

RENDCOMB COLLEGE
MAGAZINE

Vol. 7 No. 1

February, 1940

Rendcomb College Magazine

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FEBRUARY, 1940

SCHOOL NOTES.

MICHAELMAS TERM, 1939.

Up to the present the war has let us off very lightly. At a time when other schools were in the throes of evacuation we were fortunately undisturbed. In those early weeks of September few could foresee what was likely to happen, and there were anxious days when we did not know what might be our fate, but we were spared any major upheaval. To the outward eye Rendcomb is still the same peaceful spot as ever, and, apart from the black-out and the petrol scarcity, little has taken place to alter our way of living. But appearances are deceptive, and in a hundred and one different ways the war is affecting us, and is bound to do so even more in the future.

At the outbreak of hostilities Mr. Gross was called up, and in a few weeks was out in France with his Artillery unit.

We came back to find our outdoor staff depleted by the departure of Walter Telling and Jack Kendrick. Tom Headly had exchanged his Aga cooker for a camp kitchen. Together they are, as it were, our advance guard. The rest of our staff remains intact for the present.

The black-out faced us with a problem of considerable magnitude and involved no slight expense. It had been tackled during the holidays by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Browne, Miss Lister and three men. Later Mr. Molineaux, and then Mr. Fell and Mr. Morel, came back before term to assist, and, while they toiled with shutters and panelling, the domestic staff were busy with curtains and hangings. There are over three hundred windows in the college alone, not to mention sky-lights, and in addition there were those at the house and the laboratories. All had been dealt with most effectively before we reassembled, but the work took five weeks to complete. The work has been carried out in a ship-shape manner so that the daily routine of blacking-out can be done with a minimum of labour. We have been spared any Heath Robinson contraptions. Only those actually on the job can realise what this entailed.

But the war is making itself felt in other and more insidious ways. With rapidly rising costs, strict economy has become more than ever essential. The problem is to maintain our essential services at a maximum efficiency and to discover ways and means of conserving our resources for the future.

As yet we have not been called upon to make any major sacrifices. Even the petrol restrictions did not entail cancelling any matches owing to lack of transport. So we can consider ourselves as fortunate. The future depends on our ability to meet in the right spirit such vicissitudes as may come.

If there is little to chronicle on the home front this is not true of those who have left us. The Old Boys' Notes contain such news as we have to date of Rendcombians who are serving their country in one way and another. There are various government restrictions in the way of publishing such facts in detail, *but we do ask Old Boys to keep us posted as regards their activities*. The Magazine can form an important link in this matter and we want it to be a record of what Rendcomb is doing, in the widest sense of that word.

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Various improvements were effected during the summer holidays. A new Aga cooker has been installed, and we were lucky to get this done in time. The increase in our numbers has for long been taxing our kitchen capacity to the utmost.

The oak panelling in the Dining Hall has been oiled. This has given it a most attractive surface, darker in tone and one that brings out to the full the quality of the grain. At the same time, as a gift from Mrs. Wills, the doors on the ground floor have had their paint removed, revealing them for what they are—very fine pieces of mahogany, which it was an act of Victorian vandalism to obscure. We are most grateful to her.

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The increase of numbers in the Sixth Form, together with the abandonment of the scheme for new studies, has led to the passing of the Quiet Room. It is a pity but it just could not be helped.

In spite of the re-arrangement of tables in the Dining Hall, it was clear that sooner or later we should have to overflow somewhere. The domestic staff have kindly relinquished the use of their dining room. This is now used at breakfast and luncheon. The innovation is popular and has added greatly to our comfort.

We have reverted to the old custom of a sung grace at hall dinner. The matter was put to a vote and carried by a slender majority. It might be a good thing if we could find new words and music.

Two new members have joined the Staff at the beginning of term. Both hail from Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Mr. J. G. Young comes to us from Trinity College, Kandy, to take Mr. Gross's place, and Mr. F. C. Coleman from Heath School, Halifax, has succeeded Mr. Mack.

Under Mr. Coleman's supervision, the new Hobbies Room has been taking shape rapidly. A model railway has been laid out on a continuous circular track round the walls, and the aeroplane builders continue their operations unabated.

