

**Misericordias
Domini**



**in aeternum
cantabo**

THE ABINGDONIAN

Christmas Term, 1940.

No. 30

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No. 30. Vol. VII.

CHRISTMAS TERM, 1940.

Price 1s.

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EDITORIAL.

With this number, Volume VII of the Abingdonian is completed, and also though for other reasons, this is the last issue for which the present editor will be responsible. Having started his editorial career with the first number of this volume, he can now look back on ten years work with some pleasure but less satisfaction. All too often he has had to agree with the critics who complained that the magazine was little more than a record of sport and other school activities—without perhaps realising how valuable such a record is on countless occasions,—but it is an unhappy fact that there have been far too few purely literary contributions. They have come in by fits and starts, usually under pressure, but a steady stream is wanted, far more than can be published; and contributors must not be disheartened if their first efforts do not

reach print. So, in handing over to his successor, with his best wishes for a more flourishing production than ever, the Editor takes his leave, with sincere thanks to all who have eased his labours, and a final appeal for more and better articles, which will show that the School is as vigorous intellectually as it is physically.

SCHOOL NOTES.

The Christmas Term brought with it a large influx of new boys, and with only the normal number leaving, our numbers soared to nearly 200. The technique of procedure during Alerts was successfully mastered and prep in the Gym became quite a regular institution. Petrol economy prevented many away matches being played, and so we might say that we have had our Alarums without Excursions.

At the end of the term two members of the Staff took their leave. Mr. Martin has gone to join an O.T.U. and we sincerely hope that it will not be many months before we welcome him back. Mr. Matthews after a short but active stay here, has gone back to his old School, Uppingham. His cheery personality and enthusiastic part in all the School activities will be much missed.

The School Officers for the term were:— Captain of the School and Head of the House: H. J. Clarke. School Prefects: H. G. Elphick, (Waste Court), E. O. Jones, T. J. Foy, G. D. Wells, J. M. Leftwich, B. Arundale, G. H. Lewington. Sub-Prefects: M. Hedger, A. C. Randle, A. L. Leigh, G. E. T. Trudgian, P. D. Anag, J. A. D. Cox and J. E. G. Davies.

Captain of Rugger: H. J. Clarke.

Hon. Sec of Games: B. Arundale.

School Librarians: R. D. Gibaud, G. E. T. Trudgian.

The following were awarded Rugger Colours: 1st XV Colours: G. D. Wells, H. G. Elphick, G. E. T. Trudgian, G. Farnsworth and J. M. Leftwich.

2nd XV Colours: A. L. Leigh, G. Hill, E. O. Jones, M. Hedger, A. C. Randle, J. E. G. Davies, I. S. Holland, R. W. F. C. Westgate and R. E. Dew.

The Lin Cup for Senior House Rugger was won by Red House and the Robinson Cup for Juniors by Red House also.

The following boys were awarded Certificates in the July examinations: Higher School Certificate. Classics: E. O. Jones. Physics and Chemistry: A. H. Morser, with distinction in Chemistry. W. J. Eeles passed in Physics and Chemistry.

School Certificate: P. D. Anag, T. V. Bowditch, P. Carter, N. D. B. Corby, J. A. D. Cox, A. L. Crowe, K. Donkin, R. D. Gibaud, E. G. Gibbs, C. R. T. Heard, G. Hill, P. F. Leach, A. L. Leigh, E. R. Leigh-Parkin, J. R. Owen, A. C. Randle, K. T. B. Sayer, W. Schafer, J.

L. Taylor, G. E. T. Trudgian, G. D. Wells, D. R. A. Whidborne.

In the December examination A. L. Crowe gained exemption from Matriculation and J. E. G. Davies passed.

The following supplementary Certificates were gained, Credit in English Language, N. D. B. Corby; in Physics, H. G. Elphick, M. Hedger; in Chemistry, M. Hedger.

The following boys were confirmed by the Bishop of Dorchester in the School Chapel on Sunday, December 1st.: H. J. Clarke, E. G. Gibbs, N. D. B. Corby, W. G. Bradfield, R. J. Frearson, A. E. Carter, D. O. Wilks, W. D. Richardson, D. G. Butler, M. F. C. Brook, P. Hicks, C. B. F. Milne, M. G. H. Holt, P. A. S. Scott, R. F. Payton, J. R. Young, J. McMahon, J. C. Cantle, J. A. C. Barnes, C. F. Trevor, C. V. Stone, A. J. Boulton, B. C. Jakeman and A. B. Beadle.

We have to thank Mr. P. H. Horwood for presenting to the School a framed replica of Magna Charta.

The Easter Term begins on Tuesday, January 14th, boarders returning on the previous day and ends on Tuesday, March 25th, boarders leaving on the following day.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following contemporaries: *The Aldenhamian*, *The Bloxhamist*, *The City of Oxford School Magazine*, *The Laxtonian*, *The Leightonian*, *The Lily*, *The Log of the Nautical College*, *Pangbourne*, *The St. Edward's School Chronicle*, *The 'Worcester' Magazine*.

