, H. S.; How, K. A.; Jones, D. A.; Jones, R. V.; Kohn, R.; Martin, R. S.; Maystone, B.; Millwood, A. R.; Morrell, A. D.; Noon, L. V.; Owen, E. W.; Pain, A.; Rance, J. W. M.; Roodhouse, E. J.; Sanders, J. B.; Sells, D.; Shulman, H. E.; Springett, P. R.; Stone, K.; Suter, B. P.; Taylor, R. S.; Thompson, D. A.; Thornton, H.; Wickens, D. C.; Wicker, W. G.; Woods, M. E.; Youle, A. J.

The following have left since the last issue of "The Link":—

Agate, W.; Balls, D. G.; Barnes, B. W.; Bennett, W. A.; Bridgette, E. F. G.; Brown, J. W.; Bunyan, G. K.; Burt, N. L. V.; Cane, A. E.; Cole, M. R.; Corderoy, G. T.; Coxhill, J. W.; Crick, L. L. J.; Cusden, R. A. G.; Douglas, A. J.; Ealey, G. N.; Engel, J. E.; Gardner, E. S.; Gowers, R. C.; Graham, D. M.; Grant, R. F.; Harbour, P. H.; Hill, P. H.; Jackson, R. W. L.; Johnson, E. C.; King, D. M. R.; Miller, J.; Plaickner, L. L.; Ramell, J. E.; Reynolds, D. G.; Robins, G. W.; Rogerson, T. G.; Rothery, J. M.; Rushton, D. G.; Sewell, D. W.; Shedden, D. A.; Shillingford, H. S.; Sutters, F. B.; Taylor, R. S.; Thomas, G. F.; Turner, R. T.; Waite, G. R. A.; Walding, K. E. J.; Wood, D. J.; Woodbridge, P.; Woodward, A. W.

Old Boys serving with H.M. Forces.

We give below the news of Old Boys serving in H.M. Forces, which we have received since the last issue of our magazine. Any additional information will be welcomed, especially concerning Old Wandsworthians whose names do not appear in our lists. Please give the Christian names, and, if possible, the years during which they were at the School.

Aitken, A. E. 1934-9. Royal Corps of Signals. Electrician.
Allen, A. K. 1910-14. R.A.F. Officer in Kenya.
Alecock, W. E. J. 1917-22. R.A.F.
Alexander, G. K. 1936-41. R.E. Candidate for O.C.T.U.
Ames, P. V. 1932-39. Radio Officer in Merchant Navy.
Ames, R. S. 1931-39. R.A.F.
Andrews, C. 1931-37. R.N. Has seen much service in Mediterranean area.
Archer, J. 1931-37. R.A. Major. Artillery Instructor.
Arthur, J. 1927-33. R.N.
Austin, C. 1925-32. R.A.F. Wireless Pilot Officer. In Ceylon.
Bampton, W. 1930-35. Prisoner of War.
Barnes, J. R. 1932-37. R.N. Telegraphist.
Barrow, V. 1931-39. R.A.M.C. In N. Ireland.
Batty, J. G. 1933-40. R.A.F.
Beard, D. W. F. 1931-37. R.A.S.C. Corporal.

Bee, B. W. J. 1934-39. R.A.F. Ground Staff.
Barnett, E. A. 1924-34. R.E. 2nd Lieut.
Battie, R. P. 1934-40. R.A.F. Observers' Course.
Belcher, W. J. 1930-36. After active service in France and escape via Marseilles and Gibraltar, now in India.
Blazey, E. W. 1926-32. R.A.F. Trained as observer in Canada.
Blazey, C. C. 1931-38. Back in Army.
Bingham, H. 1934-38. R.A.F. Wireless Operator.
Bingham, K. P. 1932-37. R.A. A.A. Gunner.
Bishop, —. R.A.F. Air Sea Rescue.
Boreham, G. 1931-36. R.A.F. Flight Lieut. Gained D.F.M. (1940), D.F.C. (1943). Reported missing June, 1943. Later reported P.O.W.
Brooks, N. J. 1936-39. Now in K.R.R., was in London Irish.
Brown, A. J. 1931-39. Lieut. I.C., Gold Coast, after O.C.T.U. at Sandhurst.
Browne, A. G. 1933-37. R.A. Gunner.
Bullivant, B. 1931-38. R.N.R. (Fleet Air Arm). Sub. Lieut.
Bullivant, H. A. P. 1930-37. R.N.V.R. Sub. Lieut.
Butler, G. 1930-36. R.A.F.
Cayless, R. 1932-39. R.A.F. Flight Mechanic.
Catling, J. T. 1921-26. Royal Corps of Signals. Corporal.
Challis, C. G. 1931-35. R.A.F. Sergeant Photographer.
Chamberlain, P. L. 1932-40. R.A.F. Sergeant Bomb Aimer.
Chaplain, F. R. 1908-10. R.N. Returned to Navy, in which he served in the last war.
Chapman, S. D. 1935-40. Queen's. Later transferred Signals.
Chapple, —. Sergeant. In Middle East.
Clayden, J. G. 1926-33. Officer Cadet. Infantry. O.C.T.U., Sandhurst.
Clayden, R. A. 1932-39. R.A.F. In North Africa.
Cocks, E. A. 1934-39. Royal Corps of Signals. Signaller. Mediterranean.
Cole, G. J. 1930-35. Prisoner of War three years ago.
Coombe, R. H. 1915-18. R.N.V.R. Sub. Lieut.
Cooper, A. W. S. 1936-42. R.A.F. Aircrew Training.
Cooper, S. 1924-32. R.A.F.
Cooper, W. 1925-32. R.A.F. Wing Commander.
Cotterell, Eric. 1934-39. R.A.F. Training as Pilot.
Coward, D. J. W. 1928-35. R.A. Commission. Invalided out in July, 1942, after year in hospital.
Coward, B. M. 1928-36. R.A.O.C. Radio Location. Later R.E.M.E.
Coward, K. 1930-37. R.N. Leading Supply Assistant. Invalided out.
Croft, J. C. 1931-36. R.A. Bombardier in M.E.F.
Davies, R. 1934-39. R.A.F. Wireless Operator in M.E.F. Later B.N.A.F.
Dey, Ian. 1935-39. Radio Officer in Tanker.
Diboll, A. T. J. 1936-42. R.A.F. Training overseas after I.T.W. course.
Dorsett, R. A. 1932-39. R.A.F. Pilot Officer, Coastal Command. Reported missing April, 1943.
Dorsett, S. R. 1935-39. Royal Corps of Signals. Teleprinter Work.
Drane, F. D. S. 1902-3. Staff appointment in Cairo.
Dudley, E. P. 1930-36. R.A.S.C. 9th Army, G.H.Q., M.E. Force.
English, D. 1929-36. R.N. Commission.
Ferne, D. 1932-38. R.A. Bombardier, L.A.A. Battery, M.E.F.
Field, H. 1934-39. A.P.O.
Finbow, L. E. 1926-32. Won George Medal while in police during London air raids. Later joined R.A.F.
Finch, G. E. 1930-36. R.A. Gunner. France, Dunkirk.
Finch, R. F. W. 1933-38. R.A. Gunner.