We have embarked on the new venture of poultry keeping. Fifty pedigree Rhode Island Reds were acquired from the farm at the Royal Agricultural College, and have been installed in a hen-run constructed in the orchard. Mr. Neal is O. C. and his fowl squad or poultrymen are Smith, A. S. C.; Levett, P.; Harben; Morris, A. W.; Palmer and Beck. The achievement of the thousandth egg is now a matter of ancient history.

E. B. Smith and J. R. Harmer might have been seen prowling round the grounds at odd hours with a stealthy look on their faces. There was no need for alarm. They were merely snaring rabbits—a new innovation, profitable alike to the lawns and the larder.

On the 28th September a large party, accompanied by the Headmaster and Mr. Wilson, went potato picking on the top of Aycot Hill. This was one of those things of which the Harber Brothers said at the Half-Term Concert, "It's taken the war to do that."

We congratulate Mr. and Mrs. James on the birth of a daughter (Katharine Hilary) on the 23rd September.

Owing to the difficulty and expense of rail and road transport, the customary half-term holiday had to be abandoned, and instead we took a single day off on Saturday, 4th November. In the evening there was a variety show.

Old Boys' Day took place on the 2nd December. There was the usual football match, followed by supper in the History Room.

As a result of war circumstances we were forced to abandon our Parents' Day party. The School plays were produced as usual, and the village attended.

Our own Christmas party took place on the 19th December. It was one of the best we remember. It was agreed on all hands that the Entertainments Committee excelled themselves. It is very hard to think of anything new, but an original note was struck by "The Green Bottle Night Club" decoration, and Harmer's melodrama and the variety show that accompanied it were really first-rate.

The following new boys entered college at the beginning of term: R. S. D. Balter, K. Banks, G. S. Davis, N. P. Elson, D. M. Grant, R. I. S. Hale, D. G. Knight, R. M. Lewis, I. S. Menzies, W. P. Thomas, J. M. Trickett, N. M. Wood, R. T. Wood.

To them we extend our *Salvete*.

HONOURS.

W. A. Wyon and P. H. Tuft have been awarded Open Scholarships in Natural Science.

Wyon goes as a scholar to Wadham College, Oxford, and Tuft to Emmanuel College, Cambridge. We congratulate them heartily on their successes.

THE GENERAL MEETING.

Officers, Lent Term 1940.

Chairman—A. S. C. Smith.

Council—W. A. Wyon, P. H. Tuft, D. F. Gallop, E. R. Morris, J. F. Spencer, A. S. C. Smith,
B. H. Harben.

Meeting Selection Committee—W. A. Wyon, P. H. Tuft, D. F. Gallop,
E. R. Morris, J. F. Spencer.

House Committee—E. B. Smith, M. C. Thompson, P. Binks, P. B. Lane, F. T. Luffman.

Games Committee—H. W. T. Bates, W. A. Wyon,
L. H. Hyett.

Games Treasurer—J. G. Sterry.

Games Secretary—S. A. Trayhurn.

Groundsman—J. F. Spencer.

Senior Shopman—P. G. Forrest.

Shopmen—A. R. Margetts, W. P. Thomas.

Banker—A. W. Morris.

Breakages Man—A. R. Margetts.

Secretary—S. A. Trayhurn.

Auditors—C. E. H. Tuck, J. Owen.

Apprentice Auditor—J. L. Russell.

Finance Committee—S. J. Curry, J. L. Russell, N. P. Morris.

Entertainments Committee—R. A. S. Primrose, C. D. M.
Barnett, R. T. Wood, N. C. Stone, W. P. Thomas.

Cycle Men—J. L. Russell, M. A. C. Levett, R. A. S. Primrose.

Paperman—D. G. Taylor.

Meeting Almoner—J. A. Cunnison.

Athletics Committee—H. W. T. Bates, L. H. Hyett, S. A. Trayhurn.

Record Committee—H. W. T. Bates, B. H. Harben, J. S. Spencer.

Amplifier Committee—F. H. Dutton, P. A. Cutts, M. A. Bullen,
J. F. Spencer, B. H. Harben.

Magazine Committee—E. R. Morris, J. R. Harmer, D. Montgomery.

