

Rendcomb College Magazine

Volume 8, No. 7.

DECEMBER 1946

SCHOOL NOTES. Summer Term, 1946.

Perhaps it was due to the weather, perhaps to other less tangible causes, that the Summer Term seemed not quite as enjoyable as usual. Whatever the main reason, the weather did little to improve our spirits and by the end of the term, looking back on a succession of cold, damp, dismal days, we feel constrained to wonder if the sun had completely deserted us.

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Term began on Wednesday, May 1st.

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Commemoration Day fell on Friday, May 31st. Unfortunately the weather was not kind to us, but as usual we all found the break very enjoyable. Many boys went into Cheltenham or Cirencester to meet their parents, while others who live sufficiently near went home for the day. We take off our hats to the few hardy souls who had a picnic lunch by the lake and yet claimed to have enjoyed themselves. A small party spent the early part of the day in College with Mr. Parry, and later went to a circus which was paying a most opportune visit to Cirencester at the time. As this was the first circus that some of them had seen, it is not difficult to imagine how thrilled and excited they were.

Victory Celebrations were held in College on Saturday, June 8th. A report will be found elsewhere and we will merely mention here that the event was most successful.

Parents' Day took place this year on Saturday, June 29th.

The first XI played the first post-war cricket match with an Old Boys' XI on Saturday, July 13th, and it was probably the most enjoyable match of the season. We were particularly pleased to welcome such a large party of Old Boys and hope to see even greater numbers at similar functions in the future.

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A School Music Making was held in the Music Room on Sunday, July 14th.

Term ended on Wednesday, July 24th.

The following obtained the Cambridge. Higher School Certificate at the July examination:

P. S. W. Beck, M. Butler, C. M. Carus-Wilson, J. E. Carus-Wilson, G. S. Davis, J. M. Faulks, S. H. Groves, R. I. G. Hale, M. C. Harries, R. M. Lewis, I. S. Menzies, J. M. Faulks obtained Distinctions in Mathematics, Physics.
M. C. Harries obtained a Distinction in Physics.

The following obtained the London General School Certificate at the July examination:

A. M. Cookson, J. D. Draper, J. S. Gill, K. J. Hanney*, D. Henshaw, R. J. Kendal*, C. B. Lane, W. S. Monroe, J. D. M. Smith, P. W. Sumsion.

*With Matriculation exemption.

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We have further changes of Staff to report. Miss Hewitt and Mrs. Tily both left at the end of term. They have taken up new posts at Oundle School and the Gloucester Day Nursery respectively. We wish them well in their future careers.

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We extend our good wishes to the following boys who left at the end of term: R. T. Wood, R. I. G. Hale, R. M. Lewis, G. S. Davis, P. S. W. Beck, W. S. Monroe, J. D. M. Smith, J. D. Menzies, J. D. Draper, K. J. Hanney, M. D. Robinson, A. M. Cookson, J. S. Gill and C. P. Cookson.

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A dignified memorial cross has been placed at the head of Canon Sewell's grave.

The inscription reads as follows, and there have been many comments on the singularly happy quotation at the end.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND
IN MEMORY OF
HENRY SEWELL, M. A., L. L. D.

HONORARY CANON OF GLOUCESTER
FOR 50 YEARS A PIONEER IN
SECONDARY EDUCATION IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE
CHAIRMAN OF RENDCOMB COLLEGE 1927—1943
BORN 21st AUGUST, 1847
DIED 8th MAY, 1943

"I GROW OLD EVER LEARNING MANY THINGS."

Solon, 640—558 B. C.

Autumn Term, 1946.

Chairman—M. C. Harries.

Council—S. H. Groves, M. C. Harries, D. G. Knight, J. W. Sumsion, J. M. Henshaw, E. A. Jones, D. J. Payne.

Meeting Selection Committee—S. H. Groves, M. C. Harries, D. G. Knight, J. W. Sumsion, E. A. Jones.

House Committee—J. C. Waterton, C. B. Lane, D. R. Page, E. Davis, P. G. Cockell, R. Margetts.

Games Committee—S. H. Groves, J. W. Sumsion, G. H. Bye, E. A. Jones.

Senior Shopman—D. Henshaw.

Shopmen—R. W. Smith, P. D. Quick.

Banker—R. K. G. Bick.

Apprentice Banker—D. J. Harris.

Breakages Man—D. R. Page.

Secretary—M. R. F. Butlin.