Forrester, T. 1935-41. R.A.F. (V.R.). At Admiralty. Short course, Durham University. P.N.B. course.
Freeman, A. 1937-40. R.A.F. Sergeant. Wireless Operator. Air Gunner.
Gadd, R. 1935-40. R.A. Gunner. Specialists' Depôt Battery Candidate, O.C.T.U.
Gould, —. Reported killed. Later heard of as Prisoner of War.
Grant, D. D. 1936-39. Fleet Air Arm. Training as Pilot.
Green, R. E. 1935-40. 1st Fife and Forfar Yeomanry (mechanised).
Greenborough, H. B. 1933-39. Leading Aircraftsman. In U.S.A.
Groom, —. Prisoner of War in Italy.
Harris, —. Australian Air Force. Gunner.
Hart, S. M. 1936-41. R.N. Mechanised branch. Course at Technical College, Guildford.
Hase, R. 1934-40. Fleet Air Arm. Leading Radio Mechanic.
Hay, A. E. 1935-40. R.A.C. Trooper. In hospital with pneumonia.
Heath, H. W. 1934-39. Success in O.C.T.U.
Hedger, A. B. F. J. 1931-37. R.A.F. Sergeant Pilot. Four days in dinghy in North Sea. Both legs broken.
Hemans, R. W. H. 1935-39. Captain in Army.
Hinchcliffe, P. E. 1931-37. R.A.F. Training as Wireless Operator and Air Gunner.
Holliman, E. S. 1925-33. In Middle East.
Housego, E. W. G. 1921-25. R.A.S.C.
Hudson, R. L. 1929-36. Discharged from Forces.
Hutchings, W. 1925-32. R.N.
Jenkin, E. C. 1930-35. R.A. In Middle East.
Johns, Percy. 1914-18. Royal Tank Corps.
Johns, C. 1926-28. R.A.F. Sergeant.
Keen, L. T. 1925-31. R.A.S.C. Lieut.
King, D. H. 1932-37. R.A.F. Sergeant-Pilot.
King, D. M. R. 1936-43. R.N. Y Scheme.
King, Ray. 1937-42. R.A.F. S. Africa. Completed I.T.W. course.
King, J. E. 1930-36. R.A.F. Leading aircraftsman.
Lander, J. 1934-40. R.A.F. S. Africa. Bulawayo.
Langdon, A. C. 1932-36. R.A.F. Flying Officer, Navigator, Bomb Aimer. P.O.W., Germany.
Lee, P. G. 1929-37. R.N.V.R. Won D.S.C. Now Lieut.
Leslie, J. M. 1932-38. R.N.V.R. Sub. Lieut. Gibraltar.
Lloyd, R. 1933-40. K.S.L.I. Lieut.
Lloyd, J. T. 1931-39. R.A.M.C. In India.
Lloyd, J. T. 1927-33. R.A. Lieut. Brigade H.Q. Intelligence Officer.
Long, A. D. 1936-41. Cadetship. Indian Army.
Lonsdale, Ralph. Signal Corps, France. Now in N. Ireland.
Lowe, A. E. 1933-40. R.A.F. Leading Aircraftsman. In Cairo since 1941.
Maslen, R. H. 1935-39. R.A.F. Training as Pilot.
Martin, R. 1935-40. Middlesex Regt.
Martin, Jacques. 1929-35. R.A.F. Navigator.
Miller, R. R. 1938-42. R.A. Gunner. Recom. O.C.T.U.
Mudd, S. A. 1926-35. R.A.C. Injured. Now in Pay Corps.
Niepold, W. A. 1931-35. Army Pay Corps.
Owen, N. C. 1935-42. R.A.F. University. Short course at Southampton.
Painter, E. 1928-34. Got back from Dunkirk safely.
Parrott, L. 1931-38. R.A.F.
Parrott, J. 1928-34. R.N. Sick Berth Attendant.
Poulter, W. G. 1934-39. R.A.F. Training as Pilot in U.S.A.

