Vol. XXVIII. AUTUMN TERM, CHRISTMAS, 1944.

THE LINK

The Magazine of Wandsworth School

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

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VOL. XXVIII. XMAS, 1944.

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, 1945, 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.

In the last issue a year ago, I expressed the hope that the fifth year would be the last year of evacuation. But things prevented the fulfilment of this hope: the "things" (to use the B.B.C.'s term) being the pilotless infernal machines designated V, a letter intended to satisfy the German thirst for Vengeance and, by a grim coincidence of which the enemy readily took advantage, to deflate the Allies' Victory sign—if that were possible.

There is an impression I should like to record for those who in years to come read the School's war-time history in "The Link": it is that of the cool imperturbability of boys and masters carrying on amid the "alarums and excursions" of war with London in the front line—"alarums" sounded during the "Flying Bomb" period on the School Bell by a group of "seniors" (Third Form) with keen sight and hearing and some sixth sense for detecting the distant approach of "Doodle Bugs": "excursions" to the fortified Woodwork Room in the basement, used as an air-raid shelter. And so, though gravely interrupted, work went on; Wandsworth boys showed the unpretentious fortitude and resilient cheerfulness with which London and the Londoner have roused the admiration of the world.

So far, the School building has come through virtually unscathed. It would indeed be unlucky it, after surviving so much, it should suffer now from a random hit in the present intermittent "blind bombardment."

Our sister school, Mayfield, has not been so fortunate, and there is much repairing and refurbishing to be done to their building before they can again possess a home of their own. Meantime their London branch continues to share Sutherland Grove with ours, an arrangement which has worked happily and pleasantly enough, thanks in no small measure to the qualities of Miss Chalmers and Mr. Powell, and the amicable co-operation of their staffs.

Quite apart from the continuance of bombing, we shall clearly not be able to bring the School proper back from Woking to Southfields until the Mayfield War-time Classes are able to leave our building. At one time we were pretty confident that the School would be able to return for the Spring term of 1945; but everything now indicates that we shall remain out until Easter.

There are, however, places available in considerable numbers in existing forms at Southfields, so that, as soon as parents are satisfied that conditions permit, boys in Forms I., II. and III. can be transferred without difficulty to the Southfields branch without waiting for the return of the whole school, which may be delayed beyond that period.

Our numbers at the beginning of this term at Woking were 130. At Southfields numbers have risen from 81 on the first day of term to nearly 160, so that the weight of numbers is now with the "home" section. Messrs. Powell, Maycock and Keyte are the staff "in residence" as last year. Dr. Jory has been unable to put in more than a couple of days' attendance. He has all our sympathy in his protracted illness. Since half-term, we have had the advantage of the services of Miss Lorriman in temporary substitution for Dr. Jory. We cordially welcome her and appreciate her readiness to undertake the assignment of work that has fallen to her by Hobson's choice, though designed for Dr. Jory. Messrs. Ascher and Hodgkinson travel to Southfields from Woking every day, and most of the rest of Woking staff go up for one or two days each week. Though this transitional arrangement makes heavy demands on the staff, it has the advantage of co-ordinating work at the two ends, which we hope to see joined up by the end of the School year.

We have had meetings of the Parents' Association in both the Summer and Autumn terms. The Parents' Council met first in February and subsequently on the occasion of the two Association meetings. The 1939 Parents' Council, though their boys have now all left the School, have shown a splendid zest and determination to see the revived Association set well on its feet. A number of parents of present pupils have been co-opted to be associated with them in their work.

At the July meeting of the Parents' Association the chief feature was a survey by Mr. Beck, the Hon. Secretary, of the work of the Association before the war and a report upon his stewardship during the dormant period.

At the October meeting I had the privilege of talking to a most interested and responsive audience on the general subject of co-operation between School and Home, especially in the light of future developments in national education and in London in particular. Parents evidently got a sense of the magnitude and importance of possible developments; for it was spontaneously moved from the floor of the house and carried unanimously that the Association should meet more often than once a term; once a month was suggested, in order to cope adequately with the business that appeared likely to confront it.

Hence next term we propose to have a series of three meetings. The first on January 27th will be a talk followed by discussion on "The Coming Revolution

in Education,'' the speaker being Dr. Bradley, Principal of Shoreditch Training College. There is an interesting note of historical continuity about this subject and speaker. They were originally billed for the October meeting of 1939.

The second meeting on February 24th will deal with the Government policy in education, as set forth in the White Paper and Education Act, with reference to the other "Blue Books" which are guiding the present and prospective developments—the Norwood, McNair and Fleming Reports, chiefly.

The third meeting on March 24th will be a Brains Trust and will be especially concerned with the L.C.C. education policy at the secondary stage.

I do not think Revolution is too strong a word to apply to the coming phase of education; and it is not necessary to labour the point that the talks and discussions we have planned will help to equip every parent who attends with the knowledge he or she should have of the future structure of the school system.

At the October meeting, the Parents sent a message of greeting and goodwill to the Old Wandsworthians, and expressed a hope that the time was near at hand when the friendly and mutually beneficial co-operation of pre-war days could be resumed between the two bodies. It was a pleasure to welcome Mr. S. H. Fairey, Hon. Secretary of the Old Wandsworthians, to the meeting as the Old Boys' representative member of the Parents' Council.

Visits from Old Boys are referred to elsewhere, and a selection has been made for this issue of interesting extracts from their letters from many parts of the world. We record some of those rare and refreshing episodes in the life of Service men in distant places when two Old Wandsworthians meet.

I congratulate the Wandsworth School Platoon of the Woking A.C.F. Company upon winning the Sports Trophy for a second consecutive year. Our cadets gained 8 first places and two second places in the 13 final events, a runaway victory on a par with that of last year.

One unfortunate consequence of the flying bombs was the last-minute cancellation of the farm camp at Banstead, of which so many of us have pleasurable recollections dating from 1942 and 1943.

We join our congratulations and good wishes to the many that the Woking County School for Girls has received upon its 21st birthday, which it has celebrated this term. Miss Evans, the Headmistress, has continued to extend to us invitations from time to time to attend School meetings addressed by interesting and distinguished speakers. At a recent meeting of the kind we had the stimulus of a talk from Bishop Woods, of Lichfield, and this Christmas we attended a beautiful performance of Masefield's Nativity Play and a service of carols.

Mr. Fenn has continued his admirable, voluntary efforts under the ægis of the Woking Service of Youth, and the Inter-Schools Club has maintained its regular programme for still another year. In addition to organising and secretarial duties for the Town Committee, including notably the arrangement of two Conferences, Mr. Fenn runs a Thursday evening discussion group in connection with the wireless talks. I myself hold the view that more of this kind of informal education should penetrate the secondary school classrooms, and perhaps under the coming reorganisation of education it will.

A word of appreciation to Mr. Catto, who during the past two years has voluntarily taken a group of boys in Bookbinding. I very much welcome this extension of our Arts and Crafts department. It is part of a general expansion of the department that Mr. Hodgkinson has begun during these last few years, and which we hope to see developed until opportunities for a wide variety of interesting crafts can be afforded by our workshop resources.

