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Misericordias  
Domini



in aeternum  
cantabo

# THE ABINGDONIAN

Easter Term, 1941.

Vol. VIII. No. 1

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EASTER TERM, 1941.

Price 1s.

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## Calendar. Summer Term, 1941.

|       |          |                                                                                        |        |        |                                                                |
|-------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon.  | April 28 | Boarders return.                                                                       | Sat.   | „ 21   | 1st XI v. Bloxham School (H).<br>2nd XI v. Bloxham School (A). |
| Tues. | „ 29     | First Day of Term.                                                                     | Wed.   | „ 25   | Field Day.                                                     |
| Sat.  | May 17   | SCHOOL SPORTS.<br>2 p.m. Waste Court.                                                  | Sat.   | „ 28   | 2nd XI v. Leighton Park School (H)                             |
| Wed.  | „ 21     | Field Day.                                                                             | Thurs. | July 3 | O. Higher S.C. Examination starts                              |
| Tues. | „ 27     | R.N. (Special Entry) Examination<br>starts.                                            | Sat.   | „ 5    | Under 15 v. Magdalen C.S. Oxford<br>(H)                        |
| Sun.  | June 1   | Whit-Sunday.                                                                           | Thurs. | „ 10   | O. School C. starts.                                           |
| Sat.  | „ 7      | 1st XI v. Magdalen C.S. Oxford (A)<br>2nd XI v. Magdalen C.S. Oxford (H)               | Sat.   | „ 12   | Under 15 v. Bloxham School. (A)                                |
| Tues. | „ 10     | J.T.C. INSPECTION.                                                                     | Mon.   | „ 14   | School Examinations start.                                     |
| Wed.  | „ 11     | 1st XI v. Leighton Park School (A)<br>Under 15 v. Leighton Park<br>School (H).         | Wed.   | „ 16   | School Examinations end.                                       |
| Fri.  | „ 20     | FOUNDER'S DAY.<br>11.30 Service, St. Helen's Church<br>2.30 Regatta, School Boat House | Wed.   | „ 23   | O.H.S.C. & O.S.C. Exams. end.                                  |
|       |          |                                                                                        | Thurs. | „ 24   | Last Day of Term.                                              |
|       |          |                                                                                        | Fri.   | „ 25   | Boarders return Home.                                          |

**EDITORIAL.**

The dictum "Happy is the country that has no history" can be adapted to the history of Abingdon School, Easter Term, 1941. An Easter term has an atmosphere and a reputation of its own—not altogether a savoury one. This term however was on the whole uneventful and happy, as far as present conditions permit. But this very 'uneventfulness' was in some respects unique and is therefore worthy of chronicle. We did *not* have an epidemic; the weather did not interfere unduly with games; in a word, the term was blessedly uneventful.

This does not altogether apply to the Abingdonian. The retiring Editor, Mr. Duxbury, after ten years of wholehearted and unsparing work has brought Volume VII to a successful conclusion. He merits the gratitude of all Abingdonians, past and present. The new Editor takes over somewhat diffidently and presents to his readers Volume VIII, No. 1. Though a school magazine rightly takes little cognisance of the great world outside, yet before this volume is completed, its pages will reflect, by inference it may be but nevertheless unmistakably, the ordeals and sacrifices which must be endured as part of the cost, 'ere with God's help we can rejoice in the total extirpation of the Evil Thing through the triumph of the principles of Liberty and Right.

The School annals bring to our notice another event in the history of this magazine. In 'A History of Abingdon' by J. Townsend, O.A., Chapter IX, which deals with the School, we read 'In 1890 the Abingdonian was started.' The first issue appeared in December of that year. We could perhaps in happier times have celebrated this important milestone by the publication of a Jubilee number: but such a tantalising ambition cannot be entertained at present. The strict rationing of paper, increasing costs and the conditions occasioned by the exigencies of war not only make such a project impracticable but must also serve in part as a reason for the diminished size of the present issue. It is hoped that in future the Magazine will be published during the last week of the term from which it obtains its date.

**SCHOOL OFFICERS. EASTER TERM 1941.**

Captain of the School and Head of the House: H. J. Clarke.

**School Prefects...**

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| H. G. Elphick   | B. Arundale.    |
| (Waste Court).  | G. H. Lewington |
| E. O. Jones.    | M. Hedger.      |
| G. D. Wells.    |                 |
| J. M. Leftwich. |                 |

**Sub-Prefects.**

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| J. A. D. Cox.  | J. R. Owen.           |
| K. Donkin.     | A. C. Randle.         |
| I. S. Holland. | G. E. T. Trudgian.    |
| C. R. Howell.  | R. W. F. C. Westgate. |
| A. L. Leigh.   |                       |

Captain of Boats: H. J. Clarke.

Hon. Sec. of Games: B. Arundale.

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

**MAGAZINE COMMITTEE.**

Editor. Mr. Punton-Smith.

Hon. Treasurer. Mr. Ross-Barker.

Committee: E. O. Jones; K. G. Walker; M. Hedger; G. D. Wells.

**SCHOOL NOTES.**

We have had further opportunities of perfecting our 'Alert' technique, and the evolution of the Gym from a prep room to a reading room and thence to a dormitory is now a smooth-running performance. In fact, when the 'All Clear' sounds it is with the utmost reluctance that some of the recumbent figures forsake their boards for their beds.

We welcome two new members to the Staff. Mr. S. Punton-Smith, M.A., of Tonbridge School and late Scholar of Keble College, Oxford; and Mr. E. F. Lefeuvre, B.A., of Victoria College, Jersey and St. John's College, Oxford, who is a Soccer Blue.

We must congratulate A. C. Dean on his excellent performances at the University Sports this year. At the meeting between Oxford and Cambridge on the Iffley Road Track on March 8th, he, representing Oxford

as first string in Putting the Weight and second string in Throwing the Discus, won both these events. He won the former event with a putt of 39ft. 3½ins.; and the latter by the narrow margin of ½in. with a throw of 100ft. 10½ins.

We also congratulate E. O. Jones on being elected to the Pembroke Scholarship.

1st IV Rowing Colours were awarded to H. G. Elphick, A. C. Randle and G. E. T. Trudgian; 1st Coxing Colours to J. W. Rayson.

