Misericordias Domini

in aeternum cantabo

The Abingdonian

EASTER TERM, 1947

Vol. VIII. No. 15

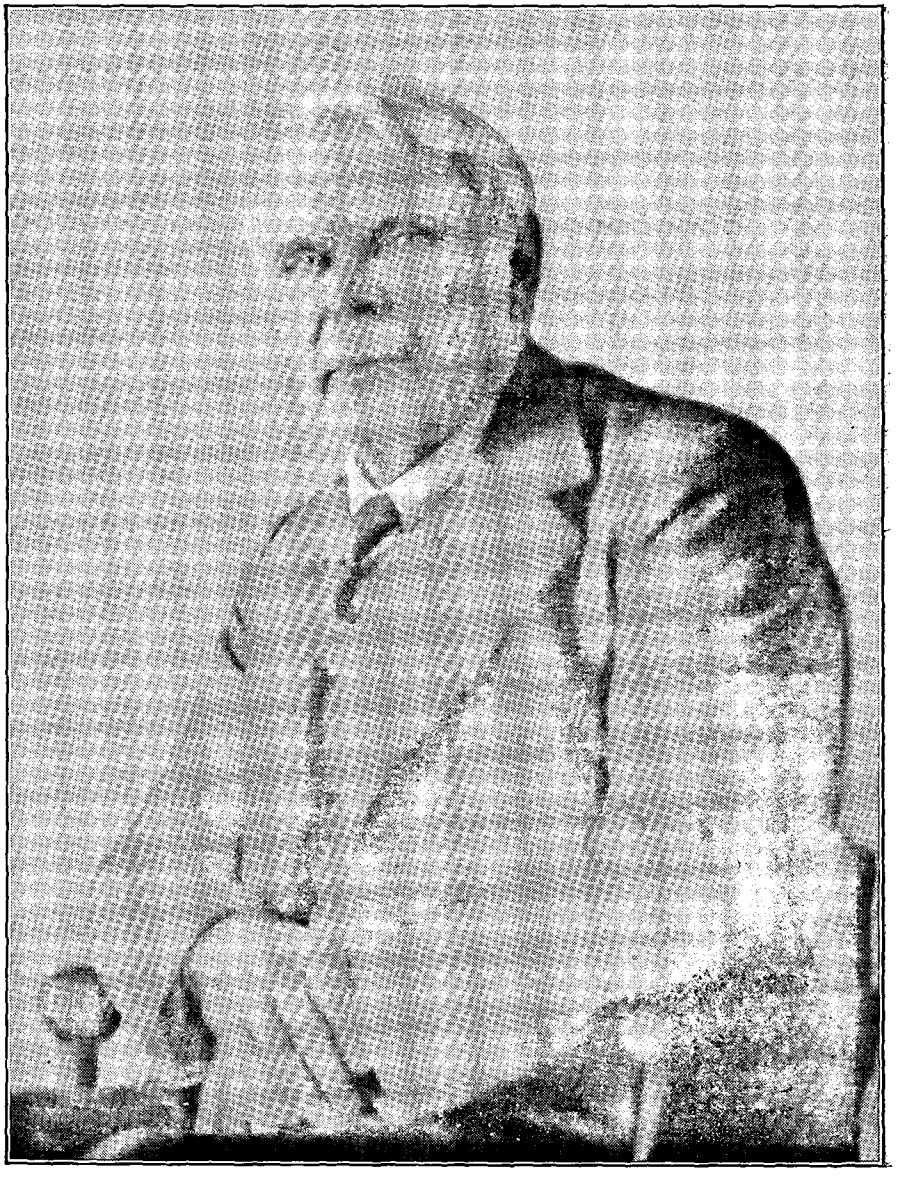

Photo by Milligan

WILLIAM MITCHELL GRUNDY

HEADMASTER

1913—1947

No. 15. Vol. VIII. EASTER TERM, 1947. Price 1s.

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THE ABINGDONIAN

CONTENTS

Calendar	...	249	Valete et Salvete	...	254
School Officers	...	250	50 Years Ago	...	254
Editorial	...	250	J.T.C.	...	254
School Notes	...	251	Holiday Club	...	255
Rugby Football	...	252	Contributions:—Trip to Germany	...	255
Hockey	...	253	Landscape	...	256
Rowing	...	253	Memories (contd.)	...	257
Rag Concert, Christmas, 1946	...	253	O.A. Notes	...	258

CALENDAR—SUMMER TERM, 1947.

April

Mon. 28 Boarders return.
Tues. 29 First day of Term.

May.

Wed. 7 Field Day.
Wed. 14 Heats.
Sat. 17 Sports Day.
Wed. 21 1st XI v. Magdalen College School (Home). 2nd XI v. Magdalen College School (Away). Under 15 XI v. City of Oxford School (Away).
Sat. 24 1st XI v. Pavlova Leather Co. (Away).
Wed. 28 1st XI v. Southfield School (Away). 2nd XI v. Southfield School (Home).
Sat. 31 1st XI v. City of Oxford School (Home). Under 15 XI v. Southfield School (Away).

June.

