

THE  
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SPUR  
No. 1



# THE SPUR

RAYNES PARK COUNTY SCHOOL.

*"To each his need, from each his power."*

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Summer, 1944.

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## HEADMASTER'S NOTES

The reasons which have delayed the publication of this number of *The Spur* are too obvious to be set out. The *Supplement* speaks for itself. But it is pertinent to explain that there will inevitably be a certain lack of finishing touches, due to the illness of the Technical Adviser, Mr. Haslam, which took place at the very moment when the subject matter was about to be assembled. Special features have had to be cut out at the eleventh hour. A bare record of events must take the place of commentary and illustration.

The Distinguished Flying Cross has been awarded to Flight Lieut. Roy Barnes. We take great pride in this, the first decoration of the War to be won by an Old Boy. But we are deeply grieved to learn that he has now been reported killed in action. Our sympathy goes out to his relatives and to those of Victor George Sayer, who was killed in action on 8th November while serving in the Mediterranean theatre of war, after having seen very stiff fighting with the 78th Division since their landing in Algiers in November, 1942. We share in the anxiety felt for Roland Jones, Derek Maynard and John Fisher, all of whom have been reported missing. It is not many weeks since John Fisher was visiting us here before leaving for the gallant action off Walcheren Island.

The second State Scholarship to be won by a member of the School has been awarded to K. S. Williams as a result of achieving three Distinctions in the Higher Certificate Examination. Fourteen County Major Scholarships, four State Bursaries and two Agricultural Scholarships were also won by members of the School. The year has been a period of exceptional achievement—including an unbroken series of successes by the cricket eleven—and sets a standard which it will be hard to follow but which it must be our aim to surpass.

This year we are most unfortunate in losing a disproportionately large number of members of the Staff. Mr. Oates leaves in December to become Usher (Second Master) of Magdalen College School, Oxford. The Library which he has created is unique and will remain his special monument. His determined insistence on quality, his acute criticism and his appreciation of real worth have meant much to the School and to all who have had the privilege of being taught by him or collaborating with him. In his new school he will have great scope for the exercise of his gifts. It is hard to imagine Raynes Park without his presence.

Mrs. Moore and Mr. Wharton left in July. The brilliancy of Mrs. Moore's teaching, the Puppet Club which she created, and the high standard of craftsmanship which she upheld will remain particularly vivid memories of her strenuous and most successful deputization for Mr. Moore. Mr. Wharton, in the comparatively short time that he was here,

set a consistent example of willingness to help whenever there was a difficulty to be overcome or a gap to be filled. Many boys owe much to his holiday classes, undertaken by him as his own special form of war-work.

Dr. Coventry is leaving at the end of the Winter Term in order to enter Lincoln Theological College. He came here in a temporary capacity but his influence will be permanent. His talents as scholar and musician, his tolerance and his quiet influence will be sadly missed. Mrs. Horne, who gives up her duties at the same time, has in two years achieved remarkable results among the Juniors. The Anthologies composed under her guidance are among the most successful experiments which have been made here. It is to be hoped that the tradition which she has established will be kept up.

Our good wishes go with all these members of the Staff. We hope that they will often come back and visit us. To Mrs. C. M. Henderson and to Mr. P. A. Lett, who have succeeded Mr. Wharton and Mrs. Moore, we offer a very warm welcome.

We are grateful to Mr. H. C. Dent, Editor of *The Times Educational Supplement*, for the cogent address which he delivered to Parents and Staff early in the summer and to Mr. Geoffrey Crowther, Editor of *The Economist*, for coming down as a one man Brain's Trust to answer a vast number of questions on the U.S.A. The programme of lectures has been temporarily reduced but those which have been postponed will be heard in the near future. The concert given by the Wimbledon Orchestral Society was greatly appreciated.

The International Scouting Rally, held here in April, was a triumph of organization and a most memorable event. For one brief weekend it was possible to realize something of the true significance of the United Nations. It was a privilege to be able to offer the hospitality of the School to so many visitors from the Dominions and from foreign countries.

The outstanding feature of an altogether remarkable year has been the "Experiment in Evacuation" to which the *Supplement* is devoted. It has been clearly proved that a Day School can draw great strength from a system of "occasional boarding." The three main establishments set up in the country were wholly different, entirely successful and thoroughly representative of the School. At each of them I felt that the School was truly in being. The War will have had one good result if our experiment leads to the acquisition of houses in the country for this School and for others, where parties of boys may spend a portion of their school career in those "pleasant pastures" of England about which they so often sing but which they so rarely come to know.

### EXAMINATION RESULTS, 1944

The following boys were awarded Higher Certificates as a result of their work in the Examination in June :—

ARTS SIXTH.—Baker C. W., Bray A. T. E., J. A. Carter, Chamberlain K. L., D. A. R. Reid, Trory G. B.

SCIENCE SIXTH.—M. G. Brown, Clack M. W. G., Gardiner A. S., J. F. Green, Healey R., A. G. Hopkins, Jahn R. E., Marshall G. E., Oliver F. J. B., Overell B. G., Parker R. H. G., Potton F., Prior K. G., J. J. Roberts, Warren E. R., Williams K. S., K. W. Wright.

CLASSICAL SIXTH.—B. A. Ruff, Smith I. P.

ECONOMIC SIXTH.—Jeffery A. W., Reid N. W., C. Thompson, Topley D. L. State Scholarship awarded to Williams K. S.

County University Scholarships were awarded to :—

Bray A. T. E., J. F. C. Green, Jahn R. E., Oliver F. J. B., Parker R. H. G., Prior K., Reid N. W., D. A. R. Reid, Smith I. P., C. Thompson, Trory G., Warren E. R., Williams K. S., K. Wright.

State Bursaries were awarded to :—

Warren E. R., Jahn R. E., Marshall G. E., Oliver F. J. B.

Agricultural Scholarships were awarded to :—

J. A. Carter, Heath R. C.

The following boys were awarded General School Certificates. The prefix *m* denoting exemption from London Matriculation.

V.1. Ancombe, Atfield, *m* Clarke D. F., Ellmore, *m* Emett, *m* Farrow, *m* Harding, *m* Norton, *m* Uff, Williams G.

V.2. Alder, Ashdown, Aston, Clark M. H. R., *m* Cousins T. P., Damen, Edwards, Faulkner, Harvey, *m* Hatswell, Hender, Hill K. E., James A. E., Kent, *m* Lough, Newcombe, Pead, Peake, *m* Pringle, *m* Strapp, *m* Sugden, *m* Trinder, *m* Wood R. A. J.

V.3. *m* Bacon, Bartram, Bide, *m* Bonnard, *m* Carolin, *m* Cook F. B., Doling, Gardiner, *m* Gravett, Green G., Jones E. B., Kentish, Levy, Litchfield G. B., *m* Marson, Osmint, *m* Parker C. R. E., Payne, Schoen, Schrecker, *m* Styles E. T., *m* Taylor J. C., *m* Thompson D., *m* White D. P., Winter, Wood J. W.

### SCHOOL OFFICERS, SUMMER TERM, 1944

Head of School : G. P. Billingham.

Second Boy : N. T. Poulter.

M. G. Brown, J. Carter, J. Green, A. G. Hopkins, D. A. R. Reid, J. Roberts, C. Thompson, B. A. Ruff, K. W. Wright.

Prefect of Hall : J. Carter.

Prefect of Library : B. A. Ruff.

Secretary of Games Committee : J. Roberts.

### ROLL OF HONOUR

#### Killed

Sgt.-Observer M. H. C. Ashdown, R.A.F.  
Sgt.-Air Gunner J. A. G. Billingham, R.A.F.  
Flying Officer A. V. I. Cook, R.A.F.  
Flight Lieut. R. Barnes, R.A.F., D.F.C.  
Sgmn. Vt G. Sayer, R.C.S.

#### Missing

Sgt.-Pilot J. A. Smith, R.A.F.  
Pilot Officer S. G. Palk, R.A.F.  
Sub-Lieut. J. Fisher, R.N.V.R.  
Pilot Officer R. Jones, R.A.F.

#### Prisoner of War

Pilot Officer J. D. L. Moore, R.A.F.  
Sgt.-Pilot R. G. Franklin, R.A.F.

## LECTURES

The following lectures took place last term:—

- May 5th, 1944.—H. C. Dent, "Educational Advance."  
 May 17th, 1944.—Brigadier Young, "The Indian Army."  
 May 26th, 1944.—Geoffrey Crowther, "U.S.A."  
 June 1st, 1944.—Dr. F. Zmuda, "Modern Poland."

Enemy action has prevented us from reporting these lectures with our usual thoroughness, but we are no less grateful than usual to the distinguished lecturers.

## ATHLETIC SPORTS, 1944

### RESULTS

*Monday, 15th May, on the School Ground*

- Long Jump (Junior)—1st Hodges (C), 14 ft. 5 $\frac{3}{4}$  ins., 2nd Newcombe (M), 3rd Godwin (G).
- Long Jump (Colt)—1st Green G. (H), 18 ft. 5 ins. (r), 2nd Doyle (G), 3rd Hill (C).
- Long Jump (Open)—1st J. Carter (C), 17 ft. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  ins., 2nd Isherwood (N), 3rd Peake (G).
- 100 Yards (Junior)—1st Foote (G), 12.8 secs., 2nd Sleigh (N), 3rd Hodges (C).
- 100 Yards (Colt)—1st Faulkner (M), 11.5 secs. (r), 2nd Doyle (G), 3rd Hill (C).
- 100 Yards (Open)—1st G. Billingham (G), 11.5 secs., 2nd White (G), 3rd J. Roberts (M).
- High Jump (Junior)—1st Foote (G), 4 ft. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  ins., 2nd Winter (M), 3rd Ashley (H).
- High Jump (Colt)—1st Doyle (G), 4 ft. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$  ins. (r), 2nd Green (H), 3rd Martin (W).
- High Jump (Open)—1st J. Carter (C), 4 ft. 8 ins., 2nd J. Roberts (M), 3rd White (G).
- Tug-of-War (Semi-Finals)—Cobb's beat Halliwell's; Milton's beat Newsom's.