2nd IV Rowing Colours were awarded to C. B. F. Milne, M. Hedger, B. Arundale and W. D. Richardson. 2nd Coxing Colours to P. Anag.

Green House won the Bennett Cup.

The Miles were run on March 13th in Waste Court. Blue House was successful in winning both Senior and Junior races. P. Carter was first man home in the Senior race and G. B. C. Myall in the Junior.

The Bayley Cup for Junior House Rugger was won comfortably by Blue House

It is worthy of mention that for the first time the Certificate 'A' examination was held at the School itself. This obviously served as an inspiration to the candidates. In December and March of the 30 entrants 27 were successful; this constitutes a record.

We were glad to welcome again Mrs. Gotch and her Trio on Saturday, March 22nd, who entertained us with a very enjoyable programme of Chamber music. We were particularly pleased that Mr. Ingham's charming 'Air in A' was again included in the programme.

The Chess Tournament was won by A. L. Leigh.

Our numbers for the Easter Term 1941 were 196.

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*.

#### Valeto.

Left, December 1940.

VIIth Form. T. J. Foy (1936, i). School Prefect. 2nd XV Rugger 1939—40. 1st XI Cricket, 1940, 2nd XI Colours. Full Athletic Colours 1939. Hockey XI 1939. O.T.C. L/Cpl.

P. D. Anag (1938, ii). Sub-Prefect. O.S.C. 1940. Cert. 'A' 1940.

J. E. G. Davies (1935, i.—1938, ii, 1940, ii). Sub-Prefect. O.S.C. 1940. 1st XV Rugger, 1940. 2nd XV Colours, 1940. 2nd XI Cricket, 1940.

E. G. Gibbs (1936, iii). O.S.C. 1940. 1st XV Rugger 1940. 2nd XI Cricket, 1940.

A. L. Crowe (1939, ii). O.S.C. 1940. O.T.C. L/Cpl. Cert. 'A' 1940.

Vth Form. H. R. Wyatt (1934, ii). 1st XV Rugger, 1940. O.T.C. Cpl., Cert. 'A' Part I.

J. Taglicht (1940, iii).

IVth Form. A. A. H. MacDowell (1939, iii). P. R. Butt (1940, iii).

Remove. A. J. Boulton (1936, iii).

IIIrd Form. P. R. Sims (1938, iii). J. H. Cockburn (1936, iii).

IInd Form. R. H. Bolton (1940, ii). M. L. Duro (1940, iii). T. G. Woodburn (1940, iii). C. R. W. Ewen (1940, iii).

Ist Form. J. D. Leary (1940, i).

#### Salvete.

Came, January 1941.

IVth Form. F. Hesten, D. B. Ker.

Remove. A. G. Fowler, L. Vollasky.

IIIrd Form. H. J. F. King.

IInd Form. R. J. Pezaro, D. A. Estall, G. E. Ellis, J. W. E. Jenkin, E. Price, P. V. Aldiss, D. R. Barrett.

Ist Form. A. W. H. Rigott, A. F. Hayton, A. D. Turner, J. S. Draisey, M. D. Millichap, E. A. Urquhart.

#### Valets.

Left, March 1941

Vith Form. H. G. Elphick (1936, ii). School Prefect (Waste Court). O.S.C. 1939. 1st XV Rugger 1939—40. Colours 1940. 1st IV Rowing 1941, Colours 1941. J.T.C. Sergt. Cert. 'A' 1939. A.M.T. Home Guard.

G. H. Lewington (1932, iii.—1937, i, 1938, iii). School Prefect. 2nd XV Rugger 1939—40. Hockey XI 1940. J.T.C. L/Cpl. Cert. 'A' 1941. Home Guard.

G. D. Wells (1938, i). School Prefect. O.S.C. 1940. 1st XV Rugger 1939—40. Colours 1940. 1st XI Cricket 1939—40, Colours 1940. J.T.C. Sergt. Cert. 'A' 1939. 1st Class Shot, Home Guard. Abingdonian Committee, Play Reading Committee.

IVth Form. H. M. C. Mulkern (1939, iii). R. E. Dew (1935, iii). 1st XV Rugger 1940, 2nd XV Colours 1940. 2nd XI Cricket 1940. J.T.C. Cert. 'A' 1941. Home Guard. R. R. Varley (1938, iii).

Remove. R. F. Bedson (1940, ii). A. G. Fowler (1941, i).

#### ROWING.

Though both crews failed to win their only race against M.C.S. Oxford—the term's rowing was thoroughly enjoyable, and that in spite of very unfavourable conditions. More than once the river was in flood over its banks, which made efficient coaching impossible. We also felt that we had lost by the absence of any serious rowing last season, which meant that no-one in either crew had had any racing experience. To conclude the list of our handicaps, an examination kept Clarke out of the 1st crew for the whole of the last vital week before the race. This is not meant to disparage the success of our opponents, who had two good crews, but only to shew that with more normal conditions we could have made a better showing.

Actually the First Four were shaping very nicely at the time of the race, but were about a fortnight behind in their training. Individ-

ually they applied their work well, but they were not quite together, and had not time to work up to racing pitch.

The races were held on Wednesday, March 12th at Oxford. A medium to strong stream was running, but otherwise conditions were good. The School won the toss and of course took the towpath side. The start was fairly level but in the next minute Magdalen went away very fast and gained  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lengths in 30 strokes. The School kept going very steadily in discouraging circumstances as Magdalen continued to draw away, winning by about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lengths.

#### 1st IV.

A. C. Randle. Stroke 9st. 13lb. Filled the position very creditably. Had a nice rhythm, and could drive his crew hard without losing form.

H. G. Elphick. '3'. 10st. 10lb. A very hard worker with a long swing. Bladework rather erratic—inclined to go deep when shooting his slide.

H. J. Clarke (Captain). '2'. 10st. 0lb. A neat oar with plenty of work on his blade. Rather slow at the finish which made him late at a high rate of striking.

G. E. T. Trudgian. Bow. 10st. 9lb. Did more effective work than a bow usually manages. Bladework very fair, but body-swing might have been better.

J. W. Rayson. Cox. 8st. 5lb. Good voice, and generally steered well,—in the race very well. Shewed signs of appreciating the kind of help and advice the crew needed at a given moment.