Auditors—C. J. Brisley, D. J. Harris.

Apprentice Auditors—G. J. Chagrin, M. J. Miles.

Finance Committee—D. G. Milligan, P. J. Ryman, P. W. Dutton.

Entertainments Committee—M. B. Shephard, T. P. Deneby, P. W. Sumsion, C. J. Brisley, K. A. Statham.

End of Term Entertainments Committee—S. H. Groves, D. G. Knight, J. M. Henshaw, T. P. Deneby, P. W. Sumsion.

Cycle Men—C. B. Lane, F. D. Humphris, M. W. Brain.

Meeting Almoner—M. B. Shephard.

Paperman—J. H. Shield.

Amplifier Technicians—T. T. Walters, P. G. Cockell.

Assistant Amplifier Technician—P. H. S. Harris.

Magazine Committee—R. J. Kendall, R. W. Smith, K. M. Shephard.

Record Committee—M. R. F. Butlin, C. M. Carus-Wilson, G. H. Bye, J. A. Barclay, R. W. Smith.

Drying Room Committee—R. K. G. Bick, M. E. Knight, J. A. Johnson.

Salvage Committee—G. J. Chagrin, R. Gready.

Salvage Organiser—C. M. Carus-Wilson.

Public Work Man—J. E. Carus-Wilson.

Meeting Trappers—F. D. Humphris, J. H. Shield.

Games Secretaries—E. A. Jones, J. A. Barclay, E. F. P. Topps.

Games Wardens—P. H. S. Harris, E. Davis, P. D. Quick, J. Gilchrist, L. V. Crawford, J. R. Smith, D. G. Vaisey.

Groundsmen—T. R. Morris, R. Gready, T. P. Denehy, F. D. Humphris, D. J. Payne, R. H. Jones.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

We were very pleased to see such a representative gathering of Old Boys for the O. R. match on Saturday, July 13th, incidentally the first function of this sort since the war. The weather was perfect and the match full of interest; ideal conditions for the renewal of old and happy friendships.

Most of our guests had lunch and supper in the History Room and a number stayed either for the night or the weekend.

Those present included: R. C. J. Brain, R. Brain, D. Dakin, M. H. R. Dowding, N. P. Elson, J. E. Eyles, D. Field, P. Field, D. H. Hill, F. H. Jones, P. D. B. Levett, N. P. Morris, J. J. North, V. D. Page, N. A. Perkins, V. W. Pullin, C. Sidgwick, L. Stradling, L. B. White.

The following Old Boys also visited the school during the term: C. J. Gough (and son), R. E. Hayward, D. J. Dodwell, N. Slade, J. L. Russell, F. H. Dutton.

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After service with the Fleet Air Arm during the war, J. W. H. Neads has joined the Royal Navy as a regular officer.

We were very pleased to have a visit from M. F. Lane and his wife on September 8th. He is now out of the navy and has returned to his former work in Rugby, where his present address is: 19 Graham Rd., Rugby.

Having heard a rumour that P. B. Elwell had been awarded a D. F. C., we were glad to have direct confirmation of this in an interesting letter received from him in July. He has seen very varied service in the R. A. F., attained the rank of Wing Commander in 1944, and was demobilised in August 1945. He is now working as staff pilot for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. and is stationed at Abadan, South Iran.

We extend our congratulations to Sub. Lieut. M. A. C. Levett, R. N. V. R., who was married on September 13th, 1946 at Hamilton, Ontario, to Norma A. L. Rawson.

We also congratulate M. C. Thompson, who was married in Holland early in September.

We congratulate R. H. Newport on the arrival of a son. His stepson is already a member of the school,

D. Field is back as the Art Master at Hertford Grammar School (Previously R. A. F.)

W. S. Morgan has been transferred to the Colonial Office.

E. H. Jones has been appointed to the Colonial Service in Malaya. (Previously R. A. F.)

P. Field is an Art Student at Goldsmith's College, University of London. (Previously R. A. F.)

V. W. Pullin has returned to the Timber Department at the Sharpness Dock Office. (Previously R. A. and Gloucestershire Regt.)

P. D. B. Levett is a chemist with Messrs. Plessey & Co. Ltd., Radio component manufacturers.

R. H. Newport has joined a firm manufacturing static condensers.

(Previously R. A. F.)