OBITUARY.

Raymond David Carter, died Sunday, Dec. 8th, aged 14 years 9 months.

Valeto.

Left, July 1940.

VI FORM. A. C. Dean (1935, ii). Captain of School and Head of House. O.S.C. 1936. Pembroke Scholarship (History). 1st XV Rugger 1935—39. Colours 1937, Captain 1939. 1st XI Cricket 1936—40. Colours 1938, Captain 1938—40. 1st IV Rowing 1938—40. Colours

1938, Captain 1939—40. Full Athletic Colours 1937. C.S.M. O.T.C. Cert. A. 1937. 1st Class Shot.

R. Hedger (1931, iii). School Prefect. O.S.C. 1936. H.S.C. 1937—39. 1st XV Rugger 1937—39. Colours 1938. 1st IV Rowing 1939. Marlow IV 1938—9. O.T.C. C.Q.M.S. Cert. A. 1937. Abingdonian Committee, Hon. Sec. and Treas. L.S.D.S.

J. G. Calvert-Fisher (1934, iii). School Prefect. O.S.C. 1938. 1st XV Rugger 1939. 2nd XV Colours 1939. O.T.C. C.Q.M.S. Cert. A. 1938.

W. J. Eeles (1933, iii). Sub-Prefect. O.S.C. 1937. 2nd XV Rugger 1939. 2nd XI Cricket 1939—40. Hockey XI 1939. O.T.C. Sgt. Cert. A. Part 1. 1939. 1st Class Shot.

J. A. M. Green (1934, iii). Sub-Prefect. O.S.C. 1938. 1st XV Rugger, 1939. 2nd XV Colours 1939. 1st XI Cricket 1939—40. 1st XI Colours 1939. Hockey XI 1939—40. O.T.C. L/Cpl. Cert. A. Part 1. 1940.

A. H. Morser (1936, iii). O.S.C. 1938. H.S.C. 1940. Hon. Treas. A.S.P.S.

P. R. Andrew (1940, i)

V FORM. P. F. Leach (1936, iii). O.S.C. 1940.

D. R. A. Whidbourne (1937, iii). O.S.C. 1940 1st Class Shot.

T. V. Bowditch (1933, ii). O.S.C. 1940. 2nd XI Cricket, 1940.

K. T. B. Sayer (1935, iii). O.S.C. 1940.

A. E. Robinson (1936, iii).

W. Schafer (1939, i). O.S.C. 1940.

R. H. Marshall (1936, ii). 2nd XV Rugger, 1939. 2nd XI Cricket, 1940.

IV FORM. P. J. Goodman (1939, iii). 2nd XI Cricket, 1940.

B. R. Woolfe (1935, ii).

P. A. Way (1936, ii).

REMOVE. J. H. Butler (1938 iii).

III FORM. A. P. Goodman (1939 iii). L. Cawthorne (1939 iii). N. J. Pryor (1938 ii). J. T. H. Disney (1939 ii).

II FORM. J. D. Lambourn (1938 iii).

Salvete.

(Came, September 1940).

V FORM. R. H. Wilsdon, J. Taglicht, M. F. Packer.

IV FORM. A. R. King, D. W. Twiggs, P. R. Butt, F. G. Smith.

REMOVE. R. Deval, T. W. Green, L. L. Lacey Johnson, M. S. S. Dennison, J. B. Hill, G. N. Gibbs.

III FORM. M. C. Oughton, V. E. Welch, J. Cowling, W. G. Pask, I. N. Kimbrey, M. D. White, R. A. Perry, P. G. Mingard, P. Hayter, E. G. B. Whitfield, D. E. Hammond, J. A. Rose, R. C. Odell, P. Coren.

II FORM. M. H. Jones, J. B. H. J. Aldiss, N. A. Parker, W. S. Ogden, G. M. Phipps, D. J. Wilsdon, T. W. J. Jordan, M. R. White, A. B. Beadle, T. S. Stimpson, M. L. Duro, D. A. Lethem, M. E. Faulkner, R. L. Pollard, M. D. A. Vickers, T. G. Woodburn, K. D. Willis, A. N. Tomlin, A. S. Harrex, C. R. W. Ewen, S. L. Green.

I FORM. A. E. Willson, C. Hilton, R. E. Faulkner, F. E. Beary, J. T. Cullen, H. R. Gibbs, D. B. Virgoe.

RUGGER, 1940.

This season both the number of matches played and the standard of play in those matches proved disappointing. Of the four matches which were eventually played only two produced anything approaching a good game of rugger, those being against Pembroke College and Magdalen College School, Oxford. However, there was every indication that the team would have greatly improved had there been more matches, as there was much individual talent to draw upon, and the season was brought to a triumphant, if premature, close with the game against our old friends and rivals Magdalen.

1st XV MATCHES.

v. Pembroke College, Oxford.

(Away). Lost 20—3.

At the kick-off it seemed as if the sides were evenly matched, but it soon became apparent that the Abingdon forwards were over-weighted by the Pembroke scrum, and all the Pembroke tries save one were scored from forward rushes.