Powter, R. B. 1932-38. R.N., A.B. Working on wireless.
Price, D. C. 1934-38. R.A.F. In Southern Rhodesia.
Pritchard, D. C. 1934-39. Fleet Air Arm.
Quested, R. A. T., 1936-42. Fleet Air Arm.
Ramell, D. E. 1935-41. Pre-O.C.T.U. Signalling Cadetship, Engineering Cadetship.
Ramell, J. E. 1936-43. Exeter University College. Short course for Signals (Army).
Redford, R. H. 1938-39. Radio-Officer in Merchant Navy.
Richards, K. 1930-36. R.A. Lieut.
Rivett, P. J. 1932-38. Army Radio Mechanic.
Rowe, G. T. 1931-36. R.N.V.R. 1st Officer in Submarine. Won D.S.C.
Rowe, G. W. 1932-38. R.A.F. Pilot Officer. Recovered after crash in South America.
Sale, D. 1934-39. R.E.
Saunders, S. T. 1914-20. R.E. Captain.
Scott, T. A. 1931-37. R.A.F. Sergeant-Pilot. Transferred to Ferry Command.
Seear, —. Prisoner of War in Italy.
Shapcott, P. S. 1936-42. R.N. Training for commission.
Skinner, W. A. 1920-28. R.A.F. Flight Lieut.
Smith, E. R.N. Sub. Lieut.
Smith, J. H. 1935-39. R.A.F. Wireless Operator.
Smith, K. 1932-37. R.A.F. In Libya.
Smithson, L. 1931-36. R. Corps of Signals. Through whole Libyan campaign.
Spinks, S. M. 1928-36. In Middle East studying languages. Meritorious Service. Intelligence Work.
Stanley, G. 1918-22. R.A.F.
Stanley, N. H. 1920-25. R.A.F.
Stewart, K. K. 1932-37. R.A.F. L.A.C., Australian Squadron.
Sutehall, V. 1934-39. R.E. Sapper in N. Africa.
Sweeting, R. F. 1931-37. R.A.F. Flight Lieut. Instructor in Canada.
Thomson, F. A. 1919-25. P.O.W. taken at Hong-Kong.
Tomblin, F. J. 1936-39. R.N. Telegraphist.
Trigg, J. L. 1929-34. R.A.F. Training as Navigator, after serving on ground staff.
Tucker, G. S. 1929-35. R.A. Heavy A.A. Gunner.
Turtle, L. J. 1925-31. R. Corps of Signals. In Egypt.
Turtle, E. E. 1926-34. R.A.F.
Underwood, D. 1933-38. Staff Sergeant in Army.
Underwood, R. 1935-40. R.A.F. Training as Pilot.
Valentine, A. J. 1925-30. R.A.S.C. Lieut.
Venner, R. S. 1930-36. Royal Corps of Signals.
Waddington, J. A. H. 1920-27. Senior Chaplain to the Forces in Middle East.
West, R. E. 1932-37. R.A.F. Sergeant. P.O.W. in Italy.
Westbrooke, K. 1932-40. Tank Corps.
Wills, D. H. 1932-36. R.A. Sergeant. In India.
Winton, K. J. 1930-37. R.E. Captain. Was in Dieppe Raid.
Wooton, P. H. 1931-37. R.A.F.

Killed on Active Service.

Briffet, L. H. 1936-37. R.A.F. Sergeant Pilot.
Coleman, C. 1932-39. R.A.F.
Davis, A. P. 1929-34. R.A.F.
Dukes-Smith, H. F. 1930-37. R.A.F. Pilot Officer.
Gibbs, S. W. A. 1927-34. R.A.F. Navigator.
Letbe, T. J. 1930-36. R.A.F. Observer.
Matthews, L. 1931-37. R.A.F. Coastal Command.
Medland, G. G. 1927-35. R.A.F.
Morsman, J. M. R.A.F. Pilot.
Pepper, C. W. V. 1933-37. R.A.F. D.F.M.
Pettitt, E. C. 1931-36. R.A.F.
Richards, J. 1932-38. R.A.F.
Shapcott, J. 1933-40. R.A.F.
Sutton, A. G. 1933-39. Fleet Air Arm. Sub. Lieut.
Thomas, R. Haydn. 1930-33. R.A.F. Flying Officer.
Walley, P. K. 1929-35. R.A.F. Sergeant Pilot.

We fear this list is incomplete, for we have heard of other casualties, so far unconfirmed in our records.

Old Wandsworthian Visitors.

During the year we have been glad to see Old Boys at Little Firs. Among them were: Coward, D. J. W.; Barnett, E. A.; Davies, R.; Chapman, S.; Dibboll, A. T. J.; Cooper, A. W. S.; Chamberlain, P. L.; Owen, N. C.; Forrester, T.; Clayden, J. G.; Miller, R. R.; Jones, H. M.; Brooks, N. L.; Hart, S. M.; Hase, R.; Hedger, A. B. F. J.; Sweeting, R. F.; Winton, K. J.; Bingham, H.; Nunan, P.; Jones, E.; Alonso, C. V.; Hammant, E. S.; Eisner, K.; Valentine, A. J.; Brims, A. J. Others, including Archer, J., and Lloyd, R., have visited the old School at Southfields.

The Staff.

From time to time we receive news of members of the Staff who are serving with the Forces. Mr. Aubrey, after a long spell as Sergeant-Instructor in P.T., is likely to receive a commission in another branch of the Forces. Mr. Benyon is with the Pioneer Corps, has his commission and writes a breezy account of his experiences with men of various nationalities. Mr. Clode still studies meteorological conditions as a Flight Lieutenant in the R.A.F. somewhere with the B.N.A.F. We hear that Mr. Barber has recently added to his responsibilities for radio work as a Flight Lieutenant in the R.A.F. In short, he has taken unto himself a wife. Mr. Bennett helps defend our shores as a Pilot Officer Navigator in Coastal Command. So also does Mr. Radford, for he is now a Lieutenant in the R.A. on Coastal Defence. Mr. Tureczek is now in the Intelligence branch of the R.A.F. with the rank of Flight Lieutenant. Mr. Arkell is still engaged on important work with the Admiralty. A former member of the Staff, Mr. Grutchfield, is on staff work as a Major in London. We wish them all "good luck."

Extracts from Letters.

D. C. Ferne writes from the Middle East:—

"I received a copy of 'The Link' yesterday . . . which has acted as an incentive to get in touch with you again. That 'Link' is one of the greatest tonics I have had since coming out here, recalling, as it did, scenes and incidents and faces of a few years ago. To date I have had two meetings with old boys to put on record. The first was in a café in Port Said, where, whilst quenching a thirst, I discovered R. B. Powter at a nearby table. He was an A.B. on a cruiser at that time and was working on wireless. We spent the rest of the evening together and arranged for him to conduct us over his ship. . . . The only other O.W. I have run across out here is Venner, who was another contemporary who hailed from Morley. I met him in a Church Army canteen at El Kantara, and it was after some minutes of indecision that I approached him. However, my hunch turned out right and, although our chat was rather brief, it was very interesting and enjoyable. . . . Since I last wrote I have been sent twice to Palestine on courses. . . . I shall always count my day trip to Jerusalem among my most pleasant memories."