Prefects for this term are:—

Ramell, A. H., Head Prefect; Earland, A.; Langham, A. F.; Cowan, A. N.; Hill, J. H.; Read, W. P.; Chetwood, C. J.; Edwick, B. H.; Finch, D. J.; Hammond, A. R.; Phillips, L. W.

Pauncefort, B. E., and Taylor, J. C. E., both Prefects, left early in the term, and Matthews, R. A., Sub-Prefect, just before half-term.

The following boys passed School Certificate Examinations:—

Higher School: Beck, J. H.; Gardner, F. D.; Light, D. R.; Pettit, H. W.

General School: Brunning, P. R. (MG); Dore, K. D. (G); Earland, A (MG); Fitzjohn, R. T. G. (G); Gerrard, K. A. (G); Glover, R. A. (G); Jobbins, G. A. (G); Langham, A. F. (MG); Lee, R. J. (MG); Owen, G. R. (G); Tapson, J. D. (MG); Twilley, I. C. (G); Beardmore, C. H. (G); Cook, R. E. (MG); Cowan, A. N. (MG); Hill, J. H. (G); Janaway, W. R. (G); Maskell, J. W. (MG); Matthews, R. G. (G); Read, W. P. (MG).

G: General School Certificate. M: Matriculation exemption.

Avete atque Valete.

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

Adams, P. J. H.; Attoe, R. C. A.; Austin, W. D.; Barker, R. J.; Batley, J. J.; Beale, J. E.; Beaumont, P.; Biggs, D. C. R.; Bliss, G. W.; Bradnick, L. J.; Bradshaw, P. J.; Braley, C. C.; Broughton, I. L.; Broome, K. R.; Bryant, G. J.; Bryant, J. F.; Bunce, E. A.; Carter, G. W.; Clapton, B.; Collins, D. S.; Connolly, P. G.; Cook, R. D.; Cox, M. C. G.; Culff, D. W.; Darling, R. N.; Dorling, D. J.; Dries, D. P.; Elborn, B.; Eldridge, J. W. F.; Farrelly, J. P.; Fielder, D. B.; Fitzgerald, D. R.; Foster, E. W.; Gibson, J. P.; Goldstein, H. M.; Gould, P.; Grover, B. W. G.; Harper, D.; Harrison, S. F.; Harris, J. J.; Harris, J. W.; Hay, I. M.; Hearn, J. W.; Helps, H. W.; Herzog, B.; Heyward, B. C.; Hilldrup, R. W.; Hilton, C.; Hoare, B.; Hodges, B. W.; Hulley, E. R.; Ikin, H. L.; Ingarfield, R. C.; James, K. J.; Jarvis, G. W.; Jenkins, D. R.; Lewis-Lavender, D. H.; Lightman, S.; Line, K. M.; Luscombe, B. H. E.; Maclean, D. G.; Maskell, A.; Miles, J. F.; Mitchell, G.; Morris, J. G.; Munden, D. G.; Murrell, D. E.; Needham, E. M.; Noël, J. T.; O'Leary, R. W.; O'Reilly, D. W.; Porter, D. M.; Richards, C. C.; Richardson, D.; Rick, D. R.; Roberts, N. F.; Roseboom, R. E. A.; Skelton, P. L.; Stephenson, J. W.; Stringer, P.; Tucker, W. J.; Vick, R. H.; Welsh, R. W. J.; White, B. G.; Whiteman, J. W.; Whitesman, G.; Whitfield, G. V.; Whitfield, P. J.; Wilde, A.

The following have left:—

Airey, J. H.; Ascher, M.; Baker, G. E.; Beardmore, C. H.; Beck, J. H.; Bradley, A. J. F.; Brown, H.; Brown, J.; Brunning, P. R.; Church, L. H.; Clark, F. R.; Cook, R. E.; Cope, F. F.; Coulthard, J. R.; Danskin, J. C.; Dore, K. D.; Dumain, K. C.; Fitzjohn, R. T. G.; Forrester, W. A.; Gardner, F. D.; Gerrard, K. A.; Glover, R. A.; Hendy, A. E.; Hodges, B. W.; Hopper, W. C.; Hyams, D. D.; Janes, B. A.; Janaway, W. R.; Jobbins, G. A.; Johns, P. L.; Laccohee, J. A.; Lawrence, A. G.; Lee, R. J.; Light, D. R.; Luke, C. P.; Malins, D.; Maskell, J. W.; Matthews, R. G.; Medcalf, P. F.; Medden, D. A.; Nightingale, M.; Norris, S. F.; Outred, D. J.; Owen, G. R.; Pauncefort, B. E.; Peachey, S. F.; Pettitt, H. W.; Piddington, G. P. H.; Reid, J. J.; Robinson, J. A.; Sharpstone, B.; Shillingford, P. R.; Sparkes, R. W.; Tapson, J. D.; Taylor, J. C. E.; Terrington, T. R.; Thomas, P. E.; Twilley, I. C.; Ward, A. R.; Woodbridge, P.; Woods, M. E.; Woolcott, D. E.

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 the magazine*. If it is incomplete, incorrect or out of date, please let us have the latest details. We can only print what news has been passed on to us, and so it is hoped that anyone who has any reliable information will let us know, so that our records may be complete.

Alexander, G. K. 1937-41. In O.C.T.U., R.E.
Andrews, C. 1931-37. Sub. Lieut., R.N.V.R.
Badham L. 1934-39. Drv./Sig. in Field Regt., R.A.
Balls, D. G. 1937-42. R.A.F. Surveyor.
Batty, J. G. 1933-40. R.A.F.
Batty, R. P. 1934-40. Sub. Lieut. Observer, F.A.A.
Beck, G. 1931-38. Royal Signals. Allied H.Q., N. Africa.
Blake, E. C. 1937-40. R.A.F.
Blazey, C. C. 1931-38. Staff Sergeant, R.E.M.E.
Blazey, E. W. 1926-32. Flying Officer. Was in Coastal Command.
Bolton, P. A. 1934-39. Trooper, Reconnaissance Regt., R.A.C.
Booth, L. 1927-31. Observer, R.A.F., Malta.
Boyenval, E. H. 1933-40. Lieut., R.E.M.E.
Brown, R. 1936-41. Supply assistant, R.N. In Iceland.
Brooks, N. I. 1936-39. Rifleman, K.R.R.C. In M.E.F.
Bullivant, H. A. P. 1930-37. Lieut. Commander, Fleet Air Arm.
Chamberlain, P. L. 1932-40. R.A.F. Sergeant Air Bomber. Reported missing after raid on Berlin, February, 1944. Later reported safe. P.O.W.
Channing, L. T. 1929-34. R.A.F. Flying Officer. India.
Chappeloe, A. 1936-40. R.N. Training as Telegraphist.
Clayden, R. A. 1932-39. R.A.F. In North Africa.
Cocks, E. A. 1934-39. Royal Signals. Signaller. C.M.F.
Coombe, G. Stanley. 1918-22. R.A.F.
Coombe, Norman H. 1920-25. R.A.F.
Cooper, A. W. S. 1936-42. R.A.F. In Canada.
Cooper, F. 1919-23. Captain in Intelligence Corps. Attached to Foreign Office.
Cooper, S. T. (Middle). 1924-32. R.A.F. Squadron Leader. In India. Then two years in Egypt. In charge of Army Co-operation School.
Cooper, W. (youngest). 1925-32. R.A.F. Wing Commander. Back in England, January, 1944.
Cousins, G. A. 1927-35. R.A.F. Flight Sergeant. C.M.F.
Cotterell, Eric. 1934-39. R.A.F. Got wings and commission.
Crabbe, G. 1934-42. R.A.F. Going to Rhodesia (July, 1944) to train as Air Gunner.
Curgenven, L. L. 1918-25. Was in Fire Service (March, 1944).
Curgenven, B. J. 1922-28. Is in Fire Service (March, 1944).
Curgenven, P. W. 1926-31. Was in Palestine Police. Invalided out (March, 1944).
Davies, R. 1934-39. R.A.F. Wireless Operator. Returned to England (July, 1944).
Diboll, A. T. J. 1936-42. R.A.F. In Canada and U.S.A. Now back in England.
Dorsett, S. R. 1935-39. In N. Africa. Royal Signallers.
Drake, H. A. 1934-35. R.N. Coder.
Earland, A. W. 1915-23. R.N.V.R. Sub. Lieut.
Fairey, R. V. 1936-40. L.-R.M. R.N.A.S.
Finch, G. E. (elder). 1930-36. R.A. Lance Bombardier. B.L.A.