*Thursday, 18th May, on the Alliance Ground*

- Relay (Junior) 4 × 110 Yards—1st Milton's, 2nd Gibb's, 3rd Newsom's. 59.2 secs.
- Relay (Colt) 4 × 220 Yards—1st Milton's, 2nd Gibb's, 3rd Newsom's. 1 min. 51.6 secs (r).
- Relay (Open) 4 × 440 Yards—1st Gibb's, 2nd Halliwell's, 3rd Cobb's. 4 mins. 3.8 secs.
- Putting the Weight (Junior)—1st Thompson (C), 25 ft. 8 ins., 2nd Clarke (N), 3rd Thomas (H).
- Putting the Weight (Open)—1st G. Billingham (G), 36 ft., 2nd J. F. Green (H), 3rd C. Thompson (C).
- Putting the Weight (Colt)—1st Green G. (H), 35 ft. 10 ins., 2nd Harvey (N), 3rd Hender (C).
- Mile (Open)—1st Cousins (C), 5 mins. 17.8 secs. (r), 2nd Ashdown (N), 3rd Mason (H).
- Half Mile (Colt)—1st Williams (M), 2 mins. 22.8 secs. (r), 2nd Hill (C), 3rd Harding (G).
- Quarter Mile (Junior)—1st Sleigh (N), 1 min. 5 secs. (r), 2nd Godwin (G), 3rd Thomas (H).
- Tug-of-War—1st Cobb's, 2nd Milton's, 3rd Halliwell's.

*Result of Inter-House Competition for the John Garrett Cup*

1st Gibb's (332), 2nd Milton's (293), 3rd Cobb's (281), 4th Halliwell's (260), 5th Newsom's (213).

(r) indicates that the performance was better than that of 1943.

## CRICKET, 1944

### 1ST XI

The flying bombs brought a most successful season to an untimely end, a season remarkable for the all-round strength of the School side. It is seldom that a team possesses such a large proportion of all-rounders as we had in Poulter, Wright, Potton, Thompson and White. A general analysis shows that the XI made 1,195 runs for the loss of 69 wickets, an average of 17.3 runs per wicket, against opponents' 542 runs for 100 wickets, an average of 5.42 runs per wicket. All ten matches were won.

Billingham was fortunate in being able to call upon such a variety of bowlers, of whom Poulter, Thompson and Wright were the most successful. Potton and White bowled quite well on the few occasions they were needed.

The batting was fairly solid up to number eight. Potton and Wright contrasted well as opening batsmen, the former solid and dependable, the latter more aggressive, scoring very quickly at times. Poulter was somewhat unfortunate, but he played a splendid innings against Wallington, defending stubbornly when things were going badly, but hitting well when an opportunity of winning showed itself. He has all the strokes, and his footwork is remarkably good. Billingham showed good form against St. George's School and Rutlish, but Ruff had a poor season with the bat. **Thompson did well when sent in early.**

On the whole, the in-fielding was good, chiefly because of Brebner's brilliance close to the bat, and the steady work of the slips and wicket-keeper. The same cannot be said of the out-fielding, where those concerned showed too great a tendency to stand and await developments. It is good policy to move slowly towards the batsman when the bowler begins his run, and thus avoid any tendency towards becoming rooted to the spot.

Those who have left us will be sorely missed next season and it is up to the more junior members of the side to try hard to remedy such glaring faults as "hanging the bat out to dry" when a fast rearing ball comes along on the off-side; and attempting to bat without using the feet adequately. The experience they have gained this year should prove most useful in the future.

Date		RESULTS		School	Opp.	Result
May	6. v. Sutton County School	...	(H)	51	37	Won
"	13. v. St. George's College	...	(A)	86 for 8	75	Won
"	20. v. Epsom County School	...	(H)	47	29	Won
"	27. v. Surbiton County School	...	(H)	183	48	Won
"	31. v. Wallington County School	...	(A)	107 for 7	104	Won
June	3. v. Rutlish	...	(A)	119 for 8	78	Won
"	7. v. Epsom College 3rd XI	...	(A)	174 for 4	29	Won
"	17. v. King's College 2nd XI	...	(A)	141 for 2	33	Won
"	24. v. Kingston Grammar School	...	(A)	126	81	Won
July	1. v. Sloane School	...	(A)	161 for 0	28	Won

W.H.H.

Batting	AVERAGES		Times Not out	Highest Score	Average	
	Runs	Innings				
*Billingham	...	221	9	1	58†	27.63
*Potton	...	241	10	1	68†	26.78
*Wright	...	206	10	1	91†	22.90
*Thompson C.	...	68	5	2	36	22.67
*Poulter	...	134	9	1	50	16.65
Parker	...	64	8	2	17	10.67
Brebner	...	46	6	2	16	10.50
Chamberlain	...	39	7	3	28†	9.75
*White V.	...	58	7	0	22	8.29
Hodkin	...	9	5	0	7	1.80
*Ruff	...	10	6	0	6	1.67

\* Denotes colours. † Not out.

Also played:—Smith H. T. not out, Cousins O. not out.

### Bowling

	Overs	Maidens	Wickets	Runs	Average
Potter ... ..	10.4	3	8	28	3.50
Poulter ... ..	74.3	20	39	150	3.85
White V. ... ..	37.4	13	15	69	4.60
Thompson C. ... ..	51.5	19	17	87	5.12
Wright ... ..	55.3	11	19	123	6.47

### 565 SQUADRON, A.T.C.

Commanding Officer: Flight Lieut. E. R. C. Dartington.

#### Policy

There are many people who, reading in the Press of recent curtailments of Air Training programmes throughout the Empire, are enquiring whether the time has not come for the Air Training Corps to be disbanded, having been founded in 1941 to ensure in war-time a continual flow of recruits to the R.A.F. for flying duties and ground trades. The answer to their enquiry has been given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Air, who, in a recent speech, declared: "The basis of our future security, whatever form world organization may take, must ultimately depend on our citizens being ready and trained to take up arms in the cause of right. As in the years of war, so in the years of peace the A.T.C. will remain a basis for future service in the Armed Forces of the country." That the call for aircrews has momentarily so largely diminished owing to the preponderance of Allied air strength, the astonishingly low casualty rate, and the weakness of the Luftwaffe, is a matter which we should all regard with sober thankfulness. But this may not wholly satisfy the cadet who is keen to fly and sees his chance of getting ultimately into an aircrew made more difficult. Let him be assured that though the intake is smaller the R.A.F. will never overlook the cadet of sound character and good education, disciplined, keen and alert, with developed powers of leadership and who is 100 per cent. fit. At various times in the War urgent calls for increased recruitment have been made by one or other of the Services. To-day the Army's need of man-power is a factor of vital importance in bringing the present struggle to an early conclusion. The cadet who is directed to the Army must not consider his A.T.C. training a wasted effort. The Army's judgment in this matter must be respected and he is assured that his chances of an early selection for O.C.T.U. training are materially improved by the training he has already voluntarily carried out. He will serve his country best, serving cheerfully where he is most urgently needed.

What of the future? The Air Training Corps in the past three years has achieved such outstanding success as a pre-service training corps and equally as a branch of the multifarious national youth movement that it has won a high respect in the eyes of the Services and the whole country. It will continue as an earnest of our country's determination never again to undertake its vast responsibilities as a World Power in a state of unpreparedness to meet aggression from any quarter of the world. The Squadron looks confidently to the School for continued support in maintaining and increasing the present strength drawn from older boys in the Senior School and in achieving a yet higher standard of efficiency in training.

#### Organization and Training

With the resumption of training after the long summer break parades for the School Flight are now held on Mondays and Thursdays, 3.30 p.m. to 5.15 p.m., and for the Old Boys' Flight on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. This return to an earlier organization has been made in order that there shall be no hindrance to preparation for School examinations and to allow outdoor training to be continued in the shorter winter days. As an experiment the "Crew System" has been introduced

in "A" Flight which places a special responsibility upon each cadet to improve his grading. It is hoped that all cadets will qualify for the Proficiency Badge before leaving the School and on transferring to "O" Flight will begin the wider syllabus of Advanced Training. A proficiency examination will be held in the Spring Term and all cadets who qualify will begin their training at a Glider School. Visits to the parent aerodrome will take place in the Spring and Summer Terms. The Squadron has been privileged once again to hear a talk by Mr. Yoxall, War Correspondent, who gave a stirring eye-witness account of the fateful airborne landings at Arnhem as seen from the air.

#### Officers and Instructors

During 1944 the Commanding Officer, Flying Officer Pead, Flying Officer Herdman and Pilot Officer Loveday have attended the official course for R.A.F.V.R. Training Branch Officers at R.A.F. Officers' School, Cosford, and the standardized R.A.F. drill is now carried out in the Squadron.

The Squadron has been particularly fortunate in securing as Warrant Officer Mr. Cousins, late of the 8th Army, who, with a long and distinguished record of military service, will be a tower of strength to the unit both on and off the square.

Mr. P. Smith has resigned, through pressure of work, as an Instructor in Navigation. The Commanding Officer thanks him most sincerely for his long and unselfish service to the Squadron by whom he will be much missed.

#### Welfare

Warm thanks are extended to Mrs. Halls and her band of helpers for their highly successful Canteen during 1943-44 which was so much appreciated by officers and all ranks. The Canteen service has at present owing to reorganization been suspended, but it is hoped to resume in the future this welcome feature of parades.

A Squadron Dance will be held in 1944-45 when it is confidently expected that the successes of the last two years will be repeated.