The Second Four were unfortunate in having to change their stroke in the last week of training. Westgate having been prevented by doctor's orders from rowing, Milne, who was not fully trained for racing, came in at short notice to do his best, without sufficient opportunities of working up the uniformity of his crew.

Magdalen II won the toss, but Abingdon II got away to a very good start and succeeded in keeping ahead up to the New Cut. At this point they met the full force of the stream, and further handicapped by poor coxing were unable to maintain their lead. However, they carried on pluckily, to finish the course  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lengths behind their opponents.

## 2nd IV.

C. B. F. Milne. Stroke. 8st. 9lb. Rather slight build, but very game and lively. Has a fair notion of rhythm, and will improve with additional experience. His first efforts at racing were very meritorious.

M. Hedger. '3'. 9st. 9lb. A good 'trier', but rather an awkward finish. Apt to 'wash out', and rather short in the water.

B. Arundale. '2'. 12st. 0lb. Put up a better performance in the race than in practice. Rather slow with his hands. Should take more advantage of his reach and pay strict attention to time.

W. D. Richardson. Bow. 9st. 0lb. Worked hard. Prone to lie back too far, thus spoiling effective drive. Needs to learn to control his body swing and manage the hands neatly.

P. Anag. Cox. 6st. 10lb. Has much to learn about the art of coxing, both as regards steering and managing his crew.

## House Races.

In the races for the Bennett Cup, Green and Red put on Senior crews, and Red and Blue, Juniors. The course was from the Corporation Farm to Bottrell's boathouse.

## Senior Race.

Rowed in clinker fours, this was a very interesting and exciting struggle. On paper, Red looked a good deal the stronger but in the event were rather too vigorous and rough. Green rowed a fast stroke well together. It was a ding-dong struggle for most of the way each crew just showing in front, with Green finally winning by a  $\frac{1}{4}$  length.

Crews: Green. R. D. Gibaud, N. D. B. Corby, H. J. Clarke, A. C. Randle, Stroke; K. Donkin, Cox.

Red. M. Hedger, B. Arundale, G. E. T. Trudgian, H. G. Elphick, Stroke; P. Anag, Cox.

## Junior Race

Here Blue had quite a strong crew, but Red gave them a surprisingly good race and pushed them hard to half-way. Blue then drew away and won by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lengths.

Crews: Blue. M. G. H. Holt, J. W. Rayson, G. Hill, G. Farnsworth, Stroke; W. D. Richardson, Cox.

Red. R. E. Dew, T. W. Smith, D. W. Olliffe, P. Hicks, Stroke; C. B. F. Milne, Cox.

## HOCKEY.

The season was even shorter than usual this year owing to the bad weather in February, and consequently very little practice was possible. The practice games, however, if few in number, were keener and more interesting than usual, as there was more material available than in previous years, so that two fairly well matched sides could be put in the field.

As regards the selection of a team, the chief problem was to find an adequate half-back line. The forwards wanted this to bring out their attacking powers, especially after the departure of Wells, who at centre-forward had provided the requisite pace and dash. Unfortunately the half-backs combined better with the full-backs in defence than the forwards in attack. The effect of this was seen in two of the three matches played, when our forwards for long periods failed to attack at all, owing to lack of passes or poorly-placed passes from their halves.

The combination of Leigh and Cox on the right wing was the brightest feature of our attack. Leigh's clever stickwork and passing were largely responsible for this, but Cox co-operated well and put in many good centres. The difficult left-wing position was well filled by P. Carter, who however, was prevented by injuries from playing in two matches, his place being taken by Ball. This player has a good eye and should be good when he has curbed a tendency to wander. C. R. T. Heard at inside-left improved a lot especially in stickwork, but he hangs back too much and consequently is often not up to press home an attack. Aldworth is a player of promise rather than performance at present; he works hard, but lacks the speed and thrust which can be so devastating when aided by the well-placed through pass.

Bradfield played a sound if rather slow game at centre-half, his good eye enabling him to stop the ball if he could reach it; given time he placed his passes quite well. Of the other halves Leftwich worked hard and improved steadily; Petty was unreliable, alternating between sound constructive play and wild hitting, or rather missing.

E. O. Jones and Howell combined fairly effectively at full back. The former with

great determination and a good deal of success, but did not get enough length or power into his clearing hits. Howell improved his game as much as anybody in the team, tackling well and clearing with great power. They were actively backed up by A. E. Carter the goalkeeper, whose adventurous methods undoubtedly broke up many attacks but often left him badly out of position and unable to get back into goal to stop a simple shot. His kicking was very effective and his clearances at times spectacular.

In justice to the team it should be pointed out that with more practice many of their short-comings would certainly have disappeared. One cannot for example, expect a high standard of stickwork from a player with only one short season's play behind him. It is true to say that taking all the circumstances into account the team performed quite creditably. The first match against Jesus College Oxford was very even. The weather conditions were extremely wretched, yet we played as well as at any time during the season. Wantage School's hard-hitting methods upset our team at first, and we were two goals down at half-time: but there was no more scoring after the interval. We were unlucky to lose Aldworth soon after half-time in the game with the R.A.F. Abingdon, and our backs were unable to keep out their fast raiders; we did not lose heart, however, and were rewarded towards the end of the match by a goal which resulted from an attack admirably planned and executed by Leigh and Cox.

#### REPORTS ON MATCHES.

*v. Jesus College, Oxford, (Away). March 1st.*

This was the best match of the season, everybody working well together. We opened the scoring with a good shot from Leigh. The latter part of the first half was marred by pouring rain. Jesus scored twice before half-time.

During the second-half, continuous rain and a cold wind made conditions very bad. Jesus scored after a "scrum" in front of goal, but after that we attacked and Cox centred for Aldworth to score. After the game we were most hospitably entertained at Jesus College. Final score—School 2, Jesus College 3.

*v. Wantage School, (Home), March 5th.*

Wantage's skilful stickwork and hard hitting upset the School's play for most of the first half. Wantage attacked most of the time and scored two goals before half-time.

The School settled down in the second half, and good work by our defenders prevented any further score against us. Towards the end of the game, our forwards got going and attacked, but to no purpose. Result—School 0, Wantage 2.