Finch, R. F. W. (younger). 1933-38. R.A. Bombardier (February, 1944). S.E.A.C.
Forrester, T. 1935-41. R.A.F. West Rhodesia for training. Eyesight prevented flying. Training for Commission in Intelligence Corps.
Freeman, A. 1937-40. R.A.F. Obtained Commission.
Fuller, E. A. 1936-39. R.A.F. A.C.2. Training for Flight Engineer.
Gerrard, D. 1936-40. Royal Signals. Signaller. B.L.A. H.Q.
Graham, D. J. 1935-39. R.N. Y. Scheme.
Halden, C. A. 1924-29. Fleet Air Arm. Petty Officer.
Harker, D. H. 1937-42. R.A.F. Pilot.
Heath, H. W. 1934-39. Arrived India. Got Commission.
Heyes, H. J. 1932-40. At Primary Training Centre, hoping to go out to Commission in R.E.
Hobbs, C. N. 1932-37. Moved from Cairo. R.A.S.C.
Hughes, L. G. 1934-39. R.A.F. Training in Canada.
Hunt, C. F. 1933-39. R.A. Light A.A. 2nd Lieut.
Jenkin, E. C. 1930-35. R.A. Sergeant. Out in Middle East.
Jenkin, S. J. 1932-37. L.A.A. Accident, injured and discharged.
King, D. H. 1932-37. R.A.F. On Ferry Pilot work between England and Africa.
King, D. M. R. 1936-43. R.N. With Naval Forces, Far East.
King, J. E. 1930-36. R.A.F. In S. Africa on Accountancy work.
King, R. 1937-42. R.A.F. In Italy.
Lake, V. H. 1932-39. R.A.F. Flight Mechanic in 1941.
Langdon, A. C. 1932-36. R.A.F. Promoted Flight Lieut. P.O.W., Stalag Luft. III.
Leslie, J. M. 1932-38. R.N.V.R. Full Lieut.
Lucas, D. A. 1932-39. R.A.F. Wireless Mechanic. In N. Africa:
Luetchford, R. 1937-40. R.N. Y. Scheme.
Nunan, P. A. W. 1937-41. R.E. Camouflage section.
Owen, C. R. 1938-44. Royal Signals. On course as Wireless Operator after being selected as candidate for O.C.T.U.
Owen, N. C. 1935-42. R.A.F. Back from Canada (July, 1944). Sergeant Navigator.
Packer, S. G. A. 1934-39. R.A.F. Sergt. Pilot.
Patrick, D. A. 1935-41. R.A.F. In South Africa training as a Pilot.
Poulter, Wm. G. 1934-39. R.A.F. Flying Officer since January, 1943. Back in England.
Pritchard, D.C. 1934-39. F.A.A. Got wings. Commission.
Ramell, J. E. 1936-43. Army (Signals). Candidate for O.C.T.U.
Rowe, G. W. 1932-38. R.A.F. Promoted Flying Officer. Work on ferrying planes.
Sale, D. 1934-39. R.E. In Italy.
Saunders, J. 1926-30. U.S.A. Army. In U.S.A. since leaving. Went to University out there; became analytical chemist; worked for War Department. Joined U.S.A. Army.
Scase, I. C. 1933-39. Sub. Lieut. R.N.V.R.
Seaborne, R. L. 1934-39. R.N. Combined Operations.
Sewell, D. W. 2nd Lieut. R.I.A.S.C. India. Was in hospital November 10th, 1944.
Shapcott, P. S. 1936-42. R.N. Became Midshipman.
Shillingford, H. S. 1936-43. R.N. Radio Location. Leading Mechanic.
Smith, E. R. 1931-37. R.N. Lieut.
Smith, J. H. 1935-39. Wireless Operator-Air Gunner with Desert Air Force. Now in Italy.

Smith, J. H. 1935-39. R.A.F. Promoted Sergeant in Middle East.
Southgate, C. 1936-42. R.A.F. A.C.2. Radio Location.
Surridge, V. 1929-35. R.A.M.C. Captured at time of Dunkirk. Repatriated November, 1943.
Sutehall, V. 1934-39. Sapper, R.E. In Italy.
Tapson, J. D. 1937-44. R.N.
Thompson, K. G. 1936-40. Private. Signal Platoon, H.Q. Company. Hampshire Regt. C.M.F.
Truscott, P. 1929-35. R.A. Captain.
Ucar, F. O. 1937-39. R.A.F. Training in Canada as Navigator-Bomber.
Underwood, D. 1933-38. R.E.M.E. Armourer Staff Sergeant.
Veal, E. J. 1914-20. R.A. In Middle East for 3¼ years. Was in Territorials and was called up at outbreak of war.
Walker, G. H. R.A.F. Had a flying crack-up in New Brunswick. Came home for medical.
Winton, K. J. 1930-37. R.E. Captain in France. In Hospital. Flown back from France. Affection of throat.
Wynne, H. J. 1926-33. R.A. Major. Still in Ankara.
Yearby, J. O. 1935-41. R.A.F. In Canada. Training for Pilot.

Among visitors to the School in Sutherland Grove have been the following: Harris, S. L.; Barnes, R. G.; Davis, R.; Finch, W.; Jones, H. M.; Jewell, P. A.; Rushton, D.; Blake, E. C.; Rowe, G. W.; Boyenval, E. H.; Sweeting, R.; Scase, J. C.; Bolton, P.; Clayden, J.; Shillingford, H.; Hallums, P. D.; Winton, K. J.

Others have visited us at Little Firs, including King, D.; Rushton, D.; Packer; Balls, D. G.; Drake, H. F.; Fairey, R. V.; Poulter, W. G.; Batty, J. G.; Nunan, P. A.; Shillingford, H. S.; and both Blazeys.

We are always pleased to hear from Old Boys. Among letters received are those from Ferne, D. C.; Ramell, J. E.; Shapcott, P.; Blazey, C. C.; Clayden, R. A.; Drake, J.; Cocks, E. A.; Sutehall, V.; Sewell, D. W.; Channing, L. T.; Drake, H. F.; Thompson, K. G.; Brooks, R.I.