Christmas and New Year greetings are sent to all former cadets at home and abroad who are assured once again of a hearty welcome whenever they are able to visit the Squadron during their leave, and, if possible, talk to us about their life in the Services.

Finally, the Commanding Officer desires to record his sincere appreciation of the constant support and boundless encouragement given to him by the Headmaster, and of his warmhearted interest in the Squadron's social activities.

### THE PARTISANS

Secretary: Parker R. H. G.

Members: Mr. Rex Warner, Mr. George Haslam, G. P. Billingham, Parker R. H. G., J. F. Green, B. A. Ruff, Simeone R. N., Bray A. T. E., D. A. R. Reid, M. G. Brown.

Owing to the disappearance of members to all parts of the country at the end of the Summer Term, there were only two meetings of The Partisans. D. A. R. Reid opened the first meeting by reading a paper on "The Short Story." This ancient vehicle for the expression of man's ideas, like The Partisans, may cover a large range of subjects, and its diversities in style and length have proved difficult obstacles for many critics to overcome.

At the second meeting, M. G. Brown gave a paper on "Modern Poetry" which was confined to the movement known as the "War Generation," describing such poets as C. Day Lewis, Stephen Spender, Louis Macneice and W. H. Auden.

## MUSIC CLUB

On Wednesday, 29th March, a most interesting recital was given by Miss Elizabeth Foreman (oboe) and Mr. Frederick Handover (violin). Dr. Coventry was at the piano.

The programme included :—

1. Sonata for Violin, Oboe and Piano
2. Romance in F for Violin and Piano
3. Pièce for Oboe and Piano
4. Après un Rêve for Violin and Piano
5. Sonata No. 5 for Violin and Piano

*Handel*  
*Beethoven*  
*César Franck*  
*Fauré*  
*Haydn*

On Wednesday, 31st May, a concert given by the Wimbledon Orchestral Society under the direction of Mr. Cyril Winn, H.M.I., with Adela Franklin (pianoforte), and Margaret Jacobs (flautist) as soloists, was well received by a large audience of parents and friends.

The programme was as follows :—

1. Pianoforte Concerto in A
2. Suite in B Minor for Flute and Strings
3. Bohemian Waltz
4. Serenade from "Wand of Youth"
5. St. Paul's Suite

*Mozart*  
*Bach*  
*Coleridge-Taylor*  
*Elgar*  
*Holst*

## JUNIOR SCIENCE CLUB

Ever since the School started there has been in existence some sort of Science Club. Usually it has consisted of a more or less small group of boys interested in "doing science" and spending their Wednesday afternoons, Friday evenings, Saturday mornings or whenever it was in the Laboratories, almost always the club has been for the Senior School. This term, on Miss Bishell's suggestion, we have tried an experiment and given the Juniors a chance. It is unfortunately impossible at the present time to run two clubs and the Seniors have had to give up their club for the time being at any rate.

There is, however, an important difference between the present club and previous ones. The object of the club, which meets on Wednesday afternoons, is to give the Juniors a chance of hearing talks and seeing demonstrations on scientific subjects outside their normal School science work and of having the opportunity of giving short talks themselves on subjects in which they are interested. The membership of the club is limited to selected boys from the four Junior Forms. They have made a good beginning and I hope their keenness continues. E.L.H.

A Junior committee helped to draw up the programme for the term. Mr. Hanson addressed the first meeting and his talk on "Colour" was vividly illustrated by demonstrations. Members of A2 were responsible for the second meeting. A. Melmoth set up a model gas works and talked about the production of coal gas. D. Bennett gave a paper on "Some Metallic Elements," and A. C. Goodwin on "Glass."

Mr. Smith and Mrs. Henderson have both consented to come and talk to the society and it is also hoped that there will be a film show and an expedition to Mitcham Gas Works before Christmas. J.B.

## INTERNATIONAL RALLY

ORGANIZED BY THE 19TH WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

The weekend of 15th-16th April was one that will be remembered for many years not only in this School but in fourteen other nations. Scouts from many Local Associations in London and Surrey arrived on the School grounds to camp over the weekend and to be the hosts to brother scouts from America, Belgium, Canada, China, Czecho-Slovakia, France, Holland, Hungary, India, Luxemburg, Norway and Poland.

An informal tea and camp preparations were followed by the Rally in the evening. Speakers for this session included the Rt. Hon. J. Chuter Ede, P.C., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Philip Game, the County Commissioner, the Mayors of Malden, of Merton and Morden, and of Wimbledon, the Chairman of the Higher Education Committee and Governors of the School.

The Headmaster, in the chair, opened the Rally in a speech which revealed his deep understanding of our movement. Describing Scouting as the only organization which put thought for others as its first principle, and also as the only successful and effective international organization, he brought into unmistakable relief the unique chance which was coming to us after the War. He had unerringly struck what was to be the keynote of the whole weekend.

Then followed an impressive breaking of the Union Jack above the platform carrying colours of many nations; and to the tunes of their own National Anthems, scouts of the Allied Nations and the Dominions carried their colours one by one to the dais where they were received and placed by the I.H.Q. Assist. Commissioner for Rovers. He then announced that this gathering had the unique distinction of receiving messages direct from the heads of two Royal Families during the War. He read messages from H.R.H. King Peter of Yugoslavia, Prince Gustav Adolf of Sweden, the Polish Minister of Education and the Delegate Commissioner for Holland.

Mr. Chuter Ede, in his address, said that youth of to-day had a large number of questions unsolved, but which must be answered or the world would perish. No generation had ever had the responsibilities which the youth of to-day were shouldering and which would increasingly be shouldered as the years went by. We are well aware of the value of Scouting in the past and present as a means of giving inspiration to youth and building up the life and character of nations. Never was there a time when it was more necessary that we should not attempt to lay down preconceived notions as the way in which our problems are to be solved, but that we should seek among those who from day to day have to face the hard practical affairs of life for the experiences that will enable us to form the answers to the problems which our generation will have to face. We are very glad at the Ministry of Education that the great voluntary organizations such as yours flourish not merely in this country but have such near relationships with our friends overseas. The very moving ceremony we have just witnessed, in the assembling of the flags of many countries, is symbolism which becomes a mockery and delusion if we do not seize the opportunities of to-day with so many friends from abroad with us, to exchange experiences and learn from their lives how we can all help each other across the frontiers.

The Rev. Banham, as County Commissioner, and Sir Philip Game also spoke. This meeting then gave way to a general gathering of nearly a thousand at the camp-fire, at which the Canadian Rover Crew and members from other countries sang and performed. Overnight, some eighty of these guests were billeted in the homes of our own scouts—yet another tribute to the grand support of the Group's parents.

Sunday's programme opened with a Service in the Hall, led by the District Commissioner and addressed by the Bishop of Southwark. In his talk, the Bishop used the text "Sirs, ye are brothers, why do ye wrong, one to another?" He gave us four reasons for Scouting being of exceptional importance in the times ahead. First, we were a family ignoring national frontiers; second, that we were united by a strong bond of common interest; third, that our work was based on duty to God, and fourth, that it was based on goodwill. In his talk he introduced what seemed to be a great challenge. Many attempts, he said, had been made to break down barriers between peoples, and some had nearly succeeded. In the Middle Ages, the Church was near to success, but had failed to live up to her high calling. Now, we had Scouting!

Two conferences followed : one for Scouters and Rovers, the other for Patrol Leaders.

At the Luncheon, given to the Overseas representatives who were to speak in the afternoon, and the visiting commissioners, the International Commissioner was supported by the Chief Scout of Luxemburg. In a speech the Headmaster said that whereas many international gatherings were obviously artificial, the astounding thing about this one was that within a few hours everyone seemed to have known everyone else for years—which very clearly summed up the atmosphere over the whole weekend.

The International Commissioner presided at the afternoon assembly and called upon speakers from Canada, France, Hungary, India, on Dr. Zmuda of Poland, Victor Carlsen from Norway, Dr. Eng from China, Dr. Fanderlik from Czecho-Slovakia, Frans Stans from Holland, Capt. Hooker, Education Officer of Canadian Army, and Capt. Gay, Scout Representative of U.S.A. in Great Britain, and finally Major Schommers, the Chief Scout of Luxemburg.

### 19th WIMBLEDON SCOUT GROUP

#### *Annual Summer Fête, 2nd June*

Another war-time Fête saw an ever greater crowd gathered together on this Saturday afternoon. The programme included a much more ambitious fun fair than hitherto, and a grand show on the stalls in the gymnasium market. A camping exhibit, a collection of camping photographs taken over the British Isles in the last few years, and a demonstration of physical training activities all found their way into a crowded programme. Teas were served and the Milton Trio played during the afternoon.

Stalls were organized on a patrol basis, with parents as fully active members of the patrols and with intensely keen competition between the parent patrols. The articles were not only more numerous than before, but of a very high standard in quality and craftsmanship. The amazing total of over £200 has left all previous records well behind. The proceeds will go to the fund the Troop is building up for buying a camping site in the country, to the Headquarters Fund for financing the Scout International Relief Service abroad, and to general expenses. This magnificent result has meant a substantial grant to the two main funds.

#### *Summer Camps and Troop Activities*

Fuller reports of the Meldreth Camp appear elsewhere, but it can be said here that it was the Troop that "established this bridgehead," provided the equipment and a fund of experience, and certainly all of the parent helpers. The first fortnight particularly put to the test what training and experience that grand band of patrol leaders and seconds had received. Tiger was most ably aided by Stag (Mr. Loveday), and, later, by Dr. Coventry, Miss Whitman, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Law and Mr. Mason. Too high praise cannot be given to Miss Parkhurst and to Mrs. Mason for their splendid work carried on for so long, and to the many other good mothers and fathers who came to lend a hand. Here was parent co-operation working at its best.

