

RENDCOMB COLLEGE
MAGAZINE

Vol 8 No, 5

March, 1946

Rendcomb College Magazine

VOL. 8. No. 5.

MARCH, 1946.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Michaelmas Term, 1945.

The beginning of a new school year always provides considerable interest and the end of the War made this particularly true in September, 1945, when we returned with our thoughts directed towards the future. We at Rendcomb have not been affected by the War to the same extent as some schools and we are profoundly grateful for our good fortune. Yet we have inevitably suffered considerably. Shortage of staff, materials and equipment in almost every department, coupled with extra work caused by the abnormal conditions, has led to many of our pre-war activities being curtailed or completely dropped. Even now it is unwise to expect a speedy return to normal conditions; the transition period will almost certainly be long and difficult, but we can look forward to a gradual rebirth of what we have lost.

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Our thanks are once again due to the group who spent a week of the summer holidays cleaning in College. We hope that this will be nearly the last occasion on which such a service will be required.

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New boys arrived on Tuesday, September 18th, and Term began on the following day.

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Blackberrying expeditions were organised during the first week-end of term, and the gathering of several hundred pounds of fruit did much to ensure an adequate jam ration for the rest of the year.

The Harvest Festival was celebrated in Rendcomb Church on Sunday, October 7th.

On Saturday, October 27th, a play entitled "Q: a Psychic Pstory of the Psupernatural," was presented in Big School, and on the following Saturday evening we saw two more plays: "Harris v. Snagglesworth" and G. B. Shaw's "Village Wooing,"

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Captain J. D. Daintree gave a very interesting lecture on "Life Saving" in Big School at 8 p. m. on Monday, November 5th, followed by a demonstration in the Gymnasium next morning.

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On Wednesday, November 21st, the Rendcomb Puppet Players presented "Midsummer Madness." •

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A School Music Making was held in the Music Room on Sunday, December 9th.

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A Carol Service was given in Rendcomb Church on Sunday, December 16th. By now we have come to look forward every year to this service, and as usual it was very much enjoyed by all.

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The College Party was held on the last Monday of Term and proved very successful indeed. As usual we were very pleased to welcome many of our friends from the village.

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We congratulate R. G. Lawrence on passing 2nd into H. M. S. "Conway" at the 1945 autumn examination.

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R. E. Hayward, J. M. Faulks and M. O. Harries passed the November 1945 London Intermediate B. Sc. (Engineering) examination.

We are grateful to Francis Nevel, O. R., for the gift of a number of microscope slides, which will be a valuable addition to the Laboratory.

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We were pleased to receive visits from Mrs. Manifold, and Mr. and Mrs. Fell during the term.

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We welcome Mr. R. M. Thackeray who has come to take charge of Latin.

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We all felt a sense of personal loss at the end of Term, when Mr. A. G. G. Richards and Mr. E. G. Neal left to take up new posts at East Cowes Building School and Taunton School respectively.

Mr. Richards was with us for fourteen years, first in charge of Mathematics and latterly of Physics. He was also in charge of Athletics and Physical Training and devoted much of his time to helping with Games. Acting ranked high among his interests and he made many welcome appearances on the Rendcomb stage. During the War he became an officer in the Cirencester and District Air Training Corps and ran the College Section.

Mr. Neal spent eleven years at Rendcomb as Biology Master and gained a distinguished record of University scholarship successes. He too was an active figure on the Games Field, but it is for his keen interest in Natural History that we shall remember him most, especially in connection with his work on badgers. We shall also remember the many magnificent photographs which he took of natural scenes and life in the Cotswolds, During the War he undertook the exacting tasks of running the College Vegetable Field and looking after the hens. He was Superintendent Rescue, Cirencester Civil Defence Unit, and also organised the College First Aid and A. R. P. exercises.

We could considerably extend the list of their interests and activities, but it would be a barren task, for it is not mainly for these that we shall miss them; rather it is for themselves. They had been with us for so long that it had become difficult to picture Rendcomb without them; and we realised this all the more clearly when we learned that, by an unfortunate coincidence, they were to leave together. We wish them both every success and happiness in their new spheres.

We extend a warm welcome to Mr. Walter Telling and Mr. Jack Kendrick who returned from the war to the College outside staff in September and December respectively. The former was a Sergeant in the R. A. F. and the latter a Staff-Sergeant in the Glider Pilot Regiment.

Our best wishes go with Mr. Walter Gegg who, after 16 years service, left the College on his marriage in November. He has gone to a job where a house is provided, it having proved impossible to find one for him in the village. He received a set of carvers from the General Meeting and we wish him every happiness. At his wedding the College bell ringers rang a Touch of Rounds alternating at intervals with Firing of the bells.