The Staff.

Mr. Aubrey, after four years in the P.T. branch of the R.A.F., has received a commission in the Education branch. Mr. Benyon is still a Lieutenant in the Pioneer Corps. He is with the C.M.F. in Italy, and has a number of Basutos under his command. Mr. Bennett is doing meteorological work for the R.A.F. Mr. Clode is still at the same kind of work now in Italy. Mr. Radford has been transferred, with a commission, to Educational work in the Army. Mr. Arkell left the Admiralty to join the R.A.F. as a Pilot Officer, and he is on Intelligence in India, I.S.I.D., H.Q., SACSEA, whatever that may mean.

Extracts from Letters.

From D. C. FERNE (1932-38):—

". . . The whole city is steeped in history, and as we went from one famous place to another one could feel the atmosphere of Ancient Rome exerting itself over the noise and bustle of its present-day activity. Our first port of call was the Coliseum, now no more than a shell of its quondam splendour. The arena itself is now bricked across by a maze of walls, but standing in the centre one can look up to the circular terraces of seats and imagine the Emperor giving the 'thumbs down' sign to authorise the despatch of a vanquished combatant.

"From the Coliseum we wended our way to the Forum close by. This was the political centre in ancient times. Now it is scarcely more than a collection of the few remaining pillars, although the general lay-out is as it was. One can call to mind to what oratory its walls have echoed, the brilliant speeches of Mark Antony and the imperative harangues of Julius Cæsar. . . .

"The most priceless jewel in this collection of precious stones I have saved until last, the largest and most beautiful church in the world, fountain head of the Roman Catholic faith, seat of the Pope and standing in the Vatican City itself —St. Peter's of Rome. Yes, the approach to the church may well take your breath away, a long straight avenue up to the barriers of the Vatican, which is neutral territory, and then the forecourt, followed by the wide, white series of steps leading up to the massive decorated doors. At the top of the steps you marvel at the contrast to the sun-drenched city outside, for the saying has it that it is always cool at the door of St. Peter's. Through the doorway you go and are at once met by the cool scented air inside. On either side you see huge murals depicting biblical characters and scenes in mosaic.

"Proceeding down the church, you see plaques and statues and tombs dedicated to famous churchmen. That one over there is to Pope Gregory, who designed the Gregorian calendar, and that one over there is to Pope Pius, who was in office when the World War broke out. He had striven desperately to avert it, and when his efforts failed, so did his health. The Austrian Emperor asked him to bless his armies, to which Pius replied, 'I bless Peace.' Next day he died brokenhearted.

". . . If you have the mind you may ascend to the dome itself. I did, and it took 27 minutes to negotiate the steps. Higher than St. Paul's, one thinks one will never reach the top; but once there you will see those mosaics closely and wonder at their perfection. Don't look down too much to the floor of the church —over five hundred feet is a long way to fall; the people down there appear like ants. Step out on to the balcony surrounding the dome, and the view is magnificent. All Rome is stretched before you, with Father Tiber winding his sluggish way through it. . . . Directly below is the Vatican itself, a haven of lush lawns and green trees and superb gardens. . . . And so down the stairs again, taking only nine minutes this time, across the church to the great doors and out into the baking streets of Rome again."

From DESMOND R. KING, who is with the naval forces in the Far East:—

"I have recently returned from a very enjoyable seven days' leave spent at a rest camp some thousands of feet above sea level. The journey by train of about 125 miles took fourteen hours. The first part of the journey was over flat country of rice fields and palm trees. Towards dusk an extra engine was added to front and rear of the train and some weights to the middle, which done, the climb started. And what a climb! The line, a remarkable feat of engineering, wound its way through innumerable tunnels, and along rock ledges often with a sheer drop on one side and overhanging rocks on the other. . . . On the

second morning there I went for a longish cycle ride. It was a fine morning, sunny, and with a nice breeze, and we rode through beautiful green hilly country, studded with waterfalls and streams, with here and there tea plantations on the slopes. The riding was pretty hard going, all ups and downs, and the road had plenty of hairpin bends, the negotiation of which provided good fun and no little excitement. We had lunch at a European cafe in one of the villages and arrived back at camp soon after three, having started at eight o'clock."

From Spr. V. SUTEHALL (C.M.F.):—

"During my stay in Africa, I spent six or eight weeks in a town which, among other signs of civilisation, possessed a Protestant church, quite small, but not unlike many to be found in England. Services were held there regularly by a Methodist padre, and there was always a good crowd of British and American troops. It was almost as good as being able to get back to England once a week. . . . Some at least of my memories of Africa will be a pleasure in years to come."

From Signalman E. A. COCKS (C.M.F.):—

"Whilst training in England (in Huddersfield) I sat down at a table in the messroom and, on looking up, found to my great surprise Lance-Corpl. Radford sitting opposite me, or, as he used to be, Mr. Radford.

"Fortunately, I am now allowed to relate my experiences in this country (Italy). I landed at Salerno with the unit, but not until a firm foothold had been obtained, for which I have no regrets. From what I have seen of the country, it seems very poverty-stricken, and has a very low standard of living compared with England. . . . It was astounding the reception we received. They seemed very glad to be rid of the Germans, and naturally pleased that their land would no longer be a battlefield."

From Signalman G. R. OWEN (O.C.T.U.):—

"I am expecting to change from the rather mysterious rank of Signalman to that of unpaid, unwanted, uncared-for Lance-Corpl. in the coming month. The award of this rank is entirely temporary and really it is a method of obtaining cheap labour."

MR. AUBREY expresses in one of his letters a thought we all share:—

"I managed to get a copy of last year's 'Link,' and was grieved to read through the growing list of Old Boys who had lost their lives: some of the names evoked memories of events which I, at least, will not easily forget—of Briffett scoring four brilliant tries against Bec in 1937, of John Shapcott's great-hearted half-mile in the medley relay, against Bec in 1938."

Midshipman PETER SHAPCOTT writes:—

"I was rather lucky in being drafted to the realm of Combined Operations, and within a fortnight I was rapidly making my way towards Sicily. In our certain sector, everything worked like clockwork for the initial assault. The weather and the scenery were truly magnificent and, protected by the vast air umbrella, we spent a gorgeous day disgorging troops and equipment to the roar of a withering cannonade from all types of naval guns. I could not help feeling sorry for the Army—the dirtiest and the toughest part of war still falls back on them, and the ultimate issue still hangs on them—as in the last war.