The Camp, that is, the Troop Summer Camp, had necessarily to be part of the Meldreth Camp, and what we lost by way of freedom, we gained by the much longer spell we had in camp. Some eight members of the Troop can claim a record of ten weeks' unbroken camping. Activities with the Melbourn and Harston Troops took place; there were night "surprise items," visits to Ely Cathedral, Impington Village College, several Colleges at Cambridge. Patrol Leaders Kentish and Mason helped to run a camp for some Norfolk scouts when their R.A.F. scouters were called away. Patrol Leaders Grindrod and Thomas did their First Class journeys. We have many kind friends to remember as a result of this camp at Meldreth. Particularly shall we remember the Rev. Clare for his stimulating talks and his kindness.

Several weekend camps took place in the summer before we had to leave Raynes Park so hurriedly. Since our return, Troop meetings have been helped considerably by Sub-Lieut. Elliott of the Royal Navy; and the Choughs are "getting together." Mr. Thomas as "Jerks" has come along with an ambitious programme for them. Next session will involve all-day walks, a night excursion, another Y.H.A. tour, and a 24-hour visit to the coast. A Parents' Meeting will be held at the end of term. Church Services have been specially arranged for us by the Rev. Ashford.

Though News includes messages from T.L. Forward (R.A.F.), T.L. Hill (Sub-Lieut. Navy), P.L. Holland (R.A.F., Ceylon), P.L. Elliott (Sub-Lieut. Navy), P.L. Johnson (East Surrey) and P.L. Collins (R.A.F. Course, St. Andrews University).

### METEOROLOGY

Last March saw the beginning of meteorological records at School when necessary instruments were obtained. There are now at the School Meteorological station a rain gauge, sunshine recorder, barometer, hygrometer, and a maximum and minimum thermometer. The sunshine recorder is of an unusual type as the standard recorder was unobtainable. At present the thermometers are not in use as the Stevenson Screen is not yet completed. Readings were taken without a break until late in June, when they were hindered and finally prevented by the flying-bombs. Many exceptional readings were taken, especially of rainfall, although several of the heavy rainstorms occurred during the flying-bomb period. The following examples are typical:—

.73 inch in 6 hours on 3rd April, .60 inch during the afternoon of the 17th October, .65 inch during the evening of the 5th November.

The main purpose of meteorology is forecasting the weather; this is very difficult without instruments and distant weather reports. In spite of these drawbacks there are many signs concerning clouds and nature which help to foretell the coming weather.

1. Cirrus clouds (white, feathery or streaky structures) covering the sky and giving it a milky appearance usually foretell rain within 24 hours. On the other hand, if the air is dry and cool and the cirrus do not develop a milky appearance, disappearing in the evening, fine weather is likely to prevail for several days.
2. Alto-cumulus clouds (mackerel sky or small globular masses) denote showery weather, especially when the air is damp.
3. Cumulus clouds (white and cauliflower looking) in early morning in moist conditions often mean thunder showers in the afternoon.

Many of the natural indications of rain are commonly known, for instance—closed petals of the scarlet pimpernel, low flight of birds, sheep bleating, woodwork creaking, frogs croaking, spiders walking. Whereas high flight of birds, especially bats in the evening, animals grazing singly, the opening of the scarlet pimpernel, indicate fine weather. All natural indications are based on one idea, namely humidity, and for this reason they are not so reliable.

Exempla illustrant non probant (Francis Bacon).

N.S.G.

### THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

As this is the last time that I shall write in these pages about the School Library, it would seem proper to review briefly the achievement of the past nine years. There are now in the School no boys and few masters who can remember the days when the Library was a room barren of books and furniture, without even its full complement of shelves. The designing and making of the furniture, the curtaining of the windows, the repainting of the walls and the provision of electric light are achievements of a distant past. Their results are for all to see. But there are

other achievements which are less visible to the uninstructed eye. There is the classification, cataloguing and arranging of 5,000 books. This, on paper, represents 5,000 written entries in each of four places: the accession register, the shelf register, the author index and the subject index. In terms of paper and ink it is formidable enough. In terms of human effort I still wonder how it was done. How many borrowing-slips have been filled in, filed, traced and stored away is beyond my mathematics. It must be nearly half a million.

The most striking feature of the Library's progress is its growth in sheer number of books. And never has a library been gathered together at such little expenditure of public money. Presentations and Open Night gifts outnumber purchases by at least three to one. Probably few school libraries owe so much to the efforts of its own readers. They have not only extracted large numbers of books out of their parents and friends, they have actively employed themselves in its daily routine. Every year has seen some fifty boys regularly employed in its cause, doing the necessary work of controlling the borrowing and returning, accessioning new books, printing, sweeping, dusting, doing odd jobs of carpentry, fetching and carrying.

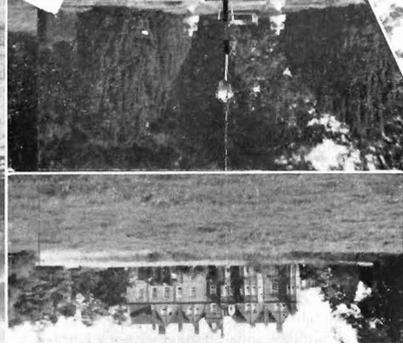
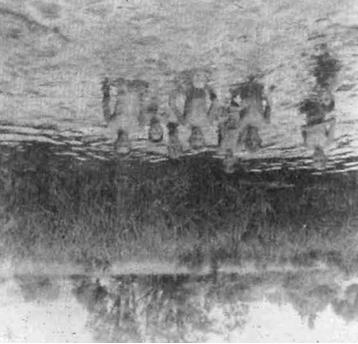
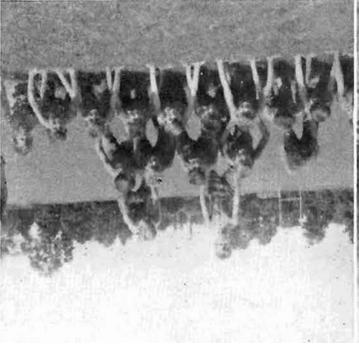
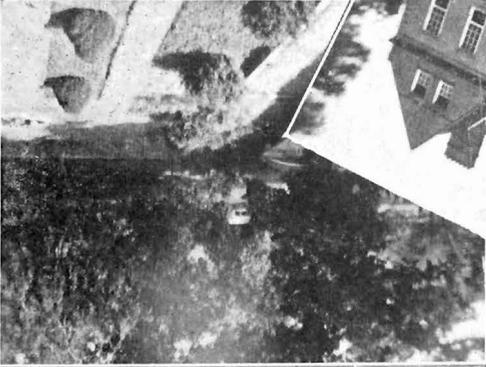
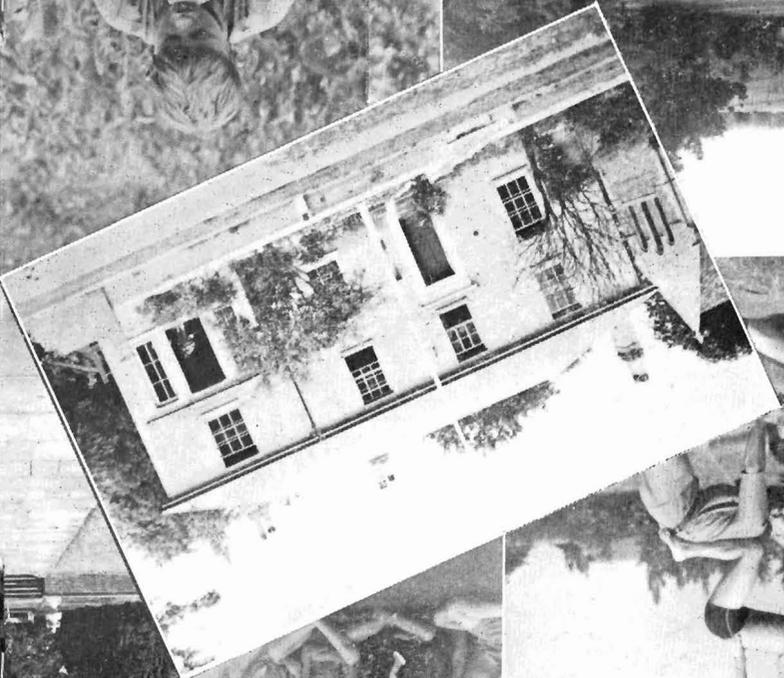
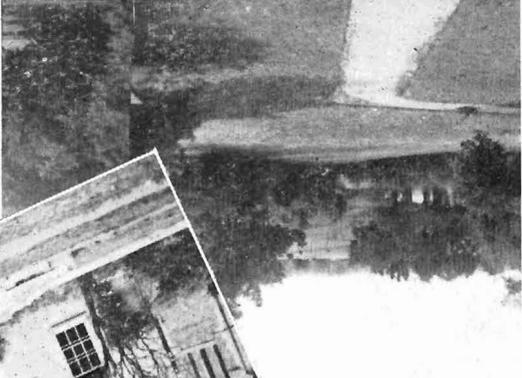
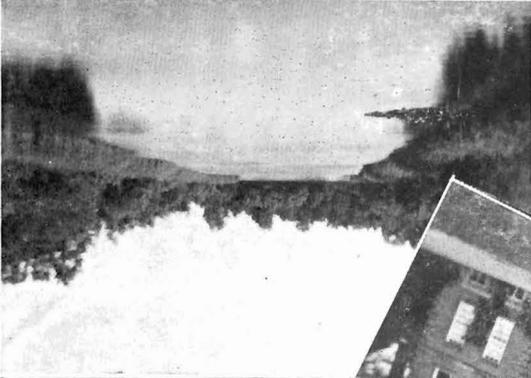
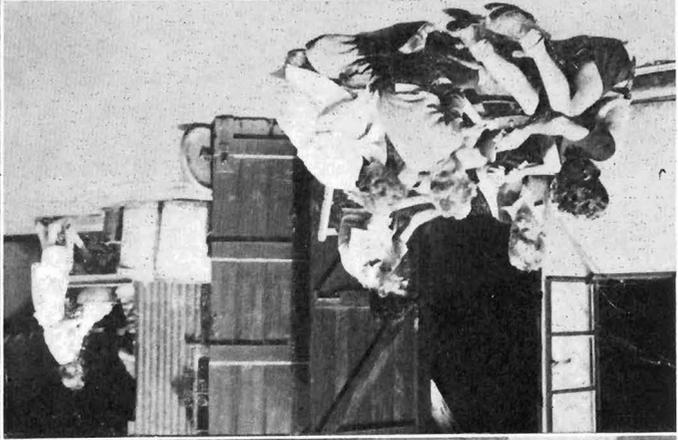
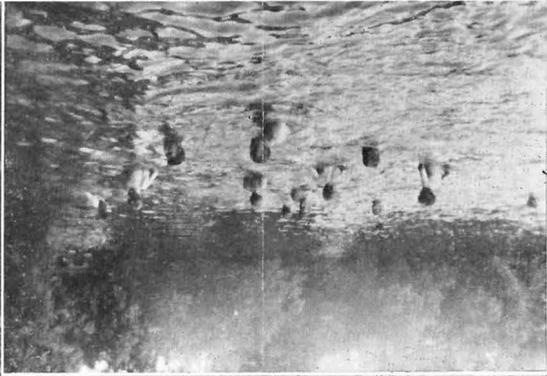
The *Library Review* has been a unique feature of the Library's achievement. I believe it is true that no other school in this country has a regular journal, printed on the premises, which concerns itself with the books in the library. It would be insincere of me to say that the *Review* has achieved all that I once hoped it would achieve. In happier days when books and paper are more easily come by, I believe it will fulfil its entire purpose. But the achievement remains a remarkable one.