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We welcome the following boys who entered College at the beginning of Term: J. S. Gill, P. D. Quick, D. G. Milligan, C. C. Morton, R. W. Muchamore, M. D. Rayner, S. F. G. Richards, D. G. Vaisey, N. H. Walter.

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The following boys left College at the end of Term: R. E. Hayward, J. M. Trickett, R. G. Lawrence. They take with them our best wishes.

THE GENERAL MEETING

Easter Term, 1946 Chairman—J. W. Sumsion.

Council—R. T. Wood, J. M. Faulks, S. H. Groves, M. C. Harries,

D. G. Knight, J. W. Sumsion, J. M. Henshaw.

Selection Committee—R. T. Wood, S. H. Groves, J. W. Sumsion, G. S.

Davis, J. M. Henshaw.

House Committee—H. A. G. Hartley, J. S. Gill, R. Margetts,

E. Davis, P. D. Quick, R. Gready.

Games Committee—J. M. Henshaw, G. H. Bye, J. D. M. Smith, C. B. Lane,

M. C. Harries.

Senior Shopman—G. S. Davis.

Shopmen—J. C. Waterton, E. Davis.
Banker—R. J. Kendal.
Apprentice Banker—R. K. G. Bick.
Breakages Man—J. D. M. Smith.
Secretary—M. B. Shephard.
Auditors—T. R. Morris, M. J. Morgan.
Apprentice Auditors—K. M. Shephard, D. J. Harris.
Finance Committee—C. J. Brisley, R. J. van den Driessche,
E. F. P. Topps.
Entertainments Committee—D. G. Knight, P. W. Sumsion, J. S. Gill, E.
Davis, E. F. P. Toffs.
Cycle Men—E. A. Jones, D. J. Payne, P. H. S. Harris.
Meeting Almoner—G. H. Bye.
Paper Man—A. M. Cookson.
Amplifier Committee—M. R. F. Butlin, G. S. Davis, T. T. Walters M. J.
Morgan, P. G. Cockell.
Magazine Committee—P. S. W. Beck, E. A. Jones, M. B. Shephard.
Drying Room Committee—R. J. Kendal, M. D. Robinson, J. D. Gill.
Record Committee—M. R. F. Butlin, J. W. Sumsion, C. M. Carus-
Wilson, P. W. Sumsion, J. D. Draper.
Salvage Organiser—P. S. W. Beck.
Salvage Committee—A. M. Cookson, R. W. Smith.
Public Work Man—M. C. Harries.
Trappers—D. J. Payne, F. D. Humphris.
Mowing Man—T. T. Walters.
Assistant Mowing Man—J. D. Draper.
Games Secretaries: Hockey, G. H. Bye; Football, E. A. Jones; Cricket, P.
W. Sumsion.

Games Wardens: Hockey, J. A. Barclay, H. A. G. Hartley; Cricket, H. A. G. Hartley; Tennis, R. M. Lewis; Football, P. H. S. Harris; Indoor, B. G. H. Levers, C. P. Cookson.

Groundsmen: Hockey, P. W. Sumsion; Cricket, G. H. Bye; Tennis, D. J. Payne, R. Margetts; Golf, P. W. Sumsion.

OLD BOYS' NOTES

Roll of Honour

We regret to record that R. M. Ingleton died in Singapore in July 1945. Engaged in a secret operation against the Japanese, he was taken prisoner in October 1944, and killed by them eight months later. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife, mother and baby daughter. Ingleton was at Rendcomb from May 1930 to July 1936, when he joined his Grandfather, an architect, as an articled pupil.

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E. J. Miller is now a Captain in the 5th Indian Field Regt. R. I. A.

I. M. Bruce is now in the Navy.

J. R. H. Thornhill has been in the R. A. F. almost throughout the war. By the time this is published, he will have been demobilised, and will have returned to his work as a tea and rubber planter in Ceylon. His address: [REDACTED], Ceylon.

A. W. F. Abbot is a Flight-Lieutenant in the R. A. F.

A. D. Thomas has been in the R. A. F. for most of the war and hopes shortly to return to his job as a Public Librarian. He has a wife and son and his address is: [REDACTED], Birmingham 32.

C. G. V. Taylor is on the staff of Thetford Grammar School.

The following Old Boys visited the College during the Autumn Term: V. D. Page, A. E. A. Brain, A. W. Morris, J. P. Amsden (and Mrs. Amsden), C. E. H. Tuck, M. H. F. Fisher, G. J. Ash, W. A. J. Caverhill, D. A. C. Smith, P. Binks, D. Dakin, D. Hill, R. Brain, E. R. S. Gillham, M. C. Russell.

ACTING.

“Q: A PSCHYIC PSTORY OF THE PSUPERNATURAL.”