"After two months in the various ports of the Mediterranean, we started preparations for the invasion of Italy and duly sailed for an unknown destination. During the whole summer I scarcely saw a cloud in the sky: the sea was invariably a deep and beautiful blue, and on this trip the weather was no exception. The night before the intended landing we heard of the unconditional surrender of Italy, and although for a few minutes there was much speculation as to what would happen, our minds were soon clarified by the announcement that the

Germans were still very much in evidence and were known to have the 15th and 16th Panzer Divisions along with the Hermann Goering Division and 1,500 aeroplanes in the area. We arrived in Salerno Bay the next morning, and then followed a most unforgettable week. There was quite a bit of shelling and bombing, the Germans using their limited number of planes with much tactical skill. They inevitably swooped out of the sun and were over the beaches and away behind the German-held hills within half a minute, and of course they made full use of the nights. However, they were not very successful. Our troops waged a most bitter and magnificent battle on a very small beach-head about 20 miles by 4, which was completely dominated by the surrounding hills. The artillery fire was endless, and I think it is quite fair to say that the very accurate naval bombardment from 15in. down to the destroyers, who fought many close-shore battles with the German batteries, was a major factor in securing the beach-head. The northward advance of the 8th Army under Montgomery, both of whom have got a tremendous reputation among the troops, was the deciding factor.

"Here once again the scenery was very beautiful, especially at dusk and at night, with the huge purple hills and a bright mellow moon. Providing there were not too many smoke screens or gun fumes drifting about, a fresh fragrance used to waft up from the nearby lemon groves as dusk crept into the valley, and it really was at times most entrancing. Although I think Nature needed a great deal of beauty to offset the deeds of man on that spot."

And now from Mr. Clode, on a different note:—

"It came as a bit of a shock to see the low standard of living in Sicily. . . . But the people, especially the women, set a comparatively high standard in dress, though with the farmer type it is rare to see one without a patch somewhere. These patches are works of art, as I know from first-hand knowledge, my pyjamas being returned by the laundryman in excellent repair. The laundryman was a character. He would visit the camp each evening and gather together the bundles, often more than he and his boy attendants could carry. He would return the next evening, each bundle well laundered and patched, and go away again with more bundles. The average charge was 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d., very cheap and comparing favourably with the 4s. to 8s. charged by the French in North Africa.

"I once went for a 'jolly' with the G/C. and two others to a small fishing village in the North of the Island. We stayed for lunch in a small cottage, and our host, a local fisherman, placed fish after fish on our plates. The fish were cooked in oil and garlic. Garlic in small quantities is not too bad, but my taste does not run in that direction. We journeyed back in our Jeep, dodging the showers, which are very heavy in that mountainous area."

From Bombardier Reg. Finch, India Command:—

"Whilst in West Africa, I bumped into Capt. Alan Brown, who you will remember was in Cromwell, and is about a year older than myself. The occasion was a table-tennis match between the officers and the B.O.R's of the camp. We had a good old 'confab' over old times, and of course the old School."

From F/O. L. T. Channing, R.A.F., India:—

"Although one feels very far from home here, there is a great interest in travelling, offering me splendid opportunities, particularly as I am a keen water colour artist. I find plenty of colour here among the villages and towns and their inhabitants. . . . I have been fortunate in spending this period (of sick leave) in the heart of the Himalayas 7,000ft. up at Chakrata, not far from Simla. The scenery, of course, is the most marvellous one is likely to experience anywhere in the world and has offered me plenty of scope for my brush. We were fortunate in surprising a large panther on one of our walks yesterday, armed, we, of course, with a mere walking stick! The panther turned tail, and we breathed again.

. . . I was delighted to meet another Old Boy in Delhi the other day, F/L. Austin, who is interested in wireless and is also in the R.A.F."

From L. R. KING:—

"I spent Christmas in Jerusalem and went out to Bethlehem on Christmas Eve, along with several thousand other Service men, men from the four corners of the world, of almost every race, language and religion. I took part in a broadcast carol service from the central courtyard of the church under a clear starry sky. This was one of the few comparatively edifying experiences I had while in Jerusalem, which has nothing much to distinguish it from a medium-sized town (it would be more accurate to say small town) in England. The ancient city, within its huge old walls built by the Turks in the 14th century, gave one the impression of complete decay. Its people, mainly Arabs, thronged in its dark, smelly alleyways; beggars with horrible diseases and infirmities; undernourished and dirty children clung round one's legs for a few coppers; every few minutes would pass the bearded black-robed figures of the 'officers' of the varied religious sects—symbols of superstition and ignorance amid that mass of impoverished humanity; and across a valley of scattered rocks and stones, a sheer 300ft. below the city wall, rises a hill of thousand upon thousand of gravestones, tier upon tier of a huge cemetery which augments this impression of death, disease, destruction and decay. In the churches and mosques there is much that is magnificent, much that is merely tawdry.

"My worst impression was in Jerusalem again on Christmas Eve, while a few groups of drunken Service men brawled through the city's half-blacked-out streets, breaking café windows and shouting insults and abuse against the Jews. There seem to be two types of Jew in Palestine: those who live and look like normal people, and the generally poorer and strictly orthodox Jews who go about dressed mainly in black with round black hats from which dangle two straggly locks of hair in front of their ears and on to their shoulders. I was struck by the uniformity of their appearance: the same expressionless eyes from pallid, anæmic faces, as though they spent their whole life beyond reach of the sun. The children looked exactly the same. This latter type of Jew is in the minority, however."

And later:—

"While on leave we paid a visit to Capri, a small rocky-cliffed island with several small townships among and on its steep hills, which are terraced with vineyards and orchards. The dust from Vesuvius across the Bay was still thick on the side of the roads. . . . I paid a visit to the ruins of Pompeii. It was quite a strange experience walking down the narrow streets between the ruined houses of a Roman town of nearly 2,000 years ago, while in the background Vesuvius still showed smoky symptoms of its last eruption, which had added a mere three inches to the dust and ash which covered the unexcavated parts of Pompeii. (Getting on for 18ft. of burning ashes and stone fell on Pompeii during the original disaster, which obliterated the town and paradoxically preserved it for posterity.)

"I am still fast on the heels of the advancing Fifth Army. At times we almost catch up with them, but the distant rumble of guns soon dies away and peace returns to a shattered countryside. Railways are left completely wrecked and all stations are just shambles of girders and wrecked and rusting rolling stock. The main roads are, of course, quickly repaired, especially in flat, open country, but in the predominating hilly country wrecked bridges on winding roads round the hills and cliffs present real difficulties. In many places a lorry journey is a succession of jolting, bouncing descents into bridgeless ditches amidst clouds of white dust.

"Luckily I do most of my moving by air. . . . A lot of our stuff fits into the bomb bays—too bad if someone opens the bomb doors accidentally!

"I am still pegging away at the same type of work except that on some trips now the mountains are on a much more massive scale. The scene is one of almost Wagnerian grandeur in its ferocity and pagan gloom, with vivid flashes of lightning giving momentary pictures of massive jagged peaks and towering cumulus clouds.

"I have just been spending a rather busy week—in Rome. This was a rather unexpected pleasure, as I thought my chances of seeing Rome were fast receding. . . . On four evenings I went to the Royal Opera House for performances of 'The Barber of Seville,' 'Aida,' and two Army education concerts of mixed symphony, opera and ballet. The most impressive performance was, of course, 'Aida,' the sheer pageantry of which was overwhelming in itself. I don't know to what extent it was an 'austerity' show compared to peace time, but in the Victory Parade in the second act the stage was massed with well over 200 persons with lavish costumes against a background of imposing scenery. This dazzling spectacle, combined with a full orchestra, beggared all description, and it would not be much exaggeration to say that it was the experience of a lifetime. Also open to us in the now (in)famous Palazzo Venezia was an exhibition of European painting gathered together from all over Italy. Most of the paintings were of the Italian Renaissance period—Botticelli, Raphael, Titian, etc. This again gave an almost unique opportunity of seeing a collection of paintings the like of which had never been gathered for exhibition under one roof before.