Wed. 4 1st XI v. Pembroke College (Away).
Sat. 7 1st XI v. Wantage School (Away). Under 15 XI v. Southfield School (Home).
Wed. 11 1st XI v. Oratory School (Home). 2nd XI v. Southfield School (Away).
Wed. 18 1st XI v. City of Oxford School (Away). 2nd XI v. City of Oxford School (Away). Under 15 XI v. City of Oxford School (Home).
Sat. 21 1st XI v. Southfield School (Home). 2nd XI v. Southfield School (Home).
Wed. 25 1st XI v. Magdalen College School, Brackley (Home). Under 15 XI v. Magdalen College School, Brackley (Away).
Fri. 27 Founders Day
Sat. 28 1st XI v. Old Abingdonians (Home).

July.

Sat. 19 1st XI v. A.E.R.E. Harwell (Away)
Wed. 23 1st XI v. R.N.A.S. Culham (Away)
Mon. 28 Last day of Term.
Tues. 29 Boarders return home.

SCHOOL OFFICERS

Easter Term, 1947.

Captain of the School:
D. Beattie.

School Prefects:

G. L. Sanders	D. H. Wheaton
P. R. Betterton	A. B. Beadle
M. H. Jones	W. S. Ogden
J. P. Mortimore	D. J. Leach
K. J. Weston	I. H. McNaughton
C. S. Cullen	V. E. Welch
J. T. Moore	

Captain of Boats: M. J. Green
Hon. Secretary of Games: M. D. Millichap

Head of the House:
M. J. Green.

Sub-Prefects:

H. D. Baecker	J. A. Garner
N. A. Parker	T. D. Thomas
W. G. Olscher	J. R. Wake
T. W. J. Jordan	R. J. Pezaro
C. G. W. Pulford	R. A. Clay
N. C. J. Badley	B. G. Budden
	M. J. Alpin

Captain of Hockey: D. Beattie
School Librarians: J. P. Mortimore and

'Abingdonian' Committee:

Editor: Mr. D. O. Willis
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. E. J. P. Ross-Barker
O. A. Correspondent: Mr. G. F. Duxbury
Hon. Secretary: C. S. Cullen
Committee: D. Beattie, H. D. Baecker, D. H. Wheaton, M. J. Green, M. H. Jones.

EDITORIAL

In his diary for St. Valentine's Eve, 1870, The Rev. Francis Kilvert, curate at Clyro, Radnorshire, has made the following comment upon the weather:—

"the weather fearful, violent, deadly east wind and the hardest frost we have had yet. Went to . . . wrapped in two waistcoats, two coats, a muffler and a mackintosh, and was not at all too warm . . . my beard, moustaches and whiskers were so stiff with ice that I could hardly open my mouth and my beard was frozen on to my mackintosh . . . . "

Need we add anything further! Except that he doesn't wear a beard or whiskers, the Editor regards this as a perfect description of his daily experience to and from school; and it is an experience to which staff and school have unfortunately grown accustomed this Easter term. Our "English Climate" has indeed interfered with school activities of every sort—except for the first few days of term there has been no hockey or rugger, house matches have not taken place and the rowing fixtures have had to be postponed until next term. School work too has suffered, although not, fortunately, to the same extent as school sport, and, all things considered, everything has gone remarkably well.

At the end of last term Mr. W. Bevir retired after many years of enthusiastic and valuable work on the French side. Joining the staff in 1908 Mr. Bevir became a well-known and well-loved figure in school life. He always took a great interest in games and O.A.'s will remember him as an excellent centre-half at soccer and a hard-hitting bat and fine bowler at cricket. After the 1914 war Mr. Bevir was actively engaged in coaching boys on the river whilst his grand baritone voice was ever in demand at school concerts. Those who saw last term's Rag Concert will remember the vociferous cries for "Bill" and the great reception that greeted his songs and their encores. We wish him here a long and enjoyable retirement, and it is good to know that we shall see plenty of him and Mrs. Bevir.

The retirement of a master of long-standing is always a sad disturbance to school life. Following upon the retirement of Mr. Bevir we are, at the end of this term, to lose both the Headmaster and Mr. Rudd. The School is going to seem a strange place without them

We take great pleasure, albeit reluctantly, in printing below a farewell letter from Mr. Grundy.

On going into retirement after 34 years in the service of the School I should like to thank all those connected with it, Governors, Staff both scholastic and domestic, Parents and boys past and present, for the delight which they have added to my life by their kindness and consideration. I am fortunate first in being able to build a house in the corner of Waste Court near to the school, where I hope to see from time to time not only my friends in Abingdon, but also Old Boys and present boys with whom I have had so long a connection; secondly in being succeeded by Mr. J. M. Cobban. Not only was he one of the most brilliant Classics of his year at Cambridge, with three University awards to his credit, but also as Lieut-Colonel in the last War he was so acceptable to those with whom he served that one of them called him the best Staff Officer he had ever had. And from my personal experience of him I feel supremely happy in passing on a charge which I have loved so well, to one who will carry it on with greater ability, and the same devotion to the school and the boys that are in it. My sister is happy too in feeling that in Mrs. Cobban the boys will also find a friend.

William M. Grundy.

We are asked to insert the following notice, a copy of which will also be sent to Old Boys who do not receive *The Abingdonian*.

RETIREMENT OF MR. GRUNDY.

We feel that there must be many Parents, Old Boys, and Friends of the School who would like to show in some tangible way their appreciation of all that Mr. Grundy has done for the School during his thirty-four years as Headmaster.

An informal approach has been made to Mr. Grundy, who has expressed a wish that if a presentation is to be made it should take the form of a radiogramophone. We, therefore, invite contributions for this purpose. We hope that the list of contributors will be as representative as possible, and that we shall be able to present the radiogramophone to Mr. Grundy with a list of the names of the contributors, on some suitable occasion during the summer.