C. Sidgwick, Captain R. E., is with Military Government, Germany.

M. C. Thompson is reading Economics at Manchester University. (Previously R. N.)

C. D. M. Barnett is studying land agency. (Previously F. A. A.)

M. A. C. Levett is reading History at Cambridge. (Previously F. A. A.)

R. D. Balter is a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Fusiliers.

E. M. Wilson, when we last heard, was private Secretary to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Civil Aviation. (Previously F. A. A.)

R. C. J. Brain is back in the Public Health Department of the Gloucestershire County Council. (Previously R. A.)

C., W. Wells, who has decided to take up teaching, is awaiting entry to an Emergency Teachers' Training College. (Previously R. A.)

J. E. Allen is back in his work as a Chartered Accountant in Bristol. (Previously R. A. F.)

L. B. White is teaching in Hertfordshire for the L. E. A. (Previously R. A. and Army Education Corps).

D. Dakin is back on the staff of Birkbeck College, London University. (Previously R.A.F.)

N. P. Morris is with a firm of agricultural engineers.

N. P. Elson is with a firm of marine engineers.

N. M. Wood is in the Intelligence Corps.

M. Jefferies is with his father's firm. (Previously R. A. F.)

We have received a very interesting letter from Wilfred E. Bardrick, who left College as long ago as 1926. Two years later he went to Australia under the "Big Brother Movement," spent several years farming and finally settled down in Melbourne, where he is now employed as a costing clerk with the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation.

In 1932 he married an English girl from Lancashire, and they now have three children. His address is [REDACTED] East Preston, Melbourne, N. 18, Victoria, Australia.

It is interesting to note that he recently met Maurice Peel, who left College about the same time.

The following extracts are quoted from his letter:

"During my first few years in Australia I moved around various parts of Victoria gaining experience of wheat-growing, sheep country, dairy farming, fruit growing and general mixed farming. The only type I definitely disliked was dairy farming. It entails very long hours, usually 4:30 a. m. until 7 p. m, is monotonous, and is, in fact, seven day drudging. Any other type of farming is a wonderful life—variety of occupation according to the season, long hours certainly, but full of new interests and very healthy."

"The country people of Australia are a grand lot. They are always ready to help one another in adversity. I have seen as many as eight tractors and four teams sowing a wheat paddock for a fellow who was ill. These are the men who have pioneered Australia, the true 'Digger' type. I would not speak quite so highly of the city folk. They are, I suppose, the same as in any industrial country. The average Australian is a good sort but the outback cocky (farmer) is outstanding."

"Perhaps I could give a word of advice to prospective emigrants. The posters published by Australia House were, I think, very misleading. They usually depicted a young man astride a beautiful horse, droving a mob of sheep against a background of trees laden with rosy apples. A lad could be sadly disillusioned,

indeed almost heartbroken, if, on arrival, he were despatched to the Malla and immediately introduced to an axe and shovel, and all the chores which no one likes to do.”

“Horses have always had a fascination for me and I still occasionally enjoy a canter around, but I remember weeks on end spent in the saddle, droving sheep or cattle on dusty roads, months sitting on a plough in biting winds or on a harvester in scorching, dusty winds. The dear old horse loses some of his charm on these occasions.”

“I have deliberately tried to give a picture of the worst side of farming, but it has its bright side. The spring and autumn weather are glorious and then open, outdoor life is really worthwhile.”

“There is another point I would particularly like to stress. The booklets distributed in England gave the impression that in a few years a lad could save sufficient money to start farming on his own. Such was not the case. Let me put it this way. In my time a good average wage for farm work was 35/- and keep. A lad who saved 25/- a week would be doing very well, and in six years would have approximately £350. In Victoria all the good land has been taken up and prices of land which is worth having range between £40 and £70 for dairy land to £15 to £30 for wheat land.”

“To make a good living one would need at least 30 acres of good dairy country or 400 acres of wheat land. In addition one would need stock and farm machinery, so you can see how far the savings would go. Personally I would not advise any boy to think that he could come to Australia and start farming in a few years unless he were assured of considerable financial help.”

VICTORY CELEBRATIONS.

In common with the rest of the country, Victory Celebrations were held at Rendcomb on Saturday, June 8th, the village and College joining forces for the occasion.

Unfortunately the weather was bad and the Fete had to be held in the College instead of in the grounds as originally planned. Consequently such items as sports were abandoned and a considerable amount of preparatory work was of no avail.