"Rome appears to be very normal, on the surface, and until one starts to look at prices in shop windows. The obviously acute inflation is but one indication of the complete economic chaos in Italy, with its main industries behind the enemy lines, and with almost every factory, power plant, etc., a blackened shell or a heap of rubble, its civilian communications practically non-existent."

Woking A.C.F.—Wandsworth Platoon.

"C" CO. ANNUAL SPORTS, JULY 16th, 1944.

(Finals are marked thus: *.)

Event I.	1st heat, 100 yards Senior.	Twilley.	1st.
Event II.	1st heat, 100 yards Junior.	Edwick.	1st.
*Event III.	High Jump Senior.	Twilley.	1st.
*Event IV.	880 yards Junior.	Edwick.	1st.
*Event V.	100 yards Junior.	Edwick.	1st.
*Event VI.	800 yards Senior.	Hammond.	3rd.
*Event VII.	100 yards Senior.	Twilley.	1st.
*Event VIII.	High Jump Junior.	Edwick.	2nd.
Event IX.	1st heat, 220 yards Senior.	Phillips (Captain)	1st.
	2nd heat, 220 yards Senior.	Hammond.	1st.
*Event X.	1 mile Senior.	Matthews	2nd.
Event XI.	2nd heat, 220 yards Junior.	Edwick.	1st.
*Event XII.	220 yards Senior.	Phillips.	1st.
*Event XIII.	440 yards Senior.	Twilley.	1st.
		Phillips.	3rd.
*Event XIV.	440 yards Junior.	Boucher.	3rd.
*Event XV.	220 yards Junior.	Edwick.	1st.
*Event XVI.	Senior Relay.	Wandsworth Platoon.	1st.

(Hammond, Twilley, Matthews, Phillips.)

The Cup: This again was presented to Wandsworth Platoon.

Medals: Of 20 awarded, 11 were presented to Wandsworth Platoon.

M. A. ASCHER, Under-Officer.

Cricket.

Captain: L. W. Phillips. Vice-Captain: D. R. Light.

Hon. Sec.: D. Finch.

The School XI. had quite a successful season and, in addition to the usual matches, games were played with Charterhouse 2nd XI. and Raine's. The match with the Old Boys was exciting, the School this time losing by 8 runs. The Charterhouse team was too strong for the School, the former winning an enjoyable game by 4 wickets, but Raine's cricket standard was not as good as their rugger, and the School won by 16 runs. Only one Senior House match was played, Crompitts winning by 43 runs; whilst in the Juniors, honours were even, as in soccer, each house-combination winning a match.

1st XI. matches:

May	27.	Mayford	(A).	Cancelled: wet.
June	1.	London Central Schools	(H).	Lost by 10 runs.
,,	3.	Old Boys	(A).	Lost by 8 runs.
,,	10.	Sloane	(H).	Won by 54 runs.
,,	17.	Mayford	(H).	Won by 83 runs.
,,	24.	Charterhouse 2nd XI.	(A).	Lost by 4 wickets.
,,	29.	London Central Schools	(A).	Won by 4 wickets.
July	1.	Raine's Foundation	(H).	Won by 16 runs.
,,	8.	Woking.	(H).	Won by 43 runs.
,,	15.	Sloane	(A).	Cancelled: wet.

Soccer.

Captain: A. G. Lawrence. Vice-Captain: B. E. Pauncefort.

Hon. Sec.: P. Thomas.

The School 1st XI. had a good season, losing only one match, and that against Woking. The weather, however, interfered with several games, and one game, that against the Gordon Boys, had to be abandoned just after half-time on account of fog. An innovation was the match against Charterhouse 2nd XI., a good game at Godalming ending in a draw, each side scoring twice. The School team was too good for the Old Boys and won comfortably by 5 goals to 1.

Only one Senior house match was played, Crompitts beating Morgibs by 8—1, whilst in the Juniors, honours were even, each house-combination winning a match.

1st XI. matches:

Oct.	16.	Mayford	(A).	Won 8—2.
,,	23.	Woking	(H).	Lost.
Nov.	6.	Sloane	(H).	Won 4—0.
,,	13.	Charterhouse "A"	(A).	Draw 2—2.
,,	20.	Gordon Boys	(A).	Abandoned.
,,	27.	Old Boys	(H).	Won 5—1.
Dec.	4.	Sloane	(A).	Cancelled.
,,	9.	Gordon Boys	(A).	Won 3—1.
	11.	Sir Walter St. John's	(A).	Cancelled.

Rugger.

Captain: D. R. Light. Vice-Captain: G. E. Baker.

Hon. Sec.: B. E. Pauncefort.

The School XV. played well and won more matches than they lost, although in every case they to play against heavier sides. The best game was with Raine's School, who fielded a fast and well-balanced side, and gave a good exhibition of combined play.

The Juniors played a number of games, the chief attraction being the match with the home School at Sutherland Grove. The Woking Wandsworthians had the bigger side and won by 14 points to nil.

1st XV. Results:

Feb.	5.	Guildford Grammar	(H).	Won 19—11.
,,	12.	Woking	(H).	Won 13—0.
Mar.	18.	Woking	(A).	Won 12—0.
,,	25.	Raine's	(H).	Lost 6—0.
Apr.	1.	Guildford Grammar	(A).	Lost 9—0.

Inter-Schools Clubs.

This Club was revived this term, and three meetings were held. The first evening was devoted to Impromptu Debates. Subjects such as re-housing, music on the radio, and how to deal with Germany, were discussed. At the second meeting Mrs. Grimshaw and Mr. Hodgkinson gave us an illustrated talk on "Modern Art." The third meeting was a musical evening devoted to Schubert's works. The music was provided by Miss Smith and members of Mayfield School. We look forward to more meetings as enjoyable as these three have been. We should like to take the opportunity of expressing our gratitude to Mr. Chaplin, of the Y.M.C.A., for the use of the hall, and to Mr. Fenn for some work in organisation.

A. H. R.

Swimming.

Swimming certificates have been awarded to the following boys:—

25 *yards:* Crust, P. E. (2b); Boucher, R. A. (1).

50 *yards:* How, K. A. (1); Cullum, A. B. (1); Glenister, B. K. (2a); Lazell, J. A. (2a); Morrell, A. D. (2b); Millwood, B. S. (2b); Kohn, R. (4).

100 *yards:* Chambers, G. E. (2a); Davey, R. G. A. (2a); Cadman, J. C. (2b); Samuel, R. A. (2b); Springett, R. P. (2b); Boucher, T. H. (3); Field, D. N. (3).

220 *yards:* Cope, D. J. (2a); Thompson, D. A. (2a); Burton, P. E. (3).

Quarter mile: Turner, E. (2a); Cook, D. D. (2a); Haydon, J. S. (2a).

Half mile: Sloggett, E. V. (2b); Riddle, J. W. (2a).

Three-quarter mile: Maclean, I. (2a).

One mile: Harrold, B. J. (2a).

G. E.

Athletics.