Cheques should be made payable, and contributions should be sent, to J. M. Cobban, Esq., Abingdon School, Berks. We shall be grateful if intending contributors will write as soon as possible so that the fund may be completed without delay. Any surplus contributions will be transferred, at Mr. Grundy's request, to the War Memorial Fund which it is proposed to inaugurate in the near future.

Signed: F. CLIFTON BROWN.
Chairman of the Governors.

J. D. WOOD.
President of the Old Abingdonian Club.

J. M. COBBAN.
Headmaster-Elect.

SCHOOL NOTES

This term there is little or no fresh news of interest. Despite the fuel crisis and the arctic weather, the term has sped by satisfactorily. Gymnastics is now flourishing and has formed a welcome means of exercise during a term of no games.

We congratulate J. T. Moore on being elected to the Pembroke Scholarship in History.

Congratulations also go to D. E. Allen who has won first prize in the Window Design Competition for the Abingdon and District Chamber of Trade. His work was described as outstanding and showing real talent.

During the Christmas vacation J. A. Garner, P. A. F. Smith and T. D. Thomas played in the Berkshire County Public Schools Rugby trial at Caversham. Smith and Garner were

afterwards selected to play for the County against Oxfordshire and Arbourfield, R.E.M.E. Apprentices. The latter match was cancelled but Berkshire beat Oxfordshire by six points to five.

Supplementary papers taken in the December School Certificate Examination gave the following results:—
M. J. Green: Latin (credit), French (pass); I. H. McNaughton: French (pass); J. T. Moore: French (pass); T. D. Thomas: Mathematics (pass); J. L. Wyatt: English Language (credit), Geography (credit), Latin (pass), French (credit), Mathematics (credit).

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Cobban will take up residence at the School House on April 15th, 1947, and all correspondence for the Headmaster after that date should be addressed to Mr. Cobban. It will be appreciated, however, if any but the most urgent business may be held over until the end of April.

After April 14th, Mr. Grundy's address will be: "Heathcot," Faringdon Road,
Abingdon.

To the Editor. March, 1947.

Dear Sir

Please allow me to insert a few words of appreciation and thanks to the boys of Abingdon School for their kind expression of generosity and goodwill towards me on my retirement. Also, I should like to include my sense of gratitude to my colleagues whose friendship and co-operation have made my years of service a real pleasure.

"Floreat Abendonensis,"
Yours sincerely,
W. Bevir.

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

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

Up to the time of going to press no Junior House matches have been played, although it is hoped that conditions will improve sufficiently to enable them to be played off before the end of term. Last term the Senior House matches resulted in a win for Red House after a keen struggle.

At the beginning of this term an 'Under 15' match was played. This was against the City of Oxford School, who just managed to win by nine to eight points.

The following 1st XV match was too late to be included in the last issue of the magazine:—

v. Old Abingdonians (home). Draw, 11—11.

Played on a very muddy ground, this was probably the most thrilling match of last season. The School XV led 8—3 at half-time, when a grand rally by the Old Boys gave them the lead of 11—8 which they maintained until five minutes from the end, when the livelier School team equalised. Territorially the O.A's. had more of the play in the first half, but the School backs always looked the more dangerous. P. R. Sims, (full-back), P. M. King (forward), and M. J. Cullen (forward), played well for the Old Boys.

Cherrill opened the scoring for the School with a penalty and Jarvis equalised with an unconverted try. Thomas (School) then touched down after a forward rush and a kick ahead, and Cherrill converted. In the second half, the O.A's. scored again through V. A. Harfield and then through P. Hayter. Hayter's try was a fine effort after a long run. M. J. Cullen converted. In the closing minutes D. M. Cullen dribbled away for the School. picked up and gave the ball to Little who scored a try which was not converted.

The 1st XV record for the season was:— Played 11, Won 5, Lost 5 Drawn 1. Points for 126, points againts 137.

HOCKEY

The season's activities have consisted unfortunately of a few practice games only—this due to the continuous frost and snow which has rendered the ground totally unfit for play.

The team, composed largely of new members who have had no real chance of justifying their inclusion, naturally lacked combination, the essential for attack and defence alike, which is only attained by much practice. This was especially so in our match with Mr. Alston's XI, a game arranged to test our strength.

It is hoped that next Easter term will be kinder, so that we may be enabled to enjoy a full season's play.

The team chosen was as follows:—

B. N. Margrave, G. L. Sanders, D. Beattie, J. P. Mortimore, P. A. F. Smith, J. R. Wake, A. B. Beadle, K. J. Weston, B. G. Budden, P. R. Betterton and P. R. Little.

ROWING

It may appear somewhat exacting in the midst of a national crisis to complain of the effect of the weather on this term's rowing activities, but it was particularly disappointing that with such hopeful prospects rowing was of necessity suspended after the first fortnight.

We have seen greater floods and more ice in the past, but have never previously been completely frozen off the river by such a long spell of intense cold, which embedded the raft in a solid block of ice.

Though we have been compelled to cancel all our races this term, it is hoped that at least two crews will be able to put in some steady training next term to provide experimental material for the future.

THE RAG CONCERT

Christmas, 1946.

The Rag Concert, held at the end of the Christmas term, showed a marked difference from its immediate predecessors in that it was more representative of the School. There was a definite increase in senior items.