In the second half the School rallied, scoring through Randle, who picked up the ball from the feet of the opposing forwards and broke through. After this the School lost ground badly and the game degenerated into a series of forward rushes by Pembroke, which the School were unable to check. A feature of this match was the resolute tackling of the School backs, but they missed several chances through uncertain handling and lack of backing up.

v. Southfield School. (Away).

Lost 15—6.

This match should have resulted in an Abingdon victory. After a good heel on the Southfield '25' Leftwich got over, and things looked bright for the School. Then the opposing backs pierced the Abingdon defence, and this was the turning point of the match. Play became very scrappy, and although Abingdon gained the ball in the set scrums almost without fail the uneven ground and Southfields' superiority in dribbling the loose ball combined to defeat the School. In the second half Farnsworth scored a well-directed penalty, but the whistle went before Abingdon could add to the score.

v. R.A.F. Abingdon. (Away).

Lost 45—0.

As the score indicates, this was a very uneven game and no comment is possible on the play. It suffices to say that the School team had some of the finer points of Rugby

demonstrated to them, and that after the match they were most hospitably entertained in the Mess, and were lucky enough to see an R.A.F. concert party rehearsing.

v. Magdalen College School, Oxford.

Home. Won 19—8.

In the opening stages of the game the School pressed hard and after several bright passing movements Leftwich scored a try which was not converted. Magdalen then attacked with some judicious kicking and scored two quick tries, converting one. Although Clarke scored, the School were lucky to change over only two points down; their play had become rather lifeless and at least two easy penalty kicks against them were missed. Early in the second half however, Farnsworth landed a magnificent penalty goal from well outside the '25', near the touch-line, and this altered the whole complexion of the game. The School outsiders were now more closely marked but the forwards regained their dash, and Arundale breaking away from loose scrums scored two tries which were converted. The School were still attacking when the whistle went for No side.

1st XV CHARACTERS.

H. J. CLARKE. (Capt.) 1st XV Colours 1939. Stand-off half. Set a fine example to the team by his all-round play. Very quick off the mark, and got back well in defence, with a good kick. A sound tackler. He and the team deserved a better season.

B. ARUNDALE. 1st XV Colours 1939. Wing forward. As scrum leader he played well throughout the season and ably led the pack. Through over-eagerness in attack he tended to get 'off-side' but in defence his tackling was invaluable.

G. D. WELLS. 1st XV Colours 1940. Centre threequarter. A fast threequarter who was capable of breaking through by himself once he got going. His tackling and kicking in defence was very good.

G. E. T. TRUDGIAN. 1st XV Colours 1940. Wing forward. A very energetic player whose work as a wing forward was a good example to the team. His tackling was excellent and he checked many opposing forward rushes by his courageous falling.

H. G. ELPHICK. 1st XV Colours 1940. Forward. On all occasions was enthusiastic and cheerful. He always had plenty of 'go' and never failed to be in front when a forward movement was started. Good in defence, he did much to keep up the spirit of the team.

G. FARNSWORTH. 1st XV Colours 1940. Forward. Though lacking speed he made up for it with his weight in the tight scrums. He kept going well and showed himself a capable tackler, besides being an accurate place-kicker.

J. M. LEFTWICH. 1st XV Colours 1940. Centre-threequarter. Except for rather uncertain handling he was a good player both in attack and defence.

A. L. LEIGH. 2nd XV Colours 1940. Wing three-quarter. Though lacking weight he acquitted himself well in all the matches. His kicking and handling could always be relied on. Should be good next season.

G. HILL. 2nd XV Colours 1940. Scrum-half. An excellent player whose snappy, accurate passing always enabled the three-quarter line to get moving quickly. Tackling good.

E. O. JONES. 2nd XV Colours 1940. Hooker. Proved a very satisfactory hooker towards the end of the season and could control the ball very well in the loose. His handling and tackling were rather uncertain.

M. HEDGER. 2nd XV Colours 1940. Forward. Started well at the beginning of the season as hooker but lost form towards the end. His tackling was a little weak but his handling and dribbling in the scrum were good.

A. C. RANDLE. 2nd XV Colours 1940. Forward. Played hard throughout the season but ought to have improved his tackling towards the end. Otherwise his play was up to standard.

R. W. F. C. WESTGATE. 2nd XV Colours 1940. Forward. An unfortunate leg injury prevented him from joining the team early in the season but he soon made up for this by very hard play and exceedingly good tackling.

I. S. HOLLAND. 2nd XV Colours 1940. Wing threequarter. Was very hard to stop once he got going and his speed made him a good wing player. His kicking and handling were reliable but his tackling as full-back at the beginning of the season could have been improved.

J. E. G. DAVIES. 2nd XV Colours 1940. Forward. A good and enthusiastic player but sometimes carried away by the excitement of the game. He would do well to remember that the referee's word is final.

R. E. DEW. 2nd XV Colours 1940. Full-back. Had his tackling been up to the standard of his kicking and handling he would have been an excellent full-back. With more practice at 'going low' he should be very good next year.