*v. R.A.F. (Away), March 18th.*

The R.A.F. scored an early goal in the first few minutes. Play then became more even, although our opponents scored again just before half-time. Shortly after the re-start, Aldworth was injured and had to go off. The School were now improving and Carter 4 shot a foot wide from a penalty corner. Leigh eventually scored for us from a nice pass from Cox. Meanwhile the R.A.F. had scored three times more, making the score 5—1 against us.

The following played in the Hockey XI:—E. O. Jones, (Capt.); J. M. Leftwich; A. L. Leigh; J. A. D. Cox; R. C. Howell; C. R. T. Heard; P. Carter 4; W. G. Bradfield; A. E. Carter 5; R. E. Ball; E. H. Aldworth and J. C. Petty.

#### Under 15 XV Rugger.

*v. City of Oxford School, Saturday, Feb. 15th. (Home).*

This match was played in fine weather and resulted in a draw which fairly reflects the run of the game, each side scoring one try and one penalty goal. Result : 6 points all.

The following played for the team: Walters; Burborough 1, Harris, Hayter 1, (Capt.); Wilsdon, 1; Jones 6; Carter 6; Cutteridge, Butler, Frearson, Taylor, Parrott, Grey 2, Hadley, Stone.

#### House Matches.

Blue House won the Bayley Cup by defeating Red House 14—6 points, and Green House 38—0 points.

**MILES.**

The Miles were run in Wastecourt on March 13th in fine weather. In the Junior race, Myall took the lead at the start and was soon well ahead of the other runners. He won easily by over 100 yards.

Dew lead the Senior field for the first lap, but Arundale went ahead after that. About 200 yards from home, he was overtaken by Carter iv, and Lewington, the former winning by 30 yards.

Results: Junior. 1st G. B. C. Myall, 2nd P. S. Wilsdon i, 3rd P. H. Harris

House Placings. 1st Blue, 2nd Red, Time 5 mins. 32  $\frac{1}{2}$  secs.

Senior. 1st P. Carter iv, 2nd G. H. Lewington, 3rd B. Arundale.

House Placings. 1st Blue, 2nd Red. Time 5 mins. 29  $\frac{1}{2}$  secs.

**Point Counting Teams for Miles.****Senior.**

| Blue.         | Red.            | Green.        |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Carter 4 (1)  | Arundale (3)    | Clarke (10)   |
| Lewington (2) | Ball (4)        | Jones 5 (12)  |
| Jones 6 (5)   | Trudgian (11)   | Aldworth (18) |
| Sims I (6)    | N. Ustiche (13) | Petty (20)    |
| Leftwich (7)  | Elphick (15)    | Corby (21)    |
| Blue 21 pts.  | Red 46 pts.     | Green 81 pts. |

**Junior.**

| Blue.         | Red.         | Green.           |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| Myall (1)     | Ker (6)      | Burborough I (5) |
| Wilsdon I (2) | Frearson (8) | King I (10)      |
| Harris (3)    | Hayter 2 (9) | C. Fisher (12)   |
| Carter 6 (4)  | Penny (11)   | Barrett I (16)   |
| Smith 2 (7)   | Jones 7 (13) | Luker (21)       |
| Blue 17 pts.  | Red 47 pts.  | Green 64 pts.    |

**CRICKET PROSPECTS, 1941.**

Though prophecy is a hazardous undertaking, nevertheless we have some grounds on which to base the hope and confidence that the potential cricketing talent available for this season should combine into a good team.

Two 1st Colours, Leigh and Bradfield, and

at least six 2nd Colours, Ball, Richardson, Leftwich, Clarke, Farnsworth and Hill are the reasons for our optimism; and with the important addition of more team spirit we should be able to give our opponents some good games.

The weakness of the team will probably lie in the bowling, as only two of last year's regular bowlers will be available; and neither of these is really fast enough to open an attack. Spin bowlers are plentiful enough and should be very useful at times, if only they will remember that length comes first and foremost; spin and flight can come later.

The batting should be fairly good, though a new opening combination will have to be found. The remainder of the team down to the last man should on their day feel confident of scoring quickly and steadily. It is important to realise however that net practice does not make the perfect cricketer; running between the wickets and general alertness in the field is equally as important as playing a perfect forward stroke or bowling an unplayable googly.

Good fielding can save as many runs as can be made by the bat, and if only all members of the team, and those who have hopes of getting into the team, will realise that practice makes perfect, the standard of fielding should be high.

The remaining problem is to fill the gaps in the remnants of last year's team. There is plenty of young, keen and useful material to be drawn upon from last year's 'second' and 'under fifteen' teams. We should be able to make up a sound 1st XI, while it is probable that a very fair 2nd XI will materialise with plenty of practice.

So far only about five matches have been arranged, but it is hoped that the fixture list will be lengthened by more college and club matches.

Transport difficulties make it impossible to play distant schools. We can assume with some confidence that the team should have more success than that of last year, which only showed its real ability at the end of the season.



**J.T.C.**

Mr. Martin is now serving with the R.A. and Capt. Gray has resumed command. We are very pleased to welcome Mr. Duxbury as the second Officer.

The Inspector of the Training Corps, Col. S. J. Worsley, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., visited the contingent on Saturday, 2nd February, and said he was very pleased with what he had seen, which included a sand table T.E.W.T. under C.S.M. Jones 5, Platoon Drill under Sgt. Elphick, and a Cover from View demonstration under Sgt. Arundale.

We were fortunate to have good weather during the latter part of the Easter Term and a varied outdoor programme was carried out, comprising Section Tactics in Waste Court, a fieldcraft Exercise for the Certificate 'A' candidates on ground by the river, and finally a whole day Exercise for the contingent in the vicinity of Blewbury.

The whole day Exercise was divided into map reading and section tactics in the morning, and an inter-platoon exercise in the afternoon. We congratulate Cpls. Trudgian and Leftwich, L/Cpls. Donkin and Hedger on piloting their sections through the morning mists to "mystery" map references, and also in dealing with ambushes provided by sections under Cpl. Randle and L/Cpl. Cox.

We give the Certificate "A" results for December and March. A total of 27 cadets out of 30 were successful. A record number.

December 1940—the following passed:—P. Anag, R. E. Ball, J. A. D. Cox, A. L. Crowe, K. Donkin, M. Hedger, I. S. Holland, R. C. Howell, A. L. Leigh, E. R. Leigh-Parkin, J. W. Rayson, J. C. Petty, A. C. Randle.