Drying Room Committee—J. L. Russell, A. W. Morris, J. H. Quick.

Games Wardens—Football: M. C. Thompson.

Hockey: D. Montgomery, D. A. C. Smith, E. J. Powell.

Cricket: S. J. Curry.

Tennis: P. A. Herring.

Indoor: R. T. Wood, J. M. Faulks.

Tennis Groundsmen—J. G. Sterry, S. A. Trayhurn.

Lecture Committee—W. A. Wyon, P. H. Tuft, E. R. Morris,

B. H. Harben, J. R. Harmer.

Engagements' Man—J. Owen.

OLD BOYS' NOTES.

(To February 16th, 1940.)

R. A. T. J. Smelton has joined the Marines.

G. D. Buck is serving with the Worcestershire Regiment.

D. G. Morrison is with the Gloucestershire Hussars (Tanks).

P. J. Dyke is in the West Somerset Yeomanry, Field Battery R. A.

D. C. Vaughan, who was a Territorial (Royal Artillery), was mobilised on the outbreak of war. He has applied for a Commission in the Royal Engineers.

J. R. Bateman is a padre attached to the Royal Engineers.

Peter Field has joined the Royal Air Force.

Paul Elwell is at present an Instructor Pilot Officer, R. A. F. Voluntary Reserve. Previously he had been with various aircraft firms engaged in civil aviation.

R. M. Ingleton has joined the Marines.

Robert Campbell has registered under the Militia and is likely to get Air Force ground staff work.

Ken Noble is an R. A. F. Pilot Officer.

Douglas Haig has passed out of Cranwell.

Graeme Wilson is waiting to be called up by the R. N. Air Service.

John Collett joined the Territorials in September, 1938, but as he is working with a firm of Air Force contractors he has not yet been allowed to join his unit.

Mark Weaver is still in Egypt with the R. A. F.
Howard Miller is in the Artillery.

S. Boardman is a Lieutenant in the 59th (4th W. Lancs) Medium Regt. R. A. with the B. E. F.

C. E. Coles is a Signaller on H. M. S. Alcantara.

B. J. Brooks is a Sergeant in the R. A. F. with the B. E. F.

V. D. Page is a Sergeant Pilot under training, R. A. F.

E. Webster is a Corporal, R. A. F.

G. Wintle is a Private, I. T. C. Camp, near Chester.

C. Hartland is in the London Auxiliary Fire Service.

H. T. G. Price is in the Bristol Constabulary, River Section.

C. Sidgwick has applied for an appointment as a Voluntary Interpreter.

W. J. Harris is in the Ministry of Supplies, Chemical Defence Research Station (Physics Department).

H. J. Phillips, of the Northamptonshire Institute of Agriculture, is engaged in the training of the Women's Land Army.

R. G. Daubeny is in the Indian Political Service, at the British Consulate General, Bushire, Iran.

R. Brain has joined the Royal Artillery.

Peacock, Russell, Shield, Muirhead and Abbott have been instructed to carry on with their engineering studies.

A. E. Godsell and A. C. Major are engaged on agricultural work.

D. B. Haes and F. Nevel are carrying on with Betula Ltd., at present working on government orders.

G. Ash is boat-building at Lowestoft. His firm is busy with government contracts.

J. R. Wheeler, after his long illness, has returned to London University.

F. C. Ragatt is a member of the Cowbridge, Glam., U. D. C.

Dr. P. H. Wyon was married to Dr. May Mitchell on September 15th, at Roundhay Congregational Church, Leeds.

Dick Collett was married in September. We have no further details, except that he is still with his firm at Basingstoke.

J. F. Roper is working with Edmundson's Electricity Corporation in South Wales. His work is mainly concerned with the erection and maintenance of electric cables for a large area of the South Wales coalfield.

The Bishop of Gloucester has instituted H. H. Hook to the rectory of Wyck Rissington.

John Luton is working in the accounts office of the Parnell Aircraft Company, at Bristol.

Arthur Tenty is a junior clerk with Messrs. Mullins and Ellett, Solicitors, Cirencester.

Ronald Boyland is working with an oil firm which has evacuated to Cirencester.