Produced on October 27th.

This play, which must be considered a success, centred round a most delightfully stupid old cronie, who was drawing £1,200 a year as Chief Inspector of Returned Empties. During the course of the action he is relieved of £100 by his polite host and is himself delighted at the loss! Any such person is immediately a curiosity, a sincere fool, and our incredulity was further increased by the very humorous mimicry of D. G. Knight.

His partner in this transaction was played by G. S. Davis in his all too usual role of a young man about town. His was a polished performance but somewhat lacking in originality. On these two characters the main part of the play depended, and the indifferent acting of the other two did not seriously impair the general humour of the piece. Such comedy will always be welcome and this performance was uproariously funny.

The cast was as follows: —

Blight, a butler	R. M. Lewis
Dora Dneiper, a lady of the chorus...	K. J. Hanney
Jack Analic, a dilettante	G. S. Davis
George Gnoof, a civil servant and amateur spiritualist	D. G. Knight

VILLAGE WOOING.

Produced on November 3rd.

This conversation piece by George Bernard Shaw was perhaps a little difficult for the junior and middle school, but we were very glad to see once again on the Rendcomb stage acting of such a high standard as that attained by Mrs. Lee-Browne and Mr. Molineaux.

“HARRIS v. SNAGGLESMITH”

Produced on November 3rd.

A group of actors mostly new to the Rendcomb stage made a determined effort to extract the most from this rather uninteresting court scene. Perhaps the extreme triviality is intentional, but in this production it produced more the effect of boredom than farce.

In places the situations were amusing and the humour was unspoilt by over-acting; but on the whole the comedy was not sustained and the ending far from effective.

The best individual acting was D. Henshaw's broad characterisation of the prosecuting counsel. R. J. Kendal made a very natural, bright and impertinent schoolboy, while J. A. Barclay and P. W. Sumsion played the other main roles with competence.

In general, while the speaking was excellent, the dialogue tended to hang fire; there was no action to speak of and consequently there were some dull spots. But the acting undoubtedly showed promise and we hope that some of these actors may devote their energies to more satisfactory and substantial drama in the future:

The cast was as follows -

Policeman	W. S. Monroe
Judge	J. A. Barclay
Clerk	A. M. Cookson
Counsel for Prosecution	D. Henshaw
Counsel for Defence	P. W. Sumsion
John Snagglesmith	M. D. Robinson
Peter Harris	R. J. Kendal
Members of the Jury.	

COLLEGE PARTY ACTING.

"The Rehearsal," by Maurice Baring. A rehearsal of Macbeth is taking place at the Globe Theatre in about 1600. There is continual bickering between all concerned, and both Mr. Hughes and Mr. Burbage in particular display an increasing aptitude for play-writing. This frays the tempers of author and producer, who finally give up in despair. The jokes were well put over, but a more intimate knowledge of the original play was needed by the audience.

"The Refund," by Fritz Karinthy. The scene is in a German High School in 1930, where an old boy (Herr Wasserkoff) is demanding a refund, as he is not satisfied with his education. After being asked a number of ridiculous questions, the Mathematics master asks him to solve a very deep problem, which he does incorrectly. He is then asked what refund he expects. He answers this with no trouble at all, and is therefore considered to be sufficiently educated,

and is shown the door. The farcical questions were very amusingly played, but the German accent on the part of the Principal, although well done was, in our opinion, a mistake.

Sketch. This, like most skits on Rendcomb, was greatly appreciated. It depicted an N. T. P. in Saul's Hall, where "work" was being done. A gentleman, the Principal, we think, walked through, smoking a pipe, and made an appropriate retort. Its length was perfect, and the disclosure of a "pin-up" on a drawing board added a finishing touch to a very amusing sketch.

THE PUPPETEERS.

"Midsummer Madness." On Wednesday, November 21st, the Rendcomb Puppet Players presented a fantasy entitled "Midsummer Madness." The cast was as follows:

Aunt Matilda	E. F. P. Topps
Mr. Finton ffoulks	P. G. Cockell
Mr. Grimthorne	K. M. Shepheard
Constable	R. K. G. Bick
Yokel	B. G. H. Levers
Angela	P. J. Ryman
Immortals	K. A. Statham, R. J. Kendal

This play was a little disappointing and one felt that it was slightly below the usual standard of performance. The story- centres round the ardent lover, Mr. Finton ffoulks and his less ardent beloved Angela. She is of fairy blood, and though she marries Mr. Finton ffoulks, her soul belongs to the fairies. The policeman and yokel provided a good comic touch.

SCHOOL MUSIC MAKING

December 9th, 1945

PROGRAMME:

1. The Orchestra. Violin Concerto in A minor, 1st Movement only. Solo Violin, R. T. Wood. Vivaldi.
2. Piano Solo. "Three Blind Mice," F. S. G. Richards.
3. Piano Solo. "Over the Hills," M. D. Robinson. McLachlan.