The Concert began with a pianoforte duet by Miss Peach and W. S. Ogden, a performance that was much appreciated. This was followed by a sketch, performed by members of Larkhill, whose acting was very creditable and who were particularly well dressed. The next item was a song from Mr. Ingham and this was followed by another sketch entitled 'The Surgery', acted by boys of the middle school with much gusto if without polish. Miss Peach then entertained us with two songs and the School Choir, somehow crammed on to the stage, gave a well co-ordinated rendering of a sixteenth century madrigal. The junior sketch which followed showed great keenness on the part of the actors who seemed to be enjoying themselves. It was enhanced by a painted back-cloth and colourfully dressed. Then came a more senior sketch, with a strong South American flavour, and this in turn gave place to a much applauded act—some seasonable songs by the 'male voice chorus'. Mr. Alston then sang. Thereafter we were entertained by two more sketches and the reappearance of Miss Peach and W. S. Ogden at the piano. Of the sketches the first was a skit, called 'Hamlet P. C.'; and the second was an amusing and candidly acted play by the middle school, entitled 'Late'. In 'Hamlet P. C.', Hamlet was played by M. J. Green, who was quick on his cues and well supported by Clay, whilst Budden's character make-up was excellent albeit he seemed unable to put his words over. This play showed some care in rehearsal.

The applause was 'terrific' as Mr. Bevir entered the stage for the next item and, incidentally, his last Rag Concert. He was encored again and again as we sang many popular songs with him. At this point Mr. Bevir was presented with the School's token at his leaving by the Head of the School. After these

proceedings, the Concert programme ended with a very commendable performance of a short play called 'The Police Court'. J. T. Moore was excellent as the Magistrate. His diction was clear and it was a splendid piece of acting throughout. The rest of the cast supported him well and the dress was throughout delightful. The set gave a good impression and the whole atmosphere was realistic.

Thus we swept through sixteen acts in two hours, every minute of which was thoroughly enjoyed by both actors and audience.

The stage was managed and the show compered by C. S. Cullen, who also executed a number of excellent back-cloths for the various scenes, all of which added greatly to the dressing of the stage. Cullen was assisted by P. R. Brown, R. M. Reed, and J. T. Cullen. Mr. Ingham was responsible for the production.

VALETE ET SALVETE

Valete

Left Christmas, 1946.

VIth Form. D. M. Cullen (1938,iii). Sub. Prefect 1946. O.S.C., 1946. 1st XV 1945–46; Colours 1946; 1st XI Cricket 1945–46; Colours 1946; 2nd XI Hockey 1945–46; J.T.C. Sergt.; Cert. 'A' 1945; 1st Class Shot; Shooting VIII 1945.

VIth Form. G. J. Good (1941, iii). Sub. Prefect 1946; O.S.C., 1946; 2nd XV 1946.

VIth Form. F.C. Stott (1941, iii). Sub. Prefect 1946; O.S.C., 1946; 1st XV 1946; 2nd XV Colours 1946; 3rd IV 1946; J.T.C. Cert. 'A' 1946.

Vth Form. A. V. Crook (1941, iii). 3rd XV 1946; 2nd XI Cricket 1945–46; 1st XI Hockey 1945–46; 2nd XI Colours 1946; J.T.C. Cert. 'A' Part 1, 1946.

IV Form. J. R. B. Williams (1943, ii). 3rd XV 1946; 2nd XI Cricket 1945–46; J.T.C.

IVth Form. R. C. Pegler (1941, iii). 'Under 15' XV 1945–46; 'Under 15' XI Cricket 1946; J.T.C.

Remove 'A' Form. J. E. Trethewey (1945, iii) 'Under 15' XV 1946; J.T.C.

Remove 'B' Form. F. H. Robinson (1946, iii)

IIIb Form. G. D. Knight (1946, iii).

IIIb Form. B. A. Truran (1946, ii).

IIIb Form. M. A. Truran (1946, ii).

IInd Form. M. J. Tanner (1946, iii).

Salvete

Came January, 1947.

IInd Form. M. V. W. Mann, A. R. Pezaro (ii) J. M. C. Bishop.

Ist Form. M. V. A. Alberry, J. E. Cowles (ii) C. R. Lucas (iii).

FIFTY YEARS AGO

It may not be out of place here to make ar appeal to the boys for greater support in in creasing the circulation of the Magazine. A: will be seen elsewhere, in the Abstract o Accounts, we have a considerable deficit or the last number. Unless more copies are sol each time, the Magazine cannot be a success and we should earnestly appeal for greate support in this respect. . . .

(From the Abingdonian, April, 1897.)

J.T.C. NOTES.

There is comparatively little to record thi term—the Corps, in common with other out door activities, having been "snowed under.' The majority of our parades have necessaril been held indoors, and have thus been "acad emic" rather than "hearty". We have, how ever, continued regular shooting and in th last fortnight of term will be shooting a posta match against Queen Elizabeth Colleg Guernsey. It is hoped to publish the result o this match, as well as the School's record i the Forces Day Competition, in which M. Green was the winner, as a supplementar item in this issue of the Magazine.

Because of the persistent bad weather, i has been necessary to postpone our Field Da it is now hoped to hold it on Wednesda

March 12th. An account of the day's fortunes must be held over until next term.