E. R. S. Gillham is in the Reading University 1st Hockey XI, and R. L. Short in the 1st Soccer XI.

The following Old Boys were present at Old Boys' Day, on Saturday, 2nd December: J. R. Billany, R. H. Bettison, R. F. Boyland, D. Dakin, C. Eyles, E. R. S. Gillham, W. F. Jones, J. R. Luton, B. J. Meadows, O. G. Morel, B. H. Nawton, K. H. Noble, W. F. Smallwood, A. Smith, A. C. Wager and R. C. V. Waters.

The following were present at the Old Rendcombians' Dinner, held in London this term: A. R. Curtis, D. Dakin, M. H. Gleeson-White, D. Field, D. B. Haes, J. Lambert, C. W. Lee-Browne, J. E. Miller, F. Nevel, J. H. Simpson, D. Terrett, C. Sidgwick, A. Smith, D. C. Vaughan and L. B. White.

LECTURES.

Michaelmas Term, 1939.

Owing to the exigencies of space we are cutting our lecture reports to a few laconic notes. Our lecturers must not think they were any the less appreciated.

4th October—Mr. Grant on "The Far East." Possibly a little too much generalisation, but interesting in the light he threw on the Sino-Japanese conflict.

28th October—Mr. Shoran Singha on “India.” An inimitable lecture, illustrated by slides and full of the speaker’s personality.

9th November—Mr. Young on “Ceylon.” Based on his experiences there as master. A good talk, with some pleasing slides, especially those of mountain scenery.

10th November—W. Y. Willetts, O. R., on “Lapland and the Lapps.” Extremely objective, illustrated by his own slides and spiced with a dry humour. An example of masterly self-effacement.

15th November—R. C. Brain, O. R., on his work in the Public Health Department at the Shire Hall, Gloucester. He stood up without notes or slides and held us quite spellbound for a good hour. Humour and humanity. A real feat.

The English Classical Players this year performed “She Stoops to Conquer,” by Oliver Goldsmith. The production as a whole was not quite up to that of last year’s, but nevertheless it was very enjoyable. The change of scene between the two houses was sometimes a little confusing, only an ornament indicating the shift. The two leads were played admirably and the rest of the cast supported the play well. Perhaps next year a change of type of play would be welcome.

ACTING.

Michaelmas Term, 1939.

Half-Term Variety.

An impromptu variety show was got together for the evening of Half-Term. As such things go, it went well, and will be remembered for the first appearance of the Harber Brothers. This was the high spot of the evening. Other items included community singing, concerted music, a shadowgraph (this was suitably harrowing), “Chestnut Corner,” and, last but not least, the resourceful Mr. Alfred Wumbly.

It made a very agreeable end to the day’s holiday.

A Traveller Returns, by Clemence Dane.

The play was on the “ghost-returns-on-the-anniversary-of-the-crime” theme, the action taking place in “The Ship Ashore,” the landlord (N. C. Stone) being the dirty dog.

Stone was cunningly hearty, revealing only at the end his true evilness. Tom Dachtett, the innocent but suspected, was ably played by D. A. C. Smith, supported by W. A. J. Caverhill, the girl friend, who, with true womanly intuition, saw that he was all right and stuck by him. J. C. Beck and M. C. Thompson represented the Law, and P. B. Lane took the part of the boots. The ghost, D. G. Taylor, was in shadow all the time, but his voice was ghostlike, which was all that mattered. F. H. Dutton was the old village gaffer. It was a good play of its kind and the production was well up to standard.

Eldorado, by Bernard Gilbert.

This was one of the best one-act plays that we have seen here, for a long time. It is a short play that offers much scope, and each one of the small cast played his part with admirable skill and feeling. Mr. Wright deserves praise for an excellent production.

The play in itself is very amusing, and the acting of the persons concerned helped to make it first-class entertainment. From the moment Montgomery showed his head, he made a success of Widow Burrows. It was a pity that he wasn't sure of his words, for this detracted somewhat from an otherwise faultless performance. Trayhurn, as James Watson, was also very good; he found the part very congenial. Jackson was the rather noncommittal Henry Watson. He fitted into the picture exactly, as did Tuck, who played the rather smaller part of Betsy Watson.