A. J. Brown writes from the Gold Coast, describing his quarters:—

"I have been living for some time in a tent 50 yards from the sea, not quite under the tall palm trees, for that is dangerous (one might be laid out by a falling coconut), but on a spit of palm planted sand between the sea and a lagoon. I moved my tent practically on to the beach to escape the mosquitoes. In the morning it had a thick film of dewlike moisture over it, the spray blown from the surf as it pounds on the precipitous sandy shore, by the constant southerly breeze. . . . Now I am living in one of those buildings covered with the universal corrugated iron roof. Inside the iron is hidden by a sort of lath ceiling made out of the centre stem of palm leaves. But the verandah just has the bare metal over it. The sun goes straight through, so I have to write inside."

N. J. Cole writes from a Prisoner of War Camp in Germany:—

"I am a fairly strong swimmer (thanks to Mr. Phillimore), but the Channel was just a little too wide, and here I am! You will have gathered by now that I was captured in France, and for three boring years I have been a guest of the Germans. If Mr. Fenn is still teaching at Wandsworth, will you, sir, please convey my very great thanks to him for the knowledge of the German language he imparted to me. This has enabled me to secure a good responsible post as interpreter here. . . . . I would like to conclude my letter by wishing my dear old school every success, and may the day not be very far away when our great country and people celebrate the victory that we have truly earned." **(Surprising that he got that past the Censor.**—H.R.K.)

J. M. Leslie writes:—

"I was given command of an M.L. in September and was straight away informed that it was my privilege to take it to Gibraltar. October was late in the year for a 1,000 mile trip in a seventy-two foot boat, but we made it in nine days, having been hove to for thirty-six hours on a N.W. course, which, by my First Lieutenant's undoubtedly sound navigation, would have landed us somewhere in Northern Canada, sometime the following year. Food became difficult to swallow and water very precious—but from what I saw of my men they never washed. By their appearance on entering harbour, however, they might never have passed the boom, for, typically naval, each had managed to preserve one clean suit and all were ready to go ashore. Personally, all I wanted was to sit down on something solid. We have now been away for ten months and England seems very far away. No other O.W.'s seem to have found their way here—for their own sakes I hope none do.

"My cousin, R. E. West, is now a prisoner in Italy—shot down on one of his first operational flights, but safe and, as ever, cheerful. Am wondering if the Fascist powers would permit the importation of 'The Link'—it would mean much to him."

A good story from D. J. W. Coward:—

"To close on an amusing note, I pass on the story of what must surely be the queerest encounter between O.W.'s which has come to light during the present war. It concerns the younger of the brothers, Cooper (now Wing Commander), who will be well remembered by the staff for his excellent acting, and G. Finbow, who is now also in the R.A.F. It appears that they met recently over a table at a certain R.A.F. Station in Canada, but mutual pleasure had to be somewhat restrained, as Wing Commander Cooper was seated on one side of the table in his official capacity as C.O., while Finbow was standing at the other side in his official capacity as an erring trainee. . . . I have no doubt that Cooper required all his dramatic ability! . . ."

John Lloyd writes from Malta:—

"Curious that you should mention the story of Finbow. A few days after receiving it, I was present at an investiture and, having a very good memory for faces, espied a familiar one in the crowd. Maybe you remember him, Leslie Booth, who was the inseparable partner of Finbow. I had to tell him who I was, but we had a good yarn."

And now a snippet from Mr. Tureczek:—

"Curiously enough there was another amazingly striking similarity between my arrival at Cosford and my arrival at Skegness. Almost the first person I met was Horace (Mr. Aubrey). He was now a sergeant, whereas in Skegness he had been a corporal. Again Fortune favoured me and I avoided the embarrassment of being placed in his squad."

L. R. King describes a visit to the Victoria Falls:—

"Despite a threatening sky, a party of us went out for our first glimpse of the Falls. We wound our way in the direction of a distant and subdued roar, through glades of tall trees and lush green grass reminding one so much of England in general appearance, but to closer inspection the foliage was foreign and unfamiliar. It yet presented a most pleasant contrast to the dry sandy bush and stunted trees in the region round Bulawayo. As we approached, the roar began to fill the air, a fine spray settled over the trees, the foliage dripped with water, and the air was warm and humid. And then through a gap opening in the trees we saw the Falls—great cataracts of foaming water cascading down through dizzy heights into a seemingly bottomless chasm, which dropped sheer from in front of our feet. A dense white vapour rose from the depths as though from a huge boiling cauldron. To our right and left, over a front of one and a quarter miles, the River Zambesi plunged into this great cleft in the earth in a succession of great and small cataracts, each with its own individual beauty and magnificence. We were then treated to a sight which I shall always remember. The sun burst from behind a cloud and a magnificent and brilliant rainbow appeared in the spray over the Falls, and the foaming cataracts appeared dazzling in the light."

And to the Belgian Congo:—

"Last Monday I was suddenly dragged out of early morning lectures, maps, etc., thrust in my hand, and told to be ready in an hour and a half to navigate the C.O. of the station up to the Belgian Congo for a stay of a couple of days. It was quite a straightforward trip and we arrived at our destination, Elizabethville, early in the afternoon, having stopped halfway for lunch. The town is the biggest and richest, I believe, in the Belgian Congo. We stayed at the Grand Hotel Leopold. I contacted some young Belgian lads, officers in charge of native troops, and spent the evening conversing in mixed English and French."

J. C. Croft writes from the Middle East a prophetic note :—

"Once again the battle has flared up in Africa, and we, no doubt, like you, are anxiously following events, though quite confident of the outcome. This time, I think, the Eighth Army has an even tougher egg to crack than at Alamein, for the enemy is determined and desperate, and fighting with his back to the wall. But our Air Force and Artillery are giving him a terrific punishment, and no doubt he will eventually crack up under it as he has done before. We here have the greatest confidence in our equipment and in our leader, Montgomery, who, with Wavell, I suppose, ranks as the most popular General in the British Army. Monty, who may often be seen with his troops in the forward areas, has proved a really brilliant strategist and a real match for Rommel, and we are indeed fortunate to have such a man at our head."