Nevertheless there was a sufficiently wide range of activities to suit all tastes. There were side-shows in profusion—a miniature golf course on which we spent endless time chasing illusive table-tennis balls towards almost impossible holes, an amusing contraption prepared by our “engineers” especially to discover

what a bundle of nerves we all were (no difficult task apparently), a shooting range, darts, and the ever-popular "Aunt Sallies." Several puppet shows were given during the afternoon at Rendcomb House, and as usual well repaid a visit. There was also a stall with a very fine assortment of articles which had been generously given for sale by many of our friends.

To satisfy the "inner man" a buffet tea, organised by Miss Babbington and ladies from the village, was provided in the Dining Hall, a welcome interlude from "the fun of the fair."

In the evening there was a whist drive, and an extremely popular dance in the Gymnasium, at which even the non-dancers seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly.

Speaking on behalf of the members of the College, we can say that the occasion was most successful, and we hope that our friends from the village felt so too.

The proceeds, realizing £55, were handed to the Parish "Welcome Home Fund" for service men. Our thanks are due to everyone who contributed to this most successful occasion. The committee is greatly to be congratulated.

PARENTS' DAY, 1946.

Parents' Day was held this year on Saturday, June 29th, and we are very pleased to be able to report that tradition has once more asserted itself, in other words that the weather was fine.

The now familiar "war-time" programme was again followed, and this was inevitable in the present circumstances. In any case we know that our visitors do not come to see a display of ceremony, but to renew their acquaintance with us. We are very glad to see that they continue to come in such large numbers.

Once again there was the usual assembly in Big School to listen to the Headmaster's review of the School Year. Lieut.-Colonel Godman was in the chair, and we were very pleased to welcome our new Governor, Mr. H. D. H. Wills. Tea followed in the Gymnasium—an informal yet pleasant occasion which provided a splendid opportunity for meeting our guests.

There was an exhibition of woodwork in Saul's Hall and an art display in Rendcomb House, both of which aroused considerable interest.

May we express the hope that all our guests enjoyed their visit and say that we look forward to seeing them again next year.

SCHOOL MUSIC MAKING.

Sunday, July 14th, 1946.

PROGRAMME.

Orchestra (a) Andante by Mozart Arr. by E. Rowland
(b) Sarabande of the Graces Dr. John Blow "Venus and Adonis"
Suite) Arr. Julius Harrison

Piano Solo "The Fair" MacLachlan
(K. M. Shepherd)
"Harlequin" F. Jephson
(K. A. Statham)
"Soldiers' March" Schumann
(C. D. Whittle)
"In Calm Waters" Joan Lust
(P. D. Quick)
"Prelude in G and Mazurka" Chopin
(D. R. Page) Arr. M. Lee

Forms I and II

Two-part Songs "Aubade" John Ireland
"Evensong" Handel (arrgd.)

Piano Duet "Rondino" Kuhlau
(A. M. Cookson and Miss Carnell)

Piano Solo "Air with Variation" Mattheson
(M. R. F. Butlin)

Flute and Piano "Adagio-Sicilienne-Allegro vivace" M. Blavet
(From Sonata in G Minor)
(J. W. Sumsion and D. G. Knight)

Choir "I Love all Beauteous Things" C. Le Fleming
"Since First I Saw your Face" Thomas Ford

Piano Solo Mazurka in A Minor. Op. 13 No. 4 Chopin
(D. G. Knight)

Orchestra "A Toy Symphony on British Airs"
Arr. Heller Nicholls

1st Violins: R. T. Wood, J. D. Draper.

2nd Violins: Miss Young, G. J. Chagrin.

Viola: Mr. Thackray.

'Cello: J. Kitto.

Flute: J. W. Sumsion.

Percussion: R. J. Kendal, A. M. Cookson, D. G. Knight, P. W. Sumsion.

CRICKET.

We hoped to have new nets by the beginning of the season and get down at once to intensive coaching. When they did arrive a month later they proved extremely valuable, and we are very grateful to Mr. James and Mr. Parry who spent considerable time both coaching at the nets and umpiring on the games field. We also had difficulty with balls, which, though in reasonably plentiful supply, were of extremely poor quality.

Yet it was not in the main due to these difficulties that the 1st XI were again very weak. The main trouble was the lack of a good pair of opening batsmen and a pair of reliable bowlers. The batting of most members of the eleven was too much on the defensive and they completely failed to pick out the loose ball and punish it as it deserved. This may in part be due to the fact that the bowling in the first game was of a much lower standard than that faced in the matches.