The "excitement" of the term has fallen to the post-Cert. "A" members. For many of these we have arranged, with the kind permission of Lieut. Col. R. Dawney, a course of R.A. training organised by the Oxford Univer- S.T.C. The appearance of 25-pdr. guns in the set. Before the snows came the sharp crack of the C.S.M's. voice giving orders at gun-drill could be heard at some distance, and it is rumoured that nervous "blue-jobs", stationed nearby, deemed it policy to make a detour when walking near the School. Lately, the "gunners" too have been driven to the classrooms; but their presence in our midst is evidenced, in spite of it, by the appearance of white lanyards and other "marks of their profession." The course has been most interesting, the cadets have been very interested and we wish them every success in their attempt to obtain Cert. "B" in the summer.

At Christmas, Sgt. Cullen, D. M., left the School. His place in the N.C.O. ranks was filled by Lance-Sgt. Green M. J. and Cpl. Jordan, who did so well on Field Day last term, was promoted L/Sgt.

A Cert. "A" examination was held at the close of the Christmas term. Eight cadets entered for Part 1, and of these seven passed, the standard reached being very gratifying. Less satisfying were the results of Part 2, where only five cadets out of nine were able to qualify. However, if at first you don't succeed .... And next term we hope we shall have "real campaigning weather" with a 100% result in the examination and "top marks" for our Inspection Day.

The following passed Cert. "A" Part 1 examination:—

Crook A. V., Cullen J. T., Dunkley W. J., Langford R. B., Milligan A. L. G., Reed R. M., and Yakes G. A.

The following passed Cert. "A" Part 2 examination:—

Aplin M. J., Budden B. G., Garner J. A., Stott F. C., Thomas T. D.

THE HOLIDAY CLUB

A fairly large party from the Holiday Club attended a Youth Carol Service on Sunday evening, December 15th. This was conducted by Mr. V. J. Leach in the Corn Exchange. In addition to singing well-known carols along with the rest of the large audience, the Club on its own rendered "Christ was born on Christmas Day."

On January 10th the Club were entertained by the Abingdon Youth Club to an evening of darts and table-tennis, refreshments also being provided. In a contest, the actual results of which were not as important as the friendly spirit which prevailed throughout the evening, the Youth Club won the table-tennis and the Holiday Club the darts.

On the following afternoon, a Saturday, a Soccer match was played between the two Clubs on Abingdon United F. C's. Northcourt Pitch. A very enjoyable game was witnessed and the Holiday Club acquitted itself well considering the lack of experience of the players. The Youth Club emerged victors by 4 goals to 2, after leading 2—1 at half-time. Weston and Aldworth scored goals for the Holiday Club. A feature of the play was the sound defence of the Youth Club; but in spite of this the Holiday Club forwards had several opportunities of scoring and with a little more practice might well have equalised.

TRIP TO GERMANY

On the morning of the 20th December I woke up to be greeted by a snowy white sky so typical of the winter months. I had hoped to go to London by car but it proved too slippery. I therefore went to London by train. It was a slow train, stopping at every station just to annoy the passengers, some of whom wanted to get to London in a hurry, others because they wanted to get out of the train and breathe some fresh air, for in the compartments people would smoke those revolting Woodbines.

At last we arrived at Euston and my guardian carried my heavy trunk to the bus. We

had a penny ride to St. Pancras station where, to my guardian's relief, a soldier carried my baggage for me to the train. There another official told us we had to wait an hour and a half before the train would leave. My guardian led me to a buffet. The smoke and atmosphere there was worse than in any railway carriage I'd ever entered. We had a cup of tea and then my guardian started reading the newspaper while I sat patiently in my chair feeling very self-conscious, for the whole room was crowded with people who seemed to be staring at me.

At last the time came for me to board the train and I got into a compartment which was empty. Soon however it filled up. There was a boy about my age and then two small girls with a rowdy brother. We had the sandwiches which we had been ordered to bring. When we had finished these we all put the bags into our pockets, except for the little boy who poured all the crumbs from these other bags into a big bag. He then put them down his elder sister's neck.

Reaching Tilbury Dock Station, we queued up in our colours and quickly got rid of our papers and money. The money was changed into Occupation money.

We got on board ship and were shown our berths by members of the W.A.A.F. patrol who turned out to be rather ferocious women. The journey was calm and no one was sea-sick, although the W.V.S. women were flapping about with cardboard boxes for people to be sick in and some revolting scent, eager to pounce on any one who was sea-sick—just like vultures, I thought.

At last we arrived at Cuxhaven port—a dull grimy little town, all quiet and innocent with the sea-gulls squawking over the water or taking a morning snooze on the ice. After we had produced all papers and passed the customs red tape we said goodbye to each other and I entered a coach which was taking the people in the Green Zone to a hotel, for we were spending the whole day in the hotel and going by night to the Green Zone.

It was a dull day. Sometimes I sat in my room and stared through the window on to the empty street and the empty-looking houses, like the boys in Dickens' "Dotheboys Hall."

When it was time to go we fetched our baggage and walked or slid down the road, for it was very slippery. The station was at the end of the road and we ploughed through the German people who were clustering round the entrance of the station trying to get in before their train arrived. We entered the sleeping cars and walked about in pitch darkness, for the sleeping cars made their own electricity by generators. Therefore when the train was not moving there was chaos in the dark.

After about half-an-hours' waiting we moved off and started out on our long journey south which took us twelve hours. Whenever we stopped in a station it was annoying, for all of a sudden the lights would go out when I was trying to read. So I decided to go to bed. I did so and it took me a long time to go to sleep, but after a time the beating that comes from the wheels as they roar along the rails acted as a lullaby and I dropped off to sleep.