From Mr. Clode, F/Lt., Met. Section, B.N.A.F. :—

"This last posting of mine to N.A.A.F. necessitated a 200 mile plane trip and the pilot of the kite, a Bisley, turned out to be a member of the first fourth form at Beckenham School that I had the ordeal of teaching. It was the fourth and worst set in mathematics and numbered among its 'scholars' most of the really tough members of the school. This lad was such a one, though his attitude to life was probably tempered by an interest in bee-keeping, at which I believe he made good profit. I imagine the life of a sergeant pilot affords a good outlet for the energies of such lads and, perhaps, as a result, this one had developed into a charming fellow. We both chuckled at the turning of the tables, the stick in his hands and not mine. It was a good trip, heightened by a little excitement just before landing, when my pilot could not see the green light that tells him the wheels are down.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the tented life, though strong winds covered everything with dust. On one occasion a sirocco raised the shade temperature to 117° F., and later heavy thunderstorms turned everything to mud and carried large empty petrol tins two or three miles away.

"After a month or two (in Sicily) I was posted to an R.A.F. wing again and had two months' really interesting work, averaging 12 hours a day. Here we were also in tents and felt completely isolated, as the nearest town was over ten miles away and transport was seldom available.

"It came as a bit of a shock to see the low standard of living in Sicily. The village houses are little better than Wog dwellings, though not so powerfully 'perfumed.'

"Now I am with the H.Q. again with a staff that includes a W/Co. once at University College, a fellow student of mine at King's, Morey, a member of the Bec Staff and an old Bec boy, so we have much in common, as you can imagine.

"I am keeping very fit and this is helped by periodic games of soccer, which can be very hard on the feet considering the pitches are sandy and rocky. I have seen one Rugger match between the R.A.F. and the Army, ending in a draw, and had the opportunity to play for the R.A.F. on Saturday, but a sprained ankle made me refuse the invitation.

"I should delight in reading any school magazines that have been published within the past year. My best wishes to you all. I hope to look in on you one of these days."

Finally, V. Sutehall, in North Africa, is the spokesman of a wish shared by others, no doubt:

"I am eagerly awaiting the next issue of 'The Link,' which, I trust, will find me back in England."

Soccer, 1943.

Captain: A. G. Lawrence. Vice-Captain: G. E. Baker.
Hon. Sec.: B. E. Pauncefort.

Once again at the end of a soccer season we look back on our various victories and defeats, but this season, in order to meet the requirements of teams in and around Woking, instead of the usual 1st XI. and Under 14 teams, a series of Senior, Platoon and Junior matches have been arranged. This has enabled more boys to play and added variety to the games. Further, the School has provided the nucleus of the Woking Company A.C.F. team, which Lawrence has had the honour to captain. Wood, Baker, Thomas, P., Coulthard and Sewell, in addition, have given a good account of themselves in these Inter-Company matches for the Battalion Cup.

Under 15 and Under 14 matches have been arranged for the Juniors, but their season has been spoilt owing to matches being cancelled. Again we are indebted to Mr. Makin for his unfailing support at all times.

1st XI. MATCHES.

Although changes were frequently made in the team, Cole (L.H.), Hill (L.B.), Lawrence (C.H.), Pauncefort (I.R.) and Wood (goal) maintained their positions. Balls, Ramell (J. E.) and Light (full-backs); Miller and Agate (half-backs); Baker, Ealey, Phillips, Sewell, Thomas (P.), Barnes and Coxhill (forwards) also represented the School.

v. Mayford XI. (A). Won 5—2.
v. Woking XI. (H). Lost 3—2.
v. Sloane XI. (A). Won 4—0.
v. Woking XI. (H). Won 3—1.
v. Sloane XI. (H). Lost 4—2.

JUNIOR TEAM.

In the Junior team the following boys were outstanding in their performances:—W. A. Forrester, R. Matthews, W. Read, D. Medden, J. Laccohee, D. Finch, S. Norris.

B. E. P.

Rugger.

Captain: D. G. Rushton. Vice-Captain: G. E. Baker.

Rugger this season has not been up to the usual standard, owing mainly to the small number of boys from which to pick the teams. Of the six matches played, only one has been won, the last match of the season against Woking; but the home games against Guildford Grammar and Raine's were very close, and with a little more determination would have resulted in wins for the School instead of close defeats. In the last match of the season against Guildford, the School was obliged to field a very weak side, with the result that Guildford won easily; but credit must be given to the boys who turned out and put up a plucky stand against the heavier and faster Guildford side.

The Juniors, ably led by Forrester (captain) and Chetwood (vice-captain) fared well and lost only one match, this also against Guildford (away).

This account would not be complete without reference to Rushton, who set a good example as captain. He was never sparing in his efforts to improve the play and fitness of the 1st XV., and his efforts deserved more success.

RESULTS.

1st XV.

Feb. 13. v. Raine's School (H). Lost 5—8.
,, 20. v. Guildford G.S. (H). Lost 8—10.
,, 27. v. Woking School (A). Lost 0—5.

Mar. 6. v. Raine's School (A). Lost 0—11.
,, 20. v. Guildford G.S. (A). Lost 3—42.
Apr. 3. v. Woking School (H). Won 15—5.

JUNIORS.

Feb. 13. v. Raine's School (H). Won 25—0.
,, 20. v. Guildford G.S. (H). Won 23—0.
,, 27. v. Woking School (A). Won 14—3.
Mar. 13. v. Raine's School (A). Won 14—5.
,, 20. v. Guildford G.S. (A). Lost 0—24.
Apr. 3. v. Woking School (H). Won 14—3.

The following boys represented the School rugger team:—D. G. Rushton, G. E. Baker, D. Light, P. Hill, A. G. Lawrence, J. Tapson, H. Shillingford, J. E. Ramell, P. Thomas, R. Turner, J. Coulthard, W. Agate, L. Phillips, B. E. Pauncefort, L. L. Plaickner, G. R. Owen, S. J. Norris, R. Cusden, K. Dore, R. Fitzjohn, W. A. Forrester.

School Sports.

The Inter-House Sports held this year—for the first time since the outbreak of war—were a great success. The whole school turned out to spectate and cheer on the competitors who contested so keenly and evenly that the balance was in doubt until the very last event. Here, P. Hill (of Pitt) won the Long Jump with a fine effort of 17 feet 5 inches, thus giving Cromwell and Pitt a narrow victory of two points. Final result: 55—53.

Among the Juniors Barrett (C.) and Riddle (M.) were outstanding, whilst Tapson, Twilley, Ramell, Baker, Owen and Hill (P.) all did well in the Senior Events, as may be seen from the results below.