4. Cello Solo. "Tempo di Menuetto," J. Kitto. James Hook.
5. Piano Trio. "Ballata," C. J. Brisley; M. A. C.; C. B. Lane. Gurlitt.
6. Songs. "The Vagabond," "Bright is the Ring
of Words." Vaughan Williams.
Upper VI and VIA.
7. Piano Solo. "Petites Litanies de Jesu,"
C. M. Carus-Wilson Grovez.
8. The Orchestra. Tunes from Haydn: "Che Faro" Gluck.
Movement from Beethoven symphony.
9. Part Songs. "O who will o'er the Downs" de Pearsall.
"Old Mother Hubbard" Hely-Hutchinson.
The Choir.

THE COLLEGE PARTY

The party this year went well and everyone enjoyed it. The decorations were good, some paper lanterns giving a particularly pleasing effect. There was a small and interesting woodwork exhibition in the Small Classroom, and a Quiz in the Library. A prize for the most amusing headgear produced a large variety of "creations," some of them very entertaining.

Supper—a delightful occasion—was served in the dining room which was well decorated. A novel touch was provided by the large "Crackers" on each table containing small presents for everyone. After the usual toasts to the King and the Old Boys, we drank a farewell toast to Mr. Richards and Mr. Neal.

Supper was followed by dancing, and later by two short plays and a sketch, all ably acted by the End of Term Entertainments Committee and their aides. Of these, the sketch showing Rendcombian "at work" in Saul's Hall was most appreciated by the School.

After the plays came more dancing and refreshments. Dancing ended at 11:45, and to conclude the party Auld Lang Syne was sung round a bonfire at the junction of the drives.

Our warmest thanks and congratulations to all those who contributed to a very happy evening.

FOOTBALL REPORT

During this season we probably had fewer experienced or skilful players than at any time during the past ten years. This fact, coupled with the misfortune of having a number of 1st XI members “*off games*” resulted in a weak team which, however, grew stronger as the season progressed. Even though the results were poor, great enjoyment was derived from the matches and there was much enthusiasm. The last match played was the only occasion on which a full 1st XI turned out, and it really looked as if Rendcomb would win, the score being at one time 3—1 in our favour.

The composition of the XI varied a great deal throughout the season and few positions were held consistently by one player.

Davis G., as left back, used his good kicking and fair turn of speed to great advantage, his weakness being his unreliability. The left half, Menzies I. possessed a good tackle which was most successful, but his slowness was a great disadvantage and he should watch his positioning more carefully as he is inclined to lie too far up the field. Henshaw J. started the season as centre half, but tended to be too slow for the position and moved to right back, where he showed that his tackling and kicking could be put to good use.

Hale took over as centre half and in him the team had a good player; he was sure, and knew what he was doing. Owing to an accident, he only played in this position in the last two matches. As goalkeeper in the earlier part of the season, he played with great success. Sumsion P. played in goal when Hale was moved to centre half and showed considerable promise, but he must try to develop his kick, which is weak at present.

The forward line had very weak shooting power, which improved in the later matches. Smith J. D., on the left wing, and Jones as inside left were both promising players, and did yeoman service in the XI. The centre forward, Bye, used his power of dribbling well, but his shooting was weak, and he should concentrate on improving it. Gill, a newcomer, must learn to cut in when going down the wing as his centering is not as strong as it might be.

Harries, Hayward, Lane, Butler, Payne and Sumsion J. also played on one or more occasions.

As captain, Groves had a most difficult task and managed it very well. His own standard was much improved on last year, and there was a good spirit in the games: they were played with a

keenness which compared well with that of previous years when there was far more talent available. Groves very wisely interested himself in junior games which show considerable possibilities for the future.

1st XI RESULTS.

Oct. 6. Cirencester Grammar School (A). Drawn 2—2.

Oct. 13. Headlands Secondary School (H). Lost 7—0.

Oct. 20. Hanley Castle (H). Lost 8—1.

Nov. 3. Cotswold School (A). Lost 5—0.

Nov. 10. Cotswold School (H). Lost 6—3.

Nov. 24. Cirencester Grammar School (H). Lost 5—1.

Dec. 1. Sir Thomas Riches (H). Lost 5—3.

JUNIOR XI RESULTS.

Oct. 27. Sir Thomas Riches (H). Lost 5—2.

Nov. 24. Cirencester G. S. Juniors (A). Lost 2—0.

Dec. 8. Cirencester G. S. Juniors (H). Drawn 2—2.

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 pupiları,” of adults or of enthusiasts, differ widely from each other.