In the morning I rose to find that we were entering Cologne station, which was our destination. The lights started fading out but there was still a bit of light. So I quickly started dressing but out went the lights and there I was looking in the darkness for my socks, till someone came with some matches and helped me. Here I was then at my destination—Cologne.

J. A. Penning, *(Remove A).*

LANDSCAPE.

Down in the valley where the green grass grows
It hardly ever rains or snows;
So different from the mountain tops
Where snow and ice cover rock outcrops.
The sky from the valley, emerald glows,
While the wind round the mountain howls and blows.
The cows in the valley feed all day,
The goats on the mountain are dirty grey,
Looking for lichen or bark to chew,
While golden eagles soar high in the blue.

A. H. Garrett, *(V Form).*

MEMORIES

(continued from last issue.)

In January 1943 we were sent down to Tanganyika to set up a new flying-boat base at Dar Es Salaam, because the Japanese were operating their submarines almost without opposition in the Mozambique channel and doing a lot of damage. We reached Dar Es Salaam in three hops—Kartoum, Kisumu (on Lake Victoria), Dar Es Salaam, having landed in the harbour at Mombasa en route. To look at from the air Dar was a paradise—a mass of tropic vegetation and a pleasantly laid out little town (by the Germans before World War I). On the ground it was not so pleasant, being stiflingly hot and ridden with malaria. Quite a lot of our time was spent away on detachments—in Diego Suarez and Tulear in Madagascar, Seychelles and Mauritius. Seychelles and Mauritius are both delightful, quite out of the world that we know. Life just goes quietly by in the sunshine and perfect loveliness. Madagascar has much of beauty, but, having been French before the war, it has an air of dirt about it. Diego is quite the filthiest place I have seen, where always a strong wind blows, charged with a penetrating red dust which is maddening. Tulear is a small place on the south-west coast with just a native population: completely isolated, but the few of us who were there enjoyed it. We had little success against the Japanese submarines, for there was so much sea for so few aircraft to cover; but we escorted many convoys and the number of losses went down, whether due to aircraft patrols I do not know.

Very sadly I left 230 in July 1943, on completion of my second operational tour. My next job was an amazing one—in the Coastal Area Headquarters in Capetown! (A piece of cake indeed!) I flew to Johannesburg, across Northern and Southern Rhodesia, and from Johannesburg to Capetown by train. Capetown was perfect, particularly so after 3½ years with little or no sight of civilization. I loved Table Mountain with its myriads of wild flowers and countless wonderful walks. But my time in this paradise was short, for in November I was sent up to the naval base at Mombasa. Mombasa was not too good, partly, I think, because I was tired and wanted to see dear old England again; and the climate was trying. But it was not until March 1944 that I at last took ship for the old country, returning via the Red Sea and Mediterranean to the Clyde, which I reached on the 23rd of April. That spring in England I shall never forget. It was quite perfect and I spent most of my month's leave in Somerset at Minehead. How lovely the country looked!

On May 23rd I joined 271 Squadron, a Dakota Squadron of Transport Command, engaged in preparation for the airborne role. Again this was something utterly fresh. We were based at Down Ampney in Gloucestershire, on the southern edge of the Cotswolds. Until June 6th I spent feverish days and nights learning the completely new type of work and on the night of D—Day (June 5th—6th) we dropped paratroops at 0110 hours near Caen. This was an experience I shall never forget. I had nightmares about it for long afterwards—seeing those men with blackened faces screaming a war-cry as they jumped out into the night and the flack. We heard later that none of them survived. They were the bravest men I have ever known, those paratroops. On the evening of June 6th at 9 p.m. we released gliders over Normandy, again near Caen. It was then we saw the full force of the naval and sea forces off the beaches, and what a spectacle it was! As we went over we saw the Navy firing towards the shore, and below us, when we were further inland, houses and buildings just disintegrated.

From then on for several months our job was to go back and forth to the landing strips in Normandy, and later right through France into Belgium, taking across supplies of all kinds and returning with casualties. Our station was the main Air Casualty Evacuation Centre. It was an interesting job.

The next excitement was Arnhem. Our Squadron took over Gliders on the first and second days and subsequently went across with supplies during the desperate week which followed. Those supply missions were the worst operations that I had known, for we lost over 50% of our aircraft. It was a suicidal show and made worse by the realisation that we could do so little to help the men on the ground as the area of the dropping zone grew smaller and smaller. One of our pilots was later awarded a posthumous

V.C. for his gallantry on a re-supply. The most awful part of the operation was to watch aircraft all around one going down in flames and exploding in the air, particularly when it happened just ahead. But we were lucky: on one day only were we badly hit, coming back on that occasion with forty holes, the worst of them just failing to sever our control cables.

After Arnhem I played little part in the operations, doing only occasional trips to Belgium, Holland and Germany. One interesting flight was to the Channel Islands with their first mail from England, a day or two after the liberation. The Squadron was on the Rhine crossing, but unfortunately I was not with it—one of the dead-beats by this time!

S. D. P.

O. A. NOTES.

BIRTHS.

Bosley—On February 2nd, 1947, at Sinodun, Didcot, to Lilian, wife of Bryan N. J. Bosley (1937) a son, (Peter Vaughan).

Burke Gill—On January 28th, 1947, at Concepcion, Chile, to Patience, wife of Denys Burke Gill, a daughter.