G. E. Baker.

RESULTS.

Event.	*1st*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*Points* C	M	*Time.*
880 yards, Open ...	Ramell, J. (M)	Taylor (M) ...	Pauncefort (C) ...	1	5	2 mins. 12 4/5 secs.
100 yards, under 12	Ducker (M) ...	Macdonald (C)	Chaplain (C) ...	3	3	13 secs.
100 yards, Junior ...	Barrett (C) ...	Cook (M) ...	Wernham (M) ...	3	3	12 1/10 secs.
100 yards, Middle...	Twilley (C) ...	Chetwood (C)	Phillips (M) ...	5	1	10 2/5 secs.
100 yards, Senior ...	Tapson (C) ...	Lawrence (M)	Thomas, P. (M)...	3	3	10 2/5 secs.
220 yards, Junior ...	Barrett (C) ...	Riddle (M) ...	Feld (C)	4	2	30 7/10 secs.
220 yards, Middle...	Chetwood (C)	Dore (M) ...	Phillips (M) ...	3	3	26 4/5 secs.
220 yards, Senior ...	Baker (C) ...	Lawrence (M)	Thomas, P. (M) ...	3	3	25½ secs.
High Jump, Junior ...	Riddle (M) ...	Adams (C) ...	{Feld, Walsh (C); Wernham (M)}	3	3	4 ft. 1½ ins.
High Jump, Senior ...	Owen (C) ...	Hill, P. (C) ...	Hill, J. (C) ...	6	0	5 ft. 1in.
440 yards, Middle ...	Turner (C) ...	Earland (M) ...	Ramell, A. H. (M)	3	3	1 min. 4/5 secs.
440 yards, Senior... ...	Baker (C) ...	Ramell, J. (M)	Light (M) ...	3	3	54 7/10 secs.
Relay, under 12, 4x110 yds.	Morley-Gibbon	—	—	1	5	1 min. 2 2/5 secs.
Relay, Junior, 4x110 yards	Cromwell-Pitt	—	—	5	1	1 min.
Relay, Middle, 4x110 yards	Morley-Gibbon	—	—	1	5	52 1/5 sees.
Relay, Senior, 4x110 yards	Morley-Gibbon	—	—	1	5	49 4/5 secs.
Long Jump, Junior ...	McAulliffe (C)	Génin (M) ...	Langdon (M) ...	3	3	14 ft. 3¼ ins.
Long Jump Open ...	Hill P. (C) ...	Dore (M) ...	Twilley (C) ...	4	2	17 ft. 5 ins.
			Totals ...	55	53	

Cromwell-Pitt won by 55 points to 53 points.

Swimming.

Certificates have been awarded to the following boys:—

25 yards: Boucher, T. H.; Haydon, J. S.; Hyams, D. D.; Johns, P. L.; Pluchino, J. R.; Springett, R. P.; Turner, H.; Wickens, W. F. A.; Wernham, B. T.

50 yards: Burton, P. E.; Cadman, J. C.; Coggins, H. H. J.; Laccohee, J. A.; Stretch, W. T.; Whittington, R.

100 yards: Airey, J. H.; Barnett, C.; Chaplain, M. N.; Davies, R. D.; Field, D. N.; Mason, R. F.; Nicholas, D. A.; Stevens, E. R.; Wagerfield, V.

220 yards: Cope, D. J.; Barrett, J. A.; Riddle, J. W.

440 yards: Edwick, B. H.; Hardingham, R. D.; Harrold, B. H.; Hobday, J. C. G.; Matthews, R. G.; Sparkes, R. W.

880 yards: Andrews, A. D.; Bray, G.; Bridgette, E.; Jones, P. R. T.; Maclean, I. I.

Three-quarter mile: Jackson, R. W.

One mile: Bilby, R.; Cowan, A. N.; Dore, K. D.; Feld, R.; Robins, G. W.; Ward, A. R.

Cadet Corps Notes.

The past year has been a most successful one for the School Cadet Corps, which, it will be remembered, is one of six platoons forming the Woking Cadet Company.

In January twenty-four of our Cadets were eligible to take the War Certificate A Examination, Part I. Twenty-four took the exam. Twenty-four passed, Acting-Sgt. Tapson scoring the highest marks in the Company.

This outstanding success was repeated in June by ten Cadets eligible to take Part II. of the Examination. All our candidates passed and the Platoon had the highest average mark for the Company. The Platoon averages for these examinations were: For Part I. 78%, and for Part II. 84.9%. These results reflect the greatest credit on all concerned.

In July the Woking Company held an Athletic Sports Meeting in which the Platoon competed—competing so energetically that our representatives scored more points than all the other Platoons combined and thus won the "Tunis" Cup, a handsome silver chalice.

At the time of going to press the N.C.O.'s of the Platoon are:—Sergt. Lawrence, A/Sergt. Tapson, Corpls. Baker, Owen, Phillips, L/Corpls. Ascher, Coulthard, Gardner.

O.C.

The Art Society.

During the early weeks of the year the Society "acquired" by a subtle process of expansion a potting shed, a tool shed and, eventually, the garage. It has no more territorial claims to make at Little Firs. As the days lengthened and work after school became possible the spirit of the old Wandsworth Art Society revived and a considerable number of members enrolled. Good model-making in clay and plaster has been carried out during the summer months by Messrs. Hardingham, Wickens, Burton and Hicks among others, who managed to master the intricacies of casting in a remarkably short time. In spite of difficulties

which cannot properly be appreciated by the uninformed, such as the tap being a good ten seconds' sprint from the modelling shop, a continuous flow of dragons, gryphons, unidentifiable birds and alleged portraits continued to flow steadily from the rather shabby looking shed under the pine trees, which bears somewhat incongruously on its battered door a large red inscription "Studio 3." The other "studios" have been equally productive.