Athletics standards were held this year as a preliminary to the Inter-House Sports Day. There was a good deal of competition between the two "houses" —Cromwell-Pitt and Morley-Gibbon. The highest number of points possible was scored for their houses by Bilby (C), Chetwood (C), Hammond (C), Field (M) and Feld (C).

Despite the unequal balance of aggregate points as shown in the results below, Sports Day provided an exciting contest. Enthusiasm was high, and a spirit of friendly rivalry was prevalent. The standard on the whole was not as good as that of previous years, but many events were hotly contested. Feld (C), 220 yard Junior, and Chetwood (C), 100 yard and 220 yard Middle, were outstanding, and Millwood, B. (C), Junior, made a notable high jump of 4ft. 3in.

Cromwell-Pitt beat Morley-Gibbon by $74\frac{1}{2}$—$33\frac{1}{2}$.

Event	1st	2nd	3rd	Points C	Points M	Aggreg'e Points C	Aggreg'e Points M	Time
880 yds., Open	Ramell (M) ...	Light (M) ...	Pauncefort (C)	1	5	1	5	2m. 24 1/5s.
100 ,, Under 12 ...	Prickett (C) ...	Sanders (C) ...	How (M) ...	5	1	6	6	14 1/5s.
100 ,, Junior	Walsh (C) ...	Roodhouse (C) ...	Field (M) ...	5	1	11	7	14s.
100 ,, Middle	Chetwood (C) ...	Hill (C) ...	Hammond (C)	6	—	17	7	11s.
100 ,, Senior	Twilley (C) ...	Taylor (M) ...	Phillips (M) ..	3	3	20	10	11s.
220 ,, Junior	Feld ( ) ...	Field (M) ...	Cadman (M) ..	3	3	23	13	29 1/5s.
220 ,, Middle	Chetwood ( ) ...	Forrester (C) ...	Hammond (C)	6	—	29	13	25 4/5s.
220 ,, Senior	Twilley (C) ..	Taylor (M) ...	Hill (C) ...	4	2	33	15	25 2/5s.
High Jump, Junior ...	B Millwood (C)	Burton (M) ...	T. Boucher (M)	3	3	36	18	4ft. 3ins.
High Jump, Senior ...	Twilley (C) ...	Hill (C) ...	W. Read (C) ..	6	—	42	18	4ft. 10ins.
440 yds., Middle	Chetwood (C) ..	Edwick (M) ...	Bilby (C) ..	4	2	46	20	58 4/5s.
440 ,, Senior	Taylor (M) ...	Light (M) ...	Ramell (M) ..	—	6	46	26	57 3/5s.
Relay, Under 12, 4x110yds.	C	M		5	1	51	27	1m. 3 2/5s.
Relay, Junior ,, ,,	C	M		5	1	56	28	57 4/5s.
Relay, Middle ,, ,,	C	M		5	1	61	29	53 4/5s.
Relay, Senior ,, ,,	C	M		5	1	66	30	50s.
Long Jump, Junior ...	Feld (C) ...	Ducker (M) / MacAuliff (C)		$4\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$70\frac{1}{2}$	$31\frac{1}{2}$	13ft. $9\frac{1}{2}$ins.
Long Jump, Senior ...	Forrester (C) ..	Light (M)	Norris (C) ...	4	2	$74\frac{1}{2}$	$33\frac{1}{2}$	17ft.

Debating Society (at Sutherland Grove).

At the beginning of the Summer Term it was decided to start a Debating Society at Sutherland Grove.

The first meeting was held on Thursday, October 12th, in the Library. It was a "Brains Trust" calculated to raise general interest. Questions were invited from all forms. Mr. Maycock acted as question-master. The Trust agreed unanimously that co-education was needed in all Schools. The Trust also agreed that London was too densely populated.

Owing to the success of the first Brains Trust, another one was held on the following Thursday, Mr. Hodgkinson acting as question-master. Among the subjects discussed were airships, the school-leaving age and the problem of Germany after the war. The Trust also gave a description of "the most horrible moment in my life."

On October 26th a debate was held on the motion, "World-Government after the war is essential to the maintenance of peace."

Barnett (IV.) and Hurcombe (IV.), proposing, thought that chaos and war would recur unless armed force was used, an international currency was introduced and the world governed by a united world League of Nations. This failed to convince Clothier (III.) and Butler (III.), who opposed on practical grounds, enlarging on the difficulties of including backward countries like Abyssinia in a world council. He also pointed out the failure of the League of Nations in dealing with aggression in the Far East and in Europe.

The debate was then thrown open to the house, and there were some very good speeches, especially from Levett (IV.), who opposed the motion on the grounds that progressive nations would be out-voted by large countries like China, where the bulk of people were poor and uneducated. To this Percival (III.) replied that it was the local councils' duty to see that these people *were* educated.

The motion was defeated by 11 to 8; some abstained from voting.

After the debate, Barnett (IV.) was selected secretary of the Debating Society.

On November 2nd a spelling-bee was held, with Mr. Powell in the chair. Two teams entered for the contest, consisting of 6 boys from Form III. and 6 from Form IV. The III.'s defeated the IV.'s by 4 points.

On the following Thursday a General Knowledge Contest was held. Three teams entered for the contest. They came from the II., III. and IV. Forms. Mr. Keyte provided the questions. The questions ranged from the meaning of "U.N.R.R.A." to where various brands of food were made. There were also historical and musical questions. Forms II. and III. scored 20 points and Form IV. 19 points.

C. M. BARNETT, Secretary.

The Old School in the Doodlebug Days.

The doodlebug days saw the old School practically deserted. And I mean it, for three-quarters of the School at the worst time were either at home or evacuated. Many thought it no end of a lark, though many people who lost dear ones and their homes didn't quite see the joke. Many of our boys were in the shelters all night with their mothers, but they crawled out in the morning and made their way to School. We were allowed to come at 10 o'clock if there was a warning as late as the previous midnight and, as there usually was, most boys rolled in at 10 a.m.

Certain prefects with keen ears were on duty as spotters. In the classrooms no sooner had a handful of boys sat down to lessons when the prefects (Form III.) would ring the fire bell, and down we went to the cloak-rooms and woodwork-shop, which had been fortified as shelters. The spotters were usually right. They heard the distant hum above the noise of the milk-carts in Sutherland Grove and of the trains at Southfields, and though the weather was mostly too cloudy to see anything, the noise became louder and louder, and either passed away or ended in a bump over the distant housetops. Our teachers couldn't do much serious work with us, and we usually did things like drawing maps or playing

games in French. Some hurried along the corridors, but others didn't, and had to be hurried when the alarm went.

In the shelters there wasn't much to do. Some played cards and marbles, and some organised games, particularly wrestling and, though the masters and prefects didn't like it, the boys did.

I don't for a moment think the boys' spirits were broken. After all, we are British boys, who have inherited a courage from our forefathers of the days of Rhodes, Clive, Wolfe, Drake and Raleigh.

The doodlebugs interfered very much with our games, and it was very annoying to have to leave the stumps and bats and to scamper off the ground at the sound of the bell.

But when the School returns from Woking we shall be able to take up school properly, not forgetting inter-house matches and other things that belong to a real school-life.

CLIVE GAGE, Form II.