Clarke—On October 24th, 1946, to Annie, wife of Roger C. Clarke, (1932) a son.

Elley—On January 21st, 1947, to Marjorie, wife of A. N. Elley (1935), a daughter (Janie Lynne).

Laybourne—On December 6th, 1946, to Dorothy, wife of Dr. Maxwell N. Laybourne (1933), a son.

Steff—On February 18th, 1946, to Edna, wife of Bernard G. Steff (1931) a daughter (Rosemary Helen).

MARRIAGES

Clarke-Dupeyrat—On 14th December, 1945, in Paris, Roger C. Clarke, (1932) to Mlle. Annie C. Dupeyrat.

Dean-Evans—On June 10th, 1944, at Menai Methodist Chapel, Anglesey, Frank G. D. Dean (1939), of East Hagbourne, to Kathleen T. Evans.

Eeles-Parnham—On 21st February, 1947, at Abingdon, John W. Eeles (1940), second son of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Eeles, to Gene J. Parnham, of Somercote, Derbyshire.

Howard-Genge—On 16 December, 1946, at St. Matthew's Church, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, Humphrey T. Howard (1926) to Nona Mary Radcliffe Genge,

Paige-Shillabeer—On September 18th, 1946, at Uxbridge, Stanley A. Paige (1928) to Mrs. Shillabeer (neè Foster).

DEATHS

Clark—On 24th January, 1947, at St. Helen's Mill House, Abingdon, Percival Francis Clark (1906—13) aged 51.

Coxeter—On February 6th, 1947, at Oxford, Charles Lichfield Coxeter (1893–96) youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Job Coxeter of Abingdon.

Reeves—On January 27th, 1947, at a Nursing Home in Eastbourne, James Benjamin Reeves (1880–82) of North Ways, Hadley Green, Barnet, in his 83rd year.

Percival Clark left School in 1913, and started learning the Motor trade with Messrs. Gibson of Abingdon, and was subsequently with Lucy's of Oxford, and Morris Garages. In 1917 he was transfered by the Ministry of Munitions to Rolls Royce at Derby as assistant engine tester, where he stayed till the end of the war. He then returned to St. Helen's Mill House and started business as Motor Engineer, which he gave up in 1941 to work for the Ministry of Supply. He had a serious illness in 1942, from which he never fully recovered. He leaves a widow and one daughter.

Charles Coxeter and his brother Ernest were at School together in the middle '90's. During the First World War he served in the Royal Tank Corps with the rank of Capt. Of recent years he had been living at Islip, near Oxford, where he took an active interest in Church affairs and Youth organisations.

O.A's. of all ages will learn with deep regret of the death of J. B. Reeves. He was a boarder at School House from 1880 to 1882, at a time when the School athletics enjoyed remarkable success, to which he contributed a full share. He was a member of the School IV, with F. P. Lysaght, Cyril Hallett and P. A. N. Thorn (later Sec. of London R. C.) which twice won the Town Fours Cup at Abingdon Regatta, then in its heyday. He also played in the Rugby XV which included such notable figures as H. M. Digby and E. F. Shephard. On leaving School to become a Chartered Accountant he kept up his sporting activities, rowing in a London R. C. crew at Henley in 1893. In 1927 he presented a Cup for House Shooting, and in 1929, in which year he was President of the O.A. Club, he presented the Club with a Challenge Bowl for the annual Golf Competition. In the following year he defrayed the cost of building the Fives Court in Waste Court. He was a generous subscriber to the Prize funds and to other Appeals, and the School Library owes much to his numerous donations.

It was in 1929 during his Presidency that the O.A. Club held its first London Dinner at the Criterion, and for several years immediately before the last war the dinner was held at the City Livery Club, of which Reeves was a member. It was a great grief to him when the Club was destroyed in an Air Raid, as was also his office in Queen Victoria Street.

We have also to offer our condolences to Mr. Ross Barker on the death of his younger sister Miss Dora Ross Barker. She will be remembered by many O.A's. particularly those who were at Waste Court in R.B's. time. For some time she had been in very frail health.

We have lately had news of F. L. England (1902). He retired in September, 1944, after 42 years service in the Westminster Bank, from the managership of the Taunton Branch, which he had held since 1930. He is well known in Taunton and the West Country both as a sportsman and a naturalist, and more especially as a student of ornithology. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Bankers in 1939. He is a married man, and a father and grandfather.

We offer our sympathy to R. A. R. Townsend (1907), now Manager of our local branch of the Westminster Bank. He had a bad fall not long before Christmas, resulting in the fracture of some ribs. We are glad to learn that he is now making satisfactory progress towards recovery and is back at his work at the Bank.

W. Memory (1922) demobbed last August after four years in the Army (France, Belgium Holland, Germany) is now back at his old job, as Advertisement Manager of the *News Chronicle.*

Major H. A. Lunghi (1939) Intelligence Corps, has returned to Moscow, where he is one of the Military Attaches.

G. V. Bayley (1938) after qualifying for the Fellowship, is now a tutor at the Institute of Actuaries. He and his wife and little daughter are now living at Old Orchard, Wish Hill, Willingdon, Sussex.

G. E. Sinclair (1931) writes from Accra, Gold Coast, where he is now working in the Secretariat, being chiefly concerned with Higher Education. Since he, as Secretary to the Commission on Higher Education in West Africa, was largely responsible for the drafting of the Elliot Report, he must be regarded as an expert in this subject. His wife is also working as an Education Officer, and they both hope to be back in this country this summer on leave.