The setting was simple and effective, and altogether the audience, which was in a very responsive frame of mind, was given no cause for complaint.

The Little Man, by John Galsworthy.

"The Little Man" is truly designated "a farcical morality" and the successful producer always keeps this fact before him.

H. S. Palmer, as the Little Man, played his part well and showed effective timidity and hesitation. P. A. Herring was highly successful and his American accent and garrulity were maintained throughout. No less appropriate was S. A. Trayhurn as the Prussian colonel. His build and military smartness were typical of a man who thought Don Quixote "sentimentalisch" and realized that "a man must push, he must pull." The part of the officious station official suited

M. H. F. Fischer; he spoke well though he might have been more insistent in his orders. B. H. Harben and C. D. M. Barnett, as the Englishman and his wife, preserved their insularity well, behind the pages of their newspapers, while W. P. Thomas showed the affection and agitation of the mother, well. The scenery was simple but the play lost none of its effectiveness on account of this.

The King Decides, by John Hampden.

The plot itself is slight—Christopher Columbus wants ships for a voyage, the King won't give them, but the Queen will and does. E. R. Morris, as Columbus, was good. He is always a reliable and careful actor. H. W. T. Bates gave a spirited performance of Don Rodriguez, who opposes Columbus's schemes. C. E. H. Tuck had little actual speaking to do, but, nevertheless, gave a good rendering as Queen Isabella. D. F. Gallop took the part of King Ferdinand, and E. B. Smith that of Quintanilla. P. D. B. Levett, as the Queen's confessor, had probably the most difficult part— he played it well. Baillie and Grant were the two pages.

The Horns of the Dilemma, by J. R. Harmer.

"The Horns of the Dilemma" or "How Hard is a Maiden's Choice" was written and produced by J. R. Harmer.

That in itself was a good thing, as one might say. But when you add to this the fact that the play itself was a slick and cunning invention, with little sign of the amateurish about it, then it is doubly remarkable.

We had here a fine burlesque of Victorian melodrama. The sub-title, the lover's name, Mr. Reginald Clifford- Stronge, that of the beleaguered damsel (maiden?), Mrs. Caroline Drew, all set the right note. The acting was pitched in a key of appropriate hyperbole. Here was passion torn to tatters to split the ears of the groundlings. The apparition of Master Clarence Drew, in long clothes just out of his pram, well o'erstepped the modesty of Nature. In short, all went merrily and everyone was amused. Please, Mr. Author, may we have some more?

The cast was as follows: Mrs. Caroline Drew (C. E. H. Tuck), Mr. Alfred Drew (S. H. Trayhurn), Master Clarence Drew (E. R. Morris), Mr. Reginald Clifford- Stronge (H. W. T. Bates), Mr. Arthur Shoram (B. H. Harben), Police Force (P. F. Gurdon).

The End-of-Term Variety.

This variety was voted by all who watched it to be one of the very best ever put on the Rendcomb stage. Its crowning virtue was that every item was the original composition and production of the committee themselves. The audience were treated to fifty minutes of humour and originality, and the smoothness with which act succeeded act did the producers every credit. We felt that this was a new departure, and one which it will be difficult to emulate.

The first item gave a representation of what an entertainments committee meeting is like. To those of us who have had experience it was startlingly true to life; here, indeed, we heard an occasional helpful suggestion lost in a maze of caustic remarks and destructive criticism. The one common point of grievance appeared to be the Rendcomb audience.

There followed an admirable Sherlock Holmes burlesque, entitled "The Bound of the Haskervilles," written by B. H. Harben. An aunt of Holmes' is murdered by her butler, after she has left all her money to him. Holmes is called in to investigate, and finds to his chagrin that his aunt has left him nothing in her will. The audience were then asked to spot the criminal's mistake a la Inspector Hornleigh. This did not prove difficult, as the butler confessed to his crime in so many words. The act was full of action and wit, and was much appreciated.

We then heard a recitation by Harben, entitled "The Lovesick Schoolboy," and some amusing verses on the staff, entitled "Ten Rendcomb Chaps," by E. R. Morris.