March, 1941.—the following passed:—W. G. Bradfield, E. H. Aldworth, N. D. B. Corby, R. E. Dew, G. Farnsworth, R. D. Gibaud, P. Hicks, E. S. N. Hazel, G. Hill, M. G. H. Holt, G. H. Lewington, W. D. Richardson, P. A. S. Scott, J. R. Young.

Promotions:—To be Sgts.—R. W. F. C. Westgate, G. E. T. Trudgian. To be Cpls.: A. C. Randle, M. Hedger. To be L/Cpls.: R. C. Howell, A. L. Leigh, J. C. Petty, E. R. Leigh-Parkin.

**FIELD DAY, EASTER TERM, 1941.**

The Field Day exercises this term were carried out on the downs above Blewbury on Wednesday, March 19th. When the J.T.C. started off in buses at 09.45 hours there was a considerable ground mist which gave way later to brilliant sunshine. Disembarking at Upton, the Corps proceeded with the morning exercises, which consisted of Section training.

Nos. 1 and 2 Sections set off along some muddy tracks and over ploughed fields hoping to elude the vigilant eyes and ears of their Section Leaders and Certificate 'A' candidates—but unsuccessfully: at the same time search was made by map reference only for a hidden peg in the neighbourhood of Rose Cottage, which was successfully located. All the other Sections also had a similar task of finding pegs by map reference, and Nos. 3 and 4 Sections attacked Nos. 5 and 6 with varying success. Later in the morning No. 4 Section sprung an unpleasant surprise on Sections 1 and 2 by an unfriendly attack under cover of smoke, whose position was decisively captured. This concluded the morning exercises and all Sections made a rendezvous for lunch on Churn Hill.

The afternoon programme brought Nos. 1 and 2 Platoons into opposition. No. 2 attacked No. 1's position in the region of Carriner's Farm. The defenders, thanks to good scouting and the cycle patrols had the enemy under observation for a considerable time before the attack developed, but the actual launching of the attack was carried out with the maximum of surprise and efficiency. At the second onslaught No. 1 Platoon H.Q. was forced to evacuate in spite of heroic resistance by Section 1, who had unfortunately lost touch with Sections 2 and 3. No. 2 Section fought bravely to the last man. The attackers, although they had sustained heavy casualties, swept on only to be caught in a pincers movement between Nos. 1 and 3 Sections, the latter covering the road below the hill by rifle and mortar fire. When 'Cease Fire' sounded at 15.00 hours the afternoon activities ended somewhat indecisively.

Both Platoons then marched back to the buses for a welcome bun and ginger beer. The Corps arrived home, tired but happy, after an enjoyable and instructive day.

J.L.T.

### THE PLAY READING SOCIETY

Once again after a lapse of three years, the Play Reading Society has become one of the School's activities. Mr. Alston very kindly undertook to be responsible for the society and within a few days thirty-seven members had joined the society.

At the general meeting the following were elected Mr. Alston, J. A. D. Cox, A. L. Leigh as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. A Casting Committee was also elected composed of the officers and Mr. Duxbury and G. D. Wells. All members were elected to the Committee.

It was decided to join the British Drama League and to read plays on alternate Sundays. The Society has become a very popular school activity, and very few of the members fail to turn up at each reading.

During the term the following plays were read:—"Lord Richard in the Pantry", "The Middle Watch", "Justice", "George and Margaret" and "Laburnum Grove".

The society will not meet in the summer term, but it is hoped that now the Society has been restarted so keenly and enthusiastically it will continue in the future with as much vigour as has been shown this term.

A.L.L.

### A.T.C.

The Air Training Detachment of the O.T.C. has, as from February 1st, 1941, developed into Abingdon School Flight No. 500 of the Air Training Corps. We have combined with Radley College Flight and Eastbourne College Flight to form a Squadron. This means a further extension of the Air Training work which we have done for the last two years. It includes navigation, wireless, morse code, signalling, etc. The training should be interesting and useful to the country in the present emergency.

### CHALLENGE CUPS.

It is thought that it may be of interest to publish a list of the main Challenge Cups offered for annual competition.

Rugger. Lin Cup—Senior House (Christmas Term).

Robinson Cup—Junior House (Christmas Term).

Bayley Cup—Junior House (Easter Term).

Cricket. Carr Cup—Senior House.  
Brewer Bowl—Junior House.  
Fletcher Cup & Bat—best 1st XI batsman.

Headmaster's Bat—best 1st XI bowler.

Meredith Bats—best bowler 2nd XI and under 15.

Henderson Bats—best bat under 16 and best bat under 15.

Rowing. Bennett Cup—Senior House.

Sports. Heber Clarke Cup—best individual Senior.

Shallard Cup—best individual Junior.

Ladies of Abingdon House Championship Cup.

Way Cups—for breaking existing records.

Challenge Cups—for Open Sports events.

Stockton, Price, Pierpoint, Brown, Burkett, Dolphin Cups.

Shooting. Reeves Cup—House Team.

West Cup—best Individual.

### HOME GUARD.

The Abingdon School Section of the Home Guard is flourishing. It comprises not only members of the school but old boys and a few others living in the locality. The N.C.O.'s are Section Commanders, W. M. Grundy and A. G. Wiblin. Patrol Leaders, J. B. E. Alston, H. M. Gray and C. W. Strutt. The last replaces P. W. Martin who has joined the R.A.F. There is great keenness among the boys to belong to this body.

## CHAMBER MUSIC

It was good news to hear that Mrs. Gotch was able to bring over from Oxford the same trio that gave us such enjoyable music a year ago, and it was with pleasant anticipation that we assembled in the gymnasium on March 22nd, at 7 o'clock.