Second XV.

This season's 2nd XV deserves special mention as it won both the matches played. This was no doubt due to the sound play of the forwards, backed up by the dash and enterprise of the outsiders.

v. Southfields School. (Away).

Won 23—0.

The game took place in pouring rain, so most of the play fell to the forwards, who by having scrums and 'taking on' whenever possible, foiled Southfields' skilful soccer tactics. Holland and Dew deserve mention for the tries they scored.

Team: T. J. Foy; A. L. Leigh, P. Carter; R.W.F.C. Westgate; I. S. Holland; R. E. Dew; E. S. N. Hazel; E. O. Jones (Capt.); W. G. Bradfield; R. D. Gibaud; N. D. B. Corby; A. E. Carter; G. H. Lewington; W. D. Richardson and K. R. Sims.

v. Magdalen College School, Oxford.

Home. Won 18—6.

In spite of losing Cantle injured early in the game, the team played up well and shewed plenty of dash and spirit. The outsides did not make quite the most of their chances and once again it was the solid work of the forwards that won the game.

In this game M. Hedger (Capt.), R. C. Howell, J. A. D. Cox and J. C. Cantle took the places of E. O. Jones, R. W. F. C. Westgate, A. L. Leigh and R. E. Drew—all elevated to the 1st XV.

Under 15 XV.

The team was less successful than in previous years, mainly owing to lack of experience. There were few of last years team left and no outstanding players round whom to build a team of new recruits. The forwards improved much more than the outsides, who lacked both penetration and co-operation. Hayter was the only three-quarter who could be relied on to make ground but even his play was not constructive. Jones vi at outside half had a very good kick and though handicapped by lack of inches, was probably the best player in the side. Carter vi at scrum-half got the ball away fairly well but was weak in defence and spoiling. On the other hand the forwards played some good games—Cutteridge, Butler and Allum usually well to the fore in rushes, and most of the pack good at some time or another. At full-back Walters improved his catching and kicking considerably, but his tackling was more vigorous than effective.

The following played for the team:—

D. Hayter (Capt.), G. L. Jones, A. J. Walters, A. J. Burborough, P. H. Harris, J. L. Taylor, R. J. Frearson, D. G. Butler, P. R. Allum,

F. W. G. Carter, J. E. Cutteridge, P. S. Wilsdon, R. Grey, G. B. C. Myall, L. D. Parrott, F. G. Smith, R. I. W. Hadley.

Results were:—

v. Bloxham School. Home. Lost 5—23.

v. City of Oxford School. Home. Lost 6—9.

v. Magdalen College School, Oxford. Away. Lost 8—21.

THE HOME GUARD.

Of the many changes which the war has forced upon us, perhaps the most remarkable innovation is the formation of a platoon of the Home Guard. This stalwart band of democrats is accustomed to meet every ——— at — a.m. on ——— field. There it goes through a gruelling course of tactics guaranteed to baffle any Nazi genius in the event of an invasion.

Passers-by are apt to be completely mystified not to say alarmed, by two, three, or even four long-drawn-out moans on a motor horn. (Only very high officials in the Home Guard know the true significance of these signals). Little do the onlookers realise the tense crises that would arise if two 'pips' were sounded instead of three, or worse, one 'pip' instead of four! (Neither do they realise the fierce arguments which take place as to what is the right number of 'pips'). Incidentally, only those who have had intimate connection with a rather ancient motor horn will realise the difficulty of giving any definite signal on it, especially when harassed by a horde of excited 'enemy'.

Another cause of astonishment to the casual onlookers is a red flag which appears at intervals in odd places. To the uninformed eye it is merely a ragged square of red blanket tacked on to a long pole. But it is sufficient to make a conscientious parachutist halt in his tracks and cry 'Kamerad'!

Just when the onlooker is saying to himself 'Well I'm sure I only had one beer this morning' his doubts will be added to by a hail of tennis-balls. Little does he realise that these tennis-balls are only tennis-balls to civilians. To the knowing Home Guard they are bombs! Then there is a long blast on a whistle, and the invasion is over until next week.

H.G.

P.S.—Will all passers-by and onlookers please note that it is *very* disconcerting when they stop and stare at a perfectly camouflaged machine-gun post?

OF AN AIR RAID.

It was Mr. —'s prep. With a sudden crash the big schoolroom door flew open and 'Moaning Minnie' could be heard summoning us to another eight hours of agonising discomfort. So I wearily gathered up my books (and turned off the wireless). Suddenly a stentorian bellow echoed down the Study corridor, "Put out those lights". Then followed the long dark trek towards the Gym., colliding with many unrecognisable but not unfamiliar shapes (and forms.) Having picked myself up after a particularly painful encounter with a bucket (it was only later that I discovered its use) I arrived at the Gym breathing in short pants.

With commendable efficiency the M.O.D. (Master on Duty) had already filled up all the habitable portions of the Gym, so I sat on the piano, which gave rise to considerable discord. Some time later I was aroused from a gentle doze (I had been doing my French prep.) by the welcome cry "I'll take over while you have supper." I was bitterly disappointed when I found that I was not being addressed.!