D-Day.

When British hordes the sandy beaches stormed
And German guns poured forth the red-hot lead,
The U.S. troops roared forth with battle cry,
And everywhere was chaos and cold fear.
The cliffs of France loomed up before our men,
As drone of aero-engines filled the air,
And Allied planes are crowding all the sky.
The German Focke-Wulfes came in to fight,
And British aircraft dived out of the clouds.
The streaks of fire streamed across the sky,
Black puffs of smoke are born among the planes,
And burnt-out aircraft roar towards the earth.
Our troops have captured many German guns,
The enemy seem not too game to fight.
Ah, cruel Boche, you never played the game!
You tortured and enslaved the weaker ones!
But now the time has come for your defeat.
The countries you had overrun before
Will fight again and be on Britain's side,
Behind the cause of Liberty once more!
The man you chose as Führer is demented,
Your Marshal of the Air Force has now failed,
And screaming Goebbels thinks it's mighty fine
To tell degrading lies about the war.
Herr Himmler likes to torture men to death;
Your concentration camps are things of terror;
You teach your boys to kill and hate mankind.
But soon our suffering will be past and gone,
And greater men like Churchill will command
In places that you thought were all your own.
So fight on, Germans, fight on till defeat,
So that the world may come to peace again.

BEN HARROLD, Form III.

After Cassino.

The moon, across the cloisters dark,
Her harsh and jagged shadows flung
Across the ivy-creepered walls,
Where still the reek of cordite hung.

Where still in corners grey and grim
A body lank and lifeless lay,
Its face bemeaned with blood and pain,
Its comeliness all shorn away.

This heap of Nazi flesh and rags
Is what the Reich preferred to pay.
Its useless life has ended now;
It's waiting to be cleared away.

The battle for the hill had ceased.
The air was strangely still that night;
The gaunt yet shattered buttresses
Were bathed in phantom pools of light.

And as I sought for fallen friends,
For many that I'd known were gone,
I heard a pealing anthem swell
And fall and softly slumber on.

For there within those ringing walls,
With thankful lips and eyes upraised,
A host of hooded monks their Lord
And their Divine Redeemer praised.

I pictured now those bearded monks
When tyranny that's born of hell,
With gloating satisfaction,
Reigned above this citadel.

For months this mighty brotherhood
Had waited for the siege to cease,
And then it watched with confidence
The dawning of a day of peace.

That day had almost ended now,
No noise of battle could I hear.
A slow and dying anthem was
The only sound that reached my ear.

And even as I shared the prayer
This phantom scene was made complete;
Across the shadowed cloister
Came the solemn shuffle of their feet.

Cassino now is left behind.
A score of names have vanished since,
And victory with smiling face
Upon our furling banner glints.

D. P. Perry, Form V.

The Cinema.

Celluloid glamour, imported in transparent rolls,
The vortex of life, explained for the simple souls.
Smooth, shining skin, portrayed on a silvery screen,
Enchanting profiles, aglow in the limlight's gleam.
Passionate glances, the foil of feminine beauty,
Thick, red-round lips, enrouged by the art of Coty.
Long ravelling gowns, designed in a Paris salon,
Sleek silken hose, dumb tribute to synthetic rayon.
The lives of the great improved by the artist's hand.
An East-side slum, in tune with a hot swing band.
Distortions of truth displayed in a blinding light,
The thoughts of a bard, obscured by the fancy's flight.
Quintessence of life squeezed out in a radiant beam,
The spinster's escape, and the hope in a virgin's dream.

DENNIS A. BRUNNING.

Those who were Great.

Those who were great at the dawn of time,
Who toiled unseen, for a multitude unheeding,
They were the stars in a formless infinity
Feeling for truth, and avoiding the lie.
Theirs was the triumph, invading the memory,
Spanning the years from the world's awakening,
To the harsh judgments of modernity.
They did not falter at lights which were yet unseen:
They built a path, from a blindness truly divine,
Which eternity gives to the great in the flash of time.
I have dreamt of a fire that burns continually,
Feeding the spirit with the flame of learning,
Cleansing the mind and the spirit ennobling,
Pointing the finger of fame to the great undying.
Deep in the mind of the universal spirit
There gleams unseen amidst this fiery burning
The Light of the nobly great, the guide to a fame enduring.

DENNIS A. BRUNNING.

Sonnet.

Quand je me souviens de l'affliction des Hommes,
Qui ne peuvent pas mener leurs propres destins,
Qui du passé ne savent qu'un souffle qui vient
De la forêt sauvage aux villes où nous sommes,
Qui de l'avenir ne voient de leurs yeux rien
De certain à travers les vitres du possible,
Qui ne peuvent deviner le but inflexible
Du juste sort, qui leur verse tout mal et bien,
Je ne m'étonne point, cette soirée d'automne
Où les nuages d'or s'étendent sur la terre
Et pénètrent le cœur que le courage serre,
Et qu'au bout du ciel repose une couronne,
Je ne m'étonne point devant cette peinture
Que moi, je pleure aussi avec tes pleurs, Nature.

A. H. R.

F.R.S.

From the day on which a boy is admitted as a pupil at Wandsworth School until he leaves School, his progress is carefully observed and recorded. His progress after leaving School is often not noted, perhaps because we never hear of or from him. Recently we have heard through Dr. Waite, the venerable and respected first Headmaster of the School, of the outstanding success of D. M. Newitt, **1904-1913**; and we proudly place on record that he is the first O.W. to become an F.R.S. These three letters signify Fellow of the Royal Society, and show to the world that the scientific work of the man entitled to this designation is considered by British scientists to be most meritorious and a real contribution to science.

Dr. Newitt holds many degrees and diplomas, all granted by the University of London. Among these is the Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy) and D.Sc. (Doctor of Science). Placed first after his name, however, are the initials M.C., telling of his distinguished military service—in Mesopotamia—during the last war. In this war, he is engaged on other work of national importance, having been released from his duties as Assistant Professor of Chemical Technology at the Imperial College of Science.

We offer Dr. Newitt our warmest congratulations and we hope that his example will encourage many of our younger O.W.'s to continue their scientific researches so that in due time they, too, may be admitted to the Fellowship.

The Wandsworthians Lodge.

At the recently held meeting of the Lodge at Ardington Rooms, Clapham Junction, W. E. Pendal, **1923-25**, was installed Master for the year **1944-45**. He is the first O.W. to reach the Chair of his Mother Lodge. He was installed by Mr. H. O. Dumayne, who, though not an O.W. by extraction, yet by extraction from many a boy at Wandsworth School has helped to make many a healthier O.W.!

During this year our numbers have increased, and we are very glad to have among our members an O.W. who was at School **1933-36**, and was a member of Gibbon. We welcome him as a tie between the older and younger O.W.'s, and hope that many more of the younger Old Boys will emulate him and eventually join the Lodge.

We hope to meet during **1945** on the first Fridays of February, May, October and December, of course at Ardington Rooms, where we forgather under very happy conditions. We have often been visited by fathers and brothers of our members, and offer a cordial welcome to such as are qualified to come to our meetings. Further particulars may be obtained by writing to the Secretary of the Wandsworthians Lodge, c/o Wandsworth School, Sutherland Grove, S.W.18.