Nor am I yet convinced that the Library is used with that sense of responsibility which it expects and deserves. There always is and always will be an irresponsible minority in schools. With us that minority is too big. During recent years, when books have been irreplaceable, that minority has done a great deal of harm to the Library. On one more point I am dubious of success: the intelligence behind the use of the Library. Far too many boys expect an immediate and patent answer to their questions: they expect a whole book entirely devoted to the question of the moment. They are impatient of using the subject index, of tracking down what they want to know by searching from book to book. **Books afford pleasure; they also afford information to those who seek it.**

Despite the war (and no one except myself probably knows the full extent of the harm done to the Library by the conditions, economic and moral, of wartime), the achievement is considerable. We have a good and lively collection of books capable of affording pleasure and information to those who want it; it is arranged and indexed so that it can be intelligently used; we have a system of borrowing which, if it is not entirely proof against human frailty, is at least unrestricted and irksome only to the dishonest; we have in the *Review* an instrument of intelligent criticism and progressive reading; we have a body of devoted and trained assistants.

In conclusion I should like to express my gratitude to all those who have contributed to this achievement: to two Headmasters, without whose inspiration and faith little could ever have been done; to the Prefects of Library from Fielding, the first holder of that office, to Ruff, the present holder; to the hundreds of Library boys who in nine years have laboured so constantly; to their managers and trainers, among whom the present Chief Assistant, Toase, is outstanding; to the Guild of Printers, whose obscure labours have never had full recognition; to the thousand or so parents and friends whose generosity has provided books; and to my colleagues in the Staff Room, whose criticism has always been constructive and their help willingly given. To all these my thanks and the wish that they will be as lavish of their time and energy to my successor as they have been to me.

R.O.



## OLD BOYS' LETTER

From BERNARD MEADE, *Hon. Sec., O.B.S.*

In this letter will be found as much up-to-date information and references to as many Old Boys as the secretary has been able to collect. However, many important omissions will be inevitably made since members have not written to tell of their activities. We are anxious to hear from all of you, soldier or civilian, at home or abroad, and also perhaps to help you with the latest information of your School contemporaries. Therefore, please write to the Secretary, the School will forward the letters, and then perhaps future letters may be more topical.

As reported in last term's *Spur*, Roy Barnes has been posted missing believed killed in flying operations. We have to add that he has been awarded the D.F.C.

Cyril Hill, now in the Navy, married on his last leave and is assured of our sincere congratulations.

Victor Sayer, in the Royal Corps of Signals, fought through Tunisia, Sicily and Salerno and was last heard of by us in Italy. Gates has served as a gunner throughout North Africa, Sicily and, lately, Italy.

Further afield, in India, are Raymond Druett, Ralph Patrick, J. Ogle and Victor Simmons. The latter has received a postcard from R. Franklin, who is a prisoner-of-war in Germany. It was suggested that we should send future copies of *The Spur* by air to India, but we have come across technical difficulties and they must travel as slowly as the mailboat.

Amongst the more unusual tasks that our members are doing is that of camera-man in the Crown Film Unit which is the present occupation of Kenneth Reeves. Harry Saunders, in the R.A.M.C. in North Africa, has been in a Malarial Control Unit exterminating mosquitoes.

The School is well represented in the R.A.F. in all its branches. E. Jepson is in the Medical branch; W. Stephen, after some period of training as a teacher of technical subjects, is on the ground staff, whilst Kenneth Taylor is now adjusting compasses. Those training and trained for aircrew, as navigators, flight engineers and air gunners, include Kenneth Griggs, D. Eyles, D. Cathrow, A. Spencer, Sam Brookes, P. Sommers, P. Bridger, F. Spinks and D. Harrison. Anthony Barker has been attending an R.A.F. short course at Exeter College, Oxford. Vernon Andrews has been on a similar course.

In the Senior Service David Smith and F. Holwill were for a time messmates. R. Ward and N. Broderick have been on Naval short courses at Edinburgh and Oxford respectively. S. Heath has been with a naval party in the Azores. E. J. Gray, recently promoted Sub-Lieut., is now on a minesweeper; his brother Alan is in a Photographic Reconnaissance Unit in Italy. J. V. Lake is in the Marines, whilst J. E. Lake is on the Bristol Naval Staff in Boston, U.S.A.

W. Axten, in the Navy, has been off to West Africa. Serving nearby, in Bathurst, is P. Johnson in the R.A.F.

We know of only one member certainly in France, he is Geoffrey Scoble, who found his School certificate French as inadequate as the secretary did when dealing with Normans. Perhaps now he is coming into more understandable regions. There must be many other members in the 2nd Army whom we should be delighted to hear from.

J. Sanders is in the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, R. P. Hill is in the Royal Fusiliers, whilst F. Inshipp is in the R.A.O.C. Alan Wright is in the Parachute Troops, R. Holgate is in the Royal Engineers, Alan Day is in G.H.Q., Cairo, and is impatient with inactivity. N. Molchanoff, in the Intelligence Corps, has met Mr. Newsom in Turkey. Anthony Hinton is now well recovered from his accident in North Africa.

Of those who remain civilians, Eric Wells continues his Veterinary studies and recommends his profession as one full of opportunity in peacetime. Paul Vaughan leads a full life at Wadham College, Oxford. At

# CAMP SUPPLEMENT

## EDITORIAL

THE EVENTS OF SUMMER, 1944

In the following pages we give an outline account of the School's attempt to preserve its life during the eighty days of the flying-bomb attack on London. For the first few days after 15th June it seemed that we had to face a repetition of the old Blitz days, with long and wasted hours spent in the School shelters. Soon it was obviously a more serious matter. The Government promptly put its evacuation scheme into operation; most of the teachers of London stopped teaching and became clerks, ration-book and coupon experts, label-writers, telephonists, traffic directors, assembly-point managers, escorts, guards and stationmasters; convoys of special busses converged upon the main railway stations; and every day trainloads of children went north and west to secret destinations, there to be handed over to the local teachers, who sorted them out, fed them and took them to their new homes.

The University of London, in a defiant mood, decided that the Higher and General School Examinations should be held at the usual time, and the candidates of most London Schools stayed behind and took their examinations in uncomfortable surface shelters among intermittent bomb buzzes and bursts. The supervising staff kept one eye on the examination and the other on the low-lying clouds to the south. At our School, Mr. Gibb's faultless organization was only interrupted as he paused to note down upon the Special Difficulties Form: "9.30 a.m. Examination began. 9.45 a.m. Bomb passed overhead and exploded within close ear-shot." Mrs. Austin converted shelter C into a cafeteria, and between alerts lunch was eaten picnic-wise in the open-air.

Meanwhile fewer and fewer junior boys were coming to School. As soon as it appeared that the attacks would last for some time, the Headmaster decided that rather than encourage the boys to leave London individually under the Government scheme, he would open one or more school camps in an attempt to preserve at least a nucleus of the School in being. Our tradition of close contact between the School and parents fully proved its worth. The parents supported the scheme and, when the camps were started, many came and worked like Trojans to keep them going—and often under Spartan conditions.

By 30th June three parties had gone forth—one to Meldreth, near Cambridge, where an advanced guard of Scouts had prepared a camp under canvas; one to Inkpen on the usual Harvest Camp site, and another to Salisbury. Later, a fourth was established at Radley, which was to act as a "waiting-room" for the other camps; and when the Harvest Camp proper started work, the inmates of Inkpen moved to West Woodhay House nearby. The total number of boys who attended the camps was 232; rather more, in fact, than a nucleus. The entire Staff was occupied in running the camps, though some Masters bore the main responsibility for individual camps; and the Headmaster travelled tirelessly throughout the summer from one to the other, both guiding the course of the project as a whole and taking unsparing pains to solve the problems of each individual boy, teacher and parent.