The earnest and enthusiastic members, who, bitten by the "lettering bug," lurk at every available moment in the ex-garage, now "studio two" and partly taken over by bookbinders, were able to produce enough in the way of banner lettering and posters to decorate the Gas Company showrooms at Guildford Road. This was during the rush of the Woking Wings for Victory Week; and considering that less than 24 hours' notice was given, those members of Vth, IVth and IIIrd who worked so heroically are to be warmly congratulated on the quantity and quality of their production. A Drawing and Poster Competition, held in connection with the same event, gave two other members an opportunity to distinguish themselves, Robins, of Va, obtaining 1st Prize for a pen-drawing, and Coulthard, of Vb, a second in the Poster Section for a really excellent design.

In July a party visited the Academy. This trip was the more enjoyable, as it was for most the first view of the work sponsored by this famous institution. The day, a Saturday, was extremely hot and the galleries somewhat crowded, and as a visit to the National Gallery to see recent war paintings was also included in the day's programme, the party were glad to repair to the shade of Green Park to eat a packed lunch thoughtfully provided by Firlands Hotel.

At a recent exhibition held by the Woking Service of Youth at Goldsworth Road School Hall, members obtained certificates of award, Glenister with a lino-cut, J. Riddle, E. Henbery, E. Turner, D. Cook and B. Harrold, all of II, with clay models, and M. W. Henry, Janes and Lee, of the Vth, with portrait drawings. T. Spring, of IVth, was also commended for a very sensitive painting in oils of rhododendrons, and A. N. Cowan for aeroplane models.

These are the highlights of a successful year of effort—a year during which members are to be sincerely congratulated on the way they have put up with cold, dark, damp and general discomfort. Not without complaint, but heroically just the same. It is to be hoped that with half the winter behind us and with the acquisition of two stoves the Society next year will grow in size and productiveness, and that the original members will enjoy a more comfortable home when eventually they return to what seems, at this distance, that almost unbelievable luxury at Wandsworth, which so few of them have ever seen.

Banstead Agricultural Camp.

This year, once again, the school, urged by patriotic aspirations, turned from the mental strife of the schoolroom and the ever-worrying thought of exams to the fresh exhilarating air of the North Downs and played its part side by side with many other schools throughout the land in reaping the country's harvest and preparing the soil for the coming year's crops.

The arrangements were much the same as last year's. We spent six weeks at a local hospital with our masters, being conveyed each day by lorry to our respective groups, Sutton or Banstead, and fortunately our stay was not prolonged by any unfortunate illness. The food was as good as last year's, the work was just as hard (they still grow with great success the same variety of weeds) and the emolument reaped and thrashed with the same alacrity.

The work of the two groups differed very little, although the Banstead group, as last year, seemed to acquire a high percentage of hand weeding (in-

cluding nettles), of interminable rows of cabbages, beet, mangolds and swedes. The worst job that we had to undertake was grovelling over a field for two days pulling out long ravelled sleaves of couch grass and placing them in convenient heaps for collection.

The monotony of Banstead and Sutton was varied by a few trips to Chelsham, which is a small village on Purley Downs. Since the driver stopped "en route" in Coulsdon for his breakfast, this break offered us a pleasant opportunity for the purchase of papers, cakes and cups of tea, and was also much appreciated because it curtailed the hours of work. The work at Chelsham consisted of weeding an endless field of turnips, and since we were a considerable distance from Banstead we used to have our dinner round a camp fire. This consisted of cake and pork sandwiches, accompanied by lime juice. We occasionally varied our diet by baked potatoes from the adjacent field. On arriving there one day we found that an American Thunderbolt had crashed in the next field, and so the time left over in the dinner hour, after munching the monotonous pork sandwiches, was spent in feverishly searching the spot for souvenirs, or scratching mother earth with strips of aluminium to find bullets. The lorry driver called for us at 4 p.m. each day to convey us home. Unfortunately, one day he failed to arrive, and so when the time reached 6 p.m. Mr. King left us in order to communicate with the hospital, while we remained satisfying our appetites (and Lord Woolton's desires) with more roast potatoes. During Mr. King's absence a Baby Austin, on seeing one or two of us, offered us a lift, but on our explaining that there were sixteen of us, the driver slammed the door, changed rapidly into bottom gear and sped down the lane into the dusky shadows of evening. Soon after the return of Mr. King our conveyance arrived. Apart from sixteen of us in the back, there were empty fruit baskets, a spare wheel and farm implements; besides which congestion was increased by the bad condition of the sides. We finally arrived back at 7.30 in a state of cramp. On the next day the second lorry broke down and we had to cycle to work.

The dances and social functions of the hospital were again attended by our boys and offered a pleasant diversion. During one dance one of us fell with his partner, much to his embarrassment and to the enjoyment of the rest of us. The Friday night concerts were still in being, and their scope still ranged from chorus girls and the "Warsaw Concerto" to "The merry pipes of Pan," to some of which one could listen without embarrassment.

On our last day notable L.C.C. personages visited us, but, alas, there was no photographer this year. They arrived in a superb chauffeured limousine and, having stayed for a quarter of an hour, departed, followed soon after by ourselves, content with our cattle lorry, driven by M'Ginty, a well tried and faithful friend to us all. To show our gratitude to him we bought him a new cap and some cigarettes, and when we proffered them to him, he blushed deeply, mumbled something resembling "Thank you," and, diving into his cabin, drove off at a dangerous speed.

It is with great happiness that we all look back on this agricultural camp, and with a feeling of pride that as schoolboys we toiled for our country and aided those millions of men in the allied armies who are fighting to safeguard and improve our future.

P. MEDCALF & J. BECK, VI. Arts.

Wandsworth School Parents' Association.

The Association was formed in the early part of 1934. At this time there was a developing movement for co-operation between the Home and School in matters educational, and the Association was welcomed and fostered by the School Authorities. After the minor teething troubles of an infant association, mainly due to matters of detail being given an undue prominence, the Association completed the formulation of its rules and objects and settled down to a career of unpretentious but very valuable activity, in which it continued till the outbreak of war. The sudden and complete evacuation of the school to Woking, the heavy air raids in London, the severe burdens of public service assumed by the members generally: in short, the complete dislocation of private life caused by the war, prevented the continuance of the Association's formal activities. Accordingly, the organisation became reduced to a mere core and maintenance basis, and activity was limited to minor financial assistance to certain school objects—for which the funds then in hand were adequate. In this connection, should the Association be revived, it will be necessary to legalise the payments made by the officers of the Association without the authority of a full Council and, what is a major matter, the point has now been reached at which most members of the Council elected in 1939 no longer have boys at the school. Like the House of Commons, the Council may be assumed to have continued in office, but obviously should be revived by new blood as soon as possible.