The last act was preceded by a short poem, entitled "Christmas Time," inimitably recited by J. R. Harmer.

The Puppet Play.

On the 18th November the puppeteers produced a drama in four scenes, entitled "The Bale of Hides."

The setting was an Eastern one, and gave scope for great charm of colour. There was a moonlit grove, the interior of a cobbler's shop, and a palace scene—all well contrasted.

The manipulation on the whole was good. The speaking was excellent, and, as always, the decoration and lighting effects were delightful. We still incline to the opinion that less dialogue and more grotesque action is what is really required from a puppet play.

The cast was as follows: Mejnun (R. E. Hayward), Jamila (N. M. Wood), Abdulla (F. J. Sime), Giafar (S. H. Groves), Hussien (Mr. Molineaux; Voice, R. T. Wood), Ali (R. S. Balter), Bacbouc (J. R. C. Baillie).

FOOTBALL.

Michaelmas Term, 1939.

We faced the football season this year with the usual misgivings. Apart from the expected transport difficulties, which fortunately did not upset our programme, we had the task of building up a team which lacked three outstanding players from last year. However, thanks to real enthusiasm throughout the School, this was not as difficult as had been expected, and, from practically every point of view, we had a most satisfactory season.

The 1st XI played seven matches, of which it won four, drew one and lost two.

Both our defeats were at the hands of Commonweal School, Swindon, and though we scarcely deserved to win, we were unfortunate in that on each occasion penalty goals decided the issue against us. We had two very enjoyable matches with Sir Thomas Rich's, Gloucester; their football was of a very similar character to our own, and the scores were truly indicative of the closeness of both games. Swindon College put up a much weaker opposition than we had become accustomed to expect from them, and we effected two very easy victories at their expense. The Old Boys' match was most enjoyable, without being outstanding as football.

The well-balanced nature of the team was its outstanding feature. Each person played an equal part in our successes, whereas in the past we have often relied on one or two persons of outstanding ability.

The defence presented few problems. Trayhurn in goal proved steady and reliable, saving very well on many occasions, although his punching clear was sometimes rather risky. Powell at left-back in the main fulfilled his promise of last year, but he is inclined to allow the few mistakes he does make, to affect his subsequent play. Spencer at right-back invariably served the team well, and got better as the term went on. The half-backs, Wyon, Hyett and Harmer, generally played constructively and well, though at times they lacked a little in imagination. Individually, there is little to report on them.

As usual, the forward line was our main problem. Harmer played centre-forward in the first two matches, but then returned to his real position as wing-half. We made several experiments, the inside-right and outside left berths being the only two that were consistently filled by the same players. Our final and most successful line was: Gallop, Sterry, Jackson, Morris (E. R.), Bates. Latterly they achieved a very fair measure of success.

Neads was a useful player, who, though he never kept a regular place, played very well in several positions when called upon.

Morris excelled in playing well up and finishing, rather than in setting the forward line in motion. Once in possession of the ball near goal, he was extraordinarily difficult to stop. It is difficult from this advanced position for a captain to exert influence over the team in the field, but he did what could be done by example. Off the field he worked hard at his job, showing much more interest in junior games than many recent captains.

The Average 15 Years XI was a strong one, including several members of the 1st XI. They had two keen and interesting games with Kingham Hill, the results being recorded below.

The Junior XI displayed much keenness and talent, and leaves us very hopeful about the future.

RESULTS.

1st XI.

September 30th—Swindon College, Away, Won 7—2.
October 14th—Commonweal, Home, Lost 3—4.
October 28th—Sir Thomas Rich's, Away, Draw 1—1.
November 18th—Commonweal, Away, Lost 1—2. November
25th—Sir Thomas Rich's, Home, Won 4—3. December 2nd—
Old Boys, Home, Won 3—1. December 9th—Swindon
College, Home, Won 5—1.

Average 15 Years XI.

October 7th—Kingham Hill, Home, Draw 2—2. November
9th—Kingham Hill, Away, Won 2—1.

Under 14½ XI.

October 19th—Sir Thomas Rich's, Home, Won 2—1.
November 30th—Sir Thomas Rich's, Away, Lost 2—3.