There is no doubt that the boys' academic education has suffered considerably from this disturbed time, since schoolwork could only be carried on at the camps under unfavourable conditions, without adequate equipment, and according to the distribution of the Staff. But in other respects the gain was very great. For many it was an adventure they would not willingly have missed; they saw new sights, learned to know each other more intimately, came to know ways of living other than

Oriel is A. Bond. Eric Carpenter and John Ward are students of architecture in Kingston. A. Pengilly is reading for his B.Sc. (Eng.) in London, whilst P. Revill is to be congratulated on gaining his B.Sc. as an external student in London University. P. Evans is at Nottingham with Goldsmiths' College, whilst D. Barber is studying engineering at Kingston. M. Piggins is a farm pupil in Dorset. If there are any members in the Forces who are thinking forward to a civilian occupation and would like information about any career do please remember that the Society, through the Secretary, will do all in his power to help and advise the best sources of information.

We hope to see many of you at the General Meeting in December. Until then Good Luck we hope may attend you.

## LATE NEWS

Douglas Parker is home on leave from the Merchant Navy in which he has been navigating ships in European waters after being for some time on the Atlantic ferry service.

Bryan Purser writes to tell us that he is marooned in the wilds of Yorkshire as a flying instructor. This has followed on a tour of duties amounting to 35 operational flights.

R. H. Ward has finished his short course at Edinburgh University and is now a full-time sailor on H.M.S. *Ganges*. He hopes to return to the University after the War to take his degree.

F. Holwill, resplendent in Sub-Lieutenant's uniform, has now transferred to the Indian Navy and has sailed for Eastern waters.

G. Jefferson has been accepted for the Fleet Air Arm. He is now a midshipman in the throes of an intensive short course.

O. Stanford, a Sergeant Pilot, is stationed in Rhodesia and was recently married there.

We very much regret to hear that J. Fisher, who was serving on naval rocket craft, has been reported missing, and that Victor Sayer has been reported killed in Italy.

G. J. Tullberg is back in civilian life, having been invalided out of the forces.

R.W.G.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the following magazines, and apologize for any inadvertent omissions:

The Bryanston Saga, The Abbotsholmian, The Radleian, The Aldenhamian, The Fettesian, The Bristol Grammar School Chronicle.

## "THE SPUR" COMMITTEE

*Editor:* B. A. Ruff.

*Technical Advisers:* G. M. Haslam, R. Warner.

*Committee:* M. G. Brown, B. A. Ruff, D. A. R. Reid, F. Potton.

those of the suburbs of a huge city, gained in physical health from good food and fresh air, and learned difficult lessons of self-reliance which home life might not have taught them.

There follow brief accounts of the life at the separate camps. It is impossible to chronicle everything or to give due recognition to the innumerable acts of service which made the camps a success. In any case the exact particulars are unimportant, and will be forgotten. What remain are the memories and personal influences which constitute the true, though unassessable, record of the events of the Summer, 1944.

### THE SALISBURY CAMP

This camp was started by the initiative of Mr. and Mrs. Horne, who on 24th June had visited Salisbury and obtained the agreement and generous co-operation of Dr. Happold, Headmaster of Bishop Wordsworth's School, to open a camp on the School's twelve-acre playing field, where there was a three-roomed wooden pavilion and a bathing place. On the 30th, Mr. and Mrs. Horne and Mrs. Brigden arrived with twenty-five first- and second-year boys, after a disagreeable journey, to find that Major Davis of Bishop Wordsworth's School had already obtained food, bedding, five tents, and other equipment. The boys were allotted to their tents, tent leaders appointed, simple rules formulated on common-sense principles, and the camp had begun.

Persistent rain made the first days very difficult. The low, bomb-favouring clouds often hid the top of the Cathedral spire to the north-west; everything was wet; and the only source of warmth was the two primus stoves on which breakfast and supper were cooked. The pavilion, designed to give changing room and tea to twenty-two cricketers, was the schoolroom, assembly hall and refectory for twenty-five boys, as well as living place for the adults. The midday meal was held at Bishop Wordsworth's School, ten minutes' walk away, until hot meals were delivered to the camp from the Wilton Cooking Depot. A routine of schoolwork and games was established, and the hardest pioneering was done when the Staff was supplemented by Mrs. Hodges (12th July), Arthur Hopkins (22nd July) and Mr. Haslam (24th July). Later Mr. Dartington arrived, and Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Trimmer each stayed for two weeks to provide relief.

Mrs. Brigden was a tower of strength; when she was not cooking, she was mending; when she was not mending, she was washing, ironing, cleaning or shopping. It took the combined efforts of the rest of the Staff to make her sit down to drink a cup of Mrs. Hodges' constant and magical supply of welcome hot drinks. Appetites were enormous; and enormous exertions were made to satisfy them. Throughout, all were excellently fed. The boys took turns at helping to lay, wash up and sweep.

During the rain, the boys discovered that it was less uncomfortable to be wet and easier to get dry if they only wore shorts. This habit persisted, and when the sun came, they were constantly out in the fresh air, and became well sun-burnt. The new arrivals were always obvious by their whiteness among the brown. As a result of these healthy conditions colds were unknown, and the sun probably provided many with immunity from minor ailments well into the winter. Their remarkable state of health was proven by the boys' capacity to devour massive "cheese dreams" and toffee-apples without any of the usual after-effects.

It cannot be claimed that the schoolwork was much more than a stop-gap. With cricket matches in progress outside (for we by no means had the place to ourselves) and with other excitements and distractions, the boys concentrated remarkably well on the old familiar three R's. A fairly high percentage learned to write better essays, and discovered something about Gothic architecture from visits to local churches and to the Cathedral. Here was apparently an opportunity for real "freedom in education"; but with a whole term behind them and with countless

odd jobs to do, the Staff were forced to realize that ideal conditions are required for ideal lessons. Nevertheless, some of the expeditions were instructive as well as enjoyable; in one case it was learnt how angry landowners treat trespassers, and in another what to do when you are twenty miles from home and the last bus has gone. There were some adventures which could well provide the basis for legend, but this is not the place in which to recount them.

During the first month, cricket was very popular, and the camp team won four out of five matches with local schools. But when the rival teams were dispersed in holiday time, the game lost its interest. Swimming remained popular, and at least twenty boys must have taught themselves to swim in the sheltered bathing place at the bottom of the field. The midday swim was preceded by a P.T. class held by Hughes, an ex-head boy of Bishop Wordsworth's School, who was an excellent instructor, and who gave freely of his time to help the boys learn hand stands, cart-wheels and other acrobatic feats.

We received remarkable kindness and helpfulness from all with whom we came into contact at Salisbury, from Mr. Cooper, the billeting officer, to Mr. Messenger, the Cathedral architect. The boys were able partly to repay this hospitality by taking turns to work at menial jobs at the Toc H Club, and by helping Mr. Harding harvest his fields. Not that these labours were entirely disinterested; there were rumours of trade union rates for agricultural workers, and of goodly suppers at Toc H after the last dish was washed up.

The camp would have been less interesting and enjoyable for all without Arthur Hopkins' energy and enthusiasm. He was the only senior at the camp, but he did the work of a dozen. He took the boys out on expeditions, ran games and activities for them, including a successful sports day, and did valiant work with the recalcitrant *primuses*. A sing-song or variety show, the final performance of which appeared to bear no relation to the elaborate rehearsals, marked the eve of departure. After nine weeks crowded with events which must remain unchronicled, the camp party travelled to Meldreth on 1st September. Mrs. Hodges and Mr. Haslam escorted the group, leaving Mr. Horne, Mrs. Brigden and Hopkins to remove all the traces of our stay.

### RADLEY COLLEGE CAMP

It would be wrong to suggest that the camp at Radley College was crowded at any time during its short life. It would be wrong to say that the Headmaster's proposal to start a camp at Radley College met with an enthusiastic response. It was only after much cajoling on the part of the Headmaster that a party of seven could be persuaded to go: perhaps with our innate tendencies to worship "ye olde," we felt that there was little that was attractive about sleeping in a gymnasium, however well equipped and however modern, as compared with the more primitive delights of living in the now famous barn at Inkpen or in the mansion at Woodhay; news of the wonders of this house were just beginning to filter through and many felt that it would be better to go to the explored territory of Woodhay, rather than the unknown country of Radley. For the enterprising few, however, who were prepared to forgo these pleasures, the time spent at Radley College proved most enjoyable.

We survived the journey from Paddington, and arrived at Radley. We were met at the station and escorted to the College and finally to the gymnasium which was to be our sleeping quarters for the next three weeks. Our beds were brought in, we watched a cricket match and had tea in the pavilion.

So began the two idyllic weeks; we ate meals of impressive size and variety in the Eastbourne College dining hall, we went for incredibly long walks. For the energetic there were the nets, the gymnasium with its wide range of apparatus and swimming in the river. For the indolent

there was the library and the shade of the trees to read in. There were cricket matches to watch, plays to see, clubs and societies to attend. We were able to repay in part the debt we owe to Radley College by acting a play ourselves, a scene from Hardy's "Far from the Madding Crowd," with Hardy-esque additions of a convincing nature by Mr. Oates, who also produced the play.

And then there was Oxford. The "dreaming spires" seemed as enchanting as ever although the presence of an extremely grubby gasometer and an even grubbier railway siding in the immediate foreground proved jarring. For the most part we found our first visit disappointing: an incredibly hot July day is perhaps not the best time to visit an overcrowded city when heat and consequent fatigue combine to compel one to remain in the clammy shade of the college walls. Few will forget, however, that we were mistaken for a T.U.C. party by a harassed guide, although few of us could be said to reflect quite the degree of militant socialism which shone on the faces of the shambling party of shop stewards we met later.

Subsequent visits to Oxford proved more worth while. Boating on the Cherwell and the Isis, touring round the colleges, buying books in Blackwell's made many afternoons pass pleasantly. Surprisingly enough, everyone found that there are other ways of spending time in a city than in a cinema.