It was now close on nine o'clock, and deathly silence reigned while the 'chargé d'affaires' vainly tried to 'pick up the news'. At last the unwilling portable, with many protesting wheezes and whistles, told us that 'there had been no enemy activity during the entire day.' After the News came recreation in the form of Chess and Strip-poker. I was just beginning to feel the cold when the welcome cry 'It's time to doss down now' stole softly to my ears. Then followed a mad scramble for a palliasse with *some* straw in it. As usual I was last in the scramble and got the palliasse which apparently contained the proverbial straw which broke the camel's back. Although dust from the straw was a pretty good substitute for the sandman's sand I was unable to follow the example of my bed-fellows. (I never did snore anyway).

Just as the ever-increasing crescendo of snores was becoming absolutely unbearable a new and more powerful instrument joined the orchestra. It was (as I then hoped) Moaning Minnie's Swan Song, for that night at least. But my hopes were vain. Scarcely had I settled into bed (it was 3 a.m.) when But you were all there so if you want any more you can write it yourself.

Deux Résignés.

THE REFORMER.

Am I always doomed to strive
For summits unattainable
Condemned from year to year to live
In agony unbearable?
What use to struggle up the slope
Of life? For me there is no hope.

Why can I never be content
As others were before me?
Will the harsh fates never relent,
To happiness restore me?
Weary, I struggle on my way
I scarcely see the light of day.

Yet, I am thankful for the muse
Which makes me discontented.
What if the gods ne'er did refuse
My wish? Would I, anointed
With the incense of delight
Be happy? No, I see the light
Of Freedom now obscured with veils of anguish,
While war is waged can any man escape its toils
And languish?

G.D.W.

?

I entered the study and laid it reverently on the table. It lay there, calm and serene amid the debris which surrounded it. It seemed to dominate the table, in fact, I might say that it dominated the room. As I sat in the chair it began to fascinate me. It takes a long time and much hard work to earn one of these, the sure sign of success and the achieving of an ambition. In some cases it is the symbol of power and authority. In the dead of winter when a mantle of white lies over the countryside it is the chief target of snowballs. Many a snowball fight has been started by it, and many illustrious people, whose only crime was that they possessed one of these, have been subjected to the rigours of snowy battle.

Nevertheless, it has its blessings as well as its drawbacks. It is the envy of those who do not possess one. Boys may come and boys may go but it goes on for ever. Men who have possessed one of these have gone out into the world and made history.

However, let us reflect that this—upon which the fate of nations may well have hung in the balance—is merely composed of a few strands of straw and a ribbon—in fact, my “basher.”

R.D.G.

RYE FARM ELMS.

(Felled 1940.)

The summer we shall find again,
But not the elms of Andersea
That could so proudly entertain
The summer. We shall find again
Elsewhere, the turtle's crooned refrain,
Bowers, that drench with melody
The summer, we shall find again—
But not the elms of Andersea.

O.J.C.

SPRING.

Firm and strong, stands Britain's fortified Isle,
Unmoved 'gainst every buffet of tyranny and hate.
Amidst the carnage and the strife,
London scarred, triumphant stands,
Proud in the glory of former years,
Stubborn monument for Democracy.
Life, Love and Laughter,
Of these hast thou had thy fill,
Thou did'st set great store by stately buildings,
Ageless symbols of stability,
Alas now swept away by the devil's whim,
While Hope with shining armour,
Undaunted, meets hell from heaven, unleashed;
Though winged destruction hovers o'er our heads,
Yet still stand Truth, and Courage,
And Beauty, with ramparts unassailable.

E.O.J.

THE RAG CONCERT.

The somewhat frequent and unpredictable attendance of all and sundry in the gymnasium at the call of the ‘wailer’ during the last few weeks of term, in addition to the other inconveniences of the war situation, made preparations for the Christmas Rag Concert somewhat a matter for contrivance and improvisation. Nevertheless we were able to stage some two and a half hours' entertainment which all who attended declared to be an unqualified success. True, we were unable to invite parents and friends, and the best that

could be done about the pillars and struts was to use them as the skeleton for our scheme of decoration; still, “a good time was had by all.”

A. C. Randle and G. E. T. Trudgian set the ball rolling with a good swing with their accordions, and the Lights department with their colourful beams lit up the proceedings from the word “go”. By way of contrast this item was followed by an arrangement for pianoforte duet of the Scherzo from the Eroica Symphony. Miss I. S. Peach and A. C. Randle were the performers.

Then we had the pleasing duet from the first act of “*Patience*” in which *Patience* and *Lady Angela* discuss the former's nursery romance. Mrs. Martin and Miss Peach sang the respective parts with much charm.