The programme was as follows:—

- |                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Trio in C. Minor.        | Beethoven |
| Allegro.                    |           |
| Minuet and Trio.            |           |
| Air and Variations.         |           |
| Finale Presto.              |           |
| 2. 'Cello Solos.            |           |
| Aria.                       | Bach.     |
| Minuet.                     | Montorio. |
| Air in A.                   | Ingham.   |
| 3. Trio. 1. Phantasiestuck. | Schumann. |
| 2. Marche Militaire.        | Schubert. |
| 4. Violin Solo.             |           |
| Sonata in A. Major.         | Handel.   |
| Andante.                    |           |
| Allegro Adagio.             |           |
| Allegro Vivace.             |           |
| 5. Trio. Shepherds Hey.     | Grainger. |

The Beethoven Trio is a comparatively early work but a most characteristic composition, and one in which the players at once showed their mettle, as real technical proficiency is required for its performance. The pianoforte has a brilliant part, and here, as throughout the evening, Mr. Spicer was in great form. The four movements are well contrasted, and for some the *air and variations* and the interesting *minuet and trio* had most appeal, whilst others found the opening *allegro*, in compound binary form, or the relentless *finale* the high light of the composition.

Miss Fiedler's solos were well contrasted. The *arioso* from J. S. Bach's 156th church cantata brought out the deep singing qualities of the violoncello to perfection, and Miss Fiedler gave us some really lovely tone. The piece by Montorio, on the other hand, cunningly exploited the beauty of the *harmonic* tone that can be got by skilful damping of the string. Finally, it was very pleasant to renew acquaintance with Mr. Ingham's composition which had its first public performance a year ago.

In the trio's next two pieces the performers were heard in a lighter vein, and the most popular of Schubert's *Marches Militaires* was particularly effective in this arrangement.

Then came Mrs. Gotch's solo, a Handel *Sonata in A*. It was just the right work to choose, having a classical form and a pellucid style that pleases everybody. It was beautifully played.

As a finale, Grainger's well-known *Shepherds Hey* was given. This delighted everyone with its verve and jollity. The *glissandi* of the Beethoven were very wisely played with the fingers of both hands—as indeed is imperative on the modern pianoforte—but Grainger provided for two bold sweeps of the keys, and got them. An encore was demanded.

In this happy way the last-Saturday-of-term's preparation went quickly by.

J.Y.I.

## FROM THE GERMAN OF HEINRICH HEINE.

( "Mein Kind, wir waren Kinder." )

My child, we once were children,

Two little children gay;

We scrambled into the hen-house,

And hid underneath the hay;

And, like a couple of roosters,

We cried "Cock-a-doodle-dool!"

And people who passed imagined

'Twas really the cocks that crew.

We papered the packing-cases

That stood in our yard, and played

At keeping house together,

And a capital house we made:

The old cat from our neighbour's

Would pay us a formal call,

And we'd make bows and curtsies,

And civil speeches and all,

And oft for her health and comfort

Our friendly concern evince;

( We have made the same enquiries

Of many an old cat since; )

And we'd sit and converse together,

As grown-up people do,

And grumble, how times were altered,

And what were we coming to?

How love and trust and honour

Had passed from the world away;

And coffee was so expensive;

And nothing seemed to pay.— —

But childhood's games are over,

As perish all things must—

The world, with its wants and fashions,

And honour, and love, and trust.

R.—B.

## A LETTER FROM JOHN ROYSSE.

*The following appeared mysteriously in the Editor's postbag. He undertakes no responsibility for its authenticity.*

To the Usher which edyteth the Schole Pamflette,

This 1st daie of April, 1941.

Sirre,

It woundeth me deepe seeing the presente Condition of Affaires atte mie ould Schole. Sorely was I grieved atte the change of site of mie Schole. From wich Grief had I sumwat recovered; ergo did yt uppon me tak to visit the new Schole. Sirre, Homer could not describe mie Grief and Sorrow beholding the Corbyan plague wich hath swumped upon innocent babes and suckers. Methinks this worse than the Coxian Heresy "Miseris de hominibus in dunciro".

But sirre usher, base Ingratitude be the worst of Vices. You have even obscured mie Ordinances, veiling them with a battered mappe of Athens—a rascally action. 'Twas in thy Cunning that you privily concealed them. For every Usher is a constant Offender against mie Ordinances. I enjoined that no scoller should have above foure daies play in the yere and that the Usher committing such infamy should be mulcted of the sum of 3s. 4d. per diem. Now Sirre, I learn that the scollers perforce have to indulge in rough and unseemlie gains five times a week. Thus compute for yourself how much you would owe if you were mulcted of what is meet.

But list, the ghost of Wyblyn openeth the bars of Hades Portals—the spirits call me. Remember— — —

John Roysse.

E.O.J. & M.W.H.

(In fairness to the 'Ushers', John Roysse also stipulated that school hours be fixed at six in the morning until five at night, but in winter at seven in the morning, so perhaps the present 'scollers' score on the deal. Editor.)

## FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Salisbury Buildings, London, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

Having been informed that you are interested and open for a deal in a live business proposition, I take the liberty of presenting to you what seems to me a most wonderful business, in which no doubt you will take a live interest, and perhaps advise us by return the amount of stock you wish to subscribe towards the formation of the company.

The object of the said company is to operate a large cat ranch near Manchester, where land can be purchased cheaply for the purpose.

To start with we want a million cats. Each cat will average about 12 kittens per year; the skins run from 6d. each for the white ones, to 2s. 6d. for pure black ones. This will give us 12,000,000 skins per year, to sell at an average price of 1s. 6d. each, making our revenue £2,500 per day.

We feed the cats on rats and start a rat ranch. The rats multiply four times as fast as the cats, so if we start with a million cats we shall have four rats per cat each day, then we will feed the rats on the carcasses of the cats, from which the skins have already been taken, giving each rat one quarter of a cat.

A man can skin about 60 cats per day, at 5s. per day wage, and it will take 120 men to operate the ranch, therefore the net profit will be £2,475 per day.

It will thus be seen that the business will be self acting and automatic throughout. The cats will eat the rats and the rats will eat the cats, and we shall have the skins.

Awaiting your prompt reply and trusting you will appreciate the opportunity to get rich quickly.

Yours faithfully, S. Skinner & Co.

P.S.—Eventually we shall mate the cats with snakes and they will skin themselves twice a year, thus saving the men's wages for skinning and also getting two skins from one cat.

*With acknowledgements to the 'Halton Magazine.'*

The "8.5 a.m."