For highly complicated financial reasons, we spent the last week working in the school and acting as orderlies to the harvest camp which went out from the College to work. The degree of leisure which we had enjoyed in the preceding weeks made the thought of physical labour insufferable. Neither working in the gardens nor in the Infirmary kitchen proved too arduous a task and I think we are justified in considering that we discharged our duties both as camp orderlies and as gardeners' assistants with reasonable efficiency.

Our thanks are due to a host of people who made it possible for us to stay at Radley; to the Headmaster for making the arrangements; to the Warden, Staff and pupils of Radley College for the care bestowed on us; to Eastbourne College for the use of their dining hall; to Lyte of Eastbourne College for acting as our guide; to Sister Boddy and to Mr. Towne for acting as charitable overseers during the last week; and finally to Mr. Oates, whose labours in keeping the camp in a state of financial well-being, in visiting the official world of billeting officers and food officers, in consulting railway timetables and buying tickets, and in coping with unforeseen crises, were little short of miraculous.

A.T.E.B.

## INTRODUCTION TO WEST WOODHAY CAMP

It was on 28th June that the Headmaster made his decision to evacuate as many as possible of the boys who were not taking examinations to sites in the country where they could work without the continual interruptions of sirens and explosions. The next day was one of feverish activity for Messrs. Raynham, Horne and Smith, who were to organize these treks to Meldreth, Salisbury and Inkpen. More than a hundred boys with their parents, and many prospective cooks, volunteers from parents, were interviewed and on Friday, 30th, the great exodus began.

The advance party to Inkpen, led by Mr. Smith and Mrs. Buckingham, whose stalwart personality and expert cooking was the mainstay of the camp, arrived at Hungerford, five miles from the camp, to be met, to the surprise and joy of all, by Mr. Halliwell, who had left his own school at Devizes to look after itself in order to ease our first few trying days. To make sleeping, dining and working rooms, kitchens, latrines and so forth, out of a collection of barns, even the good barns so kindly lent by Major Huth, was no small task. In addition, the remoteness of Inkpen, tucked away under the Marlborough Downs, while providing one of its main

charms, does set formidable problems of transport. However, with the excellent basis of equipment supplied by the Wiltshire War Agricultural Committee, whose personnel was most charmingly solicitous for our personal comfort, the sympathy of our widely scattered tradesmen, the contacts made by Mr. Hanson, and Mr. Halliwell's untiring energy, a comfortable and well supplied home was quickly established.

Saturday saw the arrival of the main party led by Mr. Herdman and Mrs. Richards, whose good humour and efficiency in the kitchen and dormitory were invaluable, and by degrees the camp attained its maximum of forty. Of course we weren't all of us complete strangers to the district, since the site had been for two years a harvest camp, and one of the first pleasures was meeting old friends, the most delightful and comforting of whom was Father Driscoll; his generosity and never-failing hospitality, the warm comfort of his charming house and his physical and spiritual care of the boys are all part of the permanent annals of the School. Nor was he the only dispenser of hospitality, since Mrs. Du Boulay generously threw open her barn for games, and offered us the use of her bathrooms and her children's library. In short everyone rallied round us most splendidly and when the sun had recovered from his initial sulkiness, we started really to enjoy ourselves. Lessons were uniquely appreciated in the warm sunshine, rivers were discovered and the new thrill of working during afternoons in the fields and gardens alleviated the home-sickness of some and augmented the pocket-money of others.

Then as the peace of the quiet country-side, the rustle of the ripening wheat field and the colour and scent of the flowers replaced the strain and racket of the town, new facets of personality appeared. Long adventurous hikes were taken during weekends, little tents arose like mushrooms, beds were dragged out under the shelter of the great oaks and elms, even into open fields until the ceremony of saying goodnight took a half-an-hour and entailed a lengthy walk on the part of the duty master; shirts were shed and faces and bodies became brown.

The Headmaster paid us frequent visits and blessed us with his cheerful optimism and his generous approval. It was during one of those visits, when the time to leave our camp to the real harvesters and seek a new abode, had become imminent, that we discussed our discovery of West Woodhay House, and the project of doubling our number and living in a colossal house of strangely mixed architecture, surrounded by impressively large and once well-kept lawns and gardens. There seemed only a slim chance of our scheme ever coming to fruition, particularly since the house was requisitioned by the War Office, but suddenly a fairy godfather appeared in the person of our vice-chairman, Mr. Lowndes, of the Ministry of Health, and his quiet power speedily removed all the barriers.

Eighty beds with bedding were acquired from the Ministry of Health and a heterogeneous collection of tables, chairs, pots, pans and school equipment, miraculously packed by Mr. Dartington, were fetched from School and on 21st July—three weeks from our original exodus, but three very happy weeks which seemed much longer in retrospect—we forsook the uneven mud-floored kitchen of Inkpen for a splendid spacious affair equipped with Aga cooker and refrigerator, left our cowed dining-room to find a dignified, oak-panelled dining hall, our muddy barton for large well-lit classrooms. But we took our happy, carefree atmosphere with us and we kept it throughout one of the most interesting and valuable experiments that the School has ever made.

P.S.

## WEST WOODHAY HOUSE

• We first saw West Woodhay House as an enormous building, containing a hundred or so of rooms, a secret stairway and, so it was rumoured, a ghost. One of the main entrances looks across what was once a lawn over woods and meadows to the downs above Inkpen; from the other

and older front door one looks past gigantic lime trees to a lake. There is a ruined church and churchyard in the grounds. Paths and flower beds, when we arrived there, were overgrown with weeds.

Gradually we began both to alter and be altered by our environment. **The changes were, we believe, beneficial to each.** Mr. Dartington began the work of bringing order out of the chaos of a building in which it was quite possible to lose oneself. Indeed even after his scientific classification and arrangement of rooms and landings, many were still unable to find their way directly from one part of the building to another. Meals began to appear at regular hours, and very great indeed is the debt owed by all who were at West Woodhay to Mrs. Buckingham, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Hender, Mrs. Holgate, Mrs. Clarke and others whose hard and unselfish work was the basis of all our success. For, with food and shelter secured, we began to proceed further. Rules—a bare minimum of them—were designed, and for some time there were regular meetings of a representative committee to suggest ways and means of altering or improving our lot.

Meanwhile Mrs. French had imposed on herself the Augean task of fighting back the weeds and turning what was now a wilderness into what it was, a garden. The force of her own example and her ability to control voluntary labour were such that by the time we left West Woodhay this task was, at least in the immediate surroundings of the building, completed. Few who saw it will forget the brown torso of Mr. Smith, swinging above the blade of a scythe. And many others did notable, if less spectacular, work.

Altogether more than 100 boys were at Woodhay. The maximum number at any time was 80. The day's programme varied, but as a rule it was more or less as follows: There was school work in the morning, though the work done differed considerably from the timetable at Raynes Park. For example, there was a survey of the large estate made by boys under the direction of Mr. Gibb. And a great number of boys who had known little of the country received before they left certificates from Mr. Warner to the effect that they were able to identify at least fifty different kinds of trees. In the afternoons there was gardening (paid and unpaid), visits to Newbury, Hungerford or Kintbury, bathes in the lake, walking and, in the later weeks, a lot of wood cutting. In the evenings, too, activities were varied. For some time visitors would be regularly astonished at the sight of gesticulating and oddly silent boys who were, at the instigation of Mr. Smith, playing what became known as "the game." Mr. Smith's outstanding success at conveying entirely by gestures the words "Prolegomena to Greek Religion" was in its way as remarkable as his inability to quote correctly some of the best known lines of Shakespeare. Other evening activities included moonlight singing, and two excellent entertainments. There were prayers before going to bed, and these were usually taken by the Rev. Cooke, who was a most regular and welcome visitor. Indeed, we were fortunate in having such friends as Father Driscoll at Inkpen and Father Cook at Woodhay.

There were many other activities which were outside the ordinary routine. There were visits to Winchester and Salisbury, and, most notable, the large expedition who set off with Mr. Smith in pouring rain for Stratford-on-Avon, saw four plays, and made a great success of camping under the most difficult conditions.

Looking back on the months at West Woodhay one believes them to have been both happy and profitable. Life in the conditions of a boarding establishment is different from life at a day school, and we, with limited numbers, plenty of room, and plenty of goodwill were able to enjoy many of the advantages of boarding school life, suffering, I believe, from none of the disadvantages. Both boys and Masters saw each other from a different point of view, and the result was, in most cases, both pleasing and useful.

## HARVEST CAMP, 1944

For the third year in succession the School Harvest Camp was at Church Farm, Inkpen, on the Berkshire-Wiltshire border. Preliminary arrangements for the camp were seriously hindered by the flying-bomb attack. The final list of campers had not been published, boys were scattered about the country, some at the School evacuation camps, some away with their parents, others just seemed to have disappeared. The crowded trains from Paddington made the prospect of transporting our customary thirty boys and thirty bicycles one only to be thought of with supreme horror! Four days before the camp was due to start I returned to my flat to find the letter-box jammed with letters from some forty boys, most of whom seemed to want to go to the camp, each on a different day and start from all corners of the country! Somehow, between intervals of dodging the flying-bombs, things got themselves sorted out. Never have I organized—or misorganized—a camp which seemed to have so little chance of success; never have I been so completely wrong in my prophetic misgivings. For the camp was as successful as any we have ever had and the praise for that shall be given at once to those who so rightly earned it—the campers themselves.