Next came a mime: “*A Spanish Tragedy*.” Here lively action and colourful costume lent animation to the scene. The part of hero, a wandering troubadour, was taken by G. Hill. His inamorata, J. W. Rayson, was unfortunately handicapped by a disapproving sire—R. C. Howell—whose paternal severity very truly precipitated a crisis. There were many comings and goings, ascents and descents of a make-believe tower, and a final climax. The actors disported themselves very effectively and with adequate abandon: their dresses were attractive, even if a purist might have contended that one was Catalanian, another Castilian, and the third Andalusian. The back-ground music was certainly Sevillian.

The following item was once more a performance on the pianoforte, this time by junior talent, M. H. Jones and W. S. Ogden. Each played a short solo, and then joined in a duet. Their pieces were effective and gave much pleasure. Mr. Martin followed next with a song, *The Vicar of Bray*, in which everyone joined in the chorus; as there were many verses—and a corresponding number of choruses—all enjoyed a good sing. After this came another musical item by H. G. Elphick and P. Hicks, the former armed with his harmonica, the latter with his ukelele. Further bedizened with costume, make-up, and coloured lights they presented several entertaining numbers, and occasionally giving us “the

vocal" they encouraged the audience to participate as well.

The next item was in the nature of a broad-cast drama. After the compère had 'tuned in' for us and got the interval signal, an announcer asked for the lights to be lowered so as to suggest the right atmosphere for the ensuing piece, whose setting was a London flat in darkness. *Reggie and Delia* (Mr. & Mrs. Martin) were just returning from a theatre and the lights refused to switch on. Soon they become convinced—at least Delia does—that there are burglars, in fact murderers, in the flat, and tension is high, particularly as Reggie is so fatuously unhelpful. After a shattering climax calm and composure were finally recovered, and the playlet ended on a high note. It gave a happy spice of variety to the programme.

Once more Gilbert and Sullivan supplied the material for the next songs which were given by Mr. Matthews. First came *The Nightmare Song* from *Iolanthe*, which is a tour de force of a patter song, but its difficulties were adroitly mastered and the words came over well. The "Little List" from *The Mikado* followed, but a new and original version of the words, of local and present application, had been composed by the singer and gave huge delight. As a final encore 'Til Willow' closed the set on a pseudo-sentimental note.

The next item was an unaccompanied quartet: Mrs. Martin, Miss Peach, Mr. Ingham and Mr. Alston. They sang the adventures of a curious quadruped "*Mary's Cat*," and by way of an encore recalled "*The History of a Lobster*."

The evening closed with a comedy: "*Mr. Pim*." The cast was as follows:—

Mr. Pim	A. C. Randle
Anne (the maid)	C. B. F. Milne
Dinah	A. L. Leigh
Brian Strange	G. D. Wells
Olivia	J. A. D. Cox
George Marden	R. D. Gibaud
Lady Marden	G. Farnsworth

Every praise is due to the mise-en-scène, which gave us a most beautifully laid-out drawing-room; and the production showed evidence of thought and care. The drolleries of the situation were well exploited by the actors who in varying ways established their individualities—the deliberate quaintness of Mr. Pim, the retiring coyness of the pretty Dinah. A special word of praise, however, must be given to J. A. D. Cox, who, as Olivia (a part, by the way, originally created by Irene Vanburgh), gave a most accomplished and self-assured performance, in which he was ably backed up by R. D. Gibaud as Mr. Marden. Thanks are due to the various people who helped in the production.

The whole programme was compèred competently by Mark Hedger; and H. J. Clarke, B. Arundale and G. Lewington ensured the smooth running of the whole machinery.

THE TRADERS.

From Sidon sail the laden ships o'er the great seas
With gold and ivory they make their way to Delos
Bathed in eternal calm, loved by the Gods, to see
The birth-place of Apollo and Artemis.
And thus while Xerxes sits upon his throne
Surrounded by peacocks, precious stones and gold
The sailors under the brazen skies, in galleys moan
For wives and children left in distant lands.
Ever they slaved for the base wealth of their King
Under a sun that burned their backs and eyes,
And after long ventures far away, homeward bring
Some hard-earned tribute to a thankless lord.

* * *

When the sun had set and the stars arose
And in weary sailors' eyes welled heartfelt tears
Yet still the snow-white sail fled like a full-blown rose
Before the slight gust of cool dewy rain.
And behold there comes the glorious dawn,
Great flecks of golden cloud spread o'er the sky
The bright glare flashed across the vast blue lawn,
Studded by snow-white gulls that ever cry.

* * *

The only sand that mighty Xerxes sees
Is red-stained with the honest captive blood
Of some poor victim who, on bended knee,
Vainly cries mercy from the wrath of Kings.
But when too old to plough the heaving sea,
The white-haired slave returns to home and wife
Each year he comes with cattle and with kind,
Tribute to the tormentor of his life.

P. H. H.

O.A. NOTES.**Births.**

LANSDOWN—On September 22nd, at a Nursing Home, Gerrard's Cross, Bucks, to Valerie, wife of H. R. Lansdown, a daughter, (Sarah Elizabeth).

D'ALMAINE—On October 6th, at 20 Chester Street, Edinburgh, to Margareta, wife of Lieut. H. R. d'Almaine, R.N., a daughter.