J. W. Sumsion and E. A. Jones were the opening batsmen. The former played steadily and could be relied upon to keep one end up for a considerable time, but he lacked aggressiveness which kept his scores low. Jones started off fairly well but seemed to lose confidence towards the end of the season. Gilchrist, though young and new to the 1st XI, played well, and, once he had settled down, was not afraid to make full use of a variety of good strokes. Of the other batsmen, P. W. Sumsion was strong on the leg side, while T. P. Denehy displayed a very powerful off drive; M. D. Robinson tended to play too carefully with rather poor results; G. H. Bye was fairly safe, but he also must learn to be more aggressive; J. S. Gill, though possessing a good eye, could not cope with good-length bowling.

R. I. G. Hale and Robinson opened the bowling. Robinson, a left-arm bowler, delivered leg breaks very effectively at times, but was too easily knocked off his length. Hale was the most successful bowler in the team, being particularly deadly with the new ball. Gilchrist, a left-arm bowler, was used regularly as a change bowler and proved consistent. Denehy was brought on occasionally as a shock bowler with his fast leg swingers. Jones was also used as a slow bowler, but his length was rather erratic.

The fielding was comparatively good. In particular Bye, Gill and I. S. Menzies fielded well near the wicket, while Hale and J. S. Davis distinguished themselves in the outfield. P. W. Sumsion at wicket was fairly safe but went off towards the end of term. He was especially worried by the fast bowlers.

Hale proved a very keen captain and by his example did much to keep up the spirit of the team despite the succession of defeats. His aggressive batting and bowling stood out in marked contrast

to that of the rest of the team. He showed a keen interest in Junior cricket and devoted a great deal of time to coaching at the nets.

The cricket spirit in the school showed a definite improvement in the Junior school, and the Junior team, after a shaky start, showed considerable ability. Greater keenness in the Upper School would have been a help to the 1st XI.

RESULTS.

1st XI.

Wednesday, June 12th v. North Cerney (Home).

North Cerney 3 for 1. Rain stopped play.

Wednesday, June 19th v. North Cerney (Home).

North Cerney 100 for 9 dec. (Gilchrist 3 for 23)

1st XI 31. Lost by 69 runs.

Saturday, July 6th v. Cirencester G. S. (Home).

Cirencester G. S. 66 (Hale 8 for 19).

1st XI 23 (Gill 8, Sumsion J. 7). Lost by 43 runs.

Thursday, July nth v. Cotswold School (Home).

Cotswold School 18 (Robinson 5 for 5, including a "hat-trick," Hale 4 for 10).

1st XI 104 for 3 dec. (Sumsion J. 37, Hale 33, Gilchrist 13 n. o. Won by 10 wickets.

Saturday, July 13th v. Old Boys XI (Home), 1st XI 75 (Hale 22).

Old Boys 88 (Hale 5 for 26). Lost by 1 wicket.

Saturday, July 20th v. North Cerney (Home), 1st XI 44 (Hale 25).

North Cerney 79 for 9 dec. (Hale 5 for 28, Gilchrist 4 for 25). Lost by 10 wickets.

Junior XI.

May 18th v. Cirencester G. S. (Away).

Cirencester 41 (Gilchrist 5 for 13, Topps 5 for 26).

Rendcomb 18.

June 1st v. Cirencester G. S. (Home).

Cirencester 42 (Topps 7 for 22).

Rendcomb 56 (Gilchrist 17, Reed 11 n. o.).

June 22nd v. Sir Thomas Rich's.

Rendcomb 40 (Reed 11, Gilchrist 10).

Sir Thomas Rich's (Gilchrist 6 for 20).

Under 14 XI.

June 25th v. Great Ballard (Home).

Rendcomb 77 (Crawford 17. Levers 12, Miles 14).

Great Ballard 19 (Reed 5 for 4).

July 4th v. Great Ballard (Away).

Rendcomb 39 (Levers 15).

Great Ballard 13 (Topps 6 for 7, Reed 3 for 5).

NOTE.

Reports and critiques of Concerts, Lectures, Acting, Games, and the like are normally written by a member of the school or staff. When written by anyone else they carry the author's initials. Such reports are written by invitation and do not necessarily represent the views of the majority of the audience present—nor is it intended that they should. On occasion, the judgments of experts, of persons “in statu pupilari,” of adults or of enthusiasts, differ widely from each other.