The camp was to start on Wednesday, 9th August, and on the Tuesday I left Paddington with Miss Bishell and Miss Hall and Miss Lemon, who had volunteered to cook for us. The day was hot, very hot, and the other nineteen people in the compartment did not cause a tiresome enough journey to be any easier to bear. We finally arrived at Hungerford, where the number of packages we had to transport on our bicycles the four miles to Inkpen seemed to have become multiplied by three on the journey. By a stroke of good luck (for us!) we met four of our boys from Woodhay, who nobly shouldered most of our burdens and cycled with us to Inkpen. For myself the sight of the barns and the rectory with the church behind seemed very much like home. The day instead of being just annoyingly hot became gloriously fine, the peace of the countryside after the horror of London seemed almost too good to be true, the work of getting the camp going became a pleasure instead of the drudgery it can so often be. **The camp had begun, and began well.** The omens were favourable and they were never to be proved wrong.

Wednesday morning saw the boys from Woodhay House arrive, and in the afternoon came Dr. and Mrs. Dittmar with the party from London. We settled in. There was plenty of work to be done. Stooking oats is a ticklish business, and finally we lost count of how many times we had to restock the big oat field—the wind, let me say, causing more of the trouble than our inexperienced hands! Our advance on the large wheat field at Ham was like that of an army and under Dr. Dittmar's disposition of forces we cleared the field in half the time expected. The weather for the first week was good and the wage bill excellent. The weather was not so good for our second week and two wet days caused a drop in our earnings.

At the end of the first fortnight we changed about half our personnel. Carting now began and in spite of some bad weather we had a record week. Everybody worked very hard indeed, overworked in fact, but each day seemed a race against the weather. On the Tuesday I offered to distribute as a bonus all we earned over the record wage week of last year (£55 15s.) and on the Wednesday evening was able to announce that we had earned £65 os. 10d., giving each boy an extra bonus of 5s. 6d. on top of the usual 2s. 6d. per week. It was thoroughly deserved and never, I think, have so many boys worked for such long hours with such good spirit. It was this spirit which made the camp such an enjoyable success. I made it the theme of my weekly reviews of the camp so often that the campers themselves reading this account may think that I have harped on it sufficiently. But I make no apology for placing on record again, this time for a wider audience, my admiration of (and indeed

wonder at) the spirit of sensible, helpful behaviour which still remains with me as my most outstanding memory of the four weeks at Inkpen. I make no apology either for a last attempt to hammer home the moral. When a group of people, living together and working together, are bound in such a spirit of helpful co-operation nothing seems impossible, difficulties and disappointments can be overcome, discomforts are minimized, personal desires can willingly be sacrificed for the common good and, perhaps above all, things get done in that atmosphere of pleasantness which remains for so long in the memory. I quote but two instances. When we were for so long without water from the main supply, all the water had to be carried in dixies, a matter of some hundred yards. Volunteers were always forthcoming for this thankless job and from boys who in many cases had worked nine hours in the fields. Boys continually suggested they should help about the camp and on one occasion rescued me from the very hard labour of digging a pit for refuse. At the end of a morning's work they were scarcely visible so deep had their excavation taken them!

We can, I feel, never express our gratitude to Miss Hall and Miss Lemon for the magnificent catering. Most harvest camps supply one hot meal per day—in the evening. We had two. Miss Hall had every menu worked out before the camp started, our suppliers were singularly helpful and although there were naturally some last minute alterations to be made every meal appeared on the tables to time and there was much satisfaction expressed at the varying spreads which were produced. Only twice did the range fail to respond to bullying or coaxing and produced volumes of smoke instead of heat. Miss Hall's untiring efforts and unflinching good humour did much to contribute to the happiness of our stay. We are grateful, too, to Miss Bishell's friend, Miss Smythe, who came to help us for the last week of the camp, when Miss Hall had to leave us.

Miss Bishell took over the general supervision of the orderlies and the obtaining of supplies while Dr. Dittmar supervised the work in the fields. Mrs. Dittmar turned her hand to whatever needed doing, and if all this gives the impression that I did nothing except make a speech each Wednesday, that is just as it should be for when, for nearly a week, I could do nothing but hobble round and look miserable with a strained muscle the camp ran as well as ever.

Finally it may be of interest to compare from two points of view our three camps over the last three summers.

		1942	1943	1944
Expenditure on food	...	£84	£110	£135
Wages earned	... ..	£150	£186	£184

Considering that we only worked for two short days out of our last six days' stay we can consider our earnings above the average for last year.

E.L.H.

## MELDRETH CAMP

The descent of Raynes Park County School upon Meldreth was sudden. On Friday, 30th June, Mr. Raynham and Mr. Loveday left King's Cross with twenty-six boys, including scouts experienced in camping. Walking from Meldreth Station they were overtaken by a lorry bearing equipment. By nightfall an empty meadow had been transferred into a colony of the school.

Many were the problems to be solved: the provision of shelter, food, medical safety, comfort in some degree, activities for leisure time, and of course, teaching.

The question of shelter must first be considered. To those who had been accustomed to sleeping in air-raid shelters it was no hardship to spend the day beneath a friendly sky and night beneath canvas. Tyros

soon learnt from the scouts how to feel natural in their new surroundings, to develop some degree of common sense in keeping their possessions safe and tidy. And what must be remembered is that camping for these boys was not an exercise or a holiday; for when it was deemed necessary to remove them from London into the country, camping presented itself as the natural solution to the difficulty of finding accommodation that would not destroy their important unity as members of the School. Camping is always an adventure to boys; this camp was an adventure that sprang from the heroic history of their country.

So the colony developed and established itself, but it became apparent that something more extensive and permanent than the canvas camp would soon be required. In London the flying-bomb attacks continued. The number of boys increased. Indeed, at one point, the number of boys rose to sixty and the total number of residents to seventy-three. We began to cast covetous eyes on the Church House, a disused Victorian vicarage, near which a group of Nissen huts revealed that a company of the Pioneer Corps had been in occupation since the beginning of the War. By a stroke of good fortune they marched out a fortnight after the School's arrival. The Headmaster and Mr. Raynham embarked upon complicated negotiations with military and civil authorities, with the result that on 19th July boys who were not scouts moved into the Nissen huts and the Church House became general headquarters. From this time the contingents changed gradually from a camp into a boarding school.

The move to Church House brought additional comfort. From now on cooking could be more exactly regulated and the meals produced by those excellent ladies who volunteered their services to the camp became even better in quality than before. But there were plenty of domestic duties to be performed, and the removal to Church House by no means made cleanliness easier to attain. Earth closets had still to be used, and, since there was no running water in the house, the bathroom had become a mere museum piece. But the boilers produced enough hot water for periodical baths, and their first hot bath was among the most memorable of the boys' experiences. One by one they were placed in a steaming disinfected tub to be scrubbed and soaped, transferred to another to be rinsed down, set beneath a cold shower or drenched by a hose pipe, and finally led to safety and a towel, gasping out schoolboy superlatives of bliss.

Except during the period of the scout camp, lessons were continued on weekdays. There were normally two morning sessions with a break for milk and one session in the afternoon. Changing Staff reduced the number of possible courses, but good work was done. Mr. Collins, H.M. Inspector for the district, visiting the camp, expressed his willingness to help us and his satisfaction with the work which we were doing.

And we were fortunate in being able to supplement and add variety to the lessons by enlisting external help. The Vicar of Meldreth and Whaddon, the Rev. F. C. Clare, gave an interesting course on the history of the Bible. Every week Mr. George Jebb received at the Manor House a select party who read plays and poetry with him, benefiting from his scholarly knowledge of English literature, his tastes and enthusiasms. Mr. H. Dainty, organist at the Parish Church, welcomed the representatives of the School choir to his own practices. More assistance came from the Headmaster's wife and Mrs. Phillips. And there was instruction of a less formal kind. Mrs. Dainty gave a lecture and demonstration on ambulance and first-aid work. The Church organ-tuner produced a learned and enthusiastic lecture on his mystery. Visiting parents also helped us. Mr. Law talked about bees, Mr. Horsley about the Police Force. In addition to lecturing about the petroleum industry, Mr. Thomas organized before breakfast physical training, based on modern military method, and this became a permanent feature of the daily routine.

Then there was bathing where the Cam went footing slow and muddy, a mile or two away, and there were frequent excursions to places of local

interest, and in particular to Cambridge. There were visits to the Village College at Impington, to Shingay Farm at the invitation of the Young Farmers' Club, and to the Melbourn bakehouse. Scouts produced a gymnastic display for a village fête, and seniors were inveigled into a mysterious excursion that included a plunge through the Cam at midnight.

Among other amusements was the camp-fire. This was founded on Scout traditions and included choric song, impromptu sketches and sometimes "cock-fighting" or wrestling. A need was felt for something to take the place of a camp-fire within doors. True to an oddly mathematical tradition of the School Troop, whereby bread-butter-and-jam, for instance, becomes  $b^2j$ , the new type of entertainment was called  $m^3$ , or Meldreth Miscellaneous Meeting. Its principle was simply to preserve the social atmosphere of the out-door entertainment, but to afford a complete contrast in material. The result was interesting; boys read their favourite poems, acted a scene from Shakespeare, sang decorously, produced their own "quizzes," reported on the week's adventures and debated. We remember an ingenious series of rhyming conundrums invented by Mrs. Collins and a delicious declamation from the Headmaster about Meldreth, Marvell and Milton.

This is not the place to attempt to assess the educational results of life at Meldreth; but these results were, we believe, considerable. Nor can we do more acknowledge the work done, not only by Mr. Raynham, Mr. Loveday and other members of the permanent Staff, but by parents and friends. Our thanks are due, in addition to those already mentioned, to Mr. and Mrs. Mason, Miss Parkhurst, Mr. and Mrs. Collins and their son Peter, Mrs. Raynham, Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Kentish, Mr. Law, Mr. and Mrs. Horsley, Mr. Baldwin and his two daughters. Of all the striking features of this remarkable experiment nothing has been more impressive than the degree of co-operation attained between parents, local residents and the School.

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