GLENNY—On October 10th, at Hunstanton, Waterlooville, Hants, to Cecily, wife of Francis B. Glenny, a daughter.

MORLEY—On December 11th, at Fulmer Chase, Slough, to Betty, widow of Major P. W. Morley (killed in action in May), a daughter.

COXETER—On December 18th, at the Warren Hospital, Abingdon, to Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Coxeter, a son.

WISEMAN—On January 13th, at Prior's Nursing Home, Leamington Spa, to Francine, wife of Capt. W. F. Wiseman, R.A.S.C., a son.

KITE—On February 24th, at Fulmer Chase Maternity Home, to Joan (née Woods), wife of Squadron Leader D. S. Kite, a daughter.

Marriages.

HILL—HAMLET.—In August, Peter J. Hill, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hill, of Hinckley, Leicestershire, to Peggy Hamlet, of Burbage, near Hinckley.

SUTTON-COULSON—HODDER.—On Nov. 2nd, at Ripponden, Yorkshire, Thomas Sutton-Coulson, Lieut., R.A.M.C., to Joyce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Hodder, of Pye Corner, Yeovil, Somerset.

WYKEHAM-MARTIN—NEALE.—On Jan. 25th, at St. Margaret's Church, Ilkley, Yorkshire, Eric Fairfax, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Wykeham-Martin, of 214 Beulah Hill, S.E. 19, to Evelyn Mary Clare, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Neale, of Blakeney, Horsa Sussex.

BOYD—BROWN.—On March 4th, at All Saints', Nottingham, George A. R. Boyd, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Boyd, of Chiswick, to Helen, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Brown, of Nottingham.

* * *

We were pleased as well as surprised to receive a card at Christmas from Mr. and Mrs. Bob (R. F. W.) Andrews (1935) and son. We had not previously heard that Bob was married. Their address in South Africa is c/o. B.S.A. Police, Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia.

We offer our very hearty congratulations to the Rev. T. M. Layng, C.F., M.B.E., M.C., (1906) on his appointment as a chaplain to the King. It will be recalled that Malcolm Layng, who had already won the M.C. in the last war, was awarded a bar thereto for his services at Dunkirk, which were described officially as "an inspiration to all."

Congratulations also to J. L. West (1903), who has been elected Mayor of Abingdon for the current year.

We congratulate J. F. Sinclair (1924) on his election to the Bengal Legislation Assembly as member for the Chittagong Division (European) constituency.

H. R. Lansdown (1927) has been working for the past two years and over as a technical officer (mechanical) in the London Fire Brigade, and recently, as may well be imagined, he has had a remarkably busy time of it. He writes with enthusiasm of the way the Brigade and A.F.S. have stood up to the work during the worst periods of the "Blitz".

Another busy O.A. "Blitz"-fighter (one of many, no doubt) is H. B. Healy (1931), of the London Gas-Light & Coke Company, who sends a most interesting account of the great work done by the Company's employees in combating the damage to the gas-supply, more especially through flooding of the mains.

Mr. R. C. Bateman has accepted the post of Senior English Master at the St. Albans County School.

Mr. W. G. Holmes is Acting Captain in the Durham Light Infantry, and is at present acting as an Instructor at an O.C.T.U.

A. J. K. Smith (1928) is employed upon research work at the Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. We much regret the disablement to his arm, which has proved a severe handicap at the outset of his career, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

2nd Lieut. H. H. Whitfield (1936) has been playing Rugger for the East Riding of Yorkshire, and was Garrison Rugby Officer to his station.

S. M. B. Lane (1939) has been working since last June as a trainee with Ilford Limited, photographic manufacturers, of Ilford, Essex.

Of those who have left in 1940—
W. R. Keen is taking an agricultural course at Reading University.

A. C. Dean is in residence at Pembroke College, Oxford.

W. J. Eeles is working in the Borough Council office in Abingdon.

A. H. Morser is training on the staff of the G.E.C.

E. G. Gibbs has a clerkship in the offices of the Oxfordshire County Council.

P. F. Leach is in his father's printing works in Abingdon.

W. Schafer has been doing some market garden work in Hertfordshire. He has also found time to contribute an article on "Pagan and Christian Drama" to the January number of *The Adelphi*.

D. R. A. Whidborne is helping his father on his dairy farm.

T. V. Bowditch is learning farming at home.

P. D. Anag is studying architecture in his father's office.

A. J. Boulton is helping his father in his business of glove-making.

P. A. Way has gone out to relatives in Canada, where he is a pupil at the Ravenscourt School, Winnipeg.

R. H. Marshall and B. R. Woolfe have joined their respective people in India, where they find themselves once again school-fellows—this time at the Bishop Cotton School, Simla.

O.A. WAR NEWS.

Casualties.

DARBISHIRE—Lost while returning from a raid over Germany on the night of 15th—16th December, when the plane in which he was serving as a wireless operator came down in the North Sea.