Yet another tribute is paid to "the courage, skill and amazing endurance" of Dennis Healy, in an address to the Royal Geograph-

ical Society by Lieut-Commander A. R. Glen, D.S.C. on 4 February, 1946. The subject was "Air Operations in High Northern Latitudes" and of numerous references to Healy's work we quote two. "It was during this period (May 26—June 5, 1942) that Healy accomplished his brilliant record of four sorties, each of over twenty-four hours' continuous flying, in a period of nine days— a total of ninety-seven and a half hours' flying through an area heavily patrolled by enemy fighters, for which he received an immediate award of the Distinguished Service Order. It is no overstatement that by his efforts alone the garrison in Spitzbergen was once again placed in an offensive position."

"Theirs was the unspectacular task of flying lone sorties and maintaining unbroken vigil over this great arctic sea, in aircraft ill equiped for offensive action, but always turning chance encounter to good account. They have left behind them an epic of skill and daring which should not lightly be forgotten."

Colin Ronan (1937) is reading for a special degree in Astronomy at London University, and hopes to take his finals in 1948.

Roger Clarke (1932) whom we congratulate on his marriage and the birth of a son, is still in France, negotiating and supervising contracts by large Electrical firms in Great Britain for installations in France and French Colonies. He returned from Cameroons in 1940 to join the R.A.F., and since the war he has been as far afield as Madagascar. He tells us that he first met his wife—who, incidentally was a French avocat,—when he was studying French at Paris University in 1938. On the first day of this year he became a Corporate Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

F. G. D. Dean (1939) is now Assistant Commissioner of the National Savings Committee for Flint and W. Denbigh. The belated announcement of his marriage will be found elsewhere.

We much regret to report that Michael Wheat (1937) was badly injured in the Underground Railway accident at Stratford London, E. on December 5th suffering a fractured thigh and minor injuries to both legs. He wrote at the beginning of January from Queen Mary's Hospital, Stratford E.15 where he was expecting to be for another two months at least.

Yet another casualty is J. W. Rayson (1942) who we are very sorry to hear has been invalided home from Cairo with infantile paralysis in the right hand. He is now in hospital, but the doctors say that it is a mild attack and there is no reason why the hand should not get quite well again.

J. Cowling, who left in 1944, when his parents moved from the district, after gaining the School Certificate with eight credits, has been elected to a Demyship in History at Magdalen College, Oxford.

B. R. Woolfe (1940) has returned from India and is taking a three years' course at the School of Metalliferous Mining, Camborne, Cornwall.

J. E. Cutteridge (1942) has left the Merchant Service, and is engaged in Television research at Cambridge.

R. E. Eason (1920) has again been coaching the Oxford crew in preparation for the Boat Race, and we hope his efforts and those of his colleagues will prove as successful as last year.

Lieut. D. W. Ollife (1942) now attached to 1st Bn. D.C.L.I. in Palestine has been busily engaged on training schemes, which took him to Trans-Jordan, Megiddo and Haifa, with a short spell in Jerusalem just before Christmas. He finds that the climate and scenery (in parts) offer some compensation for the anxieties caused by terrorist activity.

R. C. Howell (1942) is now in Italy. Address: 14402039 Gnr. R. C. Howell, R.A. Signal School, att. 2nd R.H.A., C.M.F,

M. C. Oughton (1944) K.R.R.C. has been home on leave from Trieste, and B. C. Jakeman (1944) Oxf. and Bucks. L.I. has also returned from there to attend a Junior Leaders course at Warminster.

L. L. Lacey-Johnson (1944) is now commissioned in the Regular Army. He is stationed at, or near, Tel-el Aviv with 1st Bn. Royal Hampshire Regt. M.E.L.F.

P. R. Andrew (1940) has resigned his commission in the Indian Army and joined the Colonial Service. He left England recently to take up a post in the Burma Police.

C. R. Burborough (1944) R.A.F. is training as a Radar mechanic, as also is A. J. Betterton (1946).

K. P. Woodward (1944) Leading Writer in H.M.S. *Sultan* is now stationed at Singapore.

C. B. F. Milne (1943) and M. G. Holt (1943) were both home from India to meet the full rigours of this English spring.

Of those who left at the end of last Term:

F. C. Stott is working at Esso House, Abingdon.

G. J. Good is at the National Provincial Bank, Cornmarket, Oxford.

A. V. Crook is working at the G.W.R. Station, Abingdon.

J. B. R. Williams has gone out to Canada with his parents.

Life Membership Subscription to the Old Abingdonian Club is One Guinea. This includes all the privileges of the Club and also SIX issues of 'The Abingdonian'.

'The Abingdonian' is also sent, without further charge, to all subscribers of a MINIMUM of Three shillings per annum to the Old Abingdonian Trust Fund. Of any subscription to the O.A.T.F. 1/6 goes to 'The Abingdonian', the remainder to the Trust Fund. Bankers' Orders and Forms of Covenant to pay One Pound, or more, per annum for seven years, (bringing nearly double their value to the O.A.T.F. by recovery of Income Tax) may be obtained from E. J. P. Ross Barker, 53, Royds Road, South Willesborough, Ashford, Kent, to whom all subscriptions and queries relating thereto should be addressed.

Any items of news relating to O.A.'s will be gladly received by G. F. Duxbury, Abingdon School, Berks.