In the cold of early morning we rush eagerly down to that somewhat (at other times) depressing place—since it is nothing but a row of buffers—Abingdon station. There we clamour for tickets, to the perturbation of the versatile station staff, and then amble contentedly on to the platform. We know we have plenty of time. The old "eight-five" has many virtues but punctuality is not one of them. This train service is probably unique in the British Railway System. When it feels like it, it cruises from Abingdon to Radley and if it, or its driver, gets an inspiration it comes back again.

Nobody, I think, quite knows when the "Abingdon Bunk" was built but I should say that without exaggeration, Stephenson's Rocket might have been a contemporary. However we must not wander from the point, whatever that may be. Here we all are on the station, saying goodbye to the masters, who have become martyrs overnight by getting up at an unearthly hour of the morning for no better reason than to see off "the boys."

Ah, but what is this we see? A puff of smoke in the distance; the "Abingdon Bunk"? No, merely Abingdon's one and only goods train. That will have to be shunted out of the way before the "eight-five" (it is now 8.15) can come in. Impatiently we watch our line cleared, the signal goes down and at last, the "Abingdon Bunk" hoves into view heading in this direction under full sail and at the rate of approximately 8 knots. Now we can see her more distinctly. Yes, she is truly a great machine. Look at those lines, such graceful bearing! Cast a "coup d'oeil" at that funnnel! What a height! Marveilleux! Mon Dieu!

The engine stops with a screech of its problematical brakes and we pour into its one and only carriage. There is a sound of steam escaping at an unpleasant rate and, in a few minutes, with a groan that would soften the heart of a stone, the "Abingdon Bunk" moves off with its unsympathetic load, to the sound of shouts and cheers.

Gradually the station disappears round a corner and the end of yet another term is now an event of the past.

R.D.G.

## THE ABINGDONIAN JUBILEE.

As has been mentioned in the Editorial, it is to be regretted that owing to increasing costs, shortage of paper etc: arising from the necessities of war, it is impossible to commemorate adequately the fiftieth year of the existence of the Abingdonian by producing a suitable Jubilee number. But this anniversary must not be allowed to pass unremembered and unrecorded.

No. 1 Volume 1 of the Abingdonian is dated December 12th, 1890, a production of 12 pages. The Editor in the course of his Editorial clearly defines the object of the Magazine. "May this our first number" he writes "prove successful in carrying out that which it is intended to effect, namely, starting a record of the doings in work and athletics of the members of Rôysse's School."

This then is the first and main object of the Abingdonian, and in fact of all School magazines. The supercilious and superficial critic may complain of the dullness of the School magazine, but it should be remembered that school magazines do not pretend to compete with the popular press and attractive periodicals, and rightly so. Let such a critic purchase from a newsagent the particular publication that appeals to him. The two main objects of a School magazine are firstly, to be an authentic record of the doings of the School and those connected with it, present and past; and secondly, to encourage any aspiring authors connected with the School by publishing suitable contributions. Our first Editor writes "We trust that before our next number appears *one* of the boys will discover he is a born poet and send us a contribution." This is a modest hope; we should like to be inundated with contributions. What worthier aim could a budding author take for his talents than the ambition to get something published in his own school magazine? The Editor has decided to offer awards for any contributions deemed worthy of publication. In this connection will readers turn to the article headed 'A word to Contributors.'

And so the Abingdonian is a private and intimate magazine—unique, inasmuch as its *raison d'être* is the doings of Abingdonians with its own circle of readers; for that reason alone it deserves the unanimous support of Abingdonians present and past.

**FIFTY YEARS AGO.**

Extracts from the first number of the Abingdonian: December 12th, 1890.

"The Football Colours have been changed; the Caps now being half pink and half white instead of having concentric circles as formerly."

"We were sorry to see on the occasion of the match v. Magdalen School, Oxford, a lot of the boys instead of backing up the school preferred the attractions of Sequah. The latter, bye the bye, seems to have done a lot of good in the town. The Prairie Oil has certainly done good to our rheumatism."

(We presume that Sequah was a quack, selling a famous nostrum in the market place.)

"The School as usual had a half-holiday on the occasion of the Cattle Show and many of the boys seemed to take a great interest in sampling the grain."

"Old boys will be glad to hear that at last the school is to have a Tower Clock. It is proposed to place it on the Tower between the Big School Room and the New Buildings, the present tower being raised about six feet."

**SCHOOL MISSION.**

Dockland Settlement.  
and Abingdon School Mission,  
London, E.  
January 23rd, 1941.

Dear Mr. Grundy,

You, together with the boys of the School will be pleased and proud to know we are carrying on despite everything. Our work has been trebled, but all is nothing compared with the spirit of the Dockland people. I cannot describe the locality, but am able to say the Settlement has suffered from bad blasting only.

Yours very sincerely,  
(Sgd.) John H. Parish,  
Warden.

**A WORD TO CONTRIBUTORS.**

By no means the least important function of the Abingdonian is to act as the focus point of the literary aspirations of the School. It cannot serve this purpose if contributions are limited to a small circle; at the same time the space at our disposal is limited. Our wish and hope is for a large number of contribu-

tions from which we can select the best for publication. Only in this way can the literary standard of the average contribution be raised.

We would request that such contributions be sent in as early as possible. Articles, verse and stories may be full of merit, but need, it may be, some modification or adjustment before they can show to the best advantage. If contributions are submitted early, (the Editor's office is Pembroke Room) the Editor has an opportunity of discussing them with the authors, of suggesting possible improvements, and perhaps, of giving a few hints which may prove useful in the future. Articles which arrive at the last minute have to be accepted or rejected as they stand, and many promising efforts fail to make their appearance in print for this reason. Furthermore the Editor is always pleased to receive ideas for articles, when the author may not quite see how to put them into literary shape.

In order to encourage contributors, it has been decided to offer prizes, probably in the form of book tokens, for all original contributions published. In this connection the Editor's decision must be regarded as final. Each author of a published contribution will receive a complimentary copy of the Magazine.

Finally, all copy intended for the printer should be written clearly and legibly on one side of the paper only, accompanied by the name, not initials, of the contributor.

**DESPOND NOT BRITAIN!**

Despond not Britain! Should this sacred hold  
Of Freedom, still inviolate, be assailed,  
The high, unblenching spirit which

prevailed

In ancient days is neither dead nor cold;  
Men are still in thee of heroic mould,—

Men whom thy grand old sea-kings would  
have hailed

As worthy peers, invulnerably mailed,  
Because by duty's sternest law controlled.