Peter O'Neill Darbshire was a boarder at the School House from 1927 to 1930, and shortly after leaving entered the business of Hotel management at the Park Gates Hotel, Eastbourne. In May 1939 he joined the R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve, and on the outbreak of war was called up for training as a wireless operator and machine-gunner. Posted subsequently to an operational station, he took part in about thirty bombing raids over France, Germany and Italy. Though a search was made, no trace was found of the plane in which he met his death, or of any of the crew.

Prisoner of War since June, 1940.

Lance-Corporal D. R. Thomas (1934), R.A.S.C.

Distinctions.

Sergeant N. C. Wood (1926), of the 1st Battalion, Nigeria Regiment, Royal West African Field Force, has been awarded the East African badge—a new decoration for these forces—for gallantry and efficiency in the field against the Italians last summer. Norman Wood had enlisted on the outbreak of war with the Rhodesian Field Force, part of which (he being one) was sent to Nigeria, where they

provided officers and N.C.O.s for the augmented West African Field Force. Later they were transferred to East Africa, where they were soon in action.

After a gallant and effective attack with a mortar upon a hill strongly held by the enemy, Norman succeeded, in face of superior numbers, in getting both his native soldiers and their mortar away in safety. Himself the last to leave, he was severely wounded in the thigh; but with the help of a native corporal, who returned with a field dressing, he managed to make his way through four miles of thick thorn, until they came across the K.A.R. whose doctor took charge of him. He was, of course invalided back to Rhodesia, and has been staying during his convalescence with his brother (K.T.) at Bulawayo.

Among the names brought to notice in the *London Gazette* for distinguished services in the field last summer is that of Major W. J. Cantell (1910), of the Royal Engineers. He had gone out to France with his regiment in September 1939, and was with them all through the campaign until the evacuation from Dunkirk in June. He now holds a staff appointment.

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Additions and corrections to Roll of Service.

Adams, A. R. M. (1935) Lieut., R.A.
 Bailey, H. B. (1939) R.A.F.
 Banes, N. J. (1928) R.N.
 Bayley, G. V. (1938) R.A.P.C.
 Brown, D. G. (1935) Capt., R.A.S.C.
 Brown, S. (1925) Gunner, Australian Imperial Forces.
 Carter, D. G. (1940) R.N.
 Cantell, W. J. (1910) Major, R.E.
 Coulson, T. S. (1932) Lieut., R.A.M.C.
 d'Almaine, H. R. (1929) Lieut., R.N.
 *Darbishire, P. O. (1930) Sergt. W.O., R.A.F.

Dean, F. G. D. (1939) Queen's Bays, O.C.T.U.
 Faulkner, H. B. (1933) Gunner, R.A.
 Fleet, A. L. (1934) Capt. R.M.
 Foy, T. J. (1940) R.A.F.
 Healy, D. E. (1931) P./O., R.A.F.
 Hendley, L. A. G. (1938) 70th (Y.S.) Bn., Beds & Herts Regt.
 Hicks, A. L. (1935) Gunner, R.A.
 Hill, A. F. (1930) R.N.
 Hill, P. J. (1936) 2nd Lieut., 8th Lancashire Fusiliers.
 Holmes, W. G. Acting Capt., Durham Light Infantry.
 James, G. J. (1937) R.A.F.
 Jones, J. C. T. (1931) 2nd Lieut., R.A.S.C.
 Jones, H. T. (1935) P./O., R.A.F.
 Kite, D. S. (1930) Squadron Leader, R.A.F.
 Kortright, J. C. H. (1932) Sub-Lieut., R.N. (Admiralty Repair Supervisor).
 Kortright, N. H. (1939) R.A.F.
 Lunghi, H. A. (1939) 2nd Lieut., Ulster S./L. Regt., R.A.
 Moss, G. S. (1939) L./Cpl., Buffs.
 Ownsworth, J. W. (1935) A/C., R.A.F.
 Powell, G. F. (1926) Flight-Lieut., R.A.F.
 Ronan, C. A. (1937) L./Cpl., Ox. & Bucks L.I.
 Rowlandson, P. E. (1922) Cpl., 7th Bn., Rifle Brigade.
 Simmonds, R. F. (1937) 2nd Lieut., King's Own Royal Regt.
 Sinclair, G. E. (1931) Lieut. Gold Coast Regt.
 Smeeth, E. H. (1921) Canadian Army.
 Sprules, M. (1938) Royal West Kents.
 Tinegate, E. (1924) 2nd Lieut., R.A.
 Wells, M. D. (1937) 2nd Lieut., Indian Army.
 Wheat, M. H. (1937) R.A.F.
 Whitfield, H. H. (1936) 2nd Lieut., Cameron Highlanders.
 Willis, D. O. (Staff) 2nd Lieut., R.A.
 Wiseman, W. F. (1929) Capt., R.A.S.C.
 Wood, J. D. (1926) Flight-Lieut., R.A.F.
 Wood, J. M. (1938) P./O., R.A.F.
 Wood, P. R. (1935) 2nd Lieut., Royal Tank Regt.
 Wooster, P. H. (1938) Royal Corps of Signals.