The reopening of Sutherland Grove for 1st, 2nd and 3rd formers may be hoped to be an omen of the return, at some reasonably early date, of the entire school to its home at Southfields, and it would seem that if the misfortunes of the Association in being torn up by the roots is ever to be overcome, steps to reopen the Association should not long be delayed.

By its constitution all parents of boys at the School are *ipso facto* members of the Association, and it follows that, the Association never having been formally wound up, the present parents are entitled, if they so wish, to revive the activities of the Association upon a continuing basis and to control (within the rules and for the benefit of the school) the accumulated funds, which are appreciable. A meeting to consider the future of the Association would be both the legal and the democratic method of determining this, and all parents would be entitled to attend and vote.

It would be true to say that during its short history the Association did achieve a measure of real and helpful co-operation with the School Authorities, and that, with the increasing demands upon secondary education, the desirability of such co-operation in the future is likely to increase. It would also be true to say that the terminal meetings of the Association did afford to parents an opportunity of self-education in subjects of importance to their boys' development and education, and that parents will need increasingly to take an intelligent and instructed interest in educational matters if their sons are not to suffer loss. Educational authorities would increasingly agree that it is impossible, without very seriously handicapping a boy, to hand him at the age of 11 to a secondary school and wash one's hands of his future. In short, education, in its widest and least technical form, is a matter for home, as well as for school, and the wise parent will see that his or her interest in the boy's education is instructed.

It would also be true to say that the percentage of parents who were at pains to attend the meetings or to pay the small and entirely voluntary subscription of 1s. per term, never reached or approached 100%.

It might be worth while here referring to two real difficulties in organising an association of this kind. A paramount difficulty is that parents, especially those of newly joined boys, do not know one another and cannot therefore either nominate or vote for candidates who are known personally to them. There is no way of wholly counteracting this serious disadvantage, but something can be done to solve the difficulty by arranging such social functions as whist drives and dances, both of which the Association has regularly done—again with success, but never with anything approaching 100% success. Better attendance at the terminal meetings and a better use of one of their invariable features would be of help. The feature referred to is that of "Open Forum" when the meeting is thrown open to questions upon all or any points affecting the interests of the School, and the Headmaster deals with inquiries.

Another minor but troublesome matter arises from the difficulty of ensuring that all parents receive proper notice of meetings or elections. It is not practicable, except at a cost which would entail a substantial subscription, to issue all notices by post, and the average boy, to whom notices have to be entrusted for delivery to his parents, is an extraordinarily inefficient means to the end of informing all parents.

It is not proposed here to deal at length with the various forms of the Association's activities in the past or the various objects to which it has devoted its funds, except to say that by the rules of the Association it cannot be used, nor can its funds, for the furtherance of any partisan activities, either religious or political. It is suggested that any meeting that the members feel called upon to hold should commence with an opportunity for questions on this subject as far as any opening speech leaves any member in doubt.

In order, therefore, to bring the whole matter to an issue, will you please complete and return the following questionnaire to the School. It is hoped that **every** parent will reply, and parents are reminded that **both** husband **and** wife are members and should **both** sign the questionnaire.

Question.	Answer (Yes or No)
1. Are you in favour of a meeting (which would be in Southfields) to discuss the further existence of the Wandsworth School Parents' Association?	
	Answer (Day or Week)
2. Which day of the week (including Saturday and Sunday) do you prefer? [The day of the meeting, if held, will be in accordance with the wishes of the majority.]	

The Wandsworthians Lodge.

Regular meetings, as far as we know the only ones, of O.W.'s continue to be held at Ardington Rooms, Arding and Hobbs restaurant at Clapham Junction. During 1944, the Lodge will meet on Saturdays, February 26th, April 29th, September 30th and November 25th. Further particulars may be obtained by Freemasons on application to the Secretary of the Wandsworthians Lodge, c/o "Little Firs," Shaftesbury Road, Woking, Surrey.

Famine.

I looked into the valley deep
To where a sea of flood-rain stood,
And wondered of the fields of rice
I saw once in this neighbourhood.

Now many fathoms did they lie,
Beneath the use of human hand.
Now famine with her barren cloak
Had quickly spread across the land.

Behind me lay a scanty plain
Calm with the cool November winds
That gently stirred the hardy growths,
The mangoes and the tamarinds.

A temple dome shone through the trees,
The sun had caught its fiery hue,
And Moslem chanting filled its walls,
Where alien races were taboo.

A prayer rang through that massive dome,
An urgent pleading prayer for food,
And then returned, an echo now,
Upon the stricken multitude.

Calcutta looked a different sight,
With avenues of foreign cars
Drawn up outside the fine hotels,
The rich cafés, the choicest bars.

And English women smartly dressed,
In rickshaws and in taxis rode.
In endless streams the mules and carts
Of wealthy merchants gently flowed.

The city swirled and seethed with life.
Rich merchants fondled silken ware,
And bars of gold and jewels shone,
And trinkets fine, beyond compare.

But even here had hunger spread;
For ragged natives lined the road,
Who driven hungry from their homes
Had sought the street for their abode.

A mother gently rocked her child.
Its bony form lay quiet and still.
Another lay convulsed in fits,
And yet another pale and ill.

A nearby shop sold Chinese silks;
The merchants smoothed them till they shone.
A woman passed, held out her hand:
They shook their heads, she wandered on.

And further up the crowded street
A fruit store glowed with mellow shapes,
Fat wads of dates, sweet oranges,
And bunches of o'erhanging grapes.

Outside some native women sat,
Their eyes were weary of the sight.
They'd watched exhausted all the day,
They'd slept exhausted through the night.

Another crowd knelt by a stall,
A host of skeletons they seemed,
And looked on to the counter where
Were idols painted gold that gleamed.

And there they knelt in fervent prayer,
An urgent pleading prayer for food,
As those within the temple prayed
In holy humble sanctitude.

While sahibs in the fine hotels,
Enriched with plenty, spend their day
Lounging in smoke, while on the court
The orchestra begins to play.

D. P. Perry.