Thou yet shalt rise and send abroad thy voice

Among the nations, battling for the right,  
In the unruined armour of thy youth;

And the oppressed shall hear it and rejoice,

For on thy side is the resistless might  
Of Freedom, Justice, and Eternal Truth.

—JAMES DRUMMOND BURNS (1823-64).

## O. A. NOTES.

## Births.

**BROWN.**—On April 5th, at Fulmer Chase, Bucks, to Hester, wife of Temp. Captain D. G. Brown, R.A.S.C., a son.

**LANGFORD.**—On April 9th, at the Northbank Nursing Home, Glasgow, to Heather, wife of Captain E. G. Langford, Intelligence Corps, a son.

## Marriages.

**AUSTIN—SCOTT.**—On March 8th, at Trinity Church, Belfast, Michael, younger son of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. S. T. Austin, of The White House, Shippon, Abingdon, to Harriett Louise, daughter of the late Mr. G. Scott and Mrs. Scott, of Carlisle Street, Belfast.

**ELLISON—WARLAND-ANDREW.**—On March 14th, at St. Edmund's Church, Abingdon, P./O. Henry V. Ellison, of 32 St. John's Road, Abingdon, to Wynfred Dodson, daughter of the late Mr. Warland-Andrew and Mrs. Warland-Andrew, of 22 Park Road, Abingdon.

**BARBER—COPSON.**—On March 31st, at St. Helen's Church, Abingdon, Jack E. Barber, to Muriel E. Copson.

\* \* \*

There must be something about the air at Abingdon School which helps to develop strong men. Dean is a worthy successor to two other weight putters. Lt. A. J. A. Watson (1925) Queen's Own Royal Regiment is still the Army individual record holder for the weight with 47ft. 4in., made in 1936; while Capt. D. G. Brown (1935) R.A.S.C. was second string in the weight in the Inter-Services sports at Aldershot in June, 1939. With Capt. J. B. H. Kealy as first string, their combined effort 85ft. 2½ins., is the record, Brown's contribution being 41ft. 11ins.

R. F. Jackson (1939), of St. John's College, Cambridge, is vice-captain of his College Boat Club and has been stroking their 1st VIII, which made two bumps in the three days' racing last term. They followed this up by winning the Reading Head of the River race, this being the first time that they had entered for it.

Jackson spent a great part of last Long Vacation working as a bench fitter in the jig and tool department of a small engineering works

in Croydon, where he gained much useful experience and seems to have enjoyed thoroughly what he describes as "a very pleasant though quite hard three months."

## WAR NEWS.

## Casualty List.

**WARDLAW.**—Lost during air operations on April 7th, 1940, previously reported missing, Flying Officer D. H. Wardlaw, R.A.F., eldest son of Mr. D. C. Wardlaw (Deputy Alderman of the City of London), of Esher, Surrey.

David Herbert Wardlaw joined the School as a boarder in April, 1929, being one of the first twelve boys housed at Waste Court when it was opened, and left in the summer of 1931. He subsequently qualified as a lawyer, keeping himself in touch with his schoolfellows by playing Rugger for the London Sports section of the O.A.C. He was married in November, 1939, to Miss Jean Angela George, a granddaughter of the Countess Ann von Linden of Folkestone.

**MILLS.**—Died of wounds in the spring of 1941 while serving in the Middle East, 2nd Lieutenant D. E. Mills, R.A., second son of Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Mills, of 91 Radley Road, Abingdon.

Douglas Edward Mills joined the School with his elder brother Kenneth (now in Canada) in Sept., 1929 and left in the summer of 1935. He took up banking as his profession and was on the staff of Lloyds Bank, at first at Basingstoke and latterly at Beaconsfield. While at school he gained his 1st XV colours for Rugger in 1934 and 1st XI colours for Cricket in 1933, and was Captain of Cricket in his last year. He was also a School Prefect.

**GODWIN.**—Died as the result of enemy action, Sergeant L. J. F. Godwin, R.A.F., son of Mr. C. F. Godwin, of 58 Ock Street, Abingdon.

Lewis John Frederick Godwin was a pupil at the School from September 1924 to December 1930. On leaving he joined the R.A.F. as an apprentice clerk in the Records Office. He served at a number of stations in this country and then volunteering for service overseas, was sent to Iraq, and subsequently to Alexandria, Algiers and Malta.

**LANGFORD.**—Missing after the evacuation of Dunkirk and now posted as killed, Lance-Corporal Guy Langford, Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry, Son of Mr. Stanley Langford, of 18 Wootton Road, Abingdon.

Guy Langford was at the School from September 1926 to July 1931. On leaving he became a landscape and garden architect at Headington, Oxford, and afterwards at Wimborne, Dorset. He leaves a widow and a child of three years.

*Additions and Correction to Roll of Service.*

- Bragg-Smith, A. F. (1926) R.A.F.  
 Cather, L. G. (1936) Sergt., King's Royal Rifle Corps (The Rangers).  
 Davies, T. C. (1939) Armourer, R.A.F.  
 Edgington, E. W. (1927) R.A.F.  
 Ellison, H. V. (1914) P./O., R.A.F.  
 Elphick, H. G. (1941) R.A.F. Training Centre.  
 \*Godwin, L. J. F. (1930) Sergt., R.A.F.  
 Langford, E. G. (1918) Captain, Intelligence Corps.  
 \*Langford, G. (1931) L./Cpl., Oxon & Bucks. Light Infantry.

- Morland, J. W. (1917) R.Q.M. Sergt. H.Q. Coy., 2/1 Austr. Bn., A.I.F.—Acting War-rant Officer 2nd Class.  
 Morland, C. S. (1921) L./Cpl. No. 1 Light Tank Corps, South Africa.  
 Morland, T. F. T. (1920) Canadian Navy.  
 Parks, E. F. (1933) L./Bombardier, R.A.  
 Rice, E. P. (1928) Rhodesian Infantry.  
 Sinclair, J. F. (1924) Calcutta Scottish.  
 Spiller, R. G. (1926) R.N.  
 Stevenson, H. M. (1903) Captain, R.A.S.C.  
 \*Wardlaw, D. H. (1931) Fl./O., R.A.F.  
 \* See Casualty List.